

Disabled Advisory Council (DAC)
Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2008
North Shelter, Buckhorn State Park

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

Members Absent: Dave Stinson.

Others in Attendance: Steve Miller, Julie Amakobe, Andy Janicki, Greg Wichman, Jennifer Lilla, Vicki Hirschboeck, James Buchholz, Ron Lichtie and Kelly Frawley

Chairman Burkat called the meeting to order at approximately 10:35 a.m.

The first item was agenda repair and/or approval.

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

John Kocourek made a motion to accept the minutes. Steve Johnson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Motion by Steve Johnson, second by Jim Rutledge, for Andy Janicki to research the potential name change of the Disabled Advisory Council to the Disability Advisory Council. Approved, 8-1 (No: Kocourek).

Greg Wichman addressed the DAC regarding allowing crossbow permit holders to use guns on special gun deer hunts. Greg indicated that a 12 year old child with limited use of arms was not able to qualify for a special hunt because the child did not have mobility issues. The child was born with short arms and can't hold a gun. He needs a system to hold the gun and an automatic shot gun with reduced recoil. The child can not get a Class A or a long term Class B-shoot from vehicle permits because he does not meet the mobility criteria.

Rutledge asked if this will require a legislative or an administrative change.

Greene commented that this young man needs assistance in hunting. How does DAC effectively address the individuals that fall between the cracks?

Kocourek commented that this is not a mobility issue.

Rutledge would like to keep this issue defined as a Class B issue. Zimmer added a doctor could define the issue further.

Wichman commented that they have not had a hunter that had to hunt from a vehicle. The hunting group has been successful in getting every disabled hunter in the field.



Chair Burkat commented that a vehicle must be involved to allow this hunter to hunt.

Kocourek sought clarification on the requirement that the permit holder must hunt from a vehicle. Members of the DAC clarified that the permit only allows the hunt from a vehicle but does not require the hunter to do so.

Mitchell commented that it sounds as though the hunter's doctor could be educated to fill out the necessary approvals for the Class B permit.

Chair Burkat would like staff to look in to more detail the exemptions and approvals in the other permit classes.

Wichman commented that language in the fishing statutes and regulations cover many of the issue but have not been applied to the hunting statutes and regulations. He also noted that in Montana, Illinois, and Alabama, if a person has an 80% permanent impairment on his/her hand or arm, they are allowed to shoot from a vehicle.

Kocourek suggested and Chair Burkat supported the drafting of a letter from the DAC to the doctor in support of the hunter's request. Chair Burkat commented that mobility is not strictly limited to the individual but also relates to the equipment necessary to hunt. Some situations require the transport of equipment for the hunter. Therefore, mobility is restricted by use of special equipment.

Zimmer commented the administrative code must be broadened to include these issues. Zimmer also commented that the DAC must make certain the language does not become too broad and inclusive.

Burkat commented that law enforcement needs clarification in written form to provide guidance.

Motion by Kocourek, second by Greene, Chairman Burkat to write a position paper clarifying the DAC's position on the intent of the Class B permit, including the definition of mobility. Lato commented that the DAC's position will give law enforcement and physicians additional assistance in determining qualifications for the special permits. Petkovsek asked that invitations be extended to those individuals requesting special conditions to appear before the DAC to gain greater understanding of the DAC position. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Johnson was approached by a private party and addressed the DAC regarding the possibility of establishing a Class D permit for the developmentally (cognitive) disabled in order for them to participate in the special hunts.

Rutledge commented that in the early 2000s the DAC was approached. Rutledge commented the request was later dropped.

Petkovsek and Zimmer commented that it may be difficult to determine developmentally disabled. Chair Burkat commented that the DAC should look to other states for their provisions for the developmentally disabled population. Greene and Johnson will look at the booklet that John Kocourek put together regarding disabled permits in other states. Greene commented he is aware of several individuals with cognitive disabilities that hunt with an assistant during the



regular hunts. It was suggested that Greene and Johnson get a State Representative or Senator to spearhead this position.

