

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Executive Council

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	1/8-9/2016	9 AM	Rothschild WI
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Robert Bohmann at 9:05 AM
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	By District (1) Joe Weiss,(2) Al Brown, Dave Larson, (3) Mike Riggle, Ed Choinski, (4) Bob Ellingson, (5) Kevin Smaby, Al Suchla, (6) Stan Brownell, Scott Pitta, (7) Dale Maas, Arlyn Splitt,(8) Larry Bonde, (9) Lee Fahrney, Mike Rogers, (10) Kenneth Risley, Jane Meyer (late), (11) Al Shook, Robert Bohmann
EXCUSED	By District (1) Rick Olson, (4) Ronald Krueger Sr., (8) Staush Gruszynski, (12) Adam Kassulke
UNEXCUSED	Noted that District (12) delegate Jacob Janowski has resigned from the Congress
GUESTS	Kari Lee Zimmermann, Adam Lindsey

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	No changes
ACTION	Motion/Fahrney, 2 nd /Weiss to approve, M/C

D. CHAIR'S UP DATE

DISCUSSION	Still had 33 committee delegates unexcused. This is still an unacceptable amount of people that fail to contact either the committee Chair or Secretary. If you cannot get ahold of either one of them at least contact one of your District Co-chairs. Bonde asked that at the upcoming District meetings that councilors have a discussion with delegates on the Rules Committee; there were three very good and dependable delegates that didn't show for one of the three meetings this year. Please find out what happened so he can make corrections to the reports if needed. YCC still struggling Dave Tupa has stepped down as chair due to other responsibilities more info at May meeting. WCC has applied for a grant from the Sporting Heritage Council. If that is accepted we will request Mark La Barbra assistance on overseeing the process.
ACTION	No action Taken

E. WCC LIASON REPORT

DISCUSSION	Kari showed a draft of video for congress exposure that when finished will be available on the Congress web site. This is another tool for getting exposure on what the Congress does. She is still trying to get a broader exposure to all of the great opportunities to recreate in Wisconsin and the areas that we have worked with the Board on. Suggestions on where we could use it on some current TV productions with a tag back to us. Kari said it is currently sitting out on YOU-TUBE but some editing still needs to be done. She is also asking for Dates and locations for District meetings she would like them as soon as possible. Also we are in need of candidates and clubs for the awards program please do all you can to get worthy individuals and clubs nominated. We also need candidates for departmental leadership and Hall of Fame candidates; these are needed by January 31.
ACTION	N/A

A. DNR PROGRAM UP DATES

1. FISHERIES JUSTINE HASZ

DISCUSSION	<p>Justine gave a brief introduction and what she was involved in for duties prior to assuming her new duties as Director, Bureau of Fisheries Management. She reviewed current restructuring that now puts fisheries into a department called "Fish, Wildlife and Parks". Some staffing and restructuring changes resulted in the addition of a Deputy Bureau Director who is here today Todd Kalish.</p> <p>The new 2 year budget had very tough issues 16 positions need to be removed by June of this year and will be done by eliminating open positions and no layoffs we also had a number of retirements, the last budget cycle. In 2011 we had authorization for 232 full time positions. Since 2011, (25 positions) were cut but we still have an OK for 207 full time staff. With these reductions it becomes essential that we do a good job of reprioritizing our work load. It should also be noted that we have no plans for reduction of the approximate 190 LTEs in this budget cycle, the funding for these employees come from a different source.</p> <p>Since 2014 \$2 million of walleye grant money has been used those grants are now exhausted. \$500,000.00 has been approved for Walleye initiative for the next 2 year budget cycle.</p> <p>Lake Michigan 10 year master plan final draft expected in 30 days, all previous reviewers will have an addition opportunity for final review.</p> <p>Early Trout catch and release when into effect last week.</p> <p>Pan fish bag to be out before next license year cycle.</p> <p>Question on the experimental lakes used for walleye initiative as to how long they will be in that category? Todd Kalish sent an email after the meeting stating "additional assessments will be conducted in 2016 to lakes newly added (some have this done) and final assessments will be completed by 2018. When the final assessments are done they will be reviewed with all of the stakeholder groups.</p>	
ACTION	Information only	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
N/A		N/A

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

2 a. New Chief of Bureau of Legal Services Quinn Williams

DISCUSSION	<p>Chairman Bohmann introduced the new Chief of the Bureau of Legal Services Quinn Williams. Quinn replaces the retired Tim Andryk. He gave a brief bio of his past positions within the department and looked forward to additional time being spent with the Congress. After much discussion and some tongue in cheek humor the following resolution was offered for consideration:</p> <p><u>Question ? Tim Andryk's access to hunting and fishing opportunities while in retired status.</u></p> <p>Tim Andryk is recently retired chief legal counsel and wildlife biologist for the department, friend of the Conservation Congress, and an "enthusiastic" hunter and angler.</p> <p>"Enthusiastic" for purposes of this question means that he frequently harvest limits of ducks, deer, turkeys, pheasants, doves, bluegills, or any other creature which is edible and which may be legally possessed. Size really doesn't matter. Tales of these exploits are told . . . and retold . . . and commonly acted out in dramatic fashion, for as long as Tim has an audience.</p> <p>Members of the public greatly enjoy Tim's enthusiasm. However, upon learning on Tim's retirement, many people have become concerned about issues of fair distribution of harvest among hunters and anglers. Indeed, complete extirpation of the Lake Monona bluegill population is feared. In retired status, Tim has stated that he will be hunting and fishing full time. Restricting Tim Andryk's hunting and fishing opportunities may be in the best interest of conserving fish and game populations which are held in the public trust.</p> <p>Question 5. Do you favor restricting the hunting and fishing activities of a person who's first name is Tim and last name is Andryk (legislation cannot name specific people, so this would apply to anyone with that name) so that he may not pursue game or fish on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, or on Mondays when the moon is full?</p> <p>NO_____ HELL*O _____</p>	
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ACTION	Motion/ All 2nd/to none. Who cares what the vote was he wouldn't stop talking long enough to hear anyway... Just for FUN TIM have a great retirement we all will miss your constant enthusiastic babble and infectious smile! Hope to see you soon!
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Everyone!	Open

2 b. Wildlife Tom Hauge

DISCUSSION	<p>Tom issued a handout with many updates: Beaver and Turkey Management plans in place. Elk restoration project was augmented with elk from Kentucky. The first batch being tested and released last August East of Black River Falls Jackson County. Another batch will be coming this year and trapping for them this month. We expect to transplant an additional 50 this year. CWD monitoring have been continuous projects with 2 additional game farm positives discovered in 2015. We sampled 2,900 deer statewide in 2015 with 256 testing positive. We continue to work on methods to make sampling easier. Eagle contaminant load has continued to lessen in traditionally high areas like the Fox River. Avian influenza was an issue last year in border states but no detected in wildlife though did have impact on domestic turkey population. Deer harvest numbers were updated and we continue to age 11,000 deer in 2015. The teaming up with area meat processors was used to augment the totals. The new on line deer registration worked very well but the department will continue to improve the process: 72% did Mobil and 28% did Desktop registration. Bobcat population dynamics were reviewed with a thank you to the trappers for helping with their incidental catches being collared for study. Wetland Infrastructure and Flowage Management an inspection is ongoing for aging dams and dykes. This is having an impact on not only fisheries management along with wildlife habitat. Figuring out the best method to repair or replace some of these structures will have a long range impact on how these areas will be managed. The department is teaming up with the farm bill dollars to get more bang for the buck working on ways we can have better habitat while making good pasture/grazing land at the same time. Work is being done on a young forest initiative to create habitat that will benefit deer, grouse and other declining wildlife species. Adopt a wildlife area project in order to create a partnership with gun clubs and other organizations helping to do light maintenance duties. Poynette game farm produced 77,845 Pheasants for release on state wildlife areas in 2015 plus 1,131 roosters for 33 Learn to Hunt programs. The hatchery is undergoing an extensive renovation and should be up and running by spring 2017. Received a Voluntary Public Access Grant from the USDA for \$1,378,008.00. This grant is administered by NRCS and is for 3 years to aid in development and expansion of access opportunities on private land for activities such as hunting, fishing trapping bird watching and other wildlife dependent recreation. The grant also offers some habitat improvement assistance. Wood County Wildlife area had the lease renewed the department leases 20,000 acres from Wood County the last time (1983) the cost was \$0.45/acre this cycle it will be \$0.90/acre putting it on an equivalent to the cost we assume for the McMillian Wildlife area in Marathon County. CDAC surveys were taken; most (81%) were mostly satisfied with the outcome. Many were concerned with the lack of public participation. Additional work needs to be done to fill vacant CDAC positions. A kick off training session is set for February 6th in Stevens Point. The Horicon Explorium was opened last July; this has some great interactive displays for all ages. Attendance has been great and is a fun learning experience. He would suggest that we have a Council meeting there so we all could experience the rich history of that area and what Horicon Marsh has to offer. Keeping Wildlife Wild Campaign: 2014 and 2015 Efforts: This is an effort to help raise the public's awareness towards wildlife. The following we some of the tools used: 180,000 NR magazine subscribers + pass on readers 72,000 brochures and cards issued 135 programs presented to different groups 3,600 on line interactions 1.5 million Attendees at large events (expos, fairs etc.) 9 media pieces produced Filling vacancies and planned recruitments:</p>
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	Upland, Furbearer and Public Land specialist's positions are scheduled to be filled. One district supervisor position Five area manager positions Various biologist and technician positions open Wildlife lost 7 1/4 positions on the last budget cycle these positions will be absorbed internally and not require layoffs. It will require a reprioritization of work and services.	
ACTION	Information only	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

