

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

WCC wolf advisory committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	Aug 9 2014	9am	Schmeeckle Visitor Center
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Mike Riggle at 9am
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Kevin Schanning, Arnold Popp, James Flanigan, Ron Weber, Laurie Groskopf, Arden Loker, Richard Krawze Sr, John Quall, Dave West, Myron Leis, Scott McAuley, Steve Ninneman, John Piechowski, Thomas Savage, Brad Martinson, Steven Staver, Michael Rogers, Gary Schenck, Bret Bauman, DNR Dan Michels, Dave MacFarland
EXCUSED	
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Sen. Thomas Tiffany, DNR Bob Holsman, WCC Larry Bonde, Dave Hoechtrict, DNR Adam Lindsey, Melanie Weber, Kathlen Gavin, Mike Burst

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Allow Dave MacFarland to report first
ACTION	Motion to approve by K Schanning, J Quall

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Mission statement read
ACTION	Motion to approve by M rogers, J Quall

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Informed Guests
ACTION	None

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. WIS WOLF SEASON REPORT

DAVE MACFARLAND

DISCUSSION	Handed out and discussed wolf report
ACTION	Talked about post mortem on wolf kills. M. Rogers said wolves do bite each other. S Ninneman asked about harassment Numbers, 23 verified 6 wolves removed No dogs hurt hunting wolves last year. Livestock depredation reduced by half. There is a 5 calf rule so that changed the depredation level. 2011 63 farms 2013 28 farms Wolf population had more reduction in 2013 than anticipated. Many questions on winter count due to cold and heavy snow, and access to roads. D Krawze said winter severity changes count. D macfarland said count is somewhat reliable. He also said training for tracking will be shorter this year. 25 dollars for class. Hold approx... 6 classes. There is a new way of monitoring and will be cost

	effective. Quota was approved at 156 As of this time the tribes have not declared yet
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A

B. LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

DAN MICHELS

DISCUSSION	Received more violations with size of trap and cable restraints before legal date. Some zone reporting issues. Bow hunters are falsely posting areas for trapping to keep grouse hunters out. Krawze and J. Quall talk about specific zone tags.
ACTION	N/A
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A

C. WIS. WOLF OPINION SURVEY

BOB HOLSMAN

DISCUSSION	Bob Holsman, Explained how he developed the survey. Explained it was random with valid measurement for the wolf advisory committee. Total of 8750 surveys were sent out to random people. 7000 were in wolf pack counties 59% responded. T.Savage and L Groskopf like the survey but will wait for the full report. Holsman explained about the new scientific integrity policy and that the survey was 98% complete and would be out in a couple of weeks.
ACTION	N/A
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A

D. RESOLUTION 370214

MIKE BURST

DISCUSSION	Mike Burst presented his resolution and law enforcement mentioned possible zone jumping
ACTION	L Groskopf and A Loker made a motion to advance, motion passed
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A

E. RESOLUTION 370114

MIKE BURST

DISCUSSION	Mike Burst presented his resolution .L Groskopf said 22 county boards and farm bureau have passed 350 goal. M Riggle thinks we should think outside the box. S McAuley said we should not manage for harvest. Much Discussion.
ACTION	L Groskopf and G Schenck motion to advance, motion passed.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A

F. RESOLUTION 540114

LARRY MEYER

DISCUSSION	Larry Meyer had M Riggle read his statement. Coincide with the reg. trapping season and have better pelts
ACTION	K Schanning and L Groskopf motion to advance. Motion passed
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A

G. RESOLUTION 130214

ALAN KASSULKE

DISCUSSION	M Riggle read the resolution, A Kassulke not present.
ACTION	J Piechowski and T Savage motion to reject, motion passed

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A

H. RESOLUTION 411114

G KLIEN

DISCUSSION	Mike Riggle read a statement from G Klien. M Rogers questioned the knowledge of the statement
ACTION	Motion to reject by M Rogers and J Quall. Motion passed.

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A

I. TRAINING WITH DOGS ON WOLVES

DISCUSSION	Run with the opening of the wolf dog hunt first mon. after the 9 day gun season, and end the hunt on the last day of Feb.
ACTION	Motion to support by S McAuley and D Krawze, Motion to support passed

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>M. Rodgers, Good Meeting . Interest in survey. S. Staver: good meeting. Less tags more opportunity T Savage: Good Meeting J Quall: Good Meeting. 156 quota is to low D Krawze: Good meeting. Remember when the last wolf was shot. February 1956. Suggested a book called Real Wolf by Ted Lyon. S Mcauley: Trapper Ed Instructors information Big game forever D Michaels: Good meeting A Popp: SSS B Martinson: Enjoyed Meeting S Ninneman: Good meeting. Asked about last meeting minutes in members matters L Groskopf: :Wants readable format on depredation. Wants an agenda for the next meeting on old advisory question from 2012, notification on wolf depredation on livestock attacks. Number 350111. Would like to discuss new counting option –rendezvous cites. Talk about caps on lawsuit on endangered species act. How much humans can take with wolf population. Gave out handouts for summary by Fuller. K Schanning: Question act 22- takes the teeth out of WCC. J Piechowski: Concerned about volume of deer taken by wolves. Be proactive on wolf harvest M Leis: Manage wolf by depredation-deer herd size and not dwell on 350 number .Education for non-hunters on hunting and trapping D West: New to committee- enjoyed M Riggle: Thanks for coming and being civil, for being such a controversial subject</p>
ACTION	

