

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Elk and Deer Study Committee



MEETING MINUTES

ORDER OF BUSINESS	03/22/2014	9:00 AM	Howard Johnson Hotel, Wausau
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Al Phelan at 9:00 AM
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Alan Horvath, Al Gerber, Jay Koenig, James Morning, Roger Sabota, Mike Riggle, Arold Ninneman, Jerry Aulik, Tony Janecek, Joe Helwig, Mark Noll, Allen Jacobson, Stan Brownell, Marlin Laidlaw, Douglas Seidl, Wright Allen, Terri Roehrig, Larry Bonde, David Pagel, Larrie Hazen, Anthony Grabski, Al Phelan, Charlie Brown, Martin Hass, David Poff Kevin Wallenfang - WDNR, Dave Zebro - WDNR, Kevin Mickelberg - WDNR
EXCUSED	Melvin Walker, William Yingst, Larry Gohlke, Joe Caputo
UNEXCUSED	none
GUESTS	Rob Bohmann, Greg Kazmierski, Dan Storm, Kate Witkowski

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Al noted a possible conflict in Kate Witkowski time availability
ACTION	Will move Kate Witkowski, CWD presentation, before Kevin Wallenfang, DTR presentation, to meet schedule time conflict. Change approved my committee

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Motion by Mike Riggle & second by Roger Sabota to accept as is. Motion passed unanimously

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	None

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES

DISCUSSION	<p>1. 2013 Deer Season Wrap Up – Kevin Wallenfang</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DNR started “first deer certificate” with over 1000 given out - Antlerless quota was adjusted down for the 2013 Northern Units noting it could have even been adjusted more down - archery harvest 88,495, down from last year; state record Pope & Young buck shot - gun season was cold but better later in 9 day season. A total of 255,000 plus deer shot - 2013 total deer harvest of 342,000 plus - 2013 had poor antler development due to last years winter effect - Disable hunt started in 1991 / 1992 with 6 sponsors now there are 110 sponsors with 133,039 acres in the program
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- Kevin noted the deer harvest is trending down

2. 2014 Quota / Permit Setting – Kevin Wallenfang

- The 2014 winter is extreme & a major concern
- Kevin noted we do not want to feed corn or hay; we want deer in logging operations
- DNR doing a March & April statewide assessment of deer using car kills, etc.
- DNR looking at modifying severity index parameters
- DNR quota setting will not be done using over winter goals but rather will be decided by county advisory teams to either increase, stabilize or decrease deer within that county
- County advisory teams will be made up of individuals from conservation congress, agriculture, forestry, tourism, tribal, municipality, sportsmen, & transportation. Group will be lead by the conservation congress
- 2014 goal is to use the county format to increase deer in the northern units & some central forest and stabilize in balance of state
- Deer hunter forums, DTR info, & herd status etc. will be held at the Spring Hearing; deer hunter forms may likely be held, as before, in some other areas
- Larry Bonde stated this new county format is very good and will have some huge successes & some difficulties

3. Research Update – Dan Storm WDNR

- Dan discussed the Departments 3 year fawn survival study and 4 year adult study
- captures in the Northern Forest were 48 juvenile bucks, 31 adult bucks & 26 juvenile does
- captures in the Eastern Farmland were 47 juvenile bucks, 38 adult bucks & 29 juvenile does
- Northern Forest fawn survival varied from 37 to 63% in 2011 to 2013 with bear being # 1 predator, then bobcats / coyotes, then starvation
- Eastern Farmland fawn survival varied from 29 to 33% in 2011 to 2013 with starvation #1 followed by coyotes
- Winter survival more critical with juvenile deer than adults
- One more year left on adult deer study
- Dan noted he hopes to move the study research to the Central Forest & Southern Farmland but thinks funding is questionable

