



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 BEAR COMMITTEE
 Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS	12/07/2019	1:00 PM	Mead Wildlife Education Center
--------------------------	------------	---------	--------------------------------

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Mike Rogers at 1:00 PM
----------------------------	------------------------

B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Al Lobner, Kelly Crotty, Ralph Fritsch, Connie Polzin, Eugene Tom Muench, Wayne Klett, Scott Plocar, Chris Wegner, Jody Bigalke, Rick Desotell, Denny Jones, Gary Mabie, Jeff Thums, Bruce Prentice, Hunter Denison, Mike Murphy, Bob Knorr, Jeff Klatt, Scott Strook, Dave Mabie, Curt Loew, Jim Young, Scott Walter, Jennifer Price Tack, Mike Rogers
EXCUSED	Arlen Heistad, Isaac Carlson, Perry Hurlburt, Charles Dreher, Bob Kaminskis
UNEXCUSED	Richard Marti
GUESTS	Joel Mommaerts, Diane Cain, Keith Cain, Karen Rader, Alan Wegner, Arlyn Splitt

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	Motion to approve agenda as written by Dennis Jones and 2nd by Ralph Fritsch. Motion Passed.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Members appreciated Mission Statement being included with agenda.
ACTION	Motion to include Mission Statement with Agenda and to approve as written by Chris Wegner and 2nd by Connie Polzin. Motion Passed

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Scott McAuley from the Wisconsin Trappers Association spoke on the use of cable restraints to catch bears and said that the Wisconsin Trappers Association may at some time in the future wish to use this method.
ACTION	none

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Citizen Resolutions

1.	Res. 620319 Allow man-made bait containers on private property	Mathew Sedelbauer read by Mike Rogers
	DISCUSSION	Kelly Crotty from Law Enforcement said the only problem would be from Private to Public land. There were some concerns about the appearance of what bait sites may look like. It was suggested that a committee may have to review and possibly make suggestions.
	ACTION	Motion to advance by Mike Murphy 2nd by Rick Desotell. Motion Passed.
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2.	Res. 040619 Change Bear Baiting Regs	Cynthia Samels read by Mike Rogers
	DISCUSSION	There were some concerns about if there would be enough Law Enforcement to police this issue. The author was not present to answer questions about the Resolution. Ralph explained that there was language in the new Bear Plan to look into this in the future. The concerns of hunters were the number of baits allowed and the time to start baiting. Another concern was the limit of baits for guides and outfitters. Chairman Rogers spoke about the amount of bait and the length of time that bait is on the landscape. The majority of hunters do not put out the maximum amount of bait and that most don't start until June 1 or after.
	ACTION	Motion to Not Advance by Mike Murphy 2nd by Connie Polzin. Motion Passed.
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

3.	Res. 050419 Reinstate Class B Bear License Requirements	Jeremy Parish read by Mike Rogers
DISCUSSION	Although the resolution makes many claims the majority of hunters would challenge the resolution on many fronts. Although Law Enforcement does see some value in the Class B license to separate the hunters from photographers would be extremely hard to do. At this time the department doesn't use the Class B license for any reason.	
ACTION	Motion to Not Advance by Mike Murphy 2nd by Chris Wegner. Motion Passed.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

4.	Res. 270119 Ban Chocolate in Bear bait	Diane Cain
DISCUSSION	Diane Cain was present to discuss her resolution. Diane quoted some statistics from Michigan on the use of chocolate in bait. Diane still feels there is more bait out there than hunters reveal. Diane feels we really can't come to a conclusion until a study is done and the results are conclusive. Scott Walter gave a statement regarding the use of chocolate in Wisconsin and other states as well. The effect that it has on other species as well as bears. An advisory was placed when this information became known and since then no known bear fatalities have taken place since that time. It is felt it takes 1 ounce of chocolate for every pound of body weight to kill a bear. Scott also discussed what the department might be looking for if they do research but one of his concerns is when will they get the dollars to afford all the research that is necessary to complete it. Kelly explained some of the situations with regard to LE and asked that if something is done be sure to make it enforceable.	
ACTION	Motion to Advance by Hunter Denison 2nd by Bruce Prentice. Motion failed on a 16-5 Roll Call vote.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

