

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Warm Water Study Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	10/26/2013	10:00 AM	Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	The meeting was called to order at 10 am by Chairman Joe Weiss.
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Rick Olson, Larry Damman, Joe Weiss Chairman, Bill Herrmann, Wally Trudeau, Nick Schertz, Russ Warye Secretary, Peter Doperalski, John Ashenbrenner Vice Chair, Michael Arrowood, Davey Henschel, John Nelson, Gregory Wells, Paul Reith, John Blumreich, John Collen, Don Camplin, Tim Simonson DNR Liaison, and Byron Goetsch DNR Liaison
EXCUSED	Robert Bohardt, Henry Garn, James Winkler, Leon Schroeder, Brett Weir, Jeff Paske, Michael Gould
UNEXCUSED	John Quall, Elmer Miller
GUESTS	None

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None – Although Chairman Weiss announced that in keeping with past meetings resolutions with public spokespeople attending would be heard first. Additionally, he indicated that information received from the DNR Fisheries Management Bureau would be of assistance to committee members in deciding to approve or reject resolutions.
ACTION	The agenda was approved unanimously.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	The mission statement was read with a brief discussion noting that no changes had been made.
ACTION	Approved unanimously.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION 090113 - REDUCE BLUEGILL BAG LIMIT ON OTTER LAKE, CHIPPEWA COUNTY

MICHAEL OLIN

DISCUSSION	Resolution author Michael Olin noted that size and quantity were decreasing and noted that community support was involved in supporting his resolution. Two aerators sustain the fishery. The lake is due for a comprehensive survey in 2014. During discussion it was noted that Otter L. could be a good candidate for selection by the Panfish Committee as an experimental lake with modified bag limits. Tim
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	Simonson, DNR Warm Water Liaison, reported the earliest would be 2015 when the experimental panfish program would begin. Further discussion observed that fishing pressure is bound to increase with changes occurring in our population – more retirements, more time off to recreate, etc.
ACTION	The resolution passed overwhelmingly with a single vote of opposition.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**2. RESOLUTION 200213 – ESTABLISH A “FREEZER”
LIMIT ON FISH**

BOB HAASE

DISCUSSION	Resolution author Bob Haase was present and noted that he is trying to find a reasonable solution to a problem that may develop if panfish bag limits are reduced, which would in effect reduce legal possession limits. His concern was that it would serve to possibly act as a deterrent to angling. The response of the Fisheries Management Bureau was “Possession limit means...twice the local daily bag limit. The current panfish total daily bag limit is 25 fish from all waters fished in one day, and the possession limit is 50 panfish per angler at any one time.” Also, they added, “Especially for large families, it is already legal to possess more than 1 possession limit in a single freezer.”
ACTION	A motion to reject was seconded and passed without opposition.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**3. RESOLUTION 700113 – ELIMINATE THE SIZE LIMIT
ON NORTHERN PIKE ON LAKE ALPINE, WAUSHARA
CO.**

GREG DOBRATZ

DISCUSSION	Greg Dobratz, author of the resolution, reported that northern pike are not achieving the 26” size limit in effect.
ACTION	The resolution passed with opposition noted from two members.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**4. RESOLUTION 200313 – ALLOW HOOK AND LINE
ANGLING WITHIN AN ICE SHANTY WHILE STURGEON
SPEARING**

AUTHOR NOT PRESENT

DISCUSSION	Michael Arrowood (Warm Water Committee member) noted that banning shanty hook and line angling never had a statewide hearing or Conservation Congress vote when implemented in 1992. However, the Fisheries Management Bureau reported a majority of the Sturgeon Advisory Council members were opposed to this resolution.
ACTION	A motion and second to reject was approved without voiced opposition.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**5. RESOLUTION 640613 – ALLOW TROLLING WHILE
POSITIONING WHEN FISHING**

AUTHOR NOT PRESENT

DISCUSSION	Simonson reported on the Conservation Congress compromise on trolling, approved by the Natural Resources Board in June, and to be voted on in April 2014 at the Congress Annual Spring meeting resulted in a motion and second to reject.
ACTION	The motion overwhelmingly passed with a single vote of opposition.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**6. RESOLUTION 450213 – CHANGE IN SYSTEM FOR
PURCHASING STURGEON LICENSE**

AUTHOR NOT PRESENT

DISCUSSION	Discussion that included whether or not a deadline for purchase was necessary and the positive attention provided by the DNR via emails to previous license holders that a deadline was looming.	
ACTION	A motion and second to reject gained unanimous approval.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

7. RESOLUTION 680513 – ESTABLISH A CATCH AND RELEASE HOOK AND LINE LAKE STURGEON SEASON

AUTHOR NOT PRESENT

DISCUSSION	Chairman Weiss reported he had been contacted by Jeremy Zahnow, resolution author, asking for support. Discussion noted very little knowledge is available on hook and line sturgeon mortality and that the issue was being studied by the Sturgeon Management Team.	
ACTION	A motion and second to reject was approved without voiced opposition.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

8. RESOLUTION 370213 – GAMEFISH BAG AND SLOT LIMITS ON THE UPPER RIB RIVER

AUTHOR NOT PRESENT

DISCUSSION	Discussion focused on the fact that fish populations in the Upper Rib are largely determined by fish seasonally migrating upstream and downstream.	
ACTION	A motion and second to reject was passed without voiced opposition.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

9. RESOLUTION 680213 – MANAGE HOOK AND LINE LAKE STURGEON AREAS INDEPENDENTLY

AUTHOR NOT PRESENT

DISCUSSION	Discussion focused on the need to gather more data to predict population trends rather than managing 12 different sturgeon harvest areas independently. It was noted that the Sturgeon Management team is reevaluating the current 60-inch statewide size limit.	
ACTION	A motion and second to reject passed without opposition.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

10. RESOLUTION 640113 – MOTOR TROLLING WITH A SINGLE LINE USING LIVE BAIT IN VILAS AND ONEIDA COUNTIES

AUTHOR NOT PRESENT

DISCUSSION	This was the second resolution from Vilas County on the trolling controversy. After discussion which centered on the promise of the spring hearing vote on the previously mentioned trolling compromise a motion and second to table failed. Additionally the introduction of live bait and using only trolling motors was characterized as problems.	
ACTION	A motion and second to reject passed with but a single voiced vote in opposition.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

11. RESOLUTION 640413 - MOTOR TROLLING WITH ONE LINE PER ANGLER IN VILAS COUNTY

RUSS WARYE

DISCUSSION	As this was the third resolution on trolling the author Russ Warye, secretary of the Warm Water committee, introduced a motion which was seconded to reject.	
ACTION	The motion to reject was passed without opposition.	

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

12. RESOLUTION 640513 – PALMER AND TENDERFOOT LAKES, VILAS COUNTY, CRAPPIE SIZE AND BAG LIMIT

AUTHOR NOT PRESENT

DISCUSSION	The resolution author, Duane Harpster, retired Vilas County warden, wrote a letter to the Warm Water Committee, which was read by Warye. Harpster asserted that crappie average sizes have decreased sharply under the 25 bag limit. He noted he has observed these lakes since 1988 and that today "...the average size dropped dramatically to where fish over 10 inches are rare. The Fisheries Management Bureau response differed from Harpster's contention as well as two committee members who agreed with the statements of decrease in average size. The Bureau noted the local biologist thought that the "mean length of harvested fish has increased."
ACTION	A motion and second to approve the resolution passed without opposition.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

13. RESOLUTION 040113 – SIMPLIFICATION OF LOCAL FISH RULE CHANGES

AUTHOR NOT PRESENT

DISCUSSION	After considerable discussion about including citizen groups and the Conservation Congress itself as stakeholders to be heard during the process of streamlining the rule making process and decision to implement a local bag and/or size limit change a motion and second occurred. During discussion the members suggested a reworded resolution should be put on the spring 2014 questionnaire. The sentiment focused on what congress delegates are hearing from the public – "People feel they don't have input.'
ACTION	The motion and second to accept was withdrawn and a motion to reject was passed unanimously. The resolution would be brought up again under Member Matters.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

14. RESOLUTION 640713 – STANDARD BAG LIMIT OF 3 WALLEYE FOR ALL WATERS IN CEDED TERRITORY

AUTHOR NOT PRESENT

DISCUSSION	The resolution author noted that less than a 3 bag limit is "...greatly impacting Tourism for all parties involved. "Tim Simonson, DNR liaison, noted briefly, that current agreements would prohibit mandating a three walleye bag as limits are set after the Treaty Harvest goals are presented to the DNR. Additionally, he noted that a combination of federal decisions and state laws limit flexibility.
ACTION	A motion to reject was passed.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

B. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION & UPDATES

1. 2013 DNR FISHERIES UPDATE

TIM SIMONSON

DISCUSSION	Tim Simonson updated committee members on activities of the panfish committee, including creating a list of lakes with possible regulation changes. He noted the Walleye Initiative will be spending 13 million dollars on hatchery development and to create numbers of extended growth walleye fingerlings. Of the 13 million, 8 million will be spent to allow for production of 500,000 of the larger fingerlings. Committee members suggested that habitat concerns must be a significant focus, rather than just stocking. Also, a hearing on tournament rule changes are looking at zones for weigh-ins and expressed concerns about live well transportation. His update included information on raising muskies on pellets vs. live bait and commented on the average size of 10 inches vs. 12 inches for those on live bait.
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2. 2013 DNR LE UPDATE

WARDEN BYRON GOETSCH

DISCUSSION	Warden Byron Goetsch discussed plans to create a strategic plan for the warden service, as well as reporting that fishing without a license remains the top citation, followed by over bagging/undersize fish, and fishing with too many lines.
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III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>The main topic was rewording Resolution 040113 to read:</p> <p>Streamlining Local Fish Rule Changes</p> <p>The Problem:</p> <p>Currently the process to get a local bag limit or size limit change on a particular lake takes at least four years. More often than not the local proposed rule change for a particular lake has been introduced to the local fish biologist by a group of concerned anglers, Wisconsin Conservation Congress member(s), conservation club or lake association and is reviewed by the biologist for its need and effectiveness. The citizen groups and the biologist meet again and a final proposed rule is formulated and presented as a resolution at the spring hearing in the country where the particular body of water is located. The resolution then enters the process and maybe 3 years later the rule is implemented. Fish population dynamics change so rapidly on some lakes that the rule proposed four years ago is no longer the proper rule for the lake.</p> <p>Be it resolved: To create a process whereby the local fisheries biologist working with local citizens, conservation clubs, lake associations and the Conservation Congress streamline local fish rule changes.</p> <p>This resolution's motion and second to accept by the Warm Water Committee was passed unanimously. Other matters included a request to forward committee report minutes to Warm Water committee members and a call for a substitute if a Warm Water committee member cannot attend a state group – muskie, bass, walleye, for example, that they have been appointed too. Also, suggestions for increased information sharing are important which makes the Congress more relevant to the constituency. Additionally, the call for habitat studies was again stressed, including work on panfish.</p>
ACTION	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	2:30 PM
SUBMITTED BY	Russ Warye, Secretary
DATE	November 11, 2013