

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by at 7:03 PM by Joe Weiss, Roll Call by Tony Blattler -Meeting held Virtually/Zoom.

B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES: Michael Hamm, Yvonne Mertig, Gary Mertig, Kevin Seefeldt, Robert Lombard, Sandra Dee Naas, Allan Pribnow, Patrick Quaintance, Alan Horvath, Tom Johnson, Mike Janeczko, Robert Traczyk, Jeff Wilson, Gary Mabie, Dave Mabie, Douglas Kurtzwell, Rick Olson, Frank Pratt, Daniel Tyrolt, Larry Damman, Joe Weiss, Tony Blattler

EXCUSED: Thomas Avis

UNEXCUSED: Kevin Schanning, Jeff Robl, Mike Wade, Robert Haddick, Dan Kevan

GUESTS: WDNR James Yach, Kari Lee-Zimmerman, Falon French

2. Informational Items & Program Update's-No Action to be taken-Informational.

A. Department and Secretary's Office Updates-WDNR James Yach

Rhineland Region 1 Northern counties:

Sturgeon Plan Update-NRB April Wolf Season update-216 Harvest 86% use of dogs, 5% Trapping 9% other 54% Males 46% Females PFAS Lake Superior SMELT Consumption Advisory-1 meal per month-further testing continuing additional species also CWD results 2020 18,300+ tested 1,500+ positive Northern Forest-zero positives test result time decreasing 9 days average improving especially in North Dept Hiring will increase as Covid restrictions reduce Governors Initiatives Clean Drinking water etc.

? R. Olson- Wolf Season/Safeguards/Tagging/science collection Vaccinations/covid-essential workers DNR Staff Fisheries and Wildlife Managers-Wardens—Wardens have started.

? J. Wilson-Wolves lost opportunity for science ? P. Quaintance-SMELT Advisory further testing /monitoring especially other species further up food chain PFAS being detected?

? J. Weiss-Wolf Harvest- Exceeded Quota-Tribes quota claim ?-S.D. Naas- Tribal rights-education for WDNR and WCC statewide ? K. Seefeldt-SMELT PFAS testing

B. DNR program Updates -Joe Weiss- refer to March 3rd email from Kari RE: WDNR information "Links"

C. Review of WCC Advisory Questions-Joe Weiss

Environmental Comm.-#1 Carbon Dividend – D. Kurtzwell -#2 + #3 Line 5 spill- D. Tyrolt -#4 Vegetative Buffer F. Pratt -#5 High Capacity Wells
Great Lakes Comm. -#6 T. Johnson, S.D.Naas
Motorized Recreational Equipment & Devices Comm.
#7-8 In person ATV/UTV Hunter Safety Classes
Warm Water Comm. # 9 Unused Upriver Sturgeon Tags #10 50” Musky
Waukesha Co. #11 Guides Gifting Fish
Deer & Elk Comm. #12 Implementing CWD Best Management Practices #13 High Fence usage #14 White Deer Season
Fur Harvest Comm. #15 Expand Use Cable Restraints #16 change opening time Muskrat on opening Day # 17 Use of traps with 9.5 Jaw in Water #18 Lengthen Beaver/Otter season
Legislative Comm. # 19 Changes to trespass laws and their enforcement # 20 Firearm safety curriculum in schools #21 restore local control RE: Lake shore zoning #22 Increase funding for science positions/Office of Applied Science
Turkey & Upland Game Comm. #23 Study to determine effects of dog training on nesting Birds-P. Quaintance, S.D. Naas, T. Blattler #24 Allow trailing and hunting w/out 8”leash April 15-July 31 P. Quaintance
Bear Comm. #25 Delete NR 10.07 -P. Quaintance
Outdoor Heritage Comm. #26 Every Kid Outdoors Pass for Wis. State Parks
Trout #27 Catch and Release of Brook Trout on Nichols Creek

2021 NRB Spring Hearing Advisory Question: #1. Collaborative CWD working group

2021 Wildlife Management Spring Hearing Questions: Statewide Wildlife Management Rule Changes

Question #1. Do you support Allowing Falconry to take place on the Richard Bong State Recreation Area after 2 P.M.?

Question #2. Do you support allowing cable restraints to be used for trapping beginning on the Saturday nearest October 17th?

Question #3. Do you support returning to a three-zone framework for mink and muskrats as described above?

Question #4. Do you favor adding Columbia County to the list of counties covered under ch.NR 45.09(s), Wis. Adm. Code and restrict target shooting on DNR owned lands?

Question #5. Do you support extending the closing date of the gray and fox squirrel seasons to the last day in February?

2021 Fisheries Management Spring Hearing Questions: Statewide Fisheries Management Rule Changes

Question #1. Do you favor consistently applying the Walleye Ceded Territory regulation-(minimum length limit of 15 inches but walleye from 20-24 inches may not be kept and only one walleye over 24 inches may be kept, daily bag limit of 3 walleye)to all waters listed above, including the Flambeau River and its eight impoundments between Turtle-Flambeau Dam and Thornapple Dam, Solberg Lake, the entire Elk River, including the Phillips Chain of Lakes, Lac Sault Dore, and Grassy Lake, the Pike Lake Chain of Lakes, and the entire South Fork Flambeau River in Ashland, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer and Vilas counties?

