Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Deer and Elk Committee
Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS
11/10/2016  7:00 pm  Conference Call

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Rob Bohmann at 7:00 pm

B. ROLL CALL

| ATTENDEES          | Committee Members: Rob Bohmann, Al Horvath, Rick Olson, Martin Laidlaw, Jay Koenig, Roger Sabota, Mike Riggle, Mark Noll, Dill Yingst, Stan Brownell, Doug Seidl, Larry Gohlke, Andy Geiger, Tony Grabski, Charlie Brown, Martin Hass, Dale Eberl
|                   | DNR: Kevin Wallenfang, Brad Hutnik
| EXCUSED            | James Morning, Al Jacobson, Brad Hasheider, Paul Annear
| UNEXCUSED          | Tom Johnson, Joe Helwig, Wright Aller, Mike Burkhart, Doug Williams, Tom Schwefel, Kieran Kramer
| GUESTS             | none

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

| DISCUSSION         | Rob asked for approval of agenda as written
| ACTION             | Motion to approve by Mike Riggle, seconded by Tony Grabski, motion to approve carried.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

| DISCUSSION         | Rob read mission statement
| ACTION             | Motion to approve by Mike Riggle, seconded by Tony Grabski, motion to approve carried.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

| DISCUSSION         | None
| ACTION             | None

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. List of tools CDACs can use as harvest control options (to advance w/ comm question from Res 150116) [PRESENTER]

| DISCUSSION         | 1. Mark Noll's recommendation for Central or Southern Farmland zones: After two years of CDAC's being unsuccessful in decreasing their herds an antlerless only season would run during all deer seasons occurring after the close of the 10 day muzzleloader season. The season would be continuous until the close of archery season in January.
|                   | Issues leading to this concern are access problems on private property. Hunters should not be blamed for deer overpopulation, and how to get landowners to shoot deer on their property.
|                   | Mark suggested this should be turned over to the CDAC's so that they could make the decision in their counties, rather than passing one rule for all counties. The CDAC's should decide how many antlerless deer they need to kill. He does not believe that earn a buck will come back into play.
|                   | - Kevin Wallenfang was asked to comment by Rob Bohman and suggested that there was a need to give landowners and non hunting landowners a break and that this may not be well received by non hunting public.
|                   | - Larry Gohlke asked for an amendment / motion to amend to have this apply to populations with goals of maintain or decrease.
|                   | - Mike Riggle moved to advance, seconded by Bill Yingst, motion to advance carried.
|                   | - Tony Grabski indicated there needed to be a break in December, due to the antlerless and - Mark Noll indicated the Holiday hunt has not worked to help keep numbers down.
- Bill Yingst suggested we allow each CDAC to do their own thing
- Larry Gohlke agreed for the need to make these tools available to all CDAC's
- Andy Geiger, agreed with the need for a list of tools but indicated we can't have 72 different sets of rules
- Marlin Laidlaw stated we can't impose on landowners if they don't want this
++Committee voted to advance with the amendment

2. Same premise as #1 above but with the caveat that if population reduction is not accomplished, an even more punitive season with a higher percentage of 50% antlerless only hunting could be implemented by the CDAC.
- Mark Noll indicated this will anger landowners and stated again that he wished CDAC's could take their own initiatives.
- Kevin Wallenfang indicated this may make landowners shut down, and that there weren't many counties that wanted to decrease their deer numbers.
- Tony Grabski objected to closing down the latter part of the season
- Marlin Laidlaw moved to reject, seconded by Mark Noll, motion to reject carried.

3. Mike Riggle addressed his suggestion. He indicated some hunters kill 3-4 bucks per year, and that there are too many violations to support contention for a one buck per year limit.
- Kevin Wallenfang stated that rule would not change multiple kills occurring on other's tags.
- Motion to reject by Jay Koenig, seconded by Charlie Brown, motion to reject carried.

- Mike Riggle suggested bonus buck tags be issued for multiple doe harvests, to allow CDAC's to reduce populations. Additional deer could be dropped at food pantry's.
- Kevin Wallenfang indicated we had gotten rid of bonus buck tags and that they were not impactful, food pantry's are not that common, and that this had not been effective in the past
- Andy Geiger moved to reject, seconded by Roger Sabota, motion to reject carried.

4. Dale Ebert indicated Mark Noll had previously covered this idea.
- Kevin Wallenfang said that a 16 day season would take care of this rather than have numerous seasons and their complications.
- Dave Scidl moved to reject, seconded by Jay Koenig, motion to reject carried.

5. Larry Gohlke's proposal called for accomplishing a larger doe harvest by reducing permits to $2.00 from $12.00
- Kevin Wallenfang reported that the higher fee pays for ag damage and cwd testing, that more deer could be killed but that funding would be lost on the other end.
- Rob Bohmann stated that counties can issue free tags
- Tony Grabski indicated there were two to four free tags available now in farmland zones
- Charlie Brown motioned to reject, seconded by Andy Geiger, motion to reject carried.

6. Non resident antlerless permits should be sold for $100.00
- Larry Gohlke motion to reject seconded by Charlie Brown, motion to reject carried.

7. Four day antlerless hunts during each week of early and late bow season. More deer
- Larry Gohlke indicated more deer could be shot under the threat of losing hunting opportunity and that bowhunters couldn't shoot bucks during those four days.
- Andy Geiger said this would be forced on bow hunters
- Larry Gohlke indicated this would be for gun and bow hunts
- Larry Gohlke motion to advance seconded by Marlin Laidlaw, motion to advance failed.
8. Issue ag tags to limit ag damage
   - Doug Seidl asked Kevin Wallenfang how this was different.
   - Andy Geiger motion to reject, seconded by Rich Olsen
   - Marlin Laidlaw indicated ag tags are already available, and that you can't put deer in the bank
   - Motion to reject carried.