4. Chronic Wasting Disease Best Management Practices – Kate Witkowski, WDNR

- Fatal prions have been found in 22 states & 2 Canadian Provinces
- CWD positives found in Wisconsin Counties: Adams 2, Juneau 1, Portage 4, Washburn 1, Grant 8 & Waukesha 2.
- There has been a increase in CWD prevalence with more in adult bucks
- \$5 from every bonus tag to go to CWD testing
- Kate passed out and discussed the Best Management Practices for Reducing the Spread of CWD (draft document not ready for dissemination – will be released to the public when finalized)
- Kate noted no one knows why a lone deer far from other CWD gets CWD
- For additional information Kate can be reached at Kathryn.witkowski@wisconsin.gov

5. Deer Trustee Report Implementation – Kevin Wallenfang WDNR

- Kevin discussed the four management zones; Northern Forest, Central Farmland, Central Forest and Southern Forest
- crossbow hunting now will be allowed for all with separate license; to have both a archery & crossbow license a person needs to upgrade for \$3 but can shoot only one buck between the two archery licenses
- bonus antlerless tags, for specific counties, go on sale mid August for \$12 ; \$20 non residents
- bonus buck tags only available in Southern Farmland
- Kevin passed out a pamphlet of the Wisconsin Deer Hunting Rule Changes for 2014 & recommends getting a hold of this pamphlet information on the DNR web site
- Al Horvath expressed a concerned that at a previous meeting the committee brought up and approved the county deer management units even though it was not part of the formal agenda.

6. Elk Update – Kevin Wallenfang WDNR

- Added new area to the south from original Elk area
- Created Black River Elk area
- Move 15 elk this winter
- Want 75 new elk from Kentucky
- 3 year effort for new elk in Jackson County

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could have a elk bow hunt soon; have 192 elk now need 200 to have a hunt - Rob Bohmann noted on the Spring 2015 Questionnaire change to resident elk tag only <p>7. Law Enforcement Update – Kevin Mickleberg / Dave Zebro WDNR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New chief – Tom Schaler - Hired class of 15 wardens - Class of 13 trained wardens go out to areas - Diver ducks having a problem, unable to feed - DTR, will get the word out about changes coming - Have formed a special team of wardens i.e. tactical team (special skills like handling pot grows) & remote operation team (bodies, cars, etc. in water) - Chippewa tribe night deer hunting was determined to be illegal; at appeal - Looking at higher penalties for illegally killing trophy deer - Working in Shell Lake area concerning CWD in area
ACTION	Motion made by Mike Riggle with second by Arold Ninneman to support the Department for zero deer quota in 2014 for the Northern Forest Zone. Motion passed unanimously.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tony Grabski was surprised & disappointed that the Conservation Congress was not going to have a booth at the upcoming Deer / Turkey Expo - Stan Brownell thanked Greg Kazmierski, DNR Board Member, for coming to this meeting & noted it was important to have strong leadership at new deer county meetings - Allen Jacobson noted change coming of Elk to new area in Jackson County - Al Horvath thanked Kevin Wallenfang for his informative presentations - Marlin Laidlaw made a motion to oppose 30 year browse study proposed on new 900 acre enclosure with second by Larry Bonde. After discussion motion passed. Marlin also noted he was concern about strong Forestry input on new deer county deer groups - Jerry Aulik noted we need these good rule changes - Larry Bonde noted we need to send info on Marlin Laidlaws motion to oppose 30 year browse deer study to Executive Council - Mark Noll noted the new deer county system is a learning program & he hopes the deer system gets better - Tony Janecek asked Kevin W. about the DTR recommendation to update the deer range. Kevin noted money was set aside but no action was noted. - Greg Kazmierski thanked the committee for what we do & noted he was open to calls from us. He passed out an article to he had written to Dean Bortz concerning DTR information. He noted the Board does what to listen to the Conservation Congress - Al Phelan thanked our liaisons for always being prepared for discussion & input to the committee. He appreciates the willingness of the DNR to listen to and act on the input from the deer hunting public
ACTION	Kari Lee Zimmermann to distribute Marlin Laidlaw motion of 3 year browse study to Executive Council

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	4:05 PM Motion by Larrie Hazen, second by Jerry Aulik passed
SUBMITTED BY	Tony Janecek
DATE	03/22/14