

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

District 5

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	8 March 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, Helwig, Noll, Roehrig Dunn—Gullickson, Holmstadt, Marotz, Sinz, Thompson Eau Claire—Burrows, Merryfield, Quall, Vanden Bloomen, Zielke, LaCrosse—D. Heidel, R. Heidel, Schultz, Smaby Pepin—Casey, Wayne, Yingst, Hurlburt Pierce—Boley, Hatch, Ogden Trempealeau—Anderson, Engeliem, Ryder, Suchla, Symicek Vernon—Koelke, Leis, Morgen, Smith, West
EXCUSED	Buffalo: Pronschinske; LaCrosse: Netzer; Pepin: Hurlburt, Casey;
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	DNR Personnel: Dan Baumann, Kris Johansen, Bob Hujik, Tyler Strelow; Youth Conservation Congress member LaCrosse County: Duren

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

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

A. REVIEW OF WILDLIFE SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistent last day of the season for.... no comments 2. Extended season when you have a holiday season option for CDAC's-- no comments 3. Eurasian collared doves as unprotected—are birder organizations against this? 4. Monk parrots as a nuisance species-- 5. Simplify weapons and ammunition restrictions—shotgun slugs-- no comments 6. Simplify weapons and ammunition restrictions shot size-- no comments 7. Simplify weapons and ammunition restrictions—barrel length-- no comments 8. Simplify weapons and ammunition restrictions—eliminate restrictions on use of .410 caliber firearms, is this simplification? 9. Simplify weapons and ammunition restrictions—eliminate the requirement to use at least .17 pellet caliber for small game. 10. Simplify weapons and ammunition restrictions-- no comments 11. Consolidate fisher zones-- no comments 12. Otter management- eliminate specific management harvest number 13. Otter management—consolidate zones--no comments 14. Eliminate fall turkey harvest drawing with over the counter—seems like a good idea 15. Eliminate one-time limit for learn-to-hunt program events-- no comments 16. Wolf River waterfowl closed area-- no comments 17. Eliminate Van Loon beaver and otter closed trapping area—this is a good question and deserves support
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	18.Reduce size of Theresa Marsh wildlife refuge-- no comments
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B. REVIEW OF FISHERIES SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION	<p>19. Trolling—no comments 20. Local Hearing Process—can we insure local hearings? 21. Bass Harvest Opportunity—16 lakes—no comments 22. Walleye—9 counties-- no comments</p> <p>23. Black River fishing in four counties below dam except some species to be consistent with several other rivers-- no comments 24. Trout—Sawyer County-- no comments 25. Trout--Langlade County for Lake Trout on Goto Lake a 28-acre lake-- no comments 26. Bass Harvest Opportunity—6 counties on 11 lakes for consistency-- no comments 27. Bass Harvest Opportunity—Forest and Oconto counties-- no comments 28. Quality Bass management-3 counties-- no comments 29.Bass Research—Vilas County, max 14 inch and use of minnows on a 93 acre lake-- no comments</p> <p>30. Quality bass management—Dane, Vilas and Lincoln counties—Congress are we catering to the catch-and-release bass, Muskellunge, fishermen? Are we making the regulations too complex?</p> <p>31. Quality Muskellunge management—are we going to a 50 inch statewide minimum length?—no, just looking at some big waters to grow some trophy fish.</p> <p>32. Quality Muskellunge management—11 counties-- no comments 33. Quality Northern Pike management—extend sunset rule from 2018 to 2021-- no comments 34. Northern Pike harvest opportunity Racine County—f fish no minimum length on Browns Lake. 35. Quality panfish management—3 counties reduce 25 to 10 daily bag limit-- no comments</p> <p>36. Quality panfish management Iron County-- reduce 25 to 10 daily bag limit min 10 inches on crappies—is this too complex? People feel they can catch quality panfish with a reduced limit.</p> <p>37. Quality panfish opportunity Racine county Eagle Lake 25 fish daily bag limit no minimum size--no comments. 38. Quality panfish management Price County-- no comments</p>
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C. DNR STAFF UPDATES

