



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 MISSISSIPPI RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes
 Form 8300-026 (R 11/17) Page 1 of 4

ORDER OF BUSINESS	08/10/2019	9:30AM	PRAIRIE DU CHIEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	MICHAEL BRITTON at 9:33AM
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	MARK SCHULTZ, MIKE BRITTON, MAURICE AMUNDSON, TED ENGELIEN, WES DOMINE, KELLY TOLLEFSON, TRAVIS BURCE, HUGH HATCH, CHARLES GAUGER, DANIEL HEIDEL, WAYNE STEITZ, QUARUM IS MET.
EXCUSED	RICK WAYNE, JULIE le da TERRE
UNEXCUSED	ANDREW NOVAK
GUESTS	DAVE HEATH (fisheries), ROBERT JUMBECK (LAW ENFORCEMENT),

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Addition of Citizen Resolution to the Agenda - add under II.A.
ACTION	MOTION BY WES DOMINE AND 2ND BY MARC SCHULTZ TO ADD CITIZEN RESOLUTION TO EARLY PART OF MEETING, UNDER ITEM IIA. - CARRIED WITH NO DISSENT.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	At our meetings, we are regularly talking to our department liaisons to advise them of citizen comments and feedback.
ACTION	Motion to add "Department of Natural Resources" to the mission statement after "NRB" - Motion by Marc Schultz, 2nd by Dan Heidel - no discussion - carried.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Much citizen comment received by many members on Railroad crossing Access policy. History of changes and where we are at. Suggestion of possible paid pass and money goes to safety upgrades on railroad. River access and piling metal v. riprap to protect. Some landings not accessible from flooding. Dedicated crossing points is not desirable. Resolution that was submitted got no traction. Electronic monitoring of railroad. - 20 minutes
ACTION	No action - not on agenda.

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A.

1.	Resolution: Appropriate harvest and protection levels for native Buffalo fish.	Wes Domine
	DISCUSSION	Revised since the e-mail went out. Change to "Native Buffalo". Not a carp. Slow reproduction rates and declining populations. Wes read and explained resolution. Dave Heath - Bigmouth, Smallmouth, and Black - all in Miss. Populations are declining. Live 100 years. Reproduction has been sporadic. Commercial Harvest graphs. Harvest graphs and values. Minnesota longevity information is very different from Wisconsin information. Commercial fishing and bowfishing most popular methods. Create awareness v. make laws.
	ACTION	Motion by Wes Domine and 2nd by Bill Howe to advance the resolution - to study Buffalo population dynamics and harvest as drafted and presented by Wes Domine. Draft of resolution is attached.
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
	Wes Domine and William Howe.	

2.	DNR Fisheries Update	Dave Heath
	DISCUSSION	Study algae blooms on some pools. P-FAS - study - pollution/chemical detections. Fish tissue samples taken. Sediment toxicity issues near Lake Pepin. Rising nitrate and chlorate levels. Sand terraces near agriculture points. Long term Zebra mussels - declining. Declines in PCB's etc. Support refuges mission and goals to

	reduce disturbances on waterfowl - avoidance areas - voluntary compliance is goal. Asking commercial fisherman to avoid these areas. Prohibit fishing tournaments from entering these areas - affect thought to be slight. 241 units in two parking areas for local tournament - today - large impact. High social impact on these areas. Parking availability. Dave - asking Committee develop methods to get word out. Getting fliers out to areas impacted by a particular event. Economic impact is very great and biggest focus for locals. River Alliance - persons at the events having personal contact with event participants - example. Discussion on having a booth at big events. Committee to study ways to impact. Important that Wisconsin is taking a lead on this. Habitat projects - McGregor Lake - mainly a forestry project. Raise some of the land to get oaks to grow. Materials from local dredging projects - Erosion control and fish habitat benefits. Project on Pool 10 - Iowa waters - promote aquatic vegetation growth. Reno Bottoms - Upper Pool 9 - forestry - new. Habit Selection Process - science based - objective scoring of projects - collaborative approach. Several spring hearing fisheries questions - all passed. Fish survey - low sauger pops, walleyes somewhat low as well. Sauger declining populations. Northern pike, bass, and catfish populations up. Carp populations low and on decline.
ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Dave Heath, Marc Schulz, William Howe, Wayne Steitz, Dan Heidel, Wes Domine	

B. LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Bob Jumbeck

DISCUSSION	Law Enforcement update - Crazy activity this summer. Low recreation in some areas due to huge flows. State Park work is still on plate. 9 parks getting full time officers - busiest parks. The parks around here are still covered by Wardens at this point. LaCrosse has recreation safety warden - Matt - covers accidents (fatals). Works with local boat patrols to keep them up to snuff. Trying to hire 10 Wardens this year. Noise issues with large surface drive motors is growing. Some wardens have done some decibel training - for work on this issue. Every 10 decibels up is 5 times louder to ear. Q muffler - quiets motor as RPM's increase. After market mufflers big culprits. Regulations on manufactures to stay under 86 decibels. Concerns are being heard and DNR is taking proactive approach. Warden of year - Dale Hochhausen - LaCrosse.
ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Robert Jumbeck	

