

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

District 5

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	March 18, 2019	7:00 pm	Buffalo County Courthouse, Alma, WI
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1. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Kevin Smaby at 7:03 pm
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Buffalo--Domine, Ruff, Noll, Roehrig, Urness Dunn— Sinz, Thompson, Marotz, Eau Claire— , Quall, Zielke, Burrows LaCrosse—Eisenbacher, D. Heidel, R. Heidel, Smaby Pepin—, Yingst, Hurlburt P., Hayden Pierce—Brazzale, Boley, Loberg, Ogden Trempealeau—Anderson, Engeliem, Symicek, Suchla, Ryder Vernon—Leis, Morgen, West, Greendeer
EXCUSED	Dunn: Gullickson Eau Claire: Vanden Bloomen, Hanks LaCrosse: Schultz Pepin: Wayne, Hurlburt Pierce: Hatch Vernon: Koelker
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	DNR Personnel: Chris Johanson, Fisheries Youth Conservation Congress: None Public: None

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

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

A. WILDLIFE SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION	Q4: Pheasant stocking - only applies to properties currently marked with a 2 pm close.
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B. FISHERIE SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION	Have not changed rules and regs on Mississippi River since 1940's. Kevin Smaby – were rule changes done off biological or to appease MN? Answer – Both Q20-21 – With the tournaments, has the DNR figured out how they will regulate that? Thought the rules were supposed to be simpler. Wes Domine commented that the DNR had meetings along River. These meetings were in the papers, publicized so public shouldn't be surprised at the questions. Q23: Dan Heidel asked if the Sunfish, Crappy and Perch are declining? Response – backwaters are filling with sediment and habitat is disappearing for over winter. Also the bigger fish get hammered with first ice. Dwight Ruff asked about modeling with major floods and impacting the habitat and this year could be a year where we have issues. Any regulations about Commercial Fishing? MN is looking to get rid of Commercial fishing. Northern Pike question – Kevin Smaby asked about stunting of pike and overpopulation impacts.
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<p>Any affect on bowfishing? - Response was no – limited to 1. Al Marotz – Q9 – Does a Bass hangout in a certain place and that is where they live? Response – bass can live anywhere. Special Regulation in Pool 5A and 6 – MN side – 10 bag limit. Fish were hit hard and the size was decrease. People were double dipping, It was an over-wintering area</p>
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C. DNR STAFF UPDATES

DISCUSSION	<p>Chris Johanson commented that staffing. Lowest vacancy in year. One vacancy in Clarke County Biologist. Has a handout with what staff is where in the district. Strategic planning process and received feedback from the Congress leadership. Revised draft for public review in April and goal is to complete by June. CWD within our district. District wide sampling initiative. Goal of 6200 samples and about 6100 samples. Picked up a couple more positives in Eau Claire County. No new counties that had positives to date. Kevin Smaby would like to request testing in LaCrosse County. Chris commented that they are planning to do heavy testing. Dan Heidel – Outdoor news – Dr. Bastian about CWD being a bacteria. Are we looking into that? We are spending years and dollars. Chris commented that Dr. Bastian’s work has not been supported and he doesn’t work for LSU any longer. Wes Domine commented the study came out in 2011 and has not been replicated. John Quail asked about testing in northern counties – Chris commented that next year the testing will be moving to the north. Wolves – delisting process is ongoing and waiting on Federal Govt.</p> <p>Fisheries – Filling a lot of positions and close to ceiling in funding. Operations Supervisor position in Black River Falls and will manage the Trout Habitat in this district. Habit Specialists that will be doing habitat work with heavy equipment operators. Tough February and March and will see a lot of fish kills due to late snow and oxygen depletion</p> <p>Law Enforcement – Rick Rosen about 20 warden vacancies. Salary lines are getting tight. West Central Regions – 1 spot open in River Falls. 1 warden in every county and in some counties we have 2. Concern – Environmental Enforcement Specialists – 3 positions in our area and only 1 person from WI Rapids covering our area. Take on cases and move through Dept of Justice. Investigative unit – have 1 investigator and should have 2 more. Challenges – State Park enforcement coverage. Waiting on Preston Cole to determine law enforcement of state properties. Strategic Planning – Law Enforcement does quite often and working on the 2-3 year plan. Looking for input. Squad mileage dropped about 9 cents/mile last year and now back up to 52 cents/mile. 1500 miles per month per vehicle. Rivers are swollen and wardens do flood response. Have an Incident action plan. Kevin Smaby asked about the 2 elk that were shot. One – paid restitution and privileges removed. 2nd elk in Monroe county - cow elk. 4 different entities put up reward money \$2000 – Crimestoppers now and waiting on leads. Bill Yingst asked about base pay for wardens \$23/hour. Baiting and Feeding still on top of list for violations. William Greendeer – discussed people carrying guns in vehicles and Amish carrying as well and just stopping on road to shoot pheasants or deer. Rick commented that many times it is youth “Thrill Killing” and doesn’t have an answer to how to stop it. Linked to shoplifting – doing something and getting away with it. When people use dogs to hunt coyotes. Dogs got loose, dogs came into yard and killed animals. Wardens don’t have power in act of hunting to regulate dogs, etc. John Quall – Do you still airplanes. – Yes for baiting/feeding violations. And Open day of gun deer - \$150/hour to fly it.</p> <p>Dan Baumann – Notes from Preston Cole – Thank you to the WCC. Very engaged with the Congress. Joint Priorities – Youth Congress, Electronic Public Input, Hearing Rules simplification. 2019 – clean drinking water initiatives \$70 million. DATCP – groundwater and manure, CWD – Preston wants this. Terri Roehrig asked about the RR crossing issue. Needs to go through Gov Officer and Legislature.</p>
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D. CONSERVATION CONGRESS ADVISORY QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION	<p>Q52: Wes Domine talked about BCCA inviting Tom and Mike to meeting and they supported. Q56: Chuck - This question lies with the legislature. It is time for the legislature to support or let DNR handle this matter. Terri Roehrig talked about Buffalo County CDAC and Alliance going to County Board to ask for their support of a statewide ban on feeding if it was to come to a vote. John Quall talked about the corn selling in northern WI. Dwight Ruff commented that a county ban would have to be enforced by Sherriffs department. The baiting and feeding needs to be enforced by wardens who have jurisdiction. Mark Noll talked about getting it resolved. John</p>
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	<p>Quall asked about food plots. Mark Noll and Wes Domine discussed that food plots are different than food piles. Al Marotz commented that kids in hunter safety comment that they got deer by feeding.</p> <p>Q85-86: Dan Heidel – need to think about this question and how to response about shooting a lead bullet at deer or squirrel. Dave Zielke commented that the anti hunters are promoting this to get this pushed through.</p>
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3. CONSERVATION CONGRESS ANNUAL COUNTY MEETING AND DNR SPRING HEARING LOGISTICS

