

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## Rule Simplification Committee

### Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	12/20/14	10 AM	Mead Wildlife Area
-------------------	----------	-------	--------------------

#### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

##### A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Eugene Altwies at 10:00 AM
----------------------------	----------------------------

##### B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Eugene Altwies, Matt O'Brien, Paul Reith, Frank Pratt, Roger Roehl, A. Jim Heffner, Curtis Youngbauer, Jerry Merryfield, Steven Ninneman, Dan Cichantek
EXCUSED	Michael Hamm, Wayne Towne, Tara Rueth, David Watson
UNEXCUSED	Dave Kowalkowski, Matt Sedelbauer, John Bronk, Douglas Williams
GUESTS	None

##### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Move to approve by Heffner, Second by Merryfield
ACTION	Approved

##### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Altwies
ACTION	None

##### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

#### II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

##### A. ARCHERY LICENSE SIMPLIFICATION

**YOUNGBAUER**

DISCUSSION	Proposal to remove differentiation between crossbow and archery harvest tag.	
	Motion to Approve by Merryfield Second by Cichantek	
ACTION	Merryfield: cost, confusion, and uncertainty is only result of differentiated licensing. Roehl: there was no rush to crossbows by non-archery hunters, so this concern can now be set aside. Roehl: differentiation could still be done during registration without differentiation of tag.	
	Motion Carries	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

**B. DEER HUNTING LICENSE SIMPLIFICATION****ALTWIES**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Proposal to remove differentiation specific to type of weapon.</p> <p>Motion to approve by Cichantek Second by Roehl</p> <p>Roehl: simplicity is a good idea. Merryfield: the complexity is unnecessary. Ninneman: Michigan is similar, how would group hunting be impacted? Youngbauer: Only 1 buck tag would be a negative impact. If not weapon-specific, 2 buck harvest would be needed. O'Brien: Historically it started as simple, but It's gotten very confusing to manage by weapon instead of by species. Reith: Harvesting a "Gun" buck with a lesser weapon during any part of the season would keep hunters in the field to harvest deer in CWD zones</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion Carries	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

**C. ELIMINATE ARTIFICIALS-ONLY RESTRICTION FOR TROUT****PRATT**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Motion to approve by Ninneman Second by Cichantek</p> <p>Many comments followed in a conversation led by Pratt that use of proper hooks is much more important factor than "live" bait, as hybrids do not properly qualify into either category. Overall, there was support to revisit resource management intent with a more accurate regulation to achieve the desired goal.</p> <p>Pratt: If there is a regulation needed for "live-style" bait fishing, it should regulate the hooks for the type of fishing to reduce mortality.</p> <p>Cichantek: appropriate hooks improve catch rate, reduce harm by hooking in the right locations, and reduce harm in removal.</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion Carries	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

**D. ONE FISH REFUGE DATE****PRATT**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Consolidate all refuges to use the same calendar, March 15 to the May game fish opening Motion to approve by Heffner Second by Cichantek</p> <p>Merryfield: move forward to get progress, even if every single refuge can't be consolidated to one calendar. Ninneman: wonders if the date is correct, but the intent is.</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion carries	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

**E. ELIMINATE INTRA-WATER BAIT MINNOW RESTRICTION****PRATT**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Motion to approve; Roehl Second by; Youngbauer</p> <p>Cichantek: full agreement. O'Brien: Enforcement of AIS around minnows is murky Pratt: Enforcement of current regulation is also murky Reith: removal reduces negative penalty for being a local fisherman.</p> <p>Further discussion focused around need of scientific evidence for VHS restriction truly being effective and that removing the restriction would cause a significant impact on the resource.</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion carries	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

### F. THREE BAG WALLEYE STATEWIDE

**PRATT**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Move to accept by Merryfield Second by Heffner</p> <p>Pratt: using a 15" size limit already protects the resource. The current safe harvest formula is in need of update, but the question here is to simplify the expected experience. Three is three. Simplifies enforcement, never less than 3. Merryfield: 1 walleye has a tremendous negative impact on tourism. Ninneman: Made a proposal to be more consistent with regulations last year. More action needed. Cichantek: for high-production watersheds like Winnebago and Green Bay, having a larger bag would be an acceptable exception, but exceptions should only be upward from the standard. Pratt: using other tools to manage the resource keeps the tourists coming and the economy moving.</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion Carries	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

### G. ELIMINATE ALL FISH ZONES

**PRATT**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Motion to accept by Ninneman Second by Merryfield</p> <p>Pratt: Simplification is the goal. Heffner: Want to protect the smallmouth fishery. Can we do that while eliminating different zones?</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion Carries	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

### H. ONE LINE TROLLING

**HEFFNER**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Motion to accept Cichantek Second by Pratt</p> <p>Heffner: varying regulations are confusing.</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	<p>Verbal not decisive Hand vote Motion carries 6-3</p>	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

--	--

**I. WARDEN AUTHORITY FOR TRESPASSING ENFORCEMENT**

**HEFFNER**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Motion to accept: Reith Second by: Ninneman  O'Brien: local control is a subject to carefully manage. Cichantek: concern about stretching wardens even thinner than they are already. Heffner: could better enforce the laws if they had this authority O'Brien: Addition of trespass would increase ability to enforcement	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion failed to advance	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

**J. COTTONTAIL RABBIT AND RUFFED GROUSE SEASON**

**NINNEMAN**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Motion to table: Roehl Second: Heffner  Roehl: Table until we know about biologic rationale Pratt: Was the foundation of different zone dates scientific? Motion to table fails 5-4  Motion to advance: Cichantek Second by: Pratt  Cichantek: Move the item forward and we will get answers on scientific rationale.	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion Carries	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