DISCUSSION	<p>DNR—Wildlife----staffing new Wildlife manager, deputy director spot open, 2 area wildlife positions open in our district. SW WI deer study in first year trapping deer will examine predation, CWD of collared animals. First time for this type of study in the Midwest. Congress question--When we see a crash in the deer herd from CWD? Elk—24 animals trapped in Kentucky for Clam Lake/Winter, WI area. Many days in quarantine. Could finish the elk trapping next year. Some animals stray from the area. Are they getting pushed out of the area by wolf predation? Fencing is keeping elk from the major cranberry growing areas.</p> <p>DNR Dan—realignment issues, budget process—no major cuts 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. Warden—new wardens but Pepin is vacant for another year. Southern Dunn County warden position open for another year. Re-alignment will affect the DNR--Bureau of Law enforcement. Some extra positions but will shift work. Congress comment—how will they staff be increased to take on the additional workload? Drivers license and Go Wild card intersection needs work for other states. Deer tag issue—a lot of learning went on and may need changes. Fisheries—Hujik—vacancy in Pierce county (35 vacancies statewide in fisheries)</p>
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D. REVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION	<p>39. Hook-and-line muskellunge harvest tag—general 40 inch statewide with a harvest limit of one muskie per year. This is a problem in Michigan, keeping only one muskie a year could be very problematic. Would need a tag beforehand if you intend to harvest a legal-size fish depending on the waters. Foresee violations just like deer registration issues.</p>
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E. REVIEW CONSERVATION CONGRESS ADVISORY QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION	<p>40. Spearing rough fish-- no comments</p> <p>41. Increase Muskellunge size limit on Willow Flowage to 50 inches-- no comments</p> <p>42. Wisconsin River Muskellunge size-limit increase—Adams County— no comments</p> <p>43. Cisco daily bag limit to 10 fish-- no comments</p> <p>44. Pelican Lake (Oneida County) bass size and bag limit-- no comments</p> <p>45. Katherine Lake (Oneida County) Muskellunge size increase-- no comments</p> <p>46. Increase Trout Stamp fee from \$10 to \$15—please support</p> <p>47. Castle Rock stream allow bait, catch and keep (Grant County)—please support</p> <p>48. Change trout regulations on Devils Creek in Rusk County—please support</p> <p>49. Add Rock County to Admin Code to allow regulation of shooting on DNR lands----no comments</p> <p>50. Allow archery deer hunting entire deer season in Lake Wissota State Park----no comments</p> <p>51. Online voter accessibility for Congress Hearings—Congress Spring hearings will end. If you are really interested in wildlife issues you can spend two hours once a year at a meeting. Could you do multiple votes? If you don't attend you won't get the background information on an issue. People that work a second shift would have an opportunity to vote on natural resource issues. Does not seem to be support from the general public. Will we create more delegate vacancies?</p> <p>52. Establish a new bear zone E-- no comments</p> <p>53. Control impact of sheephead in Green Bay--no comments</p> <p>54. Mississippi river daily walleye limit—Congress comment--gives people an opportunity to voice their opinion. Maybe 18 inch females are the spawners. Protect the female spawning walleyes</p> <p>55. Mississippi river daily walleye slot limit----no comments</p> <p>56. Aquatic furbearer research funding----no comments</p> <p>57. Landowner coyote cable restraint----no comments</p> <p>58. Legalize use of cable restraints before 1 December on private land----no comments</p> <p>59. Southern WI mink and muskrat season opening dates----no comments</p> <p>60. Use of lights to scan after dark predator calling—this is a good law and increases the safety factor</p> <p>61. WI policy concerning beaver----no comments</p> <p>62. Increase the maximum jaw spread for traps used in wet sets----no comments</p> <p>63. Moratorium on new state----no comments</p> <p>64. Support increased planting/maintenance of milkweed—Congress comment--a part of habitat management</p> <p>65. Lead reclamation outreach to shooting clubs—Congress comment--many clubs already recycle lead but must be economically feasible for the few companies that do this. This program is good for larger clubs that have been shooting for many years.</p> <p>66. Restore DNR compliance to Clean Water Act----no comments</p> <p>67. Restore DNR compliance to Clean Water Act----no comments</p> <p>68. Repeal the iron mining law----no comments</p> <p>69. DNR authority to suspend application for the study of pollution impacts----no comments</p> <p>70. Control of high capacity wells----no comments</p> <p>71. Control of high capacity wells----no comments</p> <p>72. Oppose the Enbridge pipeline expansion----no comments</p> <p>73. Reciprocity dog training privileges----no comments</p> <p>74. Reciprocity dog training privileges----no comments</p> <p>75. Reduce archery/gun deer license for WI military veterans over 70----no comments</p> <p>76. Restore state funding to state parks----no comments</p> <p>77. Disabled hunters needing assistance to harvest a legally wounded animal----no comments</p> <p>78. Maintain stewardship fund----no comments</p> <p>79. Restructure conservation warden funding----no comments</p> <p>80. Sandhill crane hunting season----no comments</p> <p>81. Support license fee increase to fund some cold water fish hatcheries--no comments</p> <p>82. Change in funding for stewardship program----no comments</p> <p>83. WI game bird, the wild turkey----no comments</p> <p>84. Rail safety measures----this restriction needs to be lifted to allow access to fishing, trapping and hunting areas.</p> <p>85. CDAC options—EAB--some counties need more tools especially with private land issues. Pepin,</p>
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	<p>Buffalo, Shawano and Waupaca counties really need these extra tools. Many counties would not use this tool given their deer herd size and management goals.</p> <p>86. CDAC options—antlerless only 4-day December season—another tool/option for a county CDAC to consider. We like options.</p> <p>87. CDAC options—16-day deer season begins with 9-day gun season—no support or opposition voiced</p> <p>88. CDAC options—incentive program for property owners who participate in an access program for deer hunting—congress comments—this seems like a long-term option.</p>
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3. CONSERVATION CONGRESS ANNUAL COUNTY MEETING AND DNR SPRING HEARING LOGISTICS

