

Disabled Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
June 5 & 6, 2008
Lakewoods Resort, Cable

June 5, 2008

Members Present: Werner Burkat, Tom Zimmer, Jim Rutledge, John Kocourek, Steve Johnson, David Lato, David Stinson, Joe Greene, and alternate Dale Petkovsek

Members Absent: John Mitchell

Others in Attendance: Anthonette Gilpatrick, Carl Mesman, Andy Janicki, and Julie Amakobe

Chairman Burkat called the meeting to order at approximately 1:32 pm.

The first item was agenda repair and/or approval.

John Kocourek made a motion to approve the agenda. Jim Rutledge seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next Andy Janicki, Accessibility Coordinator, was introduced to the members who were not able to be at the March meeting in Madison.

Next on the agenda was the review of March 20th and March 21st meeting minutes. There was some discussion regarding the wording on page 2 where Rutledge requested a change to the language in statute to say that light UTVs are allowed for Class A, B, and C users. The language for the UTV pilot program does in fact say A, B, and C users. Tom Zimmer suggested that it read "long-term" Class B users. Since the Council wanted the UTV language to reflect the current ATV language and the current ATV language states A and B users, this is probably ok for now to use Class B as described in the minutes.

Joe Greene made a motion to accept the minutes. Dave Lato seconded and motion and all were in favor.

It should be noted that Class C permit users should be added to the current ATV language via a statutory amendment. Jim Rutledge will talk to Representative Gunderson so he can begin to initiate this change.

Carl Mesman mentioned that he was working on a rule proposal to allow Class B long-term-shoot from vehicle permit holders to participate in the special spring turkey hunts.

The next agenda item was the Representative Kaufert letter. Carl Mesman updated the Council on the issue at hand. Werner read the letter to the Council. Representative Kaufert's nephew has a severely deformed arm from an injury. The son clearly qualifies for a Class B long term-crossbow permit and probably a regular cross bow permit. The son would like to participate in the special gun deer hunt (disabled hunt) using a firearm and not a crossbow. The constituent feels that the regulations are restricting some disabled persons from participating in the gun deer disabled hunts. Class A, Class B-long term-shoot from a vehicle and Class C permit holders are the ones that can participate in the special gun deer hunts using a firearm. After an informative discussion, it was noted that the son has a couple of options to pursue. The youth can use a crossbow during the special gun deer hunts or he can



participate in the gun deer youth hunts (ages 12-16). The special gun deer hunts were authorized with the intent to assist mobility impaired persons. If we open up the special gun deer hunts to Class B long term-crossbow permit holders, we would have to open it up to regular crossbow permit holders and those 65 years and older (they automatically qualify for a crossbow permit). Werner and Tom will respond to the letter.

Next Andy updated the Council on the pilot LUV program. Five counties are participating in the pilot program that will go until September 30, 2009. These counties are Florence, Washburn, Sawyer, Lincoln, and Marinette. Andy handed out information indicating the websites where people can go and find out what is happening in a particular participating county.

Next, the Council addressed the electronic turkey and deer calls. A request has come to Steve Johnson from a person who would like to use an electronic turkey call. Carl said that using an electronic call for deer hunting is already permissible—there is not a restriction. To allow electronic calls for turkey hunting would take an administrative code change. Andy requested input from the Council on who would best qualify to use electronic turkey calls.

Jim Rutledge made a motion that Class A and Class B long-term-shoot from a vehicle permit holders be allowed to use electronic calls for purposes of hunting turkey. Steve Johnson seconded the motion and all were in favor. Carl will check to see if there are any federal restrictions on the use of electronic calls for waterfowl game. If not, the motion would read “.....for purposes of hunting turkey and waterfowl game” and if yes there is a restriction, can Wisconsin State statutes deviate from these restrictions?

Steve Johnson had the next agenda item which was a stream access issue. Steve had gotten an inquiry regarding what restrictions, if any, are there in constructing an accessible fishing platform down stream on Coon Creek. Dave Vetrano of the DNR is working with Steve on this issue. This person wants to put in a fishing platform (pier) on his own property on which he has converted an old farm to include accessible cabins. He is hoping that more persons with disabilities will access the outdoors. Carl said he is allowed to do this if putting up the pier is for navigable purposes. For example, he can put up the pier if the pier enables him to use a canoe out on the water. He also wants to put gravel in a floodplain area and then to the platform. The Council discussed what was allowable and Steve said he would get back to him.

