

MEETING MINUTES  
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 2016  
FITCHBURG SERVICE CENTER- BLUFF/DRUMLIN ROOM  
3911 FISH HATCHERY ROAD, MADISON, 53711

Members Present: John Martinson, Jim Rutledge, and Kirsten Engel

Members Conferencing: Monica Kamal, Joe Greene, John Kocourek, Cathryn Scott, John Mitchell, Keith Pamperin, and Steve Johnson

Others Present: Anthonette Gilpatrick, Barry Gilbeck, Nick Zouski, and Julie Amakobe

Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

The Council first reviewed the agenda.

**Jim made a motion to accept the agenda. John K. seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Next, the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from September 22, 2016.

**Jim made a motion to accept the minutes. Steve seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

First on the agenda was the DAC meeting attendance. John Martinson talked about the health of the Council and the importance of attendance. Joe Greene talked about his Board of Directors and the importance of their attending the meetings. Monica spoke about how changes to the yearly schedule can impact one's attendance. Kirsten indicated a member can miss one meeting and that is acceptable, but three meetings in a row or in a year, are a lot and unacceptable. Jim agreed with Kirsten and stated if a member misses one meeting that is fine, but missing three is unacceptable and this is the rule with one of Jim's other councils.

Anthonette commented on the importance of attending the meetings to ensure continuity of implementing accessibility objectives. Steve said we should have a heart to heart at the next meeting to look at term limits. Keith said the Council should have bylaws or an internal policy outlining absenteeism and its consequences, and the policy should also address term limits. Anthonette read the charter and membership attendance. John Martinson indicated term limits and attendance will need fine tuning and will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. John Mitchell asked the question, "Which avenue does the Council want to take; bylaws, charter, or internal document"? Julie will make sure this topic is added to the next meeting's agenda.

Next on the agenda was the update on the Eagle Tower at Peninsula State Park. Nick is going to send an e-mail with attachments regarding the Tower on this coming Monday. He handed out and discussed the Request for Proposal (RFP) that went out via VendorNet. The RFP solicits bids for rendering of the Tower. Rendering will provide a conceptual design of the project, including budgeting and fundraising options. Nick read the summary of the RFP. Steve said accessibility was stressed several times in the document summary, which he thinks is a plus. He said it is good that the RFP included knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). There was lots of discussion on this topic.

The discussion included comparing "accessibility/accessible" in different contexts. First, accessible can mean will persons with disabilities be able to get to the location (route of travel)? Another meaning of accessible is used regarding the facility/program/features themselves at DNR facilities. Can persons with disabilities use the facility/program/features such as signage, a shower bench (widths and placement) at toilet shower buildings or an observation tower like any other able bodied user?

Nick said from now on DNR should say "meet or exceed" ADA standards. Anthonette stressed the DNR handbook which has everything in it from parking lot signage to grab bars and benches in toilet showers. She said this document needs to be updated based on the new 2010 ADA standards. Anthonette also pointed out that there are quick changes to projects that can be made easily and inexpensively to make them more accessible. For example, handheld showers and mounts in toilet shower buildings are important changes.

John Mitchell indicated he had visited a hunting ground which had waterfowl blinds. He talked about the importance of having well designed hunting blinds. Jim discussed boat landings and the importance of having accessible parking. The Council was advised to let Nick, Anthonette, or Julie know of problems or issues relating to accessibility at DNR properties in order to have DNR correct it and make it better.

Next on the agenda was the PDMD update which is based on the DAC motion from a few months ago. Nick updated the Council. The Department has been doing a strategic alignment and Nick and Anthonette have waited until that was finalized. The DNR alignment was rolled out in late November. Nick will have the PDMD Committee meet again soon to begin to finalize the policy that will allow the use of the track chair without a PDMD. The Bureau of Wildlife Management and Forestry Division have no problems with allowing track chairs without a PDMD permit. Anthonette indicated she sees PDMDs almost every day. So the system is working well. Nick asked, "How does DNR implement this"? This policy will likely not be in the state statutes or administrative code, but rather through internal policy. Some track chairs have already been permitted for use without a PDMD. The Council was reminded the DAC changed its original motion to "designated use areas". Cathryn read the Council's amended motion. **To allow a battery operated single occupant outdoor wheelchair access to a DNR Designated Use Area without a PDMD permit.**