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A

III. ADJOURNMENT TIME: J Piechowski moved to adjourn at 2:18pm

SUBMITTED BY	Steve Ninneman
DATE	8/12/14

To: Wolf Advisory Committee, Wisconsin Conservation Congress

From: Larry Meyer

Subject: Changing the opening day of wolf hunting and trapping season(540114)

Date: August 1, 2014

Dear Wolf Advisory Committee;

I am writing this letter as I am unable to attend your meeting on Saturday, August 9th, 2014. I am the author of changing the opening day of wolf trapping and hunting to the Saturday, closest to November 1 (approximately two weeks later). I ask that you move this question forward to the State wide Spring Conservation Hearings in 2015 for the following reasons:

1. Wolf fur is of poor quality in the middle of October. Waiting two weeks gives a better looking pelt. Most of the wolves harvested are a trophy animal and its pelt is on display.
2. Many hunters and/or trappers with a wolf tag want to take their wolf later in the season, but if they wait that may not get a change as wolf quotas are filled quickly.
3. Too many other activities in the woods in October, such as grouse hunting, bear hunting, etc. getting in conflict with wolf hunters and trappers. In 2013 there were a total of 31 formal wolf trapping complaints received, 26 of these complaints were in October. In 2013 there were 15 formal wolf hunting complaints, seven of these complaints were in October.
4. With the current wolf season opening October 15, Raccoon and Coyote season is not open for several days, and any raccoons or coyotes caught in wolf sets have to be released. NO FUN IN RELEASING A COYOTE FROM A TRAP.
5. With the new quota of 156 wolves for the 2014 season, I fear that the entire quota will be filled in October. Those hunters and trappers who waited to get a wolf permit, will not have a opportunity to get a wolf with a quality pelt.
6. Having a later opening for the wolf season would give those hunters and trappers that receive a wolf harvest permit more time to prepare for the season. More time to take a wolf trapping course, wolf scouting, etc.

I realize that to change the opening date on the wolf season requires legislative action. But if this question is put on the Statewide Spring Conservation hearing and passes by a wide margin, I believe our legislature would change the opening date of wolf season for 2015.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Larry P. Meyer
larrypmeyer@msn.com
262-473-2794

Alien

To: WCC Wolf Committee Members

Re: Resolution #411114 Banning Dogs from hunting Wolves

I regret that I am unable to attend in person, but wish to relay some points for consideration with more current stats pertaining to my Resolution #411114.

Current reports show that dog depredations by wolves have increased from 2012-13 since the hunting wolves with dogs was implemented.

- 2014 YTD already has 9 hounds were killed by wolves, 5 in the last two weeks alone, with an additional hound injured.
- In 2013, 27 dogs were killed (25 hunting hounds). \$56,000 was paid out in compensation to hound hunters.
- In 2012, \$14,000 was paid out for 6 hounds killed.

Over \$400,000 has been spent in lobbying by special interest groups, primarily bear hound hunters to ramrod this through legislation, for a select group of hunters, despite the majority of Wisconsinites, wolf experts and wildlife biologists being against hound hunting of wolves.

Why are hounds supposedly running and training on bears being run through known wolf caution areas and exposing their dogs to known risks of being killed by wolves? Is this really fair and ethical sportsmanship? Are these hounds recently killed really just training on bears, given the recent 7/10 Wisconsin Appeals Court decision to allow training dogs on wolves?

In addition to the WDNR stats, I'd like to focus your attention on one of your own fellow hound hunters featured on 7/28 at an outdoor panel discussion by Wisconsin Outdoor Fun. Dave Mabie, an avid hound hunter raised several issues 1) there is no need to train dogs on wolves, and 2) can not condone running hounds on wolves with pups due to their territorialism and 3) Why put your dogs at risk?

So it is clear that not all hound hunters endorse using dogs to train or hunt wolves, and in fact:

- Many hunters consider the use of dogs hunting wolves too risky, unethical, and unnecessary. Wolf hunting without dogs is already proven effective.
- All other states prohibit hunting wolves with hounds.
- Allowing hounds to hunt wolves conflicts with pre-existing anti-cruelty animal statutes.

If the WCC really believes in ethical hunting, they must realize that hunting wolves with dogs is NOT "fair chase"! For these reasons, I would ask 1) that you vote to recommend to BAN dogs from hunting wolves, 2) represent the majority of Wisconsinites opposing dogs hunting wolves and 3) make a legislative recommendation to prohibit the use of dogs in hunting wolves.

I request that you take this matter under serious consideration.