

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Executive Council

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	5/26/15	10 AM	Madison
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The Minutes reflect WCC business on the published agenda after agenda repair and not necessarily in the order in which they were conducted.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Robert Bohmann at 10 AM
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ROLL CALL

MAAS

ATTENDEES	By District (1) Joe Weiss, Rick Olson (2) Al Brown, Dave Larson (3) Mike Riggle, Ed Choinski (4) Bob Ellingson, Ronald Krueger (5) Kevin Smaby, Al Suchla (6) Stan Brownell, Scott Pitta (7) Dale Maas, Arlyn Splitt (8) Staush Gruszynski, Larry Bonde (9) Lee Fahrney, Mike Rogers (10) Ken Risley, Jane Meyer (11) Al Shook, Rob Bohmann (12) Adam Kassulke
EXCUSED	Jacob Janowski
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Kari Lee Zimmermann Congress liaison Adam Lindsey Congress coordinator

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Bohmann Wants to move item III (B) to before lunch depending when presenter arrives.
ACTION	Motion Olson 2 nd Brownell to amend agenda MC.

D. CHAIR'S UPDATE

BOHMAN

DISCUSSION	<p>2015 Convention had representation from all 72 counties with the exception of Brown who were excused. We had 248 delegates on Friday and 207 on Saturday, all were reminded that attendance at the convention is mandatory and is a part of the COP and will be enforced.</p> <p>The gun raffle raised \$1490.00 this year last year we were able to donate \$2000.00. The bucket raffle raised \$4545.00 which is a new record for dollars raised and items donated. A big thank you goes out to all of the districts for their efforts in making this so successful.</p> <p>The cross bow raised \$550.00 this will be used for transportation grants.</p> <p>Hospitality raised \$875.00 which was down about \$400.00 from past year we also had to pay the bartenders this year and we will come up short. The executive committee will review this prior to the next convention. Comment was made that we should start it sooner as we lost some delegates due to this.</p> <p>\$460 was raise from donations which will go to the cost of bear bait for the youth hunt.</p> <p>We had 14 youth congress delegates in attendance on Friday and 11 on Saturday this year.</p> <p>Comments were made on the convention location again this will be review by the executive officers. The catered meals were very good and an improvement over the last few hotel meals.</p>
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ACTION	N/A
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

WCC LIAISON'S REPORT

Kari had nothing to report at this time.

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL QUESTIONS (DNR)

BOHMANN

DISCUSSION	Review of the statewide vote on DNR questions showed all were approved to go to DNR Board.	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

B. REVIEW OF WCC QUESTIONS (WCC)

BOHMANN

DISCUSSION	Review of the statewide vote on Conservation Congress questions showed that Questions 75,77,86 and 102 were rejected and question 100 will be referred back to committee (for clarification)	
ACTION	Motion by Fahrney 2 nd Shook to refer to Public Relations Committee Motion Carried.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Bohmann	5/27/15	

C. Resolution 131015 (*Was III. B. in original agenda done after lunch break*)

DISCUSSION	<p>Judy Archibald explained her resolution to the council. She feels that the current secretary is not doing a good job and that there are too many opportunities to politicize the position. The secretary should not be a political appointment. She answered questions and gave the council the ability to tailor a question if the resolution is approved. Shook the whole process is probably something that could only be advisory and while it probably would get the same favorable results that past congress initiatives. Now all we need is a governor to relinquish this authority.</p>	
ACTION	Motion Olson 2 nd Meyer to approve the resolution and the question should read: Do you support the DNR secretary appointment be returned to the NRB and not the governor? M/C	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Executive Council	Later in meeting	

