



Executive Committee District Leadership Council Annual Meeting

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Meeting Minutes**

ORDER OF BUSINESS	01/04/2019	9:30 AM	Holiday Inn Stevens Point
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Larry Bonde at 9:30 AM
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Joe Weiss, Tony Blattler, Joel Taylor, Dave Larson, Mike Riggle, Steve Bodnik, Bob Ellingson, Ronald Krueger Senior, Kevin Smaby, Terri Roehng, Stan Brownell, Al Lobner, Dale Maas, Bob Haase, Brett Weir, Larry Bonde, Dave Breunig, Mike Rogers, Ken Riskey, Scott Gunderson.
EXCUSED	Jane Meyer and Eugene Altwies.
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Kari Lee Zimmerman and Mike Schmit.

C. Agenda Approval or Repair

Bonde

DISCUSSION	Larry asked for some flexibility on the order of the agenda to accommodate various speakers.
ACTION	Motion by Blattler 2nd by Haase to allow flexibility in agenda. Motion carried.

D. Chairs update

Bonde

DISCUSSION	<p>Larry reminded the delegates that the districts that did not have a date and time set for the district meetings need to have that done, get information to Kari by January 25. Those that already have their date and time set please contact your individual delegates he is getting feedback from some areas questioning when and where and what time the meetings are good and take place.</p> <p>Larry stated that there are a lot of changes taking place in the state right now especially due to the change in governor. You all have heard that the newest appointed DNR secretary will be Preston Cole former Natural Resources board delegate from the Milwaukee area.</p> <p>The governor has contacted WCC leadership asking for our opinion on a working list of what is needed along with what is working and what is not with the past administration. He finds it encouraging that we were contacted and asked for our thoughts on possible appointees.</p> <p>On the legislative side the new chair of the Natural Resources committee Rob Satchell has had continual discussions on Congress positions with Larry. He is encouraged that the report they have from their work in the past may help move some of our agenda items forward. Last term we were very close to getting the fee increase approved and Larry is hopeful that we can make it work this session.</p> <p>Another area is our push on a Sandhill Crane season. He realizes that environmental people have not been favorable on this issue but like everything else in this state the only constant is change he feels that this change is possible at this time.</p> <p>On the issue of funding for stewardship money while currently the Congress has no official position because we have no current proposal to discuss, in the past we have almost always been supportive of the stewardship concept should change.</p> <p>Also on the legislative end there are a handful of issues that have gone through the Congress process and received favorable support. He is hearing from some legislators saying there is an interest in possibly revisiting those issues and time will tell what if anything comes of it.</p> <p>Larry stated that last year Mike Riggle agreed to stand in as vice chair as a temporary position. Larry stated that from his standpoint he would probably only do one more year as chairman if he is reelected. He wanted to get this out early enough so you could start to think about what possibilities needed to be done prior to the coming Congress election cycle. Larry feels it's important for a vice chair to sit with the acting chair for a year prior to assuming the position. He stressed that the delegates should start to talk amongst themselves as you come together to make decisions. He urged District counselors to talk amongst themselves and if they can't come to any conclusions they may want to talk within their districts to see if there's anybody else interested in stepping forward in a leadership position. It may be time for somebody to step aside as a district counselor in order to allow this organization the needed leadership in the future.</p> <p>Although there were no request for public comments he noticed and recognized Scott Loomans and asked if he would give an update on how the transition was moving forward. Scott said that he was excited about working with Sec. Cole and expects him to present himself in his office the Monday after inauguration. At this time he is not sure who will be the 2nd and 3rd in command as far as Deputy secretaries but expects that to happen shortly. The department is preparing transition documents for the changeover and stated that Sec. Meyer did a great job during his tenure he was a good listener and thoughtful.</p>
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ACTION	
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E. Public Comments

DISCUSSION	None.
ACTION	No action taken.

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Department of Natural Resources Program Updates Various (see below)

DISCUSSION	[Note: departmental reports are listed in order according to published agenda, but due to flexibility under agenda repair they may not be in the order they were actually presented.]	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

1. Sexual Harassment Prevention Training update Mark Herman, Attorney Supervisor

DISCUSSION	<p>Larry introduced Mark and stated he was disappointed with the responses for this training, he felt we missed the mark and needed to do better.</p> <p>Mark reported that only about 50% of the Congress delegates actually looked at the video and from the run time record only about half of those completed the whole video. He realizes that watching the video on sexual harassment are probably not everybody's priority and the standing joke among HR people is that probably the ones that needed it the most don't watch it versus the ones that actually do watch. With that said there is some work to do, we need to keep working at it. Mark stated that as he looked at the WCC strategic plan document it called for more diversity; this included not only gender diversity but also racial diversity. He asked the delegates how they felt about achieving the planning goals. The consensus was we were trying but it was difficult to encourage new people to become delegates and in many outlying counties in the state a 5 person roster is difficult to achieve much less integrating gender and cultural changes.</p> <p>Mark referenced a fraternal organization that he was encouraged to be a member of and soon found out that at age 35 he was probably the youngest member there. The reality was that within 5 years these organizations cease to exist because they failed to integrate new members. Mark stated that he was going to look at different ways to make this training available with possibly conducting many seminars or workshops at WCC events.</p> <p>He reported that on a nationwide basis surveys have determined that 75% of all sexual harassment goes unreported. Through surveys it has been discovered that most women can filter out most of the minor occurrences but the goal in the awareness process is to reduce and hopefully eliminate most of the occurrences.</p> <p>Maas: suggested that a list be compiled for DLC members of those not completing the training program and though this would not be a pilloried by any means because there is probably a plot of different reasons as to why the turnout in compliance was as stated. He stressed that this was an opportunity for leadership to help get our own house in proper order. He was also concerned and asked for clarification on the comment about some of the diversity issues that Mark talked about. While it is always been a goal of the Conservation Congress to bring more active members of all genders, races and individual beliefs into the Congress, his concern was that we not turn this into the appearance of a quota system. There are quite a few of the 72 counties in the state that struggle to complete a 5 person roster and we certainly want to have active participation from all of the 5 delegates that each county is authorized. This is an all volunteer organization and as you look around the room you're going to see a lot more people with gray hair the not some of them don't even have hair but all kidding aside I strongly believe that each county delegation is trying to do their best with the volunteers that they have and is uncomfortable with what he perceived as a suggestion of a quota system whereby the Congress would be made up of X amount of Hispanics, X amount of African-Americans, X amount of Hmong an X amount of Caucasian. Most of the County delegation's are pretty happy if they have 5 delegates that show up and participate in while he knows that Mark is not that new to the process, it's kind of the reality that we work with. With all due respect he is saying it like he sees it.</p> <p>Lobner: the previous comments are spot on some of the district representatives here know that they have openings and have lost good people because of those complaining of inadequate representation, when it comes right down to it most of those doing the griping are not willing to put in the time and effort required.</p> <p>Bonde: I will tell you that we do have issues with a few of our delegates, there are some department staff (females) that refuse to interact with some of our delegates because of some of the comments they have made. I don't think anyone saying "that we needed a quota", the Hmong community is very structured on how it works, they stay in their clan and usually did not interact outside of that. The elders are the ones that dictate to the younger ones what they are allowed to do.</p> <p>Lobner: it's tough for young people who are trying to establish themselves earn a living and support a family to participate. He knows many of those sitting at this table did make that commitment early on and thanks them for their dedication.</p> <p>Zimmermann: she feels that Mark is not suggesting quota system but that we need to do everything possible to welcome anyone that is truly interested to be able to come to the table and participate. We as a statewide organization need to create an environment that is open and welcoming to all no matter what their race, gender, or sexual orientation may be.</p> <p>Blattler: just for consideration most of the delegates are working or retired and he would suggest that many of them have already been exposed to some sort of harassment training. He also mentioned that many of the clubs in the northern area that he comes from especially snowmobile clubs are having a hard time recruiting new members. Club members are the</p>
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	<p>ones that maintain and groom local trails. Without some fresh blood infused into these organizations many of them are struggling and there is a real possibility this will impact our tourist trade. Our local Lions clubs are being forced to merge some of them have to drive 35-40 miles to attend meetings just to maintain some effectiveness in their existing programs. The northern counties seem to have even bigger challenges when some people have to drive long distances to attend our meetings and it is a struggle. He also thought that we could've done a better job of explaining the purpose of the training, he had a lot of questions and comments about what happened, why is it being initiated and recognizing the fact that many people may have had some sort of training in their work lives.</p> <p>Roehng: she also agreed that an explanation would have been helpful but more to the point is that she believes many of our difficulties even all from the publics general lack of knowledge about the WCC what their mission responsibilities and capabilities are.</p> <p>Haase: another part of the discussion related to this is the publics lack of awareness. The low turnouts at our spring meetings is the general public does not know how the process works and we elect delegates to represent them and they're not aware of that. It is kind of self-limiting in gamering a new delegate pool. Even in a high density sporting County like Fond du Lac we struggle.</p> <p>Larson: asked what are we doing about individuals that have been the focus of harassing individuals?</p> <p>Bonde: with the new disciplinary procedures in place and coda procedures and conduct instructions we have addressed all the issues that came before us. The main individual was identified and given the option to either resign or be removed from the Congress, they chose to resign.</p> <p>After additional discussion it was a consensus decision that we again offer the training to individuals had failed to comply and then review where we go from there.</p>
ACTION	No further action taken.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2. Research

