

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

[Committee Title]

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS

July 13, 2013

9:00am

Mead Wildlife Center

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

Lee Fahrney, Chair

b. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES

Lee Fahrney (Chair), Dale Maas (Vice Chair), Doug Burrows (Secretary), Frank Pratt, Michael Britton, Ben Loma, Pearl Holmstadt, Richard Halvorson, Robt. Haase, Staush Gruszynski, Vanessa Born, Alan Schimelpfenig, Bill Cosh WI DNR Liason

EXCUSED

Dan Lazzeroni, Justin Schaut, Kenneth Balestrieri, Allen Shook,

UNEXCUSED

Craig Conroy, Lenard Harris

GUESTS

Harold Drake

AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION

Add C7 - DNR Advisory Appointment

ACTION

Motion to approve agenda with C7 added. Made by Dick Halvorson, 2nd Frank Pratt. Motion Carried

REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION

Mission Statement for the Outreach & Public Relations Committee to be changed to read;
Review both internal and external issues, suggestions and procedures that have been advanced by Congress members, the Natural Resources Board and the public pertaining to the role, visibility and function of the Congress.
Discuss potential ways to help the Congress more effectively accomplish its mission, as well as remain a relevant and responsive institution.
Work to engage the citizens of Wisconsin in productive discussion and exchange of ideas regarding natural resource management.
To examine the means to promote the role, visibility and function of the Congress through all appropriate public outreach efforts.

ACTION

Motion to change made by Ben Loma, 2nd by Bob Haase. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION Email from Carolyn Schueppel to Lee Fahrney and committee overall function of the Congress and suggestions
N for change. Copy of communication attached.

ACTION Read into the minutes and noted.

DISCUSSION Harold Drake voiced concerns regarding the possibility of online voting. He feels that there would be a lack of
N information on making an informed decision on a matter.

ACTION

Read into the minutes and noted.

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION #13-09-13 ONLINE VOTING PAUL NOELDNER

COPY ATTACHED

DISCUSSION Lack of following guidelines and procedure
N

ACTION Motion by Dale Maas to reject, 2nd by Dick Halvorson, Motion carried

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE

Lee to notify Jane Meyer of action so she can followup with Mr. Noeldner ASAP

RESOLUTION #20-05-2013 PUBLIC ACCESS TO DNR VIOLATIONS JOANN KING

DISCUSSION Discussion of when it is public record, Charged vs. Conviction. Once there is a conviction it is public record.
N

ACTION Motion by Dale Maas to reject, 2nd by Pearl Holmstadt, Motion Carried

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE

Lee to notify County Chair ASAP

Resolution 13-03-13 WCC Transparency & Accessibility Patricia Randolph Copy Attached

Discussion This could cause partisanship. WCC isn't a political organization.

Action Motion to reject by Dale Maas, 2nd by Staush Grusznski, Motion Carried

Lee to notify County Chair ASAP

Motion to change the Code of Procedures to also require the advisory committee chair and or secretary to include contacting in writing the Congress County Chair, of the appropriate county, to inform them about the action taken. Motion made by Bob Haase, 2nd by Al Schimelpfenig. Motion carried.

Lee Fahrney

From: "Carolyn Schueppel" <carolyn.schueppel@gmail.com>
Date: Friday, July 12, 2013 11:03 PM
To: <fiveoaks@mhtc.net>
Subject: Committee on Outreach and Public Relations

Hi Lee,

So sorry for this late note. I do not feel very well organized lately for some reason.

I just saw that there was the meeting tomorrow online and wished I could have attended. However, these comments will have to suffice.

I was unfamiliar with the way the Conservation Congress functioned until this year. Although, I had attended one a long time ago regarding mourning doves and been told a great deal about it from a previous member, I still could not absorb how it functioned in the overall scheme of things. I find this to be a shame, as I have been an avid outdoors person since I was a teenager.

I think many people are in similar positions and have felt intimidated by the Congress because they don't know how to navigate the system.

