

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	8/16/14	9:00AM	Mead Wildlife and Visitors Center
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Suchla at 9:01AM
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	All present with the exception of Waalen and Thomas
EXCUSED	Waalen, Thomas
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	R. Reidner, J. Voss,

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Suchla, Take Author's which are present first
ACTION	Approved

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Mission statement read by Boley. Comment by Miller on changing wording.
ACTION	Reith – moved to amend Mission Statement 2 nd by Drake Hamm- Rewrite Statement and vote on amended Statement wording after Lunch Approved

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Miller to public Attendee's – We are Advisory only.
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. RESOLUTION #131314

DISCUSSION	Resolution read by Miller (Author not present) Drake- Resolution is 95% inaccurate, lacks factual content Hamm- Personal feelings are not a proper response	
ACTION	Miller- Motion to reject 2 nd by Bartels Motion passed	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. RESOLUTION 130614

DISCUSSION	<p>Resolution read by Miler (Author present) Author- Homes around Park are active. A guy pulled a knife on the Author in the Park. Author saw some trapping out of season. Author concerned about people pursuing deer after they are hit. Author- Hunters using the Park are usually novice Hunters. Reith- Where is the 700 acres of Public land adjacent to this park? Breunig- Have you the Author, discussed this with Park personel? Tober- How many of the adjacent Land Owners hunt? Author- Average of three hunters per night. Miller- Do you want the committee to move this forward? You run the risk of a statewide “no” vote. Author- Yes, ok. Bruhn/DNR- NRB allows public comment on this. The Legislature already granted authority to the NRB to allow Hunting and Trapping seasons in this park. Choinski- How long has this Park been around? Author – A while. Smith- WCC could make a recommendation. Do you the Author go hiking in this Park? Author- No. Author- There were 14-17 deer taken out of this Park. Smith- Lake Kegonsa Park was already open to deer management Miller- The WCC does not shoot down the resolution, the public votes it down. Boley- Does the DNR see any enforcement issues? O’Brien/DNR- No, none statewide. Author- Wardens were sent out more frequently.</p>
ACTION	<p>Smith-Moved to advance the question 2nd by Miller Motion passed by Hand vote / 9 in favor and 5 opposed</p>
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. RESOLUTION # 570114

DISCUSSION	<p>Resolution read by Suchla (Author present) Author- Tough for Wardens to enforce Trespass laws due to time Miller-Warden does not issue a fine just a citation. Author-Sauk Warden is in favor of this. The fine for taking a Trophy buck on private land is cheap. Miller- Head of Law enforcement is against this. Wardens are too busy. O’Brien/DNR- Wardens can enter a Deer camp under reasonable suspicion. Tober- I am concerned over running/hunting dogs trespassing. Reith- Wardens had trespass authority 50 years ago but do not now. Dog hunters seem to be the main offenders. I would like to see the Wardens have this authority. Krawze-I don’t think you can influence state law over a few dog hunters. Bruhn/DNR-Authorities are delegated by the Legislature to be able to issue citations. Suchla-Author, if you want to make any changes to your resolution do it now. Author-I want the Wardens to seize game and revoke Licenses. Miller-The Court has that authority. Author- I would be willing to change the wording in the resolution to remove the phrase “fines and revocation of license” in two parts of the resolution.</p>
ACTION	<p>Howe-Motion to amend the resolution. 2nd by Hamm Motion passed Hamm-Motion to advance amended resolution. 2nd by Miller Motion passed</p>
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

D. RESOLUTIONS #130514 & 710114

Resolution read by Miller/710114 (Author s present)
Both resolutions have the same principle.

Author-This is the 4th year I have presented this resolution. It has gone to the Executive Council 3 years and been Rejected even after the public has voted in favor of it. It is very, very frustrating to have this rejected by a couple of People when the public is in favor of it.

Miller- Your resolution reads like the intent is to eliminate bear hunting with dogs. Perhaps if you re-write it targeting All dogs and cats and not just hunting dogs.