C.(1) WCC FRIENDS / YOUTH CC

Bohmann

DISCUSSION	<p>Friends of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress board (John Edelblute, Al Shook and Rob Bohmann) will review finances and see if we can offer a scholarship for the youth Congress in the future. There should be about \$17,000 to \$18,000 after the convention expenses are paid. There is a considerable amount of money coming in on the bucket raffle and this is intended to be used for helping out special needs. We used this for radios in the deer project and other items in the past. Rob would also like to help out the McKenzie, Schmeeckle and Mead Centers in recognition of all of the meetings they host us at. All delegates should be aware of how this money can be used so if they have a need in their area they can apply for a grant. The Friends committee will also work on setting up a procedure for grant money and scholarship applications. They will also evaluate the level of support and number of scholarships that can be funded.</p>	
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ACTIO N	Informational	
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
	N/A	N/A

D. Wisconsin Tribes Update

Allness

DISCUS SION	<p>Shelly Allness gave an informational report on the process and procedures in place when negotiating with the various tribes. There are 11 federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin. Tribal Lands in the Ceded Territory are governed under Tribal Sovereignty: the inherent authority of indigenous tribes to govern themselves within the borders of the US.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to self-regulate the exercise of treaty rights • Natural Resource management over lands within reservation boundaries • Power of self-governance <p>Executive Order 39: recognizes the sovereignty of the 11 tribal governments in Wisconsin & the unique government-to-government relationship</p> <p>Chippewa [Ojibwa] Tribes and Ceded Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold specific treaty rights within the Ceded Territory OFF reservation • Voigt Case- clarified treaty rights of the Chippewa to hunt, fish and gather <p>The tribal branches covered under this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Croix Chippewa Community • Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa • Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa • Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa • Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa • Sokaogon Chippewa Community <p>Many questions were asked to help clarify what items are negotiable under DNR authority and what items fall under another department. The tribal Gaming issue came up and this is not an area that the DNR can negotiate. The DOA (Department of Administration) has sole authority over this issue and is not connected to the DNR.</p> <p>Often the media will headline "What the DNR gave away" when in reality it is a matter of what the tribes are allowed under "Treaty Rights".</p> <p>The issue is very complex and the Northern Tribes have a lesser revenue from the casinos than the Southern Tribes. We also must be aware that the state cannot change a treaty; this is a function of the federal government.</p> <p>In the area of Natural Resources any water source coming onto a reservation not only must meet DNR standards but also come under Tribal control as well.</p> <p>The tribes are very protective of their sovereign rights and hold tightly to what was granted to them by treaty, very seldom will they even consider relinquishing any portion of that right.</p> <p>Another area of concern has to do with a request from the Menominee Tribe for the addition of fish ladders on dams on the Wolf River. This could open half of the Sturgeon quota on Lake Winnebago up for tribal use.</p> <p>The department has been giving the tribe sturgeon (8"-10") and these fish are reproducing in the areas up river from the dams. Negotiations are ongoing and the Federal government is also involved in this discussion.</p>	
	ACTIO N	Informational
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
	N/A	N/A

E. RULES AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

DISCUS SION	<p>District councilors should have the responsibility of making sure delegates understand the importance of their attendance at all meetings (State Convention, District and all committee assignments) and that the District Councilors should have oversight on the absents and reason for it.</p> <p>Resolutions are getting rejected too frequently some feel that this is being done for frivolous reasons.</p>
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The committee felt that the resolution should stay with the original committee for them to get back to the author to see if the issues could be resolved for the next hearing cycle. If the committee or the executive council rejected the resolution the reason for that rejection would be given to the author and the committee in hopes that they could fix the problem and we could save some time and frustration to all parties.

Meeting minutes were also a discussion and that all members of the committees should review their committees minutes prior to their approval.

Maas asked if the Historian could flag to the various resolutions that may be coming back for the third time and give that guidance to the appropriate committee.

Shook felt that we are looking too closely on how a resolution is worded rather on what the resolution is trying to accomplish. The idea is in the resolution as long as we keep the integrity of the intent and not so much in the wording. The people need to feel we are working with them and be accountable to the process.

Fahrney was concerned with the integrity of the votes by county, they do not always reflect the recorded count on the tally sheet and we should be asking for a roll call vote. Bonde will work with the rules committee on this in the future.

