

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Executive Committee Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	1/19/16	12:30 PM	Conference Call
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Robert Bohmann at 12:33 PM
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Robert Bohmann, Larry Bonde, Dale Maas, Lee Fahrney, Joe Weiss and WCC Liaison Kari Lee Zimmermann
EXCUSED	
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Eugene Altwies Rule simplification Committee Chair(called in as an observer) and Mike Rogers Bear Committee Chair (invited presenter) called in at 12:45 PM

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	No additions may have to wait till Mike Rogers comes on line before acting on Bear Quota recommendation.
ACTION	M/ Weiss 2 nd / Fahrney to approve as stated. M/C

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. WORDING FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL QUESTION ADVANCED REGARDING ELIMINATING “ARTIFICIALS-ONLY”RESTRICTIONS FROM TROUT REGULATIONS

FAHRNEY

DISCUSSION	<p>The following question was presented for review by Lee Fahrney in collaboration with Eugene Altwies Chair of Rule Simplification Committee, this was done at the direction of Executive Council:</p> <p>QUESTION 14. Eliminate the “artificial-only” restriction from regular season trout regulations The Wisconsin Conservation Congress has joined the effort to make the rules governing hunting, fishing and trapping more understandable to the state’s sportsmen and women and thus add to their enjoyment of the outdoors. At its most recent meeting, the members of the WCC Rule Simplification Committee advanced a proposal to remove artificial restrictions from all trout waters in Wisconsin. The WCC Executive Council voted to forward the proposal for public input. Surveys of trout anglers in Wisconsin show preferences for the use of both artificial and live baits and this proposal would respect the rights of both. While some studies have shown that post-release mortality of trout caught with bait can exceed that of trout caught with artificial lures, there are no rigorous studies on population-level effects of post-release mortality of trout caught by bait in Wisconsin streams.</p> <p>14. Do you favor eliminating the "artificial-only" restriction from the regular season trout regulations? YES____ NO_____</p> <p>Kari said she put together a variation of the first draft that was sent out because she felt that some of</p>
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	the wording in the background was irrelevant. Much discussion was offered and a question for clarification was asked. Eugene Altwies offered to answer and was ruled out of order because he was not listed as a presenter (invited). M/ Fahrney 2 nd /Maas to suspend rules to allow Eugene to enter the discussion. M/C. This wording if passed would be for the “regular harvest season” and <u>not</u> for the “catch and release” season. After additional discussion the motion was passed.	
ACTION	M/ Fahrney 2 nd /Weiss to advance to questioner. M/Carried (2 yea / 1 nay)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Zimmermann	Spring Questioner	

B. NRB ITEM 3.B.1 2016 BEAR HARVEST QUOTAS

MIKE ROGERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Mike reviewed the proposed quotas that were approved by the committee. These are by zone: A) 1,875, B) 1,195, C) 6,190 D) 2,480 for a proposed total of 11,520 harvest tags to be issued. This compares to 10,007 last year (2015). Zones B&C went up and A&D stayed the same. Weiss asked Mike if in his opinion the department had a handle on total population numbers. A question whether the department was going to continue with the Tetracycline marking? Mike said that his survey is done every 4 years and he hopes that they will continue (this bear aging study). At issue is that some people are allergic to this chemical so a final determination has not been made. This is a count on kill tags to be issued the actual harvest usually runs 50 to 55% of tags issued with some variation by zone. When we first started the some years ago to get our heads around these numbers we had an estimated population of bear at 35,000. This was based off of an outdated study and a 10 year plan at the time. We also had a large amount of damage claims that needed to be addressed. We believe we have a current population of around 29,000 but what we really need is a new study that should give us another 10 year plan to use down the road.</p> <p>Unfortunately the department has put the study after the Wolf study. In our opinion since we do not know if and when the Wolf issue will allow harvest the Bear study should have priority.</p> <p>Bonde; Did the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Organization get the proposed quota numbers? Rogers; they were also at the meeting and agreed.</p> <p>Weiss; Are ag-damage (shooting tags) considered in the numbers? Rogers: to some degree but we relocate many more bear than we kill so the number killed is very low.</p>	
ACTION	M/ Weiss 2 nd Fahrney to approve Bear Committee recommendation. M/C	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Bohmann	Next NRB Board meeting	

B. CONSERVATION CHRONICAL UPDATE

FAHRNEY

DISCUSSION	<p>Bohmann; when do you need my piece? Fahrney; end of the month, he will also be doing an article on the numbers of resolutions that were passed or rejected. This will also include information asking greater participation by resolution writers attending committee meetings. He is also working on a congress delegate article that is active in many areas of the community, CDAC and new department heads to write a brief introduction.</p> <p>He will also put an informational item in that anyone interested in running for Executive Council or committee can announce their intentions along with a short bio. He will make a draft and circulate it prior to giving to Kari to distribute to all congress delegates.</p>	
ACTION	Informational	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

C. CONSERVATION CONGRESS ADMINISTRATIVE HOUSEKEEPING (NO ACTION TAKEN)

ZIMMERMANN

DISCUSSION	None	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Weiss; asked if we had a final answer on where money from budget cuts is going. Bohmann will be meeting with DNR leadership in the near future and report at the next conference call. Lee asked about who is the new communications director. Kari will get his name and pass it on. Dale asked that maybe we could get an article from him. Bohmann CDAC informational meeting coming up next month February 6 th at Holliday Inn at Stevens Point and encouraged all county delegates to CDAC to attend. This will also include all CDAC members. Only Congress delegates can be reimbursed for millage.
ACTION	Information only

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	1:45 PM
SUBMITTED BY	Dale C. Maas
DATE	1/19/16