

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Executive Council

MEETING MINUTES



ORDER OF BUSINESS	14 May 15	14:00	Stony Creek Inn
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Rob Bohmann at 14:01
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ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Weiss, Olson, Brown, Larson, Wieloch, Anderson, Ellingson, Aschenbrenner, Smaby, Suchla, Brownell, Sedelbauer, Maas, Splitt, Fahrney, Rogers, Risley, Meyer, Shook, Bohmann
EXCUSED	Roehrig, Bonde
UNEXCUSED	Janowski, Neiduski
GUESTS	numerous DNR staff

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Item 2E removed. Will be discussed at a later time.
ACTION	Motion to approve- Maas. Second by Rogers. motion carries

D. STUDY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

DISCUSSION	Have assignments turned in to Adam before end of convention activities on Saturday. 46 unexcused committee absences last year. Unacceptable.
ACTION	n/a

E. YCC UPDATE

ZIMMERMAN

DISCUSSION	Oversight committee created. Will meet tonight. 21 youth delegates so far. Field day with dept. staff next March. Encourage participation in districts. Districts 4, 7, and 9 need delegates.
ACTION	Bucket passed to collect funds for pizza party tonight.

I. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

Spring Hearings review, Rules and Resolution Report

BOHMANN, MEYER

DISCUSSION	<p>Attendance down. Seeing more non- consumptive users participate. Open to suggestions for increase in participation. Review of WCC Advisory Questions and results.</p> <p>Rules and Resolutions- Meyer</p> <p>Review of tab 4 in convention book. Changes in bold print will be voted on tomorrow.</p> <p>Discussion- how to notify delegates to affirm reading COP. (in effect now or next year).</p> <p>Wieloch - conflict with signing up for committee's this year</p> <p>Kari - this year we won't remove them. Get in habit and will put on delegate profile to answer for next year.</p> <p>Maas - we can make it work this year.</p> <p>Larson - we can put it on delegate profile instead of creating more paperwork.</p> <p>Kari - we could do that next year.</p> <p>Olson - how about those absent from convention this year?</p> <p>Maas - motion- those unable to attend convention this year have 3 weeks to fill out form and turn in.</p>
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	<p>second by Smaby. Discussion Olson - how about by the next executive council meeting? Bohmann - friendly amendment to make the date June 1st to turn in form. Maas accepts. Smaby accepts. Motion carries. Meyer - continues discussion on COP changes with tab 4. Maas - reference page 8. How does Rules and Resolutions envision this happening?(attendance sheets) Meyer - e-mails to executive councilors. District 10 does minutes to record attendance. Maas - what is definition of "state meeting"? Bohmann - the convention. Weiss - also DNR committee meetings? Bohmann - I've asked for a brief summary of what transpired at the DNR meetings. Not full blown meeting minutes. DNR committee meetings are not part of the discussion. This would include Spring, Fall district meeting along with the Spring Hearings and the convention. Brownell - do we need minutes from District Spring and Fall meetings? Bohmann - not required yet. .</p>	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

DNR Secretary's Remarks

STEPP

DISCUSSION	<p>Congratulate Kurt Theide on promotion. Successes this year include: CDAC partnerships, Elk reintroduction, walleye initiative (1 million stocked so far), 3 bag limit, upgraded shooting ranges, 10 year fish and wildlife plan (updating 2 plans- wildlife action plan, fish and wildlife habitat management plan), State budget - NRB changes removed. Will remain as is. Funding restored to state parks. Science services. Dept. not walking away from science based decisions. Scientists scattered throughout DNR. Only affects 9 active staff positions. We want to coordinate these positions into programs that we have now and what we need done in these programs. Stewardship - strong support. Looking at sustainability. We need to service the debt we have. 70% of revenue we have now goes to debt service. Will probably see some sort of compromise. Debate between buying more land and paying our bills. Questions: Weiss - science positions funded by fed and grant money. How does elimination save state any money? Stepp - still a cost associated with these positions. Fed money will still be available to use elsewhere. Opportunity to streamline operation. Weiss - will the Bureau of Science Services be totally eliminated? Good idea to have a "neutral" entity to conduct research- not affected by any special interest. Stepp - remember dollars that pay for that research come from users. Looking forward to giving priority to research that has something to do with what we do in Wisconsin and not some ancillary research done that's not in our interests. Fahrney - refocus on CWD control. Incidence is going up. Stepp - we have not stopped looking for CWD. We are still focused. What are the tools and what is the appetite for using those tools to control. We have to balance with our public. We continue to rely on good sound science and what that recommends as far as managing CWD. Fahrney - couple tools have been removed i.e. bonus buck- no bucks in the holiday hunt. Also discuss class B bear license. Removing backup shooter. Unsustainability of debt service regarding stewardship. Shocking to see that by 2028 it still won't be paid off. Regarding science positions eliminated- applied or basic? Theide - we need to maintain applied research Fahrney - basic research belongs in university system Meyer - tomorrow I'll introduce resolution to restore science positions, educators, and state parks. Decisions are political in nature. Disappointed with DNR response. Placing science within a bureau tends to lend itself to an answer that other people choose. Stepp - we don't want a scientist that is forced to come up with a predetermined answer. We want high quality unbiased research. As far as who will be reporting to whom, that hasn't been determined yet. We have to wait until the end of the budget process to assign. Meyer- hard to support positions in court without research to back it up. University has high overhead</p>
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	<p>costs associated with their work. Theide- clarifies funding issues regarding money coming in for research projects and where it goes. Anderson - bird flu. How does it affect game birds? Stepp - not a biologist. Can't answer that. Maas - budget discussion continued. Natural resources magazine included? Stepp - not a part of budget. Maas - what about learn to fish program etc.? Stepp - looking at the "whole" picture (all things education related). Won't disrespect "friends" groups that have provided their own money to programs. All Dept employees are "educators". We will continue to educate legislators as to our role. Olson - science concerns. Keep politics out. Stepp - we won't ever let politics influence our research decisions. Fahrney - how do we compare to other states regarding staffing science positions? Stepp - hard to do. Every state set up differently. Fahrney - Dr. Kroll pointed out that Wisconsin DNR had more employees than most. Over 900,000 spent on Natural Resource Magazine.</p>	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

