



Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
 Fur Harvest Advisory Committee  
 Meeting Minutes

**WCC Meeting Minutes**  
 Form 8300-026 (R 11/17) Page 1 of 3

<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	11/04/2020	6PM	Zoom
--------------------------	------------	-----	------

**I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by	Ed Harvey at	6:09PM
----------------------------	--------------	--------

**B. ROLL CALL**

ATTENDEES	Sandy Naas, Duane Butler, Tom Hanks, Hugh Hatch, Scott McAuley, Mike Nicholson, Justin Loehrke, Matt McHugh, Scott Zimmerman, Ed Harvey, Miles Narveson, Wayne Stietz, Kelly Tollefson, Scott Lettman, Larry Meyer, Nate Kroepflin WDNR, Shawn Rossler WDNR, Jennifer Stenglein Applied Sciences
EXCUSED	Scott Schoenike, Dan Cichantek
UNEXCUSED	Tom Avis, Dave Louis, Maegan Loka, Tom Bartz, Richard Clark, Randy Symicek, Tom Savage,
GUESTS	Rob Bohmann, Bryce Larsen, Brett Weir

**C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR**

DISCUSSION	NA
ACTION	Scott Z approved as printed, seconded by Tom H - Motion Carried

**D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT**

DISCUSSION	NA
ACTION	None

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

DISCUSSION	NA
ACTION	None

**II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Citizen Resolutions**

1.	Expand the use of cable restraints (520620)	Rob Bohmann-Author
	DISCUSSION	Author believes it is time to expand use of cables for other species. Questions doesn't address expanding use outside of current season, but author is open to that as well. Noted we have a previous resolution that is working its way through the process to do just that. Questions on if this might muck up that effort. It was noted that cable can be used for otter and beaver under water. Expanding species might fall under legislative. Department will be asking question on expanding CR opening to dryland opener. Bird hunters prefer legal CR over footholds. We might lack BMPs for other species. Antedotel with raccoon and burning leather.
	ACTION	Scott M motion to advance question for private land only. Second by Matt M. Motion carried. Sandy abstained.
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2.	Change the opening day for muskrat statewide to 6AM	Bryce Larsen, Larry Merry, Miles Narveson
	DISCUSSION	ryce had a writeup sent to all members of committee. Not intention to get LE in a pickle with water trapping. Kari noted that the questions were separated because of wording on different types of public land. Should be for all public land to eliminate issues of different types of public. Starting at midnight creates issues for kids. Even with low prices, see lots of competition on best marshes. Questions on impact to waterfowl hunters, but one day shouldn't be a huge impact to them. Hard to mentor new trappers in dark and hurts recruitment efforts. Issues around the safety component. If was safety issue we shouldnt be out there the rest of the year in the dark? Start has highest participation so aligning in daylight has advantages for everyone. Committee reluctant to note it is a safety issue to be out there. Noted we advanced similar question last year. Larry noted that code of procedures

	says that if passes in three counties two years in a row, it should be on the statewide questionnaire. Safety should not be used in the justification of the question.
ACTION	Larry motion to advance question on Starting all water trapping on all public lands at 6AM, Sandy N Second, Motion Carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	
DEADLINE	

3.	Disabled trapper permit (100120)	Skye Goode - not present
DISCUSSION	Discussion revolved around current interpretation of law and what is allowed. LE noted they allowed wolf trappers and youth to do what the author is asking to be allowed to do. Doesn't matter who sets the trap as long as they are actively participating together and both have tagged the trap. Problems only occur when individuals are not actively participating together. Questions arose that we have a motion to advance when it sounds like most agree this is not needed. (Author Skye later notified committee that this is not how it is being interpreted by her local wardens. If they don't set the trap, it is a violation. Note passed to Nate to see if he can clarify so we are being consistent across LE--11/8)	
ACTION	Mike N motion to advance, Second by Scott Z. Motion Failed (Y-Duane, Hugh, Mike, Kelly, Scott, Larry: N-Sandy, Tom, Scott, Scott, Justin, Matt, Miles, Wayne,) Scott M motion to reject Second by Sandy N. Motion to reject passes).	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

