

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Shooting Sports Committee Meeting Minutes



CONGRESS

Form 8300-026 (R 09/16)

Page 1 of 4

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| ORDER OF BUSINESS | 11/02/2019 | 0930 | Marathon County Public Library, 300 1 st Street, Wausau |
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1. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

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| Meeting called to order by | Harold Drake at | 0935 A.M. |
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B. ROLL CALL

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| ATTENDEES | Allan Pribnow, Ken Anderson, Dennis VandanBloomen, Harold Drake, Steve Ninneman, Charlie Brown, Scott Gunderson, Scott Tubbs, Richard Stearm, Bill Biggs, Bill Lorenz, Gary Dieck, |
| EXCUSED | Richard Stream |
| UNEXCUSED | |
| GUESTS | Emily Iehl (Committee DNR Liaison) |

c. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

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| DISCUSSION | There was no committee request to amend. |
| ACTION | MB: Steve N. SB: S. Gunderson to approve agenda. Agenda Approved on a voice vote |

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

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| DISCUSSION | Original Mission Statement--Shooting Sports Committee: The mission of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Shooting Sports Committee is to represent the sporting public involved with shooting ranges in this state. The committee will look into and work with, but not be limited to the following issues at present: standardization of rules and regulations, the use of Pittman-Robertson funds allocated for range use, and environmental, legal, and social issues on shooting ranges by working with the DNR, the legislature, the Governor and Wisconsin citizens to effectively manage current and future Wisconsin shooting ranges for present and future people involved with the shooting sports to enjoy. Mission statement was read by Harold Drake It was noted that the committee designation be changed from Shooting Range Ad-Hoc Committee to Shooting Sports Committee. Also, that the wording of the mission statement be changed to reflect the same. It was also Suggested that the statement be shortened. |
| ACTION | Edits with result as follows: The mission of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Shooting Sports Committee is to represent the sporting public involved with shooting ranges in this state. The committee will work with the DNR, the legislature, and Wisconsin citizens to effectively manage current and future Wisconsin shooting ranges. Motion By Ken Anderson, 2 nd by Scott Gunderson To request changes to the mission statement. Motion carried. Harold Drake will request At the D.L.C. meeting |

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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| DISCUSSION | none |
| ACTION | No one from the public present. |

11. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Citizen Resolution: Creating a full-time shooting sports coordinator (450119)

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| DISCUSSION | Author (Steve Ninneman) Spoke on behalf of the resolution. He stated there is a need for a full-time DNR employee to manage and champion Shooting Sports Statewide. Examples given were high school shooting sports, 4H shooting programs, as well as developing and managing a State wide shooting competition. Funding for position was discussed. P/R money, license fee increases and Ag. damage dollars were discussed as options. This position would also be beneficial for sighting future ranges. The Legislature would have to approve a full-time position to support. | |
| ACTION | MB: Charlie Brown SB: Gary Dieck to advance the resolution. Unanimous approval. | |
| | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: Chair H. Drake to forward resolution question for Leadership Council approval | DEADLINE: 30 November 2019 |
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B. Develop committee for lead management training (040119)

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| DISCUSSION | The resolution writer Allan Pribnow spoke on behalf of the resolution He believes there is a need for a coordinated program supported by the public which could help prevent closure of ranges due to lead management issues. We must develop a program that is proactive rather than reactive, to a judicial ruling and a time limits, that could be as short as 30 days, to develop a lead management program. Local clubs/ranges bear the brunt of the cost of range clean-up. Permit's and the effects of any stream/water bodies near-by create complications. This is related to previous resolution 450119. The Idea is to work with the DNR to create a committee to assist and advise ranges, conservation club members, owners, and concerned citizens how to develop their own Environmental Stewardship Program. E.P.A. rules govern lead management locally and notion-wide. | |
| ACTION | MB: Steve Ninneman SB: Ken Anderson to advance the resolution. Unanimous approval. | |
| | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: Chair H. Drake to send resolution question for Leadership Council approval | DEADLINE: 30 November 2019 |
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C. Review of updated statewide range listing

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| DISCUSSION | The updated list of ranges was made available to the committee members. The committee chair read a copy of the up-date request that was presented at this year's spring district meetings. It was noted that not all Districts or counties responded to the request for updates. Exact information was not available on who did or did not report changes. Emily Ihel reported that there were no changes made to the list. Possibly due to staff changes. It was suggested that the list will need to be updated annually due to continual changes taking place at ranges. Any committee members with knowledge of changes were asked to submit them to her directly. The question was asked if we want to continue the effort and who is the person that we submit the information to? | |
| ACTION | Motion by Ken Anderson to request annual updates to the list at the state convention. 2 nd by Scott Gunderson. Motion carried. | |

