

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## Trout Committee

### Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	23 Aug 2014	0930-1430	Mead Wildlife Center-Stevens Point
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#### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

##### A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chair Dennis Vanden Bloomen at 0930
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##### B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Tom Johnson (Douglas), Dennis Haanpaa (Iron), Roger Roehl (Rusk), Dan Donahue (St. Croix), George Korn (Menominee) Bob Ellingson (Oconto), Dennis Vanden Bloomen (Eau Claire), Scott Pitta (Adams), Maurice Amundson (Monroe), Robert Haase (Fond du Lac), Aaron Frailing (Brown), Jim Wierzba Ozaukee), Martin Sands (Walworth), Joanna Griffin (DNR Liaison), Dave Hausmen (DNR Liaison)
EXCUSED	Dave Barron (Richland), Todd Oestrich (Outagamie), Edgar Anderson (Tremplealeau), Mike Kuhr (Milwaukee)
UNEXCUSED	none
GUESTS	none

##### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Approval of Amended Agenda Dated 20 August 2014

##### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Review and possibly change to read:--To address cold water resource issues advanced from public input and to ensure that these resources are not degraded.
ACTI	Change failed for lack of a motion to amend/change current mission statement

##### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	none present
ACTION	none

#### II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

##### A. RESOLUTION 480214—ELIMINATE ALL EARLY TROUT SEASONS (MARCH & APRIL)

DISCUSSION	The early catch and release season has been very popular with many anglers but not entirely supported throughout the state. DNR biologists agree that such seasons have no negative biological impact and is important to provide additional recreational and economic opportunities outside of the regular season framework. In addition, many surrounding states continue to expand early season opportunities. Anglers prefer more fishing opportunities and to stay in-state than travel out-of-state to trout fish. The early catch-and-release season is preferred by schools for classes while they are in session during the early season
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	<p>The early season is not a law enforcement issue in Pierce County. More people get cited for fishing in the closed week before the general fishing opener. There will be a proposal to extend early season only in waters where early season already exists. In these waters, early season will begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be public meetings in early September to discuss these proposals. The final proposal will be voted on at the 2015 spring hearings.</p> <p>The Rush River is not the same stream as in 1970's. There are as many as 5,000 trout per mile but not as big because brood stock fish and being stocked.</p> <p>Season options have been a major discussion item during the 2011-14 trout regulation review process. The DNR Trout Management Team with WCC has sought public input throughout the rule review process and is now going to bring those new rule proposals to the public for final comment.</p> <p>Since 2011, DNR staff members have hosted 31 public meetings, developed three angler surveys, organized trout task force stakeholder meetings and developed advisory questions for spring hearings hosted by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. The season proposals developed have incorporated much stakeholder input.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	MB Dan Donahue, Bob H (SB), to reject resolution 480214. Resolution rejected—will not advance.
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Chair to send letter informing proposer of the Committee decision	5 September 2014

**B. RESOLUTION 560414—RESTORE ST.CROIX COUNTY STOCKING LEVELS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Fisheries biologists set stocking quotas which are linked to goals. The stocking quotas are fulfilled based on the purpose (priority) at a statewide scale. Stocking can be an important tool to provide sport fishing opportunities where there is a lack of natural production. The goals are to protect and restore trout populations where appropriate and to provide fishing opportunities. Since 1950, numbers of trout have generally increased statewide while other waterbodies remain highly dependent on stocking to support a fishery. <a href="#">An evaluation of trout stream regulations in Wisconsin streams [PDF] (keyword trout review)</a> Trout angler habits and preferences have also changed.</p> <p>Trout stocking quotas will need to be aligned with current production capabilities and funding availability. Stocking will need to take into account the current status of trout streams and angler preferences captured in the angler surveys. <a href="#">Trout Fishing in Wisconsin: angler behavior, program assessment and regulation and season preference [PDF]</a></p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Dan D (MB) Bob Ellingson (SB)—to advance--resolution rejected..
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Chair to send letter to proposer	5 September 2014

**C. RESOLUTION 130114 (ASSIGNED TO FUR HARVEST COMMITTEE) RESTORE BEAVERS TO PROTECTED STATUS IN WISCONSIN**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Comments from the Trout Committee--Protected status is an issue for getting rid of problem beavers, thermal issues above and below impediments compounds create thermal water problems for trout. Permits to trap 'protected' beaver will add another level of complexity</p>
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	<p>This a statewide issue but there are too many variables to make a policy to protect all beavers. Earlier trapping efforts were not about trout but other species were being edged out. Current trapping season means beaver are still are somewhat protected.</p> <p>Protected status will impede trapping, impact on watershed levels, short-term benefit of dams but long term dams were detrimental.</p> <p>Beaver dams can create back water that effect other users like ATV's.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Recommend Fur Committee reject the elevating beaver to protected status
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Chair—send letter to Fur Harvest committing stating our position	5 September 2014