Mitchell received an e-mail from Rep. Gunderson indicating that he would introduce legislation to allow earn-a-buck exemption for archery. Mitchell stated that Gunderson would introduce language allowing “any legal method” to take a deer of either sex..... in the next legislative session but would not be effective in the near term.

Lato received a call from a woman from Luck, Wisconsin, having an amputation of a portion of the right hand. She is concerned on how to get a reduced fishing license should she not have proof of the disability at the time of purchase. Lato commented that it can take up to one year to receive proof through the requirements under code and statute. It was concluded that it is the law to have proof upfront to get a reduced fishing license and Lato will get back to the woman. The Council wanted to ask Carl if Class A, B, and C permit holders qualify for a reduced fishing license. Did he initiate the language change?



Andy Janicki addressed the DAC regarding a possible state accessible campsite policy. Janicki distributed federal guidelines established in the national parks.

16.17 CAMPING FACILITIES

16.17.1 SCOPING (Table 16.17)

- Based on ADAAG Transient Lodging numbers
- Modified to require more accessible units at the low end
- Requires that the numbers be applied to all types of units (i.e. tent, RV,)
- Also requires other “elements” to be accessible (i.e. tables, grills, etc.)
- ISA signage required on accessible units unless:
 - all units are accessible
 - sites are assigned

16.17.2 PARKING

- Recreation Vehicle/Trailer spaces (20 feet wide)
- Tent and Shelter spaces (16 feet wide)
- Slope (1:50 except 1:30 for proper drainage)

16.17.3 TENT PADS AND PLATFORMS

- Clear ground space (48 inches on all sides, 36” with exception)
- Tent Pad surface (Firm and Stable but allows stakes)
- Tent Platforms (Firm and Stable surface)
- Slope (1:50 except up to 1:33 for drainage)
- Edge Protection for Platforms (curbs, walls, railings etc. allowed)
- Connection (accessed by ramp, transfer or ground surface)

Table 16.17

Number of Camping Spaces	Number of Accessible Camping Spaces (Tent, RV, Shelters)
1	1
2 to 25	2
26 to 50	3
51 to 75	4
76 to 100	5
101 to 150	7
151 to 200	8
201 to 300	10
301 to 400	12
401 to 500	13
501 to 1000	2 percent of total
1001 and over	20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1000

The policy mirrors the parking requirements under disability guidelines for parking. **Motion by Rutledge, second by Johnson, to approve implementing a parks policy setting the number of accessible camping sites for new campgrounds.** The DAC discussed the policy.

Janicki commented that the sites would be available for the general population should the site not have a reservation and would not be considered a retroactive policy for existing parks. Johnson



commented mirroring the requirements of the parking guidelines is appropriate versus the transient guidelines. Chair Burkat asked if the accessible sites can be pulled off the Reserve America website and require direct communication to the State Park. Legitimacy of use has been a question in the past regarding those reserving on-line.

Jim Buchholz, Park Manager at Kohler Andrae State Park, indicated his park is currently not close to the ratio outlined for the number of total campsites he has at his park. He also said there is a problem with Reserve America giving out accessible campsites to non-disabled person. Jim let the Council know that a park could run into trouble if 7 sites (ratio for 101 to 150 total campsites) are available at the end of the day and not yet utilized. Tom Zimmer said that the Council should collect data to see if the number of disabled campsites per the proposed policy will be utilized. Janicki will work with Dan Schuller Bureau Director of Parks.

Chair Burkat called the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Wisconsin DNR Facilities and Lands Bureau Director Steve Miller addressed the DAC on behalf of Secretary Matthew Frank. Director Miller recognized Chair Burkat and the members of the DAC for their commitment to the residents of Wisconsin and customers accessing the Wisconsin parks system.

