

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	<b>09/10/2016</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Portage County Public Library</b>
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## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### A. CALL TO ORDER

<b>MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY</b>	Chairman Gunderson at 9:35 AM
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### B. ROLL CALL

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Michael Hamm, Kevin Schanning, Eric Wojchik, Ed Choinski, Lowell Suring, Richard Krawze Sr., Alan Suchla, Chuck Boley, Al Lobner, Don Wyeth, Matthew Schleis, Harold Drake, Tashina Peplinski, David Breunig, Melissa Smith, Kathleen Tober, Scott Gunderson, Tim Gary (DNR)
<b>EXCUSED</b>	Ronald Fassbender, Scott DeRocker
<b>UNEXCUSED</b>	William Howe
<b>GUESTS</b>	Dan Henthorn, Jason Dorgan, Mark Beilfuss, Dave Blunk,, Patricia Popple

### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Michael Hamm requested confirmation of order for public comments on resolutions.
<b>ACTION</b>	Public who wished to comment on specific resolutions were asked to identify themselves and those resolutions were addressed first, thereafter remaining resolutions were addressed.

### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Scott Gunderson reviewed the mission statement. Reviewed direction as received from the WCC Executive Board, if there is legislation that is proposed or introduced the committee will need to be responsive to the topics at hand. It would be conducive for the DNR Liason to provide advisement of relevant legislative activity for response. Upon confirmation of a WCC position on a topic requested members of the committee to interact with their local representatives. If there is the need for testimonial to be given to the state legislature the committee members are asked to participate. Tashina Peplinski requested the establishing of an annual fall meeting a year in advance, as done by other committees.
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### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	None
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## II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

### A. Citizen Resolutions

1. ALLOW PARTS FROM LEGALLY HARVESTED ANIMALS TO BE SOLD (720116)

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Currently crafts that are made from these parts are unable to be sold. There is a state statute that allows for the sale of specific animal parts but restrict others. Fur industry affirms the resolutions benefits but legislation would need to be drafted to manage this issue appropriately.  Concerns that this resolution violates the North American model of conservation. This may cause the
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	<p>privatization of a public resource and conflict with the Lacy act. There is a slippery slope to the sale of animal parts encouraging economic gains from animals harvested. Education is able to obtain parts for educational purposes. This has potential to reopen market hunting and resolutions use of “all parts” presents concern.</p> <p>Support of the resolution is due to being an educator. Allowing the access of animal parts provides a benefit to education. It appears that many parts are already being sold. Resolution should be considered as an advisory statement to confirm the publics opinion.</p> <p>Tim (DNR) – There is a construct within the statute of parts that are subject to sale and specifically prohibited. Resolution appears to request further discussion on existing legislature.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Peplinski – motion to accept, Drake – second the motion. Motion carries

**2. BAN CAPTIVE CERVID FENCED ANIMAL OPERATIONS (090316, 160116, 390316, 420216, 450216, 580216, 590216, 710216)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>As written this resolution would require all deer farms to cease operations, including DNR operated facilities. Prevalence of CWD in the state requires action to be taken including the use of deer byproducts. Cost of addressing this now is smaller than the cost in that future. Unable to test live animals. There are concerns with confirmation of the disease present in a herd. Review of experience in visiting CWD site in Iowa County that required use of hazard suit and personal protection equipment.</p> <p>There are 400 licensed operations, 18,000 captive animals with varying market values. This effects nearly \$2 million value of captive animals. 27 states allow transfer of deer and has concerns of who would pay for the bill. This is a relevant question that needs to be asked but requested that the magnitude be known.</p> <p>Question the number of escaped deer after recent changes to the management of deer farms. This would have impact on the consideration of this subject. Reviewed the requirements of testing and reaction to a positive test. When this originally was presented there was a large reaction, this resolution may reignite the public reaction to the topic of concern. Escaped animals isn't the only point of concern, it also exists in the transferring of these animals and processing of them.</p> <p>There has not been confirmed evidence of prion transference to humans. Concerns with reaction to items of interest without consideration for all the information. After the initial detection of CWD there was pressure to take action. There is evidence of appropriate management of diseases in the past, scabies, mad cow disease, etc. When resolutions are continued and voted upon it doesn't confirm that the voting public is informed on the issue. District council leadership meeting was comprised largely by this subject. Of the current farms in operations, the four that tested positive had been shut down.</p> <p>There doesn't appear to be a requirement for adequate insurance coverage for circumstances where the herd may need to be culled. This resolution could remain in effect until appropriate requirements are determined and put in place. Consider modification of the resolution to have ban present until appropriate requirements are identified and established.</p> <p>This was passed in multiple counties and is relevant to the whole state.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Wojchik – motion to advance, Smith – second the motion. Motion carries

