

MEETING MINUTES
DISABLED ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)
SCHMEECKLE RESERVE
APRIL 20, 2007

Members in attendance: Chair Werner Burkat, Tom Zimmer, John Kocourek, Steve Johnson, Jim Rutledge, Dave Stinson, John Mitchell and alternate Dale Petkovsek.

Member absent: Dave Lato and Joe Greene.

DNR staff in attendance: Julie Amakobe, Al Czeshinski and Carl Mesman.

Chair Burkat called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 a.m.

The meeting began by reviewing/approving the agenda. Four additions were made to the agenda. One was applying for a disabled fishing license, second was regarding a purchase of land in Clark County, third was a road project near Oshkosh and fourth was winter meetings. In addition, at 11:00 a moment of silence was to be observed to honor those who were killed at Virginia Tech University at the request of Governor Doyle.

John K made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions, Tom seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next on the agenda was the review and approval of the DAC meeting minutes from January 12, 2007. There were no changes suggested.

Steve made a motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2007, Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Agenda item – Review award process/criteria. Al and Julie led the discussion. Each of the 4 categories was reviewed. There were no changes made to the criteria. We decided on a deadline of July 1, 2007 for nominations for the DAC 2007 awards. The nominations should be sent to Julie Amakobe.

At this time Al let the Council know that this was his last meeting and that he was retiring as of Oct. 1. Julie then updated the Council on the ADA Coordinator vacancy, letting them know that the position was over at Joint Finance for approval. Werner will write a letter to the Chair of Joint Finance expressing the need for the ADA Coordinator position. He will copy Secretary Hassett.

Agenda item – Applying for a reduced disabled fishing license. Julie and Werner led the discussion. Julie stated that she was informed that disabled persons can no longer use their Medicaid card to apply for a reduced disabled fishing license. This was the first that many had heard of this. Per ss. 29.193(3) (b) if a disabled person produces evidence that shows that he or she is receiving benefits under 42 USC 401 to 433, 42 USC 1381 to 1381d or 45 USC 231a(a)(1)(iv) or (v) because of a determination that he or she is disabled, the applicant would get a reduced disabled fishing license. We lacked information to make a decision on this agenda item.

Jim made a motion that Al should pursue getting a letter from DNR's Customer Service and Licensing Section to document the reason why this is no longer the accepted practice. John K seconded the motion and all were in favor. Al should respond to the DAC by e-mail.

Dave at this time asked to make a related comment. It seems that the Service Centers need to be better informed regarding disabled matters like disabled fishing licenses or disabled turkey licenses. He, and others on the council, gets calls asking questions after applicants have gone to Service Centers and getting incorrect information.

Al will follow up with Customer Service & Licensing regarding what information the employees at the Service Centers are using.

Agenda item – Follow ups from last meetings Action Requests review. Many of the meeting participants had follow ups.

1. Julie followed up with Anthonette on retrofitting an existing Devil's Lake shelter into an accessible cabin. Parks Management Team did not want retrofitted cabins in the system...this is now complete.
2. Julie followed up with Anthonette regarding a 3-year trial for disabled turkey hunting at Interstate, Newport, Willow River, Devil's Lake, Governor Dodge, Mirror Lake and Wyalusing State Parks. This is ON HOLD due to the Bureau of Parks & Recreation not wanting to expand hunting at new parks.
3. Julie followed up with Anthonette on doing the survey at Wyalusing State Park. The survey was never done, and at this time will not be due to #2 above...complete.
4. Dotti was to create a sponsor list of Class A bear permit holders. Brigid O'Donoghue of United Special Sportsman Alliance got a sponsor list together. Steve also said that the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association had information available...complete.
5. Julie followed up on the pier fittings at the Hayward Ranger Station. This is actually a fishing pier on Lake Hayward per Dave. They have always been told there are no funds for this project. Neal Kephart is the contact. This project is actually on the department's Six-Year Facilities Plan list for funding in the 13-15 biennium. Julie/Al will follow up on this fishing pier project. Per Dave, another project is the boarding dock at the boat launch on Lake Hayward. Julie/Al will follow up with Neal on this project as well.
6. Julie talked to Carl about striking out the words currently in administrative code "no person may participate in more than one special gun deer hunt in one calendar year". Carl to follow up with Tom VanHaren on this one. He believes it will be a house keeping item. (04/23/07 UPDATE - Tom VanHaren asked that a position paper be developed to spell out the issue and the reason for the changes. This will be needed to determine the need for any change.)
7. Julie followed up on the one disabled person that had a bad eye and wanted to use a crossbow to hunt with. This matter is now resolved because the applicant meets the Class B criteria...complete.
8. Al followed up with Newport State Park about placing an accessible blind in the park. Werner will visit the park and assist in the placement of the blind...complete.

