# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## Deer & Elk Study Committee

### MEETING MINUTES

**ORDER OF BUSINESS** 03/21/2015 9:00 am Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center

## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### A. CALL TO ORDER

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY** Al Phelan 9:15 AM

#### b. Roll Call

- Unexcused: Guests

### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

**DISCUSSION**

**ACTION** Motion by Mike Riggle & second by Arold Ninneman to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

**DISCUSSION**

**ACTION** Motion by Charlie Brown & second by Dave Pagel to accept as is. Motion passed.

### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

**DISCUSSION**

**ACTION** None

## II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

### A. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES

#### 1. 2014 Deer Season Wrap Up – Kevin Wallenfang, DNR

- Archery registration 54,810 & crossbow 26,891; total 81,701 with antler buck 46,201
- Gun registration 222,588; grand total 304,289
- Substantially less deer registered in Northern Forest Zone which had very few antlerless permits
- Total licenses 837,635; gun 562,218, archer 161,991, crossbow 42,788, patron 47,561, upgrade archer 18,416 & upgrade crossbow 4,661
- 2014 pilot electronic registration for 200 pre-selected participants by in person, phone or internet; Actual registration 4,850 by internet & 5,335 by phone
- Disable hunt – 88 sponsors in 49 counties, 78,921 acres enrolled with minimum 501 participating hunters
Kevin discussed percent change in gun buck harvest & total buck harvest by counties & also percent change in total antlerless harvest by counties
- 2014 CWD sample results showed 324 positives statewide with 2 being in the Central Forest Zone & 322 in the Southern Farmland Zone
- WSI showed a easy winter except for the Gile area

2. CDAC’s and 2015 Quota/Permit Setting – Kevin Wallenfang, DNR
- Will have one quota recommendation for each county, two if split Zones Forest & Farmland with two permit levels for each: public & private lands
- Discussed antlerless quota time line with May 27 NRB approval of quota & deer season recommendations; last day for public comment is April 15.
- CDAC 3 year county population recommendations: 8 counties to decrease deer, 27 counties to increase deer & balance of counties stabilize

3. Youth Antlerless Permits – Kevin Wallenfang, DNR
- Youth permit can change (group bagging) but are OK for military & disable
  - See committee action item below

4. DMAP Update – Bob Nack. DNR
- Have established a advisory committee
- Established core values – whitetail deer are important, all wild life in the public trust for the benefit of all people & habitat management practices are important
  - Had 43,000 plus acres in DMAP in 2014

5. Research Update – Dan Storm, DNR
- Now in the data analysis mode – mortality annual report, carcass evaluation (fat reserves & fetus)
  - 2013 / 2014 winter was worse but still had 90% pregnancy rate – looking at habitat in pregnancy rate
  - Working on a project on how to age deer previously done at registration stations; possibly ask deer processors to save heads, by biologist, etc.

6. Deer Trustee Report Implementation – Kevin Wallenfang, DNR
- Kevin gave a summary of the DTR with approximate time line for implementation
  - He noted 60% of hunters opposed antler point restrictions, 2 plus 7 season is dead & bonus buck is now gone where previously available

7. Elk Update – Kevin Wallenfang, DNR
- Overall Project Plans – 5 year agreement with Kentucky, 150 Elk in total, max. 50 / year, 75 to Jackson County & 75 to Clam Lake
  - First year results – 28 Elk captured, no injuries, flawless operation & solid foundation built for future years
  - Discussed health testing – 120 day quarantine in both states, 10 foot fences, double fence, solid barrier on fence & disease-free donors with no TB or Brucellosis
  - Plan is to release Elk to the wild in June 2015
  - Monitoring - GPS tracking collars, implant & ear tags

8. Law Enforcement Update – Kevin Mickelberg, DNR & Dave Zebro, DNR
- Presently have 25 warden vacancies with 14 new recruits in 2 year training process
  - 2014 was safest season ever
  - Discussed urban sprawl conflicts
  - Discussed other rolls wardens fulfill for mission ready teams – ROV team, security tactical boating operation, tactical flight operation using infra red, tactical team for drug plants, security team to protect natural resource personnel & provide extra Capitol security
  - Transitioning to a new license season with future going to a card that can be checked with a smart phone
  - Dave Zebro said the DNR’s budget for computers is good, car kill program may change in that you may need to call in to get permit for a vehicle deer kill

**ACTION**

**Item #3 Youth Antlerless Permits** – Motion by Mike Riggle & second by Arold Niinneman that the WCC Elk & Deer Committee recommends the youth deer antlerless permit be weapon specific & not eligible for group bagging. Mike will introduce as a resolution from the floor to get a congress position on it this modification to the youth permit at the State Convention in May. Motion passed with only one opposed.

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**

Executive Committee

**DEADLINE**

May 14 / 15 2015 Annual Meeting

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III. MEMBERS MATTERS
DISCUSSION

Larry Gohlke – noted crossbow was 43% successful & CDAC worked good
Martin Haas – CDAC does listen
Dave Poff – is happy antler restriction is gone
Arold Ninneman – concern with privatizing deer herd
Jim Morning – otter & fisher off patron license, should change price of license
Al Gerber – need local management for doe management also said DNR Board issue is a giant step backwards
Mark Noll – recently enjoyed reading history book on Wisconsin Deer Hunting
Al Phelan – thanked everyone for coming

ACTION

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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<tr>
<td>SUBMITTED BY</td>
<td>Tony Janecck</td>
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<td>DATE</td>
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