

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Trout Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	19 Oct 2013	0930	Econo Lodge Inn & Suites, Stevens Point, WI
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chair Dennis Vanden Bloomen at 0930
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	(13): Roehl (Rusk), Donahue (Saint Croix), Waller (Secretary, Vilas), Sterckx (Marinette), Korn (Menominee), Vanden Bloomen (Chair, Eau Claire), Anderson (Trempealeau), , Amundson (Monroe), Hasse (Fond du Lac), Oestrich (Outagamie), Frailing (Brown), Wierzba (Vice Chair, Ozaukee), Barron (Richland)
EXCUSED	(3) Haanpas (Iron), Kuhr (Milwaukee), Johnson (Douglas),
UNEXCUSED	(2) Klessinger (Green), Pitta (Adams)
GUESTS	WCC Leadership (1): Vice Chair: Larry Bonde DNR (1): Dave Hausman, Law Enforcement Public (7): Shaun Maiter, Sarah Gibbons, Rachel Larsen, James Schoucch, Clinton Baerg, Cassie Apostolon, Sarah Etter [all UWSP students]

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	<p>The Chair reviewed the committee agenda. It was noted that Resolution # 210113 (agenda item II.A.1.) was listed in the convention materials incorrectly as resolution number 211301. Further, it was noted that a discussion of the next committee meeting date will occur under Member Matters.</p> <p><u>Hand outs:</u> In addition to the agenda and resolution 210113, the Chair made information handouts available as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. resolution draft "Increase the WI Inland Waters Trout Stamp Fee, Author - Dennis Vanden Bloomen, b. "Stamped A Success", WDNR Inland Trout Stamp Revenue & Expenditures 2008-2010, c. Trout Committee Positions on The Issues (reviewed/amended September 16, 2011), d. "Trout Regulations Task Force Notes," WDNR dated February 16, 2013, e. "Trout Regulations Task Force Conclusions for Topics Related to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations", WDNR, Dated March 9, 2013. <p>Copies of these can be obtained from the committee Secretary.</p>
ACTION	Motion by Oestrich to approve agenda, <u>motion carried.</u>

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	The Chair read the committee Mission Statement and asked for comments. Waller indicated that he thought the statement was much too long and further, that Mission Statements are usually kept to a few words so that it can be recited from memory. Chair suggested that the members think about this and send any comments to him for collection.
ACTION	Chair and Secretary will review comments and post in Agenda for 2014 meeting.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	The Chair asked the public attendees if they had comments or questions. The seven attendees were all from UW Stevens Point; there were no questions.
ACTION	None

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. RESOLUTION 210113--

DISCUSSION LED BY CHAIR

DISCUSSION	<p><u>Wierzba</u> Spoke with (DNR Fisheries) who suggested the problem and the reason for the resolution was a difference in operations protocol between older and newer fish biologists.</p> <p><u>Bonde</u> Said the problem [little or no communications between DNR fish biologist and local clubs] is occurring all over the state and urged support of the resolution. Said there is a huge disconnect in some areas; some biologists have different ideas.</p> <p><u>Waller</u> suggested that the biologists may just believe that the local clubs just want to know where and when stocking will occur for personal reasons.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> said need better communication.</p> <p><u>Hausman (DNR)</u> said it IS a communication issue. There is known participation of stocking activity by many clubs and that they provide valuable help and assistance in knowing and helping carry in remote areas. If clubs contact/communicate with local fish managers they will get involved.</p> <p><u>Roehl</u> says the issue is that it requires individuals to stock spring ponds just dumping downstream place fish in non-acceptable habitat, DNR staff often does not know area.</p> <p><u>Barron</u> says he works with two fish managers in his area, one keeps stocking secret, need better communications. No problems in Vernon have access.</p> <p><u>Frailing</u> says GB chapter said to work with fisheries, use school kids, stock many places.</p> <p><u>Wierzba</u> says not against resolution, communications between new individuals [or lack thereof] led to locals being upset [thus resolution].</p> <p><u>Roehl</u> asks who in Congress will Bonde communicate this issue to in the WCC? [see Bonde comment above]</p> <p><u>Chair</u> says perhaps not a resolution, but maybe WCC policy. As an example pheasant stocking effort is working well and has developed over long period of time. Are retirements are possibly causing problems? Reluctance to develop a policy or pass a resolution that is a personality issue.</p> <p><u>Korn</u> need to kill resolution or pass.</p> <p><u>Sterckx</u> need more fish manager contact, is not an issue statewide! No need to pass.</p> <p><u>Waller</u> asks what next steps?</p> <p><u>Chair</u> states he will call WCC to suggest an add to policy paper.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> M/S - to reject resolution; and to communicate to resolution owner the statewide issues; passes unanimously.</p> <p><u>Wierzba</u> states he knows both author and fish manager {confirm this wording} and can communicate with them.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> states he will work out follow on details.</p>
ACTION	<p><u>Haase</u> M/S - Trout committee to forward recommendations to exec council regarding the need to improve communications between local public and conservation organizations and DNR staff regarding stocking activities. Passes unanimously.</p> <p>M/Proceed with process regarding rejected motion, including communication with resolution owner regarding statewide issues. Wierzba to complete by November 15 and report completion to Chair</p> <p>M/Trout committee to forward recommendations to WCC Exec Council regarding the need to improve communications between local public and conservation organizations and DNR staff regarding stocking</p>