Barry discussed the next agenda item which was the 50' requirement for Class B permittees. Nick handed out the disability application. The 50' requirement is on the back of the disabled application form. A Natural Resource Board (NRB) Member received a letter from a constituent stating he was denied a permit because his doctor did not check off on the application that he could not meet the 50' requirement. Barry talked about the restriction and said it was not in state statutes, but rather in policy. The Council was reminded a Class B permit holder can shoot from vehicle. In May of 2014, the disability permit application was implemented. Nick talked about how "safely" was in one place in the application, but taken out in another place where the doctor signs. Barry read the Customer Service reasoning for the 50' regulation. Jim asked if this regulation/policy pertained to all Class B permit holders and Barry confirmed this (yes). Nick talked about the "safely" issue again. He also stressed that being 50' from the centerline of the roadway is not related to disability criteria. John Mitchell can see the logic in the 50' requirement, but yet it doesn't seem right to deny a Class B applicant because of it. Barry said DNR issued 805 Class A and 578 Class B long term permits this year. Therefore, there are thousands out there. Nick opted for inclusion, rather than denying the applicants, especially with deer licenses down this year. John Mitchell said DNR wants the people who qualify for these permits to get them. There was a lot of discussion on this topic.

**Joe G. made a motion to have the disabled permit application and state statute reference sent to the Council for consideration of discussion/changes at the next meeting. Steve seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Nick will send the application and statute to the Council to review and see how it being used. Nick also sent a copy to his doctor for her comments on the form.

Electronic turkey calls was the next item on the agenda. Anthonette handed out the electronic call rule change summary to allow electronic calls for turkey hunting by persons who are hearing impaired. The rule went through and will be finalized soon. Anthonette or Nick will get the Council the exact language for this rule change.

Monica asked about the porta potty at Mirror Lake SP and its inaccessibility. There is a capital development project listed in the 19-21 biennium to replace the vault toilets at the beach.

Anthonette handed out the e-mail she sent to Todd Schaller about continuing to have an LE liaison to the DAC. She read the e-mail. DAC has had an LE liaison since the Council's inception in 1986. Anthonette was requesting to continue to have an LE liaison to the DAC. Anthonette discussed the restructuring from DNR's recent alignment. Parks and Forestry rangers and supervisors will no longer hold law enforcement credentials. Jim asked about other states if they have had similar alignments. It is unknown.

Barry informed the Council with Customer Service and Licensing updates.

- Most common question concerning customers with a disability permit during this deer season
  - o Use of antlerless tags
- Holiday Hunt
  - o Questions on the use of the antlerless tags statewide
    - Only valid in units open for hunting

- Buck Tags are valid in those units open to hunting for hunters with the appropriate disability permit.
- Motion on Public/Private tag choice
  - The DAC motion and information has been received by the Wildlife Program and they will be discussing and moving it forward.
- Disability Permit Application
  - The Department is currently looking at clarifying the narrative portion on page 3 of the application.
    - This is an effort to reduce the number of applications the Department needs to send back to the medical provider for more information the doctors need to supply.
- The Department intends to have continuous improvements on the application. The application is currently on its' sixth revision since 2013
- License and call information from deer season
  - Barry presented that there was a reduction in the number of licenses sold (13,000 less).
  - There was also very heavy call volume during the Friday prior to gun deer season and throughout the opening weekend totaling more than 14,000 contacts answered.
  - Barry asked the members that utilized the new paper tags for deer hunting what their thoughts were concerning the tags.
    - Council members providing feedback felt the new paper tags worked well. These comments are as follows below.

John Martinson said it was difficult to get to a place for CWD testing. He thought the call in for registration went well. John asked if it was easier for call in registration rather than dropping it off. Barry wasn't sure. There was 97% registration. Nick said he had given out baggies with pencils for the tags at a conference. Nick asked if it would be clearer if the language said "You think you might be away from your deer you probably are". Another suggestion was putting in a "foot" distance. Barry clarified this. He said the biggest issue came from Law Enforcement. They indicated some did not carry papers with them. Barry stressed you still need to carry your license. Jim thought that the call in aspect was great. Monroe is limited on sites to register. Cathryn thought the DNR did a good "educational" show.

The Accessibility Updates from Anthonette was up next on the agenda. Anthonette thanked the group for all of its dedication to the Council and all of the successes of this group. There has been lots of great input over the years. She showed a picture of Jim hunting pheasants. You look so young Jim! Nick will scan this photo and send out to Members.

Nick will get copies of the bill (statute) that allows those persons who are blind to hunt in Wisconsin. The bill that was introduced was AB 278. Julie needs to find the actual bill number because AB 278 is not correct.

