

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress

## Big Game Study Committee

### Meeting Minutes



<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	<b>March 23, 2013</b>	<b>9 AM</b>	<b>Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center</b>
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#### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

##### A. CALL TO ORDER

<b>MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY</b>	Co- Chairman Mark Noll called meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
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##### B. ROLL CALL

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Alan Horvath, Alan Gerber, David Hraychuck, Roger Sabota, Mike Riggle, Tony Janecek – Secretary, Arold Ninneman, Jerry Aulik, Mark Noll – Co Chairman, Pearl Holmstadt, William Yingst, Stan Brownell, Marlin Laidlaw, Allen Jacobson, Larry Gohlke, Doug Seidl, David Pagel, Larry Bonde, Larrie Hazen, Joe Caputo, Al Phelan – Co Chairman, Martin Haas, Kevin Wallenfang – WDNR Liaison, Dave Zebro - WDNR Liaison, Kevin Mickelberg – WDNR Liaison
<b>EXCUSED</b>	Jerry Merryfield, James Morning, Wright Allen, Terri Roehrig, Charlie Brown
<b>UNEXCUSED</b>	None
<b>GUESTS</b>	Eric Lobner District Wildlife Supervisor & SD Deer Trustee Coordinator, Jared Duquette WDNR Deer Leader

##### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Eric Lobner Deer Trustee presentation move to action item #5 following Elk Program overview

##### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	“The Mission of the Big Game Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by blending the social and biological concerns of hunters, citizens and the Department of Natural Resources to provide successful management of Wisconsin’s big game animals addresses the interests of all parties.”
<b>ACTION</b>	Chairman Noll asked & received no changes to the mission statement.

##### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	None
<b>ACTION</b>	None

#### II. INFORMATION & UPDATES

##### A. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION ITEMS & UPDATE

<b>1.</b>	<b>2012 DEER SEASON REVIEW – KEVIN WALLENFANG</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Kevin stated the 2012 buck harvest was up 10% & antlerless harvest up 3%. He noted the North numbers were down & the South numbers were up Archery harvest totals were 45,988 bucks, 47,243 antlerless & 1036 unknow for a total of 94,267. The

	<p>North was down &amp; the other areas of the state were up.</p> <p>Gun harvest totals were 119,469 bucks, 152,587 antlerless &amp; 1991 unknow for a total of 274, 047. Gun buck in the North were down but other areas in the state were up</p> <p>Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) was a problem in the Southern part of the state with somewhere up to several thousands deer died from this disease. Kevin noted the disease is dependent on drought. Conditions with mud flat areas were perfect for disease breeding areas.</p> <p>CWD had 6 new positives outside the CWD Management Zone. He stated ½ the counties in the state now have a CWD baiting band due to positives in the area. He noted baiting band is a legislative matter.</p> <p>Deer Donation Program in 2012 was 3055 deer donated (137,500 pounds) up from 500 in 2011. Top counties were 1. Buffalo, 2. Dane &amp; 3. Pierce.</p> <p>Disable Hunting Season had 93 sponsors (99 in 2011), 75,392 acres &amp; a minimum of 437 hunters.</p>

2.	<b>2012 DEER SEASON REVIEW (LE PERSPECTIVE) - KEVIN MICKELBERG / DAVE ZEBRO</b>	
DISCUSSION	<p>Dave Zebro was introduced noting he was replacing Mark Burmesch &amp; would be giving his LE perspective from the North.</p> <p>Kevin Mickleberg passed out a Law Enforcement Season Overview handout. He highlighted the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 incidents in the year</li> <li>• doing less drives has helped to reduce accident incidents</li> <li>• mentor hunting paying good dividends</li> <li>• arrest same as last year (baiting #1)</li> <li>• hunter attitude was good</li> <li>• gun case law being used by hunters &amp; did see an increase in loaded firearms in cases</li> <li>• increase in buildings shot ( a Sheriff Department issue)</li> <li>• Kevin noted that the use of rifle has shown to be less dangerous than shotguns in that shotguns usually are shot multiple times much like swing shooting at birds &amp; with rifles with scopes normally shot less.</li> <li>• technology of smart phones being used for checking hunting hours app while in stand along with taking pictures in the field, texting, etc. It was suggested that a DNR app be established for walleye regulations on ceded lakes. Larry Bonde noted the WCC needs to reach young through smart phones</li> </ul> <p>Kevin noted there are presently 40 DNR vacancies &amp; there is a recent hire class of 18 warden. He also noted Chief warden Randy Stark will retire in October 2013.</p> <p>Mike Riggle stated the DNR needs to establish an enhancement penalty for illegally shooting trophy deer.</p>	