9. Carl followed up on defining “traditional” as in traditional hunting methods on the Class B application. He suggested that we do not define it in statute or administrative code. After a discussion it was decided not to define it...complete.
10. Carl agreed to contact the Turkey Federation about the agreement that exists between them and the department. Carl still needs to do this.
11. DAC recommends an administrative code change so that the assistant who is accompanying a person with a disabled trolling permit to be able to fish also. The assistant can fish per the current code by casting and immediately retrieving the lure/bait if the waters are closed to trolling by nondisabled fishers...complete.
12. An assistant helping a Class A or B disabled bear hunter does not require a Class B bear retrieval tag. (04/23/07 UPDATE - Bear hunting assistance: an assist does not have to have a license to go out and retrieve a bear, tag it, gut it BUT they would not be able to go out and kill a wounded bear without a Class A kill permit. I asked about the wounded bear issue and how a disabled hunter could follow to finish it off and was advised that if the bear is still alive and the assistant does not have a Class A kill permit that a call would have to be made to the local warden for assistance.)
13. Carl followed up on writing something regarding the legalization of crossbows to take rough fish by disabled archers. Persons with crossbow permits or persons 65 years of age or older can use a crossbow to take turkey, deer and bear. Rough fish still needs to be added.

Agenda item – 2007 Goals and Baiting. Tom/Julie led the discussion.

Julie handed out a list of 13 DAC Goals. A discussion followed on the list.

1. Implement a plan which allows state parks that possess accessible cabins to retain the revenue collected from rent to help maintain them. After a discussion, John K asked that Julie and Al follow up with Central Office Finance & Parks how the revenue is currently handled and also with Property Managers that currently have accessible cabins at their property about their opinions on financial needs for operating/maintaining their cabins. Also, how should cabin contributions be handled? Werner at this point also asked that Al find out what the needs are, like furnishings, for the Kohler-Andrae cabin.
2. Initiate administrative code changes based on DAC recommendations regarding permits and other items...this is ongoing.
3. Survey State Parks with Disabled Turkey Hunting...these are complete. Are there other DNR properties the DAC should survey? It was suggested that each member should visit a DNR property once a year and make a written assessment of their site visit. As part of this discussion **Steve made a motion that the permit level should remain the same level (50 tags/permits per zone which now there is 46 zones) if the number of zones are reduced. (Meaning that statewide there should still be 2,300 permits available no matter how many zones.) John M seconded the motion and all were in favor.**
4. Inform and enforce the importance of accessibility within the Community Financial Assistance (CFA) Grants program...DAC will write a letter to CFA stressing that grant language should highlight accessibility. (During the meeting it was found in the Action Request list that Dotti had completed this by talking with CFA rather than writing a letter.)

5. DAC representative(s) will attend Fish and Wildlife (F&W) audit meetings. The DAC chair and /or other representatives will be involved with the federal audits. The ADA coordinator will notify the Chairman when the audits are scheduled.
6. Increase Advocacy, Education and Outreach...this is an ongoing goal.
7. Create and promote published materials on accessibility...update the cabin brochure, pamphlet on permits for persons with disabilities, and create a DAC brochure. These 3 are completed. Continue to work on publications and articles for Park's newspapers and other newspapers. Take the lead on a new publication about accessible cabins and update the Guide for the Mobility Impaired brochure. (Currently the Guide for the Mobility Impaired brochure is in Wildlife Management for updating.)
8. DAC will be more proactive, becoming a valuable advocate and resource to the Department in their respective communities. Assist in accessibility assessments, site visits and functions. Attend and provide input at the Conservation Congress meetings. The DAC members are encouraged to attend spring hearings. Be a source of information and research for the DNR on subjects of accessibility and disabled issues...ongoing.
9. Encourage, lobby and promote the expansion of state parks open to disabled turkey hunting and expansion of disabled turkey hunting in general...ON HOLD. (This was discussed earlier in the meeting.)
10. Conduct our meetings and one site visit during the year with full attendance of Council members...ongoing.
11. Request the Bureau of Facilities and Lands to report to the Council on boating and fishing access; study the Website design and operation...a presentation on the Boat Access Inventory will be at a future DAC meeting.
12. DAC will write letters and other means of support stressing to the Department the importance of the ADA Coordinator position and encourage the Department to fund it full time when the need arises to fill it. (Werner to write a letter and Dave to call Senator Jauch's aide.)
13. Have the DAC become a more visible advocate to the DNR by suggesting and/or writing accessibility projects or initiatives and comment on Master Plans.