DISCUSSION	Reviewed logistics issues from booklet.
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A. REVIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE SPRING HEARING LOGISTICS MEMO

DISCUSSION	Reviewed logistics issues from booklet.
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B. DELEGATE PROFILES

DISCUSSION	Fill out profiles with preferences for committee assignments
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C. LOCAL SPRING HEARING PRESS

DISCUSSION	Review letters sent to each delegate.
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4. OTHER CONGRESS BUSINESS

DISCUSSION	<p>A. WCC and Multi-Organizational Fee Increase Proposal—review the 14 groups that want to increase fees to make up a DNR funding shortage</p> <p>B. Proposed Code of Procedure Changes--</p> <p>C. Committee Appointments—discussion of openings. Inform District of new delegates and their committee preferences right after the Spring hearings.</p> <p>D. Awards— see due dates for nominations</p> <p>E. Expo Travel Grant—</p> <p>F. WCC Learn-to-Bear-Hunt Tag, applicant essays are very interesting</p> <p>G. Delegate Resources—see the DNR website</p> <p>H. Angler Mentorship Program—send your county information about youth angling activities</p>
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5. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Colorado—someone flew a drone over an elk herd and stampeded them. This activity is covered by WI wildlife harassment laws. Should unethical behaviors by drone owners be specifically detailed/covered by some sort of congress resolution.</p> <p>Duck season—same as last year. 23 Sept open for north zone maybe a 30 Sept open.</p> <p>Cowbird issue was not forwarded to the statewide vote.</p> <p>Wolf issue is moving at the Federal level—would move wolf management to the state level.</p> <p>Get some information on the Congress website on the about mentors forum for youth to contact a congress delegate.</p> <p>Railroads access issue—5,000 signature petition. Legislators may take up the issue in many parts of the state.</p> <p>New wardens have good people skills. DNR is doing a great job recruiting new wardens.</p> <p>Review the new guidelines for disciplining Congress delegates.</p> <p>Charge something for the “free” antlerless deer tags.</p>
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6. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	2222 hours
SUBMITTED BY	Dennis Vanden Bloomen, Eau Claire County, Acting Secretary
DATE	8 March 2017