The Council then went on with the Members' updates, an agenda item listed for Friday.

Dave Stinson said that the Fishing has no Boundaries was a success with 147 participants over 2 ½ days during May 16th through May 18th. The following week, children with disabilities from area schools went to Nelson Lake and did more fishing.

Dale Petkovsek updated the Council on the European Style Pheasant Shooting that will take place near the Village of Lowell in October.

Jim Rutledge informed the Council the on July 11, 12, and 13, 2008, the Wisconsin Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans Administration (PVA) will hold a national trap shoot in Green Bay at the Brown County Sportsman Club.

Jim also mentioned that Adaptive Sportsmen held a turkey hunt at the Baraboo Ammunition Plant in May.



Jim will be meeting with Anthonette Gilpatrick to look at Yellowstone Lake Wildlife Area's shooting range to look at ways of making it accessible. Yellowstone Lake WA is in Lafayette County. There was once a 1999 Pitman - Robinsin (PR) funding grant available to help renovate shooting ranges. Is this grant still available? Julie Amakobe will check on this.

Andy Janicki let the Council know that he will be going to Lakeshore State Park in Milwaukee on Sunday June 8th. Old Time Canoes and Kayaks, a subsidiary of Johnson Outdoors, Inc., will be donating an accessible 1- man modified paddle kayak to the DNR. Andy will be taking the accessible kayak to Devils Lake State Park. Devils Lake frequently has disabled groups that come to go out on its many trails and also to get into the water. The kayak will get a lot of use there. Dave Stinson notified Andy that Tim Gatenby is a good resource for adaptive type equipment. He runs an adaptive program for all of Dane Co. and is active with the UW Hoofers Club.

Joe Greene said that there are 90 available slots for hunters to sign up for the 2008 Chukar Challenge which is sponsored by NASA and Handishop Industries. Of the 90 available slots, 10 of these will be designated for persons with disabilities in which scholarships will be made available for them to participate. If they are able to get more sponsors, then this number will increase. About half of the 90 slots are filled so far.

Joe also indicated that he had met with Joe Stecker-Kochanski (SK) the manager of Buckhorn State Park. Joe went there to look at the location where Park staff wanted the observation tower to be located. The DAC had discussed this project at the last DAC meeting in Madison. The tower will be 8 feet in height. Joe SK is encouraged to make a lower deck, about 30 inches high for persons with disabilities to use. Joe SK will also put up pictures. The North American Squirrel Association (NASA) will help pay for the lower accessible deck. Buckhorn State Park has an accessible pier, cabin, and other accessible amenities.

Joe Greene said that NASA recently held a banquet in which they awarded two special hunts. One hunt is a disabled trophy buck hunt in Texas. The other hunt is an African safari that was awarded to a young boy.

Anthonette Gilpatrick told the Council that Governor Nelson State Park will be holding a disabled triathlon. The triathlon will be held Saturday, June 7, 2008.

Anthonette is also looking for a device to get someone who is disabled from a dock into a boat. Anthonette was advised that she should look at the website www.abledata.com. This site is designed specifically for various types of assistive technology and adaptive devices and equipment.

Anthonette also gave the Council an update on Cadiz Springs State Park. The Lake at Cadiz Springs was drawn down and repairs were made. The Lake has now filled up again. The DNR is waiting for the bank to stabilize before putting in the piers. Two new piers will be going in at this location. One of the piers is a Friends Group project. Some issues were identified and DNR Engineering is doing a site plan. The piers will be in different locations than the original piers (they will be accessible and located where the fish are located).

Anthonette informed the Council that Fishing Has No Boundaries (FHNB) will be held July 12th and 13th at Governor Nelson State Park.