Question #2. Do you support applying the Walleye Ceded Territory regulation-(minimum length limit of 15 inches but walleye from 20-24 inches may not be kept and only one walleye over 24 inches may be kept, daily bag limit of 3 walleye)to Escanaba Lake in Vilas County, with a harvest season beginning on the second Saturday in June until an annual harvest quota (pounds) is reached, and then catch-and-release walleye fishing only until the first Sunday in March?

At this point Larry Damman called out “Point of Order” these questions are not listed on our agenda. Joe W. agreed and said he would cover the rest under “Members Matters” I(Tony B.) pointed out that as “Informational” they were all covered but Joe W. continued to the next listed agenda item.

3. Conservation Congress Annual County Meeting and DNR Spring Hearing Logistics

- A. Joe W. reviewed listed/agenda points on Spring Hearing -online72 hours starting 7:00pm April 12 through April 15th-No in-person meetings this year.
3 options for each question including a “No Opinion” option-preferred use instead of “Skipping” a question.
Resolutions to be submitted online using survey tool-2000 characters max instead of “250 words.”
- B. Joe W. Delegate seats
Existing delegate terms extended by one year-same as last year-to vacate your current seat contact county chair and District Leader.
County Chairs have the ability to fill vacant seats by appointing new members for remainder of available term-COP X.D.2 Tony-Last year due to Covid cancellations we did not push the Vacant seat issue—we must change this to a full priority since we now know we will again not have live elections in April-high vacancy rate within WCC.
Delegate Profiles available online-deadline Friday April 9, 2021
Joe W. Outreach Guidance-refer again to March 3 email.
- C. Joe W.Local Spring Hearing Press-also part of March 3 email Also we need help in “Sharing Posts” on Facebook-please share on your Facebook account all WCC posts

4. Other Congress Business

- A. Joe W reviewed- Committee Appointments-District Leadership Councilors -- complete Survey Monkey ASAP due by May 1st-working on a District one “Election

Process” if necessary to complete process would be part of **May 17** District one meeting.

- B. Joe W. Youth Conservation Congress engage any YCC delegate when given the chance. Frank P.-adding new members in District one-fishing activity being worked on -share YCC press release with local press. Tom J. and Al H.
- C. Joe W. Outreach & Public Relations Efforts-delegate resources/educational material. Continue to educate public RE: WCC, CDAC’s and Spring Hearings Delegate resources on WCC homepage under “local Delegate resources” 1.5 min promo available when giving presentations. WCC brochure available to print on web. Delegate business cards-order from Kari
- D. Joe W. Shooting Sports Range update-lists do not match DNR web site vs. emailed list -we need to review on a county-by-county basis and correct as necessary-forward changes to Emily I.
- E. Joe W. Awards-nominations being sought by Executive comm.— “Conservation Organizations”, “David Ladd Heavy Lifter”, “DNR Staff.” Nominations due May 21,2021
- F. (E repeated on written agenda) Joe W. Outreach & Public Relations Committee priorities
Delegates in action please help us showcase WCC Delegates-work you are involved with, activities you engage in, all activities related to the WCC’s Mission-we’d love to show case it on our social media page
Non-Consumptive User Groups WCC needs to expand our thinking beyond hook and bullet organizations and individuals-include them in WCC related Outreach
Delegate Onboarding Delegate Onboarding document available to help with welcoming new delegates
Other issues re: to Outreach
- G. (F on written agenda) Joe W. WCC Learn -to-Bear Hunt Tag Cancelled through June 30, 2021 Covid-19
- H. (G on written agenda) Joe W. 2021 Annual Convention Cancelled/May 17 District One meeting instead 7:00 PM Virtual/Zoom
For the health and safety of our delegates convention cancelled additional round of District meetings May 10-21st to get convention business accomplished. Review Public input from spring hearing RE: questions and new resolutions providing feedback to District Councilors.
Elections of 2021 District Councilors will also be held, and Advisory Committee assignments will be finalized.
District Councilors will then participate in a DLC meeting later in May to determine the WCC position on Spring Hearing Input to be forwarded to WDNR and NRB. At this meeting they will also Elect Executive Committee for 2021.

5. **Members Matters**

Michael Hamm- Deer # , Covid 19
Yvonne Mertig-Nothing at this time
Gary Mertig-Nothing at this time
Kevin Seefeldt-Nothing at this time
Robert Lombard-Nothing at this time
Sandra Dee Nass-Bayfield Co. Forestry Outreach
Allan Pribnow-Nothing at this time
Patrick Quaintance-Nothing at this time
Alan Horvath-CDAC Meeting-Forestry Heavy Handed
Tom Johnson-James State Hatchery Event
Mike Janeczko-Welcome Jeff Wilson
Jeff Wilson-Fisheries Biologist "Zack" transferred-also a Retirement-Fisheries Crew
Transferred to Ashland Co. He's Very Concerned
Robert Traczyk-Nothing at this time
Gary Mabie-Nothing at this time
Dave Mabie-Nothing at this time
Douglas Kurtzweil-Nothing at this time
Rick Olson-On Line Input results need to again be "Weighted" also CDAC responses,
Find a way to "Vett" information CDCA Forestry Data Education for CDAC members
Problem with To many Ironwood and Blue Beach
Frank Pratt-YCC Volunteers/members training session Climate change most important
issue affects everything else
Daniel Tyrolt-Nothing at this time
Larry Damman-Nothing at this time
Joe Weiss- CDAC Intro thurs. 18th Welcome Jeff
Tony Blattler-WCC Vacancies must be a priority
Al Horvath-CDAC --72 counties
Motion to Adjourn by Rick Olson 2nd by Tom Johnson @ 8:58 PM