	activities. Chair to complete by 15 November and report completion to Trout Committee.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Wierzba for a. Vanden Bloomen for b.	15 Nov 2013

B. RAISING THE INLAND TROUT STAMP FEE

CHAIR-VANDEN BLOOMEN

DISCUSSION	<p>Introduction--A draft resolution prepared by the Chair was handed out at the beginning of the meeting. The discussion started with questions from comm. attendees about how the Patron License Fee is disbursed among included licenses; Question - is this a secret? Discussion continues about various license fees and DNR funds. It was noted that this distribution is a complex process; discussed past historical practices and processes.</p> <p><u>Waller</u> Exec council can put Q'n on raising fee in county hearing book.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> asks Bonde about process.</p> <p><u>Bonde</u> defers and asks Chair to send issue to exec council.</p> <p><u>Waller</u> discussed process regarding resolutions</p> <p><u>Chair</u> states would rather have the license fee raise initiated by WCC rather than the Legislature.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> If the fee issue gets into advisory questions then will get an idea of public support.</p> <p><u>Sterckx</u> Notes conflict between fee increase and more licenses (fish), asks which stamp of concern.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> says Inland only, goes into segregated fund by statute.</p> <p><u>Wierzba</u> it has been a long time since last fee increase.</p> <p><u>Sterckx</u> wants info on how Patron license; identify dollars vs. distribution.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> notes some Patrons never use the stamp.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> asks DNR how proportioned based on license input</p> <p><u>Amundson</u> How many Patron licenses holders buy actual stamp?</p> <p><u>Sterckx</u> notes stamps are available from Peshtigo.</p> <p><u>Hausman</u> (DNR) states some people like the actual stamp, and entire license system will be changed in 2015. All licenses may then be electronic on a card.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> Need to discuss the distribution funds and grants; and income and expenses to determine the money available for projects.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> states we don't know the effect of a license fee increase vs. license sales.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> some states have BIG increases for non-residents. Fees increase about 50% every 7 or 8 years so can get to breakeven point.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> asked if increase will be a percentage or a fixed amount. (response—fixed amount)</p> <p><u>Roehl</u> asked where is the tipping point fee when the in sales negates the fee increase?</p> <p><u>Chair</u> leads a general discussion regarding fees and sales.</p> <p><u>Oestrich</u> asks DNR representative "what is the deficit, what do you need for projects"??</p> <p><u>Amundson</u> says "\$20? This is the first time I have heard of this amount, am not a member of TU. Lacrosse is talking about \$15. Can support a \$5 increase.</p> <p><u>Waller</u> comments regarding funding and capital project requests; there is a process and projects are rated according to importance and then funds are distributed until reach minimal fund balance.</p> <p><u>Frailing</u> This is first meeting where DNR measured difference between funds and licenses. License plate says funds go to Trout fund?</p> <p><u>Chair</u> The distribution of TU funds plus federal funds are added to license and stamp fees to create a pool for stream projects and stocking trout.</p> <p><u>Wierzba</u> there is apparently lots of support for a \$5 stamp fee increase, suggested state this is the minimum.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> there is a need for a general license fee increase, we should recommend that DNR look at fee's in general.</p>
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	<p><u>Roehl</u> The fee increase is coming from 2012 distribution. The amount of work given the funding is dwindling.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> the fee increase may be several years out before implementation and collection and final disbursement to the Regions.</p> <p><u>Bonde</u> There is outside discussion regarding a "habitat stamp" cover all species.</p> <p><u>Roehl</u> TU needs to be proactive regarding communication to DNR and their support.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> will need to re-write the proposal given the comments presented.</p> <p><u>Hausman</u> (DNR) comments regarding fee increases have been for small increases,</p> <p><u>Waller</u> A small increase still will have as large a cost increase to implement'</p> <p><u>Haase</u> regarding comments about a and fee increase; the legislature will need to approve, we need to communicate need to the public.</p> <p><u>Bonde</u> we need to be careful here about the size of the fee increases.</p> <p><u>Barron</u> I am a guide in Richland county. 90% of clients are out of state, 50% people are fishing the drift less. No complaints as cost of stamps are relatively small when compared to the other costs of travel, food and lodging. Complaints appear to be coming from one-time fishers. Not losing that many licenses.</p> <p><u>Donahue</u> the dollars discussed seems reasonable.</p> <p><u>Barron</u> we need to move forward, I support the fee increase.</p> <p><u>Frailing</u> I support the fee increase, the amount should be to support more projects keeping in mind goals and public responsibility.</p> <p><u>Roehl</u> Would like to see a question on the spring hearing, forward a proposal for a general fee increase.</p> <p><u>Waller</u> how do we get the input from actual trout fishers? Spring hearing is everybody!</p> <p>Short break, then discussion continues on Trout Stamp fee's, increase recommendations, and drafting a question.</p> <p><u>Barron</u> asks did we not just do a survey of license holders?</p> <p><u>Chair</u> the data is not yet available.</p> <p><u>Amundson</u> I support \$5 increase, and get a good grant writer. We have good DNR staff in Monroe county, grants are like growing corn. Need to plant in order to harvest.</p> <p><u>Korn</u> I favor \$5 increase, will look bad if it is higher.</p> <p><u>Oestrich</u> asked for clarification on comments; has a hard time with fee increase and the impact on the family. I need justification.</p> <p><u>Barron</u> more funding \$\$ gets more projects completed.</p> <p><u>Oestrich</u> regarding stocking vs. habit, We need to have more fish to catch. Bridge fishers need support to catch fish. Habitat work is why we need a stamp.</p> <p><u>Amundson</u> need to stock fish to get a stamp fee increase.</p> <p><u>Anderson</u> we need to work on regulations.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> TU chapter had to pitch in when there was no \$\$ for projects. Need more frequent fee increases.</p> <p><u>Wierzba</u> I am active in TU, an increase is not prudent if \$10, \$5 is acceptable.</p> <p><u>Korn</u> agree with \$5, maybe increase every year. I have seen the cost of fuel increases, costs increase every year, we need to have more frequent fee increases.</p>
<p>ACTION</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chair to <i>send issue (putting question about fee increase in April meeting booklet)</i> to exec council. (Bonde suggestion) 2. Can the Chair get info on how Patron license fee is proportioned amongst licenses; identify dollars vs. distribution. (<u>Sterckx</u> request_ 3. Chair will need to write current TU State Council Chair that TU needs to be proactive regarding communication to DNR and TUs offered support. (Roehl advanced) 4. There is a need for a general license fee increase, <i>recommend that DNR</i> look at fee's in general. (Haase