Scott Hall, Director,
Office of Applied Science

DISCUSSION	<p>Scott gave a brief overview of the Mission of Applied Science, they are the information arm of the DNR and assist various divisions within the department in gathering scientific information in order to aid the decision process. We assist in information gathering that helps set things like quotas and policy along with other duties. They have finally been given the authority to hire, this is after strategic realignment, budget, retirements and other various issues.</p> <p>We have been able to hire a Fisheries Research Scientist who is going to be looking at recruitment efforts in Lake Sturgeon, mortality rates and numerous other Sturgeon questions. They also have also hired a Waterfall Research Scientist that will deal with many of the ongoing questions that wildlife managers have within the waterfall world. This hire is an active outdoors-man and waterfowl hunting enthusiasts so looks like it was made for this job.</p> <p>After discussing the wildlife management group it was decided that we also had a Wildlife Research Habitat Scientist. This person will help study review and recommend the best methods in developing appropriate habitat for targeted species and how that habitat will interact with existing programs.</p> <p>Part of our new direction is to be more transparent and open, with that said, we have been making presentations to the Natural Resources Board has often as they will let us. It is important that these key decision-makers understand effort and science that goes into the decision-making process.</p> <p>There are various specialists tasked with overhauling the various data streams. The department has huge volumes of recorded data going back to paper records and converting that data digitally and making it available to fish and wildlife managers in a clear and concise manner will only aid in the decision-making process. Our goal is to provide the best, complete and newest information in a way that will be easy to understand and allow decision-makers to filter through the vast amount of data that is available.</p> <p>One of the newer projects that we are working on is the deer mortality survey, we have been very successful in capturing and collaring over our targeted goal. The technology available thus far as GPS locating, mortality signals this is far and above what was available even 10 years ago.</p> <p>Our Bobcat study program again collaring tagging evaluating just short of the hundred bobcats and working on that process is in the works.</p> <p>In February our plan is to give an update to the NRB on year two of the program. This will be the 1st time that we will also be able to report on the predator side of the program.</p> <p>He also mentioned that if you go on the DNR website and type in deer research you will have access to the most up-to-date data by category on topics like deer population/mortality and CWD to name a few.</p> <p>Another one of the programs that we are extremely proud of and we are having great success with is our partnership with Snapshot Wisconsin. With our partners and through the volunteers and all 72's counties which by the way was expanded statewide this year, we have received over 25 million camera shots so far. We are already using some of that population data in some of our studies. This data is not used by itself, but it does support field surveys and observations of brood studies (turkey and grouse) on disposition birthrates and a number of other areas. The program has assisted in evaluating predator populations throughout the state and has been extremely helpful in our to elk release areas. We have also seen some success in rare species studies, we have successfully spotted an adult moose in Vilas County (documented) while we</p>
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	<p>have received reports at various times of other moose sightings this is one of the few on camera. The cool thing about this study is the fact that all of the pictures are available to the public, you will not receive actual locations specific but you will be able to tell county of origin. This is a work in progress so you're not going to see a "Cadillac" on the 1st attempt but over time refinements will make this better.</p> <p>All of the programs that I laid out today are in an effort to help the general public better understand the research and science that goes into the decision-making process.</p> <p>Bonde: one of the areas of concern is how Bobcat research was established by the legislature and the fact that the money has to be used out of a segregated account and accounted for every year in other words if they have \$30,000 in the account by the end of the physical year they have to show and use that money. Because of this the discussion centered around the difficulties in planning for larger projects over time.</p> <p>Maas: asked if it was possible to incorporate County breakout information? This is in relationship to the expansion of the WCC educational trailer initiative, as we presented to County delegations for uses in anything from County fair to individual sportsman's alliances. It would be helpful in some cases to have this information on a thumb drive that could be looped into an informational display. Scott stated that, that would definitely be an area that they could help with given a reasonable amount of free time. Dale also commented as a review of some of the existing reports and data previously made available by the department, is there any thoughts of making those reports a little more user-friendly in the future? The comments he always gets are after about 2 paragraphs, the interested party gets a kind of glazed look on their face and discovers that they are lost in a sea of technical data.</p> <p>Scott thanked Dale for the setup on this question since 1 of the directions Applied Science is striving for is a more user-friendly reporting language. Their goal would be to take the hard-core and science and math and pointed into easily understandable format.</p> <p>Lobner: many years ago when the groups got together and successfully asked for a portion of the Bobcat application fee one of the 1st years yielded dollars for research. In subsequent years if you took the prorated portion of the fee increase times the number of applications it always stated \$30,000, when the math spoke that it should've been more. Has that ever been resolved, has anybody ever found that money? What was agreed upon was a \$3 increase in application fee for Bobcat, the trappers were there, the bear hunters were there and that's what we agreed to. At that time there were about 16,000 applications for Bobcat which should equal to about \$45,000 that went into their and all they got was \$30,000. It was about 3 or 4 years where \$45,000 per year was put in and all they got out was \$30,000 so where is the money?</p> <p>Scott said that according to the direction that he was given by finance, when they set the annual budget that \$30,000 is what has been assigned to them.</p> <p>Lobner: that's not the way it was originally set up maybe Scott Gunderson can shed some light on this.</p> <p>Gunderson: AI is correct in the fact of the intent of the \$3 per application go to research. Maybe it would be appropriate as Larry had mentioned before, that we add this to our discussion with legislative leadership. Is somewhere in the process the way it was intended and the way the legislative bill was written didn't agree. It would take legislative action to correct it but it's certainly doable.</p> <p>Bonde: this is come to my attention just in the last 6 months and it's certainly an area that needs to be discussed and I understand AI given the fact that he is no longer a part of some of the past associations that he had when this was agreed upon but this certainly needs to be addressed.</p> <p>Lobner: this money was specifically approved and designated as Bobcat research not furbearer research. These are the types of things that upset a lot of our constituents, it makes them very distrustful and turns them off to the whole process. We can and need to do better and this is my effort to try and correct this issue.</p> <p>Larry thanked Scott for his presentation and recommended those in attendance share at the district meeting set a lot of this information is on the department website and he has gotten much positive feedback when he shares this information not only on the Congress Facebook website but his own personal Facebook website.</p>	
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