This year, I became more active and in my research I found out that a great deal of people are unaware of how the Congress works. When I tell people to get involved they say things like, "I don't want to be around the hook and bullet crowd." I would have said the same thing if I had not seen that there is a need for more than just the hook and bullet crowd to vote on issues that pertain to things liking mining and protection of stewardship lands, for example.

I believe moving to online voting could be helpful in this regard. Although it is not the ultimate answer to getting other people involved and aware of the Congress it could help to some degree.

It is also helpful to the younger crowd who partake in online processes more and more. It would be very helpful to anyone who could not attend for any reason, such as illness or disability.

Additionally, I am excited about the possibility of having the Congress get involved with other statewide elections. Since it is an important election in Wisconsin and people do not even have an awareness of it...why not include it with other important elections. The potential to get more people involved in important environmental issues could be important.

I would hope that the more people involved who understand the level of contribution and responsibility that the Congress has could result in greater funding to keep our lands open

to all of those who enjoy the outdoors. I would like to see the public who do not hunt/trap to contribute with votes as well as dollars. In this current age of economic cutbacks we need assistance to maintain the DNR.

Additionally, I have been impressed with several books and people I have been able to come in contact with in the last two years that show me there are very viable alternatives to the way we manage our lands and wildlife that could do a great deal to protect our resources, our economy and our future. I think many people would take a greater interest in CC if they could utilize and promote these sustainable alternatives. People respond best to success and once shown that these alternatives work and save money, more and more people would get involved.

I was very surprised two years ago when I went to my first DNR Board meeting. I was actually embarrassed. There was a lack of understanding shown regarding peoples interest and sensitivity about our conservation land, public park lands and wildlife for something other than hunting and trapping and it felt like there was no way to speak out about it or get involved in something that mattered. Cathy Stepp showed pictures of a small (just out of spots) deer she shot and laughed about it. Things like this are truly unprofessional and turn off the public who would otherwise be willing to contribute to a faltering DNR.

I truly feel that the people of Wisconsin deserve to have interesting and viable connections with the CC and DNR. They need something they can be proud of. I would hope that online voting and elections held with other general elections could potentially be steps to that goal.

Many Wisconsinites would love to help and do help with public land stewardship and wildlife protection and rehabilitation. Unfortunately, many of them do not attend the Congress or even know what it is. I surveyed State Wildlife Rehabbers and several of them did not know what it was. Online mechanisms and combining the voting with other state votes could improve it's visibility.

Thank you very much for your attention to my comments.

Carolyn Schueppel

Sent from my iPad=

ESTABLISH FAIR
 RULES & PROCEDURES
 FOR ONLINE VOTING
 TO SAVE GAS, ALLOW
 MORE PARTICIPATION
 AND MORE INFORMED
 VOTING BY HAVING
 ONLINE VOTING
 WITHIN 3 DAYS OF
 THE MEETINGS, WHICH
 ALLOWS REVIEW OF DEBATED
 ITEMS AND CANDIDATE
 TERMS

Done first that
 I want to see

153/53

9

PAUL NOEL WEBB

136 KENSINGTON

MABLE BARR W1

RESOLUTION: ONLINE VOTING

13-09-13

NOT VAND

Not signed
 Not date
 Not paper

20-05-2013
Y 63 N 27

Title: Better access to DNR violations.

The Problem:

The state of Wisconsin circuit court access of public records or county courthouse has these violations available. These records are not easy to access. One needs copious information about the person.

Hunting, fishing, trapping, recreational and environmental violations should be available and posted on the DNR website. They should be listed under the county and township incurred with the persons' name, age, address, date committed, and penalty imposed. Each month or year the website is updated past violations should be left on the website. This will be the "Hall of Shame".

This DNR website will be more accessible and user friendly to the public.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Fond du Lac County on April 8, 2013 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change to establish posting DNR violations on their website.