Splitt we need to develop better communication between the writer, committee and the council it is very confusing at the council meeting when we are asked to decide on whether the resolutions should be forwarded or rejected. Bonde said that the issue was magnified when a motion from the floor of the convention passed so that the congress liaison was not able to proof or adjust questions as they came in from the committees.

Bohmann stated that the committee chairs are responsible for getting the resolutions back to Kari and the council in question form , this has been failing and not being done in a timely manner. When there is no time for Kari to get the issues resolved with the committee chairs prior to the council meeting then we get into trouble. He is frustrated that he has given guidance to all committee officers and this is still not getting done. He is tired of babysitting and he will be making changes to the committee's leadership to get compliance! It would be wise to allow Kari to go back and make the needed corrections.

You have two weeks to get a question back to Kari in draft form after the meeting and not just give her the resolution back saying it passed.

Weise COP says 14 days for committee minutes and draft questions to be turned in and we need to follow this.

It also states that any same or like resolution that has been approved in at least the same three counties for two consecutive years must be forwarded to the spring questioner.

Choinski why can't the committees have the questions done before the meeting is adjourned or at least have it in very good draft form?

Bohmann many committees do that now and that will work in most cases. Some committees have a lot more resolutions than others but that is what you are on a committee for and those committees are larger so processing could be more efficient.

Bonde agreed and reaffirmed that that is how he felt it should be done.

Gruszynski said that in order to keep the integrity of the congress we need to do a better job of recording our votes. We should have some type of electronic voting on the floor of the convention. How can we say who voted for what yet not taking an inordinate amount of time using a roll call vote on all issues'? There is technology available to allow this to happen and the cost would be minimal.

Bonde we also have to clarify how we count the number of words in the resolutions. The chairman's resolution was too many words. We also had some counties reject resolutions because they were counting the words in the instructions if the presenter used the example listed and didn't cross it out. Kari will make a note on the template so if they copy the sheet that the "word count" excludes the instructions. Weiss stated that there was a motion that passed on the floor of the convention that clarified that the title and author contact information along with the words "a" and "the" along with the instructions.

Bonde thanked the council for sending very talented people to sit on the rules and Resolutions Committee, it makes chairing that committee enjoyable.

Maas concerned that some committee liaisons are not up to speed on resolutions submitted to their committees we need to report back to congress leadership when committees meet. This would help a lot in the discussion on weather questions are accurate and proper. So many times we have questions brought up at the executive council level that we are told that the information is not correct. Who are we supposed to agree with? The department liaison's should have at least given departmental guidance, if the committees decide to go against that so be it but without that we are left with too many questions with little or no time to research or discuss before we have to decide to either pass on to the spring hearing or reject.

Bonde affirmed that and said this is a vital issue to have an engaged department liaison.

ACTIO	Motion Shook 2 nd Krueger To allow the Congress Liaison the authority to review and put the
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N	questions in proper format once they are sent in from the committees. M/C (It is understood that our liaison will continue conversation with committee chairs and or secretary's to insure the integrity and spirit of the resolution are maintained).
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Zimmermann	Next meeting cycle

D. COP CHANGES

Bonde

DISCUSSION	Suggested changes to Code of Procedures Section VII (B) (1) ref County chairs/ V-chairs responsible for attendance at Spring Hearings, District Meetings and State meetings. Section VII (B) (10) ref verification of residency requirements <i>strike "through driver's license"</i> <i>Conservation</i> Congress has adopted Wisconsin government accountability board guidance for proof of residency. Section VII (B) (18) Add Councilors will summarize the attendance of County delegates and delegations at required meetings and will consider that when making advisory committee assignments. A copy of the summary should also be provided to the WCC liaison.
ACTION	Motion Meyer 2nd Smaby to adopt all three suggested changes M/C
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
District Councilors	Review at next District Meeting