DNR Spring Fisheries, Wildlife results and L.E. Update

**STROM-HIORNS, LOOMANS,
SCHALLER**

DISCUSSION	<p>Strom-Hiorns - All questions supported this year. Moving ahead with all proposals. Getting the word out to the public helped. 350-400 comment cards gathered from the public. Majority related to panfish proposals resulting in the following amendments: Langlade County- Upper and Lower Post Lakes- remove from the proposal. Lincoln County- Lake Clara- removed from proposal. Price County- Phillips Chain- changed from 15/5 to 25/10. Price County- Solberg Lake- same as Phillips Chain. Taylor County – Rib Lake- same as Phillips Chain. Vilas County- Big Sand Lake- add to the 5 sunfish over 7" reg (25 panfish of any size may be kept per day except only 5 or fewer sunfish-blugill and pumpkinseed may be over 7").</p> <p>Also the following stream-specific amendments will be considered: Vernon County- Bishops Branch tributaries and Creek 18-13- change to "all brook trout shall be immediately released and 5 brown and rainbow trout in total may be kept with no minimum length". Vernon County- Seas Branch- changed to "all brook trout shall be immediately released and 5 brown and rainbow trout in total may be kept with no minimum length". Ashland and Bayfield Counties- Marengo River- change to the county based regulation of a daily bag limit of 5 trout at no minimum size downstream from the Bayfield County line.</p> <p>Trolling rule in place July 1st. 3 year sunset in effect until 2018. Acting Bureau Director- Justine Hasz</p> <p>Loomans - Department anticipates adopting all proposals. Questions: Shook and Anderson - related to jump shooting. No change to that. Proposal to allow use of foot activated cable restraints has been modified. (tailored to capture smaller fox, coyote, and bobcat.). Cables to be no longer than 7 feet. Bohmann - recognizes Preston Cole in attendance</p> <p>Schaller - L.E. Update- showed recruitment video. 2016 class in process. Hope to hire 15. 11 now in academy. Graduate in June. Stationed in January. Finding "quality" candidates is a challenge. Maas - vacancies? Losing ground with what we have. Schaller - we need to look at how we manage what we have. Fahrney - tree stands on public land. Surprised it passed. Schaller - Federal forests allow them with no problems.</p>	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

II. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Splitt - some questions require legislation. No follow-up to those. Bohmann - working on a list of questions that require legislation from the past. Splitt - concern over exec council rejecting resolutions after committee passes them. Initiate a follow-up to committee's on why they were rejected. Bohmann - prior procedure was to have Kari review questions following committee passage. This was voted down. I would suggest we go back to the previous procedure of having Kari review them for errors. Maas - disservice to committee's when questions rejected by exec council. Districts ask why? Bohmann - all questions need to be in to Kari by Dec 1st. Did not happen last year. I think we need a COP change- all minutes and questions must be submitted within 30 days. We may have to look at committee leadership and make changes. Will put on agenda for the 26th. Fahrney - resolutions. Everyone needs to be aware of follow through. Authors need to track them too. Leadership needs to get back to author's. Suchla - reference committee absentees. Recommend executive councilors go to county chairs for attendance. Anderson - needs another fish biologist in Vilas County. Olson - agrees with Rob. Kari should have ability to review questions and get them right. Ellingson - same as Olson's comments Risley - CDAC going better. Brown - concern over Spring Hearing attendance. Encourage people to write resolutions. Larson - attendance is not acceptable. Hard to get delegates to run for office. Meyer - consider supporting resolutions regarding DNR funding. Bohmann - Bonde won't be here this weekend. Fahrney appointed as parliamentarian for convention. Trap shooting tonight. Visit YCC hospitality room.</p> <p>Motion to adjourn by Maas. Second by Smaby. Motion carries</p>
ACTION	N/A

III. ADJOURNMENT

IV.

MEETING ADJOURNED	16:12
SUBMITTED BY	Joe Weiss- Secretary WCC
DATE	14 May 15