Director Miller recognized Kohler-Andrae as the outstanding state facility for providing accessible features and enhancements. Kohler-Andrae added an accessible cabin without public funding and is experiencing 100% occupancy. Park Manager Jim Buchholz accepted the award on behalf of Kohler-Andrae State Park and on behalf of the Friends Group and employees at Kohler-Andrae. Manager Buchholz commented that additional accessibility projects are currently in the works.

Director Miller recognized the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge for their long-term commitment to providing access to disabled persons in the outdoors. Miller commented that the Trempealeau Refuge conducts annual waterfowl hunts for hunters with disabilities and is being recognized as a leader in providing diverse, high quality, hunting and fishing opportunities for people of all abilities. Miller presented the award to Trempealeau Refuge Director Vickie Hirschboeck and Assistant Director Jennifer Lilla. Director Hirschboeck indicated that the Refuge is designating an area of the refuge for disabled hunts.

Director Miller presented DNR Biologist Ronald Lichtie with the 2008 Outstanding Service Award. Biologist Lichtie collaborated and spearheaded an effort to control the whitetail deer overpopulation on Goose Island County Park in La Crosse. Lichtie worked with a variety of governmental entities including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors, town of Shelby Board, his own agency and other officials to help create a first-time managed deer hunt on the island. Ron worked with a local organization to bring in 30 persons with disabilities to hunt in the first-time event. The hunt was very successful and quality health information was collected from the harvested deer. Lichtie is again advocating for hunters with disabilities to participate in a second annual managed deer hunt on Goose Island.



Director Miller acknowledged former DNR secretary, George Meyer, as recipient of the 2007 Richard Welch memorial award. It was to be presented to George Meyer who was unable to attend. Meyer was 27-year veteran of the Wisconsin DNR and served as secretary for 8 years. During his tenure the DNR acquired 140,000+ acres making land available for access to persons with all abilities. Meyer has served as executive director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Association since February 2003.

Amakobe introduced discussion on a request for an individual that is visually impaired and requests use of a crossbow. Chair Burkat commented that the individual wants the benefit of the Class C permit, but does not want the requirement of an attendant. Chair Burkat commented the regulations are there for a reason.

Rutledge asked if there is a sight out there to assist this person. Zimmer and Lato commented that there may be a red dot available for that use. Johnson stated that he recalls a green dot may also be available. The request is for a crossbow even though the requesting hunter did not qualify for the Class C crossbow. Chair Burkat recommended that staff request Warden Carl Mesman research the issue to determine if other red/green scopes are available for eye relief. Also, it was noted by the Council to ask some questions such as; is his condition deteriorating? Is he close to the age of 65?

Johnson addressed the DAC with regard to allowing more than one special hunt per year. Mitchell requested on behalf of the DAC to have Warden Mesman report on whether the DAC's request to allow more than one special hunt has been granted or approved through the DNR's administrative policy.

Johnson commented that an individual was involved with an electrocution. The gentleman lost his ribs, sternum and arm. For federally sponsored disabled hunts, only Class A and C permit holders are allowed to participate in these special hunts. He does not qualify under Class A, only under long term Class B- shoot from vehicle. His question is why he does not qualify under Class A? Amakobe said a copy of the application must be viewed and she will get more information. Zimmer commented the basis goes back to the position paper to be addressed by Chair Burkat. The DAC believes law enforcement should have the flexibility to determine whether the spirit and intent of the law is met. In this situation even though the heart and lungs are exposed he was denied a Class A permit. The applicant is seeking direction on an appeal.

Janicki addressed the DAC on the disabled veteran pass. The applicant would have to apply through the veteran service office and deliver the application to a DNR service center. The disabled veteran free state park/forest/trail pass allows veterans with a service-related disability and prisoners of war the opportunity to access free Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Trails free of charge. Kocourek commented that the application form does not necessarily dictate that the disability must be service related. Rutledge commented that the County VSO would know. Zimmer questioned why the application addresses temporary versus permanent disability. Janicki commented that the application is in draft form and will be modified based on DAC comments.