3. Fisheries

Justine Hasz, Director, Bureau of Fisheries Management

DISCUSSION	<p>Justine updated the DLC on items in the Fisheries Division since our last meeting. Since November 12th her department has hired 5 positions in one week.</p> <p>1 Database Coordinator (FTE).</p> <p>3 LTE positions at the central office in Madison:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 communication specialist 1 administrative assistant (Justine) 1 GIS specialist <p>1 Lake Superior Team Supervisor (FTE)</p>
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	<p>The fisheries team has been working diligently on the tribal agreement on Lake Superior, and had completed negotiations by November 27th. Process tribes are working to get approvals from the individual tribal delegations. We then asked for an emergency NRB meeting for December, after subsequent discussions this agreement will be discussed at the January NRB board meeting for final approval. After January 1 the plan is to advertise for the following: Fisheries Management Chief Fisheries Operations Supervisor St. Croix Hatchery Operations Supervisor Vilas County Fish Biologist Lake Michigan Fish Biologist.</p> <p>The department is also doing a formal review of the Walleye Management Plan, she has assigned the Woodruff office to review all the data collected since 1996. This includes the Walleye Initiative, stocking plans and bag limits. This review was in an effort to assess whether or not we as a department are meeting the goals and expectations of our customers. Another area is the Lake Superior Management Plan, which is scheduled for completion in 2019. The department is also working on a Sturgeon Management Plan also expected to be completed in 2020. Justine had her staff review the 42 fisheries questions that will be brought up at this year's spring hearing at which time DLC members an opportunity to ask for clarification.</p>	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

4. Wildlife

Eric Lobner, Director, Bureau of Wildlife Management

DISCUSSION	<p>Eric reported on the Wildlife Department changes, in 2018 they filled 30 positions: 12 technicians. 8 biologists. 2 supervisors. 4 specialists. 1 communication specialist. 1 educator for Crex Meadows.</p> <p>His department is seeing the same retirement transfer rate as was noted in previous division reports as already in 2019 has received 2 retirement notifications for supervisor positions. 2018 deer harvest report is up 3.8% and a number of them are still coming in, he did note that there currently is a 21% increase in the numbers on Holiday Hunt. CWD test results: 16,245 samples were tested with 972 positives. The top 3 counties are as follows: 372 in Iowa County. 172 in Sauk County. 170 in Richland County.</p> <p>Elk; he talked about the special elk season with some of the issues that were noted. He also announced that in cooperation with the state of Kentucky they would be capturing 50 pregnant elk for quarantine and transfer to Wisconsin. They have now come up with a more efficient means of darting the game in Kentucky that will lessen our cost considerable, he also mentioned that all of these animals during the core team process will be checked by animal health for any possible disease or infection.</p> <p>Per request of the Congress and the natural resources board he expects that the grouse management plan will be completed by 2020. This past season 135 samples were taken for West Nile virus, these have been sent off to a testing lab and he is optimistic that he will be getting results very soon.</p> <p>Blattler: he was disappointed on the availability of test kits for grouse. He contacted the biologist in his area and was told that they wanted to spread them out over a wider area. He was willing to make a 40 mile outing to another area so that you had adequate sampling, he was extremely disappointed with the process. Eric took the discussion under advisement and commented that they could do better.</p> <p>Bonde: was concerned with the CWD positives in Iowa and Sauk counties and wondered if there was some type of survey sent out asking for their comments on the prevalence rates along with why hunters are not bringing in more animals for testing. Eric stated that they were in the process of trying to put something together for those 2 counties.</p> <p>Rogers: his opinion was that some of them believe that CWD has been in Sauk County hundreds of years, and that since reports state that it's not transferable to humans if the deer looks healthy it's not an issue to them.</p> <p>Riggle: commented that Wisconsin is conducting one of the largest human and not collation tests to see if CWD does transfer to humans. No reflection on Eric, previous leaders within the department downplayed CWD at the onset, for fear</p>	
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	that would cause a panic. He feels that someway somehow we have to wake people up and looking back downplaying CWD is probably a pretty bad idea. Wildlife staff reviewed with the DLC that 8 department questions a statewide interest. It should be noted that questions 6 and 7 failed in 2018 but are rewritten for clarity and presented for 2019.
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

