

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Outdoor Heritage and Education Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	9/7/2013	9:30am	Econo Lodge Hotel, Stevens Point, WI
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman David Tupa at 9:30am
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Allan Pribnow, Melvin Walker, Brian Melichar, Donald Dukerschein, Tracy Swedlund, Robert LeHew, Walter Cox, Kevin Smaby, Richard Wayne, Scott Bestul, Douglas Nelson, David Tupa, Pete Mueller, Kathleen Tober, Thomas Daluga Jr,
EXCUSED	Brian Melichar, Jim Johnson Jr, Todd Cook, Ron Vander Loop, DNR Liaison Mary Kay Salway
UNEXCUSED	Chris Jepson, John Cler
GUESTS	DNR Liaisons Keith Warnke, Theresa Stabo, Rob Bauman, Meloney Weborg, Ben Loma, Karen Wells, Susan Roberts, Youth Conservation Congress members Ben Bruns and Mikayla Kifer

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Motion and Second to approve
ACTION	Approved

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Motion and Second to approve
ACTION	Approved

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Meloney Weborg and Karen Wells read their objections to allowing dogs to hunt wolves and other wildlife. Scott Bestul asked why we were addressing the Crossbow Use By 55 Year Olds resolution when the Legislature was already working on a bill to allow all hunters to use crossbows? Susan Roberts wanted to comment but did not pre-register for meeting, She asked to be heard anyway, Chairman Tupa explained the rules for public comment and told Ms Roberts he didn't feel comfortable breaking the rules. Ms Roberts asked if she could submit a written comment to which Chairman Tupa allowed. Ms Roberts wrote her comments against using dogs to hunt wolves, made copies, and passed them out to all committee members. Ben Loma read a statement written by his wife, who was unable to attend, stating her objections to allowing non-resident hunters and convicted felons to apply and participate in Learn To Hunt activities.
ACTION	none

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. CITIZEN RESOLUTION #690113

SCOTT BESTUL

DISCUSSION	Allow crossbows to be used by 55 year olds and simplify the permit process. Motion and Second to advance. Committee members asked why we were addressing this issue. Mr. Bestul said it would be a good rule to have in place in case the legislature doesn't pass its current bill. Additional discussion: Mr Bauman informed us that we as a committee could draft a letter to the WCC Executive Council asking them to table this resolution until after legislation is complete for further action. Motion and seconded to draft letter to Executive
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	Council. Mr Bestul then passed out crossbow applications and explained how hard it is to pass the requirements to obtain a permit and how expensive this is to have to repeat every five years. Motion and Second withdrawn. Motion and seconded to table. Although the OH&E Committee is in favor of this resolution, the committee "tabled" the resolution due to the current senate bill that addresses the 55 and over crossbow issue. This question has been voted on by the public and passed in 2010 as a WCC advisory question and passed in 2011 as a DNR proposed rule change. It would be redundant and perhaps delay the process to forward this question again, now that it has already been introduced as a bill.	
ACTION	Resolution Tabled. Motion carried to draft letter to Executive Council.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
	David Tupa	

B. CITIZEN RESOLUTION #130813

AUTHOR NOT PRESENT

DISCUSSION	<p>1. Ban Use of Dogs on Wildlife: Motion and second to reject this resolution. Chairman Tupa stated resolution author was not present and the resolution was in improper form (over 250 word length limit) but allowed discussion due to guests with interest present. Mr Bestul said he could find no evidence suggesting any dog in a hunting situation has ever been endangered by wolves, coyotes, bobcats, or bears. Mr. Warnke of the WDNR agreed that there are no records to support dogs are in danger. A question was raised that the resolution writer should have done better research including a definition of 'dog' i.e. breed used and should have had scientific research to back statements in the resolution.</p> <p>2. The OH&E Committee members unanimously rejected this resolution due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Improper format (in excess of the 250 word limit). B. No valid scientific studies exist to support the claims within the resolution. C. Research and data was found to contradict the statements and claims found in the resolution. D. The resolution is too vague and too inclusive, banning the use of all dogs on wildlife. E. The resolution addresses multiple issues, not a single issue as required. F. The claims within the resolution are based on hearsay from the anecdotal experience of a single person. G. The resolution alludes to activities that are already illegal and should be the resolved by DNR law enforcement to address the violations claimed within the resolution. 	
ACTION	Resolution FAILED.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

C. CITIZEN RESOLUTION #440113

BEN LOMA

DISCUSSION	Prevent non-resident novice hunters and felons from applying for Learn To Hunt: Motion and Second to advance. Much discussion about how our committee is taxed with the job of recruiting new citizens to the outdoor sports and how banning non-resident novices goes against our charge. Felons are allowed to hunt with archery equipment and muzzle-loading rifles and should not be banned from LTH if all other requirements are met. Question: with limited bear tags available it's not fair to preference point holders to give bear tags to non-resident or felons. Where do tags come from? Mr. Warnke said all tags are provided by the WDNR to qualified LTH groups. Mr. Bauman added that the WCC is provided with one LTH bear tag to award. It was suggested that our committee reject this resolution, but forward a question from this committee to eliminate giving bear tags to non-residents. Motion and Second to write a question from our committee.	
ACTION	Motion to advance resolution as written FAILED. Advance question written by this committee stipulating no bear tags for non-resident applicants PASSED.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
	David Tupa	

III. DNR UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS:

DISCUSSION	<p>Theresa Stabo gave reports and updates on Fisheries Management Education and provided hand-out to the committee.</p> <p>Bret Owsley gave a detailed report on the plans to build the new Horicon Marsh Education Center to open in January of 2015.</p> <p>Keith Warnke provided informative updates on hunter statistics, Sporting Heritage Council, Law Enforcement Program, and the future of hunter participation projections.</p>	
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ACTION	None

IV. YOUTH WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS UPDATE:

DISCUSSION	<p>13 YCC Delegates were accepted into the YCC Program in 2012. 9 of the 13 YCC delegates attended the WCC Annual Convention in Eau Claire in May. A YCC Facebook page has been developed and members are posting on the page to keep in contact. YCC Mentors have been asked to bring their YCC delegates to their committee meetings. Chairman Tupa brought two YCC delegates (that he is mentoring) to our meeting and will take them to the Great Lakes meeting on September 21st.</p> <p>Committee members are asked to continue to encourage and support YCC delegates to increase numbers for 2013. It was suggested that we have some activities for the YCC delegates at the convention in Wausau.</p>
ACTION	None

V. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Member Allan Pribnow demonstrated a Draw-Loc type of device for turning a normal compound bow into a sufficient crossbow. A crossbow permit would be required for use. Mr. Pribnow also gave a presentation on parent/child .22 rifle hoots as a way to get youth involved in the shooting sports. Asked that a motion be made by this committee to ask the public to support such events at public shooting ranges. Several members commented on the WCC's and/or WDNR's ability to better get the word out to the public about the Spring Hearings. Motion and second to ask public to support .22 rifle parent/child team shooting matches:</p>
ACTION	Passed

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	2:17pm
SUBMITTED BY	Robert LeHew
DATE	9/17/2013