WCC Secretary Meeting Minutes  
Form 8300-026E (R 02/17)  
Page 1 of 8

Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
Meeting Minutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORDER OF BUSINESS</th>
<th>05/11/2017</th>
<th>2:00 PM</th>
<th>Best Western Convention Center Oshkosh</th>
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</table>

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Larry Bonde at 2:05 PM

B. ROLL CALL


EXCUSED: Stan Brownell, Stanislaw Grzyzynski, Scott Gunderson.

UNEXCUSED: GUESTS

C. Agenda Approval or Repair

Larry Bonde

DISCUSSION: Larry stated that he had no changes for the agenda.

ACTION: Motion by Anderson 2nd by Smaby to approve agenda as published. Motion carried.

D. Public Comment

DISCUSSION: There was no member of the public requesting to comment.

ACTION: No action taken

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Strategic Plan Update

Art Lersch, UW Extension

DISCUSSION: Art gave a brief overview and Power Point presentation. He will be offering the same presentation at the state convention tomorrow.

There were many questions and comments from council members.

The overall discussion concluded that there was need to continue on with the plan possibly using separate annual reviews in order to better define areas of concern and how to address them. Art commended the leadership for continuing to move forward and delving into past issues. His presentation highlighted many of the changes that have been accomplished since the strategic plan has been put in place. Through this process many of the identified benchmarks have been addressed, there are still items that still need to be discussed but as with any long-term plan for targeted goals continue to move so additional adjustments need to be made.

ACTION: No formal action taken.

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: DEADLINE

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B. Outdoor Activities Survey

Lee Fahrney, Outreach and Public Relations Committee Chair

DISCUSSION: Lee presented the following survey:

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

2017 Outdoor Activity Survey

Age ______ Gender ______ County of residence ________

In which of the following recreational outdoor activities do you regularly take part:

Fishing____ Hunting____ Camping____ Snowmobiling____ Trapping____ Hiking____ Biking____ Horseback Riding____ ATV____

Canoeing____ Photography____ Other ________

How familiar are you with the role of Wisconsin Conservation Congress in managing our natural resources?

Very familiar____ Somewhat familiar____ Not familiar at all____

How often do you attend the annual DNR and WCC Spring Hearings?
Always ___ Sometimes ___ Only on occasion ___ Never ___

If you have attended the DNR/WCC Spring Hearings, list why you attended:
Good information ___ Opportunity to make input ___ Enjoy interaction with other outdoors enthusiasts ___
Other ___

If you have attended the Spring Hearings, have you ever submitted a resolution? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, were you satisfied with the processing of your resolution? Yes ___ No ___

If not, what would have improved the way in which your resolution was handled?

If you have not submitted a resolution, why not?
Don’t know where to find directions ___ Too complicated ___ Don’t believe I will be listened to ___ Don’t understand the process ___

Referencing any of the outdoor activities listed at the beginning of this survey, what is the issue of greatest concern to you as an outdoor enthusiast?

If you wish to be contacted by a delegate of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress from your county, please provide contact information:

Name: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________

Note: Find a list of all delegates to the Conservation Congress at www.dnr.wi.gov.

ACTION: Motion by Fahrney 2nd by Krueger to approve the survey as presented. Motion carried.

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE ____________ DEADLINE ____________

C. Youth Conservation Congress Update

Mark LaBarbera

On the 2009 Spring Hearing Questionnaire, citizens across the state were asked, “Would you support the concept of establishing a Youth Conservation Congress?” Overwhelmingly, they voted YES, and the Natural Resources Board asked you to launch the youth program “to instill a sense of ownership, civic pride, involvement and advocacy in the future stewards of our state’s natural resources and sporting heritage.”

Your vision and objectives are described clearly in your original plan for the Youth Congress. The YCC will teach youth delegates about:
(1) Natural resource management and careers through a variety of service-learning opportunities;
(2) The process by which Wisconsin’s natural resource policy is determined,
(3) The role and history of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC);
(4) The YCC will provide youth delegates with the opportunity to strengthen valuable skills such as problem solving, communication, teamwork, and leadership; and
(5) The YCC will afford participants the opportunity to network with youth from around the state that are interested in natural resources as well as DNR professionals and policy makers.