Break for lunch at 11:51 AM
Reconvene at 1 PM

E. Strategic Plan Report

Meyer

DISCUSSION	Jane said she will tally replies from state convention and bring to next ex committee. Need to better utilize evaluation forms for committee members and chairs. Could we make this an item on each committee agenda and review this discussion at district meetings? There was a discussion on the committee having a meeting in October; this makes it difficult for many to attend. Delegates were concerned that committee evaluations were not being filled out. This is for committee members and committee chairs. The evaluation is located under member resources on the Congress web page Bonde thought that this should be brought up at district meetings. Kari offered to have the evaluation noted on each of the committee agendas in the future. Weiss thought that that would be a good idea and help with compliance but better yet have some printed out and available for each meeting.
ACTION	Informational to the committees and District Councilors
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Meyer/ Zimmermann/District Councilors	Next committee and District Meeting cycle

H. Wolf Research discussion

Dr. Timothy Van Deelen

DISCUSSION	Dr. Timothy Van Deelen Wolf researcher talked about discussion on a Wolf Paper that he published. At issue is a workshop talk that he conducted and that is getting twisted in some circles. He explained what he said verses what others had interpreted it to mean, the reality is that it is being turned into a distortion of facts. Due to this he has now being told that grants that he has already been awarded are in jeopardy of being withdrawn. Many of the councilors were disturbed by this information as the past service that Tim has given to the Congress and Natural Resources of this state has always been of the highest quality. Tim has always shown a high degree of integrity supporting sound science in resource management. Many questions from the Ex Council on letter (handout). [tape recording quality caused difficulty] It was felt that the Congress needs to give a vote of confidence to the scientific community as it pertains to wolf research in Wisconsin.
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ACTIO N	Motion Fahrney 2 nd Bonde that : The Conservation Congress support the continued positive relationship between the DNR and the academic community M/C (Unanimous) It was suggested that this be done thru a letter from Chairman Bohmann and a WCC Press release (public relations committee.)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Bohmann / Fahrney		ASAP

I. Meeting Minutes

Bohmann

DISCUS SION	Bohmann reported that due to problems getting minutes from committees in a timely manner he is requiring that all committees follow the COP that requires complete minutes to be turned in within 14 days of the meeting, Weiss asked if we should be taking minutes at District meetings. Bohmann: we do not have secretary's assigned for this but will ask the Rules Committee to review.	
ACTIO N	Review at Rules and Resolution Committee	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Bonde		Next committee meeting

J. Unexcused Absences

Bohmann

DISCUS SION	48 unexcused absences last year are unacceptable he is requesting each district review with their delegates the requirements and the process. You must contact the committee chair and or the committee secretary prior to the meeting, if due to circumstances that is not possible then as soon after as possible. This is just common respect for the committee and the congress. You should also contact your District Councilors (email or phone) as a backup just in case there are communication problems.	
ACTIO N	To be discussed at all District Meetings	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
District Councilors		Next District Meeting