5. Forestry

Heather Burkland, Deputy Administrator, Forestry Division

DISCUSSION	<p>Heather thanked the DLC for their time this morning and thanked them for being proactive on their discussion about sexual harassment. Department staff is being sent all over the state and United States to fight wildfires, that this is an important conversation to be having and she thanked them for that.</p> <p>To summarize 2018 they were very aggressive in filling (85) open positions 66 of those were field based. As of December 2018 forestry had an approximate 8% vacancy rate. As with any larger department as you bring new people in there's always people retiring out so we feel fortunate we were able to fill a number of positions that we did.</p> <p>In 2019 our focus will be to hire individuals to bolster our forest tax law division, this will include economists and forest specialist. It should be noted that within forestry over 50% of our personnel have less than 5 years with the department. These are all extremely qualified individuals many having previous experience in the areas of concern.</p> <p>She then gave an overview of a forest action plan that is being developed with completion expected to be in 2020. This plan is required in order to receive any federal funding on our forestry programs.</p> <p>She then talked about forest health, emerald ash bore continues to be an issue with the quarantine statewide a limited movement within counties. Another health concern is HRD commonly known as root rot.</p> <p>We are going to be conducting a review of NR 40 having to do with invasive species, requires the department to identify and classify and control species and assess group dynamics, this review is expected to take 4 years.</p> <p>She mentioned earlier about needing to hire additional personnel in the tax law area, they are also tasked with a review of chapter 20 and updating the tax law handbook.</p> <p>They are also tasked with completing a draft of NR 46 which is part of implementing act 358, this policy change has to do with a certified written plan in managing the forest health program. This plan will soon be published for review, you are encouraged to comment. Part of the discussions on this is, we have developed a working group having discussions about alignment, how we do business, and how we become more efficient.</p> <p>As a partner in the good neighbor authority, which allows us to team up with the US Fish and Wildlife Service helping them to manage cutting on a number of national forest sites. With this good working relationship we have been able to increase forest harvest goals on a number of properties. This is a good management tool to allow for reforestation in some areas that needed attention. After a number of years we are finally seeing the results of this partnership, which has added value to our Forest Industries in Wisconsin. This cooperative effort allowed us to post a field visit with a delegation from Texas.</p> <p>Wisconsin is recognized as a leader its use of the good neighbor policy. Revenue from the sales must be used in support of a sensible forage management plan which in turn benefits Wisconsin. Some of the uses of the program receipts are used in working with APHIS for Beaver control on trout streams, NHC surveys, scarification and brush maintenance. This program has been very active and stay tuned for more to come.</p> <p>She reminded everybody of the report station program for young seedlings at the Wilson Forest Research Center depending upon the spring we have, there is still some available seedlings. If you are interested please get your orders in soon.</p> <p>Forest products has developed a new mapping tool which is on the DNR website, included in this mapping tool is a location for forest product buyers which will help individuals find markets for their timber. Another topic is the the creation of a mill survey in the spring of 2019 (this is done every 5 years). Parts of this survey will assess overall Wisconsin trends and is part of the national effort of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.</p> <p>Her final comment was to remind everybody that this year will be the 75th birthday of Smokey The Bear so expect to see numerous celebrations of this milestone.</p>
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

6. Law Enforcement

Jeremy Plautz, Law Enforcement Training Director

DISCUSSION	<p>Jeremy presented an update from law enforcement since the last DLC meeting. At this time there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 vacancies as credentialed LE 1 regional captain. 3 investigators 1 program administrator. <p>They expect (6) LE to be assigned to the October 2019 class.</p> <p>From the deer season safety report, again one of the safest seasons on record no fatalities and 3 injuries; 2 which were self-</p>
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	<p>inflicted and 1 due to misidentification (by a member of the same hunting party). During the deer (all) season wardens made 15,321 contacts, had 2689 service calls and issued 1677 warnings. During the nine-day gun season 863 hotline calls for service and put this in perspective for all of 2018, there were 7427 hotline calls processed. Jeremy also reviewed the status of the R-3 mission and also realignment within the recreational safety warden program whereby some of the recreational safety trainers will no longer be certified wardens. He also reviewed with the DLC a change in alignment and work as it pertains to the need for credentialed Rangers in some of the state parks and the adjustments that will be made in order to allow that to happen. He thanked the Congress for all the help that if done in the past and all of the discussions that have been ongoing. 12:15 break for lunch back at 1:03 PM</p>	
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

7. Iron County Forest Legacy Easement

Jim Lemke, Chief, Real Estate Section

DISCUSSION	<p>Jim presented a handout on the proposed Keweenaw Land Association, Iron County Forest Legacy Conservation Easement. The proposal is as follows: 14,352 acres involved in conservation and access easement in perpetuity. Open to 5 nature based outdoor activities. 16 miles of designated public access roads. Establish a road endowment of \$400,000 created to ensure roads are maintained in a baseline condition. Contains forested landscape with rolling topography. Adjacent to 13,805 acre Twin Lakes Forest Legacy Easement. Contains multiple capitalize little unnamed lakes on the property including little Moose Lake and Fifteen Lake. 3.24 miles of trout streams and 13.91 miles of unnamed streams. Contains a conservation easement continues the tradition of a working forest ensuring continued, tribulation to the states forestry economy. Current proposal if approved would spend \$5.7 million for this easement, he noted that the current evaluation review is taking place this number maybe lower depending on market. He also mentioned that this is in perpetuity it's written in the abstract/D, the landowner reclaims title under easement but is also responsible to pay all taxes. Under the terms of the proposal and endowment of \$400,000 be set aside sure roads are made a to time of agreement. There were many questions and comments as to the funding, the perceived value and whether this was a good investment.</p>	
ACTION	Motion by Lobner 2nd by Riggle to support the proposal subject to review, appraisal and verification that \$8 million would be available through stewardship funding till January 30, 2019. Motion carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. WCC Advisory Committee Reports and Proposed Advisory Questions

Various

DISCUSSION	[Note: Committee reports are listed in order according to published agenda, but due to flexibility under agenda repair they may not be in the order they were actually presented.] See actions below.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

1. DLC questions from October 5 meeting

Bonde

DISCUSSION	(680118). This resolution was passed at our last DLC meeting and was asked to be reviewed at this meeting for wording clarification if needed. After much discussion the action taken in the previous DLC committee meeting stands.	
ACTION	No action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

Review information on Deer and Elk Committee request to support spread of bait over

Bonde

2. 10' x 10' area

DISCUSSION	<p>Larry is concerned about the request since there is very little supporting data on how effective this is. Riggle: a science paper from Colorado discussing best management practices stated that baiting and feeding should not be allowed in CWD areas but as a fall back position spreading it out over a larger area could be beneficial. Rogers: you're not going to be able to control how deer congregate in one area, many people in his County have 30 gallon water barrels out on there properties that attracts all kinds of wildlife. How do you regulate any of this? Bonde: delegates please tell me what position you would like the WCC to take on this.</p>	
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	Brownell: suggests with a new governor that we take our position on banning of baiting and feeding to the legislators and see what the temperature is with them.
ACTION	Motion by Rogers 2nd by Larson to reject, taking this to the NRB. Motion carried. Break for dinner at 4:45 PM.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

3. Outdoor Heritage and Education Committee Kevin Smaby

DISCUSSION	The DLC was called back to order on Saturday 1-5-2019 at 8:05 AM by Chairman Larry Bonde. Be it noted that attendance was taken with the same participants noted above. Kevin gave the committee report noting that 3 resolutions were assigned to his committee as a committee reviewed them none were brought forward with the recommendation to advance. Further details of the committee can be found in the minutes that are published on the website of the Outdoor Heritage and Education Committee.
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

4. Rules and Resolutions Committee Tony Blattler

DISCUSSION	<p>Tony reminded everyone that he gave the committee report at the last DLC meeting but because of insufficient notification the proposed code of procedure changes were postponed to this meeting. You have a copy of them before you and the changes are as follows:</p> <p>V.I.A. Time and Place 1. The District Leadership Council of the Conservation Congress will meet annually in October, January and twice in May each calendar year. The January meeting shall be scheduled in the center portion of the state. The 1st main meeting was scheduled in conjunction with the convention, and the 2nd main meeting is scheduled in conjunction with boards May meeting. (October will be added)</p> <p>X.B. Local resolution format. 1. The resolutions must be typed or written legibly on 8 1/2 x 11 white paper. (Or written legibly will be deleted)</p> <p>X.C. Local resolution presentation. 3. Written resolutions not meeting the above criteria and/or verbal resolutions will not be accepted. (Written will be deleted)</p> <p>XIII.A.7. Engaging in other inappropriate for illegal behavior, including: f. Engaging in campaign activities for a non-WCC office while acting in one's capacity as a WCC delegate. (This is a proposed addition to the 2019 proposed code of procedure) After much discussion a motion was made by Taylor 2nd by Smaby to advance the 1st 3 proposed changes. Motion carried. Modifications adopted. There then was a motion by Budnick 2nd by Haase to reject the 4th proposed change. Motion carried. Article rejected.</p>
ACTION	As stated above.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

