Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Endangered Resources & Law Enforcement
Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS  9/22/2012  9:30 AM  Portage County Library, Stevens Point

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Al Brown, chair, at 9:30AM

B. ROLL CALL
ATTENDEES  Al Brown (chair), Jim Shurts (secretary), Jim Heffner, George King, Dave Poff, Wayne Schmidt, Rich Swenson, Randy Symicek
EXCUSED  Ronn Krueger, Evan Lund
UNEXCUSED  Tom Wilda
GUESTS  Erin Crain (WDNR ER), Dan Michels (WDNR warden), Lee Fahrney, Ron Kulas, Ben Loma, Larry Margelofsky, Frank Sterzen

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR
DISCUSSION  No requests for repair; motion to approve Heffner/King
ACTION  Approved

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT
DISCUSSION  Chair read current mission statement; no discussion occurred; motion to approve Heffner/Symicek
ACTION  Approved

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS
DISCUSSION  none
ACTION  N/A

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. 1: STATUS OF WISCONSIN’S BATS  ERIN CRAIN, WDNR-ER
DISCUSSION  Overview of Wisconsin’s bat populations and the grave concern with white-nose syndrome, a fatal fungus affecting bats. It does not yet occur in Wisconsin but has been found in Iowa. WDNR expects it to occur in Wisconsin next year.
ACTION  informational
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE  N/A
DEADLINE  N/A

A. 2: WHOOPING CRANE STATUS  ERIN CRAIN, WDNR-ER
DISCUSSION  Presentation and handouts updating the committee on the status of Wisconsin’s whooping crane
A. 3: UPDATE ON WI ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES LIST

ERIN CRAIN, WDNR-ER

DAN MICHEL, WDNR WARDEN

DISCUSSION
Presentation and handouts informing the committee that the WDNR is in the process of updating the Endangered and Threatened Species List. Some species are being delisted either because they have recovered and/or have stable populations, or they are extirpated from Wisconsin. Species being added to the list are declining populations.

ACTION informational

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
N/A

DEADLINE
N/A

A. 4: COUGARS IN WISCONSIN

ERIN CRAIN, WDNR-ER

DISCUSSION
Presentation and handouts updating the committee on the status of cougars in Wisconsin. There is no known breeding in Wisconsin. Evidence indicates that confirmed sightings are males passing through the state looking for suitable habitat.

ACTION informational

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
N/A

DEADLINE
N/A

A. 5: LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

DAN MICHEL, WDNR WARDEN

DISCUSSION
Reports that there are still several vacancies in law enforcement. The current recruiting class should be in the field soon, and there will be a new class starting in the spring.

ACTION informational

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
N/A

DEADLINE
N/A

B. 1: CITIZEN RESOLUTION 440312

BEN LOMA (REPRESENTING AUTHOR)

DISCUSSION
This resolution concerns potential safety concerns resulting from tribal members hunting on ceded lands the Friday before the general gun deer hunt. Residents of those areas worry that with all the activity in the woods by persons getting ready for the general gun deer hunt, someone will be injured with tribal hunting occurring at the same time. The committee noted that this was a matter that neither the WCC nor WDNR could effectively change. It was recommended that the concerned citizens contact the tribal game commission. The committee did, however, decide it would be a good idea for the WDNR to issue press releases and update the web site informing the public that deer hunting did occur on ceded lands the Friday before the general gun deer season.

ACTION
1) Motion to reject resolution 440312 Shurts/Symicek: passed, no dissent 2) Motion to have chair work with WDNR on providing public information concerning hunting on ceded lands the Friday before the general gun deer season, Symicek/Schmidt: passed, no dissent

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
Al Brown

DEADLINE
10/31/2012

B. 2: CITIZEN RESOLUTION 160312

FRANK STERZEN (AUTHOR)

DISCUSSION
This resolution requests revising the rules to allow for a firearm-mounted light or headlamp at the point of kill for predator hunting. The current law requires a hand-held light, which makes it unsafe to shoot, i.e., one-handed. The general consensus was that this was a good idea.
B. 3: CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS 570212, 500212, 660212, 200112, 670512, 680512, 710212

**Discussion**
All of these resolutions concern eliminating the back-tag requirement for deer and/or bear hunting and were considered together. The committee noted that this issue has been brought to the committee several times over the years and has been rejected due to safety and law enforcement concerns. The committee decided that in the interest of providing public input to the WDNR and state legislature, the resolution should be approved and forwarded.

**Action**
Motion to approve, Schmidt/Symicek: passed, no dissent

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**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

**Discussion**
Wayne Schmidt: concerns and questions about boat speeds on the upper Wolf River; committee members recommended working with local law enforcement
Jim Heffner: concerns and questions about boat speeds on lakes in Oneida and Vilas Counties; committee members recommended working with local law enforcement
George King: questions about wolf hunting techniques; committee members had plenty of advice
Dave Poff: requested that this committee try to meet in early to mid-August; the chair replied that efforts would be made to do so next year
Lee Fahrney, WCC Executive Committee, gave the committee an update on exec committee matters. The exec committee would like to have the annual convention in a central location that remains the same each year so as to get a better pricing deal from the facility. He also talked about the study section committee selection process. And he mentioned that progress is being made in having certain items/resolutions/rule changes being fast-tracked under Act 21 to help speed up the new process.

**Action**
none

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**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

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<tr>
<td>SUBMITTED BY</td>
<td>Jim Shurts</td>
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