

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Deer and Elk Advisory Committee MEETING MINUTES



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| ORDER OF BUSINESS | 8-24-2019 | 9:30 AM | Mead Wildlife Area Visitors Center |
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

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| MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY | Mike Riggle at 9:30 |
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b. Roll Call

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| ATTENDEES | Alan Horvath, Rick Olson, Eric Wojchik, Mike Riggle, Roger Sabota, Duane Beyer, Dale Ebert, Mark Noll, Stan Brownell, Allen Jacobson, Marlin Laidlaw, Wright Allen, Larry Gohlke, Doug Seidl, David Breunig, Anthony Grabski, Charlie Brown, Ken Risley, Robert Bohmann, Kevin Wallenfang, Dave Zebro, Scott Bowe, Dan Storm, Brad Hutnik |
| EXCUSED | Tom Johnson, James Morning, Kieran Kramer, Al Marotz, Dave West, Mike Burkart, Andy Geiger |
| UNEXCUSED | Douglas Williams, Martin Haas (It was stated that Martin was off of the Congress) |
| GUESTS | As they appear in these minutes for Citizen Resolution and DNR Liaisons as shown above. Also Eric Canania and Scott Bowe from the DNR. |

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

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| DISCUSSION | Order of Citizen Resolutions will be changed to accommodate authors that are present. |
| ACTION | Motion made, seconded, and passed. |

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

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| DISCUSSION | Read by Vice Chair Horvath. |
| ACTION | Motion made, seconded, and passed. |

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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| DISCUSSION | Nobody had signed up for public comments. A letter had been submitted by Greg Wurz and was read at the meeting. |
| ACTION | None |

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

See the actual resolution that I am attaching with these minutes. The number shown under discussion is the agenda item number. These minutes show the actual order the resolutions were handled based on whether the author was present.

**A. #4 Cooperative CWD Research: Farm Raised Deer
Keepers, DNR, Wildlife Groups**

JEROME DONOHOE

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| DISCUSSION | Jerome spoke at length about ways that these groups should be working together. | |
| ACTION | Grabski/Laidlaw to advance. Passed unanimously. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| | | |

B. #6 Working together to find solutions to CWD

BRAD HEATH

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| DISCUSSION | This concept was supported but the committee was in favor of passing this and once it "owned" the resolution the committee would combine a number of CWD resolutions. | |
| ACTION | Brown/Siedle to advance. Passed Unanimously. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
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C. #7 CWD Research Recommendations

ROXANNE LOTTS

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| DISCUSSION | Same as for "B". | |
| ACTION | Bohmann/Risley to advance. Passed with 2 opposed. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
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D. #8 CWD Surveillance Testing of Wisconsin's Elk Herd

ROXANNE LOTTS

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|------------------------------|--|--|
| DISCUSSION | Committee members felt that incorrect information had been given in the resolution and/or oral presentation. The committee felt that this work was already being done. | |
| ACTION | Olson/Brown motion to not advance. Passed unanimously. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| | | |

**E. #9 CWD/Tuberculosis Surveillance Testing of
Wisconsin's Elk Herd**

JEROME DONOHOE

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| DISCUSSION | See item "E". There was a table given that showed number of elk that had been tested over the last 18 years. See attached for table. | |
| ACTION | Olson/Brown motion to not advance. Passed unanimously. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
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**F. #10 Deer and Elk CWD Management and Prevention
Fee**

PETE THEISEN

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|------------------------------|---|--|
| DISCUSSION | Committee felt the public should get a chance to vote on this item. | |
| ACTION | Laidlow/Ebert to Advance. Passed 8 to 7. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
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**G. #11 Proper Disposal of Potentially Infected CWD
Carcasses**

JAMES LOTTS

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|------------------------------|---|
| DISCUSSION | The committee felt that this and education were very important to stop the spread of CWD. |
| ACTION | Laidlow/Wojchik to advance. Motion passed with one opposed. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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H. #12 Research is needed to find solutions to CWD

RICK VOJTIK

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|------------------------------|---|
| DISCUSSION | Much research has been done and much more continues to be done. This resolution didn't seem to accomplish enough different than previous resolutions or what is being done. Brown/Laidlaw to advance. Failed by a vote of 6 to 9. The author included written comments. |
| ACTION | Olson/Horvath to not advance. Motion passes with one opposed. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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**I. #13 Designating the maximum capacity of cartridges for
deer hunting weapons to 7 cartridges**