3.	<b>ELK PROGRAM OVERVIEW - KEVIN WALLENFANG</b>	
DISCUSSION	<p>Kevin stated there were 25 elk put in Wisconsin in 1995 (Clam Lake) &amp; since that introduction they learned the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• genetic richness will decline</li> <li>• elk cling to best habitat</li> <li>• predators impact</li> <li>• existing elk will struggle</li> </ul> <p>Amendment to the elk plan:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assist in dispersal</li> <li>• supplemental increase needed</li> <li>• boundary / goal modifications</li> <li>• predator impacts</li> <li>• tribal</li> </ul> <p>Need DNR Board Approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to allow increase in elk</li> <li>• expand Clam Lake elk range</li> <li>• modify boundary &amp; goals</li> <li>• increase bringing in elk from 35 to 75</li> </ul> <p>He noted they want 200 elk at Clam Lake &amp; to establish a Black River population at a minimum of 75 elk</p> <p>Kevin noted they would like to bring in elk from Kentucky at approximately 50 per year. The DNR had 5 public meetings, 155 participants &amp; 95% support of their elk plans. They also had internet surveys with 86% overall support, 83% local support &amp; 2600 participants for their elk plans. Public concerns were health, access, other priorities, predators, costs &amp; crop damage.</p> <p>Kevin stated the new elk area in Black River Falls will not close roads in this new elk area because of the elk. As for an elk hunting season Kevin said the estimated 2013 elk population model was 175 with 200 needed for a hunt, therefore no elk hunt will be held this fall.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION OF DEER TRUSTEE REPORT (DTR) – ERIC LOBNER</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Eric passed out a handout from the first DTR meeting on March 9, 2013. He said there were 62 DTR recommendations with action teams established to shape these recommendations for implementation.</p> <p>Eric briefly discussed DMAP (Deer Management Assistant Program) in that it may provide extra permits but is not mini hunts.</p> <p>Additional handouts were passed out of the DTR implementation process, a get involved info card &amp; a copy of the Deer Trustee Implementation Survey. Next DTR Meeting is April 6, 2013 in Stevens Point to establish ground rules, prioritize items &amp; review background.</p> <p>The following are meetings &amp; agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 27<sup>th</sup> &amp; May 18<sup>th</sup> - review survey results &amp; develop action items</li> <li>• June 8<sup>th</sup> - mid process check-in</li> <li>• June 29<sup>th</sup> - action item development</li> <li>• July 20<sup>th</sup> - wrap up &amp; report out</li> <li>• July 20<sup>th</sup> to August 26<sup>th</sup> - Rule Development Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; tribal consultation</li> <li>&gt; rule writing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• September 24<sup>th</sup> &amp; 25<sup>th</sup> - NRB meeting</li> <li>• Late October 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; formal public hearing</li> <li>&gt; tribal consultation mm</li> </ul> </li> <li>• December 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 11<sup>th</sup> - NRB Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; review public comments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>5.</b>	<b>DEER RESEARCH PROJECT STATUS - JARED DUQUETTE</b>																	
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Jared discussed updates to buck mortality &amp; fawn survival, 2013 captures and the future of the deer research in the two study areas in the North (near Winter) &amp; in the South East (near Clintonville). The research teams were using 50 X 50 drop nets, clover traps &amp; box traps instead of helicopters which did not work out. In the North 111 bucks were radio collared &amp; in the South East 103 bucks were captured.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fawn Survival Study</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Northern Forest</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Eastern Farmland</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>60 radio collared</td> <td>94 radio collared</td> </tr> <tr> <td>38% survival</td> <td>63% survival</td> </tr> <tr> <td>63% predators</td> <td>40% predators</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2013 Winter Captures</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31 adult bucks</td> <td>32 adult bucks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>39 button bucks</td> <td>46 button bucks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>95 does</td> <td>55 does</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Future Of Research</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• buck mortality – 2 more years</li> <li>• fawn survival for 2013 is funded, future ????</li> </ul>		<u>Northern Forest</u>	<u>Eastern Farmland</u>	60 radio collared	94 radio collared	38% survival	63% survival	63% predators	40% predators	North	East	31 adult bucks	32 adult bucks	39 button bucks	46 button bucks	95 does	55 does
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<b>6.</b>	<b>PROPOSED 2013 DEER SEASON STRUCTURE - KEVIN WALLENFANG</b>	
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Key themes for 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• listening</li> <li>• conservative quotas in the North</li> <li>• herd growth in forest regions</li> <li>• herd reduction in farmland</li> <li>• realistic permit numbers</li> <li>• growing concern in the South with lots of deer</li> </ul> <p>2013 Winter Severity Index is mild to moderate. Kevin did note that if this winter continues to drag on it could have an effect especially in the north.</p> <p>Kevin said he did not have a Preliminary 2013 Deer Season Map at this time. He said in most aspects it will be like 2012 with no October hunt, 4 day December statewide antlerless hunt, etc.</p>	

### III. MEMBERS MATTERS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Al Gerber – spring hearing booklet choices never include stay the same</p> <p>Allen Jacobson – said people live with season structure in his unit</p> <p>Joe Caputo – talked about his concern with wolves</p> <p>Larry Bonde – said thanks for those who attended public deer meetings</p> <p>Roger Sabota – talked about non resident fees</p> <p>Tony Janecek – said, per Kroll Report, deer range needs to be updated on a timely bases to establish proper season structure based on current deer per square mile</p> <p>Martin Haas – has seen a different DNR management</p> <p>Jerry Aulik – said since 1999 wolves have wipe out his deer finding 9 wolf kills this year in his corn field, he said will not plant corn again &amp; the wolves are devastating the deer herd in Langlade County</p> <p>Arold Ninneman – concern major land owners control everything, would like to see where, when &amp; how we hunt</p> <p>Stan Brownell – encouraged by hunters attitudes</p> <p>Larry Gohlke – wants 7 day cooling off period before running dogs</p> <p>Marlin Laidlaw – said he still had a few Buck &amp; Bear books available for schools</p> <p>Al Horvath – found 6 wolf kills in one day , deer are important in the North &amp; asked why sportsman are</p>
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	<p>the ones that pay for wolf damage</p> <p>Larry Hazen – DNR has no provision for status quo on spring questionnaire</p> <p>Al Phelan – more people satisfied the department is listening to them, also additional antlerless permits were clarified in the Kroll survey</p>

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	3 PM
SUBMITTED BY	Tony Janecek
PDATE	March 30,2013