K. Resolution 200215

Bohmann

DISCUS SION	<p>Audit DNR budget cuts to determine where the money saved is going. A motion to support was discussed if this was something that was probably not something that would be put on the spring questionnaire. Bonde thought that we should have the department answer this for the next council meeting. Weiss thought that it should be a formal request (in writing) maybe to the governor. Fahrney we should get out in front of this and tell the department to take the saved money and put it towards projects our constituents want i.e. fully fund the area service centers. Shook we should ask for a more detailed accounting of this, not a pie chart but actual dollars if they were redirected to other uses or just removed as a savings. Riggle we need to know if these are GPR dollars going back or DJ/PR dollars or stamp money. Meyer gave a summery to where she was told the dollars were going. She also withdrew her motion. Maas withdrew his second as long as we came up with a way to address this issue in a more timely fashion. Discussion on new motion: Fahrney realizes that this is a very narrow interpretation of what we have be discussing but feels that this gets the message across loud and clear that if money saved is not GPR money then we want it utilized in a proper manner. Maas this is an admirable idea but we need to ask the question directly and not dance around the issue. What we don't want to hear is an answer that they can't redirect the money and we still don't have an answer on where it is going. We should be asking the tough question that is what we are here for. Weiss are there any positions that are coming from non GPR money? That way they can't spin the answer. Riggle this is not a money issue but more a legislator that has a vendetta against the department and divisions within the department for past actions that he didn't agree with. Olson I again agree with Maas we need to ask the hard questions and be to the point. We see too much toying with the divisions as a legislative whim look at fisheries as an example. Splitt I think we need to ask the question as to where this money is going and not give suggestion as to where we think it should go at this time.</p>	
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	Bonde I have a little anxiety focusing on just on service centers I would like to see an explanation on where it is going along with a comment that we would like to partner with department leadership in developing a plan on where to invest the savings. That way if they don't involve us in that planning then that's it. Motion and second were withdrawn
ACTIO N	Motion Meyer second Maas to support discussed and both motion and second were withdrawn. Motion Fahrney second Shook that the WCC request that the Wisconsin DNR use a portion of the savings of the proposed budget cuts to the restoration of fully staffed DNR service centers. Motion and second were withdrawn. Motion Bonde second Gruszynski That the chair send a letter to the DNR secretary to request an explanation on where the money from the budget cuts is to be spent and ask that the WCC be partnered in any decisions when extra funds are reallocated. M/C (unanimous)
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	
DEADLINE	
Bohmann	ASAP

L. Res 131015 In Question Form Support the Natural Resources Board choosing the DNR Secretary

Ex Council

DISCU SSION	Question from resolution # 131015 "For seven decades, the DNR secretary had been appointed by the Natural Resources Board. This changed in 1995 when the post became an appointment by the governor and a cabinet position." Do you support the DNR secretary appointment be returned to the NRB Board and not by the governor?
ACTIO N	Motion Bonde Second Riggie To approve question for next year's questioner. M/C
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	
DEADLINE	
Zimmermann	Next Year

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCU SION	<p>Smaby we need to find a way to expedite time sensitive issues through the Congress. In talking with the youth delegates they are very interested and are asking for more ways to be involved with the process. They are looking for a more hands on approach (boots on the ground). Bohmann the department does not have a problem providing those experiences. Bonde what you need to do is talk to your regional supervisors they have had success talking to these people and the department is very accommodating in making this happen. Suchla we need to find a way to get resolution writers at the committee meetings. He keeps hearing that they don't want to waste a day for three minutes and not knowing when they are going to be able to talk. Bohmann this is an easy fix we put them on the written agenda first or right after lunch. That way they know when they arrive exactly when they are on, we need to make accommodations to make them feel positive about the experience. Kassulke the discussion about reducing or eliminating the Natural Resources Magazine is disappointing. This is a publication that is completely self-funded and should not be cut in any way. People in Milwaukee county would like the WCC to take a leadership role in finding additional revenue streams to support the DNR especially from the non-consumptive users of the resource. We need to change public perception of how natural resources are managed. The non-consumptive user is not necessarily anti-hunting. Krueger WCC needs a way to raise awareness, recognition for new WCC members and what they are doing on a local level and get younger people involved besides youth congress delegates. We need more PR so we can do the things that need to be done. Want to thank everyone for the opportunity at this time in my life to do what I'm doing. Ellingson I have made myself a list of things to do and will start that soon, we need a way to get more people at our meetings and it seems nothing gets that attention unless we are ticking people off. Fahrney we will be taking pictures after the meeting today. We also want to get pictures of each pair of district councilors that we can use in the future. Part of our responsibility is to get out in front of the public and I want to use this so people can see who is representing them in their area. Olson there is a discussion about additional harvesting on state forest lands. We need to keep an eye on this to be sure that best practices are used. I think that there was a ton of apathy at the spring</p>
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hearing having to do with all the budget issues and the fate of the DNR Board. CDAC was great but I think that we need a Fish Advisory Council, we need to have more local control of what is happening in our area lakes and streams. This would help us eliminate a lot of these local questions from being on the Spring ballot.

