

12/11/09

Migratory Meeting

Call to order 7 PM

Roll Call Present: Dick Koerner (Chairman), John Edelblute (Vice Chair), Richard Becker, Chuck Boley, Todd Cook, James Daily, Noel Dolde, Ronald Earnest, Martin Hass, Roger Hanson, Ray Heidel, Rick Koenig, Joanne Kuharske, Al Martoz, Guy McRarren, Tim Morgan, Jerry Rowland, Jeff Scott, Al Shook, Kurt Staab, Alan Suchla, Herbert Theisen, Brad Wagner.

Excused: Mitch Fisher, Craig Conroy, Paul Liettleman

Unexcused: Sandy Naas.

Many Guests in Attendance.

The mission statement was brought forward for final approval. Dick K. read the mission statement (see attachment).

Todd Cook Motioned to approve, 2nd Al Moratz. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

Agenda will be repaired to allow quests to speak early and leave after. Kent Van Horns power point on resolutions.

Res. 110309. Unattended decoys on private water and land. Kent and Todd Schaller say no definition exists defining private water, all navigatable water is public.

Res. 300109. Mute swan eradication: DNR Policy is to remove all free flying mutes where possible. Exception to this policy in Racine, Waukesha and Kenosha as follows;

- 1) Remove mutes upon request from lakeside property owners
- 2) If swans pose a threat to humans
- 3) Mute swans chasing trumpeter swans and nests
- 4) Mute swans will be removed on state lands and waters.

Res. 490209. Eliminate the Burnett Goose sub-zone. The DNR is already having this as a question in the Spring Hearing Booklet.

Res. 520109. Early goose August 15th. Federal rules and treaty will not allow hunting of migratory birds before September 1st. August take is allowed if all other methods (IE unplugged guns, electric calls, extended shooting hours have not reduced the goose population) fail. WDNR does not intend to pursue any of these options.

Res. 650809. Use 8 gauge shotguns for waterfowl hunting with a 10 gauge insert. State law prohibits the use of any shotgun larger than 10 gauge. State law since 1959 carrying 8 ga. With 10 ga. Insert would be an enforcement problem because it is based on gun gauge not shell size.

Res. 680309. Open water rule alternative and one leaf of emergent vegetation concealment. Kent wants current language in rule to be in effect for at least 2 more seasons. Todd Schaller says shoreline property owner are

complaining more about hunters and if the rule were to change complaints may increase. Ray Heidel, known River Rat, complains current rule caused a loss of hunting areas.

This concludes Kent's first part of the presentation.

Res. 300109. Mute Swan Racine Co. Vote 40 yes/27 no

Guest speaker - Author Kim Roper.

Dick K. Read the resolution for committee. All guests have a 5 minute speaking limit.

Kim says that mute swans caused no researched problems to the environment or humans. Kim provided proof that mute swans are native because they don't meet the four criteria as non-native. Mute swans co-exist with humans on Wisconsin Lakes. John Edelblute asked how she became involved in this question? In 2008 Kim saw two DNR agents shoot and kill two swans while she was in her yard. Kim's time expired.

Al Shook motions to forward this question. Joanne Kuharske 2nd motion.

Discussion – Kent Van Horn says swan policy was set in 2007 by Natural Resources Board.

Kurt Stabb states we must be careful about non-native choices; dogs and pheasants are two examples. Ray Heidel, are Mute swans a statewide problem? Kim states most common in Southeast Wisconsin and Green Bay area. The swans move to open water in winter. Roger Hanson (well known Floater) asks about surrounding state rules and policy: Kent Van Horn says this policy on mute swans came from the U.S. Congress and most states follow Federal Removal Policy. Population very high along the east coast. Kim Roper states that Ill. and Ind. does not control mute swans. Tim Morgan: Raised all kinds of fowl including mute swans and states mutes are European. We have natives on the Mississippi. Trundra and trumpeters. Todd Cook says the DNR knows of a cygnet hatch on Phantom Lake Waukesha Co., after mutes were moved. Ray Heidel asked about the neutering of mutes. Kim says high cost and no local vets will perform procedure. Noel Dolde states that Wisconsin already has exceptions for Racine, Waukesha and Kenosha, yet you want statewide protection of mute swans. Noel does not think a state protection is necessary.