To build upon the considerable efforts, thoughtful planning and strategic thinking that went into the original YCC plans, the Conservation Congress determined that the Youth Conservation Congress program needed help in achieving what was originally intended. Concerns were raised about potential costs, liability and demands on volunteer time and resources. At the same time, the Wisconsin DNR, which had been building a national reputation for leadership in recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters and anglers, was seeking new ideas, partners and systems to train, develop and educate new adult hunters and those that effectively train mentors.

The Congress and Friends of the Congress established the following goals to guide this 2017-2025 plan and efforts to “achieve a more robust Youth Conservation Congress” as you and your partners recruit outdoor participants and mentors. These are the goals you set:
Increase youth participation in the YCC and youth knowledge about the WCC;
Develop mentors who can help recruit and train new safe, ethical hunters;
Recruit and train future conservation leaders who can effectively communicate, inspire, and recruit their peers into conservation programs;
Promote opportunities for participants to be conservation ambassadors and educators to build support and recruit mentors.
among existing conservation groups; and
Connect participants with opportunities to learn about conservation and future professional opportunities, including volunteer and job-shadowing experiences.

The Plan recommends specific actions to help achieve the goals and build a more robust and sustainable Youth Conservation Congress in Wisconsin. They are based on hours of input from educators, mentors, administrators, conservation leaders, WCC members, students, fish and wildlife professionals and Wisconsin hunters, anglers and trappers. The Friends group wanted to test a pilot project designed to help slow and hopefully reverse the decline in hunting participation and loss of hunting license revenue. The value is not limited to hunting and shooting sports. The benefits will extend to fishing, trapping and other outdoor activities. This Strategic Plan for the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress program is intended to help the Friends of WCC fulfill its grant and achieve the goals set by the WCC in its MOU.

1. The top priority is to establish the YCC Coordinator. To achieve significant results, we recommend what may be the most important and overarching action that would impact success or failure. That is to establish a position of YCC Coordinator, with appropriate skills and sufficient time throughout the year to guide implementation of this plan. That person should be accountable to the WCC and Friends of the WCC.

This Coordinator should help find ways to make it easy for students, parents, partners and WCC delegates to participate more than they currently do.

Identifying the volunteer, contractor or employee who will be the “go to” person focused solely on YCC is a critical first step. Clearly defining, funding and empowering the person who will oversee implementation of the plan—BELIEVE me—is must be the top priority.

2. Collaborate. A second key to long-term success will be for YCC to work with other existing programs, organizations and institutions that offer resources, such as infrastructure, staff and facilities. Its importance should not be understated. It will require appropriate attention to establish, coordinate and maintain the relationships with those partners and programs. During creation of this plan, a number of contacts for willing collaborators were compiled and included to help jumpstart implementation. You can see them in this Plan under TAB 5 of your spiral binder.

3. Embrace the plan. Build upon the valuable investment of time and talent that created the Youth Conservation Congress and its plans. Adapt to changing conditions and current realities that have surfaced during the first few years of the Youth Congress. Use this new plan hand-in-hand with YCC’s original plans with the common goal of creating the best possible conservation leaders for the good of all Wisconsin residents, and the good of our sporting heritage, future generations and the natural resources we all cherish.

Strategies & Tactics

For each goal, the plan provides specific tactics. We don’t have time to go through all of them here, but we’ll use one of the goals here as an example.

…We recommend the following actions for the goal to increase youth participation in the YCC and youth knowledge about the WCC:

1. Identify Benefits. Enhance, create, clarify and communicate key benefits of interest to prospective youth delegates. Know concretely what is being offered to motivate students to participate. Involve current and former youth delegates, plus other youth, in developing these benefits and spreading the word about why there is value in being part of YCC.

2. Make It Fun. Engage youth to help shape activities and direction. Sitting in most meetings is not cool or fun. Assign current youth delegates the task of identifying activities that will appeal to more of their peers. We expect they will suggest more hands-on participatory experiences and less sitting in meeting rooms. For example: the youth here will be electro-fishing with DNR employees.


