Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Deer & Elk Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS
08/12/2017 9:30 am Grand Lodge Waterpark Resort, Rothschild, WI

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
A. CALL TO ORDER
Meeting called to order by Rob Bohmann at 9:30 am

B. ROLL CALL
ATTENDEES

EXCUSED
Tom Johnson, Mike Riggle, Doug Williams

UNEXCUSED
Andy Geiger

GUESTS
DNR Liaisons Present: Kevin Wallenfang, Dave Zebro, Brad Hutnik.
Not Present: Dan Storm, Kevin Mickelberg

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR
DISCUSSION
Bohmann asked to move agenda around so we can handle resolutions that authors are present for first so they don’t have to be wait all day

ACTION
motion to approve by Seidl, 2nd by Grabski, motion carried

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT
DISCUSSION
Horvath read mission statement

ACTION
no action

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS
DISCUSSION
none

ACTION
none

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS
A. Citizen Resolutions

1. 690117 Return to durable tags and in person registration for deer
Scott Bestul, author

DISCUSSION
Scott Bestul explained some older people need it, better metrics, better for economy, way more accurate and less likely to cheat system. Discussion: not include back tags, should put on questionnaire to see what public wants, more accurate metrics & numbers, some meat processors are having problems aging deer for DNR now, change is taxable but private business's got hurt economically, was a perfect system but we could use hand held computers at stations to get fast accurate data to DNR. Likes on-line but should be both.

ACTION
Advance
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
motion to advance by Laidlaw, 2nd by Allen, motion carried

DEADLINE

2. 640117 Make deer license either sex for seniors over 65
Ken Anderson, author

DISCUSSION
Ken Anderson explained elderly cannot always drag a buck out in buck only areas and weather is a factor when older. This would give seniors a chance to be more productive and doesn’t see very many does getting shot anyway. Discussion; maybe an earlier season but has always got turned down

ACTION
Advance
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
motion to advance by Grabski, 2nd by Jacobson, motion carried

DEADLINE
3. **450217 Allow deer tracking dog handlers to dispatch wounded deer with firearms**

| DISCUSSION | Scott Springstroh explained it can be dangerous if dogs find deer alive yet & dogs can get in way so need responsible person to dispatch deer to keep dogs safe. Also quick and ethical dispatch instead of leaving wounded until someone gets there with a weapon. Discussion: Don't want just anyone doing this, needs to be licensed for it. Friendly amendment by Schwegel to contact Warden & give location & time of retrieval attempt was approved by author. Friendly amendment by Beyer to have the tag holder accompany handler if at all possible was accepted by author. |
| ACTION | Advanced w/amendment to have tag holder accompany handler if at all possible |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| motion to advance by Gohlke, 2nd by Schwegel, motion carried |

4. **710217 Allow white deer to be harvested in Winnebago County**

| DISCUSSION | Mike Lowhrke explained how in 4 years white deer have exploded to over 40 in small area. Cannot control population density if cannot harvest a type that is growing fast and a season needs to be allowed to harvest some of them. Discussion: Friendly amendment by Laidlaw to give CDACs the authority to allow the harvest of white deer within their county; was approved by author. |
| ACTION | Advanced w/amendment to give CDACs the authority to allow the harvest of white deer within their county |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| motion to advance by Laidlaw, 2nd by Seidl, motion carried |

5. **370117 Allow CDACs to approve the harvest of white (non-albino) deer**

| DISCUSSION | Mike Brust explained same problem as previous resolution. Discussion: resolution 710217 was same concept that passed, so author was ok in tableing his resolution |
| ACTION | Tabled |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| motion to table by Gohlke, 2nd by Grabski, motion carried |