Author- I am not discussing retrieval of dogs here.

Miller- I am just discussing the history of this question.

Author- A bigger fine is needed to detour trespassing behavior.

Choinski-Most Hunters are good but there are a few problem children and the only way to stop them is to punish them.

Krawze- It's not fair to punish the majority.

Hamm-Can Law enforcement clarify the fine?

O'Brien/DNR- Citation is in the \$160.00 range.

Smith-Why would responsible hunters be against a higher fine?

Krawze-The author should change the wording to "Animals running at large".

Reith-Dog hunters will run to their friends in the Legislature to stop this.

Miller-I'll vote to pass this but you won't find enough support in the Legislature.

Author-I want a statewide vote.

Kavelaris-I have spoken to many dog owner groups and they are working on a revision to this increase the fine.

Reith-You should go to the bear hunters Association and see what they think.

Miller-The legislature may need to write a new statute if we advance this the way it is written.

Smith-You are trying to address dogs running at large on private land only.

Boley-Motion to advance

2nd by Smith

Motion Passes / Hand vote 10 in favor and 4 opposed.

Break taken at 10:35AM

Meeting resumed at 10:48AM

E. RESOLUTION #470114

Resolution read by Miller (Author present)

Author-Author is former Supervisor for Pepin County and has experience with Frac Sand Operations and Sand/Barge operations.

Miller- This is not a DNR issue. DNR can only control environmental issues.

Author- I want the Authority for decision making to stay at the Local level.

Reith-Legislature needs to stay with local Control. You should work with the legislators in your area.

Author- I already have

Miller-If this moves forward it will take some time.

Boley-Does the Author mean "Strengthen" or "Maintain" Local authority?

Author-Maintain.

Bohn-What about Pits & Mines?

Author-Those do not represent a safety concern according to their analysis.

Krawze-Is this on private property?

Author-Yes

Krawze-What's next?

Author-Local Authorities can best evaluate the impact to the local public.

Krawze-I am afraid of one thing leading to another.

Hamm-Motion to advance

2nd by Miller

Motion Passes

F. RESOLUTION #560114

Resolution read by Suchla (Author present)

Author-This will avoid the need for a Tax increase.

Miller-How would the statute be written? It would need to be a segregated fund.

Does the author mind changing the wording?

Hamm-The resolution says "dedicated fund established".

Howe-There could be problems with how to administer the funds.

Bruhn/DNR- The State Constitution says lottery dollars are to be used for property tax relief.

Hamm- The land is a part of a formula for shared revenue.

Bruhn/DNR-Yes, the Department makes payments in lieu of paying taxes

Tober-The Conservancy's purchase Ag and Forest land without paying taxes.

Bohn-Motion to reject
2nd by Howe
Motion passes

G. RESOLUTION #550114 & 360114

550114 read by Author
360114 read by Miller
(Resolutions are similar)

Reidner(Author)- I have a lot of birds staging in my area and they are picking the crops. Farmers are fed up.
Suchla-A resolution has been brought forth before like this and I had asked the Executive Council what happened to it.
I was told Terry Kohler did not want this advanced.

Tober-The Farm Bureau is going to push for this to happen.

Suchla-Certain states already have a quota approved.

Miller-Kentucky has already set a precedent for a hunt but will the quota be high enough to stop the damage to crops?

Suring-I support a Hunting Season but don't think it will eliminate the crop damage.

Author- The concept is to treat this as a trophy bird.

Smith-I wouldn't use the term "get rid of". Do these cranes bring in more value from bird watching than the damage they do?

Breunig- I would get the Farmers union and the Farm Bureau on your side.

Bohn-Motion to advance the question.
2nd by Miller
Motion passes

H. RESOLUTION #580114

Resolution read by Miller
Author present

Miller- WCC does not have authority as we are advisory only.

Author-We need to address the problem. It takes too long to change bag/size limits.

Breunig-Your local fish Biologist has this authority already.

Bruhn/DNR-Correct

Howe-Fish Meetings coming up in Southwest Wis. But no one knows where or when.

