

MEETING MINUTES
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017
FITCHBURG SERVICE CENTER
GATHERING WATERS MEETING ROOM

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

Members Conferencing: Steve Johnson, John Mitchell, Joe Greene, Keith Pamperin, Calvin Richtig, and Barry Gilbeck

Members Absent: Monica Kamal

Others Present: Nick Zouski and Julie Amakobe

Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

First the Council reviewed the agenda.

Kay Brockman-Maderas, John Huff, Pat Horvath, his son ** Horvath, two friends, and Phyllis Rutledge.

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

Next, the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from September 14, 2017.

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

First item on the agenda was the DAC term limits. Joe Greene gave a brief introduction of the issue at hand. Currently a DAC member position is open only if a person leaves and sometimes not at their own will. John Martinson says it is a good idea to have term limits. Steve commented it is good to have a variety of disabilities represented on the Council. What group of persons does this member represent? (spinal cord injured, the blind, etc.) Kirsten said she waited a long time and now she is on the Council. She said a member can't learn all the necessary things even in two terms. Cathryn indicated she relies on the history of the ones who have been on the Council for many years. She suggested after two terms, then evaluate the member(s). Steve suggested there should be may be more than one alternate. There was lots of discussion on the review/evaluation of members. Evaluate after the 2nd term was suggested. Keith said there is value of having new blood on a sort of regular basis. John Mitchell suggested after two terms, review and compare/look the current member with the top 3 interested applicants waiting. New recruits should probably be looked at as well. A letter should be sent to those on the waiting list to see if they are still interested. Again, there was lots of continued discussion on this issue. It was suggested the Alternate automatically gets in if there is an opening. Calvin thought the alternate would automatically get the position and the one waiting who scored well will get the alternate position. A two-term limit review was again suggested. Again, it was proposed another alternate could be added. Steve said there could be up to two alternates at any given time.

Cathryn made a motion to have Council members after the last year of their second term to be reviewed and evaluated against those listed as waiting to be on the Council. Any alternate member has preference to be on the Council if there is an opening. The Council can have up to two alternates. John Martinson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

PDMD update. Nick indicated after meeting with the DNR PDMD workgroup, the decision is to go forward with a general permit. A PDMD applicant can download the form, fill it out, and keep it on his/her person and they will be good to go. Legal Services asked about changing the definition of a wheelchair, but it will not be changed. The current language will be kept and identified as a mobility device application.

Nick met with staff from Wildlife Management (WM) and a few other people. Tim Lizotte, WM budget coordinator, is meeting with his staff to discuss language changes, specifically the changes in deer hunting. The proposed changes would allow up to two assistants to accompany a disabled hunter with a PDMD and would also allow the assistants to carry out their game. The phrase "only game taken by permittee" will be deleted. The phrase "by signing this application I need a PDMD to access land." Will be added. At Richard Bong State Recreational Area, a PDMD holder **Or Nick is this a disabled hunter** must have a 12" by 12" hunting sign that states "shoot from vehicle". DNR will require similar signage for PDMD holders as well, something like "will have access". All changes will be made through the administrative code process.

Next on the agenda was the DAC awards ceremony. Julie presented the awards to the recipients. Pat Horvath founder of Veterans Afield received the Richard Welsh Memorial Award for Outstanding External Relations. Veterans Afield provides opportunities for disabled veterans to get back into hunting and shooting. Kay Brockman-Maderas representing Navarino Wildlife Area (WA) and Nature Center received the Richard Welsh Memorial Award for Outstanding Property. Navarino WA has provided many opportunities for persons with disabilities to enjoy the outdoors. Julie Amakobe received the Richard Welsh Memorial Award for Outstanding Service. Julie has been the liaison to the Council since 1997. Please see the full nominations below.

Nick will get Pat Horvath the list of ILC's addresses so he can recruit veterans. Steve wants Mr. Horvath's information. Julie will provide this to Steve.

DNR DAC External Relations Outstanding Service Award Nomination from Jim Rutledge:

In consideration for 2017 Service Awards to be presented by the Disability Advisory Council of the DNR, I would like to nominate Patrick D. Horvath founder of Veterans Afield, for the External Relations Outstanding Service Award.

