

Shooting Range Ad Hoc Committee Minutes

The Shooting Range Ad Hoc Committee of the WI Conservation Congress met on Friday October 14th at the Ramada Inn in Stevens Point. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by chairman Murphy.

Roll call was taken with all members present. Present were: Michael Murphy, Kevin Smaby, Doug Burrows, Steven Ninneman, and Allan Pribnow.

Also present were: Keith Warnke DNR Liaison, Kari Lee-Zimmerman DNR Liaison, Chuck Niska Coordinator for Mn DNR Division of Enforcement, Ralph Fritsch from Oconto County, Linda Briede citizen observer, and Ben Loma from Hodag Sportsman's Club Oneida County.

Resolution 040211 was the first matter on the agenda, Allan Pribnow was the author of the resolution and explained the resolution and gave the background of it. His presentation of this explained that the DNR traditionally didn't support shooting ranges with Pittman-Robertson Funds. The reasoning for this was that if P-R funds are used by a private shooting range the had to allow public use. This caused almost all private ranges to reject P-R funds. WI Administrative Code 50.17 was created in part to remedy this in part, but in previous administrations this somewhat changed. The author of the resolution would like to see this go back to 50.17 ruling.

Motion was made by Pribnow to accept NR50.17 as previously written, seconded by Burress, unananimously supported by committee.

The next order of business was the mission statement for the committee, chairman Murphy presented his idea of the mission statement.

The mission of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Ad-hoc Shooting Range Committee is to represent the sporting public involved with shooting ranges in this state. The committee will look into and work with, but not be limited to the following issues at present. Standardizations of rules and regulations', the use of Pittman-Robertson funds allocated for range use, environmental, legal, and social issues on shooting ranges by working with the WI Department of Natural Resources, the State Assembly, the State Senate, the Governor and Wisconsin public to effectively manage the current and future Wisconsin Shooting Ranges for present and future people to enjoy involved within the shooting sports. The committee will provide any input and recommendations at the annual Council meeting held in January 2012.

Motion by Smaby and seconded by Ninneman to accept the mission statement. Motion carried unananimously.

This was followed by public comments, Ben Loma from Oneida County representing Hodag Sports Club in Rhinelander was asked for his comments. Ben has concerns in regards to zoning protections and lead problems. Zoning protections currently covered by WI Act 242 and extended on WI Act 371 according to Keith Warnke, Chuck Niska informed the committee of how Minnesota has addressed this issue. The lead concerns however have not been dealt with in the state as of yet. Chuck gave us the US standards of lead concentrations for reference. These standards are as follows: 100 ppm (parts per million) for indoors, 400 ppm for outdoors, and 700 ppm for industrial. Shooting ranges are considered industrial. There was a lengthy discussion on lead contamination and reclamation, information was given from Chuck and Keith regarding this issue. The committee seemed to be in favor of making this issue a priority for the committee.

Pittman- Robertson funds were the next issue discussed in committee. The 2011 allotments for WI were as follows: 11.371 million dollars total, Section 4 1.938 million dollars, and Section 10 217,000 dollars. Section 4 is the fund for shooting ranges, Hunter Education and other education projects. Keith explained to the committee that for this year and next year \$600,00.00 has been allocated for shooting range improvement at 2 ranges. \$400,00.00 for Yellowstone range in Grant County and \$200,000.00 for Snake Track in Iron County.

Chuck Niska gave us very informative information on Minnesota's Shooting Range Protection

Act. As of 5/28/2005 Chapter 87A became law protecting shooting ranges. Several handouts were given out with the summary and FAQ's, Chuck explained the "meat and potatoes" of this Act as well as the background of this. Many questions were asked and answered on this issue with very educated discussion. Chuck then passed out everyone the Hamline Law Review of the "A Minnesota Armistice? The Inactment and Implementation of the Minnesota Shooting Range Protection Act" written by John Raemokel Attorney at Law, this shows that the act is defendable in court.

Chairman Murphy suggested that the committee set the range standards for the state of Wisconsin, the committee decided that more information was needed to do this and more meetings will be needed. Suggestions for two other individuals to address the committee at the next meeting was agreed on. Information on lead contamination and reclamation, as well as the standards that Minnesota has will need to be put together for Wisconsin's standards.

A motion was made by Ninneman to hold our next meeting 12/16/2011 in Stevens Point, seconded by Smaby – motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Bohmann's letter to committees of the Conservation Congress was read to the committee and asked for any questions on this. None asked.

The Governor's charge to the Congress was read next also with no questions.

The committee then went around the room with members matters, none presented.

Motion to adjourn by Burrows, seconded by Ninneman; Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Smaby, Secretary of the Shooting Range Ad-hoc Committee.