

**Outreach & Public Relations Advisory Committee
WI Conservation Congress**

August 16, 2014

Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center, Milladore, WI

Meeting Called to Order

9:04 am by Lee Fahrney, Chair

Roll Call

Attending Members: Lee Fahrney, Michael Britton, Jack Christenson, David Werner, Justin Schaut, Dale Maas, Robt. Haase, Staush Gruszynski, Vanessa Born*, George Ferriter, Jayne Meyer, Douglas Burrows

*Name Change - Vanessa Brotske (recently married)

Drake Schneider, Youth Congress Delegate & Bill Cosh, DNR Liaison

Excused Members: Frank Pratt, Chris Underwood, Ken Balestrieri, Nadia Bogue

Unexcused Members: Mike Hayes

Agenda Repair:

Motion to move II.A 1 & Member Matter for Robt. Haase to be addressed after Agenda Repair. Made by Dale Maas, Second by Staush Gruszynski - Approved

II.A 1 Citizen Resolutions

Resolution 20-01014 Posting of Winnenbago system as federal waters (copy attached).

Robt. Haase presented a review and background of the resolution to the committee.

Motion to approve the resolution made by Jayne Meyer, Second by Dale Maas

Discussion of motion;

State & federal regulations are not the same and there are many points of difference effecting the system. There is an enforcement problem and lack of understanding what applies where and by who. There are different regulations for having a state guiding license and a federal captain license. The intention of the resolution is to bring awareness of the problem and get the state and federal regulations clarified. The three points to address right away are; #1 - Clarification in state regulation book, #2 - Posting of signage on effected waters, #3 - Get dialog started between the star and federal agencies. Parties involved would be - Enforcement, Licensing and Legislative.

Motion Approved

Notes on Posting Federal Waters

1. Very few people know that the Winnebago System is considered Federal Waters but they are not posted as such. It would be the same as not posting a speed limit on our highways in that if nobody knew what the speed limit was, how could arrest someone for speeding. The United States Coast Guard does patrol the waters and make arrests.
2. The boundaries for Federal Waters are set by an act of Congress and it would take an act of Congress to change the boundaries. The boundaries for the Winnebago Federal Waters includes all of Lake Winnebago and the upriver lakes, including all the way Buffalo Lake in Marquette county and also includes Lake Puckaway and the fox river. It also includes the Wolf River all the way to the Shawano dam.
3. If anyone guides on any of the waters listed above they need to know that this is Federal Waters because it requires a Captains License in addition to the Wisconsin Guides license. This adds an additional cost of around \$800 and is not easy to obtain.
4. You cannot even obtain information regarding the rules and regulations of boating on federal waters at DNR service centers and governmental offices or most sport shops or marina's. Even Wendt's Marina on Lake Winnebago was not aware that they were on Federal Waters because they thought that that ended when the State of Wisconsin took control of the system when the Rapid Croche Locks were closed. Since then, the Coast Guard no longer puts out navigational signage on the waters, and Winnebago County budgets close 90,000 a year to put out navigational buoys.
5. More needs to be done besides putting out signs and major access points on these Federal Waters, but this would be a start and may lead to addressing other related issues.
6. It should be the responsibility of the U.S. Coast Guard to do the signage but they do not have the funds and probably will not do it. Who's responsibility is it to make and put up the signage?
7. This could lead to other things such as:
 - Eliminating the need for a captains license to guide on the Winnebago System
 - Changing the boundaries of these Federal Waters to stop at the first dam/locks on the Fox River?
 - Looking at upgrading the Wisconsin Guides License to include first aid and safety, and other training requirements beyond just paying the fee.
 - Other.

Member Matters:

Robt. Haase

Robert handed out a sample of the WI Conservation Congress County Delegate sheet he has put together for Fond du Lac County and posted in sports shops throughout the county. Great reference sheet that could be used by other delegates in their county. Sample attached.

Expressed ongoing concern over lack of attendance at the Spring Hearings and how to get increased attendance.

Expressed concern and has had feedback that questions at the Spring Hearing are worded in a "pro" manner and not a "pro and con" manner. No action taken. Introductions and bio of members and guests in attendance.