2. b. CDAC UPDATE Tom Hauge

DISCUSSION	Feb.6 th CDAC chair training session will be offered. There are many issues that will be addressed that came from the follow up survey. During the question period it was mentioned that the congress has a leadership position and obligation to monitor the productivity of the CDAC process. District by district the councilors should be reviewing with each county in their district to monitor the process.	
ACTION	Informational only	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

3. FORESTRY Tom Duke

DISCUSSION	<p>Tom gave an update on 2015 they lost 8 positions in this budget cycle. Forestry has been assigned to use the "Good Neighbor Authority" that allows them to partner up with Federal authority in the national forest system. It will also allow for better habitat in these project areas. Plan on doing an outreach to local industry's to better understand there issues both good and bad. Youth opportunities are an item that they can help with and we should make contact if assistance is needed.</p> <p>The following is his handout: Forestry Division FY'16 High Profile Work Priorities Department-Wide</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the level of plan implementation on the CNNF by collaborating with the USFS to implement a Good Neighbor Authority agreement. 2. Ensure consistency with statewide IT infrastructure by efficiently migrating data into the STAR ERP system. 3. Integrate with other Department programs by participating in CDAC (County Deer Advisory Councils), DMAP (Deer Management Assistance Program), and the Young Forest Initiative. 4. Work in partnership with Division of Lands and UW-Madison to complete the update of the WLCL (Wisconsin Land Cover layer) Project. <p>County Forests</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Utilize what we learned in the 2015 customer satisfaction survey to improve our partnership with the counties while providing the agreed upon county time standard hours. <p>Forest Health</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Complete review of the oak harvesting guidelines and provide implementation training. 7. Complete review and update of the Emerald Ash Borer Silviculture Guidelines. <p>Forest Products Services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Develop and conduct, with industry partners, training for all DNR field staff that focuses on how decisions made in the field impact the value chain that trees take from stump through manufacturing. 9. Work in collaboration with partners to implement strategies that support a skilled and responsive forest industry work force. <p>Forest Protection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Continue to build relationships with Fire Departments by annually offering training, completing mock fire exercises in Cumberland and Black River Falls, completing all FFP Grant audits, and making quarterly contacts with fire chiefs. 11. Ensure that all staff with fire duties meet the fire qualification standards required for their position by conducting training and providing experience opportunities. 12. Improve incident management team qualifications and depth by utilizing the GLFFC Section Chief Academy. 13. Provide division staff access to fire departments by implementing a duty officer concept. 14. Staff and implement the COOP LE Ranger program. 	
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	IT/GIS 15. Make completion of Wis. FIRS a consistent high priority by focusing staff and fiscal resources in any way needed throughout the year. 16. Evaluate and select an option for electronic field data collection focused on reducing the amount of time field staff spend transcribing information into our systems. Privately Owned Forests 17. Implement the legislative change in how MFL Cutting Notices are approved when submitted by eligible private sector foresters. 18. Improve efficiency within the Managed Forest Law (MFL) Program by implementing plans for key concepts identified in the MFL efficiency study. 19. Promote forest management by participating in local Conservation Congress group meetings. 20. Increase emphasis on reducing mandatory practices that are past due. 21. Evaluate the results from unengaged landowner outreach initiatives. Reforestation 22. Implement a new organizational structure for the Reforestation Program that reflects the consolidation of seedling production to one nursery. 23. Implement the newly revised artificial regeneration monitoring protocol. Sciences 24. Increase knowledge of economic considerations in forest management by completing a new Forest Economics Chapter in the Silviculture Handbook and providing training. 25. Clarify management options and expectations for even and uneven aged stands, including those addressing stand assessment, prescriptions, order of removal, and the evaluation of marked timber. State Lands 26. Increase utilization of contracting as a tool for timber sale establishment.	
ACTION	Informational Only	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

(WAS II. C) DNR SECRETARY'S REPORT

CATHY STEPP

DISCUSSION	The secretary gave the council an update on the work being done by the department and the responsibility that the legislature has authorized them to do. In working with the legislators she felt that a business plan needs to be made and analyzed so when we are asked to make future cuts we can quantify what level of work would be reduced. This will allow for a better discussion. Break for 45 min lunch @ 12:15 PM	
ACTION	Informational Only	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

5. CUSTOMER OUTREACH SERVICES

Mark Rappe

	Gave a back ground report on the scope of the project, there were over 400 unique ideas and suggestions on new license process. You will be able to have a regular license or a smart phone or a driver's license or a conservation card. It will know other information such as safety endorsements and classes, and vehicle registrations i.e. boats, atv snowmobile etc.	
ACTION	Informational Only	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

4. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Todd Schaller

DISCUSSION	Back from lunch @ 1 :12 PM Todd answered questions on Native night hunting and captive cervid farms. The department only has Authority over deer farms. Single fence requirement is for a hobby farm or shooting preserve. 2015 class of 11 warden recruits have graduated and are in process of being placed.	
ACTION	Informational Only	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

B.2016 SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS

1. FISHERIES KATIE STROM HIORNS

DISCUSSION	<p>Hand out has 2 questions.</p> <p>1. & 2. Shortened Regulation Change Process</p> <p>Fisheries biologists survey inland lakes and rivers in part to determine if the proper regulation is applied to the water body. Often special regulations are put on a lake to cause a change to the fishery. If the change has happened and the population is stable, biologists may want to return the regulation to the most common or “statewide” regulation for a fish species.</p> <p>Currently the process for changing most recreational fishing regulations takes 2 to 3 years and the proposals all have public input at the statewide Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings. The Department is considering methods to change regulations on individual lakes using a local public notice and hearing process, instead of the Spring Hearings, in order to return a regulation to the “statewide” regulation. This would give the Department more flexibility to provide a quicker response to changing conditions.</p> <p>1. Do you favor having a local public notice and input process in place, separate from Spring Hearings, to more quickly change regulations to the most common or “statewide” regulation for a specific fish species on inland waters?</p> <p>Similarly, when fish consumption advisories are updated each year, they may warrant different regulations on some inland lakes and rivers. Because fish tend to accumulate more contaminants the longer they live in a contaminated water body, it is generally safer to eat younger, smaller fish from those waters. The Department is considering methods to change regulations on individual lakes using a local public notice and hearing process, instead of the Spring Hearings, in order to change regulations in response to consumption advisories. One option may be to allow for “no minimum” size limits on walleye, northern pike, and bass species that have “do not eat” advice for a particular water body.</p> <p>2. Do you favor having a local public notice and input process in place, separate from Spring Hearings, to more quickly change regulations for specific fish species on inland waters when they are under certain consumption advisories?</p>	
	ACTION	Informational Only
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

2. Wildlife Scott Loomans

DISCUSSION	<p>Scott Wildlife has 2 rule change questions and 2 advisory questions, they are listed below.</p> <p>Wildlife management bureau’s proposed 2016 Spring Hearing Questions:</p> <p><u>Question 1. Allowing the overnight placement of portable stands and blinds on department owned and managed lands north of State Hwy. 64.</u></p> <p>Currently the overnight, unattended placement of tree stands and ground blinds for hunting is not allowed on department managed lands. This regulation was established to prevent the “staking out” or making advance claims to hunting locations in favor of a first-come-first served practice. However the overnight placement of stands is allowed on many other public lands which are not managed by DNR and may also be practical on department lands.</p>	
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This proposal would allow the overnight placement of tree stands on DNR managed lands north of State Hwy. 64. Some hunters will appreciate the convenience of not having to carry and place a tree stand or blind for each hunt, especially for an aging demographic of hunters. Others may favor a philosophy of trying to reduce competition on public lands.

