



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Ag Damage Ad Hoc Committee
 Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes
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ORDER OF BUSINESS		10:00 AM	Marathon County Library (Wausau)
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Chairman Eugene Altwies at 10:00 am
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Eugene Altwies, Brad Hopp, Kevin Marquette, Jim Johnson Jr., Larry Gohlke, & Brad Koele (DNR Liaison), Dan Hirschert USDA Wildlife Services
EXCUSED	Ken Risley
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Larry Bonde WCC Chair

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Motion/Larry Gohlke; Seconded/Jim Johnson Jr. approval of the August 19, 2017 agenda. Motion carried unanimously
ACTION	No action required

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Read by Secretary Brad Hopp. Motion/Jim Johnson; Second/Larry Gohlke to approve the Mission Statement as read. Motion carried unanimously
ACTION	No action required

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

- A.** Review previous recommendations and spring hearing results for Ag Damage Ad Hoc Committee [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Chair Altwies presented Questions 72, 73, and 74 from the the 2015 Spring Hearing Questions. There had been no action or follow-up on these resolutions. They were reviewed and discussed by the committee. Questions 72 and 73 require legislative action. Chairmen Bonde suggested that the committee forward Question 72 to Executive Leadership Council for review. Also reviewed past recommendations from the 2011 Ag Damage meeting. Committee felt that due to lacking context for the discussion not to take action. There were no citizen resolutions assigned to the committee.	
ACTION	Larry Gohlke Moved and Kevin Marquette Seconded that Question 72 be forwarded to the Executive Leadership Council and Chairmen Bonde for vconsideration. Motion carried unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Chair Eugene Altwies	8/27/2017	

- B.** DNR Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims and Wolf Depredation Programs Brad Koele DNR

DISCUSSION	The presentation had subject matter that included the history of the program, funding, participation, types of program options, and program budget. Program is funded by license and bonus tag revenue. 70 of the 72 counties in Wisconsin participate, with 51 subcontracting to USDA Wildlife Services. There are approx. 900-1100 ag producers enrolled in the program year to year. Claims are evaluated by a crop damage specialist.
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	<p>Claims are subject to a \$500 deductible, with a maximum claim amount of \$10,000. Deer account for 70% of the damage claims paid out. Over the past 7 years, there have been 400-600 shooting permits issued on average. Since 2009, 2800-3700 deer are shot annually with permits. Elk, bear, geese, and turkey are also included in the program. 5 cranberry marshes (out of 16 eligible) have been fenced at a cost of \$244,000 for the Elk program. Bear abatement includes trapping and relocation. 585 bears were relocated in 2016 Wolf depredation compensation in 2015 was approx. \$200,000</p> <p>There was a question and answer period following the presentation which was very informative for the committee.</p>	
ACTION	This informational presentation required no action required.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

C. USDA Wildlife Services overview (Powerpoint presentation)

Dan Hirschert

DISCUSSION	<p>The presentation informed the committee about the responsibility of the USDA and Wildlife Services towards the Ag Damage Program in Wisconsin. They currently serve 52 counties in the State with a wide range of expertise. Program started in 1983 and dealt with impact of geese near Horicon marsh. Other WI Programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuisance bear mgt • Migratory bird conflicts • Invasive species mgt • Trout stream protection • Road/highway/forestry protection • Wolf depredation investigation/abatement • Public safety at airports • Disease monitoring and mgt • Public and private property protection <p>There was a question and answer period following the presentation which proved to be very informative for the committee.</p>	
ACTION	This informational presentation required no action required.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Larry Gohlke expressed his appreciation for the localized concept of the Ag Damage Program. Brad Hopp saw some opportunity to create some public access for the public through this program to enhance the hunting experience. Chair Altwies thanked Brad and Dan for their presentations and information that they shared. He also presented some information provided from Lori Groskoft on livestock and bear depredation.</p>	
ACTION	No action required.	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	Moved by Larry Gohlke and Seconded by Jim Johnson Jr. to adjourn. All approved	
SUBMITTED BY	Sec. Brad Hopp	
DATE	08/19/2017	