

MEETING MINUTES  
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
FRIDAY DECEMBER 14, 2018  
FITCHBURG SERVICE CENTER  
GATHERING WATERS MEETING ROOM

Members Present: John Martinson, Kirsten Engel, and John Mitchell

Members via phone conferencing: Cathryn Scott, Keith Pamperin, Calvin Richtig, and Jim Rutledge

Members Absent: Steve Johnson and Chris Hendrickson

Others Present: Nick Zouski and Julie Amakobe in person and Barry Gilbeck via the phone

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

First, the Council reviewed the agenda.

Kirsten wanted a quick update on recruiting for new DAC members. Nick gave her a quick update on what was happening.

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

Next, the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from September 13, 2018.

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

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

- **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 did pass and went into effect on Oct. 1
- This past deer season was one of the safest on record.
- Ruffed Grouse season in Zone A will close early this year on Dec. 31
  - o This was an [Emergency Board Order WM-13-18\(E\) \[PDF\]](#), passed on Nov. 1
- Customer Service was able to keep up with reviewing and issuing all Disabled Permits to qualified applicants coming in prior to the Gun Deer season.

- Snowmobile registration is in full swing. Reminder that snowmobiles need to be registered and have a trail pass issued by the Department or AWSC to operate on the trails. DNR has sent two renewal reminders via email to encourage snowmobile customers to renew early online.
- Drawings for the 2019 Spring Turkey and 2019 Bear will be conducted soon. Wildlife program is finalizing the quotas. Spring Turkey should be completed by the end of January and Bear by February 15
- New Conservation Card this year will have a picture of an Elk on the front.
- Class A and C Disabled Permit holders may use their Gun Buck Harvest Authorization to take a buck statewide during any firearm deer season including antlerless only seasons. The Holiday hunt and the 4-day Antlerless Hunt are included. This information is found on page 16 of the deer hunting regulations.
- Customer Service answered over 15,000 calls the week prior to Gun Deer including the Saturday of opening weekend. Almost all calls were answered in less than a minute.
- The DNR has launched the new “Hunt Wild” App. It was highly used during the gun deer season and offers many great features.
- A summary of the 2018 deer seasons can be found by searching “deer season summary” on the DNR web page.

Nick wanted to know if he could add a paragraph to the deer regulations brochure regarding accessibility because he feels he doesn't have enough information to warrant the update of the disability brochure.

John Mitchell asked Barry about the elks that were killed illegally. One person turned himself in (the one who killed the male elk) the other one Barry didn't know what happened as the investigation was still ongoing.

Next on the agenda was the Eagle Tower design. Julie asked Missy, her contact in Parks, and she said the final specifications should be completed before year end. It should be going out to bid around then. Cathryn said the measurements were good, but did not mention surface types. Calvin asked if the towers are open during winter. Most everyone present thought they were. He was concerned about the ramp getting ice on it if it is open in winter. Jim said the tower should state "use at your own discretion".

Nick will get a copy of the final draft of the plans and send them to the Council. Nick is to get the e-mail with the link to Barry because he didn't get the e-mail the Members received.

Next Nick gave his Accessibility Coordinator updates. Nick made a poster asking customers for comments on how to make the park or other DNR property more accessible and/or if there are problems with certain features. Julie asked to see the draft he had done. Nick will let the Council know if Parks is in favor of it and can be used in the Spring.

Nick said Deanna Sell, Budget Analyst, sent out an e-mail letting property manager know there are accessibility funding accounts for small projects for DNR's cabins. Hardly anyone ever contacted Nick in the past, but the property managers are contacting him now and many small cabin projects will be happening soon. For example, at Pike Lake State Forest, one of its trail has some issues with the water table and there are stones emerging. The property needs \$1,500 to fix it and the property doesn't have the operations money, so the accessibility account will pay for this. In addition, DNR gets federal trails money every year, and now it will be targeting trails that need funding to make them more accessible. There will accessibility improvements at the West Bluff area at Devil's Lake including an improved parking lot. The cabin account will be utilized more now too for equipment such as hospital beds and other items. Keith made a comment about the cabins. He has visited many of them and often the asphalt paths are not level with the ramp and with the fire pit area. Cathryn asked if there was a priority list for these types of accessibility projects. Nick said the property managers know what needs to be addressed. Nick also indicated there might be a new accessible cabin in the future.