Risley we have been talking about the need for science we also need to understand that fact trumps science. We still need to study facts to see if the science works. Our county CDAC was a little frustrating up until the last meeting when it all seemed to come together. It seemed that they ignored all the data up until that meeting. We will find out in three years whether the science and the facts come together or not.

Meyer gave data on funding sources for different departments. The budget cuts will be much deeper as the ripple effect impacts different departments. Meyer then read a letter from the vice-chair of Dane County listing many areas of concern; relevancy, use of the term "consumptive", lack of support for stewardship, "the strategic plan" and a challenge on how we can be responsive in a timely fashion to our organization. He questioned how this organization will represent all citizens of Wisconsin enjoying public lands in this century.

Meyer we need to keep delegates up to date on where we are in the "plan process".

Bonde it would be appropriate to have an update on the Strategic Plan at the convention.

Larson from CDAC we had suggestions that we develop a program to get hunters back on land. We need to make ourselves more relevant CDAC helped, maybe we could ask for suggestions online.

Brown unexcused absences are getting lost in some counties we need to shake this up at the District meetings and get results!

Riggle suggested that online and absentee voting may need another look. We might want to allow authors of resolutions to call in on phone. Have YCC booth at Youth Expo.

Need way to keep valued DNR staff. The Wisconsin DNR was always a place that top people wanted to be at, as WI gets weaker in resource management that poor reputation sticks with you we do not want to have as a legacy for Wisconsin.

Choinski stated he gave extra time at CDAC meetings and will rotate locations next year.

He questions the comment off of the convention floor that a delegate "is allowed to be seated and have never purchased a license." That is just wrong.

Splitstated that we should remove John Bronk from the master list as a delegate from Waushara County he resigned verbally at the convention. He asked on issues that the chairman was working on from legislature.

Bohmann he will be working with the department leadership on the roughly 30 resolutions he has on his list along with select legislature members to see which issues he can get support for bringing forward.

Chairman Bohmann is working with senator Molton to eliminate group bagging on youth tag.

Gruszynski two things in today's discussions bubbled up; public perception of WCC and youth involvement the two discussions he feels are not separate and we need to be very mindful of that; in both transparency and connectivity when we reach out to the public. I am looking forward working together with other counselor's and seeing how we interact for change. Change in technology and political interaction and how we address those issues.

Shook DNR pull back on North Lake launch has cost WCC respect. Exchange of vendors at McMillan range DNR was not willing to pursue due to lack of value. This is an issue that is causing discomfort to WCC by the DNR's position. Voting different than county vote should not be an option unless new compelling information makes a difference this is why numbers are going down in Waukesha Co.

Weiss variable issues cause interest at spring hearing. CDAC had controversy and increased attendance. A suggestion box on line would be a good thing.

As Historian he would like a list of delegates with over 30 years of service and would like to do interviews with them. Also anyone with memorabilia and or pictures would be helpful so he can do a display at future conventions.

Maas gave a brief report on the Youth Expo and a list of what he thought might be needed to keep it operational:

Needed Items for WCC Expo trailer booth.

1. New picture display and repair back stop.
2. Staple Velcro strips to back board, number pictures and location and provide color laminated master setup picture for setup people.
3. Review hides (mink and beaver missing or damaged).
4. Need to replace wood duck display.
6. Labels for pelts.
7. Consider ways to make display adaptable for different presentations.
8. Different handouts depending on where you're presenting.
9. Trailer maintenance what about the extra tires? There are tires we are moving in trailer that are bad or not compatible as spares.
10. See if we can get a bird of prey Hawk or Eagle would be cool.

If anyone has any ideas on how we can acquire these items or would be willing to help please contact him.

ACTION	N/A

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	5:18 PM
SUBMITTED BY	Dale C. Maas
DATE	5/26/15