A. SPRING HEARING LOGISTICS MEMO

DISCUSSION	<p>Bill Yingst commented that he liked the typed resolutions Al Marotz how will they be able to tell if they provided input via online vs in the hearing Dan Heidel asked about the amendment at the Spring convention about adding the zip code to the input. And if not, why not? Ray Heidel – if zip is not required then our system is broken. Do not have assurance that we will get the right information. Feels that it will be end to the Spring Hearings and the Congress. Original legislation from 1934 – feels that the citizens can vote was part of the legislation. Does anyone have a bill number. Tim Morgan - brought up the fact that people giving online input won't have the dialogue for the questions. Chuck Boley - Results of input would aid to analyze results. 1. Inputs by people who attended in person. 2. Online input and have DNR number 3. Online input and do not have or provide a DNR number.</p> <p>Response from Kari related to the zip code: As requested and approved at the annual convention last year, zip codes are being collected by online participants. However, as we discussed then, analyzing the data using only the zip code is not a useful way to look at the input. Zip codes cross county lines and there are multiple zip codes for most counties. We have conferred with the social scientists, and they agree, that there is little to no value in evaluating the input based on a zip code alone.</p>
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B. DELEGATE PROFILES

DISCUSSION	None
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C. LOCAL SPRING HEARING PRESS

DISCUSSION	None
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4. OTHER CONGRESS BUSINESS

DISCUSSION	<p>Committee Meetings – need to advise if you can or cannot attend the meeting. Conf Call is allowed to get a quorum but person(s) on the phone have to attend the entire meeting.</p> <p>Learn to Bear Hunt – Promote at Hunter Ed Classes</p>
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5. MEMBER MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Kevin Smaby – Rick Wayne, Pepin County – been dx with pancreatic cancer. Dan Heidel – CWD – a lot of the things we are doing is re-active. Amount of time and money we are investing, we should try something different Ray Heidel – Duck season open September 28 state wide. Tim Morgan discussed further about the 12 day split for the River zones only. 2021 is the only opportunity for zones again. Mark Noll - concerns CDAC – farmland zones that are privately controlled. Running out of tools – EAB not available, Buffalo County has 12% increase. This year we are adding the January bow season. Population control is difficult with lots of out of state landowners. David Zielke - CWD – next meeting is June 19 @ 7:00 pm Rock Falls. Concerns with reaction –</p>
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Promote additional testing. Need research into it and the only way we will get it is by calling legislators. Tools they can use is Mandatory testing and registration stations. Have to develop food testing and do further research.

Tom Quall – Against baiting and feeding.

Dwight Ruff - Problems are easy to identify, Solutions difficult

Bill Yingst – Chair of Wolf committee – Senator Ron Johnson – introducing bi partisan bill for 3 states to delist wolf. Call Ron Johnson to thank him and call Tammy Baldwin to ask for her vote.

CWD – WI should take the lead on CWD Coalition

Chuck – D5 – Jerry Mayfield passed away and wants to be recognize him.

Perry Hurlburt – people need to think for themselves rather than jump on the band wagon

Lars Loberg – we should be grateful for the resources we have. Hope the age 10 question doesn't pass. His 7 yr old got 2 deer

Jason Brazzale – Ice Fishing contest – Great attendance. Was a successful event

Doug Burrows – is not re-running for congress.

Edgar Anderson – need to get youth involved

Al Suchla – wants a definition of baiting and feeding. Saw a lot of standing corn on way here. High School Trap Shooting is taking off.

Tim Morgan – We are doing the WCC work for the future hunters. Concern for CWD and can't find a cure for it.

Wes Domine - Buffalo County Illegal Dumping Reward, makes the clubs look good. Buffalo County FB page, CWD disease – concerns about eating of deer. Won't make the annual meeting. Push the Minnow thing for the Mississippi River. Voted on it 5 times.

Terri Roehrig – Brought up the report that will be given at the convention about the Strategic Plan and the future for the congress.

Kevin Smaby – Reservations for Lodging and Meals for Convention

6. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	10:19 pm
SUBMITTED BY	Terri Roehrig
DATE	3/18/19