5. Legislative Committee Scott Gunderson

DISCUSSION	<p>The following resolutions were brought forward by the committee for DLC review: & 80318, 411018, 650118, 680618) (requires legislation). Creation of a Sports Fishing Board. Discussion on this resolution in the opinion of the DLC would be in direct conflict. Wisconsin Conservation Congress as our charge is to represent all sporting men and women on items related to consummation. Motion by Maas 2nd by Blattler reject. Motion carried. Resolution rejected. (180518, 560318, 180118) (requires legislation). Change youth hunting age limit back to 10 years old. Motion by Haase 2nd by Riggle to advance. After discussion there was a motion by Gunderson 2nd Mike Taylor to amend read as follows: question 1. Would you favor returning to the minimum age of 10 years old to obtain a hunting license? Anyone born on or after January 1, 1973, who has not completed Hunter Education for youth age 10 or 11, may only hunt with a mentor. Question 2 you favor returning states that you to require only one firearm between a mentor and a mentee? (The 3rd question would be deleted.) On the motion to amend. Motion carried. On the motion to approve the question as amended. Motion carried. (2040318) (requires legislation). Designate the Hickory nut as the state nut. Motion by Maas 2nd by Larson to advance. Motion carried. Resolution advances. (140418)(Requires legislation). Identification for non-motorized watercraft. Motion by Taylor 2nd by Blattler to advance.</p>
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Motion carried. Resolution advances.
 (170318, 180618, 220118, 320318, 630418) (requires legislation). Increase Wisconsin Inland Trout Stamp fee. Motion by Taylor 2nd by Haase to advance. Motion carried. Resolution advances.
 (130818, 200318, 460318, 600418, 641218) (requires legislation). Creating an option to purchase more than one State Habitat Stamp and the ability to donate to that stamp fund. Motion by Haase 2nd by Smaby to advance. After much discussion the motion was withdrawn. There was a subsequent motion by Weiss 2nd by Haase to table until further information is available. Motion carried resolution table.
 (681118) (requires legislation). Permitting the sale of wild deer fat. Motion by Riggle 2nd by Larson to reject. Riggle stated that the prions would not be rendered out and still a viable CWD issue. Motion carried. Resolution rejected
 (640718) (requires legislation). Reinstate the requirement for back tags to be worn while hunting deer, bear, and elk. Motion by Taylor 2nd by Krueger to reject. Taylor: we've had this discussion before with not only the legislators but the NRB and they have stated that they are not changing back to what was advanced earlier. Motion carried. Resolution rejected.
 (360518) (requires legislation). Remove mandatory on cocking or encasing requirements of unloaded crossbows. Motion by Smaby 2nd Lobner to advance. After much discussion there was a motion by Blattner 2nd by Lobner to table to tomorrow's meeting for further information. Motion carried. Resolution tabled till tomorrow (1-5-19).
 In 1/5/2019 there was a motion by Blattler 2nd by Weiss to remove from table. Motion carried.
 The following wording was suggested:
 all firearms (excluding handguns) must be unloaded when inside any vehicle, whether moving or stationary. A loaded firearm may be placed on, but not inside, a vehicle that is stationary.

Current law allows for an unloaded (Bolt removed)\on cocked crossbow to be placed within a vehicle for transport, and an unloaded\cocked crossbow must be enclosed within a carrying case when being transported by a vehicle. It is illegal to place a cocked crossbow on a stationary vehicle unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a case.
 Would you support a legislative change to allow unloaded\cocked crossbow is to be placed on a stationary vehicle when on case?

Would you support a legislative change to allow a unloaded\on case\cocked crossbow to be placed within a vehicle for transport?

After discussion there was a motion by Smaby 2nd by Rogers to advance as rewritten. Motion carried. Question advanced.
 (160418) (requires legislation). License fee increase to fund Cold-water fish hatchery. Motion by Smaby 2nd by Haase to advance. Motion carried. Resolution advanced.

ACTION	As stated above.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

6. Environmental Committee

Dave Blunk

DISCUSSION Dave presented the following resolutions with the DLC:
 Resolution (110218, 131518) (requires legislation). Allocation of Invasive Species Control Fund for Phragmites australis. Motion by Gunderson 2nd by Blattler to advance as amended. The question will read " would you support the Conservation Congress working with the Natural Resources Board and legislature to create Phragmites Australis Control Fund?" Motion carried question advanced as amended.
 Resolution (131418) (requires legislation) titled "Ban lead ammunition and fishing gear in Wisconsin." Motion by Maas 2nd by Haase to reject. Motion failed. Motion by Riggle 2nd by Larson to advance. Motion carried question advanced.
 Resolution(530218) (requires legislation) Increase setback of fields to streams to 20 feet. Motion by Breunig 2nd by Krueger to reject. Motion failed. Motion by Gunderson 2nd by Risley to advance as a DLC question with the following amendments the run-off information will read as follows: Currently over 700 streams and rivers in Wisconsin are listed as impaired. A majority of this impairment is due to turbidity from soil loss and non point nutrient pollution from runoff from agricultural fields directly into streams. Current setbacks can be as little as 5 feet.
 The question is amended to read, do you favor the Conservation Congress working with the Natural Resources Board and the State Legislature to increase the distance from agricultural fields to streams and rivers to 30 feet, and encourage vegetation. Motion carried question is advanced as amended.
 Resolution (070118, 230418, 250418, 540518) (requires legislation) Moratorium on concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO's). Motion by Taylor 2nd by Bodnik to advance as amended.
 Bonde: there are other sources of pollution discharge besides CAFO's. Other agricultural practices and nutrient loading can be the issue depending upon the soil.
 Brownell: it is going to be difficult to get legislative support when you ask a legislator to limit agriculture in Wisconsin.
 Riggle: nutrients are money, a farmer does not want to put more nutrients than are needed, fertilizers cost big dollars and applying more than is needed is a waste. Motion failed. Question rejected.

