

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress Forestry, Parks & Recreation Study Committee Meeting Minutes



<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	<b>November 3, 2012</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Portage County Public Library, Stevens Point, Wisconsin</b>
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## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### A. CALL TO ORDER

<b>MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY</b>	Committee Chair Gary Severson at 10:00 AM
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### B. ROLL CALL

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Robert Haddick, Craig Olson, Tom Krueger, Bob Ellingson, Gary Severson, Camela Sell-Vogt, Keith Propson, John Collen
<b>EXCUSED</b>	Kyle LaFond (resigned)
<b>UNEXCUSED</b>	James McCaulley
<b>GUESTS</b>	Motion to approve by Dan Schuller, Parks, Jim Warren Liaison, Lee Fahrney, Exec Committee

### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Motion to approve by Propson, 2nd Haddick.
<b>ACTION</b>	passed

### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Motion to approve by Olson, 2nd Krueger.
<b>ACTION</b>	passed

### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Executive Committee Sect, Lee Fahrney had some information items.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MFL/FCL maps online. DNR Secretary Stepp and the Governor's Office have started this. The Newspapers have focused on problems such as the Sheldon property in Langlade Co. We can expect legislative action on the perceived abuses. More with Jim Warren's update.</li> <li>2. Act 168 Open State parks to more hunting, fishing and trapping. There is longtime support for this measure in the Congress. There are more listening sessions on the DNR website. Please attend if you are able. More with Dan Schuller's update.</li> <li>3. Sporting Heritage Council. There is one position on this group from the Conservation Congress. The goal is to promote recruitment, retention and improve access for the outdoor activities. The chairman will ask for nominations.</li> <li>4. Changed to committees. We can all see the effort to represent all districts on each committee and have each delegate on a committee. This may mean changes to the committee officers. All are encouraged to consider serving as an Officer.</li> </ol> <p>No other speakers.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	No action.

## II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

**Resolution 220412, Allow cutting of willow on public lands of lower Wisconsin River.**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Some sort of control would seem necessary to limit commercial uses that might include diamond sticks and basket weaving stock. Regulations from other agencies were discussed. Other problems, such as the cutting of shooting lanes, were also brought up. That is not the issue presented. It appears that there is no biological or ecological reason to prohibit the minor incidental uses such as blind construction and trap stakes, of this common and prolific species.	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion to advance as presented passed.	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

**Resolution 580212, Change cost structure for trail passes.**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Most of the discussion was concerning the merits of a shorter, cheaper trail pass as it relates to increased tourism and trail use. There is consensus that the June 31 termination date was in the middle of the season and should be changed. The State Trails Council may be the place to resolve this.	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion by Bob Ellingson, 2nd Camel Sell-Vogt, to advance, passed.	
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

**Department Response to Act 168**

**DAN SCHULLER, PARKS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>This law changed the parks from "closed unless opened" to "open unless closed." Most Parks have a compromise, a small closure around facilities, close the most heavily visited parts, trail and day use areas to hunting. There is an effort to use the same distances (100 yd) and similar language as existing regulations. Local governments may enact local ordinances outside of Department control. The October 15th opening date is supported. This is after the fall colors are gone and most park activities are shut down. Comments by committee members indicate hardy support for this proposal as a genuine effort to provide needed opportunities.</p> <p>MFL/FCL Private Lands open to Public Recreation, by Jim Warren. Governor Walker wanted this up and running on the internet by November. Work is ongoing. it gives location but not total access information. For all information the person must contact the County Forester for a hard copy map. This is a big step.</p> <p>Marijuana grows were a big issue on Public Land again this year. This is an ongoing concern.</p> <p>State Forest Timber Sale goals are being met largely as a result of transferring the writing of MFL plans to private contractors. Foresters are able to do their job.</p> <p>The Hayward Nursery will no longer produce seedlings. It will be used as a Seed Orchard in the future.</p>	
<b>ACTION</b>		
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	

**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	At the conclusion of the discussion of Act 168, a resolution of support was proposed.	
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion by Kieth Propson, 2nd Robert Haddick to recommend support for the Department Proposal by Dan Schuller, increasing the opportunities for hunting and trapping in State Parks, to the Executive Council and the Natural Resources Board.	
	Motion passed unanimously.	

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	<b>01:15 PM</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>Bob Ellingson</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>v11/03/2012</b>