

Rules and Resolutions Study Committee
Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center
Saturday, August 23, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Tony Blattler at 10:05 am.

Roll call by Secretary Dick Koerner.

Present: Larry Bonde, Tony Blattler, Dick Koerner, Ken Anderson, James Houck, Wade Jeske, David Larson, Pete Petrouske, Frank Reith, Bruce Thoma, Larry Vanderhoef.

Excused: Dick Baudhuin, Ray Smith

Mission Statement: Tony Blattler read and explained the mission statement for the Rules and Resolutions Committee. After some discussion, Larry Bonde made two word changes on the first line. A motion by Dick Koerner to accept the mission statement as written with revisions was made, Wade Jeske seconded the motion; motion carried.

The Mission of the Rules and Resolutions Committee is to review the "Code of Procedure" doctrine that governs the Congress in order to ensure its relevance. This Committee will also provide a conduit for citizen resolutions allowing the exchange of ideas and information between individuals or groups and the Congress by reviewing and assigning voter approved resolutions to Conservation Congress Study Committees.

It is our purpose to support the noble concept that all citizens have a voice in regards to Wisconsin's Natural Resources.

We will review the Rules governing the Conservation Congress when asked by the Executive Council or Executive Committee and will provide possible changes for their review. We will regularly review and assign citizen-approved resolutions to Study Committees for action on said resolutions. We value citizen involvement, to ensure the prosperity of our Natural Resources, full and proper use of our Natural Resources, now and for future generations.

A. Resolutions

All authors were invited to come to this meeting and support their resolution.

a. 190408-Advancing Citizen Resolutions

Motion by Ken Anderson to approve this resolution as written, second by Larry Vanderhoef. Discussion: We can agree to what is practical, achievable, reasonable, and not inappropriate. But if a resolutions passes with 2/3 majority support in the county that it was presented in to be advanced as a statewide advisory question, it must be advanced unless the assigned study committee can provide defensible justification for not advancing the resolution. The Executive Council will deal with this if approved as we have in the code the code they must "act" on a resolution. The Executive Council should get a list of all resolutions that don't get adopted. This will require a House Keeping change. Vote on the motion by hand vote: 9 yes, 1 no, 1 abstained. This will go to the Executive Council.

b. 190508-WCC Advisory Question and Resolution Requirements

The author John Hoeffs from Shawano was present. His resolution complains that resolutions are being submitted without the approval of the voting members in the county they represent. Discussion: Ken Anderson said Committees have stymied local resolutions. The county resolution if passed should go to the questionnaire. The question should not originate from a Study Committee or the Executive Council. Member Matters can bring out discussion and anyone can bring up any issue, but it must be on the agenda as an action item to vote on. Wade Jeske said that we don't want to cut back on involvement, but if it's not on the printed agenda, you can't bring it up and vote on it. Wade also said there should be no mass mailing of resolutions. Larry Bonde made a motion to reject resolution 190508, but send all committee chairs the open meeting law requirements. Second by Wade Jeske. Discussion: Dave Larson said if we support John Hoeffs resolution we are going against the Code of Procedures. Vote on the motion to reject, 7 yes, 3 no. Motion to reject passes.

c. 370208-Resolution Advancement. This resolution is similar to 190408, complaining that resolutions don't get a fair shake and never go anywhere. A motion by Larry Bonde to reject resolution 370208 and send it back to the author for clarification of the wording using 2/3 majority instead of unanimously. Seconded by Ken Anderson, but returned resolution should include a copy of resolution 190408 to Dean Johnson to explain that the 2/3 vote on a resolution better addressed the solution. Vote on the motion to reject: 11 yes, 0 no.

d. 390208 Limit the Number of Times a WCC Advisory Question Can be Asked. Motion by Wade Jeske to reject, second by James Houck. Discussion: Ken Anderson said the Spring Hearing is a public meeting and it is not constitutional to limit the number of times a question can be asked. Also, it would not encourage participation. Vote on the motion to reject; 11 yes, 0 no. Motion to reject passes.

