

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Wolf Committee

Meeting Minutes



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| ORDER OF BUSINESS | 11/11/20 | 7:00 pm | Zoom |
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

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| MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY | Meeting called to order by Chairman Budnik 7 pm |
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B. ROLL CALL

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| ATTENDEES | Pat Quaintance, Tom Podlesny, Duane Hoefs, Jessie Espeseth, Steve Budnik, Laurie Groskopf, Ron Krueger, Bill Yingst, Jeff Giese, Scott McAuley, Peter Mueller, Paul Witalison, Steven Staver, Lowell Wright, Dave Lois. |
| EXCUSED | Mike Hurlburt, Earl Stahl, Steve Ninneman, Mike Rogers |
| UNEXCUSED | None |
| GUESTS | DNR Staff: Pat Novesky, law enforcement, Jennifer Price-Tack, DNR Science Section, Randy Johnson, DNR Large Carnivore Manager, Kari Lee-Zimmerman, DNR WCC Liaison, Falon French and Brent Alderman DNR technical assistance Guests: Tony Blattler, WCC Chair, Ed Harvey, WCC, Robert Gokey, Jeremy Parish, Heidi Cassel, Phillip Smith, Jean Voss, Hunter Smolarek, Kyle Miller, Gloriann Klein, Mari Sabota, Lenny York, Lucas Jandrin, Matt Pieper, Kim Kreimann, Lauren Vransy, Erika Froeming, Barbara Eisenberg, Alexis Balliett, Rod Coronado, Tim Esselman, Matthew Almonte, Travis Taves, Emily Papham, Eric Schlender, Kim Bowe, Trisha Fisher, Cory Williams, Diane Cain, Morgan Francis, Lisa Lindblom, Lucas Withrow |

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

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| DISCUSSION | |
| ACTION | Approved |

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

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| DISCUSSION | Chairman Budnik reviewed the committee mission statement |
| ACTION | Approved |

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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| DISCUSSION | No one had called the chairman to register to speak. |
| ACTION | None |

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. RESOLUTIONS FROM THE LOCAL SPRING HEARINGS 410720, 460120, AND 640120 (MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE, VILAS) WE'RE DISCUSSED. THESE RESOLUTIONS ALL ADDRESSED HUNTING WOLVES WITH THE USE OF DOGS

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| DISCUSSION | <p>Chairman Budnik read the resolution and invited the DNR representatives to speak on this resolution. Randy Johnson noted that dogs were not used during the 2012 season because a lawsuit on this was being determined. In 2013, 35 wolves harvested with the aid of dogs. In 2014, 6 wolves were harvested with the aid of dogs. The use of dogs while hunting wolves begins the first Monday following gun deer season. In 2014, wolf carcasses were examined and no evidence of dog/wolf aggressive interactions was found.</p> <p>Gloriann Klein asked to speak as she wrote the original resolution last year (2019) which passed in Waukesha Co. She favored the resolution. Two authors of the three resolutions passed in 2020, Heidi Cassel and Barbara Eisenberg spoke in favor of the resolution. The Vilas county author was not present to speak.</p> |
| ACTION | <p>Motion by Pat Quaintance, Seconded by Scott McAuley to reject. Roll call vote: in favor to reject - Quaintance, Hoefs, Espeseth, Groskopf, Yingst, McAuley, Mueller, Witalison, Staver, Wright, Lois. Opposed - Podlesny, Budnik, Krueger. MC 12/3.</p> |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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B. DEPARTMENT INFORMATIN AND UPDATES

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| DISCUSSION | <p>Randy Johnson and Jennifer Price-Tack spoke about the 2020 wolf count. Minimum overwinter count 1034 - 1057. This is a 13% increase from the previous year. There were 256 packs identified, with an average of 4 wolves per pack, which is also an increase from 3.8 in 2019. This increase follows three years of stable numbers. Suitable wolf habitat is full. A new method is also being used to estimate wolf numbers. This is called Patch Occupancy Modeling and has been used in western states for years. The traditional count will be discontinued in the future. Tracking will continue. Using the new model, the most likely overwinter wolf population is 1195.</p> <p>Randy summarized wolf depredations for 2020 and said there have already been \$140,000 in reimbursement payments. Last year's total was \$150,000.</p> <p>Steve Budnick reviewed the federal wolf delisting status. There is also a bill in Congress to delist wolves. Several organizations have already filed notice of intent to challenge the delisting in court. The delisting proposal does not become effective until Jan. 4.</p> <p>Chairman Budnick announced that Ed Harvey has been appointed by WCC</p> |
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| | <p>Chair Blattler as the representative of WCC on the DNR Wolf Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Pat Novesky gave a report from the DNR warden staff. Wardens are not seeing any increase in illegal shooting of wolves. Poison use in the Forest has increased. They have also seen an increase in wolf/dog conflicts. They are also seeing more wolf activity around the bear baits, which has been more generalized to include bait sitters seeing wolves at their baits. An increase of wolves being seen on deer hunter trail cameras is creating negative sentiment towards wolves. Also, bird and beagle hunters are avoiding forested areas where wolves have increased. Incidental trapping of wolves has also increased.</p> |
| ACTION | none |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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III. MEMBERS MATTERS

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| DISCUSSION | <p>Pat asked about who may speak on resolutions and for how long. Steve reminded members to let him know if you will be attending or are excused.</p> <p>Tom said he thought registering for the zoom meeting meant he was pre-registered for the meeting.</p> <p>Scott suggested splitting the wolf season so more people have a chance to hunt and trap.</p> |
| ACTION | none |

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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| MEETING ADJOURNED | <p>Motion to adjourn: Dave Lois made a motion to adjourn, Pat seconded.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 9 pm</p> |
| SUBMITTED BY | Laurie Groskopf |
| DATE | 11/16/2020 |