

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2016 Fall District 5 Meeting Minutes

## Organizational Matters ~ 7:02 PM

A. Call to Order by Al Suchla

B. Roll Call

### Present:

Buffalo County: Joe Helwig, Mark Noll, Terri Roehrig,

Dunn County: Michael Gullickson, Pearl Holmstadt, Al Marotz, Scott Sinz, Jim Thompson

Eau Claire County: Doug Burrows, Gerald Merryfield, Dennis Vanden Bloomen, David Zielke.

La Crosse County: Daniel Heidel, Kevin Smaby.

Pepin County: Steven Berger, Ryan Casey, Michael Hurlburt, Richard Wayne, William Yinst,

Pierce County: Chuck Boley, Hugh Hatch, Francis Ogden, -----2 vacant

Trempealeau County: Edgar Anderson, Lester Ryderex, Alan Suchla (District Chair), Randy Symicek

Vernon: Greg Koelker, Jason Leis?, Dave West?, Tim Morgan, Lauren (Sam) Smith

### Excused:

Buffalo County, Wes Domine

Eau Claire County: John Quall

La Crosse County: Ray Heidelex, Marc Schultzex

Trempealeau County: Ted Engeliem, Lester Ryder

**Unexcused:** Buffalo County Neil Pronschinske, La Crosse Wil Netze

### Also Attending--

DNR: Dan Bauman (Eau Claire),

Public: none

## C. DNR Updates

1. **Fisheries**--Paddlefish kill by gill netting on Lake Pepin. Wild bait harvest currently illegal on Mississippi but DNR has formed a team to review those rules. La Crosse has sent a water specialist to investigate some recent lake water kills. Two District supervisor positions have been filled with several vacancies at the local level yet to be filled.
2. **Wildlife**—Farmland zone antlerless deer tags are available, go to the “buy” section although they are already paid for previously. CWD update—there is a 5 year response plan that will be updated. CDAC will be used for getting public input for the CWD plan. Goose population looks good for early season. Duck broods will be banned in the next few weeks on the Mississippi

Pools. Third year of early teal season research as required be agreement with the USF&W service. Only one personnel vacancy currently in the process of being filled.

- a. Will the CDAC gets the ability to do EAB options? This could get away from us quickly with another mild winter. Answer--it is up to the legislature.
  - b. Is a ban a baiting before the legislature? Answer—no,
  - c. Wolf issues are in the Federal courts. What will happen to the wolf hunt preference points? The federal budget may have wolf hunts authority relegated to the states.
3. **Warden**—warden recruits will know where they will be posted before they start class. Investigative team has changed and will do both environmental and wildlife. Go Wild—some learning and technology issue with a new system. In boundary waters you need to carry your paper copy of your license as the Minnesota, Michigan and Iowa wardens do not have access to WI system information. Safety warden positions will be restructured to determine what parts of the job need to be done by a law enforcement and other activities.
4. **Dan Bauman (Eau Claire District Supervisor)**—Downsville Bottoms 900 acres to be purchased from Xcel Energy approved by Natural Resource Board., Industrial sand—public input comment period ends 22 August.
- a. Elk herd in Jackson and Monroe Counties will be a positive tourism impact. Tie-in to wolf issue. Clam Lake herd grew from 25 to over 200. Bears are a bigger problem than wolves in Clam Lake area.
  - b. Fish and Wildlife account report due soon. Social Science staff looking at factors effecting conservation funding and opinions due to legislature by 1 Jan 2017. Reviewing what other states charge for non-resident fishing and license fees as compared to the WI non-resident fee structure.
  - c. CWD testing via head collection this fall in the Eau Claire area will be increased. Two to three week turn around for CWD head testing. Amish community will be contacted for possible head sampling donations. Public outreach will be expanded this year.

**D. DNR Alignment Status** Update—doing a workload analysis as 500 staff reduction in the last 10 years but workload has not changed.

**E. Youth Conservation Congress**—some support funding available. Each county should try to have one youth member.

**F. Advisory Committee**—some openings to be filled, Review of the assignments. Unexcused absences for committee meetings contact Chair or Vice-Chair. Most meetings are Saturdays in a central location. Should have about two delegates per district on each committee.

### **G. Other Congress Business**

1. Do we need a hard copy of the Agenda and notification of the District meetings. Too many emails from WCC and they may not be relevant to each delegate. Spam filters may be eliminating email notices. Preference seems to be for hard copy snail mail.

2. Advisory Committee evaluation forms---fill one out. Recommend forms be handed out at committee meetings.

3. Delegate reimbursement—has to be printed and signed to be submitted by mail. Committee minutes have to be submitted before reimbursement is made.

4. Conservation Chronicle—preference for hard copy.

**H. Member Matters**—EAB with proper implementation such as notification of a possible EAB next year. Recognize Doug Burrows as Delegate of the year.

**I. Adjourn** 2112 hours