Wisconsin Conservation Congress
D2 FALL DISTRICT MEETING
Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS | 08/08/2018 | 7:00 PM | Rolling Oaks Golf Course, Barron, WI

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
   
   A. CALL TO ORDER

   MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Dave Larson at 7:05 PM

   B. ROLL CALL & DELEGATE INTRODUCTIONS

   ATTENDEES
   - Jerry Huston, Wayne Norling, Chandra Stafford, Mike Witeside, Jack Christenson, Curt Loew, Jim Morning, Don Dukerschein, Jacob Anderson, Mike Kelby, Jacob Macholl, Joel Taylor, Dick Stream, Roger Roehl, Dave Larson, Jeremy Sarauer, Duane Butler, Claude Bovi, Emily Flaten YCC

   EXCUSED
   - Mike Britton, Dave Ferris, Al Brown, Eric Wojchik, Rae Ann Pyfferoen, Dan Vacho, Brad Hopp, Caleb Smithberg YCC

   UNEXCUSED
   - Jay Koenig, Hunter Denison, Dave Louis, Mike Giles, Josh Halberg

   C. NON - CONSERVATION CONGRESS DELEGATE INTRODUCTIONS

   DNR STAFF
   - James Yach, Secretary’s Director, Northern Region; Mike Melgaard, Warden Supervisor; Russ Fell, Warden Supervisor; Aaron Cole, Fisheries Biologist; Kevin Morgan, Wildlife Biologist

   GUESTS
   - N/A

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

   A. DNR STAFF UPDATES

   DISCUSSION
   - Secretary’s Director - discussed storm damage on state parks & properties, FEMA will cover portion of damage; discussed changes in law enforcement staffing changes in state parks & forests; today NRB passed emergency rules dealing with CWD & grouse; mentioned St. Croix Mitigation & nitrate study in St. Croix County; announced new ATV/UTV trails in Chippewa County
   - Fisheries - 6 biologists positions have been filled recently including Kasey Seibert in Baldwin; working on filling technicians positions, provided brief fish policy updates
   - Wildlife - looking forward to good fall hunting seasons; good acorn year; antlerless permits go on sale next week; bear season starts September 1st; 8 biologists hired statewide including Josh Spiegel in Ladysmith & looking to fill 12 technician openings; discussed DMAP & CWD sampling; answered multiple questions on grouse numbers; waterfowl seasons will be concurrent; land acquisition opportunity from willing seller but limited funding options
   - Law Enforcement - vacancies from retirements; 17 recruits in training as field wardens; discussed R3 & modified roles for Recreational Safety Wardens; discussed upcoming role changes for law enforcement in state parks - going to property specific model, needs to be fiscally sustainable; brief overview of activities including federal grand jury case, drunk boaters, drugs especially meth

   ACTION
   - N/A

   PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

   DEADLINE
B. CONSERVATION CONGRESS UPDATES

1. Guidance for upcoming committee meetings - reviewed with delegates in attendance
2. WCC advisory committee assignments - reviewed committee assignments & openings
3. WCC advisory committee evaluation forms - found under delegate resources, take time to provide feedback to leadership
4. Delegate reimbursement process - reviewed, under delegate resources, must submit copy with actual signature to receive reimbursement
5. Unexcused absences - stress importance of attending committee meetings, please let committee chairs know if you will be attending or not no less than 5 days before meeting, delegates responsibility to check minutes to ensure attendance is accurately reflected
6. Sexual harassment training - link will be sent by email in next two weeks, please complete online trading by September 15
7. Discussion options on potential fee increase/program revenues - read WCC Chair’s letter & discussed; generated spirited discussion; delegates requested to submit the poll sheets which will be forwarded to Kari for tabulation (13 turned in after meeting)
8. Conservation Chronicle - will be coming out in next couple weeks, most delegates will receive by email, hard copy will be mailed to individuals without email. Consider contributing articles and/or photos, work with Kari Lee Zimmerman, Congress Liaison & Joel Taylor, Outreach & Public Relations Coordinator.
9. Outreach presentation - PowerPoint available online under delegate resources; contact Kari/Mike if you need WCC brochures for presentations
10. Youth Conservation Congress - reach out to youth delegates & continue to work on recruitment; Emily Flaten, YCC delegate - valuable experiences which open her eyes, suggested reaching out to schools especially ag classes

Action: N/A

Person(s) Responsible: Dave Larson/Don DUKERSCHEIN - brought forward Al Brown’s comments & minutes from last Chippewa Valley CWD Advisory Team Meeting; announced next meeting date on Monday August 20th in Rock Falls.
Wayne Norling - asked where ruffed grouse issue came from; felted most delegates were uninformed of issue; requested guidance on WCC position
Mike Witeside - echoed Wayne’s remarks; asked why emergency rule needed before all scientific data explored?
Jim Morning - attended Chippewa Valley CWD Meeting, provided brief synopsis & stated more should be discussed & done about prevention
Joel Taylor - discussed NRB Chair’s leading statement at Convention; lot of delegates were surprised by “Mind your knitting” remark
Dave Larson - core group is working on expanding WCC informational trailer(s); made pitch for donations (cash, mounts, pelts, skulls & other display options); requested delegates to coordinate donations thru WCC Secretary Dale Maas.

Action: N/A

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

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Action: N/A

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15 PM Motion Roger Roehl and Second Jim Morning

Submitted By: Dave Larson

Date: 08/13/2018