Veterans Afield is a 501 (c) (3) not for profit that Pat Horvath founded to help disabled veterans get back into hunting and shooting. Pat founded Veterans Afield with no financial help using his own funds to buy shotguns and ammunition for disabled veterans to go trap shooting and pheasant hunting. During the late spring and summer months Pat hold a monthly trap shoot at the Boxhorn Trap Club in Muskego, WI. Pat provides ammunition and shotguns for veterans who do not own a shotgun, also Pat pays for the trap shooting fees. In addition, after the shooting wraps up Pat takes all the veterans and any attendants out to lunch at his cost.

In the fall Pat holds pheasant shoots for disabled veterans and pays for the cost of the pheasants from the game farm where he holds the pheasant shoot, ammunition is provided along with shotguns for participants who do own a shotgun and a lunch is provided for all attending.

Pat has also started an annual youth pheasant shooting program for up to ten youth which he divides into two teams giving a first-place award to the team members that bags the most pheasants and provides awards to the runner up team members. All events that Pat provides are at no cost to the participating individual, the only expense to participating individuals is their travel.

While Pat still does much of this at his expense he has started funding raising and has started receiving funding from the Paralyzed Veterans of America – Wisconsin Chapter to help hold his personal cost down.

DNR DAC Outstanding Property Award from Jim Rutledge:

In consideration for 2017 Service Awards to be presented by the Disability Advisory Council of the DNR, I would like to nominate the Navarino Wildlife Area and Nature Center.

After having the opportunity to visit the Navarino Wildlife Area and Nature Center I was very impressed as to how the Center has been working to make the area accessible to the disabled. Whether it be the accessible visitors center for viewing many numerous displays to the accessible boardwalk that meanders around a portion of the marsh area by the visitors' center, the Center has gone out of their way to assist disabled visitors.

In addition to providing waterfowl hunting opportunities or nature viewing from the two waterfowl blinds located on one of the fifteen dikes that impound water on 1,400 acres creating open water areas fringed with wetlands creates an excellent view for waterfowl and wildlife.

Also, a visit to the site of a future disabled fishing pier to be built on the Wolf River shows that the Nature Center is working for creating outdoor opportunities for the disabled.

DNR DAC Outstanding Service from Jim Rutledge for Julie Amakobe

Julie Amakobe became the DNR liaison to the Disability Advisory Council (DAC) in 1997 when she was hired in the Bureau of Facilities & Lands as Facilities Management/Leasing Officer.

She took on the role of liaison as she does so many other responsibilities that have been added to her already heavy position duties, with a willingness to learn and the excitement of all she could do for the DAC in this role.

Julie's primary role as DAC liaison was to set up meetings around the state, prepare public meeting notices, take minutes at the quarterly meetings and record those minutes on the DNR website for the public. It sounds like a straight forward job however, it involves many other skills and responsibilities.

The DAC meeting facilities are required to be in an accessible location. In order to learn the American's with Disabilities Act, Julie was excited to attend ADA training. She volunteered to assist the Accessibility Coordinator do on-site DNR visits to properties to assess renovation and new construction projects for ADA accessibility. She took notes while the Accessibility Coordinator measured everything from pit toilets, shower stalls, routes of travel, shooting range heights, fishing piers, etc. She never complained even when some of the trips took place in the coldest Wisconsin weather.

There were three Accessibility Coordinators since 1989 and in between filling the vacancies, Julie became the "go to" point person for all accessibility questions. She did this with a goal to satisfy the customers' needs and responded quickly to their concerns. These questions from the public can be very time consuming and involve contacting many DNR staff to get the correct answer. She did this with a smile and a willingness to provide great customer service.

The DAC could always depend on Julie to follow up when at meetings there were questions to DNR policy or procedures or they were reviewing state statutes for possible changes. She contacted appropriate staff and didn't stop until she found the answer. This required contacting multiple DNR staff and often asking them to present the information at a future meeting.

