Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
MIGRATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 
Meeting Minutes 

ORDER OF BUSINESS  
03/01/2021  6:30 PM  ZOOM 

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS  
A. CALL TO ORDER  
Meeting called to order by CHAIRMAN TODD COOK at 6:30 PM 

B. ROLL CALL  
ATTENDEES KEVIN SCHANNING, WAYNE NORING, MIKE LANE, BOB ELLINGSON, RAY HEIDEL, TIM MORGAN, THOMAS BERG, BILL LORENZ, RICK KNUTSON, RICHARD SWENSON, RONALD EARNEST, BILL KEHOE, JEFF HINTZ, PAUL GETTELMAN, TODD COOK  
EXCUSED AL SUCHIA; KEED KABELOWSKY; STEPHEN KENESIE; JAYE LAPINE  
UNEXCUSED JAMES ENGELBRETSON, JEFF GIESE, BRYCE LUCHTERHAND  
GUESTS TAYLOR FINGER; TYLER STREHLOW, JEFF WILLIAMS ALL OF THE DNR 

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR  
DISCUSSION No additions, corrections or deletions  
ACTION Motion by Keohoe/2nd by Earnst to accept agenda as published  MOTION PASSED 

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT  
DISCUSSION The mission of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Migratory Committee is to represent the stakeholders of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin’s local ducks and geese, as well as migrating ducks, geese, swans, and other migratory birds for present and future generations to enjoy.  
ACTION Motion by Gettelman/2nd by Morgan to accept the Mission Statement as presented.  MOTION PASSED 

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS  
DISCUSSION There weren’t any requests for public comments  
ACTION NA 

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS  
A. Department Information Items & Updates  
TAYLER FINGER 
DISCUSSION 1. Waterfowl program update  • 2021 Bunding is full go  • 2021 Spring Waterfowl Survey (state and continental) is uncertain  • Extensive involvement in the Waterfowl Hunter’s Expo  • Numerous research project ongoing  • Wood duck, Ringneck, feather isotopo analysis, Mallard satellite telemetry  

2. Waterfowl Management Plan update  COVID impacts on many of the aspects we hoped to work on in 2020  • Reviewing regulations  • Reviewing Open Water Regulations and looking for additional opportunity  • Adapting public input and communication to COVID restrictions  • Looking at using drones and new camera technology to improve spring and fall surveys  

3. Migratory bird population status update  2019 Duck Status Data  • Total Continental duck estimate – 39 million (-6% from 2018), +10% LTA  • Ponds Canada/US survey – 5 million, similar to 2018, similar to LTA  • BPOP’s majority up or = LTA  • Cont. Blue-winged teal 5.4 mil (= LTA)
• Wisconsin total ducks – 413,662 (3% below LTA)
• Liberal season recommendation for 2021

4. Hunter input tool and season setting timing  Taylor went through the process for the on line poll for the Waterfowl season/survey
5. 2021 hunting season options  GO TO ACTION SECTION FOR RESULTS OF DISCUSSION

ACTION

5. 2021 hunting season options

   EARLY TEAL SEASON:  9 day (Same) □ 16 day (Max) Other:  Motion by Schanning/2nd by Berg to have a 9 day teal season.  MOTION PASSED

   DUCK SEASON: □ Keep similar: 6 ducks, no more than 4 mallards (2 hrs), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 pintail and 2 canvasbacks. 5 mergansers, not more than 2 hooded.  Motion by Morgan/2nd Hintz to keep similar  MOTION PASSED

   SCAUP SEASON:  North Zone  Motion by Morgan/2nd Hintz to have; 1/day for 15 days in the first half part of the season and 2/day for 45 days for the final part of the season  MOTION PASSED
   South Zone  Motion by Morgan/2nd Heiddel to have; 1/day for 15 days in the first half part of the season and 2/day for 45 days for the final part of the season  MOTION PASSED
   Open Water Zone (Green Bay and Lake Michigan):  Motion by Morgan/2nd Hintz to have; 1/day for 15 days in the first half part of the season and 2/day for 45 days for the entire season  MOTION PASSED