Member Updates



Lato – No updates

Rutledge was to meet with Anthonette Gilpatrick in July at Yellowstone Lake Wildlife Area to look at the shooting range. This was put on hold due to the workload and FEMA visits at SCR.

Mitchell: Adaptive Sportsmen are having two bow hunts in October (Baraboo and Clintonville) and a Pheasant hunt in Oxford during November.

Petkovsek is sponsoring disabled hunts with 73 hunters signed up on 13,000 acres in Clark County.

Janicki: Attended a meeting at Fort McCoy with the Administrative Rule Committee regarding hunting administrative rule changes. Janicki attended to hear comments regarding use of the electronic turkey call. The rule change passed without issues and will include Class A and anyone with long-term Class B. The change will likely take a year or two to implement. The Earn-A-Buck exemption for archery was approved. The Hunt-from-Vehicle for Long-Term Class B turkey was approved for the special turkey hunt.

A kayaking event is scheduled for September 27th at Devil's Lake State Park. Five kayaks will be available in Devils Lake and anyone with a disability can come and try to use one.

Janicki was in Tennessee for training regarding outdoor recreation learning federal standards for campgrounds and trails.

Janicki went to Flambeau River State Forest and met with Superintendent Jim Halvorson and discussed a number of accessibility projects for their upcoming 6-year master plan including accessible river campsites and a possible accessible cabin. The Northern Region is the only region without an accessible cabin. Janicki distributed a packet outlining all recommended changes in wildlife rules. The rules will continue through the process inclusive of public hearings.

Johnson commented the nine-day disabled gun deer hunt is coming up and that NASA is also sponsoring a hunt. In addition, the third year of deer management is planned for Goose Island. Permits are based on a lottery draw except new hunters are grandfathered in. Likewise, a five-year plan is being developed for urban deer hunts to address Whitetail populations in the La Crosse area (bluff area) along the Hixson Trail and Hixson forest. Johnson believes the density is approximately 70 deer per square mile. Goose Island was at a density of 200 deer per square mile.

Dave Vetrano is making progress on three new accessible piers in the La Crosse area. This topic reminded Amakobe that the federal government has updated the marinas and piers regulations. Julie will get John Kocourek the federal website with the ADA updates for marinas and piers.

Greene commented that they are working with NASA and the Chukar Hunt. The hunt has been rescheduled to address requests for pheasant hunting that will take place on December 14th in Warrens. The raffle will continue to take place this coming Sunday.



NASA's sponsored hunter has returned from a safari in South Africa. He returned after harvesting four big-game animals. The NASA group hopes to edit the tape and forward to Cabela's hunting television show.

Greene worked with Joe Stecker-Kochanski to locate the 15-20 foot observation tower. To address accessibility issues, NASA proposes to pay for a second platform on the lower level of the observation tower with pictures to provide an opportunity for viewing wildlife for disabled patrons.

Zimmer commented that he harvested with a pistol a 520 lb black bear.

Kocourek requested that ambulatory issues become ambulatory issues. Kocourek thought we should start moving in the "ambulatory" policies.??? Zimmer commented that we may be addressing the issue by providing flexibility in interpretation for law enforcement.

Chair Burkat stated the Wheelin' Sportsmen event in June involved 100 participants – 50 youth and 50 disabled youth. Fish and Wildlife donated 100 rods and reels. The event involved fishing and archery with adaptive equipment.

Amakobe discussed the accessible cabin account. Dollars continue to be available.

Yellowstone Wildlife Area range has funding to complete accessibility enhancements. Rutledge suggested paths and shooting pads. He thought the project could be completed for \$30,000. Federal approval is required for the plans.

The next meeting of the DAC has been tentatively scheduled for December 12th at the Schmeeckle Reserve in Stevens Point.

Kocourek motion, Greene second, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

