

Habitat Meeting Minutes
Ramada Inn-Stevens Point, Wisconsin
August 20th, 2010

Meeting called to order by Chairman Roger Sabota at 7:00pm

Roll call by Secretary Steve Holmes as follows: Richard Halverson, Ron Lang, Pearl Holmstadt, David Zielke, Arold Ninneman, Heather Palmquist, Arlen Heistad, Dean Bowe and Ronald Earnest present as were DNR Liason's Greg Dahl and Ron Cork. Excused was Art Anderson; Unexcused were Richard Mihalek, Allen Hrudka, Christopher Norton and Rich Vorsho. Guests were Ed Harvey, Linda Hyatt, PE of the WDNR and Greg Stacy of the WDNR Waterguards.

The Mission Statement was read and no discussion; all are happy with its content.

Greg Dahl talked about terrestrial invasive species and what is being done in the Central Wisconsin area to control or avoid the spread of them. He stated that Spotted Knapweed is a big problem in that area. They are using a bio control; beetles that are being transported from Ft. McCoy to infestations. He mentioned that it takes about 5-10 years to reduce the plants using beetles. They also are using herbicide when needed or beetles aren't available. Greg mentioned that a different beetle is used to control Purple Loosestrife and is successful. He also mentioned that they are working with the townships to get them to mow the roadways when it's more damaging to the Knapweed and to avoid transporting vegetation to other roadways. Milestone is an herbicide that is used with success and has a residual effect.

Ron Cork talked about the Warden Academy and that they are being taught to look for invasive species and how to control them. Chapter 40 identified a species and its proposed control methods. He also mentioned that there will be another group of recruits coming through the Academy in May or June after the current recruits are stationed. He's very happy with the numbers going through the Academy and feels very good about the recruits attending.

Greg Stacy of the Waterguards talked about the success of the program. He said the department hired 7 more Waterguards to complement the current 9. Three of the newly hired will be better able to communicate with the Hmong, to better educate them. Education is a prime part of their job. They deal primarily with aquatic invasives and do most of their work at boat landings. In a recent Badger Poll, it was learned that 90% of those surveyed were aware of the law prohibiting transportation of aquatic vegetation and water removal, so the word is getting out. Greg mentioned that they are going to the city police, county sheriff departments and the state patrol and asking them to enforce the regulation and are receiving support. If they see vegetation, to stop the vehicle and educate or enforce the law. The Waterguard is also educating the shore fishermen about leaving a body of water with a bucket full of water and going to another body of water

and dumping the warm water and filling the bucket back up. This could be transporting invasive species and VHS. The funding for this group will terminate in June but it is hoped that the legislature will commit additional funds to keep them educating the public. They are having lots of success and there are no reports of additional VHS outbreaks. There are some APHIS funds available and they may purchase some heated portable power washers to take to boat landing so remove zebra mussels.

Ed Harvey presented a slide show on dam abandonment in the Sheboygan County area. This was very interesting and eye opening to many of us. Ed has a concern about the DNR's procedure or lack there of, in his county. Linda Hyatt answered some questions and gave some input regarding some of the issues Ed brought forth. Linda knows the procedures are the same but can differ from project to project due to the resource and underlying factors that may affect what is or isn't done on a project. Arold Ninneman made a motion and Richard Halverson seconded that we have some communication with the DNR Water Regulation Department so we're better informed of what happens, why and when. This motion was passed. Roger will try to get something set up in the near future.

In member matters:

Dean Bowe said that in Lincoln County, the deer are browsing and it's a real problem in our forests. He doesn't want higher over winter goals for deer in the north; the forests can't stand additional pressure.

Heather Palmquist said there is no grant money available to combat invasive species. We need money to fight this invasion.

Ron Lang agreed with Dean Bowe; deer browsing the forests is a problem in the Door County area as well.

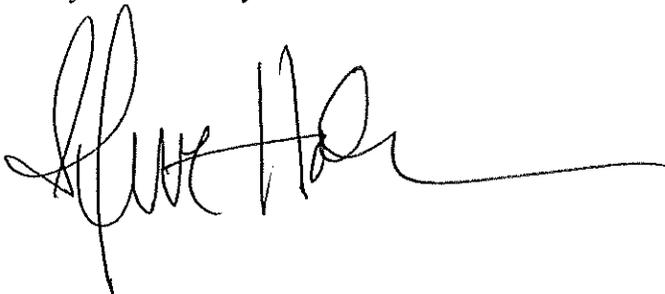
Arold Ninneman would like a conference call or some type of communication if we can't get together for a meeting. He'd like to keep the lines of communication open and make sure we're all on the same page.

Richard Halverson isn't seeing deer in the Clark County area and would like higher over winter goals.

Steve Holmes is seeing lots of deer in Iowa County and would like the deer herd reduced. He states browse is a problem as well. On a side note, he'd like to see more harvesting of mature timber on state managed properties and have at least some of the money used on those properties to control the spread or removal of invasive species. Lots of these invasives are coming from state managed properties.

Roger thanked everyone for attending and we adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Holmes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Holmes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.