A discussion on baiting was next. Julie handed out a copy of an e-mail regarding the issue of eliminating baiting and how it would affect persons in wheelchairs. Tom mentioned in the past the DAC was on record for non-preference treatment for disabled hunters regarding baiting. Carl said that baiting is still allowed per the current statute, but the department is against baiting because of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Dave mentioned that the state of Wyoming allows baiting for all hunters. Werner said that we should rethink about what the issue is.

Tom made a motion to amend the previous record of the DAC to allow Class A, long-term B, and C permit holders that they be allowed to bait but be in compliance with previous baiting guidelines as of 04/20/07. Dave seconded the motion, and all, with one exception, was in favor.

Agenda item – Class A permit able to use crossbow & get a buck before a doe in CWD area. This item will be added to the agenda for the July 2007 meeting. This is a statutory change, but is simply a language change. Add “or archery season”, currently statute states during firearm season. Carl will send John M information on this.

Agenda item – Use of ATV’s on state lands. Julie and Jim led the discussion.

This is a current action request. It is “DNR needs to have clearer information and a list of where and when you can use an ATV on state lands”. Class A, long term B and C permit holders can apply for permit and can use ATV’s along the road.

At this point we broke for LUNCH.

Agenda item – Purchase of land in Clark County. Dale led the discussion.

Dale is aware of about 2,260 acres of land that is currently owned by Plum Creek Timber Company in Clark County and the land is going to be put up for sale soon. Dale was wondering if the department is interested in purchasing the land for public hunting. Currently there are no state lands in Clark County. Part of the 2,260 acres could be used for disabled and/or youth hunting opportunities. The land is zoned forest cropland. Julie/Al will follow up with the Real Estate section staff in the central office. **Jim made a motion that the DAC supports that this land be purchased out of county/state and/or federal funds to use this land for general public hunting and for disabled/youth hunting. Steve seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Agenda item – Legislative/Rule Update. Carl led the discussion.

Regarding the use of a trolling motor, a trolling motor can be used on any lake. A trolling motor is considered as electric only.

Carl still needs to check if an assistant with a Class B bear permit holder may shoot a wounded bear while bear hunting. (see UPDATE under item 12 on page 3)

Carl became aware of a future road project near/in Oshkosh. Carl handed out a picture of the proposed Lake Butte des Morts bridge looking north on Highway 41. In the lower right hand corner of the picture it appears that the area along the shoreline could be developed for accessible shore/pier fishing. He said that he would monitor the project and keep the DAC informed.

Carl also mentioned that per ss. 29.193(2) (cr) 1, that Class A and C gun/bow permit holders may shoot a deer of either sex during any season open to hunting of deer.

If the DAC wants to have added to the statute language to add “utility vehicles” along with ATV’s for roadway use, it would be best if someone get a sponsor for the statute change. The DAC members could approach legislators as regular citizens. Carl mentioned that working with the Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Protection may be another option for this change because they support farm vehicles on roadways. Dave mentioned there is only one state trail in Sawyer County open to ATV’s

There was some discussion for the purpose of ss. 29.193(2) (cr) 2, and Carl mentioned about contacting Rep. Al Ott or Rep. Luther Olson because they have an Agriculture background, and they would be more likely to know the issues of farmers wanting to use the utility vehicles (UTVs) on the road. (04/23/07 UPDATE - Utility Terrain Vehicle issue: on April 19th legislation was introduced which mirrors last session's bill covering the UTV use issues. If it is the same then it is definitely not narrowly focused to just the road use issue so its future is not as clear.)

Agenda item - Member's updates/Other issues.

Werner at this point wanted to discuss the next DAC meeting. It was decided that July 13th work for everybody, and we will either have it at Kohler-Andrae State Park or Buckhorn State Park. Al/Julie will check on both locations and get back to the DAC. Dave requested a conference call for him since we are quite a ways from Hayward.

Werner also passed out a sheet on a Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF event in Green Bay on June 23rd. There is a limit of 100 participants, and they have 55 signed up at this time.

Dave S invited us all to attend the 20th anniversary event of his Fishing Has No Boundaries chapter being held May 18, 19 and 20.

Jim mentioned the next NPVA event will be at Green Bay June 27-29th. Lodging can be obtained through the NPVA.

John K asked that the DAC no longer holds meetings during the months of December through February. On his way home from the last meeting (January 12th at Tomah), he fell because of black ice. He feels it is wrong for the DAC to hold meetings during this time of year because of the hardships some of the members have.

Werner suggested that we adjourn the formal meeting since it was 3:12, Dave seconded, and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned.