

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Trout Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	9 November 2020	1900-2038 hrs.	Teleconference
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Vanden Bloomen at 1900 hours (waited until 1909 to get quorum)
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Dennis Vanden Bloomen, Chair (Eau Claire), Jim Wierzba. Vice Chair , (Ozaukee), Dave Ninneman (Outagamie), Maurice Amundson (Monroe) later from another meeting, Roger Roehl (Rusk) Scott Pitta (Adams) , Robert Tracyk (Iron), Travis Bruce (Buffalo), Michael Hranicka (Sheboygan), Larry Damman (Washburn), Nathaniel Brown (Taylor), Randy Farchmin (D11)
EXCUSED	Dale Ebert (Florence) Bob Haase (Fond du Lac), Martin Sands (Walworth), David Baron (Richland), Andrew Novak (Crawford), Brad Peterson (DNR Law Enforcement)
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Falon French, Justin Hagland, Kirk Olson (DNR Fisheries), Matthew Mitro (DNR Office of Applied Science)

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. CATCH AND RELEASE OF BROOK TROUT ON NICHOLS CREEK (60-02-20)

MYK HRANICKA

DISCUSSION	Resolution: The brook trout is the only native inland species to this state. In many areas in Wisconsin, the brook trout is becoming threatened or even extinct in streams and rivers they used to flourish in. People love seeing and catching these beautiful fish. In many cases, the brook trout need our help and protection to keep their numbers healthy. The current regulations on Nichols Creek are three (3) fish a day, eight inches or
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	<p>more on any trout species. Nichols Creek is a Class 1 trout stream with brook and brown trout being the only trout species. In the last four years, the brown trout numbers have more than doubled according to DNR shocking surveys. The 2018 survey showed brown trout numbers at 418 and brook trout numbers at 13 per mile. The past four years the brook trout numbers have not changed.</p> <p>I am asking that the bag limits stay the same for brown trout but catch and release on brook trout for Nichols Creek.</p> <p>Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the state legislature to make this new regulation possible?</p> <p><u>DNR Response</u>—this proposed change is aligned with the recently approved Trout Plan for the State. The 8-inch minimum length limit for brown with catch and release for brook trout fulfills the management goals of improving brook trout abundance and size structure and decreasing brown trout abundance. The DNR will continue to evaluate this stream.</p> <p>Discussion: Author—this stream has been improved over the years. It is within distance of the metro Milwaukee and Appleton areas. Kuhr—there are always issues with hooking mortality when catch and release is applied.</p>
ACTION	MB M Hranicka, SB N. Brown to Accept and forward the Resolution. Motion passed. Will be forwarded to DLC.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Chair Vanden Bloomen	By 16 Nov send revised as necessary resolution to DLC

B. Department Information & Updates

1. Trout Management Plan Update

DISCUSSION	<p>Hagland—trout plan spreadsheet presented.</p> <p>Committee Questions about where dam removal might be in the trout plan. No specifics seem to be in the plan for this priority. Removal issue is impacted by townships and social issues and flood control concerns. Some ponds created by dams are stocked for put and take trout fishing but water quality especially temperatures impact water quality for most of the year.</p>
ACTION	Information only
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2. Trout Program Updates

DISCUSSION	<p>Trout crew and Spring field work was impacted by virus protocols. Some restoration and monitoring were accomplished. More creel surveys are planned but the impact of the virus and money are yet to be determined. Survey cards are a cost-efficient way to gather information. Stocking guidance is being reviewed but actual stocking was impacted this spring because of virus concerns for the crews.</p>
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ACTION	Information only
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

3. TROUT RESEARCH UPDATES

DISCUSSION	<p>Matthew Mitro slide presentation</p> <p>2020 Field Season--June 19-November 12</p> <p>53 Streams--Fish surveys, Habitat surveys, Beaver dam measurements, Data loggers</p> <p>Beaver Influence on Trout and Stream Habitat--Study Objectives--This study will quantify the effects, both positive and negative, of beavers, beaver dams, and beaver dam removal on coldwater stream habitat and trout populations therein in different ecoregions and beaver management zones across Wisconsin.</p>
ACTION	Information only....
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	

4. Trout Law Enforcement Update

DISCUSSION	No report/update
ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Fish kills in Vernon County from manure. 100+ spawning fish killed.</p> <p>Dam removals are long term and difficult while culvert removal/replacements are easier as you are often dealing with private land owners.</p> <p>Beaver control and trout stocking should be driven “by science” as evidenced by the information provided by Matthew Mitro.</p> <p>Issue: Set the date for the 2021 Trout Committee meeting. Allow the majority of the members to plan schedules accordingly. Possible Saturday date (28 August). If a Zoom meeting do it Thursday 26 on Monday 30 August. If an in-person meeting, keep location in Stevens Point/Wausau area. Check TU camp dates as possible conflict.</p>
[DVB1]ACTION	Poll the committee members for best date for 2021 meeting by Chair.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	2038 hours MB Jim W, SB Bob H.
SUBMITTED BY	D. Vanden Bloomen, Chair
DATE	9 November 2020