4. Involve Parents/Guardians. Wherever possible, lessen the burden on WCC delegate mentors by having the YCC delegate’s parent(s) escort the youth. This has side benefits. First, it engages additional adults in conservation. Second, it helps train and inspire the people who live day-to-day with the youth and who have more opportunities to reinforce an interest in these activities. Third, it reduces concerns expressed by some WCC members about potential liability issues. And fourth, it will probably reduce WCC delegate expenses as you often are inclined to pay for meals, snacks and other expenses when mentoring youth delegates without parents in attendance.

5. Create a Buzz. Use multiple communication tools to create a “buzz” or excitement about YCC. Generate and disseminate enthusiastic messages to prospective YCC delegates, partners, current WCC and YCC delegates, media and the public with the goal of increasing youth participation in the YCC and youth knowledge about WCC.

Use social media and word-of-mouth for youth target audiences.

For adult audiences, in addition to social media, include traditional radio, TV and print. Dan Small Outdoors Radio has offered to help spread the news. SCI Hunters magazine agreed to help create a buzz. Wisconsin Outdoor Communicators Association is open to working with YCC. WOCA’s current contact is President Patrick Durkin.

6. Team Up With Wisconsin Land + Water, and its network of county government resources throughout the state. During development of this plan, we found them very receptive. As District Councilor Dave Larson will tell you, that group already works with youth on conservation art and speech contests throughout Wisconsin.

7. Create an Advisory Council, formal or informal, that includes the Education or Youth Program Director from all willing partner organizations that the YCC Coordinator can locate with help from WCC delegates. Invite MuskieS, Inc., Wisconsin Trappers, National Wild Turkey Federation, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Safari Club,
izank Walton League of America, National Rifle Association, BASS Conservation Federation, and dozens of others (including Cabel’s, Schell’s, Mill’s Fleet Farm, Blain’s Farm & Fleet and other interested retailers) to participate in advisory council brainstorming and implementation. Focus should be on increasing youth participation. I believe you will find this will also help generate funding, which is one of the concerns we mentioned earlier. I know Delegate Waller from Vilas joins me in wanting to find funding to implement this plan and help the Youth Congress thrive.

Collaborate with Big Brothers & Big Sisters in available counties. We invited the founder of Pass It On—Outdoor Mentors to help Wisconsin connect with Big Brothers & Big Sisters here like he did in Kansas and elsewhere. The initial meeting at the Badger Den at the DNR’s MacKenzie Center, Poyntette, included BB & BS leaders from Washington County and Jackson County, who confirmed that there are young people (Little Brothers & Little Sisters) of all ages in many counties looking for

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D. Continuation of presentation

**DISCUSSION**

 opportunities to be mentored and to one day possibly be mentors.

Outdoor Heritage Education Center of Hazel Green is a sponsor of a national outdoor mentoring summit that is bringing groups like Big Brothers, and agencies and outdoor interests together next month. It would be great to host a summit like that here in Wisconsin in the coming years.

BB & BS have a proven mentoring model with a strong, existing infrastructure and resources, and they can deliver young people in need of what we can offer.

When you read the rest of the plan in your binders, some people may wonder if it is worth all this effort.

We all know that there is a growing disconnect from nature with each new generation. But how bad is it?

A recent study by DJ Case & Associates raised eyebrows as it quantified just how disconnected youth AND PARENTS have become.

One of the effects of competing priorities is that Americans spend relatively little time outside in nature. Over half said they spend less than 5 hours a week outside.

Most Americans are spending their time indoors.

They asked parents: “In a typical week, how much time does your child spend on the following activities?”

There was a long list of activities and they are grouped here and reported by age.

As you can see on the left side of the chart, time on computers and TV towers over time spent outdoors. And this increases with age from 8 to 12, while time spent outdoors decreases as children get older.

On the bright side.

Along with interest and enjoyment of nature, Americans also recognize nature’s benefits to their health and wellbeing.

3 out of 4 adults say getting into nature is very or extremely important for their physical health.

Adults are not the only ones who recognize the benefits of nature.

Children also recognize that nature helps them to grow healthy, to be happy, to enjoy family and friends, and to know that they are important and liked.

Adults see the benefit of nature not only for health and wellbeing, but also for intellectual development.

Despite the emphasis on core subjects in school, the overwhelming majority agree that “understanding how nature works is as important to a child’s education as reading, writing, and math.”