	<p>initiated).</p> <p>5. How do we <i>get the input</i> from actual trout fishers? Spring hearing is everybody! (<u>Waller</u>)</p> <p>6. How many Patron licenses holders buy actual stamp? (<u>Amundson</u>)</p> <p>7. Has a hard time with fee increase and the impact on the family. I need justification. <u>Oestrich</u></p>
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. DNR TROUT COMMITTEE REVIEW OT TROUT INLAND REGULATION

CHAIR-VANDEN BLOOMEN

DISCUSSION	<p><u>Trout Seasons</u></p> <p>1) Extended catch and release seasons should reflect regional desires (13 yes)</p> <p>2) Eliminate the 5 day closure between the early and harvest (regular) seasons, and make the extended season all catch & release (12 yes); No change to either early or regular seasons (5 yes)</p> <p>3) Extend the early catch & release season to Jan 1; and regular season to Oct 31 (5 votes)</p> <p><u>Trout Baits</u></p> <p>4) There was a split between bait & artificial only use in the C&R streams</p> <p>C&R should be artificial only</p> <p>Allow some bait in C&R stream sections (9)</p> <p>Allow bait in the entire C&R stream (4)</p> <p>Regular season Category 5, biology determines bait or artificial</p> <p><u>Trout Regulations</u></p> <p>5) Regulations should be uniform as much as possible except for regional differences.</p> <p>6) Tributaries should be consistent with the main stream as much as possible unless there is clear access to the tributary.</p> <p>7) Use identifiable roads/bridges for starting and ending points.</p> <p>Post signs for special regulations when possible.</p> <p>Regulations should be written by stream or watershed; no changes at arbitrary boundaries such as a county line.</p> <p><u>Bag & size limits</u></p> <p>10) Have a statewide bag limit of 5 and a possession limit of 10 on the second day regardless of species.</p> <p>11) Retain special regulations (bag limit <5) with periodic reviews.</p> <p>Maintain uniformity where possible by stream and within small geographical areas.</p> <p>11) Consolidate categories</p> <p>12) For category 2, no size limit, and with a daily bag limit of 5.</p> <p>13) Keep uniform length limit of 8", with an intermediate bag limit of 3-5.</p> <p><u>Other</u></p> <p>14) Category 5 should be consolidated to achieve the same goals with fewer overall regulations.</p> <p>15) Green and yellow - base regulations, green mostly North and West and yellow mostly South and Southeast.</p> <p>16) Red - special regulations</p> <p>17) Statewide regulation review every 10 years</p> <p>18) Allow fish biologists to change regulations if needed.</p> <p>19) Add use of bait as an option.</p> <p><u>Trout Stamp Funding Increase</u></p> <p>20) Habitat work is more expensive because of the cost of fuel, materials and labor.</p>
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	<p>21) Increase options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. increase from current \$10 to \$20; b. have a short-term trout fishing license and add a Trout stamp portion; c. Add an extended C&R and a cost. d. Create a Habitat Stamp. <p><u>Hausman (DNR LE) adds:</u> Committee provided an update on recommendations and the suggested formation of a Super Trout Committee. Says that Scott Stuart (SE region FM) states DNR will have statewide public meetings (re-scheduled to spring, February or March) and the public meetings (Fall 2013) go to NRB & legislature. Category 5 streams will go to category 3 streams based on biology (local fish manager decides and manages). Final results not until 2018; goal is to simplify regulations. Discussion continued regarding rule simplification issues</p>	
ACTION	Continue to attend DNR Trout meetings	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Chair-Vanden Bloomen	continuing	

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p><u>Roehl</u> says Rusk County trout streams are being damaged by Otters & Beavers. These are freestone creeks.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> says that other barrier interdiction measures are being used in Presque Isle streams.</p> <p><u>Barren</u> states that Otter fur prices are good and that trappers are interested. He has contact information.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> says we need to communicate with trappers for assistance with critters.</p> <p><u>Anderson</u> asks question "regarding other fur bearers, some need permits!</p> <p><u>Donahue</u> says St. Croix basin - Red Spot, Madison wants to map same. Suggested committee cooperate with these people.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> will forward details regarding above.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> asks question about Invasive Species and info in regulations booklet. Discussion follows on use of felt soled wading shoes.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> to forward details regarding above.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> some TV stations are interested in trout stream Invasive Species, asks question regarding WCC Trout Committee meeting dates and locations.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> states that September and October are best meeting times, Winter is bad, later is time limited due to Exec Council meeting conflicts.</p> <p><u>Frailing</u> asks question regarding update to voting machines. Referred to Kari in Madison.</p> <p><u>Amundson</u> states that Mid-state irrigation is causing drainage of Trout streams.</p> <p><u>Frailing</u> states a growing group of State Senators are interested in development of regional groups to address water issues.</p> <p><u>Haase</u> says that irrigation during the day is wasting water since can evaporate up to 60% of water.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> to Frailing and Bonde - need to advise Executive Council regarding developing a position statement;</p> <p><u>Chair</u> to advise exec Council.</p> <p><u>Wierzba</u> we need to work on the trout committee Mission statement.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> suggested members send ideas to Chair, he will collate for next meeting agenda.</p> <p><u>Waller</u> suggested a draft/starting Mission of the WCC Trout Committee:</p> <p>"To address issues advanced from public input and from members personal experiences and knowledge to ensure that the cold water resources of the State are not degraded."</p> <p><u>(Hasse)</u> Need to communicate with trappers for assistance with critters.</p> <p><u>Chair</u> announces: Plan on (reserve) a mid-September 2014 Trout Committee meeting, specific date and location to be determined next year.</p>
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ACTION	<p>Need to communicate with trappers for assistance with critters. (<u>Haase</u>)</p> <p><u>Chair</u> will forward details regarding St. Croix basin - Red Spot, Madison wants to map same. Suggested committee cooperate with these people. (<u>Donahue</u>)</p> <p><u>Chair</u> to forward details regarding Invasive Species and info in regulations booklet, and use of felt soled wading shoes. (Haase)</p> <p><u>Chair</u> to advise Executive Council regarding developing a position statement regarding irrigation lowering Trout stream water levels. (Frailing and Bonde).</p> <p>Chair to advise next meeting date & location ASAP for planning purposes.</p>

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	1430
SUBMITTED BY	Ron Waller, Vilas County
DATE	22 October 2013