

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress Executive Committee

## Meeting Minutes Conference Call 07 – 25 – 2016



ORDER OF BUSINESS				1 PM.
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### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Larry Bonde
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#### B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Larry Bonde, Al Shook, Dale Maas, Lee Fahrney, Joe Weiss, Kari Lee Zimmermann, Mike Schmit.
EXCUSED	
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Douglas Haag, Diane Brusoe, Terry Bay.

#### C. AGENDA APPROVAL AND REPAIR

ACTION	M/ Shook to approve as published 2 <sup>nd</sup> Weiss M/C
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### II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

#### A. DNR Land Acquisitions On August NRB Agenda

**Doug Haag**

DISCUSSION	<p>Doug explained the proposed addition to the Peshtigo State Park. The department has obtained an option to purchase 2.4 acres of land from John T Repinsky for \$94,500 for the Peshtigo River State Forest. The property is located 60 miles north of Green Bay in Marinette County. The land is located entirely within the boundary of the Peshtigo River State Forest and is adjacent to the department lands on the North and West. The parcel is accessible to the public through Fabian Lane and other department ownership. The item is being submitted because the improvement values exceed 35% of the total appraised value.</p> <p>S. 27. 01 (17) Stats., Created under 2009 Wisconsin act 54 required the department to promulgate a rule that specifies when and where golf carts are allowed in the governor Thompson State Park and Peshtigo River State Forest. The adopted law allows for a posted route and parking area to boat landing 13 that is within governor Thompson State Park. This acquisition will allow for construction of this golf cart path.</p> <p>A number of routes were discussed; with the most feasible being a route that required a private parcel acquisition. The department has attempted to acquire other property for this purpose but negotiations for other vacant parcels, portions of property and easements were unsuccessful or the parcels were not suitable for the path.</p> <p>The rippling ski property provides a direct route for the path and the physical features are suitable for construction of the path. The parcel also provides improved access for the department to other areas within the state forest.</p> <p>If the parcel is acquired a natural surface path will be constructed that will end near boat landing 13. In addition, a small natural surface parking lot will be constructed on department lands for golf cart parking in Floyd's viewing. Only small portions of the property are needed by the department. The buildings and Land not needed for the golf cart path or for access to other Department lands will be sold when the golf</p>
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cart path is completed.  
M/Shook 2<sup>nd</sup> Fahrney to approve M/C

#### Northern Highlands State Forest Land Trade

The Department has entered into an agreement with Rest Lake Apartments, LLC to exchange 1.75 acres of land located in Vilas County 42.7 acres of land within the Northern Highlands State Forest. The land the Department is conveying is located on Rest Lake in the town of Manitowish Waters and the land the Department is receiving is located on Mann Lake in the town of Boulder Junction. The land being conveyed is not located within a Department project and is accessible to the public through either Department lands or town lands; there is no direct road access. The land the Department is receiving is located entirely within the Northern Highlands State Forest, is surrounded by Department ownership on 3 sides and Mann Lake on the fourth. It is accessible to the public through Department ownership and through a primitive driveway off Vandercook Road an unplowed seasonal Road. The item is being submitted because the value of the land exceeds \$150,000.

The land being conveyed is located in Vilas County and consists of a narrow strip of frontage on Rest Lake, 100 feet wide by 765 feet long. The parcel adjoins land owned by Rest Lake Apartments, LLC along the entire 765 foot boundary. The 100 foot strip of land is located outside of the Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest Project Boundary and was removed from the Northern Highlands State Forest project boundary through past master planning efforts.

The Department conveyed the 15.8 acre parcel currently owned by Rest Lake Apartments, LLC to the town of Manitowish Waters in 1994. The town plan to use the land for a housing development. The Department retained the 100 foot strip of land at that time. The housing development did not work out and the town of Manitowish Waters sold the land to a private party. The parcel recently changed hands again and the current owners, Rest Lake Apartments LLC, have requested sale of the 100 foot strip of waterfront to gain access to the lake.

The land the Department is receiving will fill a gap in Department ownership in the Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest and Mann Lake. This property will allow for management efficiencies, lessen trespass issues and provide 2100 feet of public lake frontage on Mann Lake. The property is fully wooded, with a mixture of northern hardwood species.

The department obtained 2 appraisals on each property. The appraisals established a broad range and market values for both properties. The parcel the department is acquiring through this exchange is valued higher than the parcel being sold. Rest Lake Apartments, LLC has agreed to donate the difference in value with the exact amount of the donation to be determined by the Internal Revenue Service in accordance with their rules.

Motion by Shook 2<sup>nd</sup> by Weiss to approve motion carried 1 no.

#### Northern Unit Ice Age National Scientific Reserve

The department has obtained an option to purchase 43.86 acres of land from the estate of Patricia Dick for \$250,000 for the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit Ice Age National Scientific Reserve. The property is located 4 miles west of Plymouth in Sheboygan County. The land is located entirely within the boundary of the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit and is adjacent to department land on the West. The parcel is accessible to the public through Julie Court. The item is being submitted because the purchase price exceeds \$150,000.

The Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit is within a one hour drive of 40% of the states population and within 100 miles of five million people. The forest is consistently one of the most heavily used properties in the state parks and forests system with over 850,000 visitors annually. Included within the northern unit are two recreational areas which offer picnicking, swimming and nature trails; 3 family campgrounds; one campground for equestrian; 6 backpack camping shelters; large public hunting areas; and extensive trail system providing a variety of trail activities, including 32 miles of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

The Ice Age trail is a cooperative project between the U.S. National Park Service, the Ice Age Trail Alliance, various volunteer groups and counties around the state, and the Department. The trail is one of only 11 national scenic trails in the United States and when completed will run for over 1000 miles through Wisconsin. The trail provides opportunities to observe a large number of landforms that are unique to continental glaciations such as eskers, kames, and drumlins and kettles. The trail is intended for low-impact pedestrian use such as hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, and in suitable areas, cross country skiing.

The purchase of this property will consolidate department ownership within the kettle Moraine State Forest, allows the Ice Age Trail to be removed from a portion of the Sheboygan County bike path and will provide 1050 feet of road access on Julie Court. The purchase will also provide improved access for Forest management and recreational uses such as hunting, trapping, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, bird watching, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Motion by Fahrney 2<sup>nd</sup> by shook to approve motion carried

Land Purchase Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area

The department has obtained an option to purchase 990.55 acres of land from the Northern States Power Company for \$2,080,155 for the Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area. The property is located 7 miles North East of Durand in Dunn County. The land is located entirely within the boundary of the Lower Chippewa River state natural area and is across the river from department ownership in the Dunnville wildlife area (connected through the Red Cedar State Trail), North of department ownership in the 9 Mile Island State Natural Area and intersects the Chippewa River State Trail. The parcel is accessible to the public through the Lower Chippewa River, hwy 85, 50<sup>th</sup> Ave., and 650<sup>th</sup> St. The item is being submitted because the purchase price exceeds \$150,000

The property was acquired by Northern States Power (NSP) in 1973-74 with the intention of developing a power generation facility on the site. Many local factors and evolving needs in the power industry resulted in the site never being utilized for the intended purpose. The company, now known as Xcell Energy, has owned the property for nearly 40 years and maintains many of the land-use patterns present at the time of acquisition. In the last decade Xcell Energy has taken an active approach to managing the timber resources on the property, conducting species inventories and restoring degraded prairies and savannas.

The Department currently holds a Voluntary Public Access (VPA) lease on the property, which expires in 2017. The property is also enrolled in the open Manage Forest Law (MFL) program. There is a picnic shelter and canoe landing located on the North side of 650 Street, providing access to the Lower Chippewa River and the Chippewa River State Trail bisects the property. There are also many existing parking lots along the town roads that the public can use to access the property.

Since its inception in 2002, the LCRSNA has experienced an outpouring of local support due to the areas recreational assets and ecological significance. Numerous conservation groups, including the Lower Chippewa River Alliance, Dunn County Fish and Game Association, Durand Sportsman's Club, Rock Fall Sportsman's Club, Beaver Creek Reserve, Arkansas Fur, Fish and Game Club, Townsville Sportsman's Club, and the Prairie enthusiasts have all provided support through various donations of money, labor, bird surveys and supplies. The project contains the largest continuous Floodplain Forest in the Upper Midwest. The LCRSNK is also an important bird area, recognized by the National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy.

This 990.55 acre parcel includes 18,000 feet of shoreline on the south bank of the Chippewa River. The property consists of Dry Prairie, Restored Oak Savanna, Upland Brush, Floodplain Forest, Red Pine Plantations, agricultural land and a 10 acre Oxbow Lake. Roughly one quarter of this property lies within the floodway of the Chippewa River. A diversity of notable bird species have been observed on this property, including Grasshopper sparrow, field sparrow, Lark sparrow, Bell's vireo, blue wing warbler, veery and black billed cuckoo.

This parcel will implement several specific landscape scale management objectives for the Lower Chippewa River property, including the following:

- implementation of cross-program resource management and recreation objectives;
- manage and protect exceptional natural resource can numerous rare species;
- provide high-quality public recreation opportunities including hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, bird-watching, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing;
- build partnerships with conservation partners;
- Generate revenue through forest management, continuing farming leases and Pine plantations.
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- Motion Maas 2<sup>nd</sup> by Weiss to approve motion carried

BLESS  
AMERICA IS  
SILLY  
BOETSCH

As stated

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Larry Bonde	Next DNR board meeting