Hearing attendees are being asked if they would prefer to allow overnight placement of stands and blinds only for the firearm deer seasons, which includes muzzleloader season, or for a longer period beginning on September 1 and continuing through January 31. Another option could be to limit these rules to a three year trial period which would allow the department to evaluate new rules before making them permanent.

The proposal would require that all unattended tree stands be marked with the owner's department customer identification number or name and address. It would be illegal to cause damage to a tree, but careful pruning of limbs less than 1 inch in diameter would not be considered causing damage to the tree the stand is placed in. This would not permit cutting trees, brush and other vegetation for shooting lanes.

This proposal would clarify that any person may use a stand that is not occupied and being used by the owner and that stand placement does not reserve a location for exclusive use by any individual. However, the owner of the blind or stand would retain the authority to remove and relocate their stand at any time. It would be illegal to relocate a blind or stand that was lawfully placed by another.

The department would survey hunter's opinions and evaluate concerns once people have experience with a new rule.

Do you favor allowing the unattended, overnight placement of portable stands and blinds on department owned and managed lands located north of State Hwy. 64 beginning on September 1 and continuing through January 31?

YES _____ NO _____

Do you favor allowing the unattended, overnight placement of portable stands and blinds on department owned and managed lands located north of State Hwy. 64 but limiting stand placement to only the firearm and muzzleloader deer seasons?

YES _____ NO _____

Do you favor a three year trial period for these rules? If implemented, the department would monitor hunter use and concerns during the 2016 to 2018 hunting seasons. If the results are positive, the rule would remain in effect. If the results are negative, the rule could be suspended beginning in 2019.

YES _____ NO _____

Question 2. A rule proposal to establish that the legal hours for taking game be referred to as "shooting hours" rather than "hunting hours."

Hunting for most birds and game animals is restricted to daylight hours. These restrictions may be in place for a variety of reasons related to the safe use of firearms and bows, allowing birds to return to roost sites without hunting pressure, or simply a traditional notion that certain types of hunting should be done in daylight. "Hunting" is defined in statute and includes shooting or

shooting at any wild animal. Also included under the definition of hunting is pursuing, taking, capturing or killing or attempting to capture or kill any wild animal.

Under current law, a person may remain in a deer stand after the close of hunting hours, such as to avoid spooking a nearby deer, so long as they are no longer hunting. Some members of the public are concerned however, that merely remaining in the field would cause a law enforcement officer to determine that the person is actually hunting.

The proposal would establish that “shooting” outside of legal hours for taking game is illegal, rather than “hunting” under current rules. This may provide assurance that certain other activities, which do not result in taking or attempting to take game, are not illegal and would not result in law enforcement issuing a citation. This might also provide assurances that it is legal to recover game which was shot legally during daylight but not retrieved until after dark. However, this would make it more difficult to enforce restrictions on the times of day when game may be taken because late hunters would not be in violation of the law until they actually shot at an animal.

Do you favor changing hunting regulations so that “shooting” outside of established times is illegal, rather than the current prohibition of “hunting” outside of established times?

YES_____NO_____

Question 3. Preferences for issuing antlerless deer hunting permits that are limited in number by the method of first-come-first-served, over-the-counter sales versus issuing permits by taking applications and holding random drawings.

In part because antlerless deer harvest opportunities have been relatively limited in certain units, some hunters have asked the department about alternate methods to distribute permits. This question will gauge hunter preferences for two methods currently used for issuing permits.

Permits to hunt species such as bear, turkey, sharp-tailed grouse, and bobcat are currently issued through a random drawing. For these species, there is also a preference system which awards a point for each year that the applicant is unsuccessful in the drawing and applicants with the highest number of points have the highest preference in each year’s drawing. There may be a number of advantages to this method of permit issuance including: 1) it assures that the people who have waited the longest for an opportunity to hunt have the highest preference for permits, 2) applicants do not have to wait in lines or take time off work to purchase licenses immediately when they go on sale and, 3) some people perceive that this is the fairest way to issue permits.

Bonus permits for antlerless deer are currently issued over-the-counter on a first-come, first-served basis. Permits go on sale on a particular day and at a certain time in August. In many units, permits are abundant and do not sell out but, in certain units, permits may be more limited in number and they can sell out quickly. There may be a number of advantages to over-the-counter permit issuance including 1) there is no application deadline which can be forgotten, 2) because it is not necessary to apply in advance, a person may have more time to decide where they will hunt and, 3) drawings are not necessary statewide because many units do have enough permits available to meet demand.

Do you favor issuing antlerless deer hunting permits on a first-come, first-served basis as is currently done?

YES ____ NO ____

Do you favor issuing antlerless deer hunting permits through a random drawing, which would include an application deadline and preference categories for people who are unsuccessful in previous drawings?

YES ____ NO ____

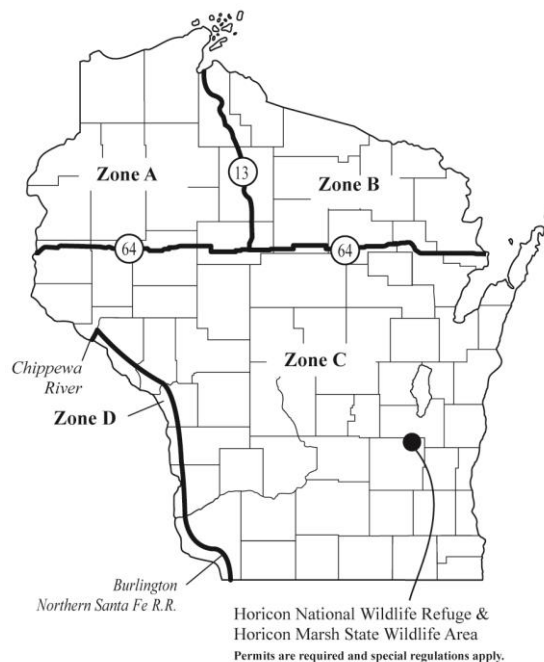
Question 4. Beaver management and trapping season preferences.

In order to address beaver management in a comprehensive manner, Wisconsin adopted a new 2015-2025 Beaver Management Plan. (search for *beaver management plan* at dnr.wi.gov). A key recommendation of the plan is to establish population management goals for each zone that would result in healthy, stable population of beavers across Wisconsin.

A long term decline in beaver populations across Beaver Management Zones A & B in the northern part of the state has been documented. A primary reason is the long harvest season which was designed to reduce the overall beaver population and to more directly affect beaver presence on priority trout waters. The new management goals are to maintain or slightly increase beavers in these two zones, which would then require a slight reduction in harvest pressure. This could be done by closing the general season for beaver trapping earlier than current rules, while continuing to apply beaver harvest pressure on our best free-flowing cold water trout streams.

