Wisconsin Conservation Congress
District 6 Fall Meeting
Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS  08/13/2018  7 PM
Sandhill Wildlife Area

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER
Meeting called to order by Stan Brownell at 7 PM

B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES

EXCUSED
Tara Rueth, James Mills, Mike Hayes, Chris Underwood, Patrick LaBarbera, Adam Liebersbach, Jody Bigalke, Maurice Amundson, James Winkler, Jeff Kelm

UNEXCUSED
none

GUESTS
Ellen Schmidt

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION
none

ACTION
none

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION
none

ACTION
none

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION
none

ACTION
none

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Wildlife Management Report

DISCUSSION
Wildlife has hired 8 biologists there however still some vacancies applications are being taken until Monday August 19. Elk in Clam Lake is doing well and this will initiate a hunt this year. A gentleman in his 70’s has been drawn to be given a tag. The numbers were given regarding CWD testing and customer service will continue to put up kiosk’s with CWD testing kits. Wolf Population numbers were discussed and the status of the wolf litigation was also reviewed. Ruffed grouse populations have decreased by 29.5% the April snow storm may have contributed to this decline.

The CWD map handout was explained and discussed. The handling of gut piles and carcasses was discussed and how the future may look with regard to the handling of these items. Many Waste Management providers are cooperating to help eliminate this spread of the disease. It was suggested that Clark County might try putting a dumpster at the fair grounds in Neillsville. Kiosks for CWD testing were also put along side of the dumpsters so hunters could have their deer tested.

ACTION
none

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

B. Fisheries Report

DISCUSSION
Fisheries is continuing to hire biologists and filling vacancies statewide and relieving some of the staffing needs from past years. Field work is going along at a good pace and the populations are looking good. Gill lice is still showing up in most waters in the area except one and continues to be an issue.
### C. Law Enforcement Report

**Korey Trowbridge**

**DISCUSSION** The biggest change right now is moving back to having Park Rangers and sending Wardens back to their home territories doing what they did before. After a thorough review it was apparent it was not an economical venture and was determined to disband that process at this time. Korey also reviewed what is happening with staffing and where wardens are moving and coming from. There is a full class of wardens in training now and they will be hiring 5 from that class because that will be the last until later in 2019. ATV and UTV use on private property continues to be a safety problem as most injuries occur there and not on state trails.

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### D. District 6 topics and concerns

**Dan Baumann**

**DISCUSSION** Dan commended the Congress on on the hard work they have done and encouraged them to continue to work with the NRB as they have in the most recent past and to make sure that they are being heard. he also talked briefly about everyone testing their well water so that they would have some background on what their water is now and if there are changes in the future that you would have a baseline of what it is at this time. He also mentioned that there is an algae bloom going on currently at Castle Rock and Retenwell.

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### E. District 6 Agenda Items

**Stan Brownell**

**DISCUSSION** Stan went over the new guidelines for attendance and advised everyone to let the chairs know if they were or were not attending so that there was a better count so that lunches could be supplied. This call should be made to the Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary of the Committee 5 days in advance. For District meetings all delegates are to contact their county chairs if they are unable to attend.

Committee Meetings are set by Committee Chairs and the parameters that are required by that committee. Stan went over all Committees that have vacant positions for District 6 and asked those present that if they were interested to let him know so he could get their name on these committees. Evaluation forms for committee meetings were discussed and how to handle those situations.

Mileage remains at 40 cents per mile for the reimbursement form. The procedure for unexcused absences was gone over again so that everyone understands the process. Stan also reminded everyone that they are required to review the video regarding sexual harassment by the September 15 deadline.

The potential fee increase program revenue was discussed by the group and appeared to be largely in favor of the proposed increases. Stan also asked for anything that anyone would like to put in the Conservation Chronicle to forward to Kari and she can get it entered in the publication.

Stan discussed WCC Outreach and discussed ways to make the Congress more visible. Online voting was discussed and where that may take us. Youth Conservation Congress was discussed and Stan asked that if anyone knows a youth from our District to let us know because at this time we have no one from our district.

At this time Stan read a letter from Dale Maas requesting Donations for the Wall of Fame trailers from traps to mounts or anything that is related to Wisconsin outdoors or natural resources so that they can have two or three trailers in different places of the state.

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**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**
Scott McAuley asked that if anyone has things on their CDAC committee that is or is not working to let him know so that Wood Cty will know what works and what won't. He is also on the CDAC Task Force which is just beginning but has not really been given its direction as yet.

Marlin Laidlaw voiced his concern on the difficulty on filling positions on CDAC in some Counties as for example there is little tourism in Wood county. He would like to be on for a club but doesn't know how. There just seems to be a lot of limitations at this point.

There is going to be an event this weekend with legislators included on the Petenwell and Castle Rock Flowages to show the effects of the Blue Green Algae Bloom on those bodies of water.

Scott Pitta asked members to approach their legislators and ask them to request an additional $1 million dollars to continue the research on CWD. They are looking for technology to test soil and plants for prions.

There was a discussion on white deer and the problems in Wood county and how it is spreading. There is some DNA testing going on right now to determine if there is any white tail deer in these deer or if they are an invasive species.

Pie bald deer are legal to shoot and road kill white deer could be used for testing.

Gene Muensch spoke a little about the thrill he is having watching the elk that are on his property. He has two bulls, and two cows each with calves and said he never thought he would see the day when there would be elk in southern Wisconsin much less on his own property and thanked all the stakeholders involved in getting those elk to this point.

Al Jacobson said that the group involved is trying to get funding for 19 miles of fencing along highway 90-94 and also reported on all the setbacks that were not expected in the beginning.

Al Balliett reminded everyone that Tuesday was election day and everyone should make sue and vote.

Stan Brownell updated everyone on his cell phone number as he no longer has a land line and his cell number is 608-633-2221.

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