9. Issue more antlerless tags per license in county's that need control.
   - Kevin Wallenfang indicated this is something that is already out there, no limit on free CDAC tags.
   - Marlin Laidlaw asked if tags were limited to ag land counties only, and that we have that now.
   - Jay Koenig motion to reject, seconded by Marlin Laidlaw, motion to reject carried.

10. Provide incentives to property owners to allow access for deer hunting. Tax breaks, tax deductions, or flat fee deductions for participating in access program.
    - Al Horvath indicated more seasons and tags don't necessarily translate into greater harvest. Access seems to be the issue in many areas, and people traditionally only shoot what they can use.
    - Kevin Wallenfang indicated there was a public access process, but that it was underutilized. He thought this had some merit.
    - Rob Bohmann asked Kari if she thought something like this could go forward. Kari indicated she thought so.
    - Al Horvath indicated it could go through a resolution process to get where it could be acted on.
    - Jay Koenig motioned to advance, seconded by Tony Grabski
    - Marlin Laidlaw asked how this would be verified
    - Mark Noll said it wouldn't be enough incentive in Buffalo County when leases could be sold for $20,000 or more
    - Stan Brownell and Rich Olsen asked for clarification if this was antlerless only
    - Group indicated it should stay as indicated as deer hunting
    - Al Horvath had proposed the landowner sign off on whether it was rifle or bow, or open to antlerless or buck harvest.
    - Jay Koenig agreed that should be up to the landowner
    ++ Motion to advance carried

11. Bonus buck tags for additional doe harvest.
    - Al Horvath indicated this had been already covered in #3 and suggested this be rejected.
    - Motion to reject by Doug Seidl, seconded by Jay Koenig, motion to reject carried.

12. Al Horvath asked if we could consider a 16 day season proposal to eliminate numerous seasons and complications.
    - Rob Bohmann asked Al if he was making a motion, and Al responded yes. Motion was seconded by Rick Olsen.
    - Point of order was made that this was not on the agenda. Rob stated that it is part of the agenda due to we're discussing options to add.
    - Stan Brownell indicated longer seasons have been rejected in the past.
    - Larry Golik asked if the season would be moved earlier
    - Tony Grabski asked if it could be the Saturday before Thanksgiving to the Sunday after
    - Kevin Wallenfang said that no rifle season could occur prior to the regular rifle season by statute, and that this would eliminate the 4 day December hunt
    - Andy Geiger said breaks during the season allow folks to recharge
    - Rob Bohmann indicated that to extend to 16 days, board approval is required and that it would have to stick with the date of the regular opener
+++Motion to advance carried

Rob asked the committee if there were any other options they wanted to add.

- Rich Olsen shared concern over businesses that have requested nuisance permits to control forest damage from deer. This, in a county where the Sawyer County CDAC's have not issued youth or any other season antlerless permits. He warned about how this process was approved.
- Andy Geiger went through this same thing in Marinette County
- Brad Hnitsk a DNR forestry liaison indicated these were not nuisance tags, and that they were a special tag to resolve an economic issue.
- Roger Sabota indicated there were differences in Northern vs. South when it came to snowmobiling. Later hunting season could cause some complaints and interference with them in the north.
- Dale Ebert shared issues with forest antlerless tags in his area. The tags are being issues in an area with low deer densities.
- Mark Noll made a motion to give CDAC's the ability to do what needs to be done in their counties regarding antlerless harvest.
  +++Marlin Laidlaw seconded this motion, and motion carried.

- Larry Gohlke asked if EAB was still going on out there

- Tony Grabski made a motion to have black powder season extend over two weekends. From the Saturday following close of rifle season to run for 9 instead of 10 days which would cover two weekends.
- Andy Geiger second the motion.
- Marlin Laidlaw asked if we were staying a rifle could be used during muzzleloader season or add a rifle to muzzleloader season not change the season.
  +++ Motion failed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. **[DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC]**

| DISCUSSION |
| ACTION |

| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

**DISCUSSION**

- Rick Olsen brought up the forestry groups responsible for 18,000 acres asking for 112 antlerless permits to aid regeneration. Stated their science was not valid, and that these requests should go through the CDAC's.
- Mike Riggle stated that these are ag-tags, and they don't go through CDAC's
- Dale Ebert indicated in Florence County there have been four years where ag damage program has resulted in 70, 92, 67, and 75 deer killed due to forestry regeneration concerns. (Goodman Grade) The harvest increased regeneration from 37 to 48%, with the goal of 80% in mind.
- Brad Hutnik from forestry indicated their practices and reasoning was sound.
- Marlin Laidlaw indicated forestry issues and control damage to deer populations too. Stan Brownell said it was important to keep everyone balanced, and not create issues of have vs. havnots.
- A member indicated he has trailing dogs for deer recovery and they are experiencing a number of high
hits on deer when crossbow shooters shoot beyond 35 yards. Deer reacting to the sound of the shot are hit high when preparing to run.
- Tony Grabski said he quit hunting in Forest County due to nuisance forestry tags creating animosity in an area with low deer numbers.
- Rob Bohman wished everyone good luck in the coming season

**ACTION**

Tony Grabski motioned to adjourn, seconded by Doug Soidl, motion carried.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETING ADJOURNED</th>
<th>9:10 pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUBMITTED BY</td>
<td>Al Horvath, Vice Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>11/17/2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>