

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS WOLF COMMITTEE  
MEAD EDUCATION BUILDING  
MILLADORE WI  
JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> 2012  
9 AM

- CHAIRMAN AL BROWN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:07 AM
- ROLL CALL ALL PRESENT EXCEPT KEN RICHTER ABSENT, MIKE BADER, LISA WILSON, MARK LOKA, AND STEVE STAVER EXCUSSED CORY TROBRIDGE WDNR LAW ENFORCEMENT, ADRIAN WYDEVAN WDNR, BILL VANDER ZOUWEN WDNR. DAVE PUEL WCC HUNTING WITH DOGS COMMITTEE CHAIR, 6 STAKEHOLDERS SCI, WIS BOW HUNTERS, WTA, WWF, WIS BEAR HUNTERS, UNITED SPORTSMAN ALLIANCE AND 2 GUESTS (PUBLIC) KARI LEE - ZIMMERMAN WDNR, BRAD KOELE WDNR
- MISSION STATEMENT WAS READ BY AL BROWN, NO CHANGES AT THIS TIME. IT READS- THE MISSION OF THE WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS WOLF STUDY COMMITTEE IS TO HELP IMPLEMENT AND REVIEW CURRENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT ARE A PART OF WISCONSIN'S WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN. TO EFFECTIVELY ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION, THE COMMITTEE WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION A WIDE ARRAY OF BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES CRITICAL TO WISCONSIN'S WOLF MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: MANAGEMENT BOUNDARIES, DEPREDATIONS, ZONES, HARVEST GOALS, NUISANCE RESEARCH, TRAPPING, POPULATION MODELING, REHABILITATION, HABITAT AND ISSUES OF STATEWIDE CONSERVATION OR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN.
- PUBLIC COMMENT- NO ONE CALLED OR CONTACTED THE CHAIR OR SECRETARY TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE.
- ADRIAN WYDEVAN - THE BIGGEST MYTH IS THAT WE (WDNR) INTRODUCED WOLFS BACK INTO WI. THEY WALKED ACROSS THE MN BORDER INTO WI. WE RELOCATED PROBLEM WOLVES UNTIL 2002 BECAUSE WE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO EUTHANIZE THEM. ON JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> 2012 WOLVES WERE DELISTED FOR THE THIRD TIME- COLLARED WOLVES WERE TRACKED BY FLYOVERS ONCE PER WEEK. DURING THE 2011-12 WINTER TRACK SURVEYORS TRAVELED APPROXIMATELY 13,000 MILES- 213 VOLUNTEERS AND SEVERAL AGENCY PERSONNEL DO THE TRACKING. CITIZEN REPORTS ARE ALSO COLLECTED. THEY USE A TERRITORIAL MAPPING SYSTEM. IN 1979-80 THERE WERE 5 PACKS WITH 25 WOLVES IN DOUGLAS AND LINCOLN COUNTY. IN 2012 THE PRELIMINARY COUNT IS 815+ IN 213 PACKS. POPULATION PROBABLY DOUBLES IN SPRING AS PUPS ARE BORN. WE LOOSE 70% OF PUPS AND 25% OF ADULTS EACH YEAR. STUDIES SHOW 20 DEER TAKEN PER YEAR PER WOLF AND 10-15 BEAVER PER YEAR PER WOLF ARE KILLED.

