

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## Upland Game Study Committee

### Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	August 10, 2013	9:00 AM	Plaza Hotel & Suites, Wausau
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#### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

##### A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Kenneth Risley, with Vice Chairman Arlyn Splitt, at 9:00 AM. The first modern day turkey hunt was held in 1983 making 2013 the 30 year anniversary of modern turkey hunting in Wisconsin.
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##### B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Roger Reas, Daniel Tyrolt, Eric Wojchik, Dale Ebert, John Hoeffs, David Zielke, Darold Brathol, Richard Halverson, Otto Bowe, Arlyn Splitt, Clarence Koch, Don Anderson, Thomas Roskopf, Doug Duhr, Rick Fruit, Kenneth Vertein, Kenneth Risley, Jeff Winn
EXCUSED	Jeremy Sarauer, Marcell Wieloch, Gene Knoll, Jody Bigalke, Roger Greenwood, Robert Wilberscheid, Mike LaRose, Michael Sovich
UNEXCUSED	Al Marotz
GUESTS	DNR Liaisons: Dr. Scott Walter and Warden Sean Neverman. Jason Wilke, author of Resolution 15-06-2013

##### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

##### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Approve Mission Statement as presented
ACTION	Motion to approve Doug Duhr, second by Thomas Roskopf, motion passed.
ACTION	Motion to insert (citizen recommendations and youth hunting) by Clarence Koch, second by Otto Bowe. Motion passed.
MISSION STATEMENT	<b>Mission Statement:</b> The mission of the Upland Game Study Committee is to review, discuss, and provide input on issues pertaining to upland game management to ensure the continued success of Wisconsin's wide array of upland game species. The committee will make recommendations to promote expanded harvest opportunities based on citizen recommendations, sound science, and will work with the department to review management objectives, and encourage good conservation practices, youth hunting, ethical harvest, and quality habitat management.

##### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

## II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

### A. RETRIEVAL OF HUNTING DOGS FROM PROPERTY WITHOUT LANDOWNER PERMISSION

KENNETH RISLEY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Discussion of resolutions assigned to other committee but needing our input. Resolution numbers 230113, 250113, 330113 & 540313	
<b>ACTION</b>	<p>Discussion of this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question of how this works in other states.</li> <li>• Problem is more with bear, coyote &amp; coon hounds.</li> <li>• A reasonable attempt to obtain permission must be attempted.</li> <li>• This could be used when all attempts to obtain permission fail.</li> <li>• This trespass could be used to survey someone's land.</li> <li>• Problem is often on tracts of land with absentee landlords.</li> <li>• This would remove one obstacle to hunting.</li> <li>• This could hurt rather than help hunting access.</li> <li>• Dogs should be collared with owners name and information.</li> <li>• Could this be separated according to type of hunting, hounds or upland dogs?</li> <li>• The Upland Game Committee had a hand vote of 13 to 3 to advance the Retrieval of Hunting Dog Resolution to the Executive Council.</li> </ul>	
<b>KENNETH RISLEY</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>
Will forward our comments and concerns to the Legislative Committee.		

### B. DEFENITION OF LANDOWNER PREFERENCE

KENNETH RISLEY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Discussion of Resolution 200613 giving landowner preference to anyone who owns 50 acres in aggregate statewide. John Hoeffs said we should leave as is with no changes and Scott Walter stated that the DNR Turkey Committee does not favor this resolution. Comments that this resolution was not specific to turkeys and was unclear as to what zone landowner preference could be obtained. Arlyn Splitt provided information that a resolution allowing landowner preference for ownership of 50 non-contiguous acres in the same zone was passed by the Conservation Congress in 2006 and is awaiting an author in the state legislature.	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion to reject by Darold Brathol, second by Thomas Roskopf. Motion passed.	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

### C. SEPARATE UNIT 2 INTO TWO MANAGEMENT UNITS

JASON WILKE

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Resolution 150613 asking the separation unit #2 into two individual units was presented by citizen Jason Wilke. The reasons given were that it would move the hunters to areas of turkey concentration, create more hunting opportunities, alleviate rapid sell out of leftover permits and allow turkey stamp money to be allocated to areas of need according to habitat condition.</p> <p>Committee comments were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Splitting the unit wouldn't change the early sell out of permits</li> <li>• The Turkey Committee rejected a similar resolution in 2011</li> <li>• Combine southern part of zone 2 with zones 1 or 3</li> </ul> <p>Scott Walter commentated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More permits allocated to this zone could be considered</li> <li>• Grassland habitat has been removed from the allocation of turkey stamp monies</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion to reject by John Hoeffs second by Otto Bowe. Motion passed.	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

**A. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES**

**SCOTT WALTER & SHAWN NEVERMAN**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>DNR Liaison Dr. Scott Walter's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The spring 2012 turkey hatch was very good.</li> <li>• The Spring 2013 turkey hatch was poor due to weather conditions.</li> <li>• Elimination of turkey permits for fall hunting was discussed (the fall hunt harvests about 60% hens and 40% Toms.</li> <li>• The Total statewide spring harvest was 37,804 turkeys Harvest by zone was: Zone 1, 11,054 Zone 2, 8,955 Zone 3, 9,468 Zone 4, 5,093 Zone 5, 1,991 Zone 6, 634 Zone 7, 448</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The spring harvest varies according to the weather and hunting conditions.</li> <li>• The revision of the Turkey Management Plan is still in progress. Plans are to finish the report this winter and then distribute copies of the plan to hunters at license sales places.</li> <li>• Sharp tail grouse are in serious decline in Wisconsin. The decline is due to lack of suitable habitat.</li> <li>• Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in Wisconsin have declined dramatically, the decline is due to major increases in crop prices.</li> <li>• Wisconsin has lost CRP lands faster than in other states.</li> <li>• Loss of CRP lands effects pheasants and other upland game.</li> <li>• WCC question #92 regarding a 9:00 a.m. pheasant season opening time. The DNR and law enforcement have no objections or problems.</li> </ul> <p>DNR Liaison Warden Sean Neverman's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed the actual regulations regarding dogs at large and the trespassing issue.</li> <li>• Encouraged voluntary compliance.</li> <li>• There were 28 hunting incidents in 2012 with 4 fatalities.</li> <li>• The average age of hunters involved in an incident is not the young hunter but middle age.</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION</b>		
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>The committee members introduced themselves. A suggestion to develop an application for smart phones to facilitate easy turkey registration was made. Clarence Koch submitted a recommendation report with reasons to change the name of this committee to "Turkey and Upland Game Study Committee". A paper with the supporting reasons for the change was submitted. A motion by Jeff Winn to forward this recommendation to the Executive Council was made. Second was by Darold Brathol, the motion passed.</p>
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<b>ACTION</b>	Chairman Risley will deliver the recommendation to the Executive Council

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>11:52 a.m.</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Clarence Koch</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>August, 10 2013</b>