

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

8 MAY 14

ORDER OF BUSINESS

05/08/14

02:00:00 PM

Stony Creek Inn

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Rob Bohmann at 14:01

B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Joe Weiss, Rick Olson, Al Brown, Dave Larson, Marcell Weiloch, Mike Riggle, John Aschenbrenner, Kevin Smaby, Al Suchla, Stan Brownell, Dale Maas, Arlyn Splitt, Dave Miller, Larry Bonde, Mike Rogers, Lee Fahrney, Ken Risley, Al Phelan, Al Shook, Rob Bohmann, Mike Kuhr, Josh Hennlich
EXCUSED	
UNEXCUSED	Bob Ellingson
GUESTS	Kari Lee- Zimmermann

**C. AGENDA
APPROVAL/REPAIR**

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	Motion to approve by Fahrney, second by Maas. Motion carries

**D. REVIEW COMMITTEE
MISSION STATEMENT**

DISCUSSION	N/A
ACTION	N/A

**E. PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

DISCUSSION	N/A
ACTION	N/A

I. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

**A. STUDY COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS, YCC UPDATE**

BOHMANN

DISCUSSION	1. reminder to turn in all study committee assignments to Adam by Saturday at close of convention 2. YCC – Tom Tupa has list of YCC delegates. Will be here tomorrow. New YCC Delegates to meet this eve at 8:00 p.m.
ACTION	N/A

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
------------------------------	-----------------

**B. SPRING HEARING
REVIEW, RULES AND
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
REPORT, WCC SIMPLIFICATION
REPORT**

BOHMANN

DISCUSSION	<p>2014 Spring Hearings Questionnaire results – Bohmann.</p> <p>Rules and Resolutions Report – BONDE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delegate from either Green Co. or Green Lake Co. submitted 3 resolutions when only 2 are allowed per individual: Result – all 3 were rejected by motion taken at the hearing. 2. In Kewaunee Co. more blue ballots were turned in than the number of people in attendance: Result – all resolutions from Kewaunee Co. were rejected on that basis. 3. Procedure discussed on how to handle vacant Executive Council seat. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Two ways to change COP. First is to handle on convention floor tomorrow. Second would be to approve a change today and approve again at May 27th Executive Council meeting. The following COP changes for adoption at the 27 May Exec Council meeting are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VII.A.9. Strike words “personal data questionnaire” - add “delegate profile” VII.B.7. “ “ “ “ “ “ - add “ profiles” VII.B.10. Strike word “eligible” - add word “participating IX.C.4. Strike word “eligible” - add word “participating” XI.E. Add words “If a council seat becomes vacant, the position shall remain vacant until it can be filled by an election at the next regularly scheduled district meeting.” <p>Question by Maas: concerning other ways to fill a vacancy ASAP. Bonde: options were discussed at R & R meeting. Stress bottom up operation. Motion by Shook to eliminate the word “regularly” in statement. Second by Olson. Motion carries. Bohmann: we will handle this at the 27 May Exec Council meeting.</p> <p>WCC Simplification Report – Bohmann</p> <p>Ask all councilors to review the “Report to the Governor” “Recommendations for Natural Resource Regulation Simplification”. Submit all input or changes to Kari NLT 19 May.</p> <p>In addition, all committees are to review their respective current regulations, make recommendations to our Rule Simplification Committee. They will discuss and forward information to appropriate committee's for future agendas.</p>
	ACTION
<p>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE N/A DEADLINE 19 MAY, 27 MAY</p>	

**C. DNR SECRETARY'S
REMARKS, FISHERIES
ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE,
DNR SPRING FISHERIES
HEARING RESULTS, DNR
SPRING WILDLIFE HEARING
RESULTS, DNR LE UPDATE**

**STEPP, BRUCH, STROM-HIORNS,
LOOMANS, SCHALLER**

DISCUSSION	<p>Secretary's Remarks -</p> <p>Thanks for WCC participation. Good turnout at spring hearings. DTR (providing bottom up participation). Baseline year for DMAP. Have patience, provide feedback. Elk herd short of goal (200). Ron Bruch's promotion. Well deserved. Actively working on stream bank protection program. Acquiring easements. Focus on SW Wisconsin, Baraboo and Central Wisconsin, Chippewa and NW Wisconsin, Black River and W Wisconsin. White Nose Syndrome in bats a problem. Working with Fish and Wildlife service to address economic concerns over listing the Long Eared Bat on the endangered list. DNR pushing back on this. Increase in social media use around state. > 3000 friends since March. Live chats successful. Encourage use of free “App” available on smart phones. (18000 downloads)</p> <p>Questions and Answers -</p>
-------------------	---

Q: Maas – difficulty in contacting people at DNR service centers during hours of operation.

A. Stepp - this problem exists all around state. Currently evaluating a fix. Possible investment in customer service area.

Scott Gunderson Remarks -

Thanks to WCC for our efforts. WCC efforts taken seriously. DNR working with partnership to run a youth expo at the McKenzie Center. DNR providing manpower assistance.

Questions and Answers:

Q: Fahrney- (comment) NRA and SCI providing funding (grants). Also Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

Q: Bohmann – (comment) check for 1000\$ provided by “The Friends of the WCC”. Encourage volunteers from WCC ranks.

Ron Bruch Remarks -

Fisheries Advisory Council formed. Joint effort between WCC and DNR. Membership includes many different user groups. Met once so far. Purpose to get public involved. Advisory to FM board. Encourage WCC delegates to get to know local DNR personnel. Go out on shocking boats etc. talk about Wisconsin Walleye Initiative tomorrow. Encourage use of DNR “App” for up to date info on lakes etc. Strategic Plan being written for FM now. Looking for input from F A Council. Issues discussed with Fisheries Advisory Council include habitat, access, angler recruitment and retention, increasing fishing opportunities, regulations and enforcement, AIS, water quality etc.

