

Meeting Minutes
Disabled Advisory Council
July 20, 2007
Kohler Andrae State Park

Members in attendance: Werner Burkat, Tom Zimmer, Jim Rutledge, Joe Greene, Steve Johnson, David Lato, John Kocourek, John Mitchell, and Dale Petkovsek. David Stinson participated by phone.

Others in Attendance: Anthonette Gilpatrick and Julie Amakobe

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Burkat at 9:45 am.

The agenda was amended by John Kocourek to add winter meetings. **Steve Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Joe Greene seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

The meeting minutes from April 20, 2007 were reviewed. **Joe Greene made a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Rutledge seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

The next agenda item was the DAC awards update. Steve Johnson had handouts with his nominations.

Steve nominated former DNR Secretary George Meyer for the 2007 Outstanding Service Award Nomination. Steve indicated that George has been forever passionate about the DAC and is thankful for his continuing support. **John Kocourek made a motion to accept this nomination. Joe Greene seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Steve also nominated DNR Biologist Ronald Lichtie for the same award and it was suggested and approved that the DAC wait until next year to award Mr. Lichtie.

Next, Steve nominated Kohler Andrae State Park for the 2007 Outstanding Property Award Nomination. Steve clearly likes the accessible cabin project, accessible features and enhancements in the park, and the continuing commitment of the Park improve access to all that access their programs, services, and activities. Anthonette agreed that Kohler Andrae has great access and gave examples such as the accessible cordwalk and the accessible restroom at the Nature Center. **Tom Zimmer made a motion to accept this nomination. John Mitchell seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Steve's final nomination was the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge for the 2007 External Relations Outstanding Service Award nomination. In Steve's nomination he indicates the Refuge's long-term and continuing commitment to creating opportunities for persons with disabilities to access the outdoors. Some of these opportunities include having the first disabled waterfowl hunt in the Upper Midwest, organizing disabled deer hunts, conducting an outdoor adaptive technology expo, and helping develop a design for

a “birding for the blind” program. **Joe Greene made a motion to accept this nomination. Jim Rutledge seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Next on the agenda was the update on the Accessibility Coordinator position. Julie Amakobe let the Council know that the position passed Joint Finance and was now with DNR’s Human Resources Bureau who gets the position ready to fill. It was mentioned that the Human Resources Bureau has an Accessibility/Accommodations Coordinator David Brody whose position description is that of addressing accessibility issues for DNR employees. The Council wants Mr. Brody and his supervisor Theresa Scallon to come to a DAC meeting and talk about their roles in the Department NOTE: since the July 20th meeting, both persons in these positions have left the DNR. If and once these positions are filled, Andy will ask that they come to one of the meetings.

The next agenda item discussed was the reduced fishing license update. There were three issues that needed to be addressed: 1) Adults receiving SSI benefits on behalf of their disabled children who are older than 16 years (letter Werner had received) 2) Class A, B, and C permit holders who work and do not receive SSI benefits 3) Why can’t applicants continue to use the Medicaid card? (Anthonette Gilpatrick’s concern). Julie Amakobe handed out the letter that Customer Service and Licensing sent out that requires the new documentation requirements. In addition, we handed out the forms Carl Mesman had given us showing what is needed to be done to get this statutory change. He indicated earlier that the DNR could introduce it in their legislative package (after going through all the steps and the Leadership Team check off) OR someone to call their Legislator and ask for it to be introduced. If the DAC chose to have DNR introduce it, Carl’s handout was the DNR Law Recommendation form which he had filled out and the DAC looked it over and had some minor comments/clarifications. DAC members are to look at the wording in more depth and get back to Carl at the next meeting. The other 2 issues identified above were not discussed and Werner indicated that he would talk to the father who gets the SSI benefits on behalf of his son and get back to the Council.

Next, it was decided to move up the UTV agenda item for Dave Stinson because he had to leave. Dave wants persons with disabilities to be able to use an UTV just like they can use an ATV. Dave is to come up with the language and information that Minnesota uses and he is to send this information to Carl Mesman. Minnesota has a 2 year trial period.

Jim Rutledge said that the legislative proposal should use the same language as the ATV language. This language allows Class A permit holders and long term Class B permit holders to use ATV’s on roadways if they are traveling for the purposes of hunting or otherwise engaging in an activity authorized by the permit. It was noted that the Class C permit holder should be added to this language also. Julie Amakobe was asked to have the DNR ATV group come and talk to the DAC. The State Statutes versus the County’s Laws needs to be look into also. Jim Rutledge is going to contact Senator Schultz and Representative Gunderson.

Carl Mesman’s handout on UTV usage/legislation was also distributed. What this handout indicated was the use of UTV’s on the roadways according to DOT is that they

could be used as an implement of husbandry (agriculture use) if they are usually operated at a speed of 25 mph or less and are hauling hay, have a sprayer attached, or something indicating that it is an actively being used for agricultural purposes. There is some further language in s. 346 relating to “lightweight utility vehicles” and their limited use for maintenance type applications. DNR doesn’t regulate these things. There is a Legislator that may be asking for a pilot UTV program in several northern counties to allow there use on County ATV trails and ATV routes with a county trail sticker.

