

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## Fall District Meeting

### Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	8/15/17	7:00 pm	DNR Service Center, Janesville
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#### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

##### A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Ken Risley, Jayne Meyer at 7:00 pm
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##### B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Ken Risley, Gary Feller, Ryan Schutte, Scott Lettman, Green County; Larry Meyer, John Blumereich, Ryan Stahl, Charlie Brown, Rock County; Kathleen Tober, Ronald Ernest, Ken Balestrieri, Walworth County; Jayne Meyer, Mary Ellen O'Brien, Dane County; Denny Jones, Tom Schwefel, Lowell Wright, William Khoe, Jeff Winn, Jefferson County
EXCUSED	Martin Sands, Troy Klessinger, Larry Laehn, Paul Reith
UNEXCUSED	Austin Ragotzkie, Melissa Smith
GUESTS	John Sinclair, David Rowe, Andy Paulas, JD Smith, Oele, DNR

##### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None needed
ACTION	

##### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	

##### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

#### II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

##### A. DNR STAFF UPDATES

DISCUSSION	<p><b>Fisheries:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working on filling Vacancies some of which are in the central office.</li> <li>Tackle loaner program sent to LE.</li> <li>Youth expo was a big success despite the weather.</li> <li>The stream easement program is working on goal of 100 miles.</li> <li>3.5 million Walleye fry were stocked from Bark River Hatchery.</li> <li>Some large fish kills this spring for different reasons; overpopulation, columnaris, water level, koi herpes virus, and herbicides.</li> <li>State record fish – live release records will be recognized with pictures and proper documentation.</li> <li>The fisheries area is working on stakeholder involvement and outreach.</li> </ul>
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**B. UPDATES**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p><b>Wildlife:</b> Andy P-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the start of the 3 year CDAC process.</li> <li>• Elk project put 30 elk into the Clam Lake herd. Good production year with small losses.</li> <li>• Discussed results of realignment will be out later this fall. Effort went into placing responsibilities with who can do the work most effectively. Example is the learn to hunt program, parks to get infrastructure program from wildlife.</li> <li>• Still lots of vacancies but have managed to hire some filling 8 of 12 spots.</li> <li>• Discussion of research of CWD and deer age.</li> </ul> <p><b>LE – John Sinclair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed paper tags, cut the end from the tag rather than marking it.</li> <li>• Registration remains the same, don't need to write anything at all.</li> <li>• The rule changing shooting hours vs hunting hours did go through.</li> <li>• Will be recruiting 20 new wardens to start in 2018. Thanks to WCC for helping with interview panel.</li> <li>• Alignment – Wardens will be taking over park enforcement from park rangers. They will need the addition of 33 positions to take some of the work. Some rangers are applying to be wardens and stay on. Staff will be stretched next year until things are up to speed.</li> <li>• AB 411 warden authority. Explained that the bill changes the ability of a warden to enter private property. Discussion on what this means. Meyer encouraged people to call their legislators to voice opposition.</li> <li>• Baiting and feeding has changed. Reopens in 36 months if no additional positives in county. 24 months in neighboring counties.</li> </ul> <p>JD Smith – thanked everyone for all their hard work.</p>

**C. CONGRESS BUSINESS PER AGENDA.**

**KEN, JAYNE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Jayne/Ken: Discussed Chair Bonde's letter to delegates in support of the fee package.</p> <p>Discussion of the annual convention. Many delegates do not stay for both days. What are ideas to make the convention work better? Do people want to continue the two day conference? Have all our business on one day and if so which day? Points made in discussion were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Eliminate or cut down on the political speeches glad handing – not necessary and don't really say anything, governor doesn't even take questions. Some people disagreed with that.</li> <li>-Eliminate or cut down on general DNR reports. That information is available at district meetings, in print or online. Have staff available for questions. In addition the district leadership people get the same presentations the day before.</li> <li>-Organize the binder better so it isn't necessary to jump around.</li> <li>-Do more of the local processes on a local basis</li> <li>-Have 1 day – Friday keep working through. It's a hard week end as many people make family plans. The week after might be good but apparently cuts things too close to have necessary info ready for the board meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Still room for people to get in on the Youth over sight group. Put your name in. Scott Letterman volunteered.</p> <p>Ken pointed out where people could find information on Congress Rules, COP, Robert's Rules and running a good meeting, under local delegate resources on the DNR/WCC website. Mileage forms are also on the site. It was pointed out that not all members are computer savvy and so Committee Chairs should still bring some paper forms.</p>
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	Please fill out your advisory committee evaluation forms. Review information included on this agenda regarding committee assignments, unexcused absences, and the reimbursement process.
<b>ACTION</b>	

### III. MEMBERS MATTERS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Ken B. Why would the department give up the fair exhibit? JD- Expense, people to work, It is a lot more difficult than one would think. A lot was expense, Frees people up to do their own work. Maybe if it wasn't so long.</p> <p>Thom Schwefel – The state seems a mess, first they cut people then they add people, staff is chasing their tail. Wardens is the parks, what if something happens elsewhere.</p> <p>Ryan Stahl- people should go to Janesville to see the swifts come out. They are decreasing in numbers because they have less habitat due to people capping their chimneys. It is really quite impressive. About 8:30 at Washington Middle School.</p> <p>Mary Ellen O'Brien- We need to work on the local level. That is the most effective way to get things done and make decisions.</p> <p>Scott Letterman- Wants to know about timber management. Why aren't more areas being harvested/managed? JD Smith – We should be sure to bring forestry to these meetings to answer questions. Scott- Ash borers in the parks. Way to us this wood locally and made perhaps mak some money for the park.</p> <p>Lowell Write- Talked about getting kids involved.</p> <p>Jayne M. went to the state fair exhibit to see what people were saying about it. Many disappointed kids. Crushingly disappointing to see the opportunities to get urban youth interested in the outdoors gone. There was no Smokey Bear, no archery, no fun T-shirt printing, or kids getting stamp for exhibit. Kids must be engaged and care about outdoors. The way it was done was bad too. Sneakily, behind closed doors so no one could intervene like with the magazine. Groups would have volunteered to help staff or donate.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>9:15 pm</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Jayne Meyer</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>8/15/17</b>