Questions and Answers:

Q: Fahrney – questions exist from people concerning trout i.e. – catch and keep, harvesting trout on some streams that need it. Etc.

A: Bruch – next year’s questionnaire will address some of these issues. Also, Warm Water habitat will be addressed this coming year. This needs emphasis. Panfish mgmt. is a priority. Looking for middle ground between rule simplification and separate regs for panfish.

Kate Strom-Hiorns Remarks -

No decision yet on Advisory question results this year. FM board meets in July to discuss. In general voters:

not crazy about catch and release seasons

don’t want fishing opener on Mother’s day weekend

max size limits not popular, protected slots and 1-overs ok

more discussion needed on bass regs

happy with current panfish regs. Willing to try separate bag limits specie specific and “other” methods.

Like current trout seasons. Would consider extra harvest time in fall

Bass team began statewide review of bass regs. Will continue over next couple years. Plan on reg change proposals for 2017 spring hearings. Will consider advisory questions 6-10 during review.

Panfish team developing statewide mgmt plan. Support remains for current panfish regs.

Trout team reviewing trout regs. Will consider questions 22-27 from spring hearings to analyze results. Proposed changes to be addressed for 2015 spring hearings.

Questions and answers:

Q: Aschenbrenner- (comment) should move fishing opener to a later date due to our recent winters.

Q: Splitt – (comment) panfish questions misleading. i.e. separate species, bag limits etc.

Scott Loomans Remarks -

License application deadline questions require statutory changes to implement. No action anticipated. Questions 28-29 require legislation. No further action to be taken. Question 30 requires legislation. No action. Question 31 – DNR will continue to pursue this. Question 32-33 DNR has numbers, will provide as needed. Question 34 – DNR will work with us but needs legislation. Question 35 – DNR plans no action taken. NRB questions – license simplification requires legislation also baiting and feeding question. White deer – no action. 2015 Spring Hearing will be actual rule change year.

Bohmann – intro Tom Van Harren. His last convention as a warden. Job well done!

Todd Schaller Remarks -

2015 hiring to take place now. Time to apply. Will close in June. Look to hire 9. Currently have 19 field vacancies. 7 “other” vacancies. 2014 recruits just graduated 13 field wardens will be stationed in early June. 9 retirements so far anticipated out of 14 possible for 2014. Current workloads include deer season changes, AIS (20 hours/warden/year dedicated to this). AIS workload includes education and enforcement, 11 water guards stationed around state.

	Question: do you anticipate any problems with electronic deer registration? A: No
ACTION	N/A
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	N/A
	DEADLINE N/A

I. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Shook: "hearing impaired" need more print notice on meetings etc. Insure meeting notice stresses start time "promptly" at 7:00 p.m. Suggest handing out WCC info booklets along with license purchase.</p> <p>Phelan: outdoorsmen frustrated in Dane county with continuing non-county resident input at spring hearings.</p> <p>Splitt: frustration with number of resolutions that get rejected at committee level. Lack of accurate minutes explaining why these resolutions were rejected. Maas : has same question.</p> <p>Bohmann – training on this subject will occur in June</p> <p>Suchla : unhappy with number of resolutions not advanced to committee for review. Attendance at spring hearings was up.</p> <p>Fahrney: comments on communication problems with DNR service centers and offices (phone tree etc.)</p> <p>Larson: anti mining people showing up at the hearings.</p> <p>Brown – frac sand questions at hearing.</p> <p>Fahrney: any time WCC is criticized, publicly we need to respond.</p> <p>Smaby: we would like a current delegate list sooner (right after the spring hearings) if possible.</p> <p>Bohmann: not going to happen. Kari does this as fast as can be done currently.</p> <p>Smaby: concern over rewording of resolutions while at committee review.</p> <p>Miller: hunter ed classes not including WCC info. Brochures should be included in folders that go out to students.</p> <p>Bohmann: they should be getting this info now.</p> <p>Miller: not happening in my area.</p> <p>Olson: missing discussion on questions at spring hearings. People filling out forms without hearing more info.</p> <p>Riggle: concern over lack of ballots due to large turnout at spring hearings. Also rewording of resolutions at executive council mtg. Rejecting resolutions because of how it affects "me" is not right. Resolutions deserve to be heard.</p> <p>Wieloch: convention concern with lack of delegates that remain into Sat. morning. Consider shifting some important info to Saturdays. Also, request more privacy during convention for executive council elections.</p> <p>Rogers: issue of private/public land antlerless tags. People are nervous about what to do during hunt with deer venturing on "opposite" land. Fines etc.</p> <p>Weiss: need to come up with COP addition to address what to do when we run out of ballots at spring hearing (voting procedures in this event). Also stress that people refrain from filling out ballots until all discussion on the question is completed.</p> <p>Bonde: future of WCC is exciting. Very optimistic</p> <p>Bohmann: increased attendance is admirable. Attendance is up. Goal for next year is 10,000 statewide. Rob will offer to personally purchase a firearm for the county that increases attendance the most next year. Praise for District 2 for outstanding job reference hospitality room. Trap shoot this evening. Take a motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Motion to adjourn by Shook. Second by Maas. Motion carries.</p>
ACTION	N/A

II. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	04:25:00 PM
--------------------------	--------------------

SUBMITTED BY

Joe Weiss, Secretary - WCC

DATE

05/12/14