Bear Committee Meeting  December 10th, 2010

Present:  Richard Kirchmeyer, Jo Ann Kuharske, Bruce Prentice, David Louis, Leroy Wiesner, James Morning, Larry Osegard, Michael Murphy, Scott Strook, Russell Hitz, William Schommer, Dennis Jones, Dale Detampel, Anthony Dallman, Eugene Muench, Daniel Seipel, Gary Mabie, Robb Kaminskis, Rick Fruit, Ken Kochevar, Scott Plocar, Robert Knorr, Wright Allen, Alan Lobner. Absent: Allen Flannery who was excused. Keith Warnke, Dave Oginski, Dave MacFarland, Ralph Fritch, George Meyer, Dave Miller and Kendal Durham were also present.

Mike Murphy accepted motion to obey rules, seconded by Russell Hintz. All in favor.

Mission Statement: Read by Rich. See attachment A. Mike Murphy motion to accept. Seconded by David Lois. Discussion about the statement of what is a healthy population of bear. Keith stated that the population goal varies year to year by the DNR. All in favor.

Public Comment by Laurie Groskopf: Informed the comm. about some resolutions that she is circulating about wolves. See Handout B, C, D, and E.

Janel Scharhag a student from Fox Valley Tech Natural Resources Program attended to observe meeting.

Keith Warnke Handout F, G This is a snapshot of bear kills by cars. These are the number of permits issued and not the number of actually all the car killed bears.

Bear Harvest is now at 5040. See handout H. This is the same information presented at the DNR meeting on November 15th, 2010. Handouts I, J, and K. Price took the title of most harvest bears this year. The method of bear is on handout L. This is followed by handout M, which does influence the number of permits issued. These success rates will increase as more registration stubs trickle in. The unknowns are not considered in the consideration of harvest tags. Handout N showed the trend over time. Leroy Wiesner asked about how Zone A1 could be over 100% success rate in 2006. It was because of A and A1 zone overlaps and the DNR cannot demand where hunters could shoot bear they could either hunt Zone A or A1 with a Zone A permit.

Information from John Gilbert was provided to us about the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Data. They are allowed ½ of the harvest total to be harvested. They harvested 30 Bear. They come to the DNR in June to make their declaration. Now the DNR considers their past history and takes that into account into our permits available. See handout P.

Keith gave us the history of the Tetracycline study. The study is slated to start out this spring with peanut butter instead of bacon. See handout Q. The graphs on handout R show this. Bear harvest by sex is shown on Handout S. Handout T shows harvest by permits issued and success rates. Handout U shows the success rate by zone. Zone C has the lowest success rate, but it is a very large area. Zone C has shown a decline in harvested Bear. Handout V shows the quotas for each zone and how we try to set our harvest goals.
Wright Allen—how many points were needed to draw a harvest permit. About the same as last year.

Tony Dallman—wondered if the graphs could show permits and harvest on the same graph to show a comparison so it is not so misleading.

Bear bait transects. There is one in each county. The squares are yearly data. The line is the three year average.

Handout X shows the bait station trends to our population estimates. This leads us to our permit setting process. In zone C there are 25 miles per routes, 50 baits per route, there are 6 routes. There was discussion that ensued with explanation about the bait station data. Handouts BB – EE comes from the teeth that are submitted each year. Handout FF shows this in a line chart.

There was a discussion about cub production – 50/50. Equal production of cubs by sex.

Handout GG – H show the bear committees findings and their recommend permit levels and quotas.

Mike Murphy made a motion to look at each zone individually. Kaminskis seconded the motion.

Zone A

Dave Lois made a motion to leave it the same, Ken Kochevar SECOND. Bill Schommer—with the success rate so high, why wouldn’t we want to have more permits? Keith said that we have only recently implemented a large change in permits and quota, and we felt it would be safer to leave it the same for a few years so that we can study the effect these changes we made. Al Lobner—look at the number of females we have shot. We need to make sure we don’t overharvest our female population.