Beaver trapping seasons under current rules:

- Zone A: Saturday nearest Nov. 4 – April 30
- Zone B: Saturday nearest Nov. 4 – April 30
- Zone C: Saturday nearest Nov. 4 – March 31
- Zone D: Day after duck season – March 31



The department's Furbearer Advisory Committee and the Beaver Management Task Force (which

	<p>includes members of the public, other groups, agencies and the department), are considering potential season dates and season frameworks, but no rule proposals have been agreed upon at the time of printing this questionnaire.</p> <p>The otter harvest season would be adjusted so that it is consistent with the beaver season. Beaver and otter can be trapped in the same locations, using similar methods.</p> <p>If a shortened season were implemented, the department would monitor beaver populations in Zones A and B. If populations grow beyond the desired level, the season would be lengthened as soon as possible.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">For Beaver Management Zone A, to address goal recommendations of the new beaver management plan, do you support the concept of shortening the general season for beaver and otter trapping by two to four weeks on non-trout waters, yet continue the current trapping season length on waters classified as trout streams?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES _____ NO _____</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">For Beaver Management Zone B, to address goal recommendations of the new beaver management plan, do you support the concept of shortening the general season for beaver and otter trapping by two to four weeks on non-trout waters, yet continue the current trapping season length on waters classified as trout streams?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES _____ NO _____</p> <p>Allow overnight placement of portable stands And blinds on department owned and managed land North of state highway 64? 2. A rule proposal to establish that the legal hours for taking game be referred to as "shooting Hours"</p>	
ACTION	Informational Only	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A	N/A	

D. STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

ART LERSCH

DISCUSSION	<p>After ALIS program Art laid out the process and the results of the survey done at last year's convention. Committee recommendations were laid out for council</p>	
ACTION	M/Maas 2/Riggle to accept the report M/C Details to be reviewed at a later meeting one for one on definitive items,	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Chair	Next Ex Council Meeting	

E. PROPOSED WCC ADVISORY QUESTIONS

WCC 2016 Proposed Spring Hearing Questions:

Secretary's note (***Bold Italic***) = **Removed**

Bold = New language added

Italic = note only

Executive Council

Support the Natural Resources Board choosing the DNR Secretary (131015)

For seventy years, the DNR secretary was appointed by the Natural Resources Board (NRB). This changed in 1995 when the position became a cabinet position appointed by the governor.

Do you (**support legislation to return the appointment**) of the DNR secretary to the NRB?
M/Shook 2nd / Meyer to advance as amended M/C

Migratory Committee

Removal of Waterfowl Blinds on Public Lands (680315)

Permanent waterfowl blinds are allowed on public water/land beginning 7 days prior to the start of any waterfowl season and must be removed within 7 days of the end of the waterfowl season. Because of poor late season access and difficulty locating or identifying the builder of these blinds, many are not removed. The result can be dangerous or unsightly materials left in the water or on land which can become a hazard to boaters, swimmers, hikers and animals (mostly dogs). This law may also contribute to the perception of public land being reserved or "off-limits" around the area of the permanent blind.

Do you favor legislation that would repeal the law that allows permanent waterfowl blinds on public water/lands? Waterfowl blinds that are removed at the end of each day would be allowed.

M/Shook 2nd/Fahrney to advance M/C

End the 16-day 1:00 pm closure in Mead Wildlife Area (370415)

The Mead Wildlife Area currently has a 16-day 1:00 pm closure of the waterfowl season to provide a refuge for waterfowl. The closure prolongs the length of time the birds stay in the area and are available to hunters. However, those hunters that wish to or are only able to hunt in the afternoon are not able to utilize the Mead because of this closure. The current 1:00 pm closure is a result of positive annual surveys of hunters who have used the Mead Wildlife Area from 2009-2014 and have shown support for the 1:00 pm closure ranging from 65%-79%.

Do you favor repealing the 16-day 1:00 pm closure for waterfowl hunting at the Mead Wildlife Area?

M/Fahrney 2nd / Bonde to reject

Much discussion as to if we go with the wishes of the attendees at the spring hearing and the committee recommendation or those that sent letters after. Motion failed. M/ Reggie 2nd /Shook to advance M/C

Warm Water Committee:

Reopening the year round walleye fishing season on the Lower Black River (270415)

Anglers are currently not allowed to keep or fish for walleyes during the closed season (first Sunday in March to the first Saturday in May) on the Lower Black River. More consistent and regulated water releases at the dam, watershed improvements and other factors have contributed to making the Lower Black River the fishery it is today. By allowing the walleye season to be open year round, only a small amount of time would be added to actual angler effort. Ice break up and high flows from snow melt along with precipitation events would limit the amount of time anglers can actually pursue walleyes in the spring. The walleye population would be further protected by current statewide minimum length limits or slot length and bag limits. Opening the walleye season year round would provide additional recreational opportunities.

Do you favor opening the walleye season year round on the Lower Black River?

M/ Weiss 2nd /Meyer to advance M/C

DISCUSSION

Increasing the musky size limit on Trout Lake to 50 inches (640715)

(Vilas County was, at one time, the premier destination for anglers seeking a trophy musky fishing experience. A number of factors including increased fishing pressure, modern techniques, and habitat degradation may be impacting the ability to maintain a fishery with trophy potential.) Trout Lake has the size, population density and forage base consistent with development of fish to a trophy size of 50 inches or more. Management of Trout Lake to “trophy” potential may benefit local economies with increased tourism. ***(that is currently being diverted to neighboring states and Canadian provinces.)*** Trout Lake currently has a minimum length limit of 45” for muskellunge.

Do you favor raising the minimum size limit for muskies on Trout Lake from 45 inches to 50 inches? The daily bag limit would remain one fish.

M/ Weiss 2nd / Brown to advance as amended M/C

The reason for amending was that it was not needed.

Tying up fish for personal gain

In the past, fish have been **retained (tied up to be used later for winning tournaments) with the intent to keep them alive for later use in tournaments**, photo opportunities, and for guides to misleadingly promote their business. Some of these fish are tied up for weeks. Many people feel that this is unethical. No current law prevents this activity.

Would you favor a rule that would prohibit anyone who receives or may receive compensation for fishing activities from storing live game fish with any unattended storage device on any body of water beyond the day of catch?

Comment: Why do you just want to prohibit people who get money? Why not prohibit everyone? This is a committee question drafted from a resolution that was rejected.

M/ Weiss 2nd Larson to advance as amended M/C

Elimination of size limit on largemouth bass on Diamond Lake, Bayfield County (040415)

Historically, Diamond Lake has been primarily a walleye and smallmouth bass fishery. In recent times, the population of largemouth bass has increased significantly. Other area lakes with similar circumstances have instituted reductions in size limits on largemouth bass to reduce their populations, and improve walleye fishing.

Would you favor eliminating the size limit on largemouth bass in Diamond Lake?

M/ Suchla 2nd / Weiss to advance M/C

North and South Twin Lake Vilas County muskellunge size limit increase (640615)

(Vilas County was, at one time, the premier destination for anglers seeking a trophy musky fishing experience. Increased angler fishing pressure, modern techniques, and habitat degradation may be impacting the ability to maintain a fishery with trophy potential.)

North and South Twin Lakes have the size, population density, and forage base consistent with development of fish to trophy size of 50 inches and more. This proposal may benefit local economies due to increased tourism. ***(that is currently being diverted to neighboring states and Canadian provinces.)***

Would you support a rule change to raise the minimum size limit for muskellunge on North and South

Twin Lakes from 40 inches to 50 inches? The daily bag limit would remain one fish.

M / Weiss 2nd / Pitta to advance as amended M/C

Reduce Yellow Perch daily bag limit on Bearskin Lake, Oneida County (440115)

Rusty Crayfish are an invasive species present in Bearskin Lake. Yellow perch, nine inches or longer, are effective predators on Rusty Crayfish. Currently there is a 25 per day bag limit on Yellow Perch in Bearskin Lake. A reduction of the bag limit on Yellow Perch to 10 per day may allow more perch to remain in the lake and grow to a size that could have an impact on the Rusty Crayfish population.

Would you support lowering the daily bag limit of Yellow Perch in Bearskin Lake from 25 fish per day to 10 fish per day?

Comment: Just FYI...This is the DNR's response to this question given to the committee prior to the approval of the resolution:

Response: Bearskin Lake currently has an aggregate bag limit of 25 panfish per day, which includes yellow perch harvest. The local biologist is not against reducing the panfish bag limit on Bearskin, but it would likely have minimal effect on the rusty crayfish population. He also has limited data on the perch population in the lake, but may be able to collect more information in the near future. Rather than propose this change as an advisory question now, it may be worthwhile to instead wait for the panfish regulation evaluation to determine which regulation type may work best on Bearskin Lake.

