

MEETING MINUTES
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY & FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13 & 14, 2018
CREX MEADOWS WILDLIFE AREA
EDUCATION AND VISITOR CENTER

Thursday, September 13, 2018

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

Members Absent: Chris Hendrickson

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

Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

First, the Council reviewed the agenda.

Keith wanted to amend the agenda to include discussion on the bear transfer tag extension.

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

Next, the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from June 8, 2018.

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

Barry next updated the Council on Customer and Outreach Services issues.

Follow up from previous meeting

- 2017 Number of Disabled Fishing Licenses
 - o 12,602 Resident Disabled Annual Fishing Licenses
 - o 1663 Resident Annual Disabled Veteran Recreation Cards
- 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).
- This rule will be effective on October 1, 2018

New Topics

- Elk Season
 - o Winners selected
 - o Season will run Oct. 13 – Nov. 11 and Dec. 13 – Dec. 21
- CWD Emergency Rules
 - o Governor has approved
 - o Expected to be in effect on Oct. 1
 - o Transport out of the county of harvest only to licensed meat processor or taxidermist – awaiting final approval
 - o See FAQ on the DNR website
- Deer Harvest Authorizations
 - o No longer have tags for deer hunting.
 - o Need to carry proof of authorizations – Driver’s License, Go Wild Conservation Card, Saved Electronic Copy or Paper License
 - o Need number from the harvest authorizations to register deer
- Changes to the Deer Hunting Unit Boundaries
 - o Handout provided
- New Antlerless Deer brochure
 - o Remember to pick one up
- New Mentored Trapping license
 - o Youth under age 16 may trap without a license under the supervision of a licensed trapper, even if the youth has not completed trapper education.
 - Note: Youth that are trapping under supervision may apply for and purchase bobcat, fisher, and otter trapping permits.
 - o The supervised youth is not required to tag traps that they use while under supervision.
 - o Youths under 16 that wish to trap alone must complete trapper education, purchase a trapping license and tag their traps with tags described on pg. 10
 - o Anyone age 16 and older who wishes to trap in Wisconsin and who has not completed trapper education must possess a valid mentored trapping license and trap with a mentor, unless exempt from trapping license requirement.
 - o Full information is in the current trapping regulations
- First Fall Turkey hunt without a drawing
 - o All hunters will be able to purchase a license and choose a zone at the time of purchase.

Next on the agenda was the constituent deer baiting inquiry discussion led by Nick. Nick got an e-mail from DNR’s Legislative Liaison. Senator Tiffany’s office had received an e-mail from a constituent in Eagle River. John Martinson had the actual e-mail from the constituent related to baiting. Nick indicated persons with severe disabilities can’t always get to

where the deer are located. Currently, persons located in a non-CWD affected County, can bait deer with up to 2 gallons of bait. In CWD affected Counties, baiting is not allowed since it is believed to aid in the transmission of CWD. Steve asked why would the DAC want to have this issue pursued any further because of the correlation between baiting and spreading CWD? It was suggested the Council take a neutral position and table it for now. The Bureau of Wildlife Management will be getting back to Senator Tiffany's office.

Jim made a motion to postpone the discussion of baiting until a further date. Steve seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next on the agenda was the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired legislative meetings' updates. Steve led the discussion on this topic. Steve said they have a legislative liaison/lobbyist who is helping to work on this issue (allowing a WI ID card to be used instead of driver's license for the DNR Go Wild program). The liaison met with the Governor and his staff and then they went and met with DOT. Looks like it can be changed. It was determined WI IDs should be recognized the same as drivers' licenses. Mr. Michael Blumenthal's office (the Wisconsin Council of the Blind's Legislative Liaison) is going to be reaching out to DNR. Not sure who they will contact, may be Nick. This legislation will get changed hopefully by next session. **UPDATE BELOW** (Another of Steve's updates moved here. This one is from 9/26).

First, Blumenfeld & Associates is a non-partisan government relations and public affairs firm located in Madison, WI, that successfully bridges the divide between our clients and state government. The firm is uniquely qualified and adept at a wide range of services. These services range from crafting a specific public affairs plan to representing its clients' interests in the Wisconsin State legislature, its talented staff works together to achieve its clients' goals.

Mr. Blumenfeld writes: I had a good discussion and follow up email from Luke Fuller, DNR's Legislative Liaison from the Secretary's office at the Department of Natural Resources. He said the issue with the driver's license is that the technology that allows the DL to work does not yet apply to the state id. Someone can have confirmation of licenses on their phone, or a paper copy or the conservation card (CC). But as he mentions below the Conversation Card would work for everything except the ATV registration. I am including his email to me that he sent after our discussion.