Next, Werner Burkat discussed Newport State Park and the location of the turkey blind. Michelle Hefty, the Park Manager, indicated that the turkey blind is located on a graveled road near the contact station. It is an open area where there are lots of turkeys. There is a private landowner next to the park boundary. Is this area open to turkey hunting? Julie Amakobe will check if hunting is allowed there.

Werner also let the Council know that the Wheelin’ Sportsmen are sponsoring a disabled fishing event on June 23 at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay. The event will be limited to 100 participants. This is an all free event and is a good time. The event utilizes the special event waiver for fishing licenses.

On August 12th in Muskego there will be a similar event sponsored by the Wheelin’ Sportsmen.

Next John Kocourek asked that the DAC not schedule winter meetings. After the last meeting in on his way home, John slipped while stopping at a rest area and was not attended to for quite a long time. Jim Rutledge commented that it is up to the individual if he/she feels it is dangerous. John wants the DAC to look at scheduling meetings from April through October and try to avoid the months from November through March.

The next agenda item for the DAC to discuss was the disabled deer hunt for youth or inexperienced disabled hunter to be held at Hartman Creek State Park near Waupaca. Julie Amakobe handed out Carl Mesman’s information on this hunt. Tom Zimmer is to ask Carl to see if they are looking for more applicants.

Next on the agenda was the action request forms update which had 5 different issues/topics. The first issue was the DNR customer service regarding disabled issues and permits. The DAC talked about getting information out to the public regarding accessibility issues. Some of the Service Centers are not up to date on all the available permits and special hunts for persons with disabilities. It was noted that the Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing is having a statewide conference during September. There are two different dates so they can stagger the personnel and not have everyone gone at the same time. Anthonette Gilpatrick mentioned that may be Carl Mesman would like to do his power point presentation. The DAC members should also try to attend the meetings. Tom Zimmer, Joe Greene and Jim Rutledge said they could volunteer. Tom will ask Carl what he feels about going to these meetings or possibly ask Bill Schwengel to attend.

The next action request update to be discussed was the Hayward Lake fishing pier and boarding dock. Information was handed out from Al Czeshinski regarding this. The pier has a development project in-house, but follow up needs to be done. The Bureau of Fisheries indicated that DNR Regional folks either work with the City to have them take the land back and be responsible for maintenance of the pier or at least have an agreement with the City to maintain the pier for a period of at least 20 years. If either of these is accomplished, then Fisheries would consider funding the redevelopment of this pier. The region has not gotten back to Fisheries. Julie Amakobe needs to talk to Al Czeshinski to see who is following up on this? The Accessibility Coordinator should do this. DNR will handle this issue.

The third action request item update was the one where current DNR code states that no person may participate in more than one special hunt/year. This one is on hold. The DAC wants to wait for the Accessibility Coordinator to get on board. That person will write up a position paper so that a Class A, long-term B, or C permit holder can participate in more than one DNR disabled special hunt.

Next the DAC discussed the fourth item which was how revenue is distributed in Parks including cabin revenue. Al Czeshinski had a handout that was distributed. Basically, the revenue goes to the general fund for operations. Anthonette Gilpatrick mentioned that a gift account did exist specifically for accessible cabins, now it does not exist. The Friends Group of the Park can collect money and that money can stay within the park.

DAC recommends that each Park with an accessible cabin set up a Friends Account with a donation box in the cabin. This is the best way for these revenues to stay within the Park.

Werner Burkat updated the Council on the furnishings request form Kohler Andrae's accessible cabin. As of July 14, 2007, the people involved were intending to visit the High Cliff State Park cabin and make a list of items and take photos. They hope to accomplish this by the end of the July. Note: In an e-mail dated October 31, 2007 from Jim Buchholz, Kohler Andrae property manager, the Park's Friends group had pretty much purchased or had donated the majority of the cabin furnishings. They are now looking for cash donations to start an endowment fund to support the ongoing maintenance costs of the cabin from year to year.

The next agenda item initiated by John Mitchell to be discussed was the Class A permit holder to be able to use a crossbow to get a buck before a doe in a CWD area. This request could be changed to "any area" instead of "CWD area". Carl Mesman gave John the statutory reference and the change. John needs to contact his Legislator as a citizen to make a proposal. Carl is to send John the information. It is a simple statutory change.

The next agenda item was the update on the Paper Company Land in Clark County that is for sale. Dale Petkovsek said he had no update from DNR. Julie Amakobe indicated that DNR is not interested in purchasing that land. Julie Amakobe had given the Real Estate Section Chief the information regarding the available land after the last meeting.

Next a handout was distributed from Carl Mesman relating to the DOT construction of bridges at Hwy 41 in Oshkosh and in Waupaca at Hwy 54 over the Crystal River. Money is needed to modify the proposed barrier structure and while they are constructing the bridge, Carl wanted to know about funding sources that have been used for disabled fishing access piers and improvements at non DNR sites. The handout indicated that municipalities (villages, cities, towns and counties), Indian Tribes and NCO's (non profit) would qualify for Community Assistance stewardship grants at 50% participation.

Jim Rutledge made a motion to have Al Czesinski run this through Community Financial Assistance representative in the Region. Steve Johnson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Julie Amakobe was asked to send an updated DAC letterhead to all members.

The next DAC meeting is set for November 9, 2007 at the DNR Eau Claire Service Center.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm.