

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

District 5

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	10 March 2020	1900-2245 hrs.	Alma, WI
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1. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	T. Roehrig, at 1900 hours
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Buffalo--Domine, Noll, Roehrig, Ruff, Bruce, Dunn—Gullickson, Carlson, Marotz, Sinz, Briggs Eau Claire—Vanden Bloomen, Zielke, Lkett Lacrosse—D. Heidel, R. Heidel, Schultz, Smaby, Eisenbacher Pepin—Hayden, Wayne, Yingst, M. Hurlburt Pierce—Brazzale, Hatch, Ogden Trempealeau—Anderson, Engeliien, Ryder, Suchla, Symicek Vernon—Leis, Morgen, Wagner
EXCUSED	Eau Claire--Hanks, Quall, Pepin--P.Hurlburt, Boley, Pierce--Loberg, Pepin-- T. ; Vernon: West
UNEXCUSED	Vernon--Greendeer
GUESTS	DNR Personnel: Dan Baumann, Jess Carstens, Jordan Weeks, Kris Johansen, Isaac Kruse

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	No changes to agenda.
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2. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS & PROGRAM UPDATES

A. REVIEW OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Non-toxic shot use on state-owned or managed properties—copper bullets require more cleaning and are 8 times more expensive? 2.Require non-toxic bullets and shotgun slugs on state-owned or managed properties-- no comments Which applies to muzzle loaders? 3.Require nontoxic shot for dove hunting state-wide-- no comments 4. Require nontoxic shot for pheasant hunting on state owned or managed properties-- no comments 5. Require nontoxic shot for turkey hunting on state owned or managed properties-- no comments 6. Require nontoxic shot for ruffled grouse hunting on state owned or managed properties-- no comments 7. Require nontoxic shot for small game mammals hunting on state owned or managed properties-- no comments no alternative for .22 cal rimfire. What do squirrels hunters do? 8. Restrict the placement of artificial water sources (not for ag purposes) for the purpose of attracting elk and deer—would help with the spread of CWD but not a silver bullet solution but rather a best practices issue. 9. Establish a special raffle for difficult to draw tags—(just a concept) no specific tags are mentioned, other states do this.
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B. REVIEW OF NRB SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION	10.19-day gun deer season—justification to increase female hunter participation is misleading, gives
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	<p>more opportunity to hunt. How does this effect the muzzleloader season? Description says muzzle loader, crossbow and archery season would be eliminated for those 10 days the gun season would be added.</p> <p>11. eliminate antlerless holiday hunt if additional 10-days of gun season is adopted—no comment</p> <p>12. establish a no-hunting before the first day of the gun deer season-- A) 2-day rest, B) 5-day rest, C) no change-- no comment</p> <p>13. not have crossbow and archery buck tags valid in the gun-deer season—no comment</p> <p>14. Crossbow hunt only 1-31 October (over 60 and disabled tags not effected)—nonsense for the NRB to increase the length of the gun season when the objective is to shoot more deer while this change would decrease hunter participation. What is age of (60 of over) of crossbow season? Unproductive as it pits one group of hunters against another. Too many deer in the state—need to harvest more deer. Registration system is counterproductive—shoot a buck don't register it. Hunter numbers are decreasing. Former gun hunters just shoot a deer or two with a crossbow and don't go hunting during the gun season.</p> <p>15. Eliminate four deer management zones—use county units with public or private tags—no comment</p> <p>16. Prohibit baiting of deer statewide-- no comment</p> <p>17. Close crossbow season 1 November and reopen when firearm season opens-- no comment (Question 14 above)</p> <p>18 Spring Bear season in Wisconsin—does this require legislation? Is this in the bear management plan? Could use a tag in either spring or fall.</p>
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C. DNR STAFF UPDATES