- DOCUMENTS GUIDING THE WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN ARE THESE: 1989-99 WOLF RECOVERY PLAN, 1999 WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN, IN 2007 WMP WAS UPDATED.
- THE POPULATION NOT ON RESERVATIONS IS 774 (PRELIMINARY NUMBERS) THERE IS GROWING DEPREDATION. LAST YEAR 47 FARMS WITH PROBLEMS. WOLVES REMOVED AS OF JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> 2012 TWENTY-NINE BY WILDLIFE SERVICES, NINE BY LANDOWNERS. IN 2008 THIRTY-NINE WERE REMOVED, IN 2009 TEN; IN 2010 TWENTY; IN 2011 FIVE; IN 2010 AND 2011 THE WOLVES REMOVED WERE FOR HUMAN SAFTY CONCERNS. DOGS KILLED IN 2011 20 KILLED, 6 INJURED.
- OVER THE YEARS WOLVES HAVE BEEN DETECTED IN 55 COUNTIES.
- WOLVES WERE AGAIN FEDERALLY DELISTED ON JAN 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2012 -ACT 169 SIGNED BY GOV. WALKER ON APRIL 2, 2012 (WOLF HARVEST BILL).
- BILL VANDER ZOUWEN WDNR- WOLVES AS OF 4-2-12 ARE LEAVING ENDANGERED RESOURCES RESPONSIBILITY AND TRANSFERING TO WILDLIFE. ENDANGERED RESOURCES WILL STILL MONITOR THE POPULATION. FOR TIME BEING WDNR STAFF PERSON WILL BE BILL VANDER ZOUWEN. WOLF INFO IS ON WDNR WEBSITE, USE KEYWORD **WOLF** TO ACCESS. MANY MEETINGS AND HEARINGS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT WEEK. THE WOLF SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETS FRIDAY, JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>; THE STAKEHOLDERS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>. ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> WILDLIFE STAFF MEETS WITH THE WDNR SECRETAY, ON JUNE 22 THE GREEN SHEET WILL BE OUT, THEN IT GOES TO THE NRB ON JULY 17<sup>TH</sup> IN STEVENS POINT- LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED. CONSEQUENTLY, PROPOSALS NEED TO COME TOGETHER WITH A VARIETY OF INPUT VERY QUICKLY. THE PERMANENT RULE PROPOSAL WILL HAVE TO BE WRITTEN BEFORE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> WOLF HARVEST SEASON IS OVER. IF YOU WISH TO TESTIFY AT THE NRB MEETING, YOU NEED TO CALL THE NRB SECRETARY LAURIE ROSS BY THURSDAY JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>.
- ACT 169- LEGISLATION THAT ALLOWS A WOLF HARVEST AND SETS RULES. THESE ITEMS ARE LAW AND CAN NOT BE CHANGED AT THIS TIME. THERE WILL BE A SEASON.-APPLICATION FEE \$10- ALL FEES GO INTO DEPREDATION FUND-NO OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR DEPREDATION-\$100 LICENSE FEE FOR RESIDENTS -\$500 FOR NON-RESIDENTS-RANDOM AND PREFERENCE POINTS FOR SELECTION-STARTS OCT 15 THRU FEB 29<sup>TH</sup>- WDNR CAN DETERMINE ZONES-THERE WILL BE MANDATORY REPORTING-SEASON CLOSURE. PROCEDURE IS SPELLED OUT TO INCLUDE WEBSITE, PHONE AND NEWS RELEASE-24 HOUR CLOSURE-METHODS THAT CAN BE USED, IE, WEAPONS AND SHOT SIZE- USE OF DOGS, BAIT, NIGHT HUNTING AND LIGHTS CAN BE USED.
- WILL REPRODUCTION RATES CHANGE AFTER A HARVEST SEASON? PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND UNSUITABLE ZONES DO NOT INCLUDE TRIBAL RESERVATIONS. WHEN QUOTAS ARE FIGURED THEY WILL

CONSIDER WILDLIFE SERVICES TAKE AND LANDOWNER KILLS, BUT NOT NECESSARILY SUBTRACTED FROM QUOTA. PRELIMINARY GOALS ARE 142-233 WOLVES. LONERS ARE UNABLE TO BE COUNTED, BUT COULD BE 7-20% OF POPULATION.. EACH ZONE COULD BE CLOSED INDIPENDENTLY, WITH THE REMANDER OF THE STATE STILL OPEN. THIS WOULD KEEP THE SEASON OPEN LONGER, AND TRAPPERS/HUNTERS COULD MOVE TO AN OPEN ZONE. IN FUTURE YEARS, AS THE POPULATION GETS CLOSER TO GOALS, IT MAY BE NEEDED TO RESTRICT ZONES AT THAT TIME. THE WDNR MET WITH THE CHIPPEWA TRIBES /GLIFWIC LAST WEEK. THEY DO NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF A WOLF SEASON AS THE WOLF IS PART OF THE CREATION STORY. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WOLF-HAPPENS TO THE TRIBES. TRIBES CAN DECLARE 50% OF THE QUOTA. THE FIRST YEAR WE WILL HAVE TO TAKE THEM AT THEIR WORD. AFTER THAT THE SUCCESS RATE OF THE PUBLIC AND TRIBES CAN AND WILL HELP DETERMINE HOW MANY PERMITS TO ISSUE. THE FIRST YEAR A GOOD GUESS MAY BE 20%. BUT NO ONE REALLY KNOWS, IT JUST AN EDUCATED GUESS. THE WDNR CAN STOP THE ENTIRE SEASON WHEN THE QUOTA IS REACHED.