M/ Weiss 2nd /Fahrney M/C

Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee

Raise public awareness of DNR / conservation efforts for all Wisconsinites (130915)

Some Wisconsin citizens are uninformed or misinformed about the policies, practices, and priorities for Wisconsin natural resources.

Would you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress working with the DNR **and the Natural Resources Board** to explore new ways to raise public awareness, consciousness, (**reverence**), and improve stewardship for Wisconsin's natural resources that are beneficial to all people?

M/ Smaby 2nd /Pitta to advance as amended M/C

Learn-to-Hunt participation (140215)

Current regulations limit participation in Learn-to-Hunt events to no more than one event per species. Learn-to-Hunt was put into place as a tool for recruiting and training new hunters. Research has indicated that participation in more than one event may be needed to educate and retain new hunters.

Would you support allowing individuals to participate in two Learn-to-hunt events per species under current mentoring regulations?

M/ Maas 2nd / Shook to advance M/C

Wildlife Conservation Stamp (130515)

Non-consumptive resource users have fewer opportunities to support conservation in Wisconsin. Creating a **Voluntary** Wildlife Conservation Stamp could provide a revenue source for managing Wisconsin public lands, preserving habitat and wildlife, and give non-consumptive users a funding tool for species and habitat projects that are sometimes passed over in favor of game animal priorities.

Would you support legislation to create a **Voluntary** Wildlife Conservation Stamp that would generate funds to help support DNR budgets for conservation efforts for all wildlife?

M/ Smaby 2nd Meyer as amended M/C

Turkey & Upland Game Committee

Allowing unused spring turkey permits to be used in 5th and 6th hunting seasons (520215)

Results from the DNR's spring turkey hunter questionnaire, indicate over 65% of respondents believe the separate 6-week time periods are important to maintain a quality spring turkey hunting experience. However, a hunter may experience unforeseen circumstances (land access, health issues, permit availability, schedule conflicts, inclement weather, etc.) that may limit or hinder their ability to hunt in the zone or time period that they may have applied and purchased their permit for under the current six-period spring turkey season. **(There have recently been discussions about eliminating the six time periods of the spring turkey season and implementing a six-week-long season to afford hunters more opportunity. The idea was to eliminate the spring turkey permit application process and sell the permits over-the-counter on a first come, first served basis. However, there were concerns of increased competition and hunters losing access to private land, overcrowding on public land, and increasing hunting accidents.)**

Would you be in favor of expanding the spring turkey hunting opportunities while maintaining the existing six-period season structure by allowing unsuccessful turkey permit holders from time periods 1,2,3 and 4 the use of their unfilled permits during the 5th and 6th time periods in their specific zone?

Comment: This information is not necessary or pertinent to the question at issue and Rob (resolution author) is fine with it not being in it. In my opinion, it is confusing. There were additional concerns that the licensing system may not be able to handle the large volume of transactions that would likely occur simultaneously when permits go on sale.
M/ Rodgers 2nd /Risley to advance as amended M/C

Great Lakes Committee

Modification of the early season walleye fishing in the Fox River (050515)

Current fishing regulations and new access to the river along the river walk in De Pere has increased access for anglers to this popular area during the spring walleye run. Night fishing creates unique challenges for law enforcement and illegal activities can be more difficult to detect at night. A night fishing prohibition area, similar to those found on the Peshtigo and Oconto River systems, could be established to assist law enforcement in reducing the illegal activity in this area during the spring walleye spawning run. (See the proposed area on the map.)

Would you support a nighttime fishing prohibition during the spring walleye spawning run **March 1 till the regular season opener** within the shaded area below the De Pere Dam on the map?
M/ Maas 2nd /Rogers to advance as amended M/C

Trout Committee

Alternate bag limits for Wisconsin's trout fisheries (020315, 040615, 131215, 240215, 260215, 330215, 370615, 450215, 460215, 480115, 490315, 520615, 560315, 700215)

The DNR has the authority under s. NR 20.35, Wis. Adm. Code, to set alternate, temporary size and/or bag limits for warm water fish species such as walleye, largemouth and small mouth bass, muskellunge, catfish, northern pike, and panfish in order to provide for better use and management of the fishery resource in a particular water body. The alternate limits are intended to be temporary, corrective measures applied to species currently managed under general statewide size and bag limits. No such option for temporary size and bag limits currently exists for trout species (brook, brown, and rainbow) in NR20.35.

Do you support amending NR 20.35 to include—by name—the three trout species of our state (brook, brown, rainbow) and an alternate temporary size limit and bag limit for each that would apply under certain circumstances alongside the warm water species already protected via listing in the administrative code?

M/ Shook 2nd /Pitta to advance M/C

Deer & Elk Committee

Allow the County Deer Advisory Councils (CDAC's) to extend the archery season to January 31 in the Southern Farmland Zone.

The Natural Resources Board recently adopted rules relating to deer management and hunting, and also implemented the 2012 Deer Trustee's Report. These rules adopted a December 4-day antlerless season statewide in counties that have antlerless quotas. The rule also gives the CDAC's the ability to recommend an antlerless only holiday hunt from December 24 through January 1. Current season options do not allow the CDAC's that recommend the holiday hunt to also recommend the archery and crossbow season be extended to January 31.

Do you support allowing the CDAC's in the Southern Farmland Zones that recommend an antlerless holiday hunt, to also have the ability to recommend extending the archery and crossbow season to January 31?

M/ Shook 2nd /Bonde to advance M/C

Deer Population Recommendations for the County Deer Advisory Councils (CDAC) to be Voted on at the Spring Hearings

One of the roles of the County Deer Advisory Councils is to make recommendations on deer populations for their county. Every three years, CDAC's can recommend increasing, decreasing, or maintaining the deer populations. (***The Conservation Congress delegates who chair these councils have no systematic method to receive formal direction from the public within their counties at this time.***)

Do you support utilizing the spring hearings to provide direction to Conservation Congress delegates on deer populations for each county?

Comment: This is something that could just be done by the WCC & DNR...it doesn't require any rule change. You have the whole CDAC process for comments. We should have some way of getting direction like at the spring hearing this should be non-binding on the CDAC committee.

M/ Risley 2nd /Suchla to advance as amended M/F

This will be added as an agenda item on the Congress portion of the Spring hearing.

Eliminate group hunting with first time or youth antlerless tags.

Antlerless tags for first time and youth deer hunters are intended to provide greater opportunity for these hunters to harvest a deer. However, the current group bagging law allows other hunters to fill these tags if they comply with being within visual or/and voice distance of the tag holder.

Do you support changing the law to prohibit group hunting on first time and youth antlerless tags and allowing only the first time or youth hunter to use the antlerless tag issued to them to kill an antlerless deer?

Comment: committee knew that the legislature was working on this and they thought that to leave it on incase nothing was changed was a good idea, they have no problem rejecting it now with the changes that have been made,

M/ Rogers 2nd /Split to reject M/C

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 for dinner for one hour.

Back at 6:32 PM

Legislative Committee

Senior Citizen Conservation Patron License (680215)

The current cost of a Conservation Patron License is \$165 for persons 18 years and older. For anyone age 12-17, a Conservation Patron License is \$75. Senior Citizen Fishing and Senior Citizen Small Game Licenses are offered at a reduced price.

Do you favor (***the Conservation Congress WDNR, the Legislature and the Governor's Office working together to explore the creation of***) legislation creating a Senior Citizen Conservation Patron License?

M/Smaby 2nd /Splitt to adopt as amended M/ C

Increase Scientific, professional natural resource management in the Wisconsin DNR (130215)

In 1928, sportsmen and women successfully fought to establish a citizen board to oversee natural Resource management in Wisconsin and to authorize that board to appoint professional natural resource managers to oversee the natural resource agency. In 1995, the legislature, while retaining the Natural Resources Board as the decision-making body for the agency, made the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and the top managers for the DNR political appointees. In the past twenty years, under administrations of both parties, many senior managers have been appointed that do not have any significant education or applied experience in natural resource management.