   YOUTH HUNT:  Motion by Norling 2nd Heidel;  MOTION PASSED

   NORTH ZONE:  Motion by Schanning/2nd Morgan to have North opener on September 25
   Motion by Schanning/2nd Morgan NOT to have a split in the Northern zone.  MOTION PASSED

   SOUTHERN ZONE:  Motion by Hintz/2nd Morgan to have an October 2nd opener; MOTION PASSED.  Motion by Hintz/2nd Earnst to have a 5 day split.  (role call vote, 4 yes, 8 no—Motion failed)  Motion by Keheoe/2nd Morgan to have a 9 day split, MOTION PASSED.  Motion by Keheoe/2nd Morgan to have the split in the 1st half.  MOTION PASSED

   OPEN WATER ZONE (GREEN BAY & LAKE MICHIGAN):  Motion by Schanning to have an October 9th opener, NO SECOND.  Motion by Hintz/2nd by Lorenz to have an October 16 Opener, MOTION PASSED  Open water split:  Motion by Schanning/2nd Lorenz NOT to have a split.  MOTION PASSED.

   GOOSE SEASON:  EARLY GOOSE SEASON; Motion by Morgan/2nd Schanning to keep the early season similar to last years, September 1 through September 15 with a 5 goose/day limit  MOTION PASSED.

   REGULAR GOOSE SEASON (3 CANADA GEESE, 20 WHITE GEESE, 1 BRANT & 1 GREATER WHITE-FRONTED)

   NORTH ZONE:  Motion by Schanning/2nd by Lorenz to have the season start on September 16 and run straight through the duck season.  MOTION PASSED

   SOUTH ZONE;  Motion by Earnst/2nd Hintz to have the season start on September 16th with a split during the duck season and a split to allow a Holiday Hunt.  MOTION PASSED

   MISSISSIPPI RIVER ZONE;  Motion by Heidel/2nd by Morgan to have the season start with the duck season and run with the duck split.  MOTION PASSED ?

   OTHER MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS;
   MORNING DOVE;  Motion by Morgan/2nd by Schanning to keep similar Sept. 1 – Nov. 29 (15 bird/day)  MOTION PASSED

   WOODCOCK;  Motion by Schanning/2nd by Morgan to keep similar Sept. 18 – Nov. 1 (3 bird/day)  MOTION PASSED

   COOT;  Motion by Schanning/2nd by Lorenz to keep same as wild ducks in the zone in which you are hunting.  A daily bag of 15 Coot  MOTION PASSED

   MORHEN, RAILS AND SNIPE;  Motion by Schanning/2nd by Earnst to have a Sept. 1 – Nov. 9. season with a daily bag of 15 Moorhen, 25 Sora & Virginia Rails, 8 Snipe  MOTION PASSED.
**B. Update/status of a sandhill crane season**

**DISCUSSION** Update/status of a sandhill crane season: Taylor noted that there is a group of organizations that are working on getting a season going. (WCC, WWA, WLF, Farm Bureau, and some NRB folks) The DNR hasn't been involved with this. There is a possibly that they have a legislator that may be interested in working with the group to get the process to go forward for a season.

**ACTION** Taylor will keep the committee up to date with any info.

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**C. Law Enforcement for 2020**

**DISCUSSION** Tyler gave a summary of the Migratory bird calls for service and the migratory bird citations for the past year. There were 338 bird calls for service (183 were hotline calls and 156 were generated by the warden) There were 163 citations were issued. The 4 year average was 153. There was a high use of the outdoors due to Covid.

**ACTION**

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### III. MEMBERS MATTERS

**DISCUSSION** Lang-Get back to in person meetings as soon as possible. Hard to understand individuals. Heidie—WWF has a letter available to send to legislators to allow sportsman to cross the RR tracks. Todd will send out the letter to all. Lorenz will be having their 43 Annual GreenWing program. Gettelman noted that Mark LaBarber has been named the director of the WWF taking the place of George Meyer. Cook—Thanks for all showing up for the meeting. He has received concerns about not being able to leave decoys out in the water on private property.

**ACTION**

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

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<th>MEETING ADJOURNER</th>
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