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| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE Harold Drake | DEADLINE |
| Will bring up at January D.L.C. meeting as part of his report. | |

D. WDNR range grant program (update on 2019-2020 cycle)

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| DISCUSSION | <p>Emily Iehl passed out a copy of the D.N.R Program Guidance paper work for public and private ranges. The summary letter dated 27 Nov 2018 from Keith Warnke. The document details the Range Grant Program guide line for applicants. Range renovations and maintenance projects for shooting ranges close to large population centers in the southern portion of the state are given priority. Table 2-Summary of other key issues: The range has to open to the public for a specific number of days per year and ADA compliant.</p> <p>Current timeline for the 2020-2021 grant cycle is Sept 15th deadline. Grants would be awarded for the 2021 construction season. Emily Iehl reported that available funding will be about \$300,00. and that the deadline might be adjusted in the future.</p> <p>. Grants need approval before April of 2021 so that applicants can make construction plans and contracts. Grant approval must be secured first, before work can begin. Reimbursement through the grant program is done when work is completed. Some applicants may not be able to complete their projects in the construction season. This is Wisconsin. It was suggested that the Public Range definition needs further clarification. Committee members would like to see a recommendation that the Department increase funding from Pittman/Roberts to perhaps \$500,000 dollars. Financing Public ranges up to 90% has been proposed by the Legislature since current need is greater than available funds. Committee members were asked to review the Range Guidance Document and send their comments or suggestion for change to Emily.</p> | |
| ACTION | Emily Iehl DNR briefing information item. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| Committee Members review and reply if they desire | 30 November 2019 | |

E. Update on state managed ranges (McMiller, Columbia, Yellowstone, etc)

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| DISCUSSION | <p>Emily Iehl reported that Badger-Peshtigo range was closed until November 2019 because it needed baffles to prevent errant rounds leaving the range. Columbia County: Neighbor Complaints concerning noise issues. They have experimented with two different noise suppression systems. Berms have washed out due to heavy rains and need to be rebuilt. Currently awaiting contractor recommendations and improved weather to affect repairs. Range is currently Closed. Pistol range abuse concerns were also mentioned. A gate installed. Shorter shooting hours will be put in place with staffing on site during open hours. Also, cameras will be installed to monitor range activity. Yellowstone did not have the same issues. Emily also reported that the lease at the state-owned Mc Miller Range near Eagle expires in December. A committee was formed and has met to consider current applications from prospective operators. The proposals are currently under review and a final decision is forthcoming.</p> | |
| ACTION | Emily DNR Information only item, | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE 12/31/19 | |
| Dennis VB to write a Grants letter (information from Emily) to be developed as a handout at the WCC Conservation Congress meeting in May 2020. Harold will present to DLC in January. | | |

F. Current range issues (noise, escaped rounds, etc.)

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| DISCUSSION | Emily Iehl gave an update on current range issues. She reported that state wide there are currently a very minimal number of concerns. Strategic Guidance 2014-2019 for range safety was handed out to committee members. Committee members were requested to review the document and provide any feedback they may have, to her. Currently the department has no internal committee to address range issues and make recommendations to ranges with issues. It was suggested that a committee could be formed to address issues and provide guidance to ranges with problems. Possibly some members would be interested in getting involved! Cameras may be needed on some ranges. NRA Range Safety officers are available to make recommendations for range safety | |
| ACTION | Emily Iehl DNR (Information only item) No specific action at this time. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | | DEADLINE 11/30/19 |
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G. Possible WCC youth delegate shooting match at the 2020 state convention

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| DISCUSSION | Harold Drake reported that he has been in contact with the YCC Committee chairman. The committee has discussed the idea and is very open to the suggestion. The event would be on Thursday at the Berlin Conservation Club, depending on availability. The Berlin Conservation Club is located in Green Lake County within 10 miles of the 2020 convention site. He has been in contact with the Berlin club and is awaiting confirmation from them. We would need to coordinate with Y.C.C. oversight committee and D.L.C. Looking for committee support to advance the idea and possibly help with the event. | |
| ACTION | MB: Steve Ninneman SB: Scott Tubbs to work with D.L.C. at the January meeting and Y.C.C. to set up a Thursday evening shooting event for YCC delegates and Congress members. Motion Carried | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE Harold Drake | | DEADLINE March 2020 |
| Present to DLC at January meeting. Work with Berlin Club. | | |