To sum it up Julie has been a great asset to the DAC, the Accessibility Coordinators, people with disabilities and the State of Wisconsin. I was Chair of the DAC when Julie came on board and I found that working with Julie that she is great advocate for people with disabilities. It is a great honor to present her for the DAC Outstanding Service Award.

Next on the agenda was the Customer Service and Licensing Updates.

➤ Deer Season Update

- Gun deer season went very well with customers not having any wait times on the phones and all systems working properly.

Preliminary harvest numbers from DNR Website

Gun Deer Season Harvest

2017 – As of Dec. 15, 2017

Bucks	Antlerless	Total
98,364	97,374	195,738

2016 – Totals

Bucks	Antlerless	Total
98,016	99,246	197,262

Archery Deer Season Harvest

2017 – As of Dec. 15, 2017

Bucks	Antlerless	Total
24,686	16,827	41,513

Crossbow Deer Season Harvest

2017 – As of Dec. 15, 2017

Bucks	Antlerless	Total
25,916	16,663	42,579

- Customer Service has been training several additional newer staff members to review and issue Disabled Permits – Staff must complete the training and get 100% on the exam prior to reviewing and issuing permits.

➤ Legislative Updates

Implemented

- **2017 Wisconsin Act 14 (SB 46)**, effective 6/23/17 - requires the department to issue wild turkey licenses and tags to $\geq 50\%$ disabled resident veterans and Purple Heart (R/NR) recipients without requiring they be issued pursuant to the cumulative preference system.
- **2017 Wisconsin Act 62 (AB 455)**, effective 11/13/17 - eliminates the requirement that a person be at least ten years of age to hunt under the hunting mentorship program; eliminates the limit on the number of hunting devices that a mentor and the person hunting with the mentor may have in their possession while hunting; prohibits a person who is serving as a mentor in a group hunting party from killing a deer for the person being mentored or using a deer carcass tag issued to the person being mentored.

Passed Assembly and Awaiting action by Senate

- **AB 314, hunting from a mechanized lift attached to a motor vehicle** – the firearm, bow and crossbow transportation requirements and the prohibition on discharging a firearm, bow or crossbow from a vehicle do not apply to a person legally hunting from a stationary motor vehicle if the person is hunting from a part of the vehicle or a piece of equipment attached to the vehicle that is raised by mechanical means not fewer than 5 feet above the ground or above the lowered resting position of the part or piece of equipment, whichever is higher. Available for scheduling 11/6/17.
- **AB 461, hunting approvals issued to certain terminally ill individuals** – an individual who presents proof they are terminally ill and participating in a hunting-related or fishing-related event sponsored by a charitable organization is not required to pay any fee imposed for a hunting or fishing approval, including any issuing, handling, or processing fee or any wildlife damage surcharge. Available for scheduling 12/12/17.

In Assembly Committee

- **AB 520** - extends license fee discounts currently available to resident and NR Purple Heart recipients to recipients of a medal awarded by the US armed forces that is equal or higher than the Purple Heart medal in order of precedence. WDVA to maintain list of such medals.
- **AB 665** - this bill provides that any person may make a voluntary contribution to the Department of Natural Resources to be used to cover any portion of the costs of a hunting or fishing approval issued to a disabled veteran who is a resident of this state. The bill requires that, if DNR has received voluntary contributions for the purpose, DNR shall waive or reduce to the maximum extent possible the fee for any hunting or fishing approval issued to a disabled veteran.
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In Senate Committee

- **SB 372** - this bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to treat a terminally ill individual who is participating in a hunting-related event sponsored by a charitable organization as a resident for purposes of determining his or her eligibility for, and cost of, obtaining hunting approvals. SA1 extends to fishing approvals and eliminates requirement for terminally ill residents OR nonresidents that qualify to pay any issuing or handling fees.

