

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Turkey and Upland Advisory Committee MEETING MINUTES



ORDER OF BUSINESS	Sat. August 15, 2015	10:00 AM	Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Kenneth Risley
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b. Roll Call

ATTENDEES	Roger Reas, Daniel Tyrolt, Jeremy Sarauer, Marcell Wieloch, Thomas Johnston, David Zielke, Darold Brathol, Jason Leis, Roger Greenwood, Pete Hellios, Rick Deschel, Otto Bowe, Vice-Chair Arlyn Splitt, Secretary Clarence Koch, Don Anderson, Thomas Roskopf, Kenneth Verstein, Chairman Kenneth Risley, Jeff Winn
EXCUSED	Eric Wojchik, John Hoeffs, Robert Wilberscheid, Doug Duhr, Rick Fruit, Michael Neiduski
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	CC Chairman Rob Bowman, Youth CC Amanda Lettman DNR Personnel, Brian Dhuey, Sean Neverman, Rod Fouks, Adam Lindsey

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Announced by Chairman Risley
ACTION	None

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Announced by Chairman Risley
ACTION	None

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Yes
ACTION	See Agenda item A. 1.

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. ALLOW UNUSED TURKEY PERMITS IN 5TH & 6TH PERIODS

ROB BOWMAN

DISCUSSION	Conservation Congress Chairman, Rob Bowman explained his resolution to allow unused spring turkey permits to be used in the 5 th and 6 th hunting periods. This was in an effort to stop the state legislature from opening the Wisconsin turkey season statewide for all hunting periods. Discussion followed as to how this would affect the turkey harvest, how it would affect the landowner permission. It would increase the competition for early tags, and it would create loss of revenue. Many members agreed with the statewide vote that showed the turkey season structure wasn't broken and didn't need fixing.	
ACTION	A motion by Darold Brathol, with a second by Marcell Wieloch, to support the resolution with a three year sunset clause was passed on a vote of 10 yes and 9 no.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

Rob Bowman was present	
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B. COTTONTAIL RABBIT AND RUFFED GROUSE SEASON

THOMAS JOHNSTON

DISCUSSION	Rule Simplification Committee suggestion to eliminate the North and South hunting zones and have squirrel, cottontail rabbit and ruffed grouse open and close at the same time. The author stated that this is not likely to affect the harvest. Discussion was that this resolution was really a three part question affecting both zones and hunting dates. This would not be fair to southern zone rabbit hunters. The season length was shorter in the South to protect the ruffed grouse population. Season dates and structure as well as bag limits could be affected and we shouldn't take any days of hunting away.	
ACTION	A motion to leave the seasons as is (reject the resolution) was made by Rick Deschel, and seconded by David Zielke. The motion passed on a voice vote.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Chairman Kenneth Risley	8-31-15	

C. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

BRIAN DHUEY & SEAN NEVERMAN

DISCUSSION	<p>DNR Turkey Committee member Brian Dhuey is filling in for Scott Walter, who has left the DNR to join the Ruffed Grouse Society, reported on items 1 through 8.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The fall 2014 turkey harvest was 4,228. A substantial number of birds were harvested in the late season after the deer gun season. Hen harvest per square mile is low and at a safe level as to any affect on turkey reproduction. The spring 2015 turkey harvest was 40,977 The new turkey management plan is complete and copies should be printed and available by the end of August. Good news on sharp-tail grouse is that there will be a season in 2015 with 100 permits available. The Farm Bill has been approved; grasslands are declining as land is being taken out of the CRP program. This will have a negative effect on pheasant management. Ruffed Grouse numbers are down as we are in the bottom of a population cycle. A good spring brood could give improvement. The proposed consistent turkey opening date (the Wednesday nearest April 13th) will go into effect in the spring of 2017. The allowing of turkey hunting during the deer gun season will take effect in the fall of 2016. The 9:00 AM pheasant season opening time has been approved. The bag limit on small game will increase from 2 times daily limit to 3 times daily limit. A 3 year spring gobbling research project, now in its second year is being conducted in the Northern turkey zones. This is to determine turkey distribution and abundance at varying types of forestry habitat". <p>Committee members questioned the affect of Avian Influenza on wild turkey populations. Brian stated that no wild turkeys have tested positive. Testing will continue for wild game birds.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DNR Warden Sean Neverman reported on law enforcement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number one violation is failure to register turkeys. Baiting continues to be a violation and may be exacerbated with the hunting of turkeys in the 9 day gun season where baiting deer is legal. There was one turkey hunting accident in 2015, a hunter shot another hunter dressed in camouflage and carrying a full strut turkey decoy. There are 20 to 30 warden vacancies Compliance for turkey registration is about 90%. The harvest totals include only the turkeys actually registered. 	
ACTION	none	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>The committees should provide the Rule Simplification Committee with suggestions.</p> <p>Pheasants are not released with reproduction expected.</p> <p>People are going to the legislature for rule changes, accomplished in one year, as opposed to a three year process with the Conservation Congress.</p> <p>Secretary Koch poled the committee as to support for his submission of the Wild Turkey as the State Game bird. There was support by the committee with no opposition.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Splitt surveyed the committee as to how many members hunted the various small game species. A good representation of members hunted all of the named small game.</p>
ACTION	None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	12:00 PM
SUBMITTED BY	Clarence Koch, Secretary
DATE	August 15, 2015