**3. BAN THE BAN ON BANS (090216, 131716, 410816, 530416, 630316)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Patricia Popple (Public) presented her opinion in relation to this resolution. She provided materials related to her discussion including Frac sand materials. Local controls on various topics has been hampered by legislative action. The number of plastic bags is numerous and causing danger to wildlife and the population. Expressed interest in having local controls be available for the management of plastic bags. Wisconsin Act 302 is requested to be repealed to allow local control to be reestablished. Plastic debris is a longstanding environmental pollutant and may cause bio-accumulation in the food chain. Energy required to produce plastic bags could be utilized in other areas including transportation. Harold Drake inquired on the source of the data and this was listed on the materials.</p> <p>Concern was presented retarding the accuracy of numbers conveyed in introduction of resolution. Additionally, plastic bags are used as binder for some pellet stock, collection sites exist in various retailers. Enforceability of bag bans was questioned as well as ability of retailers to not utilize bags in operations.</p> <p>Resolution's purpose is to address the prohibition of bag bans by local communities. Inclusion of bags</p>
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	and Frac sand confuses the issue.  Review of the the specific acts language and the resolutions intent to repeal the act. Communities should be able to express controls on issues within that community. Question whether local governments had established controls in the past. Melissa Smith indicated that local controls have a tendency to grow to larger controls. This act establishes a restriction to topics of control. Control should not be usurped by the state from local communities.
<b>ACTION</b>	Lobner – Motion to reject, Krawze – Second the motion. Call for role call vote: Hamm – aye, Schanning – nay, Wojchik - nay, Choinski – aye, Suring - Nay, Krawze – aye, Suchla –aye, Boley – aye, Lobner – aye, Wyeth – nay, Schleis – nay, Drake – nay, Peplinski – aye, Smith – nay, Tober – aye, Gunderson – Aye. Breunig – aye. Motion to reject carries

**4. CHANGE IN FUNDING FOR STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (440316, 640116)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	David Blunk (Public) reviewed the resolution as drafted. Reviewed other states efforts to develop Natural Resource funds and ability to finance stewardship activities. The fund is restricted in current budget, interest rate is low but this has a large impact to the high sum of debt. Program has a good intent but funding has flaws. This funding structure would supplement existing. Current tobacco taxes are sourced to insurance supplementation. Concern exists as beneficiary to this fund doesn't pay taxes and would not be compelled to fund benefits, Natural Conservancy.  Question arose regarding the management of the bonds and benefacting financial agencies. Tim (DNR) bonds are produced by the State Administration and subject to any vendor purchase.  Concern expressed with profit being obtained by anonymous individuals and likely not willing to give up. The err in the program is in its implementation and needs to be corrected, including the programs implications to local communities loss of tax base. Recent land being sold is intended to reduce load on stewardship fund. Concern with diversion of state money for program and management of lands obtained by stewardship funds.
<b>ACTION</b>	Hamm - Motion to forward, Drake - second the motion. Motion carries

**5. CREATE A WISCONSIN STATE GAME BIRD – WILD TURKEY (710316)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Reviewed letter and supporting material from individual who sponsored the resolution, addendum material
<b>ACTION</b>	Smith – Motion to advance, Wojchik – second motion. Motion carries

