



Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
 Legislative Committee  
 Meeting Minutes

<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	12/14/2019	9:30am	Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center, Milladore, WI
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**I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**  
**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by	Scott Gunderson at 9:30am
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**B. ROLL CALL**

ATTENDEES	Kevin Schanning, Joel Taylor, Colin Crawford, Richard Krawze, Lowell Suring, Chuck Boley, Alan Suchla, Peter Heliios, John Jones, Harold Drake, Tashina Peplinski, Robert Benson, Colleen Locke, Scott Gunderson
EXCUSED	Michael Hamm, Dave Larson, Todd Cook, Robert Benson, Cody Gadow, Ronald Fassbender
UNEXCUSED	Tim Gorski
GUESTS	Mark Schultz, Mike Murphy, Matt O'Brien

**C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR**

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Motion to Approve by Harold Drake, second by Colleen. Motion Carried.

**D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT**

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	

**II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Railroad Crossing Prohibition** [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	No new legislative developments on this issue. 2015 AB876 and SB734 would have allowed pedestrians to cross railroad tracks. These companion bills were the last substantive legislation introduced to address this ongoing concern. AB876 passed the Assembly, but no action was taken in the Senate. Mark Schultz spoke on the history of the Railroad Crossing Prohibition. Discussion on how the prohibition is affecting different outdoor activities. Discussed what legislature support or opposition there is. Discussion on who general citizen would know that crossing railroad tracks is illegal.	
ACTION	Motion by Kevin, Second by Colleen, to take to the DLC and Executive Committee the recommendation of this committee that the WCC take an official position to support and pursue legislation similar to 2015 AB876 and SB734, that is further supported by CR320115 from 2015 that was adopted on the floor at the 2015 WCC Annual Convention. Motion carries unanimous.	
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**B. Review of status of 2018 Advanced Resolutions** [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Question #33 - Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the legislature to require all students under the age of 16 to have a minimum of one field day of hands-on experience in hunter, bowhunter, ATV and boater safety classes in order to become certified? - no current action in progress - Current Wisconsin online safety programs do not require a field day, with the exception of hunter's safety which requires it for all students under the age of 18. - Discussion of feedback heard from instructors in support of having a required field day.
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- No action taken

Questions #35 - Do you support the Conservation Congress encouraging the legislature to direct the DNR to complete a feasibility study including a fee structure based on actuarial estimates for a lifetime license fee structure that is age and privileged based, with trust fund implications, and consideration given for possible impacts on wildlife and sport fish restoration funding?

- 2019 AB555 / SB508 are in progress

- No action taken

Questions #36 - Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the DNR and state legislature to develop a framework for a "last chance" opportunity in which a person with a terminal prognosis would be allowed to hunt, fish or trap a non-migratory species of their choice outside of the regular season framework?

- 2017 Wisconsin Act 182

- No action taken

Question #37 - Would you support legislation legalizing florescent yellow as another color option of safety clothing to be worn during any firearm deer season?

- no current action in progress

- No action taken

Question #38 - Would you support legislation allowing deer tracking dog handlers to carry and use firearms to dispatch wounded deer during any open deer season under the condition that the tag holder accompany the handler, if at all possible? This could be done either through the creation of a dog handler's permit which would be purchased prior to the deer season and/or the dog handler obtaining a warden's permission prior to dispatching the animal. Any dog used to track a deer would be required to be on leash. Exceptions for disabled hunters unable to accompany the tracker would be made.

- no current action in progress

- discussion on the question and background

- discussion on feasibility

- discussion on making it clear to move forward as a specific certified license

- No action taken

Question #41 - Would you support allowing the transfer of awarded bear harvest permits to Wisconsin senior hunters ( $\geq 70$  years old) if the senior hunter was required to forfeit harvest points accumulated through the date of the transfer and an individual was only eligible for a transfer one time in his/her life?

- no current action in progress

- discussion on why this wouldn't be moving

- No action taken

Question #42 - Should the Conservation Congress work with the DNR, NRB, and legislature to enact fines/penalties to any landowner and/or renter of agricultural land who violates the law and tills within 5 feet of any stream, ditch, or top of the channel of any surface water?

- no current action in progress

- No action taken

Question #44 - Should the Conservation Congress work with the DNR, the NRB, and the legislature to require hydrogeological surveys be conducted in counties where none have yet been done?

- no current action in progress

- No action taken

Question #45 - Should the Conservation Congress work with the DNR, NRB and Wisconsin Legislature to take up the "Saving Wisconsin Pollinators Act," and include specific language to ban the use of neonicotinoid insecticides (dinotefuran, clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam) regardless of application method on all state owned agricultural and forest lands, and establish limited use guidelines for continued use on commercial and private agricultural lands?

- Bill currently pending introduction - DNR is reviewing and providing feedback to author

- No action taken

Questions #46, Do you support the Legislature and DNR working together to require a Wisconsin Guide License applicant to show proof of insurance? #47, Do you support the Legislature and DNR working together to require a Wisconsin Guide License applicant to show proof of First Aid/CPR training? & #48, Do you support the Legislature and DNR working together to raise Guide License fees from \$40 per year to \$250 per year with these fees earmarked for the Fish & Wildlife Account?

	<p>- no current action in progress                  - discussion on why this might not be moving forward                  - Motion by Chuck, second by Joel to recommend to the DLC and Executive committee to continue to push these three resolutions forward. Motion carries unanimously.</p> <p>Question #49, All non-motorized watercraft should be registered? #50, Anyone who purchases a hunting, trapping or fishing license would receive one non-motorized watercraft permit at no charge? #51, Individuals who carry an active hunting, trapping or fishing license would not require a permit while using a non-motorized watercraft? &amp; #52, Create a group rate for organizations with multiple non-motorized watercraft?                  - no current action in progress                  - discussion on whether the more recently passed resolution to only label non-motorized water craft with contact information would have better support, and that the original reason that this committee forwarded these was more for the safety aspect than for the original question's goal of increasing revenue.                  - discussion on why / how to push this forward in the future as a registration method to increase revenue, but to currently support the most recent resolution for labeling only as a place to start                  - No action</p> <p>Question #53 - Would you be in favor of exploring the ability of pneumatic rifles and bows to be used for hunting large game in the state of Wisconsin?                  - 2017 AB649 / SB551                  - No action</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	Action noted, if any, below each question	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

**C. AB239 / SB231 - Crossbow Transport** [PRESENTER]

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Allows possession of an uncased crossbow on a stationary vehicle – including ATV/UTV. Allows cocked, but unloaded, crossbows to be transported in a vehicle, uncased. DNR testified for information only. Both bills have received committee approval, but have not been scheduled for votes in the Assembly or Senate. Discussion on the specifics of the bills.</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion by Joel, second by Dick, to recommend to the DLC and Executive Council to formally oppose these bills. Motion carries unanimously.	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

**D. AB414 / SB383 - First Time Fishing License** [PRESENTER]

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Extends the first-time buyer fishing license discount (\$5) to residents who are age 16, 17 or over 65. These customers are already eligible for a discounted license (\$7). Would provide clarity and uniformity for all first-time fishing license buyers. DNR testified for information only. Both bills have received committee approval, but have not been scheduled for votes in the Assembly or Senate. Discussion on whether this is necessary.</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>	No action	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>		<b>DEADLINE</b>

**E. AB348 / SB325 - Deer Carcass Disposal Grant Program** [PRESENTER]

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Requires DNR to establish a grant program to direct funds (up to \$5,400 each/fiscal year) to CDACs – in CWD affected counties – for the disposal of deer carcasses. The goal is to fund more carcass disposal dumpsters on the landscape for proper disposal. DNR has met with bill authors to address concerns and recommend an alternative approach that includes utilization of an existing grant program to direct funds to counties.</p>	
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	CDACs do not have the capacity to receive, manage and/or expend grant funds. SB325 has had a public hearing, but a committee vote has not been scheduled. AB348 has not received a public hearing. Discussion on how this would or would not work with the CDACs.
<b>ACTION</b>	No action
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

**F. AB543 / SB611 - Waterfowl Stamp Fee** [PRESENTER]

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Increases the fee for the state waterfowl stamp from \$6.75 to \$11.75. Also requires DNR to prepare a biennial report for the legislature that identifies how the money received from waterfowl stamp fees is used for habitat projects. Estimated to generate \$369,335 in additional revenue each year. Neither bill has received a public hearing to date. Discussion on the proposed increase
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion by Chuck, second by Colleen to recommend to the DLC and Executive committee to formally support this fee increase. Motion carried unanimously.
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

**G. Sandhill Crane Season** [PRESENTER]

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The creation of a sandhill crane hunting season in Wisconsin would require statutory authorization from the Legislature, and review/approval by the Mississippi Flyway Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Legislation authorizing a season has not been introduced since 2013 AB 613, which did not receive a public hearing before the session concluded. Discussion on previous citizen resolutions. Currently in the Mississippi Flyway, Alabama, Tennessee & Kentucky already have established seasons. Minnesota has a season, but it is in a different flyway. Tennessee & Kentucky have had seasons since 2010. There is already a season structure outlined with the DNR, they are just waiting on legislative approval. You can currently receive nuisance permits for sandhill cranes, but they can only be disposed of, not used in any way.
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion by Al, second by Chuck, to recommend to the DLC and Executive committee to not just support the season, but to push the legislators and the NRB to move forward with getting a Sandhill Crane Season approved and established, with the approval, support and recommendation from the DNR biologists. Motion carries unanimously.
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

**H. Wolf Management** [PRESENTER]

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Federal rule to delist gray wolves across the country was released for public comment in March 2019. Public comment period closed in July. USFWS has not yet made a final determination on moving forward with delisting. If they proceed, immediate litigation is a likely outcome. The State of Wisconsin remains without management authority for wolves until action is taken at the federal level. Discussion on updates from the Wolf Stakeholders Committee meeting. There was an update on the wolf count, current official number is 914. Senator Tiffany was at the meeting and commented that if he gets elected and gets out to Washington DC, that this will be a top priority. Talk to Tammy Balwin as a key person in Washington DC involved with attempting to delist the wolves. Deer harvest numbers were drastically reduced, and while not completely due to wolf predation, increased numbers of predators in WI is considered to be a large contributing factor. We all are agreed that we need to get to a position to manage the wolf population, but that our hands are tied until the federal level is cleared.
<b>ACTION</b>	no action
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

DISCUSSION	<p>Pete Hellios wanted to make a point of commending the fire fighting side of the DNR for all their hard work.</p> <p>Kevin Schanning wanted to thank everyone for being a part of the meeting today and making strides to move the WCC back into relevancy. He also asked that we try to make more of a push to address environmental issues as well as sportsman issues.</p> <p>Tashina Peplinski mentioned that LRB3040/1 and AB520/SB469, while they may not gain any traction, are ones to watch.</p> <p>Chuck Boley asked if Scott had any insight into why there seems to be so much resistance from Madison to accept any fee increases?</p> <p>Alan Suchla thanked everyone again for being here today where we can address further issues important to the WCC.</p>
ACTION	<p>Motion to adjourn by Dick, second by Chuck.</p>

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED	<b>1:04pm</b>
SUBMITTED BY	<b>Tashina Peplinski</b>
DATE	<b>12/14/2019</b>