

MEETING MINUTES
DISABLED ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)
MACKENZIE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Members in attendance: Chair Werner Burkat, Tom Zimmer, Dave Lato, Steve Johnson, Joe Greene, Jim Rutledge and alternate Dale Petkovsek.

Member absent: John Kocourek, John Mitchell and Dave Stinson

DNR staff in attendance: Dotti Krieger, Julie Amakobe, Carl Mesman, Anthonette Gilpatrick and Al Czeshinski.

Chair Burkat called the meeting to order at approximately 10:12 a.m.

Greetings to Anthonette, nice to see her and being able to attend the meeting.

The meeting began by reviewing/approving the agenda. There were no changes made to the agenda.

Next on the agenda was the review and approval of the DAC meeting minutes from July 14, 2006. There were no changes suggested.

Steve made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14th meeting, Dale seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Agenda item – Mackenzie Environmental Center. Derek Duane, Property Manager, led a discussion about the history of the MacKenzie Environmental Center (MEC). The highlights of that discussion were that it was originally purchased by Harley MacKenzie in the 1930's to be a 500 acre state game/fur farm. At one time there were 700 different species of trees, less than 200 remain. Now the land area is about 250 acres, and there is a wildlife exhibit, trails and in 1975 a resident center was established for about 80 students as part of a classroom program which includes overnights. Currently the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) has partnered with the Department to operate MEC. The contract with WWF is for 10 years. The WWF state headquarters, formally at Prescott, is now at this location. MEC also has held a special deer hunt the last 10 years.

Agenda item – Goals for 2006-2007. Tom Zimmer led the discussion, but much of the discussion was by Dotti since this was her last meeting.

With the retirement of Dotti Krieger, the ADA Coordinator/Accessibility Specialist, last day being September 29th, the DAC feels that this position needs to be refilled as soon as possible. The person in this position attends all the DAC meetings. If possible, this position should be full-time, not 50% as it currently is. DAC members should write a letter to DNR Administration to let their thoughts be known about the recruitment of this position. Werner will do a letter on behalf of the DAC.

DNR has many facilities and therefore needs a full-time ADA Coordinator/Accessibility Specialist position. If DNR would hire a consultant to do the work of this position, it would be much more expensive.

Joe made a motion that the ADA Coordinator/Accessibility Specialist position should be made a permanent/full-time position, Dave seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Dotti mentioned a few other items with much discussion by all on them:

- The Open The Outdoors (OTO) will be maintained and kept with the Bureau of Facilities and Lands;
- DAC members should be advocates for people with disabilities;
- The DAC should be involved in revising and updating the department Wildlife Management publications – work with Brad Koele – WM/6;
- Get more accessible cabins built – work with the Bureau of Parks & Recreation;
- Input to the Boat & Fishing Access Inventory – have Steve Lewis, LF/6, give a demo of the Inventory to the DAC;
- Have surveys available at existing accessible cabins to get input from renters;
- Promote the DAC through TV shows...work with Dan Small.

It was 12:00, time for lunch.

At 1:05, the meeting was reconvened, with applause for the caterer. The lunch was very good.

At this time, Werner, for the DAC, wanted to recognize 1 organization, 1 state park and 1 individual with awards from the DAC.

The first award, an External Relations Outstanding Service Award, went to the Lion's Club of Sherwood. They assisted with the High Cliff State Park "accessible cabin in the woods" in many ways. Two representatives, Vern Roepcke and Phil Weber, from the Lion's Club of Sherwood were present to accept the award. Joe Hennlich, Property Manager at High Cliff State Park, was also present.

The second award, Outstanding Property Award, went to Lake Kegonsa State Park. Lake Kegonsa is one of the most accessible state parks for people with disabilities. Dave Borsechnik was present to accept the award for Lake Kegonsa State Park.

The third award, Richard Welch Distinguished Service Award, went to Ron Ellingson, former DAC Liaison for the Department, and now retired from the Department. The first DNR Accessibility program was created within the Bureau of Parks and Recreation do to Ron's efforts. Ron was present to accept the award. Ron's wife also was present.

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

There is no new legislation being offered/discussed that he is aware of regarding items that would affect people with disabilities.

The department is slowly getting a designated physician at each Region.

There is a new type of utility vehicle out which is giving us some problems because they are 54" wide. AB219 was changed to allow this type of vehicle on our ATV trails but they are wider than what was previously allowed.

Julie had a question regarding the use of ATV's for deer retrieval by a Class B permit holder...and the permit holder can retrieve the deer, but it would be better if the permit holder had assistance (a contact). Class A and long-term Class B permit holders are allowed to use ATV's on state lands for hunting/retrieval if approved by the property manager. Class A permit holders can use an ATV on highways.

Agenda item – Uniformity of Class A, B and C permit numbers. Dale led the discussion on this item. Carl said the department is working on a method, using the first 3 letters of the Service Center from which the permit was purchased, then a number and the date.

Agenda item - Member's updates/Other issues.

Jim attended the National Paralyzed Veterans Association trap shoot at Green Bay on July 14th. It was a hot day, 103 degrees. Lots of shooters attended. He spoke recently at a warden recruit class at Tomah and also spoke to Barb Wolf regarding the inaccessible shooting range at Yellowstone Lake Wildlife Area.

Steve said that the Lake Onalaska accessible fishing pier, landing, parking lot and lighting have been completed. The pier at Lake Neshonoc, they still need to do the paving. The North American Squirrel Association (NASA) had their first disabled pheasant hunt the past weekend in Westby. There was also a disabled trout event at Holmen High School. 30 hunters will be picked by a lottery for the "nuisance" deer gun hunt on Goose Island City Park. Over 100 applications were sent in for the hunt.

Dave is no longer associated with the Chippewa Valley Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries. They had 60 participants at their last event.

Dale has 64 hunters signed up for his Clark County disabled hunt.

Dotti said "thanks again", and come to visit...

Werner said the Fox River State Trail has been extended to over 25 miles and is paved. It is from Green Bay south to Calumet County.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 12, 2007 at Handishop Industries, Inc. in Tomah. There will be a map on the back side of the agenda to help us get there.

Werner suggested that we adjourn the formal meeting since it was 2:30. Dale made the motion, Joe seconded, and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned.

Because of time, the agenda item (Action Requests review) was skipped, and this item will be added to the 01/12/07 agenda.