**6. DISABLED HUNTERS NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO KILL LEGALLY HUNTED/WOUNDED ANIMAL (130916)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Reviewed supplemental material that was supplied by sponsor of the resolution  Act 225 reviews the relationship between an mentor and individual under the age of 18. Circumstances were explicitly restrictive to allow for enforcement action to be taken in circumstances  Inquiry was made to review difference between this resolution and a guide license, this would be the provision of consideration or money for services. An assistant already has the ability in turkey and deer disabled hunts, to dispatch the wounded animal. This resolution would appear to allow this practice to take place in standard hunts.
<b>ACTION</b>	Schannin – motion to approve, Breunig – second motion. Motion carries

**7. MAINTAIN STEWARDSHIP FUND (450316)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Mark Beilfuss (Public) reviewed the resolution and intent. Expressed concerns of losing funding and intent of the fund. He indicated that among the taxes paid he should have control on its use. Expressed concern on the current state of natural environment and loss of funding to the state parks. Reviewed the use of funds for various local habitats. Resolution recommends funding and wise use of the funds.  83% of the land in Forest county is public land and yields no taxes for local communities. Opposes the resolution based upon this. Concern with how much more land do governments need to manage and remove from private owners. Properties managed by public organizations are neglected and need to be better managed. Programs need to provide funding for proper management
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	<p>Tim (DNR) – General Purpose Revenue and Forestry Account funds are used to provide funding for local governments management of adjacent properties. Stewardship Program bonding also supports development of recreation opportunities, local assistance and other non-land acquisition.</p> <p>History of the program includes the development of the fund and following growth. State government expressed intent to provide stewardship but there needs to be a control to the extent of the fund. There are properties that had limited accessibility or were unknown to the public to be available for recreation. This resolution appears to request proper funding and appropriate management. Should consider use of the fund for appropriate acquisitions. There has been a lot of efforts to properly manage the properties and this needs to be continued.</p> <p>Fund is important and resolution is proper in addressing the importance with allowance for flexibility in the program's development. The amount of public land within the US is what makes recreation what it is. Resolution expresses the message that public lands are important and needs wise use.</p> <p>Concern with inclusion of management with funds from the Stewardship fund may cause undue burden on the fund and it is the purpose of the general fund to support this use. The DNR budget needs to be present to serve that role.</p> <p>Resolution is requesting the continuation of the program, expressing a common core value.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Peplinski – Motion to accept, Smith – second the motion. Motion passes.

**8. RAIL SAFETY MEASURES TO INCREASE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (320216)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>If the information in the resolution is accurate than this would appear to be prudent.</p> <p>Tim (DNR) there are limited staff in the office of the railroad commissioner and this is spent on railroad crossings. Efforts are being made to increase review of rail safety.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Schanning – Motion to advance, Lobner – second motion. Motion carries

**9. RECIPROCITY DOG TRAINING PRIVILEGES (040516, 560116)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Conflicts appear to be incurred from out of state individuals training dogs and resulting increased enforcement of these activities. There appears to be an increasing number out-of-state bear hunters in some areas, blocking roads and other practices. This may be an opportunity to obtain funding by establishing a permitting system. Questioned the number of out-of-state dogs that may be killed by wolves and incurring state reimbursement. Concerns regarding the wording in the resolution were voiced. Some businesses may express concerns regarding loss of revenue from the loss of these individuals. This resolution may be subject to be divided into two separate questions for the statewide vote.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Schanning – motion to advance, Boley – second motion. Gunderson – (friendly amendment) Amend the motion to advance as written with advisement of the district leadership council to consider splitting the motion into two separate resolutions addressing reciprocity and a training license. Motion carries, Lobner – abstained from voting

**10. RECIPROCITY HUNTING PRIVILEGES (040416, 490416)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Concerns were presented with the limitation of out-of-state hunters would incur financial hardship in some communities. If there is a limitation to similar game seasons in other states they would be unable to hunt those species in this state. The number of out-of-state participants in the statewide bear hunt is reported to be near 2.8%.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Peplinski – Motion to reject, Suring – Second motion. Motion carries