Wildlife Housekeeping Rulemaking

- Wildlife is undertaking a “housekeeping” rule package (WM-16-17) that would “establish that an antlerless deer hunting permit issued to a disabled person who holds a hunting permit under s. 29.193 (2) Stats. is valid for harvesting an antlerless deer on either public lands or on private lands. This would address a resolution of the department’s Disability Advisory Council.” This exemption would apply to a person holding any valid Class A, long term Class B which authorizes shooting from a vehicle that is issued for more than one year, Class C, or Class D disabled permit. If this proposal passes, antlerless tags could be used by these specific disabled permit holders to hunt statewide regardless of deer management unit on both public access land or private land. (Note: not all Class B permits holders, but Class B disabled permits that are issued for more than one year and that authorize SFV). This is not an emergency rule and

therefore, must undergo the permanent administrative rule promulgation procedure (i.e. longer process). Will keep the DAC apprised of its progress.

Go Wild Rule

- Forms of proof for disabled permits (CS-03-16) – establishes a person may display the original disabled permit, a reprint, a validated Wisconsin driver's license, a Go Wild Conservation Card or a Go Wild digital file displayed on an electronic device. Should be effective with the start of the 2018 license year.

Jim asked about if the new law will affect the hunter safety program. **Jim, were you asking about the new age to hunt? Or some other question? Barry what was your answer?**

The next agenda item was the deer permit update. Barry addressed this agenda item. This proposed change went through the Natural Resources Board (NRB). There was only one complaint. Would the change that would allow a disabled hunter to use an antlerless tag on private land if the hunter had picked public land create an overharvest of antlerless deer? There were 464 disabled hunters this year. The acreage increased, but the number of location decreased (special hunts). It was concluded this change would probably not create an overharvest.

Next, Nick let the Council know that the Federal Pittman/Robertson (PR) grant source got a bump in funding. When someone buys a hunting license, a % goes for hunting improvements. This is grant money. One of the big ones (projects) using the money is for accessible hunting blinds (parking, paths of travel). Other monies will go for hunting trails, water trails, etc. There will be a first and then second round to choose which projects get the grant funds. There was talk about purchasing land and putting up an accessible cabin, but the dilemma is that you can't restrict the usage to disabled persons. So DNR won't be buying the land. If a state purchases land with PR monies, the land must be open to the Public and not only to the disabled. Cathryn, Kirsten, and Anthonette were questioning this restriction. They asked, "Why not set up a priority system for the usage like the accessible cabins and accessible campsites"? This may need to be discussed further.

The next item was the Accessibility Coordinator Updates:

Nick let the Council know about the ADA combined toilet/shower (T/S) room update. The problem of teenagers using the combined T/S room for extended periods of time is still happening. The Camp Host cannot have the key due to the number of hours during the day and night when the park is open. Missy was to bring this topic up at the Parks' Supervisors' meeting. It was proposed park staff would unlock the T/S the first thing in the morning and would lock it the last thing at night. Kirsten said the T/S buildings should stay open at all times. Currently this option is left up to the discretion of the park managers. Kirsten asked if there could be a note on the T/S door. Nick is going to create a large poster for all parks to post regarding the T/S key and to inform visitors about on site accessible equipment. The sign will say something like "This park has accessible equipment, please ask park staff about it (kayaks, beach chair, sit ski, etc.)". **Nick did you create this sign? If yes, can you bring it to the meeting?**

Nick next talked about a customer complaint. This complaint wasn't a formal complaint which are usually e-mails that normally run through the DNR website. The customer went directly to the Facebook page and slammed the Park (the Park Manager was devastated). It is advised that

persons/customers need to send an e-mail if they have any complaints or want to discuss ways to improve this park for accessibility. Anthonette suggested on Open the Outdoors website, DNR could state some parks have beach chairs, but due to low tides and other conditions, these chairs won't work well. Kirsten also suggested that park staff be trained so they are familiar with accessibility issues and equipment. Nick, proposed the DNR newsletter, The Resource, is a good avenue to get accessibility /disabled sensitivity issues out to all DNR employees. Anthonette recommended all parks need to provide brochures at their properties because people don't always look on-line for information.

Scott Griffith - Government treasurer Jim will e-mail Nick. **What was this topic about Jim? This is all I had written down.**

Next Nick updated the Council on the waterfowl blinds. Nick really likes the design of the blind at Grand River Marsh WA. The bench is very functional. This blind is shorter than other buildings (blinds) and is protected from weather. He has given this design out to 4 or 5 property managers. Dawn Luehers, Southeast Regional engineer, is helping Nick to draw up actual plans for deer and turkey blinds. Nick will get to "practice" (test) one soon.

