

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

District 5

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	9 August 2017	1900-2100 hrs.	Alma, WI
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1. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Al Suchla, at 1900 hours
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Buffalo--Domine, Urness, Noll, Roehrig Dunn—Gullickson, Holmstadt, Marotz, Sinz, Thompson Eau Claire—Burrows, Hanks, Vanden Bloomen, Zielke, LaCrosse—D. Heidel, R. Heidel, Schultz, Smaby, Eisenbacker Pepin—Kees-Winkler, Wayne, Yingst, M. Hurlburt Pierce—Ioberg, Brazzale, Boley, Ogden Trempealeau—Engelien, Ryder, Suchla, Symicek Vernon—Koelker, Leis, West
EXCUSED	Dunn—Thompson; Pepin--P. Hurlburt, Pierce—Hatch; Trempealeau—Anderson, Vernon--Smith
UNEXCUSED	Eau Claire—Quall, Vernon—Morgan
GUESTS	DNR Personnel: Dan Baumann, Kris Johansen, Bob Hujik, Rick Rosen

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	No changes to the agenda
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2. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS & PROGRAM UPDATES

A. DNR STAFF UPDATES

DISCUSSION	<p>DNR—Wildlife----staffing new Wildlife manager—Chris Rosen, 2 area wildlife positions open in our district—La Crosse, Black River Falls/WI Rapids interviewing, should be filled by October.</p> <p>CDAC—beginning another 3-year cycle. Thank you for Congress leadership and participation in the process. Review boundary and make and perhaps adjustments in August with final recommendations in October. Are any counties with a “decrease” objective achieve their objective—not that we can remember. Administrative code sets up the decision process instead of waiting for the 3rd year harvest numbers are done.</p> <p>Congress comments: Issue with Open MFL property owners using their private land deer tag on technically public land. Private land owners need to shoot more antlerless deer if we intend on controlling the herd in some areas such as Buffalo County.</p> <p>Workload analysis—almost finalized. Spring Congress meeting briefing.</p> <p>Elk—31 animals released in Clam Lake/Winter, WI area. Jackson County had 25 elk released with 14 calves born. Could finish the elk trapping this year. Some animals stray from the area, 3 bulls in the Ft. McCoy area. Fencing is keeping elk from the major cranberry growing areas. Congress Question—have a harvest when they hit 200 head in the Clam Lake area. The management written in 2001 needs to be updated.</p>
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Fisheries—Act 160 Aquaculture bill signed. Walleye Initiative—stocking larger sized fish. Fish food issue means we stocked some 300,000 fish a bit early—four-inch size range. Personnel filled 26 positions many biologists statewide. Openings in Baldwin and Wausau. Congress comments—Mississippi River group need some information. Walleye survival, not just in WI for under 2 inches is poor. Four (4) inch survival is better but bigger has a better chance of survival.

Warden Report—carry carcass tags but do not have to write on it—need to rip off bottom. Tag needs to be on if you leave deer. Shooting hours—new change to regulations—actual shooting is the violation. 2018 Warden class—600 applicants for the 20 positions down from 1000 applicants a few years ago. Conservation Congress does help with the interview process. Change in Warden responsibilities on recreational properties. Will not have constant presence on state parks. AB411—prohibits warden from entering private property without due cause. ACT 41—baiting rules have changed in 15 counties, still in effect in 28 counties.

DNR

Dan B.—realignment issues, still no budget process—not sure of cuts in areas such as Stewardship Funding. but it's up to the legislature to make final numbers. Federal budget—not sure what the final numbers but it can have an impact on the funds given to WI. Natural Resources Magazine—publishing the magazine was not a high priority for the department. Congress members thought it was a quality magazine.

B. CONSERVATION CONGRESS UPDATES

DISCUSSION

1. FEE PACKAGE UPDATE (LTR FROM LARRY BONDE)

DISCUSSION

Still no budget with these items for fee increases. Last fee increase was 12 years ago. Congress members need to track pieces of legislation and follow through as few sporting clubs and organizations are contacting legislators. They are becoming somewhat complacent.

2. GUIDANCE FOR UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

DISCUSSION

Review the protocol for resolutions. Contact authors ahead of time and follow up after the vote.

3. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

DISCUSSION

4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE EVALUATION FORMS

DISCUSSION

Reviewed—suggest members fill it out.

5. DELEGATE REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

DISCUSSION

Reviewed

6. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

DISCUSSION

Make the meeting if at all possible but notify the committee if you are going to be absent.

8. CONSERVATION CHRONICLE

Only be available online in August. Members without an email address will be sent a hard copy.

9. CONVENTION SCHEDULING INPUT

DISCUSSION

Are break-out sessions possible? With multiple sessions a county delegation can attend different meetings but will have to communicate. Have some of the significant spring congress meeting items on Saturday to increase the attendance. Some suggested more Saturday activities to increase attendance. Can committees have a half-hour breakout session to discuss meeting dates or other issues? Would a different weekend work—not Mother's Day Sunday conflict. Survey individual members on the various options.

10. YOUTH CONSERVATION CONGRESS

DISCUSSION	Youth Congress survey to delegates to get more youth involved. Gauge member interest in becoming a mentor.
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3. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Online voting issue for spring hearings should be discussed by delegates. Would this be a threat to the Congress Spring hearing process? 2. AB411—we need to understand both sides. Is this a change to established case law? Speak to a retired warden to get some interesting information/opinions. 3. Chair/Co-Chair on Committees---there should be a chain of command. Need to avoid communication problems. 4. Buffalo County has a dumping problem on private land and in rivers. Is there a way to prevent dumping? Already against the law. Would conservation clubs be able to offer a reward? Could social media be brought into play? 5. Turkey permit issued to land owner with 5 acres and allow private land owners to hunt any season in the Spring turkey hunt. This will be addressed by the Congress Turkey and Upland bird committee. 6. Trolling on lakes issue as one county was able to write an exemption. Why was there any exception when these issues were voted on statewide in the Congress process. 7. Railroad crossing issue—need to remind legislators of this issue. Where is this issue in the legislature? 8. Hope for a more concerted effort to support natural resources and the Congress to make our voice heard on issues. 9. Wolf issue—back to square one as the Federal Judiciary has prevented any management (hunt) by WI, MN, and MI. Both WI US senators have backed the bill to remove the grey wolf from endangered species protection. Call your senators and nudge them to vote for this issue. 10. CAFO's and Frac sand mining—has the DNR been stripped of it's ability to regulate? Voting for legislators and governor is very important. Permitting process has been compromised for CAFO's. 11. Mississippi river dredging sand to be disposed of on private land decision by Federal Corps of Engineers. 12. Hunter Education has relegated conservation issues to a nice to know portion. 13. New hunter education booklet has the back of the registration form about the Congress. 14. Need to talk about invasive species in the Great Lakes. Ballast is still be dumped in the Great Lakes. A new invasive, blood shrimp, has shown up in Lake Michigan. 15. Is there a conflict of interest in having two family members representing different aspects on the County CDAC? 16. Mentored hunt age, lower than 10, issue and the change in the number of guns allowed, more than 1 firearm, is a poor change to the law. 17. CWD sample testing needs to be increased statewide, especially during the opening of the gun-deer season.
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4. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	2140 hours
SUBMITTED BY	Dennis Vanden Bloomen, Eau Claire County, Acting Secretary
DATE	9 August 2017