This is the e-mail from Mr. Lucas Fuller regarding the Go Wild/DNR issue

Michael,

Thanks for taking a few minutes to chat about this earlier today. I've included much of the information we discussed on the phone below, but generally speaking, I think the Conservation Card is probably the best option to address this concern. You can read more about the conservation card here. At the very bottom of that page there are a series of tables that outline what forms of proof (driver's license, conservation card, hard copy, etc.) are valid for each authorization and I'm afraid I was mistaken when we spoke. The conservation card can be used for all the same authorizations as a driver's license, but I think I indicated they could be used for ATV/UTV registrations which is incorrect.

On the front end, the Go Wild website is available to anyone who wishes to establish a DNR customer ID and can be logged into using information other than a driver's license number. After making a purchase (on go wild or in-person somewhere), there are several different options available as authorized in NR 8.045 to customers to provide proof of purchase. The authenticated State Driver's license is one, paper is another, a department issued digital image on a mobile device or a Conservation Card are all acceptable forms of proof of purchase.

A person without a Wisconsin Driver's license can provide paper, a department issued digital image on a mobile device or a Conservation card. This is the same situation for non-residents, Wisconsin Youth or non-drivers. The Conservation card (\$3.50) is a convenient, non-expiring, lifetime link to your customer account and a live link to all your active privileges.

The DNR license function is not identified in 343.50 as an exemption and in previous discussions with DOT, we were informed that there is not an electronic way to authenticate state issued ID's the same way we can authenticate WI Drivers licenses. We have asked our IT staff to reach out to DOT once again and verify this is still the case at this time and if something has changed I will follow-up with you right away to discuss possible options moving forward.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if I can provide any other information on this matter.

Luke

Next on the agenda was the Accessibility Coordinator updates. The first item was the hunting blinds. Facilities and Lands Engineer at Fitchburg is finalizing the plans. Nick will bring them to the next meeting. There is an issue with the curtains and incorporating these into the drawings. Nick will send them to the person John Mitchell was inquiring about. Two new blinds built by the company (Harvey Allen Outdoors showcasing its Platinum Blind Hunting Shack) that came and talked to the Council a year ago will be providing them (someone else is purchasing or donating them) for Crex Meadows Wildlife Area.

Nick next talked about the accessible fishing pier at Lake Noquebay. The fishing pier has 25% of its railing at a 20-inch height and 75% at 34-inch height, both heights looked great. Nick mentioned the City of Madison just put in a pier with moveable hand rails. Today (9/13) or tomorrow (9/14) is the dedication. Nick will check out the pier within the next few weeks and will let the Council know how it works.

Nick let the Council know he recently visited Wyalusing and Nelson Dewey State Parks and would like the Council's input. Nick wants to create something similar to the Bureau of Park's "Out We Go", to highlight a couple of parks in the State which have great accessibility features. This will be an effective way of promoting accessibility. Kirsten mentioned Echo Rock at Devil's Lake used to be very accessible and now it isn't. In addition, an accessible bathroom at Interstate State Park is no longer accessible due to a large lip in the entryway (it moved). Nick is currently working on a poster asking customers for help in identifying accessibility problems at the Park they are visiting. Keith, too, mentioned Harrington Beach's accessible trail that leads to the beach is no longer accessible. Nick said he contacted the property manager, but needs to follow up. Keith wants to know who owns the cabins? Nick told him DNR does. He asked this question because he recently visited two Parks with cabins and both Parks had lots of used

needles (used by diabetics) in the metal box used to collect them. The needles were not at the “fill line”. Keith thought they should be dumped sooner and Nick indicated that it costs money (third party) to dispose of the needles. The Parks wait until the needles are at the fill line to dispose of them. They are in a sealed metal container and aren’t considered a health hazard.

Kirsten asked about accessible wildlife viewing blinds. She saw one where the plywood was at 4 feet and persons in chairs could not see anything. Kirsten suggested the DAC go to places that have blinds that are not very accessible and evaluate them.

There was a lot of discussion regarding accessibility at DNR state properties; which are the ones with problems and how to showcase the others which are good. Nick indicated Nelson Dewey, has only one paved trail. It is estimated to take 20 minutes to travel the trail. Nick said it took him only 7 minutes and he was travelling slowly. This is inadequate in his opinion.

Kirsten suggested DNR could have an “app” that could be updated for accessibility. It could be similar to the “Hunt Wild” app which is the new app for hunting. Parks may have one too.

John Mitchell asked Nick about adding hunting blinds and fishing pier locations to the webpage. Nick said it is still on his to do list.

Next was the update on ensuring all new picnic tables at DNR properties be accessible. Nick said the Bureau of Parks is doing this already.