I.B Introduction and bio of persons in attendance.

I.D Review of committee mission statement

Motion made to approve mission statement by Jayne Meyer, second by Dale Maas.

Discussion to delete the word "To", bullet point four in the statement.

Motion approved with correction

I.E Public Comments

None

II. Information & Action Items

B. Department Information & Update

#1. DNR/WCC joint communication plan for CDAC's - Bill Cosh, DNR

Bill presented handouts from the DNR news release and FAQ of the CDAC. Bill also had a Media Disc of contacts for the entire state for use by the WCC. The disc was given to Stauch to download and send to members of the committee. There was discussion on how to use the list and methods of contact that are most effective in getting the information out. The CDAC news release is targeted for August 26, 2014.

Bill also presented a CDAC Press Release Template to be used by county committees to announce county meetings. Outreach committee members were urged to work with the county CDAC chairs in customizing the release. Bill will develop a guideline to help with this process. Any questions or concern in doing this should be addressed to Bill for assistance.

Topic specific notices sent out by the DNR now include WCC on the Header Line when appropriate.

Concerns on "filling the chairs" on the CDAC county committees was discussed. The question was raised as to how involved WCC should get in filling the chairs (tourism, ag, clubs, etc.). WCC chairs should work with DNR employees, area wildlife biologists in filling the spots. In some counties not all identified stakeholders will have representation.

II.C Outcome of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting reviewed.

Goals from previous meeting:

To increase Face Book likes to 500 is at approximately 350. An increase of approximately 150 likes. On going goal.

Collect information on 10 county conservation organizations, name and leadership position. Some progress has been made. On going goal.

Power point presentation and training regarding media and WCC information. June 2014 training meeting held.

Increase Spring Hearing attendance. On going goal.

II.D Distribution of network of Congress activities to media outlets

Covered earlier by Bill Cosh, during II.B 1.

II.E Status of Outdoor Expo Funding

The 2014 Outdoor Expo was moved and coordinated by the Mackenzie Center. They will be doing the expo for 2015 and 2016. Dale Maas reported there were some concerns on donations with the change from the previous organizers to the Mackenzie Center and were being worked on. The intent is to continue the expo and not have the changes reflect poorly on the WCC.

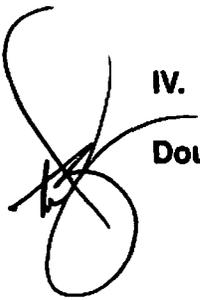
III Member Matters

Drake Schneider, Youth Delegate - Question for Bill Cosh regarding license sales and information when sold at a C-Store. Bill will check and get back to Drake.

Lee Fahrney - Shared an email from Terri Roehrig regarding thoughts about the WCC and Outreach Committee. Attached.

IV. Adjournment @ 1:30 pm

Douglas Burrows, Committee Secretary





Wisconsin Conservation Congress Fond du Lac County Delegates



The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is the only advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests in natural resources, both local and statewide, by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to manage our natural resources. Fond du Lac County citizens, clubs, and organizations can work with their local delegates to identify concerns they have regarding hunting, fishing, and other conservation issues. If you have concerns and would like to initiate a resolution to be presented at the Spring Conservation Hearings you can contact any of the delegates listed below. To find out more about the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, just Google "Wisconsin Conservation Congress" to go to their website <http://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/>.

Otto Bowe	Mt. Calvary	920-922-6660	(Chairperson)
Mike Arrowood	Oakfield	920-922-0905	(Vice-Chair)
Bob Haase	Eldorado	920-922-8003	
Dave LaPine	Fond du Lac	920-922-6704	
Scott Klapperich	Fond du Lac	920-948-2283	

Lee Fahrney

From: "Terri Roehrig" <troehrig@yahoo.com>
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 5:12 PM
To: "Lee Fahrney" <fiveoaks@mhtc.net>
Subject: Additional Thoughts

Hi Lee:

Regarding our previous conversation and emails I had a couple of thoughts about the Outreach....

Maybe this has been talked about/discussed already.....

