

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## Turkey & Upland Game Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	August 9, 2014	9:00 AM	Elizabeth Inn, Plover
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## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Kenneth Risley at 9:00AM
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### B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Members Present: Roger Reas, Eric Wojchik, Jeremy Sarauer, Marcell Wieloch, Reed Kabelowsky, Dale Ebert, David Zielke, Darold Brathol, Jason Leis, Richard Halverson, Jason Wood, Roger Greenwood, Otto Bowe, Arlyn Splitt, Clarence Koch, Robert Wilberscheid, Thomas Roskopf, Doug Duhr, Rick Fruit, Kenneth Vertein, Kenneth Risley, Jeff Winn, Mike LaRose, Michael Sovich.
EXCUSED	John Hoeffs and Don Anderson
UNEXCUSED	Daniel Tyrolt
GUESTS	Kevin Feind and Walter Seibel from public DNR Liasons: Dr. Scott Walter, Warden Sean Neverman and Brian Dhuey from DNR Science Services

### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Otto Bowe, wanted to add <u>turkey</u> to the upland game references in the mission statement wording
ACTION	None

### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Comments were offered as the resolutions were being discussed
ACTION	

## II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

### A. CHANGES TO TURKEY APPLICATION PROCESS

**STEVE SOHN, AUTHOR**

DISCUSSION	Brathol and Halverson offered comments; the resolution did not offer a specific solution and offered no evidence of claims stated in the resolution. Scott Walter agreed	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Wilberscheid, second by Wieloch. Motion carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Kenneth Risley		

**B. CLOSE FALL TURKEY HUNT IN UNIT 6**

**TOM AVIS & WALLY SOYRING,  
AUTHORS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Kevin Feind, a public guest, presented reasons that he and many in Douglas County think the fall turkey season should be closed for hens until the population increases</p> <p>Discussion by committee members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally did not support the closure</li> <li>• Roger Greenwood has sighted hens with poults in this area</li> <li>• Marcell Wieloch stated that southern areas should not make decisions for northern areas</li> </ul> <p>Scott Walter stated that the season cannot be altered except by emergency action. Walter did not support for some of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harvest data does not support</li> <li>• The benefit to the turkeys would be minimal</li> <li>• The cost in hunter opportunity and resources would be high</li> <li>• Hunters would think incorrectly that they, not weather, influence turkey populations</li> <li>• Success was down in all northern zones</li> <li>• The DNR turkey committee did not support</li> </ul>
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion to reject by Wilberscheid, second by Jeremy Sarauer. Motion carried 17 yes 6 no
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Kenneth Risley	

**C. LIMIT THE NUMBER OF LEFTOVER TURKEY TAGS  
AN INDIVIDUAL CAN PURCHASE**

**KEVIN SLOANE, AUTHOR**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The statistics do not warrant any action. Only 31 people killed 5 or more turkeys	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion to reject Greenwood, second by Halverson. Motion carried 20 yes 0 no	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
Kenneth Risley		

Vice Chairman Arlyn Splitt provided an update on the Landowner Preference Bill:

- The change would be for 50 acres in the same zone (not contiguous)
- Senator Robert Cowles will re-introduce the bill in the next session
- If passed it would not take effect until 2016

Chairman Kenneth Risley spoke on the problems of personal property recovery as it relates to hunting dogs. Some of the issues discussed are:

- The problem involves cattle and horses as well as hunting dogs
- Owners are often absent during the hunting season
- Courteous hunters get permission in advance if possible
- Iowa, Illinois & Michigan have laws that require a person to have documented evidence of an attempt to get permission
- The Farm Bureau may take this issue to legislation

Scott Walter updated the committee on the 2013/ 2014 turkey harvest

- There was a drop in the 2013 harvest in the northern units
- The second highest day of harvest was in December
- 2014 permit numbers were reduced by 4,370 in zones 4, 5, 6 & 7
- The harvest increased in zones 1, 2, 3 & 4 and had a slight decrease in zones 5, 6, & 7. This is after the most severe winter since records have been kept.
- Unsold leftover permits were available in zones 1, 3 & 4
- Zones 1, 3 & 4 had highest harvest
- The 2014 – 2024 Wild Turkey Management Plan revision is complete. The plan awaits approval and should be accessible to the public soon.

Walter said the Sharp-tailed grouse season is open but no permits are available. Some new management action makes the forecast for them somewhat improved.

Ruffed grouse survey results are stable to increasing.

The 2014 Farm bill was signed. This was good as the bill recognized the middle ground between agriculture and conservation.

- CRP acreage was lowered by 24 million acres
- Wisconsin lost 540,000 thousand acres (703 square miles) of CRP land since 1990

The DNR turkey committee discussed:

- Eliminating fall drawing for permits
- Increasing the cap on the number of applicants for a group permit
- Giving preference to unsuccessful permit applicants for leftover permits
- Adding a 7<sup>th</sup> hunting period so there would always be a hunt over Memorial day
- Changing the opening to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in April to always have a hunt over Memorial Day weekend
- Opening turkey season during the 9 day deer season

Sean Neverman reported on law enforcement:

- Using bait remains the number one violation
- There was one turkey hunting shooting incident

### III. MEMBERS MATTERS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>A member questioned why cattle are grazing on some public land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is being used as a tool for oak regeneration</li> </ul> <p>Why is the season opener on Wednesday?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessens hunting pressure</li> <li>• Allows farmers an increased opportunity</li> </ul> <p>We must not group turkeys with other upland game to keep trophy perception alive</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	none

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>11:50 AM</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Clarence Koch, Secretary</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>August 9, 2014</b>