C. USFWS Update

Marc Schultz

DISCUSSION	USFWS Update: Invasive species. Agent could not make it. Stay on top of letter sent out last year. Did not get it last year has it now. Invasive species very important impacts.
ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Marc Schultz	

D. Invasive species update.

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Invasive species - plants/fish. Invasives may increase due to high water events. Our concerns are same and growing. Barge traffic can spread invasives. Purpleloostrife is rampant and spreading - grows in any site type. Idea - Adopt a highway personnel helping on erridaction.
ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Marc Schultz	

E. Impact of High water - flooding

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	A boat tour is scheduled for after meeting. 1.5 hour boat tour down river and through some sloughs. Many tree roots undercut and trees toppling. Promotes undesirable plants to grow more - poison ivy and nettles. Much damage along river - started with ice damage in spring due to fast rise of river. Large economic impact. Barge traffic late is and is now ramping up.
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ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
BILL HOWE	

F. Bowfishing - noise, overharvest [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Carp populations declining - why - is this good? River changing due to high waters and vegetation increasing. A virus has been attacking carp. Water clarity may be contributing factor as well.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

G. Sturgeon Marc Schultz

DISCUSSION	Effort by an environmental group to list as endangered (Lake Sturgeon). Finding lots of Sturgeon in many new/old places. Populations in river seem to be good - no studies in the last 5 years. They are reproducing. Not followed and modeled like Winnebago System. Doing well around the state. Menominee Tribe access efforts going well.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Dave heath		

H. Minnesota/Iowa group license William Howe

DISCUSSION	Challenging for enforcement. Committee in Minnesota seeking participation from Wisconsin. How this can be done with out public input.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

I. Bait Harvest Wes Domine

DISCUSSION	Has been on agenda numerous times on this committee. Access to bait harvesting. VHS reaction caused some original restrictions. Trying to keep this on front burner. Resolution in Warm Water Committee. Document presented with history and results. It is one of the topics that Wes has had questions on from citizens. People frustrated with lack of furtherance at spring hearings. Answer has been it is to keep consistency between venues on the River. Needs to be advanced to get resolution to issue - keep from dying. Dave - team put together to address issue - got through 2/3 of work needed - close to being done - team leader left and it withered. 2014 was last meeting. Questions about resurrecting committee. May not be high priority. Dave to get a list of accomplishments of previous team. Info will be added to motion - to advance this topic quickly. WCC is the only venue for participants that want to harvest bait. Note - some parts of river are dead zones for bait shops making access to live bait difficult. Recommend getting issue in front of District 5 meetings.	
ACTION	Motion by Wes Domine - Travis Burce 2nd - MRC request further consideration and action by WDNR Fiusheries, to revise local bait harvest Restrictions so to allow limited quantities "personal daily use" bait harvest from AIS impacted waters. Carried. Passed unanimously - no dissents.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Dave Heath		

J. Potential for a meeting of MRAC in Feb/March Mike Britton

DISCUSSION	We would be allowed to have two meetings. Why two meetings? Refuge closures would be discussed. Time frames for meetings - most beneficial. Earlier meeting? DNR activities? Agency decision making time-frames.	
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	Electronic meeting - some felt past attempts were not so successful per some involved. Announce participant's turn to talk. Discussion on protocol on how it would be done if tried. Money in budget?	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

K. Corp of Engineering Update.

Marc Schultz

DISCUSSION	Discussion on information in the hand out - fact sheet. Marc and Tavis attended a meeting about upper MR management. Passed out some cards seeking information. More public input - low attendance at the meetings. Some upcoming meetings coming soon. Various areas down to Missouri. Topics - boat erosion, regional cooperation, Forest control/management. Travis Burce attended many of these meetings. Go over time-frame on the handout.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Travis Burce		

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	REED KABELOWSKY - Son promoted to Chief in Navy - imagine being on (California) CCC v WCC. MIKE BRITTON: Outreach items - powerpoint on website for our use. Updated brochure. Public outreach is most important goal. TRAVIS BURCE: Sauger population decline - options - DNR reports that some regs were tried and not liked by public. WES DOMINE: Why did MRAC members need to submit resume? Bait harvest issue - results and numbers. Invasives - watch out for Japanese knotweed - spreads by rhizomes and is hard to kill. Thanks to DNR folks for attending and to chairs and secretary. DAN HEIDEL: Spring hearing - wants consideration for crossbow poundage reduction for use on fish. Use of Go Wild card on River? Where is this at? Other agencies do not have access. WILLIAM HOWE: Master Plan issues for river near Dubuque to Guttenburg. WILLIAM STEITZ: Catfish bowhunting issue.
ACTION	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion by Dan Heidel 2nd by Kelly Tollefson to adjourn 12:20PM
SUBMITTED BY	Reed C. Kabelowsky
DATE	08/12/2019