**K. CHANGE DMU BOUNDARIES**

**MERRYFIELD**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Motion to Accept Merryfield Second: Cichantek  Cichantek: the issue came up in several CDAC counties. Roehl: There is a problem with the designation of some land in Rusk county (forest v. farmland) Merryfield: The split of 27 is troublesome Reith: Eau Claire County has 4 tag types for antlerless deer as a result of the HWY 27 split. While counties make sense for feedback and goal setting, they make management difficult. Thankful for the deer who respect administrative borders. Altwies: This split is in some other counties too. Reith: How Metro DMU is targeted within a DMU is also not clearly defined, but off topic.	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion Carries	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

**L. REDUCE NUMBER OF CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS FOR SPRING HEARINGS**

**MERRYFIELD**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Motion to accept: Cichantek Second: Pratt  Cichantek: Improving the administrative process prior to county vote would make the whole congress run better. If it was submitted 1 week in advance, it could be much better. Altwies: Better preparation yields better results Roehl: If the author isn't present it should be rejected. Ninneman: we need to make sure that we are not reducing the voice of the public.  Altwies offers friendly amendment that resolutions be initially submitted 30 days prior to spring hearings for WCC delegates to assist authors in the spirit of the mission and vision of the congress. Merryfield accepts	
	<b>ACTION</b>	Motion Carries
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

**M. TRAPPING CHANGES, CONSOLIDATE ALL SPECIES TO SAME OPENING DATE**

**MERRYFIELD**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Motion to accept Cichantek Second by Merryfield  Cichantek: November 1 is best for quality of fur.  Cichantek offers friendly amendment to move the opening for all furbearers to the last Saturday in October. Merryfield accepts	
	<b>ACTION</b>	Motion carries
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

**N. ACT 10 RULE CHANGES**

**MERRYFIELD**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Motion to approve by Cichantek Second by Ninneman  O'Brien: the process of passive review with 90 days of waiting expands the timeline of the process. Pratt: The same office mandating simplification has encumbered the process. Altwies: Economic impact shouldn't be such a focus in resource management Ninneman: Could emergency rules be used more? O'Brien: Difficult to leverage emergency rules, and the intent was for emergency rules to be difficult to leverage.  Pratt offers friendly amendment to rescind applicability of Act 21 from Natural Resources concerns. Merryfield accepts	
	<b>ACTION</b>	Motion carries
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

**O. PHONE REGISTRATION OF DEER**

**MERRYFIELD**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Motion to accept Roehl
-------------------	------------------------

	<p>Second Cichantek</p> <p>O'Brien: Allowing the registered deer to remain in the field confuses enforcement actions Roehl: The regulation is worded unclearly about possession but clarification of "in the field" is needed for education.</p> <p>Merryfield rescinds item</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	NONE	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

**P. PANFISH REGULATIONS BY GROUPS OF LAKES**

**MERRYFIELD**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Motion to accept by Cichantek Second by Ninneman</p> <p>Merryfield: within a chain or within an area, fish biologist can apply consistent tool. O'Brien: simplifies enforcement within an area. Reith: prevents nearby or connected lakes from overfishing when a popular lake is newly restricted.</p> <p>Pratt offers amendment to allow regulating all fish species by groups of lakes Merryfield accepts</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion carries	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

**Q. STATEWIDE BAN ON DEER BAITING AND FEEDING**

**TOWNE/REITH**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Wayne Towne Rules Simplification Committee Idea</p> <p>State wide ban on baiting for deer.</p> <p>This idea is to slow or prevent the spread of CWD in the Wisconsin deer herd and to enforce the hunter education principle of "Fair Game, Fair Chase". Bait such as a salt block is a substance that deer cannot resist. Science has proven CWD is spread by the infected deer's saliva. A sick deer licking the salt is like a sick person licking a lollipop and giving it to a healthy person. Bait piles are a means of claiming territory and decreases the opportunity for others to use a empty stand on shared land. Food plots also concentrate deer and thus should be at least ½ acre in size to minimize deer grazing on the same food. Native American people on reservations and food pantry reciprocates rely on the deer harvest for food. A healthy deer herd an essential part of economic support for Wisconsin. Like people, if you offer free food deer will come, the sick and the healthy.</p> <p>Thus a ban on baiting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increases the opportunity and decreases possible conflict over territory.</li> <li>2. Simplifies the rules so all hunters have the same rule.</li> <li>3. Eliminates a policy of selected non baiting counties.</li> </ol> <p>Wayne Towne George Korn Walter Cox Richard Moses Jr.</p> <p>WCC Delegates Menominee Co.</p> <p>Motion to accept by Altwies Second by Merryfield</p>	
-------------------	--	--

<b>ACTION</b>	Motion carries
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

### III. MEMBERS MATTERS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Pratt congratulates group on list of items          Altwies discusses Exec Council meeting on Jan 9&amp;10          Reith discusses banning lead shot for harvest before it's legislated          Cichantek discusses trap sizes and managing use of 160s and 220s will review with O'Brien for 2015</p> <p><b>Merryfield discusses value of this meeting and shares hope for the Executive Committee to take action on these items and treat them seriously.</b></p> <p>Ninneman questions how prior WCC questions were voted down and they returned to the spring hearing questionnaire, i.e. pan fish regulations.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>2:14 PM</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Paul Reith</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>12/20/14</b>