Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Legislative Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS

09/09/2017  9:30 am  Portage County Public Library

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Gunderson at 9:30

B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES
Kevin Schanning, Michael Hamm, Ed Choinski, Lowell Suring, Alan Suchla, Chuck Boley, John Jones, Matthew Schleis, Harold Drake, Ronald Fassbender, David Breunig, Melissa Smith, Kathleen Tober, Scott Gunderson, Matt Obrien (DNR), Tim Gary (DNR)

EXCUSED
Richard Krawze, Eric Wojchik, Tashina Peplinski, Bill Howe

UNEXCUSED
Josh Halberg, Don Wyeth

GUESTS
Richard Gilbreath, Nichole Gilbreath, Jon Ausloos, Duane Hapster, Jeff Vaughter, JJ Malvitz, Bob Claus, Laurie Groskopf, Terry Gurkeet, Gary Mertig, Dale Maas, Gloriann Klein (Telephonically)

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION
Hamm request order for public comments on resolutions to accommodate theirs before others.

ACTION
Breunig Motion to approve, Choinski second, Motion Carries

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION
Scott Gunderson reviewed the mission statement.

ACTION

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION

ACTION

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Citizen Resolutions

1. Increase guide licensing requirements (050617, 150117) [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION
JJ Malvitz (Door) and Robert Claus (Brown) provided summery of concerns associated with the citizen resolution. Federal regulations require additional requirements that are not required by the State. Concerns that guides without the proper credentials may impose negative stigma upon the industry and the region.

O’Brien (DNR) provided summary of efforts taken by Department. There are varying levels of participation in guides. Discussed clarification on definition of guide, whether allowance of access to property would be considered guiding. Guide license covers all species and methods of sporting. Distinction should be made between recreational and professional guides. Citizens should push their legislators on this subject in addition to the committee's efforts. In 2016 there were 1,670 guide licenses issued to residents.

ACTION
Fassbender Motion to advance, Suchla second motion. Motion carries

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
DEADLINE

2. Increase guide license fees (640417) [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION
Duane Hapster (Vilas) provided summery of citizen resolution. Guides should be responsible to provide support to resource that is being leveraged for business gains. Guides are responsible for higher pressure on resource than general public may. Fees presented in resolution were supported by guides in area.
| Review comparison of adjacent state’s fees for guide services. Discussion reviewed supplies used by guides and provision of supplies associated with services by sponsors. There is a division in guiding efforts, part time versus full time guides. Resolution may be interpreted as a commercial use of the resource. Monies obtained from these fees should be earmarked for resource related fees. Currently these fees are made available to the Fish and Wildlife fund. |

**ACTION**  
Schanning motion to advance Boley second the motion. Motion carries  

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**  
DEADLINE

| Require permit for non-motorized watercraft (1 free with hunting or fishing license)/ Require person |

**DISCUSSION**  
John Ausloos (Public) provided summary of resolution. Suggested that similar resolution failed as sportsman felt this would impact them significantly. Breunig provided summary of comments and concerns of author Jason Thomas.  

Non-motorized watercraft accounted for 22% deaths in 2015 / 2016. More than 18,000 non-motorized watercraft are currently voluntarily registered and 335,000 are believed to use the resource. Organizations that have multiple non-motorized boats need to be accounted for in fees to accommodate financial burden. Registration would provide support to identify owners in circumstances of found boat, infractions, or other times. Neighboring states do have similar fees with various requirements.  

**ACTION**  
Suring motion to advance Tober second the motion. Motion carries  

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**  
DEADLINE

| Replace politics with science in natural resource management/ Restore reliance on sound science to D |

**DISCUSSION**  
Jeff Vaughter (Public) provided summary of background to the resolution. There are numerous topics of concern that are associated with natural resources. Concerns of censorship in terms of resources and government position.  

Resolution does not provide specific levels of fiscal support or positions. There is also little legislative action in resolution as written. Author requests that this message be conveyed to the legislature. The intent of the resolution was supported but lacks specificity to action requested. Prior conversations with legislators suggested that administration confirmed resources remained to provide required support. This topic would be benefited by public support and advocacy.  

**ACTION**  
Schanning motion to advance, Smith second the motion; Motion carries  

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**  
DEADLINE

| Reintroduction of American bison (350317) |

**DISCUSSION**  
Laurie Groskopf (Public) provided summary of resolution and state of American Bison population. There are many other animal species that have been managed in a similar manner previously have yielded benefits.  

Concerns of reintroduction of species may not yield recreational opportunities. This topic would require thorough review and consideration for implications. Concerns with scope of management plan and implications with agriculture. This would need to be developed to ensure success in this plan, free range bison present public safety concerns.  

**ACTION**  
Schleis motion to advance, Schanning second the motion. Motion fails. Breunig motion to reject, Hamm second the motion. Motion carries – resolution was rejected.  

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**  
DEADLINE
6. Require all hunting dogs injured or killed be examined by vet before compensation (410717)

**DISCUSSION**
Gloriann Klein (Public) spoke to the committee via telephone regarding the resolution and concerns. $702,000 has been paid for compensation and vet charges associated to wolf depredation payments. Animals are being placed at risk for injury despite warnings and postings present. This would provide a means to track and document. Hound hunting dogs are being purposefully put at risk for injury or death. Author expressed dissatisfaction with comments being cut off prior to vote being held, time had been allowed per committee's requirement.

Gary (DNR) – There is no cap on compensation per hunt, though there is a monetary cap per hunting dog. There is already a requirement for veterinary documentation in order for veterinary compensation be paid. A United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services employee must verify injury for compensation payments.

Compensation may still be provided to animals that sustain injuries or death within a marked or posted area. Appears that current practices accommodate demand for veterinary examination and support for compensation.

**ACTION**
Schanning motion to reject, Choinski seconded the motion. Motion carries – resolution is rejected.

7. Allow the use of large caliber pneumatic rifles and bows for hunting large game (520117)

**DISCUSSION**
Richard Gilbreath (Public) provided background of resolution. There are many other states that are considering similar rifles. The firearms may accommodate lethal means to dispatch animal. The resolution intended to make this an option without specifics of seasons of use.

There is limited familiarity with these firearms amongst the general hunting community. The weapons produce similar noise as a .22 rifle. This topic is akin to prior conversations with crossbows. This technology appears to be an upcoming method of hunting. Resolution as written doesn’t provide significant direction for intended action.

Intent is to allow these firearms to be allowed for use in hunting.

**ACTION**
Fassbender motion to advance, Tober second the motion. Motion carries.

8. End the mandatory sales of public property (070217)

**DISCUSSION**
There was legislative direction to post properties for sale within prior fiscal year's budget. As a result of this 10,439 acres were offered for sale, and 4,102 currently have been sold. Marketing continues on listed properties. The sales were made in a responsible format, addressing landlocked properties and properties adjacent to existing other public lands. Field staff were used to evaluate all acres that were to be posted for sale, evaluating future use potential or special concerns. Land sales may continue in the future beyond this but on the general basis of individual evaluation.

There is no current outstanding mandatory sale of public property. Current budget doesn’t appear address this topic nor force mandatory sale of property. Congress may have limited power to impose any change associated with this resolution and there is limited action available.

**ACTION**
Hamm motion to reject, Boley seconds the motion. Motion carries – resolution is rejected

9. Amend Wis. Statute 192.32(1) regarding crossing of railroad tracks (120317)

**DISCUSSION**
Discussed the revision requested, intention is to address prior language that was omitted allowing individuals to walk directly across the tracks

**ACTION**
Schanning motion to advance, Suchla second the motion. Motion carries – resolution is advanced
### Require at least one NRB member to be active in silent sports (130317)

**DISCUSSION**

It could be generally assumed that the exiting members would satisfy this requirement. It may be difficult to validate as it doesn’t address the extent of participation in the listed sports. Question the validation of the existing background requirements without specific requirements. Appointment to the NRB is conducted by the Governor and would be able to appoint intended individuals.

**ACTION**

Schanning motion to advance, Suring second the motion. Hand vote – 4 in favor, 8 against – motion fails

Cheinski motion to reject, Suchla second the motion. Motion carries

### Include WCC election in statewide elections on first Tuesday in April (390817)

**DISCUSSION**

The WCC initiative to review the electronic voting in may address the concerns presented by this resolution. The background provided for the resolution included numerous assumptions that do not appear to be factual

**ACTION**

Boley motion to reject, Jones second the motion. Motion carries

### Allow individual CDACs to make local decisions regarding baiting and feeding (480117)

**DISCUSSION**

Chuck Boley provided background for the resolution. Dr. Kroll study suggested that local control be provided to local citizens with knowledge of requirements and concerns of the local community.

There is interest to allow the local CDACs to take appropriate action regarding feeding, especially under emergent issues. There may be conflicting ideas with the WCC stance of baiting with the allowance of baiting decisions. Any existing legislative action would supersede allowance of baiting associated with CWD. This would have likely impact on attendance to CDAC meetings. Due to conflicts with CWD rules this would only impact areas that are currently allowed to bait, not allowing baiting. Intent is to restore local control to baiting.

**ACTION**

Schanning motion to advance, Tober second the motion. Boley abstained from voting. Motion carries

### Reimplement back tags for deer hunting (670117)

**DISCUSSION**

The topic of backtags was previously covered by WCC spring hearings with a majority in favor of keeping backtags. There is currently only one state that requires backtags. The license system has largely changed away from the prior system, causing potential issues with returning to back tags. Landowners have limited means of identifying trespassing hunters with the loss of backtags. WI trespassing law enforcement limitations supports this provision. Modernization of Wisconsin has been a consistent topic in the meeting and this conflicts with the modernization. The use of backtags could be considered similar to the requirement of license plates on motor vehicles. If individuals were required to wear the backtag they may be less inclined to trespass.

O’Brien – This past year with no backtags yielded a similar law enforcement experience as prior years with them. They may often be reported inaccurately or not visible.

**ACTION**

Hamm motion to advance, Schanning second the motion. Motion carries
1. Increase penalties for dogs at large (710517)

**DISCUSSION**
Letter submitted by the author was read. There are similar experiences in other counties. This doesn’t represent all bear hunters. If individuals are familiar with problem individuals or issues they should contact the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association as they have a vested interest to maintain a good name for the sport. If there is limited enforcement of existing laws how likely are additional laws to be enforced. The DNR is unable to provide enforcement for dogs at large, this would fall to local law enforcement.

**ACTION**
Choinski motion to advance, Tober second the motion. Motion carries

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**

**DEADLINE**

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**B. Break**

**DISCUSSION**
Break for lunch was taken at 12:00 pm, Reconvened at 12:44

**ACTION**
Roll call was taken – Following members were present: Kevin Schanning, Michael Hamm, Ed Choinski, Lowell Suring, Alan Suchla, Chuck Boley, John Jones, Matthew Schleis, Harold Drake, Ronald Fassbender, David Breunig, Kathleen Tober, Scott Gunderson, Matt O’Brien (DNR), Tim Gary (DNR).

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**

**DEADLINE**

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**C. DNR information Items and Updates**
Tim Gary

**DISCUSSION**
To be supplemented by Tim (DNR)

**ACTION**

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**

**DEADLINE**

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**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

**DISCUSSION**
Requested the summary of pending legislative action available prior to the meeting.

Happy to see the participation of the CDACs but there is disappointing participation by the public. Some counties have conducted significant efforts to promote meetings with very limited response.

Meeting went well, good facility with a central location. Delegates represent constituents and should be present for the entire meeting. Had discussed holding more frequent meetings to discuss pending legislation, may arise in the future. Meeting next year to discuss citizen resolutions to be scheduled for September 8th, 2018

**ACTION**
Schanning motion to adjourn, Boley second the motion. Motion carries

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**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**
2:30 pm

**SUBMITTED BY**
Matthew L. Schleis

**DATE**
09/10/2017
1) Richard Gilbreath - resolution
2) Nicole Gilbreath - resolution
3) Jon Auslog - resolution 09.11.17
4) Darin Haupster - resolution # 690717
5) Jeff Vaughter - resolution # 500317
6) Malvitz - resolution # 150117
7) Bob Clamps - resolution # 050617
8) Laurie Girodope - resolution # 350317
9) Tanya Gurker - Just Spectating
10) Gary Mertig - Listening
To Bait or Not to Bait: The Impacts of Supplemental Feeding on Deer Behavior and Habitat

By DAVE KRAMER  FEBRUARY 2, 2016

7 Comments

Few issues arouse passions among hunters and wildlife managers quite so acutely as supplemental feeding. We’re not talking in-season baiting here, or even cultivated food plots. Rather, the practice of setting out feed or minerals that are not natural to the environment for the purpose of carrying over more wildlife to the next hunting season.

So… what’s the right balance? Is it to prohibit all supplemental feeding, as many states do? Or to allow it year-round, as other states do? Or to meet in the middle and allow supplemental feeding only during certain times of the year?

The topic has been studied by a number of researchers, who have attempted to answer that question of balance, as well as to determine how feeding influences game distribution, daily movement, and wildlife habitat. It turns out, there’s no clear-cut answer, but research indicates that supplemental feed will cause deer to become nocturnal, browse down localized habitat, and change their distribution. Here’s a look at the research.

**Deer Movements**
The presence of supplemental feed during both the hunting season and off-season can have an impact on how deer move throughout their environment. One of the most consistent findings is that when supplemental food is available to deer, there is a documented shift from crepuscular to nocturnal activity patterns (Ozoga and Verme, 1982).

A crepuscular activity pattern is when an animal is most active at dawn and dusk, while a nocturnal animal is most active at night. Deer are primarily crepuscular, which is why sportsmen rise early and go out before dusk during the hunting season, maximizing their chance to see deer. Not only have deer been documented becoming more nocturnal after exposure to supplemental feed, they also become less dependent on daytime foraging and tend to decrease daytime activity overall as the hunting season progresses (Ozega and Verme, 1982).

So why is that important to know? Shooting hours are typically a half hour before sunrise to sunset. If the deer are becoming more nocturnal when provided with supplemental food, it then creates fewer opportunities for sportsmen to harvest deer. Not only that, but if you prefer a rifle to a bow, you’re typically hunting later in the season, where deer with access to supplemental feed may become less active during the day.