Anthonette had an issue she wanted to run by the Council. The Concessionaire at Devil's Lake State Park wants to purchase an electric motor boat to take people out in. The boat they are considering to purchase is not accessible. Devil's Lake only allows non-motorized boats. Jim Rutledge suggested that there are



some pontoon boats that have electric motors. Dave Stinson also mentioned that if you search for the brand name pontoon called the “go-getter” on the Internet, that website offers information on pontoons. One can contact Power Sports out of Hayward (715-462-3674) which has information on these pontoons.

Tom Zimmer said he had talked to John Mitchell to change the verbiage “take a deer of either sex with a gun” and replace it with “take a deer of either sex by any legal means”. Carl has already made this a proposed change to the Administrative code.

Tom also informed the Council that Matt Brown, the owner of Pine Ridge in Wautoma, caters to persons with disabilities. He has created for his own use, due to his damaged arms; an adaptive gun with a hook attached which helps him to hunt. It is a very unique device.

Steve Johnson updated the Council on the three fishing piers that were proposed in his area. He (NASA) is working with DNR’s Dave Vetrano. The three locations for the fishing piers are in LaCrosse, Sparta, and Warrens. Dave Vetrano is also working on two more piers located at Copeland Park in La Crosse and McMullin Pond in Monroe County. Steve mentioned that he is also working with DNR to construct a fish habitat project.

Steve let the Council know that another deer hunt will be conducted at Goose Island due to the continuing large deer population.

Dave Lato informed the Council that FHNB will be holding its annual fishing event during the 3rd week in August at Lake Holcomb. Dave wants to get disabled permit and license information out to hospitals and rehabilitation centers so they can inform sportsmen/women with disabilities about all the hunting and fishing opportunities that exist.

Chairman Burkat told the Council that on April 25th he went to the grand opening of Kohler Andrae State Park’s accessible cabin. He said it was really nice. Andy, Anthonette, Julie and their boss also went to the grand opening.

It was asked if any one had been to the new accessible cabin at Bong State Recreational Area. No one had been there. It was noted that John Mitchell is the closest DAC member and that may be he should check it out.

Werner also indicated that there is going to be a youth disabled fishing clinic in Green Bay on Saturday June 7th. There are 50 able bodied boys and girls and 50 disabled youth signed up for the event. Saturday June 7th is a free fishing day in the State. There was a donor who provided the rods and reels.

Joe Greene made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Rutledge seconded the motion and all were in favor.

June 6, 2008

Dale Petkovsek was not in attendance on the second day as was John Mitchell.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:30 a.m.

First agenda item to be discussed was the Legislative updates given to the Council by Carl Mesman.

The Parks free admission bill for certain disabled Vets (injured during service) passed. The LUV pilot program passed as well.



Pier regulations legislation was introduced that would allow piers that are wider than 6 feet, going out to navigable waters, and have a 3 to 8 feet wide “T” or “L” attached to the pier, but this legislation did not go through. It may be introduced again.

Others bills that were introduced that may be introduced again are as follows:

- Legislation was introduced to allow ATVs to travel on highways in order to get to an ATV trail from one’s home. Snowmobiles can do this already.
- Legislation was introduced to allow disabled persons to vote on the Internet (electronic voting) on issues at the Conservation Congress spring hearings.
- Legislation was introduced by Representative Jorgensen that would allow a Class B permit holder to take a deer of either sex. It should be noted that if draft legislation comes up again for this one, that “long term” be added to the Class B **AND** add to this “with any legal means of hunting”.
- Legislation was introduced to allow non-residents to qualify for disabled fishing licenses.

Carl also indicated that the Oshkosh DOT project site area is not a good location for a fishing pier after all.

Next on the agenda was the DAC Goals discussed by Tom Zimmer. Tom went over the current list of goals and then he and the Council updated them.

The first goal has a DAC motion attached to it. The motion is as follows:

Dave Lato made a motion that the Bureau of Parks develop a policy to be included in their next strategic plan that would allow for an accessible cabin within every DNR region by June 30, 2009. Tom Zimmer seconded the motion and all were in favor.

A new goal was added to the list. It has a motion attached to it. The motion is as follows:

Steve Johnson made a motion to add as a goal that annually the DAC has a Legislator who is a member of the Natural Resource Committee meet with the DAC to talk about DAC and other accessibility issues. Dave Lato seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Below is the list of the current DAC goals and the new DAC goals for 2008 and beyond.

