



General Spring Hearing Guidelines



What to expect if you are attending:

- The Spring Hearing begins at 7:00 PM on Monday, April 8, 2019. Please arrive by at least 6:45 PM so you will have time to register and receive your materials.
- During the Spring Hearing, county residents elect delegates to represent their county's interests related to conservation matters. Only county residents can vote for Conservation Congress delegates. To determine eligible voters, you will be asked to provide some form of identification to determine your county of residence. In other words, you need a picture ID (such as a driver's license with your current address) and/or a piece of mail that proves you live in the county where you are attending the hearing.
- **If you are over 18 years of age and a resident of the county**, you can elect delegates to represent your county. You will be provided four colored ballots to be used for electing representatives. The individuals who want to be elected will introduce themselves at the hearing. You will be asked to record your vote at the appropriate time. Voting for Conservation Congress delegates can only be done in person at the time the elections are held.

Note: As a resident, you can also be elected to the Conservation Congress, but please be sure you understand the purpose of the organization and what the commitments and requirements are for being a delegate before you run for a seat.

- **Regardless of your age or residency**, each attendee will be allowed to provide input on the topics presented so you will receive a questionnaire booklet and a form to record your input on the questions and on any locally introduced resolutions. Providing input on resolutions can only be done in person.
- There will also be an **online input option**. The online version will go live at 7:00 pm on April 8 and remain open for three days. Individuals who are unable to attend a hearing in person or attend in person, but would rather provide input online, may do so through the link that will be located on the Spring Hearing webpage (dnr.wi.gov search "spring hearings").
- Individuals that attend a spring hearing in person can choose to either fill out the input form at the hearing **or** receive a validation code that will allow their input to be counted with the input of the people in attendance in that county. The input received from those without a validation code will be combined with the overall input.
- The first agenda item will be the election of delegates. Shortly after 7 p.m. individuals who would like to be delegates will introduce themselves. If you are a resident, you will be instructed where to record your vote and when.
- After the delegate election, they will start going through the questions one at a time.
- You will mark your form by marking yes or no. Be sure your input is clearly marked. Directions on how to fill out the form are located inside the questionnaire.
- The hearing officer will introduce the department questions. These questions could lead to rule changes pertaining to hunting, fishing and trapping if supported.
- After the hearing officer is finished with the DNR questions, the Conservation Congress chair for the county will begin introducing the citizen resolutions. Any citizen can introduce an idea or concern, called a resolution to the audience. There is a sample resolution and guidelines located within your questionnaire. The resolution should identify the problem or concern you would like addressed. Resolutions need to be typed and two copies should be brought to the hearing. If you would like to introduce a resolution, you may contact a Conservation Congress delegate for guidance.
- You may provide input in support or opposition on any of the local resolutions introduced.
- After the citizen resolutions are complete the county chair will begin the Conservation Congress advisory questions. These advisory questions ask for opinions and feedback, but do not immediately result in changes to laws. The input gathered from these advisory questions assist the Congress and DNR in determining if these questions should be moved forward into the rule making process.
- When the hearing is over, or when you decide to leave (you can fill out your form and leave at any time) please turn in your completed form with the hearing officer or a WCC delegate.

Thank you for attending the Spring Hearings! Contact Kari Lee-Zimmermann (608-266-0580) if you would like to share any observations, questions or concerns regarding your experience.