

MEETING MINUTES
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018
MEAD WILDLIFE AREA
EDUCATION CLASSROOM

Members Present: John Martinson, Jim Rutledge, Cathryn Scott, Steve Johnson, Calvin Richtig, Keith Pamperin, and John Mitchell

Members Conferencing: Monica Kamal and Kirsten Engel

Members Absent: Joe Greene (wrist surgery)

Others Present: Barry Gilbeck, Nick Zouski and Julie Amakobe

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

Calvin Richtig introduced himself to the Council. Calvin works at Options for Independent Living Center in Green Bay. He is in Werner Burkat's (former DAC Chairman) position. Calvin also works with Challenge the Outdoors. He has always wanted to work with the DNR. Welcome Calvin!

First the Council reviewed the agenda.

John Martinson wanted to add something to the agenda for DAC's next meeting in June. He wants the Council to look at a point system for attendance. Julie will make sure she adds this item to the agenda.

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

Next, the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from December 15, 2017.

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

First item on the agenda was Fishing Has No Boundaries (FHNB) ice fishing event. Nick led this discussion. He indicated Todd (FHNB Madison Chair) had said the event would likely be well attended. Todd was estimating 20 people for the first event/time. He would be looking at having the event during the "free fishing" weekend, which is the 3rd weekend in January. Jim asked about using a large tent. Nick said one big tent would likely be used. Nick also noted other FHNB Chapters are hosting this event.

John Mitchell said Adaptive Sportsman had an ice fishing event this year with about 60 people in attendance. The event took place at Kelly Lake near Hales Corners. Adaptive Sportsman used a gator to take the people out onto the Lake. An ATV with a snow plow was also used to clear the snow. There was a tent, 20' by 20', set up on ice. Food was available to the anglers.

Steve mentioned NASA provided an ice shack on Lake Onalaska which was made available to any person with a disability. The shacks stayed open all winter long. The ice needed to be 12” thick for people to go out to fish. The NASA had over two dozen people participating this year. Nick indicated the Brittingham launch (Madison) would be an ideal area to get people out onto the ice. He was looking at having this be a “paid” event so people would end up participating. Having an alternate date, in addition to the chosen date, is another good idea. Keith indicated Challenge the Outdoors had two ice fishing events this year. The cost was \$200 per person, but the person promoting the event provided everything. Steve told Nick to continue pursuing this event. Nick is looking for any input the Council may have to offer.

Next on the agenda Barry updated the Council on Customer Service issues. First, there was the question from the last DAC meeting regarding the new (no) age limit for hunting and its effect on hunter safety. Barry answered last meeting’s question by handing out the answer in a written response. In summary, the new law change does NOT affect the hunter education program.

Monica commented on Wisconsin Hunter Education Instructors Association (WHEIA). On April 27-28, WHEIA will have its annual conference at the Holiday Inn in Fond du Lac. She noted the changes between Online, Online with Field Day, and Traditional classes. Jon King, the DNR Administrator of Hunter Education, will be discussing the new “no age” limit for hunting and other issues. Go to: www.WHEIA.com so your opinions can be heard. Keith Warnke will take part in the discussion as well.

Jim indicated in Monroe, there are church and school events during Wednesday and Thursday evenings which are the same times for the Hunter Safety education sessions. These hunter safety sessions are twelve hours of hands on education.

Next, Barry gave his Customer Service and Licensing Updates.

Hunter Safety Update

- Update on question from previous meeting – How does the new age limit reduction affect when someone can take hunter safety.
 - o Ashley with the Hunter Safety program confirmed there was not an age requirement in the past and there still is not an age requirement to attend hunter safety. She stated it is at the discretion of the instructor. She said the limiting factors for participation are that the course curriculum is written at a 11 – 12-year-old level of reading/retention and that the student must be physically able to handle the firearm safely. She wrote some guidance for the instructors that addresses this. Copy of guidance provide to members.