Do you favor legislation that would require at least two of the three senior DNR managers (Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Assistant Deputy Secretary) to have either an educational degree in natural resource management and five years of applied natural resource management or ten years of applied natural resource management before they are appointed?

Comment: No need to ask...Signed into law 11/11/15

M/ Meyer 2nd /Ellingson to advance M/C

Initiate the selling of gift certificates for DNR licenses, fees, permits (270315) (requires legislation)

Every year thousands of people enjoy Wisconsin's natural resources. The use of many of our natural resources requires the purchase of a license, permit, or other fee. While there are many ways these can be purchased, there is currently no opportunity for someone to provide others a license, permit, or pay a fee as a gift.

Do you support the (**Conservation Congress**) DNR working with the legislature (**and DNR**) to create and implement the opportunity for customers to purchase gift certificates that can be used by others towards the purchase of DNR licenses, permits, or fees?

M/ Bohmann 2nd / Rogers to advance as amended M/C

License fee increase (640315) (requires legislation)

(Wisconsin ranks near last in the country in number of wardens and biologists per sportsman utilizing its natural resources.) Wisconsin has not had a license fee increase in over 8 years. A two to three dollar per license increase on average would potentially raise 4-6 million dollars or more. This additional money could allow the DNR to fund more biologists and wardens to better protect and understand the resources and ensure quality experiences for all resource users.

Do you support the (**Conservation Congress work with the Natural Resources Board and the**) Legislature (**to explore**) increasing **hunting, fishing and trapping** license fees?

M/Maas 2nd /Smaby to advance as amended M/C

Registration of non-motorized watercraft (670215) (requires legislation)

Currently non-motorized watercraft (canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, etc.) do not have to be registered. (Or **pay any fees.**) These watercraft utilize the services of the DNR aquatic biologists as do motorized watercraft and non-motorized watercraft can spread invasive species as can motorized watercraft. Also, if any kayak or canoe is found floating empty, law enforcement has no way of finding out who it belongs to or if someone is missing on the lake. A fee of \$15/3 years could generate as much as \$1.5 million in revenue (estimate based on 100,000 non-motorized watercraft) and could be utilized for prevention of invasive species. Groups with multiple non-motorized watercraft or unique circumstances (ex. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.) could pay a special group fee.

Do you support the Conservation Congress work with the DNR and legislature to establish a non-motorized watercraft fee via the legislative process?

M/Meyer 2nd /Shook to advance as amended M/C

Executive Council reconvened on 1/9/16 at 8:05 AM.

Attendance was taken and all that were present on Friday 1/8/16 were also present except for Ed Choinski and Stan Brownell who were excused.

Environmental Committee

Repeal the iron mining law

2013 Wisconsin Act 1 created a new regulatory framework applicable to ferrous (iron) mining activities. The legislature modified the regulatory process applied to other metallic mines to facilitate review of future iron mining projects. Major changes included imposing a specific review timeline on DNR, removing the mandatory contested case hearing held before issuance of permits, and changing review processes and decision-making criteria related to wetlands, navigable waters, mining waste facilities, groundwater quality and water withdrawals. Iron mining projects are typically large in scale and could affect several thousand acres of land and the water resources in the vicinity of the project. The recently withdrawn GTAC Project in Iron County would have been located in the headwaters of the Bad River, which flows north to Lake Superior through the Kakagon Bad River Sloughs, a national natural landmark and a wetland of international importance.

Are you in favor of repealing Act 1, the iron mining law from 2013?

**M/ Shook 2nd /Pitta to advance W/ Amendment do delete fourth sentence. M/Failed
M/Meyer 2nd / Pitta to advance without amendment M/C**

Moratorium on new state permits for industrial sand mining and processing

The industrial sand, commonly called frac sand, mining and processing industry has experienced rapid growth in some portions of Wisconsin containing economic deposits of frac sand material. The mining and processing operations involve thousands of acres of land and millions of tons of product and waste materials. These operations can have a direct impact on storm water runoff, groundwater recharge, and air quality on and directly adjacent to mining and processing sites. In response to public concerns and regulatory issues the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board has authorized a Strategic Analysis of Industrial Sand Mining to be completed in 2016. The study will provide scientific information for those making future frac sand regulatory decisions.

Are you in favor of **the legislature imposing** a moratorium on new state permits for frac sand mining and processing until any recommendations that may be developed following the completion of the Strategic Analysis of Industrial Sand Mining can be implemented?

M/ Meyer 2nd /Shook to advance as amended M/C

Require an environmental impact statement for Enbridge Energy Corporation increase in capacity of Pipeline 61 from Superior, Wisconsin to Delevan, Wisconsin

A proposal by Enbridge Energy Corporation will increase the capacity of Pipeline 61 to carry tar sand crude oil through Wisconsin from Superior in the northwest to Delevan in the southeast. Pipeline 61 runs under and adjacent to lakes streams and wetlands. Tar sand crude is heavier than water and presents unique challenges to cleaning up a discharge of such crude to a water body.

Are you in favor of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress requesting the Wisconsin Department of Natural resources to conduct a full environmental impact statement of the proposed increase in capacity of Pipe line 61?

Comment: The DNR followed the legal process for all permits the DNR had the authority to issue and no permit was ever contested.

Comment: The DNR does not have the authority to regulate the amount of material flowing in any pipeline. Capacity expansion, construction, inspection, and maintenance for all liquid petroleum pipelines is regulated by the federal government through the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) which is part of the US Dept. of Transportation.

M/ Shook 2nd /Fahrney to reject M/C

This is a federal concern and the state cannot restrict the flow based on what the state has the power to control.

Ban Lead from Sporting Ammunition and Fishing Tackle (131915)

Lead has been removed by law from consumer products such as gasoline and paint to reduce the amount of lead being discharged to the environment and to protect human health. Non-lead shot is required for waterfowl hunting. Lead in sporting ammunition and fishing tackle (**can be**) is a source of lead poisoning for wildlife (**such as eagles, loons and other raptors**). Venison from deer harvested by hunters using lead ammunition has been identified as containing lead fragments. **Many other states have adopted lead restrictions on a wide variety of lands and waters.**

Should the Wisconsin Conservation Congress advise the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to ban the use of lead ammunition used for hunting and lead fishing tackle for fishing under the Toxic Substances Control Act?

Discussion that the alternative materials are still very expensive and we do have some food pantries that are refusing venison that has been shot with a lead bullet. The trout committee though not assigned the resolution also weighed in and rejected the resolution

Comment: FYI so everyone understands what the DNR could and couldn't do....DNR could ban it in association with hunting or fishing practices on public or private lands, or on DNR owned/managed lands no matter what the activity, but couldn't ban it from being used on private land for target practice, for example.

Comment: EPA (which enforces TSCA) lacks the statutory authority to regulate lead from bullets and other ammunition. The DNR could ban under their authority and they don't need the TSCA to do so.

M/ Maas 2nd / Riggle to reject

This has a lot of merit but in its current form will fail miserably. This went to Trout and was rejected it was felt that this needs to be reworked and brought back tomorrow.

A group will get together tonight and bring it back under members matters Mike Riggle with help will

work on this and bring it back.

After the resolution was reviewed the above edited explanation and two questions were offered on 1/9/16

[two questions]

Do you support the DNR requiring nontoxic shot on all department managed lands?

**Do you support the DNR requiring nontoxic fishing tackle under ½ (ounce) in weight?
M/ Maas 2nd /Riggle to adopt as amended M/C**

Fur Harvest

Single dry land trapping opener (500315)

In 2015, raccoon fox, and early bobcat hunting and trapping seasons, and fisher and coyote trapping season opened October 17. If there had been a wolf season, by statute, it would have opened on October 15. To simplify regulations, to reduce conflicts between trappers and bird hunters, and to take advantage of better fur conditions and fur values, some trappers have suggested that there should be a single dry land trapping opener on November 1. Hunting season openers for those same species would not change.

Do you support a single dry land trapping opener of November 1? (Note: changing the opening date of the wolf season would require a change in statute).

