

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress Deer & Elk Study Committee



## MEETING MINUTES

ORDER OF BUSINESS	03/21/2015	9:00 am	Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center
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### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Al Phelan 9:15 AM
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#### b. Roll Call

ATTENDEES	Al Gerber, Jay Koenig, James Morning, Mike Riggle, Arold Ninneman, Jerry Aulik, Tony Janecek, Joe Helwig, Mark Noll, Martin Laidlaw, Larry Gohlke, Wright Allen, David Pagel, Anthony Grabski, Al Phelan, Charlie Brown, Martin Haas, David Poff, Kevin Wallenfang – WDNR, Dave Zebro – WDNR, Dan Storm – WDNR, Kevin Mickleberg – WDNR, Bob Nack - WDNR
EXCUSED	Bud Walker, Al Horvath, Roger Sabota, Bill Yingst, Allen Jacobson, Doug Seidl, Terri Roehrig, Larry Bonde, Joe Caputo, Larrie Hazen, Stan Brownell
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	

#### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Motion by Mike Riggle & second by Arold Ninneman to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

#### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Motion by Charlie Brown & second by Dave Pagel to accept as is. Motion passed.

#### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	None

### II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

#### A. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES

DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2014 Deer Season Wrap Up – Kevin Wallenfang, DNR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Archery registration 54,810 &amp; crossbow 26,891; total 81,701 with antler buck 46,201</li> <li>- Gun registration 222,588; grand total 304,289</li> <li>- Substantially less deer registered in Northern Forest Zone which had very few antlerless permits</li> <li>- Total licenses 837,635; gun 562,218, archer 161,991, crossbow 42,788, patron 47,561, upgrade archer 18,416 &amp; upgrade crossbow 4,661</li> <li>- 2014 pilot electronic registration for 200 pre-selected participants by in person, phone or internet; Actual registration 4,850 by internet &amp; 5,335 by phone</li> <li>- Disable hunt – 88 sponsors in 49 counties, 78,921 acres enrolled with minimum 501 participating hunters</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kevin discussed percent change in gun buck harvest &amp; total buck harvest by counties &amp; also percent change in total antlerless harvest by counties</li> <li>- 2014 CWD sample results showed 324 positives statewide with 2 being in the Central Forest Zone &amp; 322 in the Southern Farmland Zone</li> <li>- WSI showed a easy winter except for the Gile area</li> <li>2. CDAC's and 2015 Quota/Permit Setting – Kevin Wallenfang, DNR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will have one quota recommendation for each county, two if split Zones Forest &amp; Farmland with two permit levels for each: public &amp; private lands</li> <li>- Discussed antlerless quota time line with May 27 NRB approval of quota &amp; deer season recommendations; last day for public comment is April 15.</li> <li>- CDAC 3 year county population recommendations: 8 counties to decrease deer, 27 counties to increase deer &amp; balance of counties stabilize</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Youth Antlerless Permits – Kevin Wallenfang, DNR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth permit can change (group bagging) but are OK for military &amp; disable</li> <li>- See committee action item below</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. DMAP Update – Bob Nack. DNR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have established a advisory committee</li> <li>- Established core values – whitetail deer are important, all wild life in the public trust for the benefit of all people &amp; habitat management practices are important</li> <li>- Had 43,000 plus acres in DMAP in 2014</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Research Update – Dan Storm, DNR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Now in the data analysis mode – mortality annual report, carcass evaluation ( fat reserves &amp; fetus)</li> <li>- 2013 / 2014 winter was worse but still had 90% pregnancy rate – looking at habitat in pregnancy rate</li> <li>- Working on a project on how to age deer previously done at registration stations; possibly ask deer processors to save heads, by biologist, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Deer Trustee Report Implementation – Kevin Wallenfang, DNR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kevin gave a summary of the DTR with approximate time line for implementation</li> <li>- He noted 60% of hunters opposed antler point restrictions , 2 plus 7 season is dead &amp; bonus buck is now gone where previously available</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Elk Update – Kevin Wallenfang, DNR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overall Project Plans – 5 year agreement with Kentucky, 150 Elk in total, max. 50 / year, 75 to Jackson County &amp; 75 to Clam Lake</li> <li>- First year results – 28 Elk captured, no injuries, flawless operation &amp; solid foundation built for future years</li> <li>- Discussed health testing – 120 day quarantine in both states, 10 foot fences, double fence, solid barrier on fence &amp; disease-free donors with no TB or Brucellosis</li> <li>- Plan is to release Elk to the wild in June 2015</li> <li>- Monitoring - GPS tracking collars, implant &amp; ear tags</li> </ul> </li> <li>8. Law Enforcement Update – Kevin Mickelberg, DNR &amp; Dave Zebro, DNR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presently have 25 warden vacancies with 14 new recruits in 2 year training process</li> <li>- 2014 was safest season ever</li> <li>- Discussed urban sprawl conflicts</li> <li>- Discussed other rolls wardens fulfill for mission ready teams – ROV team, security tactical boating operation, tactical flight operation using infra red, tactical team for drug plants, security team to protect natural resource personnel &amp; provide extra Capitol security</li> <li>- Transitioning to a new license season with future going to a card that can be checked with a smart phone</li> <li>- Dave Zebro said the DNR's budget for computers is good, car kill program may change in that you may need to call in to get permit for a vehicle deer kill</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Item #3 Youth Antlerless Permits</b> – Motion by Mike Riggle & second by Arold Niinneman that the WCC Elk & Deer Committee recommends the youth deer antlerless permit be weapon specific & not eligible for group bagging. Mike will introduce as a resolution from the floor to get a congress position on it this modification to the youth permit at the State Convention in May. Motion passed with only one opposed.
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Executive Committee	May 14 / 15 2015 Annual Meeting

### III. MEMBERS MATTERS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Larry Gohlke – noted crossbow was 43% successful &amp; CDAC worked good</p> <p>Martin Haas – CDAC does listen</p> <p>Dave Poff – is happy antler restriction is gone</p> <p>Arold Ninneman – concern with privatizing deer herd</p> <p>Jim Morning – otter &amp; fisher off patron license, should change price of license</p> <p>Al Gerber – need local management for doe management also said DNR Board issue is a giant step backwards</p> <p>Mark Noll – recently enjoyed reading history book on Wisconsin Deer Hunting</p> <p>Al Phelan – thanked everyone for coming</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>4 PM</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Tony Janecek</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>April 10, 2015</b>