

EX. COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

7-29-09

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHR. ED HARVEY AT 5:30 P.M. THOSE PRESENT WERE ED HARVEY, ROB BOHMANN, RICH KIRCHMEYER, SCOTT ZIMMERMAN, DAVE PUHL, MIKE ROGERS, AND DICK BAUDHUIN. FROM THE DNR WERE KURT THIEDE, KARI LEE-ZIMMERMAN, SCOTT LOOMANS, AND JOHN OLSON.

THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA WAS THE BOBCAT PROPOSED SEASON. SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION WAS GIVEN BY CHR. HARVEY STARTING WITH A SPECIAL MEETING THAT WAS HELD LAST NOV. 14<sup>TH</sup> WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY MANY INTERESTED PARTIES. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO PROMULGATE SOME CHANGES IN THE BOBCAT HARVEST SEASON. THE PROPOSED HARVEST SEASON THAT WAS GENERATED AND AGREED UPON BY ALL PRESENT WAS THEN GOING TO THE SPRING HEARING IN APRIL. THE QUESTION WAS FORWARDED TO THE SPRING HEARING ON THE DNR'S PORTION OF THE HEARING AND WAS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTED BY THE PUBLIC VOTE. THE NRB THEN APPROVED THE QUESTION. THE FINAL STEP WAS LEGISLATIVE REVIEW. FOR SOME REASON AT THAT POINT THE WISCONSIN BEAR HUNTERS' ASSOCIATION (WBHA) DECIDED THEY DID NOT LIKE THE PROPOSED SEASON AND TESTIFIED AGAINST THE SEASON PROPOSAL.

THE WISCONSIN WILDLIFE FEDERATION (WWF) AND THE WISCONSIN TRAPPERS' ASSOCIATION (WTA) ARE STILL SUPPORTING THE NEW SEASON STRUCTURE. GEORGE MEYER SAID THAT THE WWF WOULD SUPPORT WHAT WAS AGREED UPON AND WHAT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE PUBLIC AT THE SPRING HEARINGS. JOHNATHAN GILBERT FROM THE GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (GLIFWC) SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT ALSO AND SEES NO PROBLEM WITH THE NEW PROPOSED SEASON. THE GROUPS WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE WBHA DID NOT TELL ANY ONE THAT THEY WERE WITHDRAWING THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE NEW SEASON.

JOHN OLSON STATED THAT WBHA WAS CONCERNED THAT THE SEASON WOULD PROBABLY BE CUT SHORT BECAUSE OF THE QUOTA FOR A ZONE COULD BE FILLED EARLIER AND THE DNR WOULD CLOSE THE SEASON DOWN. THEY ALSO THOUGHT THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD TAKE 2 YEARS TO IMPLEMENT AND ALSO WANTED PERMITS TO BE ISSUED SOUTH OF HWY 64. THE DNR IS COLLECTING CARCASSES FROM ROAD KILLS AND INCIDENTAL CATCHES NOW TO TRY AND GET AS MUCH DATA AS POSSIBLE TO CREATE A SEASON SOUTH OF HWY 64. THE WBHA WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE USE OF CABLE RESTRAINTS BEING USED DURING THE DEC. PORTION OF THE SEASON AND ALSO WOULD LIKE A 3 YEAR SUNSET CLAUSE BE PUT IN THE RULE PROPOSAL. THE DNR FUR COMM. WILL TAKE THE ISSUE UP NEXT MAY AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING TO DISCUSS ZONE BOUNDARIES AND PERMITS PER TIME PERIOD.

ONE OF JOHNATHAN GILBERT'S CONCERNS WITH ANY BOBCAT SEASON IS THE OVER HARVEST OF BOBCATS. CHR. HARVEY COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT MANY OF THE HOUNDSMEN WOULD ONLY APPLY FOR THE 2ND SEASON AND

AFTER A FEW SEASONS THEY WOULD START APPLYING FOR BOTH SEASONS. RICH K THOUGHT THAT WE SHOULDN'T UNDER ESTIMATE THE HOUNDSMEN AND THAT THEY WILL HAVE PEOPLE APPLYING FOR BOTH SEASONS, SO IF THE CONDITIONS WERE RIGHT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO HUNT ALL PERIODS AND ZONES.

JOHN OLSON STATED THAT THERE 12,800 PEOPLE APPLIED FOR BOBCAT PERMITS IN 2008. 540 HARVEST PERMITS WERE AVAILABLE. THE SUCCESS RATE FOR THE 2008 HUNT WAS 55%. THE HARVEST OF BOBCATS WAS BROKEN DOWN 61 WERE TRAPPED, 229 HARVESTED WITH THE AID OF HOUNDS, 7 INCIDENTAL AND 1 UNKNOWN.