6. **570517 Limit number of gun deer hunters in some state parks**

| DISCUSSION | Don explained 15 parks would be effected. Parks are to small to open to public with no restrictions. Example is Natural Bridge State park-580 acres with around 150 field or open and over 40 cars parked opening day. Most on main highway because they don't want to pay park sticker. Hunter density way to high that it is dangerous. Poorly marked boarders lead to trespass to neighbors, no park staff on duty to control anything, showed sheet of all landowners around park that signed petition to limit hunters. Also public hikers run into hunters all the time as it is over crowded and small area. Used to be limited to 15 hunters and had very few if any problems. |
| ACTION | Advanced |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| motion to advance by Hasheider, 2nd by Laidlaw, motion carried |

7. **070117 End payment for private game farms for animals that have tested positive for CWD**

| DISCUSSION | Discussion was DATCAP pays for animals euthanized, but hunter dollars are used to buy property that is CWD positive so fence doesn’t get taken down. |
| ACTION | Advanced |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| motion to advance by Gohlke, 2nd by Schwegel, motion carried |
### 8. 090117 Ban sale and use of deer scents, dips, and licks in Wisconsin

**DISCUSSION**
Game farms that produce scents & sell nationwide do not have to be CWD free tested. It has been proven that CWD can be transferred through liquids and this could be a form of transporting it quickly across the nation. Has to be some proof of CWD free or a ban.

**ACTION**
Advanced

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**
motion to advance by Olson, 2nd by Jacobson, motion carried

### 9. 130517 Make fluorescent yellow another color that can be worn during the gun deer season

**DISCUSSION**
Horvath read letter sent by author. Fluorescent yellow is already made in warm clothing for contractors and a lot of people have this so it would possibly be much more popular than pink. It has been shown in some studies that yellow is more pronounced than orange and pink for color blind people so hunting groups that have a color blind person would allow more safe environment. If it can make of a more safe hunt, we should be looking into it.

**ACTION**
Advanced

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**
motion to advance by Ladlaw, 2nd by Marotz, motion carried

### 10. 140217 Create a split season for crossbows and vertical bows

**DISCUSSION**
Original 3 year test is up and now is time to make separate season as crossbows are way more efficient and should be in a separate season from the archery season now. We should not pin one group of hunters to another by separating seasons. When would season be? Vertical bow hunters are not wanting to give up the rut time. There are enough seasons already that are hard to follow.

**ACTION**
Rejected

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**
motion to reject by Schwegel, 2nd by Beyer, motion carried

### 11. 160117 Allow archery/crossbow buck harvest during statewide antlerless hunts

**DISCUSSION**
Not fair to archery hunters to have to let a buck pass because of a statewide antlerless gun hunt going on, much less, having to wear orange already. Would be to easy for hunters to shoot a buck and say it was with a bow especially with the call in registration. Hunters who get permission to hunt private land for a doe during that time period would not be given permission because the land owner or neighbors would be buck hunting and not allow access. When buck harvest is involved, it gets political.

**ACTION**
Rejected

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**
motion to reject by Noll, 2nd by Schwegel, motion carried

### 12. 310317 Adopt a 4-point antler restriction in Wisconsin

**DISCUSSION**
4 point rule would be safer as hunters would have to positively identify the deer and would be safer shots instead of a fleeting animal. Would allow for more mature age class of buck and better diversity of age structure. It should be the hunters choice to choose what he wants to shoot-trophy, doe, fawn. By restricting shooting some bucks may cause CWD to proliferate faster as older bucks have shown the most infection rate. If a young hunter or old wants to shoot a deer for the meat they should be allowed. Other states have had success putting antler restrictions with hunter satisfaction. This has come up in the past in the WCC and always fails at a rate of at least 60/40.

**ACTION**
Rejected

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**
motion to reject by Noll, 2nd by Brown, motion carried
### 310417 Suspend or limit deer shining with high powered illuminated lights

**DISCUSSION**
Shining should be limited to 1 hour after dark or completely, as it scares wildlife and changes their patterns. Also increases probability of shining and shooting/poaching. While this is a valid concern it should be done at a local level like Buffalo County has done.