- AT 10:48 A.M. THE FOLLOWING FOUR INVITED STAKEHOLDERS (WI BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION, SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL, UNITED SPORTSMAN ALLIANCE, AND THE WI BEAR HUNTERS ASSOCIATION) LEFT THE MEETING PRIOR TO WAITING FOR THEIR TIMEFRAME FOR STAKEHOLDER INPUT, AS LISTED ON THE AGENDA. THE WI WILDLIFE FEDERATION AND THE WI TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION STAYED THE ENTIRE MEETING AND WERE ALLOTTED TIME FOR STAKEHOLDER INPUT.
- THE DEADLINE FOR WOLF HARVEST PERMIT APPLICATIONS WILL BE AUG 31<sup>ST</sup> 2012 WITH PERMITS BEING ISSUED MID SEPTEMBER. TAGGING WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE LIKES OF BOBCAT HARVEST, 24 HOUR CALL IN, TAGGING AND REGISTRATION WILL BE THE SAME. ONLY LIGHTS AT POINT OF KILL WHEN NIGHT HUNTING, SAME AS NOW.
- NO MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION AT THIS TIME. THE ADMINISTRATION SAYS NOT NECESSARY. WE WILL TRY VOLUNTARY CLASSES AT THIS TIME
- BRAD KOELE EXPLAINED THE NEW RULES FOR DEPREDATION PAYMENTS. CLAIMS COULD BE PRORATED IF FUNDING IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO COVER ALL COSTS. SALE OF APPLICATIONS/LICENCES WOULD BE THE ONLY FUNDING SOURCE. THEY WILL HAVE CAPS ON CATTLE/DEER AND OTHERS. AND WILL CHANGE THE MISSING CALF RULES. THE FARMER WILL HAVE TO WATCH CLOSER, THEY WILL PAY FOR ONE MISSING CALF, AFTER ONE VERIFIED DEPREDATION COMPLAINT. CLAIMS WILL NOT BE PAID UNTILL DEC 31<sup>ST</sup> OF EACH YEAR. THEY WILL COOP WITH USFW-WS TO VERIFY COMPLAINTS. WOLF TRAP/HUNT WILL GET ACCESS

TO LANDS THAT COMPENSATION IS PAID –AS IN THE OTHER WILDLIFE PLANS. THE FARMS WILL NEED TO COOPERATE WITH ABATEMENT PROCESSES-FLADGERTY AND HUSHANTRY PRACTICES ARE EXAMPLES. PERSONAL PROPERTY SUCH AS FENCES, CROPS OR SILAGE BAGS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

- STAKEHOLDER DAN CARROLL FROM THE WI TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION, RAISED THEIR CONCERN, RESTRICTING TO A 7 INCH TRAP BEFORE DEC 1<sup>ST</sup> IS OK, BUT WITH FROST, SNOW, AND ICE YOU WILL NEED THE BIGGER TRAPS LATER IN THE SEASON. (AS WAS DISCUSSED AT THE WDNR FUR TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AT THE END OF MAY 2012) CABLE RESTRAINTS SHOULD INCLUDE A 750 LB BREAKAWAY WITH 1/8 INCH CABLE. AS PER DAVE RUID US WILDLIFE SERVICES, A 10 INCH LOOP RAISED 10 INCHES OFF THE GROUND HELPS KEEP BEARS AND DEER OUT OF CABLES. SO KEEP ALL RULES THE SAME WITH CABLES SUCH AS SIZE AND TIME USING, BUT GO WITH 1/8 INCH CABLE AND A 750 LB BREAKAWAY.
- STAKEHOLDER RALPH FRITCH FROM THE WI WILDLIFE FEDERATION MET LAST WEEK AND DISSCUSSED THE WOLF HARVEST QUOTA. THEY SUGGEST 300 FOR QUOTA STATEWIDE. THERE IS A NEED TO KILL 300 WOLVES STATEWIDE, SOCIALLY AND BIOLOGICALLY. THE DEAL WITH THE TRIBES TERRITORY AND WILDLIFE SEVICES, AND LANDOWNERS IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE NUMBER. THEY WANT TO SEE 4600 PERMITS ISSUED. YES, THEY UNDERSTAND THE SEASON MAY BE CLOSED EARLY BECAUSE OF THIS, BUT THEY REALLY WANT 300 WOLVES TO BE KILLED. WE NEED TO TAKE ENOUGH THE FIRST YEAR. THE BIG QUESTION IS HOW CAREFULL DO YOU NEED TO BE THE FIRST YEAR?
- DAVE PUHL, WCC HUNTING WITH DOGS CHAIRMAN - HUNTING WOLVES WITH DOGS HAS BEEN ALREADY BEEN DONE BY ACCIDENT. HE HAS CONCERNS ON WORDING OF SHOT SIZE “ BIGGER THAN BB”. IT NEEDS TO BE “BB AND BIGGER”.
- BREAK FOR LUNCH AT 11:45
- BACK AT 12:35
- AL BROWN - DISCUSSED NRB RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A COYOTE SEASON OPENING DURING RIFLE SEASON WILL GO TO THE NRB IN JUNE AS AN EMERGENCY RULE. DISSCUSSION.
- **MOTION WAS MADE BY ARDEN LOKER, SECOND BY JOHN PICHOWSKI THAT THE WI CONSERVATION CONGRESS WOLF STUDY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE RULE PROPOSALS AS PRESENTED ON JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> 2012 BY THE WDNR WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES-THE QUOTA SHOULD BE 300 WITH 4600 PERMITS ISSUED (OVER AND ABOVE TRIBAL, WILDLIFE SERVICES, AND LANDOWNER PERMIT KILLS) . MC.**

