

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress**

**Turkey Committee Meeting**

**Ramada Inn**

**Stevens Point, WI**

**Friday, August 22, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Mike Rogers.

Members present: Mike Rogers, Clarence Koch, Donald Anderson, David Andraschko, James Cahill, Douglas Duhr, Darrel Eberhardt, Dale Ebert, Paul Fluhr, Douglass Frank, Mead Grim, Mark Guderski, John Hoeffs, Mark Seeley, Walter Seibel, Arlyn Splitt, Jerry Thompson, Dave Wendel, and Marcel Weloch.

Members excused: Don Fletcher, David Grisar and John Harmon.

Members absent: Thomas Ivey, Thomas Johnson, Armond Zastrow and Neil Ziegler.

DNR Liaison attending: Scott Hull and Chuck Horn.

The meeting was attended by Conservation Congress Chairman Edgar Harvey.

Scott Hull reported on the new record harvest spring turkey season. The total harvest was 52,863 turkeys with a success ratio of 25%.

This year's fall season will be the first time the new seven zone format has been used. The fall permit drawing has been held with results to be mailed within days. There were 95,700 permits available with 64,922 permits issued. 30,778 permits should be available for over the counter sales. Zones 2, 5 and 7 permits are sold out so only zones 1, 3, and 4 have leftover permits available. 28 landowner applications in zone 2 and 6 and 115 in zone 7 were unsuccessful.

The permits that are available are:

- Zone #1, 13,376
- Zone #3, 12,414
- Zone #4, 4,988

The DNR is collecting information on the trial turkey hunting with dogs hunt using a mail survey. The initial reports indicate there are few participants and limited success.

A University of Wisconsin, Madison turkey study report will be available soon and will be mailed to all committee members.

The department is supportive of the issues of legalizing the sale of turkey parts and of granting preference to landowners with non contiguous acreage and will be seeking legislative support.

Warden Chuck Horn reported that there was only one hunting accident reported in the spring season. That was in Polk County with a hunter falling and shooting himself in the hand. A large number of arrests were made mostly for feeding and baiting.

Dianne Brockbank, Customer Service and Licensing Bureau Director reported on the problems that have plagued the sale of leftover turkey permits in 2008. This system has been in place since 1999 and is now in its third generation. Central Bank was picked because it was the best of the available choices of vendors. The failures were a result of the system not meeting the specifications. Central bank has taken steps to remediate the failures.

DNR Chairman Frank has formed a committee to identify and evaluate the problems and to insure that the system is tested and sufficiently backed up so a reoccurrence does not happen.

Dianne provided information and visuals to identify problem areas; she listed many options that could be used to facilitate future sales. The fall deer and turkey permit will be used as a test for the system and back up.

A lengthy discussion followed with numerous comments and suggestions as to how to improve the system. The committee recommendation is as follows (assuming that zones 6 and 7 sellout through the normal drawing process):

- Start sales at 10:00 AM
- Zone #1, sales only on the first day, Monday.
- Zone #2, sales only on the second day, Tuesday.
- Zone #3, sales only on the third day, Wednesday.
- Zone #4, sales only on the fourth day, Thursday.
- Zone #5, sales only on the fifth day, Friday.
- All zones would be open for permit sales on Saturday and beyond
- Internet sales would follow the same guidelines

Discussion followed as to how spend \$90 thousand of the \$155 thousand in money collected from Central Bank as a penalty for the system failure. Youth learn to hunt programs, grant to pay for mileage for youths traveling to special events, warden special events, learn to hunt deer mentor reimbursements and the Hunter Education Program. Consensus of the committee was for support for the Hunters Education Program.

The committee then took up discussion of the resolutions that have been assigned.

1. #130308, To create two subzones within zone 2.  
Discussion was to try the new system before making changes.  
M/S/C to reject.
2. #160208, Leftover turkey tags be made available one day before non-residents.  
Discussion noted that non-resident permit numbers are very low.  
M/S/C/ to reject.
3. #560108, To establish a preference system for seniors.  
M/S/C to reject.

4. # 560208, Allot active military and youth permits over and above the regular allotment. Discussion noted that military are already issued permits.  
M/S/C to reject.
5. #650208, Nonresident permits would go on sale three days after residents.  
M/S/C to reject.
6. #680808, Open turkey season on the Wednesday closest to April 8<sup>th</sup>. Discussion noted that would put the youth and women's hunts too early and into bad weather.  
M/S/C to reject.
7. 160308, An adult mentor shall be within touching distance of the youth hunter. This has been assigned to law enforcement, the committee noted that enforcement would be difficult and recommended that "within reach of the youth hunter" would be more appropriate.

The following mission statement was read and approved:

The mission of the Turkey Committee of the Conservation Congress is to ensure the continued success of the Wild Turkey program in Wisconsin. Ensure that future generations have the ability to enjoy spring and fall turkey hunting. Promote expanded harvest opportunities based on sound science. Work with the department to review management objectives. Encourage the participation of youth in turkey hunting. Promote sound conservation practices and habitat management for turkeys.

Member matters:

A report on the status of #710108 was given by Secretary Koch.

There was discussion on limiting the number of leftover permits per individual.

Mark Guderski suggested that this was a better time to hold the turkey meeting than in December.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence E. Koch, Secretary