**B. LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY MASTER PLAN**

**DIANE BRUSOE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>The lower Wisconsin state Riverway draft master plan and environmental analysis is a revision of the original plan for the lower Wisconsin state park Riverway (LWSR) that was approved by the natural resources board in 1988. The LWSR, located in Dane, Sauk, Iowa, Richland, Grant and Crawford counties, includes the lower Wisconsin River from the Prairie du sac dam to the Mississippi River and approximately 45,000 acres of uplands, wetlands and bluffs. The draft master plan also includes Tower Hill State Park, which is a 76.5 acre property located in Iowa County Spring Green.</p> <p>Master plan recommendations are guided and influenced by existing statutes, administrative codes, scientific data, ecological capacity of property resources, changes in conditions and use patterns, and public input. The department held for public meetings along the Riverway at various phases in the planning process. A combined total of 234 people attended the four meetings and hundreds of comments were submitted in a variety of formats.</p> <p>Accordingly, the plan recommends increasing public access on lately develop roads and newly designated trails, providing additional camping opportunities on the Wisconsin River, and providing lately develop day use areas in strategic locations. The plan will maintain and improve the quality and extent of various habitat types to sustain wildlife populations and provide recreational opportunities.</p> <p>The plan proposes a project boundary increase of 835 acres (406 acres are already DNR-owned) and a project contradiction of 65 acres for a net project boundary increase of 790 acres. Most of the boundary expansion is located in the area around Black Hawk Ridge with the goal of improving access to the ridge top day use area. Note the 760 acre project boundary adjustment also includes map digitizing error corrections totaling 20 acres. No changes are proposed to the acquisition goal.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion by shook 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Weiss to support motion carried
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Larry Bonde	Next DNR board meeting

**C. CAPTIVE DEER FARMS FENCING REQUIREMENTS PERMANENT RULE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Lee Fahrney commented that is not sure that that conservation Congress is taking a strong enough position. Larry stated that the emergency rule will be brought up whether it addresses what we had previously discussed are not the Congress message to the Natural Resources Board will be that double fencing for any CWD positive would be our position. We also have a position on a bio security plan that we can share with the board. Lee still feels strongly that we should have double fencing on all captive servant facilities.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion by shook 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Maas to advance the Congress physician on captive deer farms fencing and to support the emergency rule being proposed. Motion carried one opposed

**D. BROADEN EXPANSE OF WCC AWARDS FOR DNR STAFF**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Larry has been talking with Kari about the possibility of expanding the Congress awards for DNR staff currently we have wildlife, fish, and law enforcement receiving awards annually. By doing only those 3 we are not taking in consideration other divisions example given Science, Forestry, Customer Service and Air and water quality. Everyone thought it would be a good idea to expand upon this further discussion would be needed maybe not all DNR divisions merit an annual award in everyone. After much discussion it was decided to put on the agenda for the next leadership Council meeting for a decision.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Put on agenda of the leadership Council meeting.

**E. 2018 CONVENTION LOCATION**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	It's been confirmed that for 2017 the next Wisconsin conservation Congress convention will be in Oshkosh. Kari received notice that the 2018 convention location which was to Eau Claire will not be available apparently the complex is been sold and it's not being offered for convention purposes we still have the 2019 convention scheduled for Appleton. It was decided that Kari and Mike would review other sites and prices and put on the next months agenda.
<b>ACTION</b>	Review next month

#### **IV. MEMBERS MATTERS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Dale asked Al shook if Waukesha County had any problem with any of the proposed property sales that bordered Waukesha and Dodge County. The proposed property in Dodge County amounted to less than 15 acres with the balance in Waukesha County. Al stated that any loss of public land in Waukesha County was opposed by the sportsmen's groups in his area so it was agreed that we would not be in a position to support the sale of that property. Larry was to convey this to the natural resources board.</p> <p>Joe asked Lee if there were any pictures of Dick Koerner that he could use for historical reference. Lee thought he had some in the archives and would email him to Joe.</p> <p>Larry wants issues that need to legislative action brought to him he is putting together a list of what legislators he needs to have conversations with when this session opens.</p> <p>Lee ask how the conservation Chronicle was going prior to press date, Kari said she needs a few pictures she has 8 pages so far one is blank. Lee said he would work with Kari to try to fill up any available space so that we could get it to press as soon as possible.</p> <p>A question was asked of Larry if executive committee is still going to committee meetings to do a little bit of oversight. Larry stated that there's a number of meetings going on in the upcoming months and that between the executive committee we should be able to cover them we are going to be at quite a few of them already.</p> <p>Lee questioned whether or not the executive committee should continue with offering people for the awards or do we want to make an awards committee Larry said we could reactivate the awards committee or do it at the district leadership committee level he will review and we can discuss next meeting.</p> <p>Kari said she has been working on a new secretary's form and will be getting it out shortly to test.</p> <p>Larry reported that he had a meeting with the Wildlife Federation they wanted to team up and work with the Congress.</p> <p>Larry was asked about the possibility of reactivating the hunting with dogs committee it was stated that this is become quite volatile Larry felt it would be important to talk to the district leadership Council about this.</p> <p>Larry also commented on a Congress position on federal land sales this again needs to be brought up at district leadership Council we are not in a position to act on this today.</p> <p>Larry also stated that there was a discussion about company CDAC meetings with CWD areas, this will be reviewed and discussed at district leadership meeting also.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	As stated

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Dale C. Maas</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>7/25/16</b>