Turkey

- Bonus sales of Spring turkey authorizations begin at 10:00 a.m.
 - o Zone 1 – Monday, March 19
 - o Zone 2 – Tuesday, March 20
 - o Zone 3 - Wednesday, March 21
 - o Zone 4 – Thursday, March 22
 - o Zone 5-7 – Friday, March 23
 - o All Remaining – Saturday, March 24

 - o Zone 6 has no remaining authorizations

- The Fall turkey drawing has been eliminated. A fall turkey authorization will be issued with a fall turkey license or patron license.
- The 2018 license year began on March 1 and license sales are going well.

Legislative updates

- Bills that have passed both houses (CAUTION: Governor may or may not sign into law):
 - o **SB 69** - authorizes the operation of a motorboat towing a person on water skis, aquaplane, or similar device, without having a second person in the boat to observe the person being towed, if the motorboat is equipped with a mirror that provides the operator with a wide field of vision to the rear.
 - o **AB 314** - allows a person to possess and hunt with a loaded firearm, crossbow, or a bow 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.
 - o **AB 461** - allows a nonresident or resident of this state who is terminally ill to receive hunting and fishing approvals at no cost if the person is participating in a hunting- or fishing-related event sponsored by a tax-exempt charitable organization.
 - o **AB 464** - increases from three feet to ten feet the maximum height at which a person may set or operate a trap or device built or used to capture birds on a pole, post, tree stump, or any other elevated perch if the person holds valid migratory bird depredation permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - o **AB 626** – this bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to establish a fall open season for hunting deer within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore that begins before the Saturday immediately preceding the fourth Thursday in November if the season is open for hunting deer only with muzzle-loading firearms.
- AB 850, which eliminates the limitation that a person with a disability may be transferred an approval only if he or she has not previously been transferred that type of approval. This bill may not make it to the Governor’s desk/may not pass both houses. This bill has passed out of the Assembly, but has been assigned to a Senate Committee. Unless this bill is passed out of that Senate committee and then taken up and passed by the entire Senate before March 22, 2018, this bill will “die” in this legislative session.
- WM- 16-17, Wildlife’s 2017 “housekeeping” rule - modifications to the Gun Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities rules in Administrative Code (NR 10.40) to allow for use of FZ antlerless tags to be used **during this hunt** on both public or private land as follows:

WM-16-17, “housekeeping” rule:

- **Antlerless tagging during October Gun Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities**
 - Will continue to be able to use one antlerless FZ tag in any unit during the gun hunt for hunters with disabilities and if rule is promulgated, will also be able to use on any land type (public or private).
- **Woodchucks** removed as protected wild animal and establish an open woodchuck season.
- **Blaze or fluorescent pink** is legal for **ground blinds** on department lands during firearm deer season.
- Relax **furbearer registration** requirements from within 5 days of the month of harvest to 7 days of the month of harvest. Will always include a weekend day that may be more convenient.
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Now undergoes legislative review. Hope to have in effect for fall seasons

- **WM-03-18(E), “Deer carcass tags” changed to “deer harvest authorizations” and “turkey carcass tags” changed to “turkey harvest authorizations”.**
 - Turkey officially changed in 2017, with change to statute. Rule cleaning up references to both deer and turkey tags in NR 10.
 - Approved by NRB in late Feb. 2018
 - Should become effective this spring, after publication.

SECTION 12. NR 10.40 (3) (f) & (note) is amended to read:

NR 10.40 (3) (f) Rule compliance. Unless otherwise provided by the department, all disabled hunters and accompanying persons shall comply with all hunting rules and laws applicable to the regular gun deer season specified under s. NR 10.01 (3) (e). The bag limit is one buck deer per valid gun buck deer carcass tag and additional antlerless deer per current valid antlerless deer permit. An antlerless deer permit that is issued under s. NR 10.104 (7) may be used by a participant in this special hunt in any unit statewide on both public access land or private land. Other hunters, hunting on the lands described on the application during the special gun deer hunt, shall comply with the blaze orange clothing requirements in s. 29.301 (2), Stats., except waterfowl hunters.

Note: Blaze orange clothing meeting the requirements of s. 29.301 (2), Stats., must be worn by all disabled hunters and accompanying persons. Participants must use their regular gun deer season license, backtag, and carcass tag.

