

Disability Advisory Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Bong Recreation Area
June 10, 2011

Members Present: Chairman Tom Zimmer, Kirsten Engel, Jim Rutledge, Werner Burkat, Vice Chair John Martinson, John Mitchell, John Kocourek, Dale Petkovsek (via teleconference) and Steve Johnson.

Members Absent: W. Joe Greene

Others Present: Carl Mesman (via teleconference), Andy Janicki, and Kelly Frawley

Chair Tom Zimmer called the Disability Advisory Council (DAC) meeting to order at approximately 10:10. **Motion by Burkat, second by Mitchell, to approve the agenda moving Disabled Turkey Hunt to later in the agenda. Motion carried.**

Motion by Rutledge, second by Burkat, to approve the minutes of the March 2011 meeting. Carried.

UTVs

Motion by Mitchell, second by Rutledge, that Andy to allow UTV access as the same access as ATVs. Discussion.

Rutledge commented that statute states the ATV allows travel of folks possessing a Class A permit. Can Chapter 23 be changed to reflect ATV and UTV.

Martinson aware of individual with agriculture use was stopped. He would need a SMV sign on back.

Rutledge commented there are gray areas.

Carried.

Changes to Class A Permit/Eyesight

Warden Mesman surveyed optometrists and ophthalmologists to get their opinions on the lower limit for eyesight that would qualify the applicant for a crossbow permit. The survey asked for minimum visual acuity, visual field reduction and binocular vision requirements. Mesman summarized:

- The eyesight range was from 20/40 to 20/80. Averaging it out it appears that 20/60 is a middle ground. Mesman will check the statutes to see what the driving restrictions are for eyesight. It is possible that there is already a limit identified for vision that can be adapted to this use.
- The visual field reduction had several at the 40 to 45 degree range.
- Only one of the returns stated that binocular vision was needed to use archery equipment. Mesman spoke with one optometrist that is a bowhunter and he stated that binocular vision is not an issue and he knows several hunters that do not have binocular vision and do very well shooting archery.

- Mesman checked with the DMV and the limit for corrected vision to drive a vehicle is 20/100 with a 20 degree field of vision in their best corrected vision eye. Mesman reported there is not a requirement for binocular vision.

Mesman commented that he believes the limit should be lower than this and would have to defer to the average of the results from the survey being in the 20/60 range and in the 45 degree field reduction.

DAC members will provide comments by June 17th.

Wisconsin Disabled Fire Arm Hunt

Mesman reported that he attended the meeting with the Conservation Congress Executive Council when they were reviewing a county resolution concerning the allowance of persons with arm disabilities to participate in the October Disabled Gun Deer Hunt.

The recommending party's solution would include participation of a hunter with:

- An amputation or other loss of one or both arms above the wrist; or,
- A permanent substantial loss of function in one or both hands or one or both arms (requires testing administered by or under the direction of a licensed physician).

The requesting party believes Form #3600-162 could be used which is the same procedure used to qualify someone to fish or troll with an electric motor.

Mesman summarized the position of the DAC. Mesman commented that several members of the Conservation Congress were concerned that the DNR was excluding disabled persons from the hunt. Mesman explained the following:

- After several discussions at the DAC, the determination is consistent that the intent of the hunt is for mobility-impaired hunters and that in these cases the persons with upper extremity issues did not meet that intent.
- The hunter would qualify for a crossbow permit and that the DNR cannot just allow his participation. By allowing all persons with a crossbow permit opens the process to all individuals over age 65. The increased participation would overwhelm the number of available hunts.
- The DAC and DNR are sympathetic to anyone that has a disability that limits their ability to participate. Certain opportunities need to be available to some but will exclude others.
- Mesman pointed out other opportunities are available such as ag damage deer.
- Mesman pointed out the elimination of the statewide October 4-day deer hunt that was supported by the Conservation Congress reduced the individual's ability and the ability of others with disability another opportunity to hunt.
- Mesman offered to work with members of the Conservation Congress as well as the author of the resolution to draft language to address the issue.

Mesman informed the DAC that rather than developing a new permit that adding language to the Class A Permit that takes major upper body disabilities into consideration may be all that is needed. Persons that meet the qualifications would not be able to shoulder a rifle or crossbow needing a device to hold it while releasing it remotely. The Class A Permit would accommodate their needs, allow the shooting from a vehicle and participate in the October hunt without the need to create an entirely new permit.

Group Bow Hunting – Class A

Motion by Mitchell to allow A, C and long-term B archery hunters to group hunt with another person on same license/tag. Second by Rutledge. Carried, 7-1 (Zimmer opposed).

Aiding a Person of Disability while Fishing

Motion by Burkat, second by Rutledge, that a person attending or aiding a person of disability while fishing, that helper does not require a fishing license as long as that helper is not in possession or in the act of fishing. Carried 8-0.

Ranger John Meyer commented that setting a hook is an act of fishing and maybe legislation should be considered. If the act of fishing does not involve setting the hook, then the wardens and rangers should use common sense.

Disabled Turkey Hunt

The DAC asked if the number of permits changed. Zimmer will follow up with DNR and provide a report to the DAC. The number of permits has not changed with the number of zones.

Future Meetings

DAC members invited to attend National SOBA Conference to be held in September 2011 in La Crosse.

Next meeting is August 26th in north counties. Check with Dale to determine if his facility is available. (Note: Meeting subsequently moved to Friday, September 23, 2011 in Ashland).

Final meeting of year set for December 2nd at Stevens Point.

Member Updates

Engel: Adaptive outdoor recreation expo sponsored by Gander Mountain.

Rutledge: Paralyzed veteran trap shoot the July 23rd weekend. Monday, July 25th @ Nicolet Shooting range north of green Bay. Pistol and Rifle shoot.

Burkat: No comments.

Martinson: Adaptive Sportsman doing a fishery tomorrow on Lake Mendota beginning at noon. June 25th is a disabled women's' hunt class to introduce hunting at Columbus Sportsman's Club.

Mitchell: June 25th is 3D shoot at Horicon Marsh. August 27th sporting clays event in Montello. Deer hunt in Baraboo.

Kocourek: No comments.

Johnson: NASA ... annual banquet raised \$116,000. Key to raffle is firearms. Ruffled off 89 firearms and 6-7 bows. Two big projects moving forward with dredging on Lake Onalaska. Accessible fishing pier and landing exists. City of La Crosse, DNR and NASA moving forward with rehabilitation of a public pond. Will be an impressive project and will eventually be a

barbless and catch and release pond. NASA received grant to work with school districts allowing vouchers to an accessible barge primarily for special education students to fish on the accessible floats.

Janicki: Adaptive kayaking trip the June 18th weekend.

Zimmer: Open the Outdoors needs to be updated.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m. for an accessibility tour of the Bong Recreation Area.