DISCUSSION	<p>DNR—Wildlife---Kris Johansen fully staffed at bureau level, Ryan Area Supervisor at District level, Scott Walters in LaCrosse area hired. Four (4) area vacancies but will be filled before July.</p> <p>DNR Dan B.--fisheries report-- Fully staffed in Western District with the exception of 2 Habitat Tech AKA—Heavy Equip operators. Mississippi River regs go into effect April so the staff are busy posting signs. On the Minnesota side of the river the regs went into effect 1 March. All new fishing regs go into effect April 1st. Wild bait harvest discussions should begin once new staff are hired in Central office. These positions have been vacant for several years. This is a complicated issue. There is a list of DNR studies being worked on but there is a shortage of fisheries research scientists. Licenses are on sale for 2020. Governor Evers has these priorities—Rural property initiative, more emphasis on climate change for the DNR. Congress Questions on CWD—we gave feedback at listening session. What will be done with the feedback?</p> <p>Warden Report--ATV recreational vehicle safety supervisor, Krueger replaced Scott Schaller as DNR Chief Warden, 2 new investigative wardens hired. Some vehicles are now 'marked' to be more visible.</p>
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D. .REVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION	
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E. REVIEW CONSERVATION CONGRESS SPRING ADVISORY QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION	<p>19. Return of Earn-A-Buck—no comment</p> <p>20. Allow CDAC's to use Earn-A-Buck in counties-- no comment</p> <p>21. Give DNR more flexibility to determine baiting and feeding and ban timing-- no comment</p> <p>22. Give CDAC's more flexibility to determine baiting and feeding and ban timing-- no comment</p> <p>23. Antlerless only deer season restrictions--no comment</p> <p>24. 16-day gun deer season start on --- gun hunters would get to hunt part of the rut.</p> <p>25. no comment</p> <p>26. no comment</p> <p>27. Spring turkey season earlier—population would decline with an earlier opener (study in Missouri) would move youth hunt even earlier. Turkey committee proposed moving to original April date but this was not what is presented here.</p> <p>28. Oppose Back Forty sulfide mine-- no comment</p> <p>29. ATV allow use for learning purposes—assumes parents would teach actual operation. Return hands-on training.</p> <p>30. Create a full-time shooting sports coordinator-- no comment</p> <p>31. 3 year badger harvest season—in some parts of the state badger populations are increasing with no</p>
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	<p>controls</p> <p>32. create a measuring and record keeping system for large and small furbearing animals—is there a state record</p> <p>33. allow use of cable restraints-- no comment</p> <p>34. extend bobcat system to 15 February-- no comment</p> <p>35. allow spearing of carp during sturgeon season—difficult to tell if a legal sturgeon or carp. Should this include musky?</p> <p>36. Namakagon smallmouth size limit-no comment</p> <p>37. Namakagon musky size limit-no comment</p> <p>38. Washington county—no comment</p> <p>39. Washington county pike limit--no comment</p> <p>40. Washington county Green lake panfish limit to 10—no comment</p> <p>41. Wisconsin river walleye season—no comment</p> <p>42. Vilas county musky change—no comment</p> <p>43. Vilas county largemouth—no comment</p> <p>44. Polk County panfish limit—no comment</p> <p>45. no comment</p> <p>46. no comment</p> <p>47. Change musky opener in Northern Zone--no comment</p> <p>48. Restore fish passage in Bayfield County--no comment</p> <p>49. buffalo fish study of harvest levels—fish grow very old, we really don't know much about this species</p> <p>50. Boat safety improvement on lakes of 50 acres or more—How many lakes would this affect? 50 acres is a pretty small lake.</p> <p>51. Allow wardens to investigate trespass complaints and issue citations-- Warden get calls but have to refer to the County Sheriff office.</p> <p>52. Establish a non-resident 3-day wild rice harvest license for \$30-- no comment</p> <p>53. Increase cost of non-resident deer license—raise too much and won't buy a license, currently \$165 may not get more money, economy suffers as hunters spend more than just the license fee but stimulate the economy. 45,000 to 50,000 non-resident deer hunters. Fees are in addition to basic license fees. Bonus tags are cheap. Could we just charge the non-resident the license cost that their state charges for non-residents? Guided hunts pay much more. Come to home hunt is you grew up in the state as in Montana. Legislature seems reluctant to raise any license fees.</p> <p>54. Increase the cost of non-resident bear license-- maybe 1,000 non-resident bear hunters.</p> <p>55. create an alternate funding source in addition to license fees—what are some of the possible sources that would be considered. MN did a 1/8 percent sales tax split with fine arts education in the school system.</p> <p>5-page memo sent by Kari for talking points.</p>
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3. CONSERVATION CONGRESS ANNUAL COUNTY MEETING AND DNR SPRING HEARING LOGISTICS