Elk Hunt

- Wisconsin will hold its first ever managed Elk hunt
 - 10 tags
 - 4 Lottery
 - 1 RMEF Raffle
 - 5 Tribal
- \$10 Application Fee
\$49 License Fee

Next on the agenda was the Go Wild System and the use of Driver's License# versus State ID#. Julie handed out the document stating the issue at hand and DNR's response. Monica on behalf of the person asking the question wants to get this resolved quickly. Barry said DNR does not have the authority to implement the proposed change at this time. Statutorily, the DOT is unable to allow the DNR to validate the State ID to for use as a license and use as proof of residency in the GoWild computer system. There was a long discussion on this issue. DNR should try to make it easier for applicants to send in the information via mail or e-mail their proof of residence.

Commented [AJA-D1]:

Commented [AJA-D2R1]:

Monica indicated the information on the form should somehow notify people that if they enter their state id number, it will show up as a non-resident and the form should also give the options available for them. Calvin asked if there was a way to add verbiage to the application indicating if they did not have a driver's license they could contact someone at DNR? Barry said, "No, not currently because of the volume of people without driver's licenses". The IT team will look at ways to add language to the application like "Don't enter your State ID number; it doesn't work and will put you as a non-resident. If you are having problems with this application, please go to your nearest DNR service center". Cathryn asked, "Will there be verbiage added with instructions and directions for the applicant to go to their nearest customer service center". Barry will share these questions/remarks and this option with Mark from the IT section and others in the Bureau of Customer Service.

Next on the agenda was the Accessibility Coordinator Updates.

Nick first updated the Council on the Toilet/Shower Lock and Unlock issue. The Bureau of Parks is going to tell Managers to keep them open all the time unless there is a major problem (vandalism).

Next Nick discussed the Open the Outdoors Website update. Nick is still soliciting organizations. He wants to add one link to the website and this will be called External Links. There are currently some old links under the hunting section that do not work and will be deleted.

Up next was the update on the Fishing Pier design input. John Olson, the DNR Boat Access Specialist, retired in January. Currently there is no replacement for this position. The ADA says at least 25% of the fishing pier construction needs to have 32-inch railings. DNR design standards will use the 25% ADA requirement for its fishing pier designs. Before he retired, John Olson was working with Nick on a fishing pier design. John decided to go with a 20" high railing in those sections. This new design is for the fishing pier on Lake Noqebay in Marinette County. Nick will visit the Noqebay site when the new pier is put in, sometime in June. There will also be edge protection.

Next, was the Deer Blind window height(s) opinions. Nick said they are at the point on the deer blind design where it is necessary to talk about and get input on deer hunting blinds' window heights – both minimum and maximum. DNR will be sending these plans out to the public, so he wants to make sure they have a correct range. At least one per property will have a foldable bench. John Mitchell commented regarding the hunting blinds' windows. He said there should be a camouflage curtain that can be placed on the top half or placed on the bottom half of large windows. He also mentioned the blinds should be left unlocked or will there be vandalism? Will someone destroy or steal the curtain?

How about using burlap material? Someone mentioned mice and squirrels can get in the curtains. Steve mentioned NASA has a durable curtain that can roll all the way up. Steve will get back to the Council with the name of the material. The ADA does not have standards for blinds. Nick asked the Council to get back to him with ideas. A minimum window height of 30" is what Nick is recommending.

Where is Anthonette when we need her Jim asked? Barry showed Nick an option of what to use for the window covering (drawing). Nick is going to talk to Dawn Luehrs the DNR Engineer working on the hunting blinds design next week.

Last update from Nick was on the mapping of hunting blinds. Right now all the IT staff are working on the new building inventory system. When someone from IT gets free time all blinds new and existing will be added to the Land Management System. The age and size, and a picture will be mapped on the System.

Members Updates was the next agenda item.

Cathryn – No updates at this time.

Steve – had his updates handed out to the Council.

The NASA organization had a relatively successful ice-fishing season on Lake Onalaska with our accessible fishing shack despite the up and down weather. Over 2 dozen individuals used the shack this past season, and are looking forward to the spring. The NASA pontoon will be put on the water on May 1, and reservations open up on the NASA website on April 1.