Dick called question to forward question. 6 yes/15 no. Motion fails by hand vote.

Res. 650809. 8 gauge shotguns with 10 gauge inserts for water fowl hunting. John Edelblute read the resolution. Martin Sands (Author) appears in behalf of his question. Martin explains about chamber inserts for all shotguns. Shot pattern remains the same as shell size. Martin states this is mostly a historic use request. Smaller number gauges provide more shot per shell. Martin would like to have law changed so the few collectors could use the guns with inserts.

Ray Heidel motion to advance question, Guy McFarran 2nd. Roger Hauson Likes more opportunity and asks about enforcement problems. Todd Schaller could be handled by admin. Code change. Roger also asks the cost of an 8 gauge shell \$3.00/\$4.00 per according to Martin. This would prevent this group from sky busting.

Dick K. calls the question. Motion to advance passes unanimously.

Res. 680309. Open water Rule. Dick K. reads the resolution for Committee. Jeff Hintz (Author) is here to speak about resolution. Jeff knows current rule will stay in effect for 2 – 3 more years. Jeff thinks his rule is easy to understand vs. state rule. His plan would allow more hunting because of no height requirement on emergent vegetation. Dick K asks about standing in the water within 5 feet of shoreline. Jeff says his rule would

allow you to hunt with a boat where you can stand and hunt. Roger Hanson questions conflicts for open water and shore hunters.

Todd Cook motion to table. Tim Morgan 2nd. Ray Heidel thinks the current rule is poor at best and needs to change and this resolution would help. Tim Morgan reinforces his 2nd to table. Noel Dolde thinks this resolution should advance now Ray Heidel reminds the committees that the current concealment rule was rejected by the WCC at the 2009 State Convention in LaCrosse. 17 yes/ 54 no. Current rule was put in place by the NRB Joanne Kuharske says current rule sucks and other states allow open water hunting so some hunters are saying EFF Off to this State and hunting in other states. Roger Hanson agrees rules may have messed up Mississippi hunting but not the Bay hunt. Todd Schaller says no hunters were given a ticket on this rule. Joanne K. disputes this and knows people who were ticketed. Kurt Stabb agrees this current rule worked in the interior part of the state.

Dick K. called the question to table. 12 yes/9 no. Motion to table pass. Hand vote.

Res. 110309. Decoys unattended on private land and water. A recess is called at 8:53 PM so Dick K. can find author's letter to committee. Back to order at 9:03 PM.

Dick K. reads Craig Swenson comments. Craig believes this would cover the navigatable water rules. Would you be in favor of leaving decoys unattended in all waters that are not owned and or managed by any State and /or Federal agencies. Examples; waterfowl production areas NCRS lands, rivers, streams and/or lakes.

Motion to advance Richard Becker 2nd by Guy McFarren. Todd Schaller says this would cause an enforcement problem and there is no definition for "private water". Guy McFarren says this is not an enforcement issue about public vs. private. Noel Dolde asks again what is private water? Al Suchla wonders why can't an owner of all the land around a lake do this? Richard Becker supports this because his land has 96 ponds and the water for these comes as rain. No streams or rivers in or out. Jerry Rowland asks about the decoys that stay in acierated pond. Todd Schaller says if decoys are not hunted over, it's not a violation. Roger Hanson (Retired Warden) worries about conflicts and spot claiming.

Dick K. calls the question. Motion carried by voice vote to advance.

Guest speaker George Meyer from Wisconsin Wildlife Federation spoke to us about the DNR Secretary Bill. It passed both houses but was vetoed by Gov. Doyle. Now it sits ready for veto over-ride that starts in the assembly then to the senate. No time limit for over-ride vote, but it will happen when enough votes are in place to over-ride. George encourages our local involvement with the assembly and senate member in your districts. Districts that need help number about 15. George gave a lot of background about appointment.

Res. 490209. Elimination of Burnett Canada Goose Sub zone. DNR is doing this now.

John Edelblute moves to table for DNR action. Noel Dolde 2nd. Motion table carried by voice vote.

Res. 520109. August 15 Early Goose. Ron Earnest motion to reject Jim Daily 2nd. Motion to reject carried by voice vote.

Res. 630309. Partial Concealment. Dick K. reads this resolution. It is slightly different in wording and definition. County vote 34 yes/2 no. A person may hunt in open water where he finds one stem of emergent vegetation and rooted to the bottom IE "an old warden rule".

