

Citizen Resolution # 570621

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Reconsider a pilot study of the CWD Payment for Positives reward program for 2022.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is spreading and the incurable disease is negatively impacting deer populations and hunting in the southwestern Wisconsin. Action is needed. Over 10% of all deer sampled in Columbia (14%), Dane (18%), Grant (11%), Green (17%), Iowa (29%), Lafayette (16%), Richland (20%), and Sauk (26%) counties during the 2020-21 deer season were positive for CWD, and prevalence appears to be steadily increasing.

In April 2019, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting included the following statewide Question 52: Do you favor conducting a pilot CWD Payment for Positives program to test if CWD testing rates and removal of CWD-positive deer can be increased from infected areas, Yes or No? The question received a favorable response from 4,408 (57%) of the 7,673 respondents, versus 3,265 (43%) opposed; and it also carried 39 (54%) counties in favor, against 29 (40%) counties opposed, with 4 (6%) counties tied. Yet at the subsequent Conservation Congress Annual Meeting, the congress delegates voted against the pilot in an unrecorded paddle vote. In later summarizing the situation in his report to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, former Congress Chair Larry Bonde said the Congress very, very seldom goes against the popular vote, but citing various concerns, he encouraged the DNR and the Board to hold off for 2019, and keep looking at the research, and hopefully find ways to address public concerns about CWD with more value in the future.

Consequently we are starting over at the Conservation Congress county resolution level, hoping that with your support, we can do a better job of making our case to the Congress delegates and committees, and once again get a pilot study for CWD Payment4Positives on the statewide Congress questionnaire for 2022. Thank-you for your consideration.

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.