Facebook - we have the FB page and some members use it. I try to share things from there and also recommend to Larry and Stash things to post. Do our Youth CC members have access, are they sharing it and recommending posts for it? Should we or can we be posting more? For instance - information about CDAC? Can we share things here from the DNR website about CDAC? Why aren't we? Then CC members can share on their FB pages.

I talked to Kari about this at the Executive Council meeting - can we do a short YouTube video about the CC with members from the Congress including the youth? This video could share key messages about the congress, the role we play, why it is important to be involved. I was thinking along the lines of having individual congress members start with the message, "I am the Conservation Congress because....." I realize this costs money but again this is something that can be shared and can go viral. Maybe going viral is not what we want?

Articles in the newspaper/media - I write articles for our sports clubs about upcoming activities and request they be put in the paper. These are generally free of charge. Can we create a simple small article about CC or CC and our role with CDAC and ask each county lead submit in local newspapers? Same message is then going out across entire state. Those articles can also be shared online if the paper publishes online.

What about interviews of our congress members of why we are involved? This information could then be put into printed material, media, radio, etc.....

Creation of a powerpoint on CC and role with CDAC so that CC members can give presentations to hunt clubs, safety education classes, other sporting events. For instance I am involved with a "Ladies Day" next weekend where I am doing 3 sessions on Introduction to Shotguns. This is my 2nd year. I discuss the fact that I am a CC member and what that means along with my Hunter Ed and involvement with LTH, sports clubs, etc. I also give everyone one of the CC brochures that was created. This is simple stuff our Congress members can be doing.

Could we ask the DNR to post stuff on their FB page about CC?

All of the above could be material that is shared with the Safety Education classes as well.

Maybe we should be asking Congress members what they do to "spread the word" of CC?
Maybe some members are doing something different that we could all be doing?

Cheers,

Terri

He is my other eyes that can see above the clouds; my other ears that hear above the winds. He is the part of me that can reach out into the sea. He has told me a thousand times over that I am his reason for being; by the way he rests against my leg; by the way he thumps his tail at my smallest smile; by the way he shows his hurt when I leave without taking him. (I think it makes him sick with worry when he is not along to care for me.) When I am wrong, he is delighted to forgive. When I am angry, he clowns to make me smile. When I am happy, he is joy unbounded. When I am a fool, he ignores it. When I succeed, he brags. Without him, I am only another man. With him, I am all-powerful. He is loyalty itself. He has taught me the meaning of devotion. With him, I know a secret comfort and a private peace. He has brought me understanding where before I was ignorant. His head on my knee can heal my human hurts. His presence by my side is protection against my fears of dark and unknown things. He has promised to wait for me... whenever... wherever - in case I need him. And I expect I will - as I always have. He is just my dog." - Gene Hill

20-01-14

Posting Winnebago System as Federal Waters

The Winnebago System is considered Federal Waters and includes all the waters of Lake Winnebago, Lake Poygan, Lake Winneconne, and Lake Buttes des Morts as well as the Wolf River from the Shawano Dam to Lake Buttes des Morts and the Fox River from Portage to Lake Buttes des Morts. The landings and access points to these waters are not posted as being Federal Waters and most people would not have any way of knowing this and the related Federal requirements. You would not expect waters such as the Fox River and Wolf River and lakes such as Lake Puckaway to be Federal Waters but they are.

Because of the different requirement for boating on these waters and the potential fines for not abiding by these rules and regulations it would only make sense to properly post these. It would be no different than arresting someone for speeding on a highway with no posted speed limits. Seeing as these are Federal Waters the United States Coast Guard should be responsible for all costs associated with this.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Fond du Lac County on April 14, 2014, recommend that the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources and U. S. Coast Guard to properly post all waters of the Winnebago System as Federal Waters at all boat landings and boat access points. In addition this should be included in the Wisconsin Fishing and Boating Regulation publications.

Name: Robert A. Haase

Name of Organization: Private Citizen

Address: W7949 Treptow Ln.

City, State, Zip Code: Eldorado, Wisconsin, 54932

Name of the County Introducing In: Fond du Lac

Telephone Number: 920-922-8003