ROBERT KONDRASUK

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|------------------------------|--|
| DISCUSSION | Even those committee members that agree that only one or two shots should be taken weren't willing to mandate this for everyone. |
| ACTION | Noll/Bohmann to not advance. Passed with one opposed. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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J. #19 Requirement for a Whitail Deer Stamp

RON LANG

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|------------------------------|---|
| DISCUSSION | The committee had already passed a resolution that would raise money for CWD research. Some committee members felt it is unfair to ask only hunters to bear the burden of financing extra CWD research. Bohmann/Grabski to not advance. Failed to pass. |
| ACTION | Olson/Noll motion to advance. Passed with 4 opposed. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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K. #1 Central Forest Private Land Antlerless Tags

MARLIN LAIDLAW

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|------------------------------|---|
| DISCUSSION | The money from bonus tags is used for ag damage claims so not much is returned to the Central Forest. The committee feared that hunters in the Northern Forest would want free tags next. Noll/Brownell to advance. Motion failed 7 to 9. |
| ACTION | Olson/Brown to not advance. Motion passed with 2 opposed. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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L. #2 Change Current Rule for Buck Group Bagging

NONE

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|-------------------|---|
| DISCUSSION | The committee comments included that deer camps are still alive in WI even if not as common. Also with CWD more pressure should be placed on bucks. |
| ACTION | Bohmann/Jacobson to not advance. Motion passed with one opposed. |

| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
|-----------------------|----------|
| | |

M. #3 Change the bag limit of Buck deer to One Adult Buck per year per Individual

[PRESENTER]

| DISCUSSION | Only 9,000 to 11,000 hunters a year register more than one buck. This would not have the desired affect. | |
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| ACTION | Bohmann/Brown to not advance. Passed unanimously. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
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N. #5 Create a CWD Scientific Research Working Group

[PRESENTER]

| DISCUSSION | The resolution was advanced but once we "own it" we will combine it with other CWD resolutions. | |
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| ACTION | Risley/Brown to advance. Passed unanimously. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
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O. #14 Earn A Buck

[PRESENTER]

| DISCUSSION | A similar resolution had already been passed in 2017. It passed in 52 counties, failed in 18, and tied in 2. Committee members didn't see a value in re-asking the question. Committee members showed support for the concept and the result of EAB but didn't want to advance unless the name changed and other options were included. | |
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| ACTION | Gohlke/Noll to advance. Passed 8 to 7. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
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P. #15 Extend-a-Buck

TAD R. BEUTIN BY PHONE IN EARLIER

| DISCUSSION | Tad R. Beutin had called in to Riggle with comments. The Holiday Hunt has recently been changed to put more pressure on the antlerless deer. It had been either sex. | |
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| ACTION | Bohmann/Seidl to not advance. Passed unanimously. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
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Q. #16 Expanding Hunting Opportunities in Milwaukee County

[PRESENTER]

| DISCUSSION | The committee would like to see more hunting opportunities in Milwaukee County but the Congress hasn't been involved in this type of resolution. The presenter should work with Milwaukee County directly. | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| ACTION | Bohmann/Seidl to not advance. Passed unanimously. A letter is to be sent to author. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| Mike Riggle | soon | |

**R. #17 Grant CDAC's the Authority to Allow/Not Allow
Baiting and Feeding within their Respective County**

[PRESENTER]

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|------------------------------|--|--|
| DISCUSSION | The committee seemed to focus on the CDACs being able to ban baiting. There was opposition to possibly being able to allow baiting in a CWD affected county. | |
| ACTION | Wojchik/Noll to advance. Passed 9 to 6. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
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S. #18 Refined Antlerless-Only Tool for Farmland Units

MARK NOLL

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| DISCUSSION | This looked like the old river block 2 plus 7 season. Noll explained that it was just the opposite. The old season was to protect antlerless deer. The 2 days allowed either sex and the 7 were buck only. This proposal would allow for any three weeks to be antlerless only to put additional pressure on antlerless deer. Buffalo County tried for a full season of antlerless and it was shot down by the DNR Board. Noll has been told by a board member that Buffalo County should have done a partial antlerless only season but this isn't currently allowed. This resolution would allow just that. | |
| ACTION | Gohlke/Jacobson to advance. Passed unanimously. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
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**T. #20 Sixteen Day Gun Deer Season – Saturday nearest
November 15th Opener**