H. Update on Scholastic Clay Target Program

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| DISCUSSION | Update by Scott Gunderson: Fastest growing shooting sports program in the US. WI leading in shotgun sports with 116 of the 465 teams in US. They are many social benefits associated with associations developed from participation in the HS shooting program. S.C.T.P. is a 'letter sport' at most schools. This is the future of organized shooting sports. Many virtual shoots that help with the travel expenses. Some weekend shoots are fun events beginning the end of April. Midway USA will match funds in your endowment account—can draw up to 5%. Non-profit 501(c) (3) fundraising. Various options for raising funds, raffles, grants. Some schools have had to work on the issue for a few years to get support. Scholarships for college are available. Weekend afternoon practices to avoid firearms on school property issues. | |
| ACTION | Information only | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | | DEADLINE |
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H. Review of delegate range survey data

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| DISCUSSION | The chairman Read the cover letter that was posted with the 2019 online survey request. The results of this years survey were reviewed as a power point presentation. The information was reviewed and discussed. Committee members were given a copy of the combined 2018-2019 results. Participants who filled out the survey in 2018 and had no changes were allowed to op | |
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| | out after the first question. Delegates filling out the survey represented 54 of the more than 200 shooting ranges on the state wide listing. (Or about 25%) Questions of specific concern based on the combined results were highlighted. They included the following: Counties with one or no response. Lack of specific sites for future range locations. The number of Clubs/Ranges that responded with” no or unknown” to the lead management questions. The number of Clubs/Ranges that responded “no or unknown” to the Range Grant program questions. The number of “no preference or not important “to the range Safety officer questions. Lack of knowledge about the Range protection Act 895.27. State wide Shooting competition responses. What do we now do with the information gathered? Suggestions included Presentation to the D.L.C., sharing with appropriate D.N.R.staff, and allowing publication in WI Outdoor News as a news article. |
| ACTION | Survey results will be presented to the D.L.C. as a power point at the January meeting as part of the committee report. Results will be forwarded to Emily Iehl for distribution to appropriate D.N.R. staff. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | Harold Drake |
| DEADLINE | 12/31/19 |
| Will work with Mike Schmidt to forward data to Emily Iehl | |

H. Lead management efforts

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| DISCUSSION | Previous committee efforts were discussed. Comments included conflicts with wetlands and forests. Clubs may be concerned with being closed if they ask for help in developing a management plan. Use of steel shot for trap/skeet/sporting clays. Individual committee members contact clubs in their area to determine if a lead management plan exists. Only had 24 of 64 responses from the survey with a confirmed “yes” to the question. |
| ACTION | None specific at this time. Discuss at D.L.C. as part of report. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | Harold Drake |
| DEADLINE | 12/31/19 |

J. J. Statewide shooting competition

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| DISCUSSION | Delegate Survey results showed that 28 WCC delegate respondents indicated that they would be willing to serve on a committee to help develop this program. |
| ACTION | None specific. Will be included as part of committee report to D.L.C. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | Harold Drake |
| DEADLINE | 12/31/19 |

K. Committee direction/ priorities

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| DISCUSSION | Committee Chair is looking for member ideas on committee direction and other areas of focus moving forward. Suggestions: Summer committee meeting at a range. Could we get more/any women involved in the committee. General feeling was that we are moving in the right direction covering the important topics. |
| ACTION | None Specific |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | |
| DEADLINE | |

M . Next meeting date

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| | Dates discussed were 12 September 2020 or August 29, 2020. Committee would like to meet at a centrally located range. Perhaps the WI Trap Association south of Wisconsin Rapids. Date decided on for 2020 meeting was August 29th |
| ACTION | Date will be requested |

WCC Meeting Minutes Shooting Sports Committee Form 8300-026 (R 09/16) Page 6 of 6

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| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE Harold Drake | DEADLINE 12/31/19 |
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N. MEMBERS MATTERS

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| DISCUSSION | A WI youth shot in the world record event, among the four youths (14,000 in 12 hours) about 19 a minute. Many items covered previously in the committee and directions section. |
| ACTION | Information only. |
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ADJOURNMENT

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| MEETING ADJOURNED | Scott Gunderson and SB Steve Ninneman motioned to adjourn at 1344 hours |
| SUBMITTED BY | Dennis R. Vanden Bloomen |
| DATE | 11/02/2019 |