**D. RESOLUTION 131614 (ASSIGNED TO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE) EVALUATION AND APPROVAL OF HIGH CAPACITY WELL PERMITS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Comments from the Trout Committee—High capacity wells have had a negative impact on streams such as the Little Plover and lowering the aquifer has created problems even for farmers. Some streams even with the high rain levels this past spring are only at 'normal'.</p> <p>It appears there may be new legislation on high capacity wells as this will be addressed in the new legislature.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	MB Mike K, Jim W (SB)--Regulation and review of impact of high capacity wells—support this regulation resolution.
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Chair to have this appear as an agenda item at 2015 meeting	July 2015

**E. RESOLUTION 330114 (ASSIGNED TO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE) MANURE STORAGE/APPLICATION RULES AND ENFORCEMENT**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Comments from the Trout Committee--CAFO regulations are in place but not for discharge of small operators.</p> <p>Nothing came of large statewide committee that met over the past 10 years</p> <p>Phosphorous loading in streams and buffer issues for many stream and especially impoundments (Tainter Lake and Lake Menomin) Dunn County and Red Cedar watershed.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	MB Wiezba (SB) Donahue—support resolution to environmental committee, enforcement-passed
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Chair reiterate committee position and support to environmental committee	

**F. RESOLUTION 580114 (ASSIGNED TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE) STREAMLINE LOCAL FISH BIOLOGIST ABILITY TO CHANGE BAG/SIZE LIMITS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Any comments or position statement form the Trout Committee?
<b>ACTION</b>	Already did this with our comments on Act 21 in 2012. No further action on this item.

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

### III. MEMBERS MATTERS

#### A.

DISCUSSION	Review 2014 spring hearing results (Trout Issues)
ACTION	Trout stamp increase failed to pass.

#### B.

**JOANNA GRIFFIN—DNR LIAISON**

DISCUSSION	<p>Review of 2014 Trout Season</p> <p>Brown County will work on improving their class II stream Hallerf Creek by clearing debris. Will do this while preventing northern pike transiting up the stream.</p> <p>Stocking issues--Need to keep stocking streams to provide more opportunities for youth. Support hatchery programs. Review stocking policies. Keep differences in water, regions in mind when setting stocking policies.</p> <p>Resolution 160114--Fish hatchery monies to be raised by increasing the Inland Trout stamp fee by \$5.</p> <p>Legislative Issue? Perhaps alternate funds can be raised by conservation a card. If we do not know what will be raised and how funds will be used difficult to get support.</p> <p>Research issue—does high water negatively affect bug hatches?</p> <p>Youth trout camp—sponsored by Trout Unlimited.</p> <p>Trout Fest (June) in Driftless Area was a successful youth and community event.</p> <p>Oak Park, IL Trout Unlimited helped (Sparta) group do restoration work. Sparta will get credits for phosphorus discharges.</p> <p>Rusk and Walworth Counties--high water delayed trout fishing until mid-July.</p>	
	ACTION	No action—informational purposes only
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

#### C.

**JOANNA GRIFFIN –DNR LIAISON**

DISCUSSION	<p>DNR Trout Committee Update</p> <p>Increase opportunities for trout anglers by extending the early season, extend the fall trout season statewide and eliminate the 5-day closure between the early catch and release and the fishing opener.</p> <p>Simplify the trout regulations by reducing the categories from 5 to 3, reduce special regulations from 40+ to 12, create uniform regulations on streams and within small</p>	
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	geographical areas, and make the trout regulations booklet more user friendly.	
	Public meetings in September 2014 and prepare for Spring hearings in 2015. Implement changes in 2016-- See key word "trout review" on DNR website for more information	
<b>ACTION</b>	Informational--WCC Trout members signed up to attend September 2014 meetings	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>
		September 2014

**D.**

LAURA MACFARLAND (RIVER ALLIANCE OF WI) AND MAUREEN FERRY (WI DNR)

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>AIS monitoring and New Zealand Mud Snails (added 08/20/14)</b>	
	They are 5mm in length and can live out of water 26-40 days.	
	The detrimental impact?--They can displace the domestic species/community. They do not provide nutrition to trout.	
	They are present in Black Earth Creek especially the driftless area, came from western states possible Colorado but not from the Great Lakes. In streams since 2011.	
	What can be done? Monitor to see if they are in other streams. Monitor 80 sites but still only found in Black Earth Creek. Bleach does not prevent spread, as they are very transferable. Use a small brush to brush off snails. A pesticide sprayer to get rid of final film. Install sign and long-handled station at streamside. There is some funding available to do this.	
	Study with other Midwest states seeking Federal funding.	
<b>ACTION</b>	For informational purposes only	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>1425 hours</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>D Vanden Bloomen, Chair</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>09/03/14</b>