DISCUSSION AND A QUESTION ON TRIBAL TAKE. WHEN DO TRIBES HAVE TO REPORT? ANSWER, AFTER THE SEASON TRIBES REPORT TO GLIFWIC AND NOT WDNR.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

- OTHER IDEAS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND WDNR STAFF AND STAKEHOLDERS.
- MAY WRITE IN FLEXABILITY IN RULES TO ALLOW WDNR. SECRETARY TO USE SECRETARY ORDER TO CHANGE ZONES AND OTHER ITEMS.
- WHAT TO DO WITH WOLF/DOG HYBRIDS IF TAKEN DURING SEASON.
- POPULATION SURVEY M,ETHODS MAY CHANGE AS OTHER METHODS BECOME AVAILABILE.
- WOLF DOG RESCUE GROUP LETTER WAS READ BY AL BROWN.
- INCIDENTAL TAKE OF COYOTES/FOX DURING PERIOD OF SEASON WHEN WOLVES ARE OPEN AND COYOTES/FOX ARE CLOSED. CAN INCIDENTAL TAKE BE LEGAL IE., LIKE MUSKRATS DURING BEAVER SEASON, AS LONG AS YOU HAVE A WOLF TAG. RECOMMEND THAT THESE SEASONS RUN CONCURRENTLY WHEN THE NEW PERMANENT RULE IS WRITTEN.
- CABLE RESTRAINTS SHOULD BECOME BIGGER FOR WOLVES, CABLE SIZE AND BREAKAWAY STREANTH SHOULD INCREASE.
- MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION WOULD HELP PREVENT PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECOME PROBLEMS.
- COMMENTS ON CERTAIN INVITED STAKEHOLDERS LEAVING MEETING BEFORE THEIR AGENDA ITEM. SPEAKING AND DISRUPTING THE MEETING, BASICALLY TAKING THEIR BALL AND GOING HOME. WELL ORCHASTRATED, ALL GOT UP AT SAME TIME AND LEFT AS A GROUP.
- WOLF COUNT IS NOT FINAL YET, SOME TRACKERS QUIT, BUT NUMBERS WERE SENT TO ADRIAN WYDEVEN, BUT NOT NECESSARILY THEIR FINAL REPORTS. THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO TRACK OR TRAP WITH WDNR PERSONNEL, RON SHULTZ FOR PARK FALLS.
- THIS WAS THE 2011-2012 WOLF STUDY COMMITTEE THAT MET TODAY. NEW COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS WILL SOON BE WILL COME LATER THIS MONTH. THE NEW WOLF STUDY COMMITTEE WILL MEET LATER THIS FALL TO DISCUSS AND VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS.
- MOTION TO ADJOURN BY BILL YINGST, SECOND BY JOHN PECHOWSKI, MC

- MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:37 PM
- RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY SCOTT MCAULEY  
SECRETARY 6-11-2012.