

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	7/21/14	12:37:00 PM	Conference call
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Rob Bohmann at 12:37
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Bohmann, Bonde, Weiss, Suchla, Meyer, Kari Lee-Zimmermann, Adam Lindsey
EXCUSED	
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Paul Smith, Carl Martin, Dustin Bronson, Brad Hutnik

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	Motion to approve - Meyer, second - Bonde, motion carries

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	N/A
ACTION	

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. DEER RESEARCH UPDATE

BRONSON

DISCUSSION	<p>Project Partners- UW Madison and USFS envision future partners. Last two deer audits call for more info on effects of forest habitat on deer and deer's effect on forests. Develop new tool box to manage deer and forests. Develop metrics. This study contrasts to the Pennsylvania study in 1979-1989. Pennsylvania study only looked at deer's effects on forests. Proposed study area located in the Northern Highland State forest in Vilas County.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provides adequate thermal cover in winter, ample public access in the area, fenced area will encompass approx. 870 acres. Buffers in place. Areas for wildlife movement, maintain aesthetics. Will include 9 total areas fenced (3 high density, 3 medium density, 3 low density enclosures). 80, 90, and 120 acre enclosures. Deer population will mimic real world carrying capacity. <p>Study will include bucks and does together to provide more accurate info. Looking at browse needed, forest types needed to benefit deer. Forest density will be controlled in each fenced area with various deer density's managed in each enclosure. Will carrying capacity change? How will deer herd be affected? Every deer will wear a GPS collar. Deer harvested each year will be replaced with new born</p>
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	<p>fawns from that spring. Antler development will be studied among other things. Create a series of forest metrics. This study will provide context. Impact on forest value. Info to look at include "category of browse level" "stem browse index"(will this give better info?) Oak browsing indexes providing info relative to Wisconsin forests. Plant species indicators (palatable vs unpalatable), morphological plant measures (trillium height indicators)</p> <p>2. Deer Metrics developed. Gauge body condition and stress. Effect on fawn survival, physical growth. Indices of body fat content (rump fat, organ fat etc.) evaluating fat reserves. Need to find out what is required for a "healthy heart" as far as fat content. Study of fecal pellets (non-invasive technique). Look at hormone levels in pellets to gauge condition. Need to find out what levels are needed for healthy deer.</p> <p>Time-line for initiation of study depends on public approval. Budget includes 579,000 for fencing, 90,000 for GPS collars, annual operating costs wrapped up in current research budgets.</p>
ACTION	<p>Questions:</p> <p>Bonde: 30 year project? A: yes</p> <p>Bonde: 4.5 million over 30 years correct? A: yes</p> <p>Bonde: as far as body condition, how is the lack of rut exertion going to bias results in bucks. A: results will be compared to free ranging deer data (miles traveled by free range deer vs deer enclosed in study area). What are the caloric needs of the animal and what does the forest provide. Bonde: how will you account for perimeter browsing? A; bias of fence design. Exclude those bias with different techniques Bonde: consider snow issue in that part of state. A: high snow levels will provide a whole range of WSI values. 30 year study will provide wide range of numbers. Bonde: assessing antler development, genetics question A: small sample size. Only 9 bucks in study. Buck will be replaced once it dies. Over 30 years bias gets erased. Meyer: what happens to fawns? A: one fawn used to replace one adult deer. Maybe moved to another enclosure to avoid in-breeding. Meyer: are other properties being looked at? A: conversations continue with private landowners. So far no interest. Suchla: definition of "harvest" A; deer will be shot Suchla: due to hunter sensitivity towards harvesting does, has relocation been considered vs harvest? A: DATCP won't permit it. Also we need body condition data from carcass. Weiss: question how much public land available around site. A: refer to slide presentation Bonde: if landowners don't own large tracts of land, will this info benefit them? A: tools will be provided for people to assess condition of their deer. Context of that info will be provided. Bohmann: hunter use currently in that area of proposed study A: only 2 seen to date. No exact number known. Stewardship money purchased this property. Would make an ideal area to teach learn to trap courses Bohmann: possibility of other uses of property during the 30 years A: unsupervised access won't work. Too much risk from a DATCP perspective. Area to be used for educational purposes will be important. Bohmann: what about the Cargill property in Washburn County A: haven't heard back from them. Need help with in person contact with these type of landowners vs cold calling. Weiss will check into this. Bohmann: will this info be presented to Deer and Elk committee? A: yes, Aug 9th.</p>
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

B. WCC ADMINISTRATIVE HOUSEKEEPING

LEE-ZIMMERMANN

DISCUSSION	<p>WCC brochures going to state fair at DNR booth this year. WCC logo and info being provided on "DNR UPDATES" on-line. Need articles etc. for the Chronicle. Deadline is August 4th to have info in to Kari. Chronicle will go out in mid August. Info could include any pressing info on any committee agendas. Lee Fahrney needs suggestions for delegate profile We need to decide who of us will attend various committee meetings coming up. Rob will pass around a spread sheet for us to look at and compare with our personal schedules.</p>
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ACTION	NONE	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Bohmann: none Bonde: none Weiss: CDAC status. Kari will check on it. Suchla: none Meyer: none
ACTION	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	motion to adjourn by Suchla, second by Weiss. Motion carries @ 2:00:00 PM
SUBMITTED BY	Joe Weiss, Secretary
DATE	7/21/14