[PRESENTER]

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| DISCUSSION | Two letters received – see attached. The committee thought the public should get to express their interest in this proposal. | |
| ACTION | Beyer/Olson to advance. Passed unanimously. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
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**U. #21 Resolution to Change the Harvest Recommendation
Date for Northern Forest Zone County Deer Advisory
Committees**

[PRESENTER]

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| DISCUSSION | The DNR is working on a similar change at this time. | |
| ACTION | Bohmann/Allen to table until March meeting. Passed unanimously. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
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V. CONSOLIDATE CWD RESOLUTIONS

MIKE RIGGLE

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| DISCUSSION | As discussed throughout the meeting, the many CWD resolutions were to be consolidated. | |
| ACTION | Riggle/Gohlke to give Riggle authority to consolidate the CWD resolution. Passed unanimously. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| Mike Riggle | For Executive Council meeting in future. | |

Kevin reviewed the 2018 Deer Season. The 2019 Deer Gun Season will have a late opener which can usually be expected to impact (decrease) the buck kill. There will be no Buck Only Counties in 2019. Holiday Hunts will be held in 36 Farmland Counties with 29 of these counties offering the extended January bow season.

Due to annual complaints from hunters unable to take time off work to be at a license agent or go online, Kevin suggested the return of a preference point system for bonus tags.

Kevin gave us an Elk update. The last of the original Michigan elk from the 1995 introduction has died. Otherwise, few collared elk died this year and we are seeing good herd growth. Overall, both herds are growing and doing well. Regarding the final year of the elk reintroduction, 50 elk were captured in Kentucky, of which 48 were transported to Wisconsin following all required health testing including for Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis. Wisconsin has never had a wild elk test positive for CWD and a history of test results can be found on the department web site. After the required 120 quarantine and health testing, 60 elk that included newborn calves were released in early August. All elk were released in the Flambeau River State Forest.

Over the course of the past five years a total of 141 elk were transported from Kentucky with 164 elk released. The reintroduction is now DONE! The cost was \$625,000 to \$650,000 plus staff time. All logistical costs of capture, health testing, quarantine and transport were paid by several outside partners.

The process of writing a new Elk Management Plan is underway and is expected to be finalized and presented to the NRB next summer. Public input sessions will occur this winter.

The 2019 Elk Hunt will once again offer a total harvest quota of 10 bulls within the Clam Lake elk range only. In accordance with tribal rights, the Ojibwe tribes will be able to harvest up to five, and the other five go to state hunters for which 23,036 applications were received. \$7 from each application fee is earmarked for elk management and research in Wisconsin.

A CWD update was given by Eric Canania who is one of the field deer biologists for the department. Last year 16 carcass dumpsters removed about 62.5 ton of carcasses. There are now 36 affected counties with a confirmed CWD in the county. About 20 more counties are affected as they are within 10 miles of a CWD positive animal.

Brad Hutnik gave a Forestry update. Work is being done on the Forest Regeneration Metric for the 2020 CDACs. In 2020 the CDACs must decide if their goal will be to maintain, decrease, or increase the deer population in their county.

Dave Zebro gave a Law Enforcement update. Dave, the Chief Warden, and the Deputy Chief Warden are all retiring soon. Scott Brown attended this meeting and was introduced to us by Dave. He will be assuming Dave's position with the Congress.

Dan Storm gave an update on research projects. The fawn survival rate is lower this year in the studies. There is a new research project at the Hall farm to see if an earlier study with composting CWD carcasses can be duplicated in the field. CWD tests are being developed that might become the new "gold standard" which will allow for quicker and earlier testing. A new study is focused on showing the direction that CWD can be expected to spread.

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

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| DISCUSSION | <p>Monroe County has a CWD Task Force. They have set up 8 sampling sites and are working on dumpsters.</p> <p>Marlin Laidlaw is looking for pictures of white deer. Protecting them has caused problems in some areas.</p> <p>Douglas County is using zoning to stop deer farms.</p> |
| ACTION | None. |

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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| MEETING ADJOURNED | 3:45 A group motion and second was passed to adjourn. |
| SUBMITTED BY | Larry Gohlke, acting Secretary |
| DATE | Aug 24th, 2019 |