Rob Kaminskis-- What is the state estimate of the state population. Keith said 24,000- 40,000 or so. Rob what is a safe harvest level? Keith says if you could hold all factors equal, about 15% to 17%. With the tetracycline population we learned that our numbers were wrong. Rob stated that the bear population is through the roof, these numbers do not reflect what I see in the woods. Our bears our reproducing and 2.5 cubs are expected to make it to adulthood per breeding sow. Keith stated that at their meeting some people did want to raise the quota. Rob understands the caution, but would like to see the number higher.

Vote called. Motion Carried.

Zone B. Bill Schommer motion to reject. Motion failed for lack of a second. 1075 tags. Russ Hitz motion to accept. Second by Jim Morning. No discussion. Motion Carried.

Zone C. Motion to accept by Dan Seipel, seconded by Tony Dallman. Motion Carried.

Zone D. 1100 Motion to accept by Lee Wiesner, seconded by Jim Morning. Motion Carried.
Dave Mac Farland 2011 Tetracycline survey. Very interesting presentation. He gave a brief history of the original survey. Dave took the time to explain the math behind the formula that they use to determine the numbers/results.

The DNR will need many volunteers for the tet. study. Contact the county DNR Wildlife Biologist.

Dave then reviewed the results of this 2006 study. The data was fascinating. You really had to be here to appreciate his presentation and the data presented. He had some great photos.

Dave Oginski Jr. Warden

Learn to Hunt Bear Program. Rich informed the comm. on where hunts took place and how many bear were harvested. 115 applicants, with 50 permits issued. See handout JJ.

Warden Oginski also discussed some of the hunter harassment issues and bait tampering. Due to the conflicts there is talk about limiting guides on how many clients they can have at one time.

Resolution 041110

Motion to accept by Russ Hitz, second by Wiesner. Scott Plocar wanted the data to this question. Al Lobner thinks we should have more specific data.

Mike Murphy asked what if we added the change. Rich stated we could vote the motion to reject down, make a new motion with the accepted changes (the amendment was for 5% of the total permits per zone). Tony Dallman would like to see that if they do get drawn are they still eligible for a transfer tag. Al Lobner pointed out that would be around 300 tags taken out of the general permit area. Warden Oginski talked to the author, and this would eliminate the transfer tag system.

Scott Strook—It took me 12 years to get a tag in zone B this year. He stated the public outcry for this is going to be massive.

Lee Wiesner—How many more applicants are there because of the transfer so that youth can get an opportunity.

Al Lobner—so if we eliminate our transfer system then how do youth get the opportunity to get more youth involved.

Scott Strook—So if we do this are we getting rid of the Learn to hunt program too? Yes that is the authors intention

There is only a one time transfer allowed per youth.

Dave MacFarland—This resolution would not have the effect at 5% for this to be effective because in the general state wide lottery a youth actually has a better chance of receiving a permit sooner.

Tony Dallman—I see the public outcry of this being very great.
Al Lobner—I would rather do this than the Learn to Bear Hunt Program.

Lee Wiesner—To avoid conflict have spot on application to say who it goes to.

The motion is on the floor to forward. Question called. All opposed. Motion failed.

**Resolution 100110**

Motion to reject by Mike Murphy and seconded by Dan Seipel.

Bruce Prentice—I see this as two questions. What about warm weather and spoilage during those dates. That is a concern. Dog training with this is problematic.

Larry Osegard—author—the dog training season and the hunting season would begin earlier. It passed in his county 23 to 3. He would like to see this go to the state wide hearing questionnaire and see the results statewide. I could make any changes you need tonight.

Scott Strook—would opening dog training earlier would this cause great conflict? Could this be a problem?

Mike Murphy—I have issues with pushing training season around. We have come close to losing training a number of times. The legislature is really watching the bear issue. I see the issue of why would anyone not want to jump on having a season start earlier.

Dan Seipel—there are problems with the temperature in processing the bear and the pelt by harvesting too early. He would rather see it go two weeks later.

Jim Morning—You have more crops not harvested besides lots of acorns in Zone C. Mike Gappa stated last year at this meeting that Area C is going to be a management problem area because of the size of the area and problems to get access to bear on private lands.