Dave said, “It’s important to point out that the last several slides you just reviewed are patterns that hold up across demographics—across age groups, residential location, race and ethnicity, gender, and income.”

He also said, Look at the ways adults agree with the statement, “The intelligence of future generations will suffer if our society becomes more isolated from nature.”

His slide shows agreement across race and ethnicity.

He also discovered widespread agreement across residential location… urban, suburban and rural adults agree that society will suffer if we become more isolated from nature.

Americans value nature. They agree that “Being in nature gives them a sense of peace.” They hold strong affection toward nature in different ways. They find being in nature gives meaning and purpose to their lives.

When you all look at these statements as conservationists, you see your values represented.

Let me summarize with one more quote from Dave Case: “You, the conservation community, are not just in the business of providing a place for nature to thrive. You are not just in the business of recreational activities.”

“When you conserve species and you protect restore habitats, you are helping Americans live healthier, happier lives. You are helping children develop socially, psychologically, and physically, Dave said. You are in the business of helping create places where Americans want to live, work, and flourish.”

“Connection to nature, to fish and to wildlife is fundamental to the economic and social wellbeing of our country and a critical component of American culture and history.”

“For those of us here in this room, nature is not just a dispensable amenity, he said. It is woven into the story of our lives, individually and as a community. We must make that a reality for all Americans’—here in Wisconsin and wherever they live or whoever they are.”

Let me conclude by adding that This Youth Conservation Congress Plan will help achieve that reality for future generations.
### E. Forestry and Wildlife Partnership Project Update

**Joel Taylor**

| ACTION | No action at this time information, Presentation will be given to the entire Congress at their assembly tomorrow. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |

**DISCUSSION**
Larry introduced Joel stating that prior to Larry being elected chair they both worked on this project. Because of the added duties to Larry Joel graciously accepted to take over that work load. Joel is county chair for Rusk County, represents District 2 on the District Leadership Council, and chairs the WCC’s Land Use Committee. Joel is a forester and land manager and owns his own business working with private landowners on conservation and forestry activities.

Joel stated that the concept of the project was to create a partnership between forest managers at the sporting community. By doing this we hope that it would help both the citizens and the forest managers have a better understanding of one another.

There were many misunderstandings and bringing these groups together help both sides understand the process. This along with how and why it was in the best interest to work together to manage entire system.

Cutting old forests and replanting generates new habitat for many different species.

We've been working on this project for 2 years and have inflated additional people in on the discussion including the DNR State Forester. As we work with trying to understand their needs and where they were coming from on the process. He feels that the last year and a half considerable progress has been made.

Finding the right balance between wildlife and forestry meetings has been one of the many discussions of this. Many organizations like the Ruffed Grouse Society have been a part of this discussion, they have the ability to secure grant partnerships for and Mann. The direction that the project is going seems to be to work on marketing project opportunities that will benefit land and wildlife most which is ultimately the goal of the Congress also.

| ACTION | Information only no action taken. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |

### F. Spring Hearing Review

**Larry Bonde**

| ACTION | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |

**DISCUSSION**
Larry stated that there must be a disconnect during the spring district meetings because we are seeing many areas that we can do better in. Dale asked for specific instances so District Leadership can address them directly. Kari stated she has the breakdown by district by County and will distribute them later. She also stated that over 60 delegates have yet to complete personal data questionnaire. Larry stated that we must take care of Congress business especially for new delegates the night of the spring hearing, the hearing officer's are not responsible for Congress business.

This year's spring hearings had a slight improvement in attendance with 5073 people registering.

This year we had 2 questions that failed popular vote yet past in the County voting, question 57 the vote tally was 1860 yes 1986 no approved and 39 counties rejected in 31. This question related to landowner coyoce cable restraints. Question 87 had 1806 yes 1947 no past 29 counties was rejected and 36, this question was to give CDAC's that are trying to maintain or decrease the herd, the option to implement a 16 day firearm season.

These 2 questions will be debated on the floor of the Congress tomorrow.