M/ Meyer 2nd Risley to advance M/C on a hand vote (9y/7n)

Establish an otter bag limit (230214)

To harvest an otter in Wisconsin, a trapper must first be awarded a harvest permit through a lottery process. They do not receive a permit every year. Populations are estimated statewide, and then the available permits are divided between the three units based on past experience in each unit. Many trappers believe that populations are higher than estimated. They are frustrated that they are unable to trap otters every year, and can rarely take more than one otter per year. It is suggested that a system similar to neighboring states with a season bag limit for all trappers of two otters each season, would create more opportunities. They believe that current otter numbers would support this increased harvest.

Do you support an otter season with no lottery, and a season bag limit of two per licensed trapper?

M/ Shook 2nd /Rodgers to advance M/C

CDAC Oversight Committee

Division of Counties into multiple deer management units (110215)

Under new herd management rules, which began to be implemented in 2014, deer are now managed along county lines. Most counties are single deer management units. In the past, units were aligned along lines of differing geography, or along lines of differing land uses. This avoided large numbers of antlerless permits which were issued to reduce a herd which has reached problem proportions in one part of the unit, from actually being used in another part of the unit where access is easier, but where deer numbers are much lower. **Some County Deer** Advisory Councils have asked that they be allowed to divide their counties into two or more deer management units to avoid a similar problem.

Do you support the practice of allowing CDAC (**Committees**) **Councils** to divide counties into multiple deer management units?

M/ Weiss 2nd /Shook to advance as amended M/C

Land Use Committee

Hunting and trapping on DNR lands at Strawberry Creek (150215)

The WI DNR currently operates a fish hatchery on two contiguous forty acre parcels on Strawberry Lane in Sturgeon Bay, Door County. These 80 acres are designated as a fish hatchery which by State Statute 20.089(1) precludes hunting or trapping on the property. The department only uses a small portion (approximately 5 acres) for fish hatchery activities. The remaining area is suitable to hunting, fishing, trapping and other outdoor activities that would not impact the fish hatchery operations and could provide a valuable opportunity for outdoor activities on property already

owned by the Department.

This proposal would have the Department make a request to the Natural Resources Board to re-designate the areas of the Strawberry Creek Fish Hatchery property not used by the fish hatchery as a statewide fish habitat area rather than as a fish hatchery. This re-designation would open this acreage to public use.

(Do you favor re-designating the portion of the Strawberry Creek Fish Hatchery property not utilized by hatchery activities to a statewide fish habitat area, thus opening the acreage to public use?)

The above question was amended to read as follows:

Do you favor the DNR making a request to the NRB to re-designate the portion of the Strawberry Creek Fish Hatchery property not utilized by hatchery activities to a statewide fish habitat area, thus opening the acreage to public use?

M/ Shook 2nd /Larson to advance as amended M/C

Bear Committee

Applying for a bear tag (510215) (requires legislation)

As more hunters are getting involved in bear hunting, it is taking longer to draw a harvest permit. At present, it can take up to 10 years of accumulating preference points to receive a harvest permit. Hunters must apply for a bear license or preference point at least once every three years to avoid losing accumulated preference points. Knowing it can take up to 10 years to receive a harvest permit, some hunters may wish to apply for up to six years of preference points at one time and to avoid the need to apply annually for a preference point.

Do you favor the Conservation Congress work with the DNR and the legislature to introduce a statutory change to allow hunters to apply for preference points up to six years at a time? Hunters would have the ability to request a harvest permit if a hunter would have enough points to draw a tag prior to the six years. Any remaining "pre-purchased" preference points would be lost.

M/ Rogers 2nd /Shook to advance M/C

(There was a hand vote that tied 8/8 the chair cast the deciding vote 9 yes / 8 no M/C)

Non-resident black bear preference point price increase (050215) (requires legislation)

The state of Wisconsin charges \$4.50 for a non-resident black bear preference point/license application. Wisconsin currently receives over 100,000 applications for just over 10,000 bear licenses making black bear licenses one of Wisconsin's most popular big game tags. Many other states charge \$50 or more for preference point license applications for non-resident hunters for their most popular big game tags. Charging non-resident hunters more for preference point/license applications would result in more money available to the Department of Natural Resources which could be earmarked for black bear research. It would also likely result in less competition from non-residents for black bear tags, which may result in shorter wait times for residents to draw black bear tags (**current wait times to draw a harvest tag are around 10 years**).

Currently, it can take up to 10 years to draw a harvest tag.

Do you favor the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources and the legislature to increase the non-resident black bear preference point/license application fee to \$35?

M/ Riggle 2nd /Meyer to advance as amended M/C

Rules and Resolution Report Jan 8th 2016

The R&R Committee had two meetings. The first was August 29th and the second was Dec. 5th. At the first meeting the committee dealt with the resolutions from the 2015 Spring Hearings that were assigned to them. Resolution 13-06-15 pertaining to allowing resolution authors to defend their resolution at the Jan. Ex. Council meeting passed and is before you for your consideration.

There also was a proposal for the R&R Committee to review that came from the Rule Simplification committee pertaining to establishing a review process for Spring Hearing resolutions that failed however the committee pass a motion that we need to develop a process to assist citizens to create a higher quality resolution.

The need for District meeting to have Minutes was discussed and the R&R committee passed a motion to make that a requirement.

The committee also discussed the Nomenclature for Executive Committee and Executive Council and passed a motion to change the name of the Executive Council to District Leadership Council.

At the Dec 5th meeting there was discussion about combining Districts 11 and 12. The committee felt that instead of them making a recommendation they wanted the two districts to discuss this at the next District Meeting and make a recommendation if they choose to combine or not.

The Committee also took up the issue of exemption on case-by-case basis to allow persons that are employed by the DNR under unique circumstances to be delegates. A motion was passed to have the Ex. Committee be the group to review any concerns pertaining to this issue on a very close 6-5 vote. During members matters it was ask why the vote was so close and 3 of the dissenting votes explained they would have supported the motion if it would have been the Ex Council and not the Ex Committee to review these cases of conflict of interest.

And last the committee passed a motion to encourage an expanded use of non-voting advisors on study committees from people outside the WCC and DNR.

DISCUSSION

Larry gave the above rules and Resolutions committee report as stated in the committee meeting minutes.

Discussion on conflict of interest issues and do we have a process for vetting and appeal.

Rules had a recommendation to allow resolution writers to defend their resolution at the executive council meeting was discussed and sent back to committee.

Combining District 12 and District 11 was recommended and Asked to be discussed at their combined District meeting in March. They have always met as one body in the past.

This are just a few of the items covered please review for clarification.

Larry thanked the rules committee for the great job they performed again this year.

L

ACTION	Reviewed for later action	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Bonde		To be determined at a later date

F. PROPOSED CODE OF PROCEDURES CHANGES

LARRY BONDE

DISCUSSION	<p>A marked up copy of the proposed COP was handed out and the following actions were taken:</p> <p>Sec V. (a). [The (Executive) District Leadership Council of the Conservation Congress shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, along with two at large positions [Historian and Public relations] at the convention in May of each calendar year to one year terms. These five individuals make up the Congress Executive Committee.]</p>
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<p>M/ Maas 2nd /Fahrney to advance as amended M/C</p> <p>III. (A) add: Except for District 12. Milwaukee County. M/ Shook 2nd /Larson to advance M/C</p> <p>For brevity in all cases the words District Leadership Council was substituted for (Executive) Council M/Meyer 2nd /Rogers to advance M/C</p> <p>VII. (A) (16) Amend to read “A delegate’s term will begin and end at the start of the annual convention adjournment of the annual county meeting held in conjunction with the spring hearings. M/Fahrney 2nd /rogers to advance M/C</p> <p>VII (C) (19) add: District Leadership Councilors are responsible for taking minutes for district meetings, utilizing the meeting minutes template, and providing them to the WCC Liaison within 14 days of the district meeting. M/ Shook 2nd /Pitta M/C</p> <p>VII.(k)(1)(b) Amended to read [strike (45) add] 30 days add whenever possible. M/ Shook 2nd /Rogers to advance M/C</p> <p>VIII(c) Amend to read add Department strike (employee leadership) M/Maas 2nd Meyer to advance M/C</p> <p>IX. (a)(5) add unless the determination is made by both the Executive Committee and the Department on a case-by-case basis that there is no real or perceived violation of Wisconsin’s ethics laws.(for consideration at January 8-9 Council meeting) M/ Fahrney 2nd /Larson to adopt M/C</p> <p>IX. (c) Add (5) At the start of the spring hearing, any vacant delegate position [whether full or partial term], shall stand for election. M/Meyer 2nd /Risley tom advance M/C</p> <p>Xi. (e) Amended to read County Officer Elections (Chair and Vice=Chair) – Immediately following the Close of the county meeting, the county delegates [including those newly elected to seats] Shall... M/ Maas 2nd /Larson M/C</p>	
ACTION	See above
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Bonde	Convention

G.RULE SIMPLIFICATIONCOMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

Eugene Altwies

DISCUSSION	<p>Eugene Altwies gave the executive summary from the committee. They believed that the thought process was good but in most cases the wording on the resolution and or question needed work. There were 8 different proposals that were referred to the Executive Council:</p> <p><u>Archery License Simplification</u> This proposal would combine Cross bow and Vertical bow licenses. The committee would like the rejected question sent back to the Deer and Elk and ask that the wording needs to be improved. M/ Rogers 2nd /Bonde to reject and send back to Deer and Elk Committee M/C</p> <p><u>DMU Boundary Simplification</u> This was to modify DMU boundaries as needed Was rejected by Deer and Elk Committee and advanced to Executive Council by Rules Simplification R/S will improve wording and clarify submission. M/Maas 2nd/Rogers to send back to Deer and Elk Committee M/C <i>we already have a spring question to address this issue.</i></p> <p><u>Deer Hunting License Simplification</u> This would eliminate need for weapon specific buck carcass tags. Non-support from Deer and Elk R/S asked Executive Council to advance for reconsideration with help from his committee with background and better wording. M/Smaby 2nd /Riggle to reject M/C <i>New ALIS System will address concern.</i></p>
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	<p><u>Simplify/Eliminate Fish Zones</u> This would create consistent statewide date Was rejected by Warm Water committee thought this rule would add additional rules rather than simplify. R/S asks that Executive Council send back after word clarification. M/ Bonde 2nd /Riggle to reject M/C</p> <p><u>Simplify Fish Refuges to March 15th Statewide</u> This would create one uniform management unit. Warm water rejected W/W felt that again this would make more rules. R/S asks that it be returned to Warm Water after wording and information changes by R/S M/ Risley 2nd /Larson to reject M/C</p> <p><u>Consolidate Grouse Rabbit and Squirrel Seasons</u> This would create consistent statewide zone and opening/closing dates. Rejected by Turkey and Upland Game Failed review by R/S but was recommended to be passed on to Executive Council. M/Risley 2nd / Splitt to reject M/C</p> <p><u>Eliminate “Artificial Only” Restriction from Trout Regulations</u> Eliminates this on trout waters. Rejected by Trout Committee R/S asks for Executive Council reconsideration. <i>If you base the total number of miles that are closed by this rule there are many more opportunities being lost.</i> M/ Fahrney 2nd /Bonde to move approval to the Spring Questioner Fahrney and Altwies will write a question for approval M/ Meyer 2nd /Bonde that the Executive Committee will review the final question at the upcoming conference call M/C</p> <p><u>Establish Spring Hearing Resolution Process</u> Discussion on how to have a process to improve the quality of resolutions ahead of time. Passed by Rules and Resolution Committee with changes in wording having authors work with delegates prior to submission. <i>The current plan is to discuss this at District Council meetings and in the paperwork in the hearing document.</i> M/Fahrney 2nd /Rogers to reject for the above reasons M/C</p> <p><u>Bear tag Lottery</u> Discussion to change current \$3/yr. to a \$20/yr. and a Lottery drawing this would give everyone a chance to draw a tag every year. This was referred to the Bear Committee with concurrence of all.</p> <p><u>Legalize Bait Minnow Seining and Transfer Between Waters Within Watersheds.</u> This is a lengthy question that needs to be reviewed by the Warm Water Committee and has been referred to them with the Councils concurrence.</p>	
ACTION	See Above	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
As Indicated		See above

G. 1. ACT 21 RULE CHANGES

DISCUSSION	<p>2011 Wisconsin Act 21 rule process</p> <p>In 2011, the legislature passed laws which significantly lengthen the time it takes to adopt administrative rules. Prior to this, rules could be adopted in as few as 12 months. Under current law, it takes a minimum of 18 months to adopt rules. The ability to adopt rules in a shorter time frame allows for more flexible and responsive management of fish and wildlife to meet federal requirements, biological needs, and stakeholder interests for the species in question.</p>
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	Do you favor legislation that would exempt fish and wildlife rules from Act 21?	
ACTION	Motion Shook 2 nd Smaby to draft a question to eliminate hunting and fishing rule changes from Act 21 M/C The above motion was offered (1/9/16). M/Bonde to advance 2 nd Larson M/C	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

I. STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS

DISCUSSION	<p>Bear has approved the Department quota numbers. 11520 total tags to be issued 1875 Zone A 1195 Zone B 6190 Zone C 2480 Zone D Wisconsin is the number 1 harvest state in the country. Forestry has had meetings to better educate the public to get them more comfortable with cutting actions the issue is as soon as people see a skidder they think that this is a bad thing, we need to work on this. Legislative we supported 2015 ban on Baiting and Feeding the main discussion was the definition of what is feeding. Outreach and Public Relations Committee is working on a communications plan with Milwaukee delegate Nadia Bough hopes to have a draft for next Executive Council Meeting. She is compiling a list of ideas to reach the general public on what we do. We are kind of going backwards when we stopped going to the Deer and Turkey Expo in Madison we also need some work on the traveling Wall of Fame trailer.</p>	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Informational only	N/A	

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Splitt when is the department going to assign liaison to turkey committee. Answer: next week. Could the Congress have the meeting with the board be different location? Meyer we need more discussion on the strategic plan process Risley glad depart working to improve CDAC Riggle made motion for reconsideration on lead question 2 Rogers Had a Wolf Committee Meeting that was pretty uneventful due to the delisting process injunction Rodgers need to do more to get people to CDAC. Brown WCC awareness is low Larson unexcused absents on committee. Shook we passed 28 out of 33 resolutions submitted that is great and believes much of that is a result of allowing Kari to assist the council. Brown need more participation on CDAC and thanks to Tim for all of his work for the Congress Ellingson Land Use Committee met on a too nice of day but did manage to get a quorum and conduct our business. Glad to see some action in forestry and happy with their work Weiss Warm Water meeting has 27 delegates and was happy that their long planned meeting was well attended Most committees meet once maybe twice a year his district representative on the Rules committee could not make all of the four meetings they had and was wondering if maybe using conference calling would be an option. Fahrney Manage Forest Law bill coming down the pike that they may have an option that could limit the access to hunters. We need to look into that. Arlyn made a comment on CDAC that was spot on we need to make CDAC work this is our baby and we will be the ones to get a black eye if this fails. We need to make sure that all county delegates to attend their county meetings. Maas Concerned about the Wall of Fame and needing to get it repaired and scheduled to be on display. Another issue is making us more credible and having positions on issues that come up, there are many times we as a Congress can't weigh in because we don't have an agreed upon position. This is a problem and hurts our image we need to keep relevant in what we do. I would also like to thank Tim and all of the department staff for all of their efforts on behalf of the Congress.</p>	
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	<p>Bonde Would like to have Committee meetings scheduled a year in advance. There will always be exceptions but for the most part with that kind of long range planning we should be in a better position down the road.</p> <p>Kari was glad that the questions came in earlier this year and for the most part were in good form and needed very little rework.</p> <p>Bohmann This was a really trying year with all the things going on in my life I am looking forward to the end of my term. I could not do this job without Kari her help and all of you have made it enjoyable it is much appreciated.</p> <p>The convention will be in Manitowoc this year, District 11 and 12 are in charge of the hospitality room. No further business.</p>
ACTION	M/ Larson 2 nd / Fahrney M/C Meeting adjourned.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	11:48 AM
SUBMITTED BY	Dale Maas
DATE	1/9/16