The Council next discussed the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Kirsten asked Nick about the plan since she was not familiar with it. Nick assured the Council lots of groups were involved in the drafting of the document. He also specified the Plan outlined accessible features and their uses and where to improve areas, etc. Nick said the Accessibility Coordinator will make sure they address accessibility. Nick needs to confirm if he is going to Steven's Point on Wednesday for a meeting on this. Kirsten asked why accessibility isn't included with the other demographics like age and gender? Nick thought accessibility was addressed sufficiently. Calvin asked if the meeting on Wednesday is a hearing? Nick said "No", but Julie asked if this is open to the public? It is an open house meeting looking for comments. Nick will e-mail today or Monday the Independent Living Centers with the link and location of the meeting and let them know they can comment.

Nick will update individuals or groups that need to be added to Nick's distribution list. Please let him know if you want to receive updates from Nick that involve accessibility such as SCORP, master plans, etc.

Next, the Council picked the dates for meetings for 2019 since everyone was on the line. Some members indicated they would be leaving the call early.

**Monday** December 16<sup>th</sup> at Fitchburg

**Thursday and Friday** September 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> at Peninsula SP if Eagle Tower is being constructed or Wyalusing SP

**Friday** June 7<sup>th</sup> at (John Martinson's birthday) McKenzie Center for the meeting room and plan on viewing the shooting range in Poynette on the same day

**Friday** April 5<sup>th</sup> at Stevens' Point probably at the Schmeckle Reserve

The agenda was revised and the disabled deer hunt topic was moved up because the guest speaker Kevin Wallenfang had just arrived at the meeting. Kevin is the Big Game (deer and elk) Management Coordinator and he coordinates the disabled deer hunts. Having applicants sign up on-line for the hunts was discussed about 5 years ago and was subsequently implemented. This procedure is working well. The DNR has run a little loose with the special hunt requirements in the past. Kevin thinks DNR needs to be more formal with these requirements. The Department needs to create an informational sheet/brochure indicating what is required for the disabled hunt (60 acreage minimum size and minimum of 3 hunters, who can participate, etc.). His Bureau

(Wildlife Management) will take care of creating the brochure. Maggie Stewart who used to coordinate the disabled hunts is very ill. This should be noted. John Martinson asked if a person can participate in more than one disabled hunt. Keven said, "Usually no, but there could be exceptions".

Next on the agenda were the DAC Member Updates. Members will be sending in their updates to Julie and should carbon copy all the Members. Julie will then include in the minutes.

The next agenda item was potential enhancements to DNR's Website. The Information Technology (IT) guest Joe Warren (from Parks) was on the phone and talked about what can be done to enhance DNR's website, particularly the accessibility areas.

Kirsten asked how easy it is to change the property page. Joe indicated it is easy to add something to a particular property (park) page such as a new beach chair. The DNR Website and the Mobile Website are a mirror of each other. The Council wondered if "Accessibility" (Accessible Features) could be the first (major) icon and then Open the Outdoors could be added in parenthesis since it is not really needed. Kirsten asked if "Accessibility" could be a main tab because not everyone knows to go to the "Recreation" tab. Joe emphasized he is with Parks, but could set up a meeting with Nick and a person from DNR's Bureau of Technology Services. He believes an accessible page for each park is a great idea. Joe said the other accessibility enhancement/changes will take a much longer time. In regard to the accessible blinds and fishing piers, these two will be included with the current task (updating).

As it turns out, there was time to have the Members' updates.

John Mitchell – The 2018 events have all been completed. Adaptive Sportsman's Board will meet January 19<sup>th</sup> to pick events for 2019.

Jim – Jim informed the Council the Wisconsin Chapter of Paralyzed Vets will have an Air Rifle and Pistol tournament on March 30-31 at MATC in Milwaukee. Jim said they were looking to expand this to include Madison. The Chapter will also be holding a PVA Trap Shoot May 17-19 in Green Bay. Jim said he will be having shoulder surgery.

Cathryn – Cathryn asked if there is someone near Muscoda would want to partner up with a disabled person that needs assistance to go hunting?

Kirsten – Kirsten took a new position with the Autism Society and is working on outdoor recreational opportunities for disabled youth. Kirsten's son will participate in the Wheelchair Soccer event on January 19<sup>th</sup> in Sun Prairie.

Calvin – No updates at this time.

John Martinson – John will be managing the Madison Fishing Expo Adaptive Sportsman booth on February 22-24 at the Alliant Energy building in Madison.

Kirsten asked about winter fishing in Madison. John Mitchell let the Council know there isn't currently one in Madison, but there is one in Milwaukee.

**John Mitchell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kirsten seconded the motion and all in favor.**

Chair Martinson adjourned the meeting at 2:05.