**Home Ranges**
Recent research has shown that bucks with access to supplemental feed during the off-season (post hunting
seasons) did not have statistically different home range sizes; however, their home ranges were slightly smaller. The sizes of buck core areas did not change whether they had supplemental feed or not (Cooper et al., 2006). Similar results were found for does, however one of the two studies provided supplemental food throughout a one-year period (Campbell et al., 2006) and that study found that does on supplemental feed used a smaller core area.

Other studies (Campbell et al., 2006; Cooper et al., 2006; and Garner, 2001) documented that when provided with supplemental feed during fall/winter periods, deer home ranges tend to overlap more than those with access to only natural food sources.

This suggests that even if bucks have an ample supply of food, other behavioral needs, like finding does, may cause bucks to periodically venture away from the supplemental feed site. Does are typically sought out by bucks, so they have limited need to stray far from a supplemental food supply, which is why their core area is much smaller. Garner’s work indicates that deer may be honing in an alternative food source, or they may be more willing to congregate in the same area to access a food resource.

**Impacts on Habitat**

Does supplemental feeding cause adverse impacts to habitat? In a study conducted by Cooper et al in 2006, researchers placed plant species around feed stations and found that those plants were browsed more heavily than those placed in areas where there were no feed stations. In addition, saplings that were placed closer to the feeding station were utilized by deer more than those that were placed farther away.

Those findings agree with previous studies that showed that deer habituated to feed sites visit the location more frequently than normal, and while at the food station they will feed on the surrounding vegetation. This results in a local degradation of the habitat.

The local plant degradation can result in an increase of less desirable or non-native plants as deer reduce the competitive ability of native plants. To reduce the negative impacts of supplemental feeding, it may be a good idea to periodically move the location of these stations so that the surrounding habitat can recuperate from intense browse pressure.

**Sources:**


*Photograph by Natalie Krebs*
JJ Malvitz
Conservation Congress Legislative Session
09/09/2017
Resolution #150117
DNR Cust# 991-331-042

My name is JJ Malvitz and I am a licensed guide from Door County Wisconsin. This past April I submitted proposal #150117 which sought to increase the requirements to become a licensed guide.

Currently to become a guide in Wisconsin you fill out an application and pay a forty dollar fee annually.

This procedure has remained the same for several decades and has not taken into account the increased publicity of Wisconsin's Natural Resources. Wisconsin boasts a diverse array of hunting and fishing opportunities across the entire state, and in recent years these accolades have gained national attention.

The perimeters currently in Wisconsin do not take into account important factors of guide license holders such as CPR, First Aid, Proof of Insurance what/where they guide, felony convictions/criminal record.

Here are some regional examples of what other states require to become a guide.

- Currently the State of North Dakota mandates that each guide/outfitter weather hunting or fishing must be CPR and First Aid Certified and keep their certifications valid.

- Our neighbors to the south in Illinois have similar laws for guides and outfitters. Deer hunting guides must pay a $500 fee plus fill out a lengthy application.

Increasing guide license requirements will enhance the legitimacy and competency of guides in the state of Wisconsin. Increasing the qualifications to become a licensed guide will provide the general public with a qualified individual who is competent to be compensated for hunting and fishing activities.

I am asking that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress to pursue increasing the requirements to become a licensed guide in the State of Wisconsin. This should be done on a multilevel approach across the hunting and fishing guide communities. Additionally working with conservation officers to further assist in the development of this requirement

Thanks for your consideration of my proposal.
FR: Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Trout Committee
PO Box 1425,
Eau Claire, WI 54702

TO: Scott Gunderson
WCC Legislative Committee
23401 Hanson Road
Union Grove, WI 53182

RE: 2017 Resolution 050617 Increase Guide License Requirements

The Trout Committee met on 26 August and provides this input on the need for increased requirements for WI guide license holders. Several committee members are WI guides and many members have used guides in Wisconsin and other states.

Guides should have, at a minimum, successfully completed a basic first aid or CPR class—a good first step. Additionally, graduation from the appropriate safety class when guiding—hunter guides using ATV's to move clients would need the Hunter and ATV safety certificates.

WI Fishing guides should complete the boater safety class. Great Lakes, Mississippi River and Lake Winnebago have federal requirements for guide boat operators.

Some kind of liability insurance should be required. Hunting guides put clients in tree stands—a dangerous situation. Fishing guides often use watercraft on lakes and rivers. A guide should have some minimal level of insurance.

As it stands now hiring a “licensed” guide in Wisconsin is really a buyer beware situation. Clients (customers) should have some reasonable expectation of competency and responsibility.

Regards,

[Signature]
Dennis R. Vanden Bloomen
Chair, Trout Committee
braunsbay@hotmail.com
715-379-6792