

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Warm Water Fish Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	8-22-2015	10:00am	Mead wildlife visitor center
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Joe Weiss Chairman at 10:00 am
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Rich Olson, Larry Damman, Joe Weiss, Allen Brown, Wally Trudeau, Steve Budnik, Kurt Justice, Peter Doperalski, John Aschenbrenner, Robert Bohardt, Jerry Merryfield, Darold Brathol, Randy Symicek, Wayne Schmidt, Mark Saemisch, Scot Strook, Micheal Arrowood, Harry Bowey, John Nelson, Gregory Wells, Brett Weir, Tom Schwefel, John Blumreich, Mark Krmpotich, DNR liasons Justine Hasz (director of fisheries), Andrew Rypel (science), Rich Rosen (law enforcement)
EXCUSED	Micheal Gould, Adam Kassulke
UNEXCUSED	None
GUESTS	John Leetz, Troy Krause

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Weiss said there were two parties here to support their resolutions so those would be done first. Also that next years meeting will be August 20 so put it on your calendars and phones. No other items.
ACTION	Standard practice of this committee to move resolutions ahead when authors are present.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Mission statement on agenda was read. No motion or discussion about changing
ACTION	None

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS/CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS

A. 440115 BEARSKIN PERCH BAG LIMIT**JOHN LEETZ**

DISCUSSION	Leetz said he is president of lake association that has been working since the 80's to control a rusty crayfish invasion. They have funded habitat work and help establish smallmouth fishery. They feel perch could be helpful as crayfish predator but sporadic year classes and angler harvests are a limitation. The 10 bag would reduce angler harvest and reduce impact of sporadic year classes. Discussion among delegates over whether perch were that effective and just how a 10 perch bag fit in panfish regulations. Olson moved to advance, 2nd Nelson. carried	
ACTION	Advanced	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

B. 050315 TYING UP FISH**TROY KRAUSE**

DISCUSSION	Krause said this past winter an issue of fishing guide ethics came up in that large fish were being tied up on stringers under ice shacks for indefinite periods of time until a number of large fish were available for promotional photos and then the fish were either released or eaten. 500 people signed a petition in opposition to the practice. Delegates felt this was a wanton waste issue but warden Rosen read statute and it wasn't directly applicable. The practice raised all sorts of questions as to who's bag or possession limits these fish would be under. Committee members were concerned that resolution as worded would seem to prohibit people from stringing fish even while in the act of angling. Also many members were concerned that a riparian should be allowed to hold fish for a reasonable time in a dock basket. Also a lot of talk about how this might apply to people who hold fish to cheat in tournaments. There were other remedies for tournament cheaters but enforced by tournament officials. The issue came down to how long should fish be held for economic gain as opposed to personal consumption. Damman moved to reject on condition that the committee word its own resolution to address the issue. 2nd Trudeau. Carried. Debate began immediately to write a warm water committee resolution for spring hearing. A number of ideas were put forth toward limiting commercial abuse but precise wording was elusive. Were we putting too much effort toward something that wasn't really a resource issue, just ethical. Warden Rosen came up with a good draft and after a few minor tweaks read as follows " No person who receives compensation for fishing activities may store live gamefish with any unattended storage device on any body of water beyond the day of catch." Saemisch moved to advance this wording, 2nd Trudeau. carried	
ACTION	citizen resolution was rejected but the committee wrote and advanced its own resolution to more clearly address the issue.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

C. 610215 PANFISH BAG RIB LAKE**NA**

DISCUSSION	DNR has already implemented. Damman moved to reject, 2nd Olson. Carried	
ACTION	rejected	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

C. 640415 TREAT CRYSTAL LAKE**NA**

DISCUSSION	Nelson moved to reject. 2nd Wells. No biologist comment was given. Not a rule change. Rypel noted that this and Sparkling lake have been long term UW study lakes. Rotenone treatments may not necessarily work. carried	
ACTION	rejected	

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
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C. 644515 TREATMENT OF SPARKLING LAKE

NA

DISCUSSION	trudeau moved to reject.2nd Mark? same issues as Crystal. carried
ACTION	rejected
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. 660215 GROUP BAGGING