DAC Goals

Current

1. Promote the Accessible Cabins – Kohler Andrae State Park cabin is currently under construction and Richard Bong State Park cabin is being designed. They will need financial support for furnishings and other items. Implement a plan which allows state parks that possess accessible cabins to retain the revenue collected from rent to help maintain them.

New

1. Ensure that the Bureau of Parks develop a policy to be included in their next strategic plan



that would allow for an accessible cabin within every DNR region by June 30, 2009.

Current

2. Initiate Administrative Code Changes – This needs to be done periodically with Law Enforcement and other affected Bureaus based on DAC recommendations regarding permits and other items.

New

2. Initiate Statutory and Administrative Code Changes – This needs to be done periodically with Law Enforcement and other affected Bureaus based on DAC recommendations regarding permits and other items. This is a continuing and ongoing goal.

Current

3. Survey State Parks with Disabled Turkey Hunting – These are complete. Are there other DNR properties the DAC should survey?

New

3. Support the Accessibility Coordinator to ensure accessibility in programs, services and activities within State properties and to encourage expanding opportunities when applicable.

Current

4. Inform and Enforce the Importance of Accessibility within the Community Financial Assistance (CFA) Grants Program - DAC will write a letter to the Bureau of CFA stressing that grant language should highlight accessibility.

Delete #4 from the list.

Current

5. DAC Representative(s) will attend F&WL Audit Meetings – The DAC chair and/or other representatives will be involved with the federal audits. ADA Coordinator will notify the Chairman when the audits are scheduled.

New

5. Stays the same. This is ongoing. This becomes the new #4.

Current

6. Increase Advocacy, Education and Outreach – This is an ongoing goal.

Delete # 6. This is the DAC's mission.

Current

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.



New

7. Review draft publications that Department is creating on disabled programs, access to properties, and services. This becomes the new #5.

Current

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.

New

8. Attend and provide input at the Conservation Congress Meetings. This becomes the new #6.

Current

9. Encourage, lobby and promote the expansion of state parks open to disabled turkey hunting and expansion of disabled turkey hunting in general.

Delete # 9.

Current

10. Conduct four meetings and one site visit during the year with full attendance of Council members.

New

10. Conduct one property site visit during the year with full attendance of Council members. This becomes the new #7.

Current

11. Request the Bureau of Facilities and Lands to report to the Council on boating and fishing access; study the Website design and operation.

New

11. Annually request the Bureau of Facilities and Lands to report to the Council on the update on Phase 2 boating and fishing access, which is part of the Website design and operation. This is the new #8.

Current

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.

Delete # 12. It is completed.



Current

13. Have the DAC become a more visible advocate to the DNR by suggesting and/or writing accessibility projects or initiatives and commenting on Master Plans.

This stays the same. It is ongoing. This is the new #9. Julie will check to see if the public can access the master plan information for commenting. Is it on the Internet or Intranet (for DNR personnel only)?

NEW

10. Annually have a Legislator who is a member of the Natural Resources Committee meet with the DAC to talk about DAC and other accessibility issues.

Tom Zimmer asked Julie Amakobe when the Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing will be having their next statewide conference again. She didn't know, but would follow up. Tom would like to attend again like he did last year to update the Bureau on what the DAC is doing.

The next meeting will be held Friday, September 19th at Buckhorn State Park. We will be having the DAC awards presentation at this meeting. Dave Lato suggested that the DNR do a press release informing the general public about the upcoming DAC awards. The DAC members are encouraged to get 2008 DAC award recommendations to Andy Janicki by July 31st. The Council had already chosen the 2007 award winners last year.

Dave Lato made a comment that the DNR was on top of things as it had placed in the DNR weekly magazine an article encouraging landowners to sign up for the accessible gun deer hunts. He suggested that DNR do this again to remind the disabled hunters to sign up for the special hunts as it gets closer to the application deadline. Julie believes it was the Bureau of Wildlife Management that had done this very informative article.

Tom Zimmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Johnson along with Ripley his dog seconded the motion and all were in favor.