We also have an issue with question 73 and 74 in reference to dog training reciprocity. This is an area that the Congress needs to do better on at. The resolution came from Bayfield County and because we did not have enough input from all of the user groups this question was brought to state hearing and we have a vote on it. In reality this turned out to be an isolated problem in Bayfield County having to do with one individual who had a conflict Information after-the-fact showed this to be isolated and this overcrowding issue is not supported by facts. All the major groups involved in this issue did not support change but for some reason did not weigh in until after the spring hearing vote was taken. When something like this happens it lessens the impact of the Congress. We should be inviting all parties to come to committee meetings so that we will vet both sides of an issue. You don't have to agree, but we need to have all parties heard. Larry stated he is working on a "communication plan" to better reach out to various user groups prior to committee meetings. Larry also stated he will do an overview at the convention on this issue tomorrow.

### G. 2017 Spring hearings-DNR Questions

**Scott Loomans**

**DISCUSSION**
Scott started by highlighting the wildlife questions offered by the department the following questions being forwarded by the department for approval even though they are contrary to the popular vote:

- Question 7 eliminating minimal barrel length restrictions for handguns that are used for hunting. 2079 yes 2108 passed in 42 counties rejected in 29 tied in 1. The Department is recommending this be passed on to the DNR Board.
- Question 8 eliminating restrictions on use of .410 caliber firearms. 2030 yes 2153 no past in 43, rejected 26 tied in 3. The Department is recommending this be passed on to the DNR Board.
Question 16 eliminate the Wolf River waterfall closed area in Winnebago County, town of Wolf River. 1634 yes 1717 no approved the and 38 counties rejected in 30 tied in 4. The department is recommending this go on to the board due to the fact that all the adjoining counties approved the question.

Question 18 reduce the size of the thoracic marsh wildlife refuge in Dodge and Washington counties. 1397 yes 2078 no approved in 23 counties rejected and 46 tied in 3. The department is recommending this go on to the board due to the fact that all the adjoining counties approve the question.

There was considerable discussion on these changes. Scott explained the rationale to the leadership council.

The following letter was read into the record by Joe Weiss:

Scott started by highlighting the wildlife questions offered by the department the following questions being forwarded by the department for approval even though they are contrary to the popular vote.
Scott concluded by saying that he felt that these were a good package at a step towards rule simplification.
There was considerable discussion on these changes, Scott explained the rationale to the leadership Council.

The following letter was read into the record by Joe Weiss:
Re: Proposed wildlife management rule changes – Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Public Hearings
Date: April 29, 2017

I am forwarding my concerns about questions 5 – 10 from the Spring Hearing handbook proposed by the WDNR. I am not taking a position as a Conservation Congress member from Ashland County, I am however expressing my thoughts and position as a sports person and citizen.

I am not in favor of the block of simplification proposals 5 – 10 both in the method(s) by which they came to us and the product. There was very little input from anyone or any group outside of Madison. There was no one requesting these changes, no imminent or driving need. There was no confusion, no need to simplify. Without this input, I believe there is now confusion and perhaps unintended consequences:

- The background and questions tend to be vague, ambiguous, and misleading.
- With these proposed changes, slugs in possession would also mean slugs in the chamber and or magazine. That may mean the same as a person walking down the trail with a loaded 30-30 during bird season. What is the intent?
- What thought process went into not requiring a minimum barrel length for hand guns used for hunting? What could possibly be gained? I know 1 would not then say, “well, I can carry one anyways”.
- How would Wardens enforce “subjective reasonableness” for weapons and ammunition. The very people that Law Enforcement would have under investigation would now have little concern. Game would be lost because of poor choices and poor behavior.

- The method and product of these proposals does not move the view or opinion of the WDNR or sporting community by the public forward in any positive way. There is nothing to be gained. Where are the ethics?
While the state votes and county votes varied, I believe there was no resounding approval for this block of proposals and for some, far from that. Also, while I was not able to canvass hundreds of voting participants, the participants that I talked to had voted and left before discussions thought they were voting for something different. For example, they were not voting for slugs in the chamber and not in favor using any caliber 17 or larger as question 10 ambiguously suggests.

I am asking the Conservation Congress executive group to not support this block of proposals in its methods and product. I am also asking the WDNR to withdraw this block and seek a better method of collecting input from its staff and citizens from all parts of the state before proposals are put to print.

Bruce Prentice
604 3rd, ST. West
Ashland, WI 54806
715-682-5642 Home phone

ACTION Information only no action taken.

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE Scott Loomas

DEADLINE

H. 2017 Spring Hearing Fisheries DNR Questions

DISCUSSION Scott reviewed the results from the Department fisheries questions, the following modifications will be presented to the Natural Resources Board:

Question 19: trolling with one the hook 3 lines, statewide vote 2217 yes 1581 no 57 counties approving 15 rejected. Scott stated that since Sawyer and Vilas County’s rejected the proposal they would be dropped from the modification request.

Question 22: uniform size limit walleyes 2302 yes 1017 no 64 counties approving 8 rejecting. Although Sheboygan and Waushieha County were not in favor all the surrounding counties are in support. So in this case the department is recommending adoption of the rule change.

Question 24: no minimum length and daily bag of 5 for trout on certain waters in Sawyer County statewide vote 1304 yes 1493 no approved in 28 counties rejected in 37 tied in 7. The department is not moving forward with this change.

Question 28: quality bass management Bayfield, Douglas and Sawyer counties. Statewide 2019 yes 726 no 68 counties approved 3 rejected 1 tied. Since one of the counties not approving was Douglas County the initial thought was to drop that from the proposal after discussing with a fisheries manager in the area it was felt that the big hangup was a concern on Lake Nebagamon, after review the rule change will be forwarded with Lake Nebagamon being dropped from consideration.
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<th>Information only no action taken.</th>
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<tr>
<td>I. Proposed COP Changes</td>
<td>Larry Bonde</td>
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<tr>
<td>DISCUSSION</td>
<td>Larry identified all of the proposed changes in the Code of procedure that will be dealt with tomorrow from the floor of the convention. He asked all Council delegates to review and be prepared to discuss at that time. He also asked if there were any questions, Ken Anderson mentioned that he did not see an appeal process. Larry stated that may be something that the Rules and Resolutions Committee may have to work on next. Kari mentioned that page 20 of tab 4 step 5 does have verbiage to appeal there was discussion on this but will be reviewed at a later date by the Rules and Resolutions Committee.</td>
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<td>ACTION</td>
<td>No action taken at this time will be addressed tomorrow on the floor of the convention.</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Review County Deer Advisory Councils Final Recommendations</td>
<td>Kevin Wallenfang</td>
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<td>DISCUSSION</td>
<td>Kevin thanked the Congress leadership and oversight leaders; especially Al Shook for his work with all the CDAC leaders. This being the 3rd and final year with the original committees thankful for all the County CDAC chair/vice chair/secretary's that have stayed focused and help move this program forward. A lot of this process is not easy, it's controversial, and sometimes difficult to communicate to the citizens within your counties. Many of you are here at this meeting who know firsthand what I'm talking about, have been doing this for many years but I get paid to do it. You as Congress delegates volunteered to take these tasks on and deal with your communities issues first hand. For this I sincerely thank you. This year the department has a different situation, we are in a position of advancing 68 of the 71 County CDAC recommendations. The three CDAC committees that we are not agreeing to as a department are Bayfield, Vilas and Door County. Kevin feels the 3 counties mentioned did their job they asked the tough questions, they made objective reviews and positive recommendations. They listen to their communities and voted their conscience. Kevin gave a brief overview of where we were last season and a summary of the proposal for the 2017 harvest goals. Also noted was the fact that we had 13 counties last year that opted for a holiday hunt this year we have 17 as the deer herd increases committees are making the tough decisions in order to keep the herds under control. The 3 counties that the department is recommending changes in their harvest goals are Bayfield, Vilas and Door County. In Bayfield the department is recommending a lesser harvest their committee proposal was 3,800 antlerless deer to be harvested by the issuance of 11,000 tags. The department recommends an antlerless harvest of 2,500 with the issuance of 7,000 tags. In Vilas County they elected to not have antlerless tags for use, based on input and discussion in that County it was recognize that there was some ability to have a small antlerless harvest and the fact that the youth initiative not only from the Congress but from the department is to bring younger people into the hunting program it was decided to recommend a youth hunt. It should also be recognized that last year's 2016 actual harvest off of the youth tags was a total of 215 antlerless deer. In the case of Door County their preliminary meeting yielded a suggestion that would be in antlerless only hunt for 2017 these guys really stepped up to the process and it was a very contentious position to take but they did what they felt was appropriate. At their 2nd meeting because of the input that they were given they suggested that for every license sold the 10 antlerless permits be issued. Again they were trying to send a message for the need to increase the antlerless harvest rate. We as a department talked about this and to appreciate the involvement of our vendors we did a little math scenario and based on the issuance of that amount tags a place like the Fleet Farm, because only one tag could be printed out at a time based on last year's numbers would go through over 300,000 pieces of paper. The Departments recommendation is the issuance of 5 antlerless tags per license issued. The department along with the CDAC oversight committee of the Congress had a conference call with 2 of the 3 counties on their recommendation and was agreed that modified proposal would be brought forward. 2018 brings the next step in the process, it starts anew three-year cycle. The meetings will start sometime towards the end of September 2018 and although the details are not finalized discussion is taking place on whether or not we would have one longer meeting where we would finalize the whole thing or if we would stay at the same format of a preliminary meeting and recommendation, then a 2nd to confirm. June 1st of this year is the end of the appointment cycle so anybody who is currently on CDAC with the exception of the Conservation Congress delegates will need to reapply for their position. The rationale behind this is that anybody that is currently sitting on committee are affirming that they are interested and willing to continue on with the process and it also may result in some competition in the application process for those committees that would benefit from the infusion of fresh ideas. Al Shook also added his thanks for all the dedication that the Congress delegates have shown towards CDAC over the last 3 years, it was a huge learning curve for everyone and Congress looked good during process.</td>
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<td>ACTION</td>
<td>Motion by Anderson 2nd by Larson to approve the Departments recommendation to the Natural Resources Board. Motion carried.</td>
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K. Deputy DNR Secretary's Report