4.	Increase trap size (140320)Increase in foothold jaw spread for water sets to nine inches	Scott Zimmerman-Author
DISCUSSION	Right now can only use a trap as big as 8inches. Prevents trappers from using TS85. Author measured and it appears it is 9.25 inches depending how measured. Larger trap allows trapper to get a better hold on beaver and otter as both have large feet. Less chance of inhuman catch. Larger traps are also easier to set. Scott has talked with other author Rocky about this question. This was a question that came in before. Question about making sure that we make the size big enough to ensure you will allow this trap. Question on if this will have an impact on population, capture success, etc. Larger trap likely not BMP tested. WM can ask lab for testing. Was not advanced out of DNR Furbear Advisory Committee last time.	
ACTION	Scott M motion to advance question with size limit as 9.5 inches, Mike N second. Motion passed	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

5.	Lengthen beaver and otter season (720420)	Rocky B Author not present
DISCUSSION	Price of beaver dictate how many beaver on landscape, not season length. Damage at very high levels so not sure why fur trappers prevented from trapping. Could match up to start of muskrat mink. Beaver plan does show different zones so we can treat seperately. MN traps until May.	
ACTION	Scott Z motion to advance, second by Mike N. Motion carried Opposed by Sandy N and Larry M	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

6.	Sharing fishers in Wisconsin (720720)	Nick Mcauley - not present
DISCUSSION	The WTA overwhelmingly objects to this based on their vote held previously. Trappers help bring fisher in the state. This will significantly increase wait time for permits with the limited number of permits. Not an issue of not getting high enough harvest. It was noted that no other state allows fisher to be hunted. It keeps rules clean by not allowing dispatch with firearm and causing issues for LE.	
ACTION	cott Z motion to reject, second by Tom Hanks. Motion passed unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

7.	Landowners and muskrats (720820)	Nick McAuley- Not present
DISCUSSION	This appears to already be on the books. NR 112 sub paragraph 6. No authorization needed to remove muskrats for damage done to dikes, shoreline or roadways. If they are doing damage, they can be removed without permit.	
ACTION	Scott Z motion to reject, second by Matt M. Motion carried unanimously	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

**B. Department Information Items & Updates**

Shawn R WM, Nate K LE, Jennifer S AS

DISCUSSION	1. Furbearer Tagging & Registration--River otter Authorizations this year--7 days to register in person. Proposal for river otter/fisher--do away with registration. will move to GoWild/call in. Cities tag mailed. Only bobcat will have physical permit and will require to do in person registration in 7 days. This is going to board in Jan-Feb. Will be public hearing and should be able to find on Website when that posts. Likely will be virtual event. 2.) DNR Rule Proposals --There are 3 questions. 1.) experimental badger season 2.) expansion of cable restraints to dryland opener 3.) Muskrat/Mink zones and season extension. 3.) LE UPDATE--Warden Class -17 new hires, 5 LTEs 9 come from LE experience so in field sooner. 14-15 incidents, no canine fatalities. 1 domestic feline fatality in BG. Quiet year overall. 4-6.)Aerial surveys done in 2018. always had issues with them due to cost and data they can gather. In partnership with UWSP, they looked at detecting otter with two new methods--bridge surveys and cameras. Issues with camera study was batteries didn't last in camera in cold weather and didn't detect otter when passing through. Bridge surveys showed most promise. Will be going to DNR Furbearer Advisory Committee to adopt for 21-22. Bobcat collaring is done, but will still get data until last collar stops working or is harvested.	
ACTION	None Taken	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

**C. Future committee Meetings**

Ed Harvey

DISCUSSION	Committee prefers to meet in person and out of season if possible on a Saturday. Didn't see a need to meet until next year. Need to avoid the NTA if possible--looks like that is July 22. Committee thinks date of Sat. July 31st would work best.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

DISCUSSION	George (long time delegate) was in a home so keep him in your thoughts. Bobcat question mix-up from last year was discussed. Some members of committee were not happy that field day were not required for HS. Question on submersion sets definition, but it sounds like it was resolved.	
ACTION	None Taken	

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED	<b>Motion by Duane, second by Scott M to Adjourn. Motion Carried</b>	
SUBMITTED BY	<b>Justin Loehrke</b>	
DATE	<b>11/04/2020</b>	