

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Deer & Elk Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	August 8th, 2015	9:30 AM	Marathon County Public Library, Wausau, WI
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Al Phelan at 9:30
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Delegates: Alan Horvath, Al Gerber, Jay Koenig, James Morning, Roger Sabota, Mike Riggle, Dale Ebert, Jerry Aulik, Joe Helwig, Mark Noll, William Yingst, Allen Jacobson, Marlin Laidlaw, Larry Gohlke, Doug Seidl, Wright Allen, Larrie Hazen, Bradley Hasheider, Al Phelan, Charlie Brown, Martin Haas, David Poff, Tony Grabski. DNR Liasons: Kevin Wallenfang, Dave Zebro.
EXCUSED	Delegates: Melvin "Bud" Walker, Tony Janecek, Stan Brownell, Michael Burkart, Larry Bonde, Dave Pagel. DNR: Dan Storm, Kevin Mickelberg, Brad Hutnik
UNEXCUSED	Jerry Aulik
GUESTS	

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Motion by Laidlaw, second by Seidl to approve agenda

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	The mission of the Deer & Elk Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by blending the social and biological concerns of hunters, citizens, and the Department of Natural Resources to provide successful management of Wisconsin's deer & elk populations and address the interests of all parties.
ACTION	None

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

Resolution (520315) Allow counties in the central/southern farmland zones to extend bow season

ROB BOHMANN

DISCUSSION	Noll expressed concern that snowmobile trails won't open until archery season closes. Morning spoke in opposition. They have enough pressure on their herd. Each CDAC in the Central and Southern Farm Zones would make the call in their own county according to Bohmann. Seidl felt this goes against rule simplification. Riggle does not like the logic of the wording. Laidlaw feels this will create a tough situation for the CDACs. Jacobson feels this would take away from other sports.
ACTION	Motion by Yingst to advance with the amendment that it includes the Southern Zone only, Second by

	Haas. Carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Resolution (190315) Antler point restriction trial in Florence County

NONE

DISCUSSION	Ebert is against because it would follow county lines, not habitat type. Morning expressed that he agrees with some quality efforts. Grabski says lots of public land, as in Florence County, keeps any chance of quality management from happening. Koenig says that quality isn't trophy. Riggle says this might be an economic benefit for Florence County. Ebert felt this may work exactly in the opposite direction. Jacobson can't see how antler hunters can tell meat hunters not to shoot on public land.
ACTION	Gohlke motion to reject, Brown second. Carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Resolution (370315) CDAC deer population vote at Spring Hearings

MIKE LANE

DISCUSSION	Mr. Lane says that no Marathon County citizens have given him any direction as CDAC Chairman regarding deer populations. Chairman Bohmann said that a method is being developed to gather info before the next three-year decision. Hass felt there is already an abundance of information. Ebert felt that a conflict over timing may develop. Bohmann felt that CDACs should remain flexible. Jacobson feels that there is a wider view of representation on the CDACs than at the Spring Hearings. Riggle felt this mustn't be a binding vote. Horvath said there is a risk of jeopardizing the CDAC system.
ACTION	Motion by Yingst to advance an advisory question, Second by Gerber. Carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Resolution (320215) Determine best management practices to slow and reverse spread of CWD

NONE

DISCUSSION	Handled together with Resolution (560215)
ACTION	See (560215)
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Resolution (640215) Disallow group hunting on a first time/youth antlerless tag

NONE

DISCUSSION	Laidlaw feels there are bigger problems with the youth hunting situation. Jacobsen feels veterans and handicapped shouldn't be lumped together with youths. Bohmann says there is legislation to change the situation with group bagging with youth.
ACTION	Lumped with (210215) & (190215) Grabski motion to lump, second by Laidlaw. Carried. Motion by Koenig to advance pending legislation exempting military and handicapped, Second by Riggle. Carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Resolution (560215) DNR develop a more effective approach to limit the spread of CWD

CLAUDE BOVI

DISCUSSION	Mr. Bovi expressed concerns over the effect that CWD will have on deer and deer hunting. Laidlaw expressed his concern over the level of infection in Iowa County and how it's not making news. Changes have to come from the DNR Board. Horvath was concerned on what tactic would be successful. Hazen felt the Agricultural industry might eventually step in. Grabski says that "everything under the sun" has been tried. Morning felt the USDA needs to do more because so much has occurred on game farms. Koenig wanted to know if any more efforts are being done to develop new ways of fighting the disease. Riggle said this disease takes years to manifest itself. Therefore, answers take years, even decades to find. He said that the easiest method to slow the spread is to outlaw feeding and
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	baiting in the areas where we don't have CWD. Koenig wants to know what is happening nationally. Horvath felt some effort should be done in the hot spots. Best Management Practices were discussed. Laidlaw felt a larger awareness needs to be developed. Wallenfang discussed a BMP program that the DNR has developed. Committee struggled to develop a question for the public.
ACTION	Motion by Brown to table, no second. Motion by Grabski to reject, Second by Yingst. Carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Resolution (520415) Draw or party permit system for antlerless deer **NONE**