The disabled fishing license update was the next item on the agenda. The disabled (reduced fee) fishing license and who qualifies for this license was brought up at the last meeting at Harrington Beach. The issue is the following. Someone who is visually impaired, but not economically strapped, is eligible to receive a reduced fee fishing license. All others qualifying for the reduced fee license meet lower income criteria. Class A, B, C, and D permits do not have anything to do with qualifying for a disabled fishing license. In addition, only those persons who qualify for the disabled fishing license can participate in the special urban fishing events. Nick recently contacted DNR legal (Diane M.) regarding this issue and she hasn’t gotten back to him. He will follow up with her.

Next the DAC discussed the DAC member vacancy due to Joe Greene’s resignation. Julie wanted to verify for this vacancy that the DNR is to do a recruitment and not fill directly from the current list of applicants. This was confirmed. John Mitchell said the application should include the importance of attendance to the DAC meetings. Julie will add this to the application.

There was lots of discussion regarding the accessibility logo on DNR’s webpage. Calvin also indicated that on the Park’s web page there is no accessible features listed. There was lots of discussion regarding DNR properties’ accessibility features and how these features are displayed/presented to the public.

Keith made a motion to request DNR to prepare an inventory of all accessible recreational opportunities supported by DNR and then place this inventory on the DNR website. Calvin had seconded the motion, but it was decided the Council should wait on this because there were four nays and 4 I’s (the motion failed).

John Mitchell made a motion for the DAC to request DNR to provide a list of all WDNR properties and programs that have accessible features (programs, equipment, trails, etc.) for the DAC to review. (Julie interprets this motion to mean that DNR have direct links from its website to accessible features at DNR properties and other functions supported by DNR.) Cathryn seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next on the agenda were the DAC Member Updates.

Keith - On May 18-20th, Challenge the Outdoors hosted their spring turkey hunt in Clintonville with ten disabled hunters participating and five harvesting Tom turkeys including one blind member harvesting her second turkey in three years.

On Saturday June 2, Challenge the Outdoors hosted a Shawano Lake Fishing outing with 36 disabled fishermen enjoying a day of fishing on pontoon boats provided by generous volunteers! The biggest fish was a 13.5-inch perch caught by a 91 Years young Member!

On June 9th Challenge the Outdoors, Inc. held their summer Chasin Rainbows trout fishing event at Wilderness Springs in New London. Thirty-eight (38) disabled members enjoyed the day catching rainbow trout, with some trying their luck with fly fishing!

A group of disabled volunteers in the Green Bay Area have developed a Disability Advocacy Coalition and are working with local developments to improve accessibility!

Since the building was closing at 4:30, it was decided the DAC Members would e-mail their updates to Julie. Julie is inserting them here.

John Martinson - John will be archery deer hunting with Steve Nooyen of Wheelchair Whitetails on November 1-3, 2018. Steve is a great guy who donates his land for disabled deer hunting in Niagara Wisconsin.

Steve – Steve had sent an e-mail from the Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired's Legislative Liaison. This is the e-mail from 9/17.

This is very helpful. It does look like there may be some problematic language with the state ID statutory language as well as the DNR administrative code. Under the driver's license statutory language, they clearly have authority to share records with state agencies. So, it does look like there may need to be a simple statutory fix amending the current statutory language to add state authority to the list of entities that DOT can share state ID records with. I think a strong case could be made here since it would ensure parity with the operator's licenses.

Also, interestingly, under that statutory language for fishing/hunting licenses, it says only that an applicant need to provide "proof of his or her identity and that he or she is a resident." So, it doesn't look like there are any issues that need to be addressed on that end.

The Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired have reached out to the Governor's office to work on resolving the Go-Wild access issue which appears to be more statutory. Steve will update the DNR DAC; Nick, Barry and Julie on the progress. The WCBVI hopes to have this issue resolved by the next legislative session. If any DAC members have questions, please contact Steve.

John Mitchell - The last Adaptive Sportsmen event of 2018 is the Clintonville bow hunt. It is full at this time. You can view the web page of Adaptive Sportsmen Inc., providing outdoor recreational activities to physically challenged people, for its 2019 schedule of events.

Jim – Jim indicated the Paralyzed Veterans Chapter of Wisconsin had a benefit shoot on September 9th at the Boxhorn Gun Club in Muskego, WI. The Chapter sponsored over 6 high school trap teams by paying for their entry fee, ammo, and lunch.

At 4:25 Steve made a motion to adjourn. Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Friday, September 14, 2018

Kyle Anderson, property manager for Crex Meadows, gave the tour of the Wildlife Area. Kyle did a wonderful job explaining the history of the area and the multiple types of habitat that frequent this location. The tour was enjoyed by all. Thank you Kyle!