

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Shooting Range Ad Hoc Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	04/25/2015	10:00 A.M.	Portage County Library in Stevens Point
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Ken Anderson at 10:00 A.M.
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Ken Anderson, Harold Drake, Anan Pribnow, Jack Christenson, Gary Kanarowski, Mike Murphy, Charlie Brown, Keith Warnke, Adam Lindsey
EXCUSED	Jim Kirchner, Richard Halverson, Mike Sovick
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Motion by Alan Pribnow to amend the agenda by moving item 6 (Cudahy/Milwaukee County update) to be the first item discussed under item "E" shooting range issues and repair. The motion was second by Charlie Brown. Motion to amend approved on a voice vote.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	N/A
ACTION	N/A

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	No members of the general public were in attendance.
ACTION	None

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. MISSION STATEMENT

HAROLD DRAKE

DISCUSSION	<p>Since this was the first meeting of this committee and no formal mission statement exists committee members were asked to draft a proposed Mission Statement. A Mission Statement was submitted by the Secretary Harold Drake. After being read to the committee the statement was adopted,</p> <p>MISSION STATEMENT: To approve and support citizen resolutions intended to protect existing shooting ranges and help in the creation of new shooting ranges. To support access to public ranges thru recommendations to the Natural Resources Board. To help identify suitable range locations and funding sources for shooting ranges.</p> <p>CORRECTION: the mission statement assigned to the committee was as follows: <i>The mission of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Shooting Range Ad-Hoc Committee is to represent the sporting public</i></p>
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	<i>involved with shooting ranges in this state. The committee will look into and work with, but not be limited to the following issues at present: standardization of rules and regulations, the use of Pittman-Robertson funds allocated for range use, and environmental, legal, and social issues on shooting ranges by working with the DNR, the legislature, the Governor and Wisconsin citizens to effectively manage current and future Wisconsin shooting ranges for present and future people involved with the shooting sports to enjoy.</i>	
ACTION	Motion to accept by Charlie Brown, second by Alan Pribnow, motion carried on a voice vote.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

B. SHOOTING RANGE GUIDE DOCUMENT

KEITH WARNKE

DISCUSSION	<p>A copy of shooting ranges guidance document was handed out to the committee members. Overview and discussion of the document was led by Keith Warnke. The stated purpose of the document is to locate, identify, and develop possible range sites.</p> <p>Part of the document included maps of range locations relative to population density. The maps highlighted the serious lack of available public ranges in the southern half of the state. Moving forward the plan will be to focus on development in areas where ranges are lacking.</p> <p>Other things being done to improve shooting opportunities for the public were also discussed. They included amending master plans to include ranges where possible and leasing access at private ranges.</p> <p>Keith also reported on recent improvements to existing ranges.</p> <p>Committee members commented on the increasing number of schools with trap teams and increased pressure on clubs to meet the demand. Also, in considering range improvements and new range development, ranges over 200 yards should be considered. The lack of a uniform standard for berm heights was also brought up and discussed as well as basic range set-up considerations.</p>	
ACTION	A request was made by Keith Warnke for Congress Delegates to survey their respecting counties for public and private handgun, rifle, skeet or trap ranges. Completed lists are to be forwarded to his attention in an effort to verify existing listings and to identify any unknown facilities.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

C. SHOOTING RANGE GRANT PROGRAM

KEITH WARNKE

DISCUSSION	<p>Copies of the shooting range development grant program and program guidance for public and private ranges were handed out by Keith Warnke who led discussion on the documents.</p> <p>He began by giving an explanation of the grant program. He indicated that about 30 grants have been given out statewide to private clubs. About \$350,000.00 has been granted for range improvements. Money is granted, on a 50/50 cost share basis. Every other year \$325,000.00 is available. Not all monies available have been fully applied for so there are monies available. These are Pittman-Robertson Funds. Grants have been mainly focused on rifle ranges. The focus is on improving public access to ranges. Facilities excepting grant money are required to commit to opening their facility to the public three days a week or a minimum of one hundred days per year for a twenty year period. He also said that some clubs who could qualify may not be applying due to the public access requirements and concerns about liability issues. Ranges must also become A.D.A. compliant with regard to parking, toilet facilities, shooting benches and travel access to range.</p> <p>Also handed out was correspondence which outlined current shooting range grant applicants. Funds being requested and funding being recommended.</p>	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

D .SHOOTING RANGE WEBSITE

KEITH WARNKE

DISCUSSION	Information on ranges that are open to the public is available on the D.N.R. website by clicking on shooting ranges. Information includes maps of locations and directions to get there. Along with hours of operation and associated cost.	
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ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

E. LEASING ACCESS

KEITH WARNKE

DISCUSSION	<p>Keith reported that the department is reaching out to private ranges in the southern part of the state to lease public access. This is ongoing program which they are trying to expand. The state would pay ranges to provide public access and a fixed rate per hour to have a range officer present. Keith also reported on the new lessee at McMiller. Wern Valley is now operating under the terms of a five year lease.</p> <p>The current status of the proposed Columbia County range was questioned. Keith reported that the site has been approved. The next step is for the N.R.B. to approve needed changes to the master plan. This should happen by the end of May. Once the master plan is amended, the next step is to get approval from the State Building Commission to spend the money. Then the necessary engineering work needs to be done which will hopefully be this fall. Cost estimates then need to be submitted and sent back to the Building Commission for approval. If everything falls into place an opening may take place in 2017.</p> <p>Also questioned were concerns about noise levels. Keith reported that a study has been done with no negative result. A second study will be done after completion to establish a base line.</p>	
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ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

F. CUDAHY/MILWAUKEE COUNTY UPDATE

KEITH WARNKE

DISCUSSION	Keith explained the current situation as it exists. A letter was sent to the Milwaukee County Board concerning lead shot going into the lake from the Cudahy Club. The D.N.R. has issued a temporary permit to the club to operate for this year only.	
ACTION	The club is working with the D.N.R. on options which include possible changes to shooting direction and installing back stops. There is also the possibility that the club may relocate entirely.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	December 2015	

G. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

ALAN PRIBNOW

DISCUSSION	<p>Copies of E.P.A. best management practices for lead at shooting ranges were handed out to the committee members. Al reported that the guide lines in the booklet are mandatory in Florida and the E.R.A. may make them mandatory nationwide.</p> <p>The biggest threat to existing ranges is to be shut down for environmental reasons related to lead shot. All shooting ranges need a lead management plan in place in order to protect themselves. All ranges should collect soil samples and have them tested.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Conservation Congress do an outreach to all organization/clubs with ranges concerning lead management.</p> <p>Alan Pribnow also handed out a copy of a cost proposal to have a consultant brought in to hold a half day seminar on lead management. The proposal also included a cost estimate to develop a statewide B.M.P. for Wisconsin. The cost for the half day seminar would be about \$5,700.00 to \$6,000.00. The question was asked about where the money would come from. The question remained unanswered.</p>	
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ACTION	Keith Warnke agreed to do a mass e-mail making everyone aware of, and where to access, the B.M.P. information online.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

. H. NOISE ISSUES

KEITH WARNKE

DISCUSSION	The question was asked of Keith Warnke about known cases of noise complaints associated with shooting ranges. He responded that he knew of three locations that were subjects of noise complaints.	
ACTION	Various methods for noise reduction were suggested. They included the use of shooting tubes, higher earthen berms and digging ranges below ground level.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
N/A		N/A

I. SAFETY ISSUES

KEITH WARNKE

DISCUSSION	One of the major safety concerns is rounds escaping the range thru errant shooting or ricochet. Various methods to reduce ricochet possibilities were discussed.	
ACTION	All rounds fired must hit the back stop. A range safety officer should be present. Use of paper targets ONLY. Elevated targets adequately constructed bullet catchers at the back stops.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
N/A		N/A

J. LOCATION/DISTRIBUTION

KEITH WARNKE

DISCUSSION	As pointed out earlier, the lower half of the state has far less range availability than the upper. In an effort to create more opportunities, master planners are being asked to include range plans in their considerations where the possibility exists.	
ACTION	Getting accurate counts of ranges with public access, or the potential use, by county will be an important first step.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
N/A		N/A

K. LOCAL ZONING

KEITH WARNKE

DISCUSSION	Keith reported that each county could have different zoning requirements. New construction would probably need a conditional use permit. Public hearings would need to be held. Conditions in permits would need to be established prior to approval.	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
N/A		N/A

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Alan Pribnow handed out a copy of the youth and parent 22 rifle team challenge. The establishment of this program was submitted as a resolution last year and was approved in 71 of 72 counties. He would like to see this continue to move forward with the possibility of a state competition within the next two years. He reported that there is support for this event from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and interested has been expressed from about twenty clubs. He also handed out a copy of the C.M.P. guide to rimfire sporter shooting for committee members to review.	
ACTION	None	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	1:35 P.M.
SUBMITTED BY	Harold Drake Secretary
DATE	5-3-2015