

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Trout Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	13 November 2019	1900-1930 hrs.	Teleconference
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Vanden Bloomen at 1905 hours
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Dennis Vanden Bloomen, Chair (Eau Claire), Jim Wierzba. Vice Chair , (Ozaukee), Bob Haase (Fond du Lac), Dave Ninneman (Outagamie), Maurice Amundson (Monroe), Scott Pitta (Adams), Robert Tracyk (Iron), Michael Hranicka (Sheboygan), David Baron (Richland), Larry Damman (Washburn), Jacob Macholl (Polk), Andrew Novak (Crawford), Dale Ebert (Florence),
EXCUSED	Roger Roehl (Rusk), George Korn (Menominee), Nathaniel Brown (Taylor), John Rennpferd (Milwaukee), Maurice Amundson (Monroe), Martin Sands (Walworth), Travis Bruce (Buffalo),
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Kirk Olson (DNR Fisheries) Kari Lee-Zimmermann (WCC Liaison), Ken Anderson (Resolution author)

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	No additions or deletions to agenda
ACTION	Approved

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	No changes brought forward
ACTION	Approved

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. REDUCE BROOK TROUT SIZE ON ELVOY CREEK IN VILAS AND FOREST COUNTIES (64-01-19)

LINDA LEHMAN

DISCUSSION	Resolution: The brook trout size limit on Elvoy Creek in Vilas and Forest Counties was recently raised to 10 inches on the entire creek. There are too many slightly undersized brook trout in the lower portion that die to hook mortality and the upper portion of the creek are shallow and narrow and rarely produce a brook trout of 10 inches. Do you favor reducing the size limit on the brook trout in Elvoy Creek in Vilas and Forest County from 10 inches to 8 inches? Vote in Vilas County 33 pass, 15 no. Resolution forwarded to WCC Trout Committee.
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DNR Response: Recently changed this regulation to a 10-inch minimum when the DNR revamped the trout regulations in 2016. For regulation simplicity all of the streams in Forest and Florence Counties went to an 8²/₃ bag regulation (yellow). However, special regulations were placed on the top system in each county that also has best potential for quality sized trout. Brule Creek-Elvoy Creek system in Forest County has a special regulation. The previous regulation for this stream was an 8" minimum size limit for brook trout and a 12" minimum size limit for brown trout. Brook Trout abundance decreased by 27% from 2008 to 2011, mostly in the age 0 and age 1 fish. In 2016, the intent was to make the regulation more restrictive for brook trout and less restrictive for brown trout. Increasing the minimum length limit on brook trout should have positive impacts on brook trout abundance and size structure, which would be a big step in managing this stream to its potential as a quality brook trout stream. The brown trout population in Brule Creek is expanding, likely at the expense of the brook trout population. Reducing the minimum length limit on brown trout in this system would allow for increased harvest opportunity and would allow for some control on the expanding brown trout population.

Survey results from Elvoy Creek in 2017, show that the regulation is working as intended as brook trout size structure has increased.

The upstream portion of the stream, mentioned in the resolution does not contain as many large trout, but it also receives less angler pressure because the stream is much smaller. Before the current regulations were put in place, the upstream portion was managed under a more liberal regulation (7" minimum size). The 10-inch minimum length limit for all trout keeps regulations simple on the entire system while fulfilling management goals of improving brook trout abundance and size structure and decreasing brown trout abundance.

The DNR will continue to evaluate this regulation and make changes as appropriate.

Discussion: **Author** (K. Anderson) asked about stream survey and survey crews.

Response: The same three sections of the stream were used for the surveys to make the comparable from year to year.

Author suggested that regulation could be different for different parts (upper/lower) of the stream. **Response** was the goal of the trout regulation rewrite in 2016 was to not confuse anglers when they crossed from one section of a stream to the another.

Author suggested that only smaller trout were in the upper Elvoy. **Response** (from Jim W. who fishes that stream) not so. You can get 10-inch brook trout up stream. There are several streams close by that have the 8 inch 3-trout rule.

Author asked about gill lice issues on the stream. Gill lice are present in some trout in that stream.

Author asked about hooking mortality on the stream. **Response:** (R Haase) if you hook with a fly you should not have a release and then a mortality issue. Author—I fish only with spinners.

Author asked about the presence of brown trout as opposed to brook trout. **Response:** (Chair) that does not seem to be relevant to the resolution as proposed.

Committee suggested the author obtain more information from the local fish biologist.

Unanimous agreement on the committee to keep the regulations on this stream the same for all portions of the stream.

ACTION	MB R. Traczyk, SB D. Barron to Accept and forward the Resolution. Motion failed. Will not be forwarded to DLC.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Chair Vanden Bloomen	By 1 Dec send letter to author

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	1928 hours MB D. Barron, SB Dale Ebert
SUBMITTED BY	D. Vanden Bloomen, Chair
DATE	13 November 2019