NA

DISCUSSION	Weiss ask Rosen if anglers could share a common live well? Yes.Some discussion that anglers have been told otherwise by wardens and/or ticketed. Rosen said burden of proof is on the wardens who would count a anglers catch from a distance before approaching. Merryfield moved to advance.Trudeau 2nd. Motion failed. Brathol moved to reject,2nd Nelson. Very bad idea to allow group bagging. Opens the door to all sorts problems. carried.
ACTION	rejected
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. 040415 DIAMOND LAKE LMB SIZE LIMIT

NA

DISCUSSION	DNR is considering eliminating bass size limit on several county lakes including Diamond. Olson moved to advance, 2nd Saemisch. Put DNR on notice to follow through with this one. Was there a recent survey. Not sure how recent but lake has been on treaty rotation. Carried
ACTION	advanced
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. 640615 NORTH AND SOUTH TWIN MI 50” SIZE LIMIT

NA

DISCUSSION	Budnik moved to advance,2nd Weir. Local biologist supports. Good forage base. Very few muskies kept in any case. Is current 40 inch rule detrimental? carried
ACTION	Advanced
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. 270415 WALLEYE SEASON ,LOWER BLACK RIVER

NA

DISCUSSION	Prior to 1990 season was open year round. Present size structure is better but that may be due to size limit since 1990. Nelson moved to advance,2nd Aschenbrenner. Are we advancing before DNR has good data? Rypel said would definitely increase exploitation but not necessarily to harmful level.Local warden wasn't opposed but should consider an open season then for all gamefish. Carried
ACTION	advanced as written (just for walleye not all gamefish)
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. 210315 SMALLMOUTH LAKE LUCERNE**NA**

DISCUSSION	Brown moved to reject, 2nd Symicek Author did not have his facts straight on DNR management. Blaming smallmouth for walleye problems is unsupported. Carried
ACTION	Rejected.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. 640715 TROUT LAKE 50" MUSKIE SIZE LIMIT**NA**

DISCUSSION	Budnik to advance. 2nd Justice. same situation as Twin Lakes. Carried
ACTION	Advanced
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. 440415 18" WALLEYE SIZE, BIRD LAKE**NA**

DISCUSSION	DNR has already adopted this size limit in this years emergency 3 bag rule and will include the change in the permanent rule. Damman moved to reject. 2nd Olson. Should we advance to be sure DNR follows through? Carried
ACTION	Rejected
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. 590215 SPRING STURGEON ANGLING, WOLF RIVER**NA**

DISCUSSION	Schwefel to reject, 2nd Krmpotich. Bohardt said the author is committed to continue to submit for 3 years so it automatically will by pass this committee. So be it. Wardens are extremely busy in the spring. Population is fully exploited by the popular and economically valuable spearing fishery. There are many opportunities to angle sturgeon elsewhere in the state. As is spearers wait years for tags. A new harvest fishery would complicate quota management. State sturgeon committee maybe be considering a fall catch and release season here to provide the angling opportunity to more people. This harvest proposal is extremely complicated, expensive to manage and would benefit so few anglers. Carried
ACTION	Rejected
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

IIB. RULE SIMPLIFICATION COMMITTEE PROPOSALS**C. PANFISH BY LAKE GROUPS****NA**

DISCUSSION	Trudeau to reject. 2nd Brown Lake chains are already pretty well handle consistently. Grouped by area is unclear as to how big an area. Assumes lakes close to each other are similar but thats not necessarily the case. Conflicts with new panfish initiative. Carried
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ACTION	Rejected
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. ONE LINE TROLLING ONEIDA COUNTY

NA

DISCUSSION	DAMMAN TO REJECT, 2ND WEIR This is only a one county deal so it is a complication\conflict with the norm not a simplification. May have to change again when permanent state rule comes out. Carried
ACTION	Rejected
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. ELIMINATE FISH ZONES

NA

DISCUSSION	Schwefel to reject,2nd Merryfield It took years of effort to get these into place for good reasons. Regardless of the climate condition we can't name there still are differences north and south. This would require a whole new round of rule changes to set new open and closing dates. Its changing regs all the time that is perceived as complication.The concept of continuous rule simplification for its own sake as the goal needs to end. Carried
ACTION	Rejected
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. ELIMINATE INTRA-WATER BAIT MINNOW RESTRICTIONS

