



Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
 Wisconsin Conservation Congress Turkey and Upland Game Advisor  
 Meeting Minutes

<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	08/19/2017	9:30 AM	Grand Lodge Waterpark, Rothchild, WI
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**I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by	Co-Chairman Risley at 9:30 AM
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**B. ROLL CALL**

ATTENDEES	Tyrolt, Wade, Larson, Sarauer, Kreuger, Broullire, Zielke, Wood, Greenwood, Splitt, Bowe, Koch, Anderson, Edelblute, Knutson, Buscher, Thomas, Risley and Winn.
EXCUSED	Wieloch, Wilberscheid, Lois, Leis, Kenesie and Kautz.
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	DNR Liaison: Mark Witecha, Upland – Sean Neverman, Warden and Rod Fouks, Forestry. Resolution authors: Bob Lauder and Matt Rybarczyk

**C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR**

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	The order of Citizen resolutions was changed to accommodate the resolution authors present.

**D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT**

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	The Cimmittee Mission Statement: Mission statement was read by Co-Chair Risley

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

**II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Citizen Resolutions**

1.	.Resolution #150417 to extend the Pheasant season	Bob Lauder, author
	DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on the effect this would have on native non-stocked birds, life expectancy of pheasants, and the fact that only male birds are hunted.</li> <li>• Creating North and South zones, because Southern Wisconsin has a small population of wild pheasants, was considered.</li> </ul>
	ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A motion by Edelblute, to change the closing date to January 31 with a three-year trial period, was made. Second by Buscher.</li> <li>• Motion carried: yes 15 - no 2.</li> </ul>
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
2.	.Resolution # 650117 to eliminate the \$3.00 turkey permit and application	Matt Rybarczyk, author
	DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating a fee would require legislative action.</li> <li>• An application awards a preference point.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This would create a huge number of early applications and would not be fair to working hunters.</li> </ul>
ACTION	Motion to reject by Splitt, second by Wade. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to reject carried - yes 17, no 0.</li> </ul>
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

3.	Resolution # 030117 to change the opening of each turkey hunting period from Wed. to Monday.	Rick Knutson, author is Andrew Daigle
DISCUSSION	Discussion was about increased hunting pressure on opening day and on public land.	
ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to accept by Edelblute, second by Larson. Motion to accept lost -yes 2, no 15.</li> </ul>	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

4.	Resolution # 250117 By Anthony Grabski to give landowners preference for leftover turkey permits	Rick Knutson
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landowners have a good deal as is.</li> </ul>	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Greenwood, second by Zielke. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to reject passed – yes 17, no 0.</li> </ul>	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

5.	Resolution # 630617 by Philip Marty to change the landowner requirement from 50 acres to 5 acres.	Rick Knutson
DISCUSSION	The 50 acres was to encourage farmers to support the turkey program and to open their land to other hunters.	
ACTION	Motion to reject Greenwood, second Larson. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to reject passed – yes 17, no 0.</li> </ul>	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

6.	Resolution # 630717 by Philip Marty to give landowners a season wide permit to harvest one turkey.	Rick Knutson
DISCUSSION	This might cause landowners to restrict access to other hunters	
ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to reject Winn, second Splitt</li> <li>Motion to reject passed – yes 17, no 0.</li> </ul>	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

**B. Department information items and updates**

Mark Witecha, Upland

DISCUSSION	1. Sharp-tailed grouse 10-year trend shows a 66% decline due largely to habitat change. The DNR committee has recommended no hunting permits allocated for 2017. A plan is being implemented that gives hope for future populations by rotating forest harvests. 2. Fall turkey harvest showed a slight increase in 2016 3. Spring turkey harvest for 2017 had a success rate of 20.4% with a 4% decline in harvest. Turkey broods in 2016 declined by 27% due to spring rain.
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	<p>4. Turkey hunter surveys revealed that 40% of hunters favored eliminating the fall drawing, 34% favored keeping the same system. 43% of fall turkey hunters are archers with 33% of the harvest being opportunistic. 82% of turkey hunters are satisfied with the present hunting system.</p> <p>5. Turkey research is being conducted to understand the distribution of northern birds and to identify the factors that influence southern turkey distribution.</p> <p>6. Turkey and Pheasant stamps provide 2.4 million dollars in revenue biennially, being used to fund 2-year research, outreach, and habitat projects.</p> <p>7. Pheasant and Ruffed grouse abundance increased by 11%. This cycle will peak in about 2020. The long-term trend is for a decline.</p> <p>8. The farm bill is very important. The current enrollment in CRP has declined in recent years, but interest is growing again. The Farm Bill is due for reauthorization in 2018 when acreage enrollment will likely increase.</p> <p>9. Turkey brood surveys are completed but data is not available at this date. Poor brood numbers likely would not affect permit levels.</p>	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

C. Department information items and updates

SeanNeverman, Law enforcement

DISCUSSION	<p>Based on current records, the number of spring turkey hunting related citations was slightly lower in 2017. The most common violation this past spring was fail to register. Statewide there were no turkey hunting related hunting accidents. As part of the realignment process, wardens will be providing all law enforcement in the state parks, state forests, and other state lands. The warden force is in the process to hire an expected larger class of recruits in 2018.</p>	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

D. Department information items and updates

Rod Fouks, Forestry

DISCUSSION	<p>Tax law programs are growing and giving assistance to landowners. The Division of Forestry is changing their landowner assistance programs by having field staff be more specialized in their work. The goal of this change is to improve their efficiency and increase the amount of assistance that can be completed. The Division of Forestry will be hiring field positions this fall. There are currently 46 vacant field positions.</p>	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Larson questioned opening land to public hunting in the DMAP program.</li> <li>• Arlyn Splitt asked the committee for comments on the change in the turkey opening date. There were various comments pro and con.</li> <li>• John Edelblute pointed out that turkeys belong to all citizens.</li> <li>• Mark Witecha stated that turkey populations are not very cyclical, they vary according to recruitment and condition changes.</li> <li>• Clarence Koch reported on the “Turkey as the State Game Bird” bill and that there is now a similar bill for ruffed grouse.</li> <li>• Daniel Tyroit questioned if it is worth the money spent to maintain ruffed grouse. Witecha stated the habitat improvement progresses to favor other upland birds.</li> <li>• Rick Knutson pointed out that landowners should be applauded for their efforts in supporting turkeys.</li> </ul>	
ACTION	None	

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Clarence Koch, Secretary</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>08/20/2017</b>