Tony Dallman—if you increase the harvest percentage you will increase the length of wait in getting a permit.

Osegard—I thought the idea was you wanted to kill a bear.

The motion on the floor is to reject: Motion to reject passes.

**Resolution 110710**

Author—Mike Murphy—the river valleys provide excellent habitat for bear. Northern Zone C issues, Southern Zone C has few to no issues with bear. So by splitting the zone in half you would have a compromise in making everyone happy.

Al Lobner—makes a motion to accept. Seconded by Jim Morning.

Rich Kirchmeyer—the department is investigating splitting zone C
Keith Warnke—we are taking steps to look at creating a bear zone and how to manage this. Keith is looking forward to the discussion.

Tony Dallman.  Asked for clarification—should be a splitting c into north and south.

Mike Murphy—I will amend so that is in an east west line—take the word part out and insert the word line.

Jim Morning asked what would the line be?

Mike Murphy—I would envision the line to be Hwy 10 to Hwy 90 to LaCrosse

Rich Kirchmeyer – I don’t think you would have to set the line tonight. We could see how people feel about the thought of dividing Zone C first.

Jim Morning—Keith, you said you have been talking about this. How many zones have you been discussing? He was just wonders. No definite plans yet how to divide Zone C

Scott Plocar—It states splitting the Zone, it did not say how many splits.

Al Lobner—Can still train with hounds. Can’t harvest with hounds. It would be great if the hound hunters could go down there to hunt. The hound hunter’s area gets smaller and smaller.

Dan Seidel—There are always people arguing about people hunting hounds in zone C. We have another resolution about dogs in zone C.

Al Lobner—would like to see Hwy 54.

Rich Kirchmeyer—Do you think we really want an actual line, or do we want to see if people support splitting up Zone C or not.

Al Lobner—I was just throwing it out there.

Keith Warnke—I think the most valuable thing from this committee is your input.

The motion of the floor is to accept this with the change from parts to line. Motion Carried.

Review 2010 LTBH and Youth Bear Hunters-- a bear, 310lbs The WCC permit was mentored by Dave and Gary Mabie from Price County they did a good job, and the youth harvest a bear.

Rich Kirchmeyer asked if there should be any changes on the WCC LTH bear hunting application.

Rich Kirchmeyer reviewed the minutes from the hunting with dogs committee.

130710 still exists and they came up with their own resolution. Wow—what a discussion.

Keith Warnke would like people from the congress to be involved in Zone C discussions.

Mike Murphy wants to be notified of the Zone C meetings.
Lee Wiesner—Are out of state applicants in the same pool as residents but have more expensive tags. Yes

Scott Plocar—has noticed an increase in hunting pressure with the increase of permits. He even got to see the dogs killed by bears.

Al Lobner would like us to support Laurie Groskopf’s wolf issue.

Bill Schommer—there are still lots of complaints and people shooting to kill bears without permits.

Jim Morning—Discussed where aphis put the traps for the bear. He thought it was wrong to put the traps in a ditch off the road. People are not getting called out to help the farmers harvest tags.

Gary Mabie—Was curious about size of Price Co and the amount of bears harvested there.

Larry Osegard—How many are bait sitters. Strictly bait 8, strictly hound 9, both 10

Robert Knorr—watch out where you put that line for Zone C more competition, more fights, need time to look at it, be careful, don’t make any rash decisions.

Keith Warnke—thank you again I enjoyed it.

Rich Kirchmeyer—the DNR would like to have the authority to collect rib samples tissue samples and teeth, right now they can only ask hunters to submit them.

Rich was approached by disabled Wounded Warriors of America—would like a bear harvest tag every year to give to a veteran.

Scott Plocar.—If we can give out 50 youth tags, we should be able to give out 1 tag for a disable veteran. Eugene, Mike, and Jo Ann all agree.

Mike Murphy—motion to adjourn. Seconded by Jo Ann Kuharske

Meeting adjourned at 10:26

Jo Anne Kuharske Sec.