e. 410308 -Equal Voting Rights on all Spring Hearing Issues. The author Bruce Look was present with his daughter Tina Gruber. Bruce Look said he lives in Milwaukee County, but hunts and fishes in 7 other counties and wants to vote in each county he recreates in if there is a question that involves that county. Bruce said that Wisconsin residents should be allowed to have their vote counted throughout the state of Wisconsin on all issues, no matter what county they have or have not voted in. Their vote only counts for the county they voted in. Bruce would like to see a rule change requiring each county to submit their ballots to the state before compiling the data and the state level would be responsible for distributing the state tally results without giving individual county breakdowns on all issues. It was suggested to remove the word "state" by Tina Gruber (last line of "Be it resolved"). Motion by Wade Jeske to reject, second by James Houck. Lots of discussion- The open records law says we give the county vote-state vote and popular vote. It was suggested that Bruce Look takes his discussion to the NRB as they have the last word. He will have to make arrangements with NRB Secretary Laurie Ross next May when the NRB meets with the Congress. He will get 5 minutes to present his case. All delegates are informed at the District meeting that on local issues you can vote if interested or pass and don't vote. The DNR Hearing Officer makes that announcement before the hearing starts. Dick Koerner said he and the local warden run the ballots through the ballot machine and sees lots of blank questions that were not voted on. Hand vote was taken on the motion to reject; 11 yes, 0 no. Motion to reject carried.

f. 170208-Walleye Slot Limits on Tainter Lake, Dunn County. This resolution was a local issue with no indication of support from local fish manager. Larry Bonde said the DNR did approve this. Larry read an email from the local fish manager which said that if this resolution is supported at the 2009 Spring Hearing by the public, the fish manager will support it. Larry will attach all emails to the resolution. A motion was made by James Houck to accept and forward this resolution to the Executive Council to be put on the Congress side of the Spring Questionnaire. The resolution 170208 will be formed into a question by the Rules and Resolutions Co-Chair and forwarded to the Executive Council with the email attachments from the local fish manager. The motion to accept was seconded by Dave Larson. Vote on the motion to accept the resolution was 10 yes, 1 no. Motion passed.

Discussion and action items.

Continue resolution discussion.

Grievance procedure for resolutions that have passed multiple time as county resolutions. Larry Vanderhoef said if a resolution passes the study committee it should go on the Spring Questionnaire. Kurt Thiede stated that the secretary of the Executive Council should give the author a letter on what happened to the resolution. Wade Jeske said there should be a roll call vote at the Executive Council meeting. Motion by Larry Bonde to let the Current process run as-is and if it fails, we can take action to enforce the Grievance Procedure. Second by Ken Anderson. Vote on the motion; 10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain.

Kurt Thiede said to get the resolution information, go to the DNR website, call your county chair, or see the results in the convention book.

2008 Code of Procedure changes: Executive Council Election Procedures Ballots will be printed and handed out to all delegates for election of District Councilors at the state meeting.

- Vote for councilor #1 first

- Need 50% +1

- Will use run off ballots if necessary

- Vote for councilor #2 second

- A handout for all delegates will be given at the state meeting on the election of delegates

Members Matters:

- Frank Reith-No
- Bruce Thomae-No
- Larry Bonde-Need roles of liaisons
- Larry Vanderhoef-How do Liaisons get appointed?
- Pete Petrouske-No
- Ken Anderson-Wanted rules and resolutions because he wanted to make changes/ suggestions for the future-No action taken now.
 1. Determine when a delegates term starts and ends
 2. Recall procedure for District Councilors, County Chairs not doing their job.
 3. Term limit for District Councilors (suggestion 5 years in a row)
- James Houck-Shares Ken's views. Saturday meetings free, Friday cost
- Wade Jeske-We made a lot of changes and wants that to continue

Dave Larson-Venison donation on hold because of health concerns-lead in meat

Dick Koerner-No

Kurt Thiede-Agenda topic, process for nominating a delegate or appointing a delegate to fill out a term. Could have 7 delegates at state meeting, need to decide when a delegates term starts and ends.

Tony Blattler-he asked a DNR employee which is the fast track to get something done in the DNR and the DNR employee said the Congress is faster than the DNR. Tony wonders why Iron County doesn't show up to the state meeting; only 1 person at the District meeting. Menominee County also many no-shows.

Adjourn: Motion by Ken Anderson to adjourn, second by Frank Reith. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Koerner
Secretary