The NASA Tomah Committee had a very successful 2nd annual banquet, and with the proceeds of \$72,300 (raised amount), will be able to complete the NASA all-inclusive park located on Lake Tomah. Funds will go toward placing the accessible fishing pier and purchasing a pontoon boat that will be equipped with accessible features. This is an amazing project, and I would like to recommend that at some point, we have a meeting there.

The NASA organization is assisting with the funding and development of the Funk Landing, formerly known as Black Deer Landing on Brice Prairie. NASA has contributed funds to place an accessible fishing pier there. Other accessible features include a kayak launch. The landing is a collaborative effort among many entities. It is a highly-used landing as it is one of the only ones on this side of the lake used for fishing, recreational use, and waterfowling.

NASA will once again co-sponsor a 5th turkey season for veterans with disabilities in the Jackson/Monroe/La Crosse County area. We have had dozens of land-owners donate their land, time and money to make this a successful event. The Super-8 in Sparta provides the lodging, and many donors help out with food, mentors, and helping to get the vets to enjoy a weekend of turkey hunting. Wings Over Wisconsin is working with NASA to use their track-chairs for our events.

This summer, NASA will sponsor a 6-week golf league for golfers with disabilities. If you are interested, I will be sending out more information. Finally, we will be adding a couple of more deer hunts this fall with both being in Vernon County. One will be an Ag Tag event, and the other a private land-owner will be donating his land for the October hunt. Again, watch for more information through Steve.

John Mitchell –The Adaptive Sportsman’s 2018 calendar of events is now available on its Website.

Jim –No updates at this time.

Calvin – No updates at this time.

Keith –Following the DNR press release for DAC awards Keith received a call from Eric Peterson WLUK Channel Eleven News for an interview regarding the Award given to Navarino Wildlife Area. The interview went well and Eric went out to Navarino to film the accessible improvements. Keith talked about the DAC mission and why Navarino was selected for the award. Keith thanked Jim Rutledge for the nomination.

On April 7, Challenge the Outdoors (CTO) will have their Annual Sporting Clays Fund Raiser at J & H Hunt Club and Sporting Clays. Keith handed out information on the fund raiser.

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation will be hosting a statewide shooting range seminar at Fitchburg on March 24th to advise shooting range partners how to prepare for potential challenges and lawsuits. Please note shooting ranges can no longer be challenged on noise pollution (statutory protection), but there have been threats and lawsuits filed against ranges for environmental contamination.

On April 14th the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame will induct George Meyer, former Secretary of the DNR and current Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in Stevens Point. This is a considerable honor joining the ranks of prominent Wisconsin Conservationists like Aldo Leopold, John Muir, Sigurd Olsen and Gaylord Nelson.

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation will host its annual meeting on April 20 and 21 in Wisconsin Rapids and is seeking nominations for awards. All delegates and directors of the 200 plus conservation organizations that make up the WIWF are invited.

Challenge the Outdoors Inc. will host a Spring disabled turkey hunt, at Christa’s Memorial Camp in Clintonville in partnership with Shadows on the Wolf Sportsman's Club the weekend of May 18-20th.

John Martinson – On May 26th there will be a fishing event with Adaptive Sportsman on Lake Mendota in Madison.

Monica – Kayaks and other equipment can be signed out on the Access Ability Wisconsin (AAW) Website. Access Ability Wisconsin will host a Pontoon Sporting event on July 9th and a picnic in August. The AAW will add a new location in LaCrosse for its Track Chair. Get more

details at www.accessability.wi.org. Join them for WEEA. John added the Adaptive Sportsman organization donated the Track Chair in LaCrosse.

The next DAC meeting will be June 8th at Harrington Beach State Park.

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Chair Martinson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

After lunch, the Council toured the Visitor Center and Wildlife Area. Special thanks to Pam Resech, Natural Resources Educator, and Brandi Tempel, Assistant Naturalist Guide, for giving the Council a tour of the award-winning Education and Visitor Center and the Wildlife Area and for explaining their unique features.