	Resolution (160618) Perform groundwater study at Brule State Fish Hatchery. Motion by Krueger 2nd by Smaby to advance. Motion carried. Question advanced. Resolution (120318, 230318, 250318, 420318, 540718, 630518) (requires legislation) Responsible Mining for Clean Water. Motion by Taylor 2nd by Haase to reject due to the confusing nature of the question. Motion carried. Question rejected.
ACTION	As stated.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

7. Shooting Range Ad Hoc Committee

Harold Drake

DISCUSSION	<p>Harold said that there was one question that came out of the Shooting Range Ad Hoc Committee and he asked that we deal with this 1st before he completed the rest of his committee report.</p> <p>Resolution (040118) Creation of experimental trap shooting ranges. The DLC reviewed the preliminary question and after discussion there is a motion by Blattler 2nd by Larson. To table till tomorrow. Motion carried.</p> <p>On 1/5/2019 there was a motion by Blattler 2nd by Larson to remove from the table for possible action. Motion carried. The proposed changes to this resolution are as follows: The title to read " Creation of a pilot program for Scholastic Shooting Teams." Scholastic shooting teams are growing in popularity across United States including Wisconsin. In some areas of the state there are no clay target shooting ranges available within a reasonable distance. Making it impractical for some schools to start shooting teams. In the areas that do have shooting ranges within reasonable distance of schools the establish ranges do not have the capacity or the ability to accommodate the additional number of shooters. In addition it is sometimes difficult for sites to get permission and needed permits. In areas with these problems the option of a temporary shooting range may allow school teams to be established until a permanent range approval process is complete. A pilot program establishing a few temporary ranges within a reasonable distance from school and with the approval and cooperation of of a private land owner and area residents within a 1 mile range of the temporary facility would eliminate these issues. The ranges would have a four-year sunset on operation and to avoid land owner liability and the environmental liability of the use of lead, the use of non-toxic shot may be required.</p> <p>Would you support a four-year pilot program to create a few temporary shooting ranges to be used for Scholastic team shooting that does not have access to local shooting facilities, if necessary using non-toxic lead-free shot? Note this will test the viability of a long-term temporary range program statewide. Motion by Gunderson 2nd by Haase to advance as amended. Motion carried. Resolution advance.</p> <p>Harold then reviewed with the DLC a summary of the 2018 WCC delegate range survey that was sent out. Harold then reviewed the 7 action items it was requested by the committee: Action item 1. State wide range listing. The committee recommends and is requesting that the DLC support an annual update of the listing. Either at the spring district meetings or the state convention. Details would need to be worked out on the distribution of the current updated list and information on where to forward all changes. The committee is therefore asking for support to continue this effort. Motion by Maas 2nd Haase to support action item 1. Motion carried. Action item 2. WCC delegate range survey. Again there was a survey sent out asking questions about range grant program, current range issues, support for youth rifle challenge and others they had about a 30% response (110) and would like permission to continue on with this. Motion by Roehng 2nd by Smaby to allow. Motion carried. Action item 3. The committee was concerned that only 19 respondents reported knowing anything about lead management, the committee is asking the DLC for support to continue making this information available. Motion by Maas 2nd by Roehng to reword and continue on with surveying for this item and make information available. Motion carried. Action item 4. The committee proposed YCC delegate shooting competition. Harold stated that after talking to members of the oversight committee that they were working on something for the 2019 state convention, the Range Committee would like to work on setting something up for the 2020 convention in Green Lake County. Motion by Roehng 2nd by Smaby to allow. Motion carried. Action item 5. Is more of an informational item. As a 1st step a committee member will draft a resolution for 2019 spring hearings which would be introduced in several counties. The resolution would be asking for support to create a full-time Shooting Sports Coordinator position as a means of supporting the statewide shooting competition. Action item 6. High school trap shooting. The committee is in support of the Scholastic late target program and was asking permission to have again this year a representative at the state convention to give an update on current status. Harold also asked if it would be all right to put together an article for the spring Conservation Chronicle. Larry stated he will fit it into the agenda. Action items 7. Range grant program. Harold also asked permission to prepare another article for the Conservation Chronicle to get information in front of more individuals on this valuable program. Kari stated that the next issue of the Conservation Chronicle deadline for submissions would be February 8, 2019. Gunderson: this committee is very active and he supports the work being done. At this time he made a motion to change the</p>
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	Range Committee (which was ad hoc) to a standing committee to be known as "the Shooting Sports Committee". 2nd by Larson. Motion carried.	
ACTION	As stated above.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

8. Bear Committee

Mike Rogers

DISCUSSION	<p>Mike gave the report of the Bear Committee meeting which may be viewed under committee reports on the website. They had the 3 following questions as proposed for the spring meetings which are: Resolution(660618) (requires legislation). Restore the Bear Application to the Conservation Patron License. Motion by Smaby 2nd by Haase to advance. Motion carried. Question advance Resolution(440518). Quartering of deer, bear and elk in the field. Motion by Larson 2nd by Krueger to advance. Motion carried. Question advanced. Resolution (370118) (requires legislation). Non-resident hunting laws (3 part question). Motion by Gunderson 2nd by Blattler to advance as amended. Motion carried. Question advanced. (Note: the following sentence was removed from the explanation; "in addition, non-residents can train hounds in Wisconsin with no license or permit". The current cost for out-of-state application (\$4.50) will be added). The 1st of 3 questions. Do you favor raising the non-resident application fee for bear to \$40? Was advanced. The 2nd of 3 questions. Do you favor raising the non-resident application fee for Bobcat to \$40? Was advanced. The 3rd of 3 questions. Would you support enacting reciprocity requirements where non-residents are restricted to the same requirements to trapper hunt bear or Bobcat, or trained dogs in Wisconsin, as Wisconsinites are restricted to the non-residents respective home state? Was rejected.</p>	
ACTION	As stated above.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

9. Wolf Committee

Bill Yingst

DISCUSSION	<p>Was noted that the chair of the Wolf committee was in attendance actually adjourned for supper, he was asked since his report was short to give it at that time. He asked the approval of the DLC to call a meeting in the 1st quarter of 2019 idolize ten-year Wolf Management Plan. Motion by Blattler 2nd by Rogers to approve committee request. Motion carried.</p>	
ACTION	As stated above.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

10. Land-Use Committee

Larry Bonde

DISCUSSION	<p>The committee chair was not present so Larry presented the 3 questions submitted by them, they are as follows: Resolution (550118). Creating a centralized list of timber sales. Motion by Taylor 2nd by Larson to advance. Motion carried. Question advances. Resolution (120218, 230218, 420418, 540618). Restored public for public lands. Motion by Weir 2nd by Roehng to advance. Motion carried. Question advanced. Resolution (570518). Limit the number of gun deer hunters in Natural Bridge State Park. Motion by Weir 2nd by Larson to reject. Motion carried. Question rejected. (This is an enforceable issue of trespass that should be the alternative.)</p>	
ACTION	As stated above.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