Name of Author: JoAnn King
Address: N8995 Townline Road
City, State, Zip Code: Van Dyne, Wisconsin 54979
Name of the County introducing in: Fond du Lac

Telephone Number (including area code): 920-688-2988

JoAnn King

3

13-03-13

Making the Conservation Congress Election & Vote Transparent & Accessible to All

The Problem:

The election of delegates to the Conservation Congress, which is supposed to represent all citizens, is little known and does not come under Wisconsin election laws. But it is the ONLY advisory put before the legislature and DNR as the will of the entire public.. If citizens do not show up this one night each year to vote and elect, they are not represented. The non-consumptive citizens have not been represented for 80 years. This is unfair and undemocratic.

To make the election accessible beyond the small turn-out of 5,000 citizens each year, statewide, to protect the biodiversity that is collapsing around us, and to open the entire process to a wide variety of citizen interests and concerns,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in every county on April 8, 2013, recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by separating the election from the vote on issues by combining the election with the statewide county votes, the first week of April. The issues would be debated by candidates announcing their candidacy before that, as in any election. So it could be candidates and issues announced publicly, then debated, then the election of candidates aligned with all the statewide county elections (simple walk-in vote at citizen convenience) and then a follow-up vote on the issues which have been debated in open forums.

The election of two of five delegates should be separated from the time-consuming vote on issues that excludes many people from participation. Absentee ballots should be a choice.

Submitted by (Name):

Patricia Randall

Address:

N318 Bridgeway, Port Hope, WI 53901

County of Submission:

Dane

Telephone #:

608-981-2287

Signature:

Patricia (P) Randall

County vote: Yes

No:

B-1

Bill Cosh, WI DNR Public Relations

Discussion & Presentation Discussion of "Guest Column" information vs. News Release. Guest column allows more control of content and press releases are subject to change and interpretation. Use of local outlets and contacts is another very good method of getting the word out. Allows checks and balance. Expand use of various social media outlets; Facebook, Twitter etc. Expand past the regular "Hook and Bullet" groups; 4H, ATV, Snowmobile Clubs, Horse groups, etc. Develop district contacts for releasing information.

B - 2

Goal setting

What do we want to measure?

Spring Hearing attendance. Set a goal for increased attendance in each county?

Media training session (s) for delegates.

Power point presentation about the Congress?

Action

Power point presentation regarding media information and the congress to be developed by Bob Haase and Staush Gruszynski in time for the March District Meetings.

Facebook Likes

Work at developing a greater Facebook presence and have 500+ Likes.

ACTION

Have 500+ Likes by the spring convention in 2014. Staush Gruszynski to coordinate.

County Conservation Organizations

Collect information for 10 conservation organizations for each county. Name and leadership contacts for each.

ACTION

To be done by the District Councilors and or delegates by end of the year.

C - 1/3

Reviewed by committee

C - 4

Hunter Education

Hunter education slide show presented by Al Schemlpfenig.

Committee agreed it is an excellent presentation that can be used for all types of meetings. it is available for delegate use. Contact Al for information.

Wisconsin Youth Outdoor Expo

Presentation on WOAF and funding needs to continue the program. One option is to develop a WI STAT. similar to STATs that now exist for Invasive Species (29.564) Venison Processing (29.565) Fish & Wildlife Account (29.567).

Motion to create a resolution to develop a STAT for funding the WOAF by the 2014 Spring Hearings made by Dale Maas, 2nd by Dick Halvorson. Motion carried.

Fisheries Advisory Committee

The fisheries advisory committee has 2 openings. Frank Pratt and Vanessa Born appointed.

Lee Fahrney - Need for another meeting? Discussion as to the need for another meeting before year end. A possible date of December 14 was discussed. Lee will explore the possible locations and perhaps a video/phone meeting as an option.

Member Matters

Al Schimelpfenig - Will create a Resolution Form that can be found on line and be filled in to simplify use of resolutions.

Richard Halvorson - Whatever happened to the Alternate Funding Plan? Time to bring it back?

MEETING
ADJOURNED

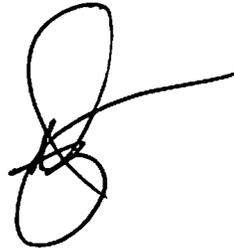
3:05 pm

SUBMITTED BY

Douglas Burrows, Secretary

DATE

July 13, 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Douglas Burrows', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.