**ACTION**
Rejected

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**
motion to reject by Jacobson, 2nd by Noll, motion carried

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### 330317 Change the buck carcass tag to either sex

**DISCUSSION**
Would give hunters a choice. Tags are given out or for sale as an extra in each DMU as CDACs allow now. So if there's a lot of deer, they are awarded a tag, and if not, they're not awarded a tag. Buck only areas wouldn't have any control.

**ACTION**
Rejected

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**
motion to reject by Laidlaw, 2nd by West, motion carried

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### 420317 No feeding or baiting of deer in Monroe County

**DISCUSSION**
To slow or stop CWD coming to Monroe county there should be no baiting or feeding. Friendly amendment was added to say would you support legislation giving CDAC's the ability to ban feeding and baiting of deer within their county

**ACTION**
Advanced w/amendment for legislation giving CDACs the ability to ban feeding and baiting within their county

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**
motion to advance by Brownell, 2nd by Koenig, motion carried

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### 430217 Require double fencing for all captive cervid operations

**DISCUSSION**
Shingle fencing has shown to allow nose to nose contact and believed to be able to spread CWD this way. In Iowa Co. there is a single fenced operation that has not brought in any deer since before CWD detected and now has CWD and it is believed that is the only way it could have passed.

**ACTION**
Advanced

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**
motion to advance Gohlke, 2nd by Marotz, motion carried

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### 430317 Hold captive cervid operations legally/moneutarily responsible if CWD is found

**DISCUSSION**
elk should be included

**ACTION**
Advanced

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**
motion to advance by Beyer, 2nd by Laidlaw, motion carried

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### 580117 Nuisance deer permits for forest damage when CDAC goal is increase or maintain

**DISCUSSION**
Keep permits same as CDAC and DNR goal is in open forests. Maximize accessibility on open lands. Damage permits should be allowed to take care of hot spots

**ACTION**
Advanced (motion to reject by Gohlke, 2nd by Grabski, motion failed)
B. Department Information Items and Updates

**Wallenfang, Zebro, Hutnik**

**DISCUSSION** Wallenfang - 2017 Preview, deer population in state pushing 2 million, same season structure, 4 buck only counties & 17 holiday hunt counties; New rules - baiting & feeding ban has been lifted in some counties, tree stands can be left out on public land overnight in Northern Wis. only, tag validation is now done by tearing off bottom portion of tag. Southern deer study going well; Elk introduction going well; Hutnik - Forestry regeneration metrics, trends, and how to read them; Zebro - Law Enforcement, AB411 & how it would effect them, warden insights, hiring new wardens & filling ranger positions

**ACTION** None

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE** None

C. None

**DISCUSSION** None

**ACTION** None

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE** None

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

**DISCUSSION** Boot and feeding, maybe do like Illinois, but until season then ban during season; Nuisance license, land owner needs a license and hunters he gives tags to need at least a small game license; DNR should continue having a presence at the State Fair; CDAC meetings are starting, should encourage attendance; Tools not there for CDACs that want to maintain or decrease populations; Bohmann said role as CDAC chair has changed from being a voting member to only being able to vote to make or break a tie, would like to see CDAC vice-chairs have the ability to vote so our constituents still have a representative voting on CDACs, asked the committee for a position to send a letter to the executive committee asking for this change. Motion by Grabski, 2nd by Haas to send letter to executive committee asking for this change, motion carried unanimously. Bohmann said if CDAC’s in the central or southern farmland zones are in increase mode, they should have option to control the amount of free antler-less tags that are given with the purchase of a license by limiting the amount of free tags that would be available, he asked the committee for support to forward a question to be put on the questionnaire, motion by Grabski, 2nd by Laidlaw, motion carried

**ACTION** Motion to send letter to executive committee in support of CDAC vice chairs having a vote passed unanimously. Motion to forward a question for the questionnaire for CDACs in central & southern farmland to have the ability to limit the free antler-less tags within their county passed unanimously.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 3:45pm

**SUBMITTED BY** Brad Hasheider

**DATE** 08/12/2017