Nick also informed the Council that Big Foot State Park will be getting a beach chair.

Next on the agenda was the external websites (links) update. Nick led the discussion on this topic. He said he is adding the links that were sent by DAC members. He found some dead links like the Disabled Hunter Magazine and a Fishing link and had those deleted. Nick has a few more links to add. He will remove Creating Ability Adaptive Kayaks, since this is a business and not an organization. He will be adding a 5th tab called "Outdoor Recreation". He gave some examples.

The Council next discussed the 2018 meeting dates. Here are the locations and dates chosen: Mead Wildlife Area will be on Friday, March 16th, Harrington Beach State Park will be on Friday, June 8th and Crex Meadows Wildlife Area will be on Thursday/Friday September 13th & 14th.

The next agenda item was the Members updates.

John Mitchell – Adaptive Sportsman will have its 2018 events planned at the January Board meeting.

Keith Pamperin – Challenge the Outdoors (CTO) had a very successful deer hunt this year. Chester Marco (former Green Bay Packer) got a deer. Challenge the Outdoors tried to organize a disabled Waterfowl hunt this year, but was not successful getting it organized; may be next year. The Badger Mine disabled hunt was successful, too. Keith would like to do the Shiocton hunt sometime which is located next to the water. Challenge the Outdoors next event will be holiday party in January.

Joe Greene – No updates.

Cathryn – No updates.

Jim – Cadiz Spring State Park too grand kids went fishing. Boat landing fixed and is much better, but the Lake is full of weeds.

Calvin – He works at Options for Independent Living in Green Bay. Calvin took over Werner Burkat’s position. He has met Anthonette several times. Calvin has wanted to work for DNR ever since he graduated. His Father was injured in car accident and thus his interest in ADA. Calvin is a technology expert at his job. He likes to fish, is a Peninsula State Park user and will be winter camping there. Calvin also knows and works with Sandy Popp. Keith commented and said Calvin is a good guy. Welcome Calvin to the DAC!

John Martinson, - Adaptive Sportsman will have a fishing event on the May 26th weekend. John was at Niagara with Wheelchair Whitetails an organization which offers hunts for persons with disabilities. The Organization purchased over 500 acres to help those with disabilities.

Kirsten – No updates.

Steve Johnson - The fall hunting season was very successful with the NASA organization. During the annual DNR/Private land-owner hunts, in the 2 weekends, 18 deer were harvested by 14 participants. The La Crosse County Landfill hunts with 3 totaling 6 days, netted 7 deer. And the final hunt, the Norskedalen Hunt, netted 11 deer. NASA again sponsored a youth with a disability for a bear hunt, and he was successful in harvesting a black bear about 250 pounds. Upcoming events include the annual NASA Squirrel Derby and Banquet which will be held on Saturday, January 27 which is a squirrel hunting competition and mini-banquet. The cost for the hunt and banquet is \$20, or \$10 just for the banquet. Contact me for an electronic application and the Squirrel Derby contact. As always, great raffle prizes will be available! The NASA Tomah committee is holding their 2nd annual banquet to be held on Saturday, February 24 in Tomah. For more information, you can contact me. Along with this banquet, they are having a pre-banquet raffle with 4 pretty cool prizes. Again, contact me if interested. The 15th annual NASA banquet in La Crosse will be held on Wednesday, April 25 at the La Crosse Center. Tickets sell very fast for this banquet, and last year we sold-out in 5 days. Finally, I have 2018 NASA calendars available for the cost of \$20 each. We hold a drawing each month where 12 cash prize winners are drawn. Each month, we draw for 2-\$50 and 10-\$20 winners. If your name is drawn, your name goes back in, so you have a chance to win up to 12 times! Contact me if you would like to purchase one. The postage costs are on me if you do buy one. Merry Christmas everyone!

Cathryn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kirsten seconded the motion and all were in favor. Chair Martinson adjourned the meeting at 2:52.