5.	Res.130419 Ban Chocolate in Bear bait	Jean Voss read by Mike Rogers
DISCUSSION	There was not a lot of discussion on this as it mirrored the prior resolution. There was a suggestion for everyone to advise bear hunters and suppliers about this issue. The question was asked how to fund the research for this project.	
ACTION	Motion to Not Advance by Mike Murphy 2nd by Chris Wegner. Motion Passed.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. Department information and updates

Scott Walter and Jennifer Price Tack

DISCUSSION	<p>Jennifer Price Tack gave a research update. The tooth study was discussed and how the results are used in conjunction with the hair sample with regard to spatial information. Questions were asked about the study and who does the processing of information and how it relates to our current bear population. Scott Walter advised the committee of his impending new position and the urgency to find a replacement for him quickly. Scott went over some of the information with regard to population in the zones. Harvest method success and statewide harvest decline success was explained and most was due to the increase in Zone C tags. Wisconsin still leads the nation in bear harvest numbers. At this time Scott went over the harvest quota recommendations. The inclination of the DNR Bear Committee was to keep populations stable for this year and prepare for the new zones coming in the 2021 Bear Management Plan. Drawing success and Point Preference was also discussed at great length. The Damage Abatement Program was discussed and its effect/lack of effect on quotas.</p> <p>Quota recommendation for Zone A was 800 down from 900 last year. Zone recommendation for Zone B was 650 down from 785 last year. The recommendation for Zone C is 900 up from 850 in 2019. Zone D recommendation was 1200 down from 1300 in 2019.</p> <p>At this time Scott talked about the new Bear Management Plan. Some of the new developments are that there are no more numeric goals to manage bears, implement new zones for 2021.</p>
------------	--

	Kelly reported that there were no major complaints regarding hounders. There were some thefts of cameras and they are starting to process more harassment citations than in the past. He also spoke on the Learn to Hunt program.	
ACTION	Motion to support the Zone A quota recommendation by Ralph Fritsch 2nd by Mike Murphy. Motion passed. Motion to support the Zone B quota recommendation by Mike Murphy 2nd by Ralph Fritsch. Motion passed. Motion to support the Zone C quota recommendation by Ralph Fritsch 2nd by Mike Murphy. Motion Passed. Motion to support the Zone D quota recommendation by Mike Murphy 2nd a by Connie Polzin. Motion passed.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

C. Legal containers for bear bait

Chris Wegner

DISCUSSION	Chris Wegner brought this resolution to the Committee and explained what he would like to accomplish with it. His wish is to make a more convenient but yet a visually pleasing and acceptable alternative to the current regulation. Chris has talked to some individuals in LE and come up with a solution. Some of the concerns were about getting rid of the left over bait containment material. There was some discussion about the way this resolution was brought forward. There were other concerns brought out and the thought is if this is run through the Spring Hearing Process a lot of those questions can be answered.	
ACTION	Motion to Advance by Al Lobner 2nd by Dennis Jones. Motion Passed on a Roll Call Vote by 17-4.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Ralph Fritsch recognized the decrease of applications and permits for 2019 and hopes the Bear Plan addresses all the changes that will be coming. A question was asked about moving the start date for bear hunting from the Wednesday after Labor Day to the Wednesday before and the reasons were explained by Scott Walter. Wolf depredations were brought up and Scott explained how to get that information off of the DNR website. Bruce Prentice said Wisconsin has always been the leader when it comes to bear huntings and we should resist lowering the bar. A question was raised about how wolf depredations are paid for and Scott explained how this is taken care of now and how it will be taken care of when wolves are taken off the Endangered Species list. Mike and Al thanked Scott Walter for his contributions to the Bear Committees and wished him good luck in his new endeavor. Mike also reminded everyone about the Dec. 10 deadline for bear applications and permits.	
ACTION	none	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion to Adjourn by Jeff Klett 2nd by Scott Strook. Meeting adjourned at 3:54
SUBMITTED BY	Al Lobner
DATE	12/07/2019