

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## Wolf Study Committee

### Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS			
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#### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

##### A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chair Fahrney at 9:09 a.m.
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##### B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Bret Bauman, Lisa Wilson, Arden Loker, Tim Carter, Steve Staver, Arnold Popp, Gary Schenck, Mike Whiteside, Scott McAuley, Laurie Groskopf, Lee Fahrney, Myron Leis, Paul Witalison, Jerry McNally
EXCUSED	none
UNEXCUSED	Ken Richter, Dustin Grant
GUESTS	Jeanne Bourdeau, Marcell Wieloch, Samuel Robers, Al Lobner, Stan Roebbers

##### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	moved by Carter, seconded by Leis to approve the agenda. MC

##### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Chair Fahrney read the mission statement.
ACTION	Schenk moved, Popp seconded to approve the mission statement. MC

##### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Jeanne Bourdeau of Dane Co. was present to make a public statement. She is an industrial scientist and farmer. She has had no problems with wolves on her farm in Columbia Co. She also hunts in N. MI, and has had no problem with wolves there. Jeanne is not happy with the use of the word "science" used to describe the upcoming harvest season. She noted that a scientific study of the harvest would look different, and made some suggestions about how the harvest might provide a scientific study opportunity if designed correctly. Jeanne is not happy with the use of the word "science" used to describe the upcoming harvest season. She noted that a scientific study of the harvest would look different, and made some suggestions about how the harvest might provide a scientific study opportunity if designed correctly.
ACTION	

#### II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. C. D. & E WOLF POPULATION REVIEW, WOLF POPULATION MODELING, WOLF LEGISLATION, IMPLEMENTATION OF NRB APPROVED RULE

ADRIAN WYDEVEN

DISCUSSION	Adrian Wydeven, Wolf Ecologist with the WI DNR gave a one hour presentation about the history of wolves in Wisconsin, current status of the wolf population, landowner permits, upcoming harvest season structure, wolf depredations, etc.	
ACTION	The permanent rule may not be in place for the 2013 – 2014 harvest season and we may still be operating under the emergency rule for that season. The process for the permanent rule will be discussed at a future Natural Resources Board meeting.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

**B. STUDY OF SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE AND PUBLIC ATTITUDES.**

**Laurie Groskopf**

DISCUSSION	Laurie Groskopf and other members contributed some information on wolf counting, population studies, lack of public acceptance of the current number of wolves, and the upcoming harvest.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

**III. Citizen Resolutions**

**A. Resolution 160712 Continuous Coyote Season**

DISCUSSION	This proposal was already approved by the NRB. The committee decided to act on the measure to add to support the NRB decision.
ACTION	Motion by Popp, second by Carter to accept. Motion carried

**B. Resolution 130712 Would repeal SB 411 and AB 502 creating a public harvest of wolves.**

DISCUSSION	None.
ACTION	Motion by Whiteside, seconded by Staver to reject. Motion carried.

**IV. MEMBER MATTERS**

DISCUSSION	<p>Chair Fahrney asked whether the committee would be forwarding a resolution to the spring hearing regarding wolf harvest quotas recommended for the 2013 – 2014 season? He feels the committee needs to be more assertive and exercise more leadership regarding natural resources issues. The committee’s previous recommendation was to approve a harvest quota of 300, exclusive of tribal permits and depredation permits, with 4,600 permits issued for this purpose. No further action taken.</p> <p>Discussion: Discussed including WCC Wolf Committee members on committees that are internal to the WI DNR regarding wolf management. Motion by Groskopf, seconded by McAuley:</p> <p>RESOLUTION: The WCC Wolf Committee recommends that the WCC Wolf Committee be invited by the WI DNR to have representation on each of the following committees: wolf population (counting) study committee, committee working on development of a new wolf management plan, development of permanent harvest season rules committee, Wolf Science Committee. MC The Secretary will draft a letter to the DNR Secretary regarding the above motion and forward it to the chair and vice-chair.</p>
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It was noted that the previous wolf population goal of 350 in the wolf management plan approved in 1999, and again updated in 2007, will be looked at in the next wolf plan revision.

Groskopf asked about what happened to the previous WCC spring hearing votes? Specifically, the votes supported a wolf population goal of 350 or less, and recommended a meaningful harvest. Wydeven stated that he believes what is recommended is a meaningful harvest.

Another spring hearing vote supported providing the same public information on human threats, animal threats, and agricultural depredation as now occurs for dogs. This would include instant e-mail notification, establishment of pack warning areas, more timely public information, and providing information about the incident in a more readable manner.

Mr. Wydeven stated that the work load does not allow them to provide this information in the same manner as dog information is presented, and that it is not necessary.

The group discussed whether to send a letter to the DNR reminding them of the spring hearing vote and asking for some action. Chairman Fahrney suggested that the secretary write a draft letter, to be sent to Rebecca Schroeder, head of the endangered species program.

Several people were dismissed from the wolf committee by the Executive Committee in June. Some people are not happy with this change. Chairman Fahrney explained that there have been changes in the process used to appoint members to committees. District chairs were supposed to recommend people for committee positions, and each person was only supposed to serve on one committee. A Executive Committee objective was to have all districts represented on each committee with some exceptions, e.g., Mississippi River committee has greater representation from counties along the river.

Some members may not have filled out their sheet.

Scott McAuley noted that the season dates for trapping fox, coyote, raccoon, bobcat, and fisher start at the same time as wolf, but end on a different date. This will cause some problems because traps for wolves may catch species where the season has already closed.

Resolution to start and end coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat, fisher and wolf on the same date, except that bobcat and fisher closing dates would remain as now. Motion made by McAuley, seconded by Groskopf. MC

Scott McAuley and Lee Fahrney gave an update on the NRB meeting in July.

Fahrney asked if staff assignments for the wolf program will be changing. Wydeven reported that a new wolf biologist will be appointed, and that he may be moving into that position.

Committee members discussed the possibility of having another meeting. Agreed on Saturday, Dec. 15. Lee will check on the Mead or the Schmeckle in Stevens Point.

<b>ACTION</b>	<p>Discussed including WCC Wolf Committee members on committees that are internal to the WI DNR regarding wolf management. Motion by Groskopf, seconded by McAuley:</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION:</b> The WCC Wolf Committee recommends that the WCC Wolf Committee be invited by the WI DNR to have representation on each of the following committees: wolf population (counting) study committee, committee working on development of a new wolf management plan, development of permanent harvest season rules committee, Wolf Science Committee. MC The Secretary will draft a letter to the DNR Secretary regarding the above motion and forward it to the chair and vice-chair.</p> <p>Resolution to start and end coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat, fisher and wolf on the same date, except that bobcat and fisher closing dates would remain as now. Motion made by McAuley, seconded by Groskopf. MC</p>
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## V. ADJOURNMENT

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>Motion by McNally, second by Whiteside to adjourn at 2:41 p.m., motion carried.</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Laurie GrosKopf</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>August 8, 2012</b>