Motion to reject by Al Shook. 2nd by Todd Cook. No discussion. Question called. Motion to reject 12 yes/10 no. Hand vote.

Part 2 of Kent Van Horn's Power Point Presentation.

2009 Season in Review: This is the 3rd year of 5 year goose seasons. Canvasbacks were open 3 wood ducks. Hunting pressure depended on water levels. Lower duck numbers on opening day. Number 1 duck in bag was wood duck, 2nd mallard 3 blue winged teal and 4 green wing teal on opening day. Dry weather affected hunting in northern zone. Local birds moved early, northern birds never came. Freeze up came 10 days after close. South duck Zone. Cold spell 9/29 pushed blue wings out opening day. Pressure high. Northern ducks a no show. Wood ducks carried the day. Marshes and shallow water froze last weekend. Warm November slowed hunting. Divers peaked 2nd week in Nov. Many comments about low duck numbers on Mississippi. Green Bay had good diver numbers. Very odd that wood ducks were the number 1 bird harvested. Dabblers peaked on Mississippi first week in November.

Goose harvest was down from last year 15,492 (2009), 24,276 (2008). Kent feels the late harvest of crops had an affect on harvest. Hip registration was down by 4,000 this year. All zones were down in permit requests.

Rock Prairie sub-zone will be eliminated by DNR. Collins zone may be the next zone to eliminate.

Wisconsin duck hunting zones can change every 5 years. Next opportunity is in 2011. Design of zones is by USFWS. No change is expected in north or south zone. Kent wants feedback from committee. Three zones are not likely to happen. Ray Heidel states that 3 zones exist in other states. In August 2005 a letter was sent to USFWS that included a Mississippi sub-zone.

Motion by Ray Heidel to support the DNR pursue with USFWS a 3 zone including Mississippi zone. 2nd by Jeff Scott. Kent says this 3 zone proposal will be hard to get past the flyway council. Dick K wants Kent to submit a 4 zone to USFWS. Kent says USFWS won't do this because it's difficult. Kurt Stabb does not like 2 zone 2 opening days. Support also exists for a Green Bay zone.

Dick K called vote. Motion to advance 3 zones including Mississippi zone. 10 yes/12 no. Hand vote. Motion fails.

Noel Dolde motion that more zone options should be pursued by UFFWS/DNR. Jerry Rowland 2nd. Motion carried. Voice vote.

Kent continued, waterfowl die offs still happening. Blue wing teal numbers are down. Study shows they need grassland and wet meadow. These areas are getting smaller because of less CRP land. Hen survival is low in Wisconsin. Mammal predators take 46%. Raptors take 21% and 4% loss during hay cut.

Morning doves population trends ok. 10 – 15,000 hunters in Wisconsin.

Woodcock population is getting stable. 14,000 hunters. 36,000 birds harvested. Studies continue. Woodcock need young forest. This habitat is getting smaller.

Things also being done; flyway goose discussion. Sandhill crane plan and also Wisconsin waterfowl hunter survey.

Law enforcement up-date by Todd Schaller. No gun accidents. Two young men rescued 2 hunters on Phantom Lake in Waukesha County in October. 2010 warden class will be 10 – 15 wardens.

Open water up-date: 13 lakes advanced for more hunting open water. Meetings will be held locally by these lakes in Spring 2010. If meetings go well the NRB will be asked in 2011.

Member matters.

Dick K.- season slow middle of state. Ray Heidel - Mississippi River poor to very poor because of open hunting area change. Good opening weekend. Green Bay area - fair diver hunting. Racine area - late crop harvest. No field hunting to speak of. Tomahawk area - very poor low water. Dunn County - most areas are dry, only river hunting. Black River area – good wood duck hunting. Good mallard hunting after October rains. Kent Stabb has put out over 5,000 wood duck houses. Adam County – poor season. Dane County – opener was good, bad after that. Waukesha County – slow from start to finish.

8 gauge insert language was presented by Kurt Theide for approval. See attachment.

Motion to accept by Todd Cook. 2nd Dick Becker. Motion passed. Voice Vote.

Adjourn 11:25 PM.

Minutes by

Joanne Kuharske

Al Shook