**11. REDUCE ARCHERY/ GUN DEER LICENSE FEE FOR WISCONSIN MILITARY VETERANS OVER 70 (700116)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Addendum material provided</p> <p>Concerns were presented on the validation of service whether other documents would be more appropriate. Additional information would need to be determined to address discharge type, length of service and other details. Merit of the issue appears to have value as there are various other discounts available to this group, including federal park admission.</p>
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<b>ACTION</b>	Lobner – motion to advance, Boley – second motion. Motion advances
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**12. RENEW/ INCREASE FUNDING FOR KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM NEXT BUDGET (130416)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Jason Dorgan (Public) this is the third year that this resolution has been submitted to the DNR. Resolution may be redundant to prior resolutions addressed during this meeting. Wants to move things forward in terms of the fund.</p> <p>Discussion with author to consider withdrawal of the resolution due to redundancy and conflict with other resolutions that had already been advanced during this committee meeting. Confirmed intention of the resolution to continue viability of the stewardship program. Concerns with wording in this resolution regarding the increase of funding and diversion of additional lands from county government tax base. Stewardship funds gains are made from its funding structure and this resolution would appear to conflict with this.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Lobner – Motion to reject, Krawze – second the motion. Motion carries

**13. RESTORE DNR SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATOR STAFF TO PRE-2015 LEVEL (600116)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Addendum Material</p> <p>Tim (DNR) provided context to the resolution. There are more than 700 credited employees with a degree in a hard science education. This resolution appears to address the assignment of professional applied researchers within the department. These researchers were moved into specific areas within the department based upon their area of expertise. Applied research is still being conducted by these individuals assigned to new positions within the various divisions. Reorganization continues throughout the DNR. Pursuit to fill vacancies throughout the department is being pursued.</p> <p>Some research is being conducted through various educational institutions, which had been done in the past, as well. This is meant to supplement research being conducted by the department.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Hamm – Motion to reject, Peplinski – second motion. Motion carries, Schanning - abstain from vote

**14. RESTORE STATE FUNDING TO STATE PARKS (130716)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Affordability of recreation within the state parks is a good value. Funding needs to be found from some source to finance the expenditures.
<b>ACTION</b>	Suring – Motion to advance, Schleis – Second motion. Motion carries

**15. RESTRUCTURING OF CONSERVATION WARDEN FUNDING (440416)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>David Blunk (Public) – resolution passed in the county 63-5 and received comments from hearing attendees that the number of wardens needed to be increased. Open warden posts requires other adjacent wardens to cover the territory. There are a large number of current wardens who are approaching retirement age. Resolution purposefully omits ideas for funding in effort to have discussion for sourcing and management of funding.</p> <p>Boat registration, which comprised part of the funding, could be increased with implementation of kayak registration, other resolutions had failed in this effort. Assignment of wardens is based upon number of complaints per capita and this yields assignment in southern zone of the state as priority, while low populated areas are left vacant.</p> <p>There appear to be many warden supervisors and their assignment may be contributing to the funding issue. Inquiry was made if the intent of the resolution was to increase funding, modify funding percentages or find new sources of funding. Additional comment regarding if the number of warden positions was appropriate or if assignment should be restructured to best serve need of the state.</p> <p>Resolution would have more viability if funding base was broadened and request was made to modify the resolution. Rule changes has caused change to the enforcement activities of the warden force due to additional recreational activities being available. Omit the words “fewer and” from the resolution.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Hamm – motion to advance as amended, Tober – second the motion. Motion carries. Resolution written as “Be it resolved that that Conservation Congress work with the Department to find and develop more stable funding sources for present and future needs concerning the warden

	service.”
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**16. REVISED WATERFOWL BAITING RULES (010316)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Author had called Chairman of the committee to discuss resolution and provided opinion on resolution. Concerns regarding the advancement of the resolution as it impacts a federal rule. The resolution as written may not comply with the recommended format. It would appear to be more appropriate for a federal representatives involvement.
<b>ACTION</b>	Boley – Motion to advance, Lobner – second motion. Motion fails. Schanning – Motion to reject, Wojchik – second motion. Motion carries.