Next, attendance was brought up and the yearly calendar. Anthonette wondered about dates and places. Nick sent out dates/places for the next year. March was to be determined at this meeting. The Council decided the next meeting is to be held on Friday March 31 at the Fitchburg Service Center from 10 am to 3 pm.

Nick handed out the DNR draft accessibility (Open the Outdoors) brochure he has been working on. Jim asked if he could send it out to the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), and was told not yet because it is only in draft form.

Anthonette found a couple of typos in the Open the Outdoors brochure. Barry will send final form to the proof reading team in Customer Service.

Nick is transitioning into Anthonette's position. Nick has had six months under Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and now six months with DNR (LTE) and will likely be hired as permanent Accessibility Coordinator. Anthonette and Nick are working on topics to follow up on as the transition proceeds.

Next on the agenda were the Members' updates:

Steve Johnson - Since the DAC last met, we have been very busy here in the Western Wisconsin region with the NASA organization. The NASA accessible pontoon season began on May 1, and ended on September 30, and we were able to serve approximately 3,400 individuals at no cost. High water and lots of rain kept the numbers down this year. NASA has been working over the past 2 years with the City of Onalaska, City of La Crosse, La Crosse County and the Wisconsin DNR to hold a managed hunt at the County landfill. The hunt was held the first 2 consecutive weekends in September with 5 hunters for each evening hunt. A total of 15 hunters participated

harvesting 16 deer. The annual hunt for persons with disabilities sponsored by private land-owners was coordinated in our region by NASA and the land-owners we have worked with over the past 15 years. A total of 12 deer were harvested over the 2 weekend hunt. The annual managed hunt coordinated with NASA, the City of La Crosse and the Wisconsin DNR was held at Hixton Forest the first weekend in December. A total of 7 deer were harvested. Finally, a 2 day managed hunt sponsored by Norskedalen Nature Center in Vernon County was held on December 10/11 and 6 deer were harvested. These hunts only allow persons possessing a Class A, long-term B, or Class C to apply for these hunts. Next up for NASA is accessible ice-fishing, adaptive skiing and our annual Squirrel Derby/Banquet held the last Saturday in January at the Badger Sportsman's Club, and the annual Pheasant Blitz to be held at Woods and Meadows in the Millston/Warrens area in early March.

Keith Pamperin - Reported 2016 was the first year that DNR permit tags that were previously allowed to only be transferred to a youth hunter are now also allowed to be transferred to an adult disabled hunter. This legislation was initiated in 2013 and finally adopted for use in 2016. This legislation allows for the transfer of all hunting, trapping, and fishing tags that were previously allowed to be transferred to a youth, to now also be able to be transferred to a disabled adult.

Challenge the Outdoors, Inc. had one disabled adult receive a transferred bear tag and he hunted four days and finally had success harvesting a nice adult Black Bear. In addition, Challenge the Outdoors facilitated the transfer of another bear tag to a disabled youth member that also harvested a nice black bear.

Challenge the Outdoors completed their annual October 2016 disabled deer hunt and is now planning their May 2017 disabled spring turkey hunt.

Keith reported that a new aluminum accessible fishing pier has been installed at the Bay Beach Wild Life Sanctuary funded with private contributions, through a fund raising campaign by Leadership Green Bay, providing easy access to this growing urban fishery. The CTO, 2017 Sporting Clays Fund Raiser will be held Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 am to 3:30 pm at J & H Hunt Club and Sporting Clays, Navarino WI.

John Mitchell - Adaptive Sportsman Board meeting in February to plan 2017 events. Will likely have same events as last year same dates.

John Kocourek - No updates. Thank you Anthonette!

John Martinson - No updates. Lucky to have such a passionate person as Anthonette Gilpatrick!

Joe Greene - No updates. Appreciate Anthonette!

Cathryn Scott - No updates. Thank you to Anthonette!

Monica Kamal - No updates. Monica was no longer on the phone as she had to leave early from the conferencing for another commitment.

Kirsten Engel - No updates.

Jim Rutledge - Fishing pier on County CC is excellent, great spot best he has seen! It is located near Hayward.

John Martinson - No updates.

Chair Martinson adjourned the meeting at 1:05.

Thank you Anthonette for your many years of service to the State of Wisconsin, in particular your work with persons with disabilities. You have made their lives more enjoyable by ensuring the DNR Programs and Facilities are built and available to all users.

John Martinson, Kirsten Engel, Jim Rutledge, Nick Zouski, and Julie Amakobe joined Anthonette for her sendoff lunch.