NA

DISCUSSION	Saemisch to reject 2nd Krmpotich Its not just a VHS issue. People know what a waterbody is but have no clue where watershed boundaries are. Watershed idea would allow stuff to be carried above barrier dams within a watershed.
ACTION	Rejected
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. FISHERIES UPDATE

DIRECTOR JUSTINE HASZ

DISCUSSION	New director comes from England. Has degrees from over there and Stevens Point. Started at DNR at the bottom and has a variety of work experiences within the department. 15.89 fish positions permanently lost in this budget not including those from science services. Over last couple of budgets 32 fish positions were permanently lost. With all the staffing changes the agency has to reorganize. Water division is gone and now fish, wildlife parks and natural heritage are together as a division. Next tuesday will be a legislative hearing on the fish rule changes. Not sure why Senator Tiffany felt it necessary to call for additional hearings. Could delay implementation of the trout package which was slated to have winter fishing this January. A hatchery review to determine which produces what best and where they should go is underway. \$26 million for Lake Mills hatchery renovation is in the budget. Fish passage is big issue. Guidance is set for exotic areas but not internal areas. Deputy bureau director will chair a number of fish committees and councils. Survey package for the 100 panfish lakes is not yet approved. Each year it costs more just to do the same thing. With no fee increase for the last ten years we have to do less. Besides the loss of positions we have been asked to lapse \$600,000 of last budget. Brule River hatchery is still funded.
ACTION	NA
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. LE UPDATE

WARDEN RICK ROSEN

DISCUSSION	Staffing is down 32 vacancies including 19 field wardens but these have not been permanently lost. There are 11 in 2015 class and approved to hire 13 more with 2016 class. Fleet rate dropped by 3cents a gallon which amounts to \$90,000 savings in budget statewide. Call 608-267-7691 to register road kill deer. System only does deer at this point. New budget limits car kill pick up contracts to state and county highways. Electric registration will be in effect for this years deer season.
ACTION	NA
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	R. Olson asked everybody who is on a DNR species committee to say what committee they be serving on. After executive committee last May brought up the concept of county fish bodies like a CDAC to better deal with local fishing issues. Preston Cole said thats exactly the kind of thing the NRB is looking at. We need to support this effort to our citizens back home.
ACTION	None
DISCUSSION	Tom Schwefel thank Joe Weiss for scheduling meetings early. some committees got only a weeks notice.
ACTION	None
DISCUSSION	John Aschenbrenner announced this would be his last meeting after many years of service. He will not run for election next year. The degradation of bass populations in the name of walleye management is a problem.
ACTION	None

DISCUSSION	John Nelson, Stop the bleeding and support a fee increase for DNR.
ACTION	None
DISCUSSION	Mike Arrowood - Rehab of walleye populations is being put off by DNR staff.
ACTION	None
DISCUSSION	Darold Brathol said we need to get people to support DNR as an independent agency and get the politicians out of it.
ACTION	None
DISCUSSION	Allan Brown We have an identity problem. Passed out WCC brochures at hunter safety classes and talked to the parents. none of the parents were aware of our existence.
ACTION	None
DISCUSSION	Jerry Merryfield- The simplification committee was tasked with coming up with at least 5 things very hard to deal with.
ACTION	None
DISCUSSION	Mark Krmpotich thanked Joe for the 10:00 clock start time. with budget problems we need to look at comparable studies in other states. Rosen noted that presently external studies are not allowed to be used.
ACTION	None
DISCUSSION	(Name Missed) Raise in fees should go to field operations.
ACTION	None
DISCUSSION	Joe Weiss recapped mtg. We advanced 5 citizen resolutions and wrote our own on fish tying. Thankful for the excellant turnout. Meeting for next year will be August 20at a place yet to be determined, probably here.
ACTION	Blumreich moved to adjourn. 2nd Strook Carried

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	2:30 pm
SUBMITTED BY	Larry Damman
DATE	8-28-2015