

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Executive Council  
Meeting Minutes



<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	May 9, 2013	2:00 p.m.	Plaza Hotel & Suites 1202 W. Clairemont Ave. Eau Claire, WI
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## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### A. CALL TO ORDER

<b>MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY</b>	
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### B. ROLL CALL

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Joe Weiss, Rick Olson, Dale Maas, Dick Koerner, Dave Miller, Larry Bonde, Lee Fahrney, Mike Rogers, Ken Risley, Al Phelan, Al Shook, Rob Bohmann, Josh Hennlich, Stan Brownell, John Aschenbrenner, Mark Noll, Al Suchla, Mike Riggle, Dave Puhl, Kevin Marquette, Roger Sabota, Al Brown
<b>EXCUSED</b>	Hraychuck
<b>UNEXCUSED</b>	Kuhr
<b>GUESTS</b>	None

### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Motion to approve by Miller, second by Shook. Motion carried.
<b>ACTION</b>	

### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	N/A
<b>ACTION</b>	

### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	N/A
<b>ACTION</b>	

## II. Discussion & ACTION ITEMS

[PRESENTER]

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	A. Study Committee Assignments: Committee assignments will be finalized at the Convention.	
<b>ACTION</b>		
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	B. Addition of two additional Executive Committee members: Strategic Plan recommends two additional members be added to the Executive Committee. Discussion of hiring to take minutes, possible through a technical college at a reduced cost.	
ACTION	Motion by Miller to add two additional members to serve as public relations chair and historian; second by Hennlich. Motion carried.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE:	DEADLINE	

DISCUSSION	C. Youth Conservation Congress update: Bohmann reported on the confirmation of 14 youth delegates. Delegates encouraged to interact with youth at pizza party.	
ACTION		

Discussion: D. Review of WCC County Results: Puhl acknowledged the importance of putting resolution number on the question. Miller wants everyone to know that they should vote the wishes of their county. Koerner noted error on Question 98. Noll refers to COP allowing a vote against the county vote. Shook says expectation is to follow the wishes of county. Aschenbrenner noted that large counties can dominate the vote, e.g. Dane County, with approximately 600 votes

Discussion: E. Rules and Resolutions Committee Report: Maas emphasized that we need to follow COP statewide to produce a consistent product. Noted resolutions not posted or in wrong format.

III Department Informational Items

Discussion A. Rule Simplification: Tim Lawhern: Said department is looking for definition of the term. What can we eliminate, what can we make easier to understand, can we combine rules.? Maas doesn't want things combined only for the purpose of simplicity. Noll opines that some people are content with status quo.

- B. 10 year Fish & Wildlife Plan: Kurt Thiede: Discussed outreach effort for fish and wildlife. Two plans are due in 2015. Goal is to determine how we want to spend our dollars in Wisconsin.
- C. WCC/Fisheries Renewed Relationship: Ron Bruch stated that fisheries wants to refresh relationship with WCC. Reviewed outreach efforts and communications plan. Bonde noted there is no panfish advocacy group. Opined that local questions should be handled at the county level. Weiss acknowledged renewed effort for outreach. Olson: ditto. Weiss has a list of people who would like to staff species-specific groups. Olson also notes outreach effort. Thinks warm water committee members should make up most of members of species-specific committees.
- D. DNR Spring Hearings results: Scott Loomans summarized results. Marquette wanted to know if rules will be on the website. Loomans: Yes.
- E. DNR Spring Hearings result: Kate Strom-Hiorns: Fisheries rule changes will go in effect in 2014. If the proposals are approved largemouth bass would be at traditional start of season, smallmouth on the third week of June. Aschenbrenner warns changes to largemouth bass changes could result in reduced size structure. Mike Staggs: Trolling question would simplify rules and make things simpler for anglers. Concerns regarding muskies with increased harvest and mortality, crowding on small lakes spread of invasive species. Noted that trolling is allowed on 45 lakes, not allowed on 144. Compromise: Still have 3-line trolling where it is already in place or where the questions was supported. That would 50 counties with 3-line. One line trolling in all other counties. These counties could still opt in. This proposal will go to NRB. Miller said it passed state-wide and questions why further discussion was needed. Passed in 44 counties, failed in 27, one tie. Aschenbrenner asked if trolling is restricted in other states. Ans: No. Weiss believes it's a social issue; no impact from trolling, and we need to go with that.
- F. LE Update: Randy Stark: Reported new wardens will be in place by December. Now down to a 5.8 percent vacancy rate. Eight to ten new wardens in 2014 class and five water guard program

candidates in the academy now. Discussed marijuana growing operations. Arrests in 10 locations including 21,000 marijuana plants destroyed. Workers operate deep in woods. Someone drops off food and supplies along roads. Agency goal is to make Wisconsin an inhospitable environment. Numbers up in hunter safety and instructors. Incident rate continues to fall, credit hunter education program. ATV and snowmobile incident rates down. Boater fatality rate up; people falling out w/o life jackets. Fahrney asked about trend on marijuana growing operations and profile of those operating the sites. Stark: The number has plateaued; some are Mexican connected; some local. Big grows are organized crime. Weiss asked where the money is coming from deal with the problem: Some from federal; some state.

- G. Secretary's remarks: Cathy Stepp: Noted changes in advisory committees in response to public complaints that they want to be involved in the process earlier. She noted that two new positions will be added to enforce federal requirements regarding frac mining. One alleged violation has been referred to the Department of Justice. She said permitting and monitoring are on-going concerns. Suchla inquired about the manner in which monitoring takes place. Secretary Stepp replied it is a combination of monitoring equipment on site and department staff. Weiss asked about the phone tree system of communicating with local people and that the current system is not working as it should. Stepp replied it is now set up by county which should alleviate some of the complaints.

III. Member Matters:

Miller: Reported doing a presentation in the local area. He said people are interested in knowing more about the Congress.

Shook: Said we need to solve the problem of inconsistency in conducting the spring hearings. Also would like to see money for PSA ads.

Phelan: Said his county had much negative response to issues regarding hunting and trapping in parks and the wolf issue. Said anti-hunters were well organized. Reported that after the vote for the first person up for election, several people left which changed the outcome of the vote for the next delegate.

Weiss: Wanted to know when the committee appointments would be announced. Answer: As soon as they can be compiled after the convention.

Noll: Announced he would not be running for the Executive Council.

Suchla: Noted this was the first year that no one left the spring hearings before they were concluded.

Koerner: Announced he was stepping down from the Executive Council.

Maas: Encouraged support for the gun raffle and the Outdoor Expo in Beaver Dam.

Rogers: Reported having a lot of non-hunters at the Sauk County spring hearings.

Bonde: Noted the huge advantages of social media options. Reported on criticism about the WCC not being supportive enough of the reduction in stewardship funding.

Bohmann said a letter to the Joint Finance Committee will be going out on Monday, May 13.

Bonde: Regarding following proper procedures, he said the instructions to county chairs were good, but they did not do a good job this year. We need to be careful what questions come out of the county.

Bohmann Noted that John Edelblute's wife passed away on Tuesday.

- IV. Adjournment: Motion by Shook to adjourn, second by Puhl. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Lee Fahrney, Secretary