11. YCC Oversight Committee

Trent Tonn

DISCUSSION	<p>Trent thanked the committee for an opportunity to report to them today. He talked about plans and opportunities to visit educational sites such as state parks and nature facilities. They have also received an invitation to tour the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery. Plans for coordinating efforts for the YCC at the state convention this year are moving forward as well. The committee spent quite some time on the review of background checks for YCC mentors, one of the committee members took all the mentor applications and ran them through CPAP all but 7 past. The committee spent quite some time reviewing what should disqualify a mentor. The committee stated that obviously anybody that had a record for violence or sexual offenses no matter how old would not be allowed to mentor. The committee also discussed and decided against any type of look back on these types of identifiers. There was also a discussion about minor offenses the example given was a 50-year-old applicant with an OWI 20 years ago. The committee asked for recommendations from the DNR legal staff who said, that if there were no recurrent issues a 7 year look back window would be appropriate. The committee did not feel comfortable with taking that position without some guidance from the District Leadership Council. Trent stated that after the committee met Kari was in contact with him with additional information from DNR legal that stated it may not be</p>	
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	<p>necessary to have a hard and fast number on look back, that way it gives an opportunity for oversight based more on the overall situations. They also said it may be more pertinent to look at how the incident happened and what was involved rather than just looking at a set time between incident and the application. They also recommended in the guidance to use the terminology "controlled substance" instead of narcotics, this term allows for a broader scope of review. They were also uncomfortable with treating past OWI instances differently than controlled substances.</p> <p>Taylor: his understanding is when somebody volunteers to be a mentor in DNR sanction hunts the department does the background checks. Wouldn't it be more appropriate to have LE involved with this process?</p> <p>Trent stated that the YCC basically adopted the same guidelines as the DNR but were not comfortable in making those decisions so they are asking the DLC for guidance.</p> <p>Taylor: he understands their concerns and as a DLC member is not comfortable with making those decisions so he would kick it up to the executive committee of which he is a member of and he is still not comfortable with making the decision. He would much rather have law enforcement makes those decisions.</p> <p>Maas: he asked what legal exposure with the WCC be exposed to should somebody challenge a decision based on the current criteria.</p> <p>Discussion on that indicated that most people felt we had the right to make our own guidance and that 99% of the people would probably be understanding enough not to challenge. Maas stated that it only takes one and he was concerned with any legal liability.</p> <p>Motion by Blattler 2nd by Roehng for the DLC to advise the WCC chair to contact the DNR secretary to find out if LE could do the background checks for the mentors. Motion carried.</p> <p>There was a 2nd motion by Gunderson seconded by Larson to give the committee direction on background checks the DLC recommends the YCC committee take the position of "when in doubt throw it out" on any questionable candidates. Motion carried. Recommendation adopted.</p>
ACTION	As stated above.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

12. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee

Terri Roehng

DISCUSSION	<p>Terry walked the committee through a slide presentation of the committee's work as they evaluated the Strategic Planning Process. The committee reviewed each of the Strategic Plan goals and associated strategy, they were reviewed as: completed, not completed (WCC took no action on strategy) or ongoing (WCC took some action and it needs to continue). Of the 21 strategies 4 were completed (19%), 6 did not complete (29%), 11 started and ongoing (52%), for a total of 71% started.</p> <p>The following interim recommendations were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-commit and buy into whole strategic plan. Use it as a road map to follow. 2. Every other year review. 3. Listen and respect what committees come back with. 4. Metrics and measurements-need to identify how we measure ourselves. 5. Committees aligned to WCC planning goals. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Agenda. B. Mission. C. Are we meeting the goals with our committee actions? D. Wallet size card "Tab K" of WCC. <p>Final Recommendation</p> <p>Current strategic planning process is not the best use of time for this volunteer organization and committee is therefore recommending a different approach.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change what we call it to WCC Planning Goals so it is more meaningful to our delegates. 2. Long-term goals and annual review. 3. Creation of yearly goals (short-term and long-term). <p>(Note if interested in a more detailed explanation please see the minutes from the Strategic Plan Committee meeting).</p> <p>Terry suggested that we rename the Strategic Plan to make it more relevant the committee suggested "annual planning goals." These would be short term goals that we would review annually and it was felt that we would have control and accountability. We would also be realistic and work on longer-term goals but we really need to figure out how to keep our short-term goals alive and active. With the shorter term goals we can keep the metrics in place and really evaluate what our plans are and whether we are meeting the goals.</p> <p>Maas: one of the things from the old planning process that we try to keep moving was reports to the DLC and also questioning at DLC meetings whether we were meeting any of our targeted goals. We all realize that our meetings go long we put a lot of formation into them and we probably could've done a better job and didn't quite meet the mark there. I'd liken the planning process to a budget. The true meaning of a budget is to set goals, but numbers in a budget are a moving target. At home you can plan on spending so much for entertainment, utilities, transportation but more often than not something happens. We plan so much for gas for transportation but you didn't plan for the mechanical portion of the</p>
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	vehicle to breakdown unexpectedly. We need to be flexible, we need to realize that we don't always meet our expectations and we need to recognize and react to changes. One of the things that I was concerned about when we entered into this process was that this was going to turn into the flavor of the year. We did some good things as we work through this process but I don't think we were flexible I think now is the time to evaluate and move forward. The only thing constant is change. Motion by Blattler 2nd by Weiss to accept and approve the final recommendations of the planning committee and use that as a template to move forward. Motion carried	
ACTION	As stated above.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

C. DLC focus groups on the Strategic Plan for the Wildlife Program DNR

DISCUSSION	<p>After supper on 1-4-19 members of the DLC were invited to break out into focus groups on the strategic plan for the Wildlife Program. It should be noted that this is a draft plan and a work in progress. We thank the department for asking our input on this plan.</p> <p>We were given an overview of: Mission. Vision. Values.</p> <p>According to the Strategic Plan blueprint, goals are broken down into 4 distinct priorities.</p> <p>Customer priorities: increase active citizens engagement by increasing user base, improve public understanding of wildlife management, engage public in decision-making, and implement formal communication plans, including social media. Reduce human wildlife conflict, by monitoring and controlling human-wildlife conflict, educate public and reduce illegally-held wildlife cases. Improve public land access and recreation, by providing diverse wildlife -related recreational opportunities along with streamlining hunting regulations.</p> <p>Partner priorities: by working with other agencies and partnering with and provide expertise to NGOs. To accomplish this they will collaborate and regularly liaise with other agencies, research and monitor wildlife population health, create policies and regulations to sustain wildlife health, and be a source of information about wildlife for partners and the public.</p> <p>Operational priorities: improve customer experience by streamlining hunting regulations and improve data about property users. Balance positive/ negative social and ecological impacts by responding to emerging wildlife diseases and health matters, update species management plans every 10 years, create wildlife emergency response plans, implement wildlife damage control strategies and minimize the spread of CWD. Improve habitat quality by increasing acreages of priority habitats, maintain wetlands, map and define state habitat potential, create strategic habitat management plans and create public land master plans.</p> <p>Staff priorities: be at the forefront of the wildlife management profession while supporting research to improve scientific decision-making and provide staff opportunities to serve as subject matter experts in public venues. Maintain DNR as workplace of choice for wildlife management professionals by implementing marketing plan to recruit new employees, recruit and develop qualified diverse applicants, provide regular scientific and professional development, and improve retention through competitive compensation. Structurally align operations in system with core work by balancing staff time for internal operation and customer-facing activities, improve technological capabilities to support staff and customers and establish metrics to evaluate progress on wildlife management program priorities.</p>	
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