DISCUSSION	Haas says it is tough to get antlerless permits in some areas of the state. Wallenfang said that rules do exist to do a draw or party permit. Morning expressed concern over a state-wide system. Riggle wondered whether CDACs could implement a drawing system. Laidlaw feels this should cover all Northern Zone antlerless tags and all public land tags state-wide. Wallenfang and Zebro felt this may cause severe administrative problems.
ACTION	Koenig motion to reject, Gerber second. Carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Resolution (210215) Eliminate "group bagging" with youth, disabled, and military antlerless tags **NONE**

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Lumped with (640215) & (190215)
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Resolution (200315) Establish a limit on the number of deer any one license holder may harvest **NONE**

DISCUSSION	Fewer than 3% of hunters shoot more than 3 deer.
ACTION	Riggle motion to reject, Jacobson second. Carried unanimously.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Resolution (360215) Extend the metro unit in Manitowoc County **NONE**

DISCUSSION	Should be done when Unit review takes place in 2017. Local issue.
ACTION	Laidlaw motion to reject, Second by Seidl. Carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Resolution (190215) Group hunting to fill antlerless tags for designated deer hunters **NONE**

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Lumped with (640215) & (210215)
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Resolution (570215) New definition of albino and white deer **NONE**

DISCUSSION	Wallenfang read the latest definition of white or albino deer coming from the DTR process. This passed legislation in July 2015. Hasheider reports that there are white deer being shot in Sauk County.
ACTION	Motion to reject by Yingst, Second by Koenig. Carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Resolution (250215) Reestablish the "bonus buck" program in the Southern Farmland Zone

NONE

DISCUSSION	Grabski reported on problems happening with registration, i.e. unlawful registration with e-registration. Haas reported that it isn't popular with hunters in the CWD areas. Hasheider feels antlerless-only seasons need to be given more time. Wallenfang said Bonus Buck has been ineffective.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Laidlaw, second by Haas. Carried unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

Resolution (250315) Reestablish the opportunity to hunt antlered deer during the Holiday Hunt

NONE

DISCUSSION	Grabski says that private landowners are more likely to allow hunters access if bucks can't be shot. Hasheider concurred.	
ACTION	Riggle to reject, second by Seidl. Carried.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

Resolution (070215) Remove the deer feeding ban from Burnett County

DICK LARSON

DISCUSSION	Mr. Larson isn't addressing baiting, but feels that feeding is a strong "ethic" and mentality in Burnett County. He hopes we can preserve deer hunting in Wisconsin. He says that feeding is often "winked at" by wardens in the County. Gohlke questioned how many years ago. Riggle said that the figure isn't 50 miles, but 10 miles. Koenig didn't agree that personal interests should be put first above the general health of the herd. Laidlaw felt more effort be put toward better education. Wallenfang says there is some legislation pending to possibly drop bordering counties out of the ban.	
ACTION	Laidlaw moves to reject, Gohlke second. Carried.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

Resolution (150315) Require successful deer hunters to fill out a questionnaire to gather data

NONE

DISCUSSION	Wallenfang reported that e-mail registration will still ask several questions, plus there are several other methods of gathering info.	
ACTION	Motion by Seidl to reject, second by Koenig. Carried.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

Resolution (460315) Uniform statewide deer vehicle kill data recording

NONE

DISCUSSION	Zebro reported that there is a new system for reporting car kills.	
ACTION	Motion by Yingst to reject, second by Allen. Carried.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

Rule Simplification Committee Suggestions

NONE

DISCUSSION	Discussion on combining crossbow into the archery season. Horvath feels it's good to follow harvest results for a few years. Laidlaw says many people are watching the separate crossbow results.	
ACTION	Motion to not support by Gerber, second by Laidlaw. Carried.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

Change in DMU boundaries

NONE

DISCUSSION	Nine counties are now split between Ag and forest areas. Koenig is concerned why other counties can't split too. Public and Private land tags may fix this issue over time. Morning felt Chippewa County has a problem that could be solved with a split.	
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ACTION	Motion of non-support by Koenig, Second by Horvath. Carried.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

Deer Hunting License simplification **NONE**

DISCUSSION	None	
ACTION	Motion of non-support by Gohkle, Hazen second.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

Wildlife report **KEVIN WALLENFANG**

DISCUSSION	Kevin gave a preview of the 2015 deer season. Also results from 2014. He gave us a CDAC update, explained how e-registration works, DMAP update, and Research update which included winter conditions and reproductivity. Then Kevin did an update on elk. He showed many pictures of processing the animals in the Black River Falls area. They plan to release by September 1st. The Clam Lake herd had a very hard winter in 2013-14. About 30 calves were born in 2015. The population is between 150-160.	
ACTION		

Law Enforcement Report **DAVE ZEBRO**

DISCUSSION	Warden budgets are being done more efficiently. Eleven recruits are being trained. GPS trackers are sometimes used to catch poachers. All car-killed deer can be reported by phone. DNR will only pick up deer on State roads. Class B bear hunting licenses have been dropped.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Laidlaw says the new Wisconsin Trophy book is out. Sabota says they may be starting to see more deer in Vilas County,. Riggle says the U.S. Forest service will start more cutting. Morning wants to know if some committees will be put together. Bohmann says no. Phelan thanked all for coming.
ACTION	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	3:24 PM
SUBMITTED BY	Co-Chair, Mark Noll, Acting Secretary
DATE	August 8th, 2015