



- Executive Committee     District Leadership Council     Annual Meeting

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
 Meeting Minutes**

<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	06/19/2017	1:30 PM	Conference Call
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**I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by	Larry Bonde at	[Time]
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**B. ROLL CALL**

ATTENDEES	Larry Bonde, Al Shook, Dale Maas, Joe Weiss and Congress liaison Kari Lee Zimmerman.
EXCUSED	
UNEXCUSED	Joel Taylor
GUESTS	No members of the public nor other guests identified.

**C. Agenda approval and repair**

**Larry Bonde**

DISCUSSION	Larry stated he had no additions or corrections for the agenda.
ACTION	Motion by Shook 2nd by Weiss to approve agenda as published. Motion carried.

**D. Public comments**

**Larry Bonde**

DISCUSSION	Larry asked once again if there was anybody from the general public on a conference call that wanted to address the executive committee. There was no one on the call.
ACTION	No action taken.

**II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Conservation Congress administrative housekeeping (no action will be taken).**

**Larry Bonde**

DISCUSSION	<p>Larry mentioned that the proposed fee increase is not being presented in the governor's budget. There is only a slight chance that a couple key legislators might offer a bill as an addendum, but it is very remote at this time. It is a shame that after all the work that the organizations and the Congress put into this that it is not going to move forward. But as a Congress we need to move forward and work on this issue as the problem is not going away. The shortage of money is real and is not going to get any better. Larry stated that he will be working on the upcoming weeks on the individuals appointed on the standing department committees. Larry received a call from the governor's office requesting a WCC representative to sit on the Invasive Species Council, this committee would meet 4 times a year. Larry has 3 possible candidates in mind that has a good background in this area and he will make contact to find out who is willing to dedicate the additional time and travel to represent us on that committee.</p> <p>The other issue that is going around is the situation with the advisory committees on having chairs versus co-chairs, Larry stated it was his decision to go with co-chairs. Larry stated that he knows some committees have chairs and some committees have co-chairs. He does not know where that came from but to standardize it is his preference to have co-chairs rather than chair and Vice Chair. Larry stated that many standing committees currently have co-chairs, the big game committee has had co-chairs for many years. He called the co-chairs and ask if there was ever a problem and they said no it worked well. He stated that he did not think that he was going to change his position on this since all of the committees have been published and if co-chairs on a particular committee cannot work together then they will need to bring that difference back to him for discussion.</p> <p>Joe Weiss stated his position and questioned why we would want to have a co-chair instead of a Vice Chair, at least with that set up you have a distinct chain of command and a foundation for training the next chair. Joe's military background was emphasized, that you need to have clear leadership and only one person taking that position. With a co-chair proposition no one individual is in charge muddies the water and the buck has to stop somewhere. To emphasize Joe's position he stated; you don't have co-chairs as president of the United States you don't have co-managers of the athletic team. Even the Wisconsin Conservation Congress has a chair and a Vice Chair not co-chairmen and he feels that this is wrong and inappropriate. He said this does not make sense and furthermore there is no stipulation in our Code of Procedure that would authorize a co-chair but it does have language covering Vice Chair. If you want to mentor someone to be the chair of the committee then put them in as a Vice Chairman until they are familiar with the operation. Joe asked Larry what his reasoning was having co-chairs instead of Vice Chairs. Larry stated that some Vice Chairs were complaining that they were not being given any responsibility and that was an undesirable situation. Joe stated that it is up to the leadership to work with the chairs and Vice Chairs to make that function but not to muddy the water. We as Congress leaders should be spelling those duties out in the Code of Procedure if it's not clear for committee Vice Chair. Larry stated that he wanted to make it uniform and that's why he went with the co-chair additive, for some reason if it didn't work out we could always make a change, in all of the standing legislative committees they function with co-chairs one from each party. Al Shook stated that his responsibility is to support the chairman and that if it</p>
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	<p>doesn't work out will have to make some changes. He believes that the chairman should have flexibility on how we assign positions, that he supports that.</p> <p>Dale commented that he supports Joe's position for Vice Chair for all the previous stated reasons and asked Larry to reconsider. Larry stated that if 2 co-chairs cannot absolutely agree and get along on a committee that they are lacking in leadership skills. Joe stated that he has already aired out his opinion and hopes he would reconsider.</p> <p>Larry stated that he wasn't going to change his position and wanted to try it for one year.</p> <p>Joe stated that he was going to treat his co-chair as of Vice Chair because there is nothing in the current Code of Procedure that covers this and if this doesn't work out the chair can remove him from his position.</p> <p>Dale stated that after hearing the discussion on this that he feels strongly with Joe's position and suggested that rather than tear ourselves apart on this issue we should make Vice Chairs for all the committees. If it doesn't work out then change the Code of Procedure so that we are all in compliance. This should be brought before the whole delegation or at very least the District Leadership Council.</p> <p>Larry stated that you're going to have to live with this decision based on his position that's his final rule and he will reevaluate at the end of the year.</p> <p>Joe asked after saying he saw the listing for the history committee if he was the chair or not. Larry said yes and Joe stated "believe me I don't need a co-chair."</p> <p>Dale asked Joe if he needed a secretary for that committee, and Joe said yes. Larry will work on that.</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	Information only. No action taken.	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

**B.** [DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC] [PRESENTER]

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>ACTION</b>	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Kari; nothing at this time.</p> <p>Dale; Dale stated that he had a few calls on the district level questioning what we were previously talking about and he believes we beat that subject up enough. One area of concern was with the Great Lakes committee meeting that was set one full year in advance. He received communication from his department liaison that he was not going to be able to attend that meeting about a week ago. He felt that since the liaison was at that meeting along with the rest of the standing committee and everyone agreed upon the date that was inappropriate to ask for a change if he wasn't going to do that. Liaison had offered to have someone substitute in his absence, past situations with other liaisons have been lacking in communications which deeply affect that committee. He was instructed by the chair to contact that liaison and work through the problem as best as they could.</p> <p>Dale also asked based on Larry's earlier report on the fee increase what the WCC fall back position might be?</p> <p>Larry stated that until there is a floor vote on the total budget he is not willing to comment on it because amendments can be put in at a later date, although that doesn't seem realistic at that time. The reality is that whether you're conservative or liberal or whatever, there seems to be no one that wants to see any fee increase for any reason in any area. None of the elected representatives want to expose themselves to say they've voted for a fee increase in any area whatsoever.</p> <p>He does know that there are people within the legislators group that support the position, unfortunately they are not in a leadership position to move it along.</p> <p>Joe; said he is sorry that the earlier discussion got so heated but also noted that conversations earlier in this meeting stated that people were deferring to the chair and his question to Larry is, if you have co-chairs who are you deferring to?</p> <p>Al; nothing at this time.</p> <p>Motion by Maas 2nd by Shook to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Information only. Nothing at this time

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>2:10 PM</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Dale C. Maas</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>07/01/2017</b>