DISCUSSION	
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A. REVIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE SPRING HEARING LOGISTICS MEMO

DISCUSSION	Reviewed logistics issues from booklet.
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B. DELEGATE PROFILES

DISCUSSION	Fill out profiles with preferences for committee assignments by April 17 th if you are not up for re-election you were sent a link to fill out online. Paperwork needs to be completed by the end of the meeting.
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C. LOCAL SPRING HEARING PRESS

DISCUSSION	Review letters sent to each delegate.
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4. OTHER CONGRESS BUSINESS

DISCUSSION	<p>Need to have a quorum so stress the delegate responsibilities of notifying the committee chair you will or will not chair. Confirm attendance several days ahead of committee meetings to determine if there will be a quorum.</p> <p>--Committee assignments—will the code of procedures allow for telephone attendance at committee meetings? Must have cell phone coverage and that may be an issue.</p>
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	<p>--Youth Conservation Congress</p> <p>--Outreach—need delegates to staff WCC trailer at events. High schools and hunter safety classes are good short-term events. Business cards are available at delegate expense. Template is available from Kari. Post facebook pictures with congress delegates and activities.</p> <p>--Awards—see you packet</p> <p>--Expo Travel Grant—see delegate packet</p> <p>--WCC Learn-to-hunt bear hunt—check WCC website for application for essay. Hunter Ed class in the spring is a good source of applicants.</p> <p>--2020 Annual Convention 14-16 May—Green Lake Conference Center—not many restaurants</p>
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5. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>--Citizen resolutions need to follow format on page 21 of booklet.</p> <p>--Take a deep look at the toxic shot questions—muzzleloaders hunters will have a difficult problem.</p> <p>--Crossbow questions are pitting one hunter against another.</p> <p>--Duck season for Mississippi Zone 1 Oct to 11 Oct then five day break, 17 Oct. Bag limits will be different. Establish a Great lakes/Green Bay zone would negatively impact Mississippi Zone. On-line survey to support this zone—waterfowl site in DNR. Green Bay requires specialized equipment—boat, smaller number of hunters and lacks information on specific data. Flooding on Mississippi has impacted the fall hunt.</p> <p>--On-line voting committee September meeting with October 7, 2019 report--has 3 option for local resolutions A) no change, B) early submit and county input in year one, with year two online submissions only, no local review, C) only submit to rules and resolutions committee and refer to committees. County input will not be sought? Will this lead to the end of the Spring Hearings?</p> <p>--CWD 18 March 7pm for a six-county meeting in Rock Falls Town Hall</p> <p>--Railroad crossing and sandhill crane are important issues</p> <p>--CDAC—attendees are really interested in the issue but DNR Board is indifferent</p> <p>--Don't need to keep records on small mammals.</p> <p>--Could we start an hour earlier?</p> <p>--If we had a large sum of money for the CWD problem--what would we spend it on? Study? We don't know a lot about this disease. More sampling would be recommended. Will have long-term effect but it appears the legislature has little motivation to do anything. Not demanded by the public. In Minnesota the private landowners are helping to reduce herd size on their properties. Would a reward for turning in an infected deer increase the number of deer tested.</p> <p>--Kiosks are an effective way to increase the number of deer are tested. Results are back very quickly.</p> <p>--CWD infection in your county will increase county meeting attendance. Brian Richards has great information for hunters. Those experts say don't feed venison for yourself or your kids because it will take 10 to 15 years to show up in a cross species. Scientists really don't have any/all the answers.</p> <p>--Youth Congress is a great opportunity for kids interested in conservation issues.</p> <p>--Deer densities in Colorado are very low, 4 per square mile, so spread of CWD was slow compared to Wisconsin with much higher deer densities.</p> <p>--Wolf legislation at the national level could be made in March 2020. Rules by US Fish and Wildlife could be challenged in court, but federal legislation could not be reviewed or challenged in the court.</p> <p>--Ignorance about CWD and Spring hearings require information, outreach and education.</p>
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6. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	2245 hours
SUBMITTED BY	Dennis Vanden Bloomen, Eau Claire County, Acting Secretary
DATE	13 March 2020