**17. SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING SEASON (540616)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Dan Henthorn (Public) population of sandhill cranes has increased. Local farmers were able to obtain permits to harvest sandhill cranes but restricted in utilization the harvested birds. Permits were provided by the DNR for management of crop damage. Unable to confirm the number of permits that were granted in the state.  There were prior attempts to develop a sandhill crane hunt that had failed in the state legislature. This subject had been address by the WCC migratory committee in the past, as well as passing a statewide WCC hearing and passed forward to the legislature. The Department had developed framework for a season pending legislative approval.  Question of the purpose of advancing due to other actions already in motion. Advancement was requested to exhibit further support of the sandhill crane season, keep subject viable.
<b>ACTION</b>	Boley – motion to advance, Lobner – second the motion. Motion carries

**18. SUPPORT LICENSE FEE INCREASE TO FUND COLD WATER FISH HATCHERIES (160316)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	User group appears to be in favor of increase to supply additional funds for this purpose. Funds appear to be intended to be utilized for hatcheries.  This may lead to debate during the spring hearing due to decreasing levels of fish stocking on the Great Lakes.
<b>ACTION</b>	Schanning – Motion to advance, Boley – second motion. Motion carries

**19. SUPPORT THE DNR'S USE OF STATE FUNDS TO PURCHASE LANDS (130816)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	This was covered in depth with prior resolutions.
<b>ACTION</b>	Krawze – motion to reject, Hamm – second motion. Motion carries

**20. EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE PARASITIC COWBIRD (060416)**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	There is a large amount of evidence presented on the resolution. Appears that the resolution is requesting collaborative support of agencies in reviewing this subject. The population appears to be increasing.
<b>ACTION</b>	Suring – Motion to reject, Lobner – second motion, Motion fails Choinski – Motion to advance, Tober – second motion. Motion carries

**B. DNR information Items and Updates**

**1. 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE**

**TIM GARY**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	211 bills were tracked by DNR in the 2015-16 legislative session; 55 were enacted  Highlights presented to WCC Legislative Committee: <a href="#">AB-434</a> ALIS - Go Wild licensing system change authorization for DNR Act 89 <a href="#">AB-112</a> Disability hunting /fishing medical determination qualifications Act 97 <a href="#">AB-243</a> Group deer hunting restrictions in youth deer hunting season Act 100
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<a href="#">AB-291</a>	Hunting clothing	Act 131
<a href="#">SB-315</a>	Fish structures - civil liability exemption	Act 220
<a href="#">SB-289</a>	Eliminate back tags	Act 222
<a href="#">AB-527</a>	Dispatching a wounded animal	Act 225
<a href="#">SB-435</a>	Wild game bird feather sales, purchase, possession	Act 248
<a href="#">SB-605</a>	Hunting with a flashlight	Act 249
<a href="#">AB-700</a>	Wolf hunting season starter date	Act 285
<a href="#">SB-338</a>	Hunter harassment	Act 346
<a href="#">SB-434</a>	Managed Forest Law changes	Act 358
<a href="#">SB-298</a>	Disabled trolling permits for the blind	Act 363

## 2. PRIORITIES FOR 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	No priorities have been identified at this time, action usually taken after elections are completed in November.
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## C. Rule Simplification Ideas

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Reviewed the development and consideration for rule simplification ideas. No ideas were presented at this time.
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## III. MEMBERS MATTERS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Wolf Summit is in the course of being completed. There was discussion regarding the findings and considerations of book "The Real Wolf" and its sources. Concerns whether the action will be coordinated by Federal government. There were several legislative actions taken without the consideration of the WCC's position and it would be preferred to participate in these actions. This committee is directed to stay aware of relevant topics of interest and take the appropriate action communally to provide feedback on these topics. Several legislative actions were taken on relevant subjects without the input of the WCC.</p> <p>Advisement for CDACs and collaborative agencies to consider emergency feeding in times of significant weather conditions, providing forage for deer during high stress weather.</p> <p>There have been gains in the amount of harvested timber in the Chequamegon - Nicolet National forest. This has been obtained through collaborative efforts by many individuals.</p> <p>Many comments on efficiency of the committee, good discussion.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion to adjourn – Boley, Second - Tober

## IV. ADJOURNMENT

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>3:04 PM</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Matthew L. Schleis</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>09/12/2016</b>