DAVE PUHL ASKED IF THERE WAS A SUNSET CLAUSE WRITTEN IN. SCOTT LOOMANS ANSWERED NO.

CHR. HARVEY STATED THAT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE WERE APPLYING FOR BOBCAT PERMITS AND THE BOBCAT GUIDING INDUSTRY IS GROWING VERY FAST. CHR. HARVEY ALSO SAID THAT LARRY VANDERHOEF HAD A PROPOSAL THAT WOULD SPLIT PERMITS BETWEEN HOUND HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS BUT THE WCC FUR HARVEST COMM. REJECTED THE PROPOSAL.

PUHL THEN SUGGESTED THAT MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE 1 CONTINUOUS SEASON. JOHN OLSON COMMENTED THAT AT THE NOV. 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING THE AGREEMENT WAS TO HAVE 2 SEASONS WITH PERMITS FOR EACH SEASON. RICH K COMMENTED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING ABLE TO HUNT MUCH INTO JAN. WOULD BE SMALL BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF CATS THAT ARE HARVESTED ONCE THERE IS SNOW ON THE GROUND, SO THEN THE SEASON WOULD BE CLOSED DOWN EARLY BECAUSE THE QUOTA WOULD HAVE BEEN REACHED.

LOOMANS SAID IF WE ADDED ANYTHING SUCH AS A SUNSET CLAUSE OR ANYTHING ELSE IT WOULD DELAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW SEASON BY 1 YEAR.

CHR. HARVEY SAID THE HEARING WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK AND THE COMMENT PERIOD WOULD BE OPEN UNTIL AUG. 13<sup>TH</sup>. SEN. HOLPERIN WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE WCC POSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

OLSON COMMENTED THAT THE DNR WAS NOT GOING TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION JUST BECAUSE 1 GROUP DECIDED THEY WOULD NOT BACK THE PROPOSAL ANY MORE.

CHR. HARVEY COMMENTED THAT THIS PROBLEM HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SCIENCE BUT A PEOPLE PROBLEM WITH THE SEASON PROPOSAL. HE THINKS WE SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THE ORIGINAL SUPPORTERS OF THE SEASONS FOR BOBCATS.

PUHL THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE A BIG MOB READY TO HUNT AT THE START OF THE SECOND SEASON. OLSON SAID THAT THE DNR USES THE HIGHEST SUCCESS

RATE FROM THE PAST 3 YEARS TO DETERMINE HOW MANY PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED FOR THAT FOLLOWING YEAR. PERMITS WOULD BE ALLOCATED FOR EACH TIME PERIOD AND ONLY THAT TIME PERIOD. **ROB BOHMANN MADE A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE POPULAR VOTE FROM THE SPRING HEARING. 2<sup>ND</sup> WAS MADE BY RICH KIRCHMEYER. MOTION CARRIED.**

JOHN OLSON POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NOW FUNDS AVAILABLE TO START A STUDY ON BOBCATS SOUTH OF HWY 64 IN 2010.

ROB GAVE A REPORT ON THE DEER 2000 REVIEW AD-HOC COMM. THE CONGRESS HAD A POLL FOR OUR DELEGATES TO FILL OUT AND IT WAS FILLED OUT BY A VERY GOOD PERCENTAGE OF OUR DELEGATES. FOR THE MOST PART THE MAJORITY SUPPORTED TRADITIONAL HUNTS. THE COMM. WILL CONTINUE TO MEET AND COME UP WITH THEIR FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE EX. COMM. AT A FUTURE DATE. THERE WAS QUITE A BIT OF DISCUSSION AMONG THE PEOPLE ON THE CONFERENCE CALL WITH MANY OPINIONS AND STATEMENTS BEING MADE PRO AND CON AND ALSO SOME SUGGESTIONS MADE FOR ALT. EAB. ONE THING THAT WAS BROUGHT UP WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF ASKING THAT \$.15 FROM EVERY DEER LICENSE SOLD BE DESIGNATED TO DEER RESEARCH.

RICH K THANKED THOSE INVOLVED IN THE SPECIAL DEER COMM. FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT OF TIME FROM THE WCC. EX. COMM. AND THE CONGRESS AS A WHOLE.

RICH K BROUGHT UP THE PROPOSED BEAR BILL BEING SPONSORED BY THE WBHA AND THAT HE DID NOT SUPPORT SOME OF THE PROPOSALS. CHR. HARVEY ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DISPLEASURE IN THE FACT THAT THE WBHA DID NOT BRING THESE ITEMS TO THE CONGRESS AND THE SPRING HEARINGS OR EVEN TO THE DNR TO DISCUSS.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROB BOHMANN AT 7:00 TO ADJOURN 2<sup>ND</sup> WAS MADE BY RICH KIRCHMEYER MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;  
RICHARD KIRCHMEYER SEC.