D. Payment for CWD Positives Tom Hauge and Mike Foy

DISCUSSION	<p>Tom presented a Power-point presentation as a review of CWD history in Wisconsin. He also outlined a plan that was approved September 12, 2018 by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. This discussion was a precursor presentation of the DLC advisory question that he is proposing, which reads as follows: Chronic Wasting disease (CWD) is causing serious damage to Wisconsin deer herd and deer hunting heritage. 2018 surveillance detected a record 965 CWD -positive deer; of which 99% were within the southern farmland deer management sold. The percentage of the southern farmland deer herd infected with CWD also increased significantly.</p>	
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	<p>The Association of Fish and Wildlife agencies recently identified best management practices for combating CWD. To manage CWD spread and prevalence, they recommended using hunting to target deer herd cohorts most likely to have CWD, as well as, CWD hot-spots.</p> <p>The CWD payment for positives (P4P) goal is to increase the disease control effectiveness of Wisconsin's deer hunting seasons. Participation is completely voluntary. P4P pays both landowners and their hunters a significant financial reward for each CWD positive deer they harvest. A smaller reward would also go to cooperating CWD sampling businesses to encourage more sampling sites. Using Wisconsin's database of 226,000 tested deer, P4P would create probability maps to help landowners and hunters make harvest choices on their land. A pilot would test whether P4P can increase both the rate of CWD sampling and removal of CWD positive deer from infected areas. If the pilot is successful, the P4P program can be ramped up for full implementation as a tool to reverse rising CWD prevalence.</p> <p>Funding for a 2019 pilot program would need to be authorized in the 2019-21 budget bill. The recommended funding source is existing tax revenue generated from Wisconsin's \$1.3 billion deer economy. The cost of a pilot depends on the level of reward chosen and scope of the pilot. He then gave an example for a pilot yielding 500 CWD -positive deer.</p> <p>As an example if your word payment is \$750 per deer the pilot would cost \$900,000. If the payment level is \$1000 per deer pilot cost is \$1,150,000. If the reward payment level is \$1250 per deer the pilot cost would be \$1,400,000. It should be noted that the pilot cost includes \$500 payments to landowners and hunters and a \$300 payment to sampling site businesses.</p> <p>The proposed question for the spring hearing would read as follows: Do you favor conducting a pilot CWD Payment for Positives program to test if CWD testing rates and removal of CWD-positive deer can be increased from infected areas? Yes or no.</p>
ACTION	After much discussion there was a motion by Blattler and 2nd by Haase to advance to the 2019 questionnaire. Motion carried. Question will be added.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

E. Update on Resolution Tracking System

Michael Schmidt

DISCUSSION	<p>Mike gave a short presentation on where he is with the software updates that will allow us to better track resolutions not only in the future but with a little manipulation some of our archived paper. The presentation was very informative and explained why we needed to change, as we did today parts of the code of procedure to eliminate hand written resolutions. The technical facts are that the optical reader can only interpret typewritten documents requires it. The DLC thanked Mike for all the work that he is put in on this and look forward to the positive results as this is totally phased-in and evolves. This will help us do a better job in explaining to our constituents what happens in the system.</p>
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Larson: commented on the use of ATVs/UTVs in the state. Some of the innovations that have happened over the last 5 years are truly amazing, it becomes more and more difficult to meet the needs of these user groups. He noted that there are a number of surveys going around to try to get a better idea on the use of these vehicles in the wintertime and what allocation of resources are and what will be necessary in the future. Wisconsin ATV Association will be working with its member groups and liaising with the Congress as we move these projects forward. The last line item he mentioned was he did get a few calls on the grouse season issues. The concerns expressed to him were that if it does happen for a coming season that maybe we could look at reducing the bag limit rather than shortening the season.</p> <p>Krueger: asked if the online voting is going into effect this year? Kari said yes and she will be working to get additional information out very soon.</p> <p>Ellingson: the discussion on lead used in fishing is a very hot issue in his area and he will be interested in seeing how it all plays out.</p> <p>Bodnik: nothing.</p> <p>Gunderson: wanted to remind everybody about the Youth Expo and encourage all the delegates to contact clubs and organizations about sponsoring transportation to get the youth to the Expo. He also suggested that after this year's convention that the DLC members have a meet and greet with the new DNR management.</p> <p>Haase: encouraged the members to get information and ideas for the Expo to Dale or Mark LaBarbera and also assist through donations on its funding. He also voiced concerns of the average age of the Congress delegates and encouraged all counties to work towards a younger delegation.</p> <p>Blattler: again commented on the grouse season and the problems with a lack of test kits and he hopes that the department heard the complaints and will move forward the coming season. He feels that Elk Project is going very good ,50 pregnant cows from Kentucky do about April 22. He was impressed with the participation of the members of the Rules and Resolutions</p>
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	<p>Committee.</p> <p>Weiss: expressed concern with his County CDAC delegation, there are 3 open positions that are not filled and asked if we could not get some flexibility on the qualifications. He also encouraged members to collect and pass on any historical articles on the Conservation Congress activities whatever to him as WCC historian.</p> <p>Risley: stated he had a call from the Wisconsin Coon Hunters Association who is in the process of reactivating their organization and that they are going to be conducting the nationwide semi finals for top Coon dog in Wisconsin.</p> <p>Rogers: he agreed that is hard to get CDAC participation and the WCC needs to keep encouraging attendance at their meetings. He also talked about the 10 year Bear Management Plan and asked that if anybody had any input to contact him with that information.</p> <p>Bodnik: is very concerned about participation in CDAC's and doesn't see enough information going out advertising it.</p> <p>Lobner: none.</p> <p>Smaby: also asked that at this year's state convention that members of the DLC take a little time to attend some of the YCC programs. Get a feel for what they're doing, mingle with him a little bit give them an opportunity to ask some questions.</p> <p>Roehng: nothing.</p> <p>Weir: agrees that we should continue to push a statewide ban on baiting and feeding. Ask questions about process on checking reference points for a Bear Harvest Permit.</p> <p>Taylor: also agrees that we need to continue to apply pressure on a statewide baiting and feeding ban. He also asked if we had any kind of consensus on the committee assignment process.</p> <p>Blattler: we've done the survey, we identified it not every district is doing it the same way but there is some reluctance in giving up the way we've always done it. We as DLC members can really help ourselves if we fully understand what our job is as leadership in this organization. If we do a good thorough job at the spring district meetings of gathering the information and in some districts the leadership asked for that information prior to the D.I.C meeting. We all know people that show up at the district meeting walk-in with the sealed envelope that was sent to him and it is still sealed.</p> <p>Bonde: in his experience sending out a brief questionnaire asking individuals why they want to be on a particular committee works well. Some districts the assignment process works well and in others it is very contentious.</p> <p>Maas: I think it is important that we as DLC members understand and communicate to our County delegations the responsibilities of being a committee member. And as committee chairman we need to do a better job of communicating back to our districts when individuals are not performing on behalf of their district.</p> <p>Dale put up some slides updating the DLC with the progress on the education trailers. He explained the process what the intention was and the amount of support needed. He encouraged the DLC members to take this information back to their district meetings and to the county levels to get the needed support both in display material and dollars to offset the cost of maintaining the trailers. He was asked to send out a communication to all the DLC members reaffirming the needs and said that he will do that in the very near future and certainly prior to the district meetings.</p> <p>Bonde: nothing further. There was a motion by Weiss 2nd by Blattler to adjourn. Motion carried meeting adjourned 11:49 PM</p>
ACTION	Information only. No action taken.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	11:49 PM
SUBMITTED BY	Dale C. Maas
DATE	01/27/2019