**DISCUSSION**

Kurt thanked the leadership of the Congress for adjusting their schedule to fit his today, and allowing him to appear before the Congress on behalf of Secretary Stepp who apologizes for not being able to be here in person. He is on the last day of a three-day road trip where he has been traveling the state thanking the department employees for the hard work and dedication that they provide all the citizens of the state of Wisconsin. While this is officially employee appreciation week he is constantly amazed by the diversity and dedication of all of the DNR employees.

He continued by thanking the Congress delegates and the leadership for everything you do all the way from Chairing CDACs to CWD meetings. The hundreds of other areas you attend meetings for keeping yourselves and the citizens of this state informed and current on issues.

Kurt then answered questions about department realignment and the Conservation Stewardship Fund.

**ACTION**

Information only no action taken

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### III. MEMBERS MATTERS

**DISCUSSION**

Dale Maas welcomed the the delegates to Oshkosh and that the hospitality room will be hosted by District 7. He wanted to thank all counties within the district for the effort and hard work they put in to show the delegates a good time. The room is scheduled to be open from 7 PM to midnight and is located right next door to the current meeting room. We hope you enjoy yourself have a good time and always in moderation. He also mentioned a large number of items that have been collected for bucket raffles, this year looks like the biggest amount ever offered.

Thanks to all the delegates that participated in donating prizes for this worthy cause. We also have 2 rifles and 2 shotguns on a gun raffle board that will be drawn tomorrow night. Also at the banquet 2 handguns and a cross bow will be raffled as walk a rounds.

Jane Meyer mentioned that we need to keep our interest in budget and with the proposal for online voting, Weiss made a plea for all old books from previous convention to be used by the history committee and as an aid in tracking resolutions.

Al Brown commented on the mentor program along with learned to hunt programs and was concerned that the DNR magazine was proposed to be eliminated and also talked about problems with public access in Chippewa County.

Rick Olson raised some concerns he had with the issue in front of the bear committee and felt that we could do a better job as a Congress.

Dave Larson commented that we are not just a hook in bullet crowd, we need to find ways to raise money to do things (alternate funding).

Arlyn Splitt asked if we get delegate profile forms here? Kari stated that she could make that happen.

Al Shook thanked the state leadership committee for their support for him for vice chair and if anybody had any suggestions on improvements he would welcome the comments.

Motion by Weiss 2nd by Splitt to adjourn. Motion carried

**ACTION**

Information only No Action Taken

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

4:45 PM

**SUBMITTED BY**

Dale C. Maas

**DATE**

05/31/2017