

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Turkey Committee Meeting

Ramada Inn

Stevens Point, WI

Friday, August 20, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Mike Rogers.

Members present: Mike Rogers, Paul Fluhr, Patricia Kukull, Thomas Johnson, Dale Ebert, Walter Seibel, Meade Grim, Davey Henschel, Darrel Eberhardt, Jeff Winn, Donald Anderson, Paul Mau, Marcell Wieloch, Roger Greenwood, Ralph Fritch, David Grisar, John Hoeffs, Jerry Thompson, Thomas Roskopf and Arlyn Splitt.

Members excused: Clarence Koch, Dave Wendel and Mike LaRose.

DNR Liaison attending: Sharon Fandel, acting upland game biologist, Jeremy Plautz, new turkey committee warden liaison, and Chuck Horn, warden liaison. Chuck Horn mentioned that he was retiring, thanked the committee for their support and introduced his replacement, Jeremy Plautz, from Fitchburg, WI. The CC Turkey Comm. gave Chuck a large round of applause for all of his work and dedication to the Conservation Congress over his years of service.

Others attending: Ed Harvey, Chairman, Executive Committee; Richard Kirchmeyer, Secretary, Executive Committee; Representatives of the Wisconsin NWTF; various authors of submitted resolutions.

Because of the number of new committee members, Chairman Rogers asked every member to introduce themselves.

The Turkey Committee Mission Statement that had been drafted at the August 22, 2008 committee meeting was again read and accepted.

DNR Liaison, Sharon Fandel, reported that the 2009 fall turkey harvest was 'on the lower end' of expectations and the 2010 spring harvest was 'on the high end' even though they followed two poor years of reproduction. Both years experienced harder winters and wet springs from previous seasons.

She also reported:

- That the DNR would propose a 7-day spring turkey hunt rule change for the 2011 spring questioner that would run from Wednesday through Tuesday of the hunt

periods. It will have to pass the DNR policy team before it would be put on the spring hearing questioner.

- Hunting turkeys with dogs, in the fall, will be open statewide, permanently. The extended fall turkey season is on a two- year trial. The DNR is requesting that it be made permanent.
- Turkey stamp projects for 2010 – 2011.
- ALS over-the-counter sales went very well this year during the spring turkey season. Permit sales under the zone-per-day process will likely continue in the foreseeable future.
- Phone-in/ online registration for turkey registration will be implemented for fall 2011. The accuracy of online registration versus manual registration by vendors will be monitored.

Chuck Horn, DNR warden, stated that there was only one turkey hunting accident for the 2009 – 2010 seasons. Hunting arrests were down because people are becoming more compliant with the laws. He also mentioned that a settlement for lost revenue was made with a contracted bank whose license-issuing system had malfunctioned in issuing extra turkey permits and some of the money was being used for the Learn-to-Hunt Turkey programs. The Turkey LTH program got \$35,250 to spend of which \$20954.75 got spent in the spring of 2010.

Resolutions considered:

Resolution #110610 – For each turkey hunting period to run seven days instead of five with no breaks between hunting periods.

Mike Murphy was present to make comments in favor.

The motion to accept this resolution lost on a vote of 7 yes and 10 no.

Resolution #340210 – Spring turkey permits would become available to new hunters before general public.

Tim Harris was present to propose this resolution.

The motion failed unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution #650410 – Landowner preference would limit the landowner to hunt only on that piece of property which he applied for and exclude the landowner from hunting on other lands.

Resolution author James Houck was present to explain his reasoning for presenting the resolution.

Amendment from Meade Grim that landowner would have a tag only for private lands and not for public property.

Motion and amendment failed unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution #710410 – Extend the turkey hunting periods from five days to seven days.

Different starting days of the week were discussed for the seven-day period.

Motion to accept this resolution lost on a hand vote of 8 yes and 9 no.

Resolution #650310 – Turkey permit preference would be given to Wisconsin state residents on the first drawing and the second drawing would include non-residents. James Houck, resolution author, explained his resolution and why we should try and let Wisconsin residents have first preference.

Motion to accept this resolution passed unanimously by voice vote.

Under Member Matters, a resolution was brought to the floor to include a seven-day continuous turkey season from Wednesday through Tuesday. It was thought it should be on the 2011 spring Conservation Congress Advisory questionnaire in case the DNR Turkey Committee decides that they will not include it in their section of the rule changes. The resolution passed on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hoeffs for
Clarence Koch, Secretary