Bruhn/DNR-That information is on-line. The new Fisheries Director has emphasized outreach.

Miller-The general public thinks the regulations are too confusing already.

Author-I want to know what the state thinks.

Kavelaris-Do the Local biologists have the authority?

Bruhn/DNR-Yes, to make recommendations.

Hamm-Shall we change the wording?

Miller-Yes, we should remove the first phrase "if we all agree" sentence.

Author-Approved

Kavelaris-Motion to advance the question
2nd by Choinski
Motion Passes.

Break for Lunch at 12:09PM

Meeting resumed at 12:43PM

I. RESOLUTION #411214

Resolution read by Miller
Author not present

Miller-The resolution should be rejected.

Lindsay/DNR- The Department does not slant the scientific reporting.

Bruhn/DNR-The Legislature makes these decisions.

Bohn-Motion to advance
Bohn-Motion withdrawn

Bohn-Motion to reject
2nd by Reith
Motion Passes

J. RESOLUTION #040314

Resolution read by Miller
Author not present

Smith-Transparency in Government?? What are they asking?
Suring-I do not understand what the author is asking.
Hamm- The Bad River Band is asking for this as a way of stopping the mining activity.
Local Control is important here.

Howe-Motion to reject
2nd by Krawze
Motion Passes

K. RESOLUTION #490314

Resolution read by Suchla
Author not present

Reith-Author used the wrong principle.
Miller-Part of the resolution is incorrect, Parks are only open during certain seasons for hunting and trapping.
Not year round.
Drake-Prior to Act 168, how many Parks allowed hunting?
Bruhn/DNR-All but eight.
Howe-DNR did a commendable job with implementing the seasons in the parks.
Smith-be careful when commending the DNR.
Suchla-All Parks are not the same.

Howe-motion to reject
2nd by Reith
Motion Passes

L. RESOLUTION #130414

Resolution read by Miller
Author not present

Miller-State government did increase this fund in the last session but this is borrowed money that we are paying interest on.
Krawze-We have 6.1 million acres of public land in this state. The cost to the taxpayer is \$1.5M/week in interest.
Most public land is not managed correctly. This is very sensitive to the taxpayers.
Kavelaris-So \$50M/yr is the debt service on this public land? On how much money?
Bruhn/DNR-\$380M
Breunig- According to the Blue sky law there is no such thing as closed public land.
Hamm-I don't like property taxes going up to support land that is taken off the tax roll.
Krawz-In Forest County 83% of the land is not taxable.
Hamm-Locals have no say in these purchases.
Drake-There are already complaints about managing these lands.

Smith-Motion to advance the question
2nd by Miller Hand vote / 4 in favor and 11 opposed
Motion failed

Drake-Motion to reject the question
2nd by Miller
Motion passes

M. RESOLUTION #150314

Resolution read by Miller
Author not present

Bohn-I already have a forever License and I am not in favor of this resolution.
Howe-I still purchase a license and feel proud to contribute.
Reith-The price of a License is slight
Bruhn/DNR-Keep in mind the State gets Federal matching dollars from License Sales too.
Suchla-Yes, if we lose revenue the state will need to make it up somewhere.

Howe-Motion to reject the resolution
 2nd by Krawze
 Motion Passes

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES

Bruhn/DNR-Opening Deer Gun Season earlier is not going to happen. There are strong feelings protecting the Traditional nine day season.

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Krawze-There is a serious predator problem in the north which is causing decreased land values. Also very poor management of our forests. Howe-Wild Pigs are in Wisconsin. New program coming in 2015 Breunig- Three user groups not paying their fair share; Canoes, Kayaks and bicyclists. Miller-I am working on a resolution to address that. Reith-Too much doe shooting in the north has led to problems. Shaurette-this was my first meeting and I'd like to thank every one. Drake-I would be grateful for any support for the youth expo next year. Choinski-Get other Delegates at your CDAC meetings for support. Kavelaris-I am seeking support for a 30 yr. deer habitat study. Smith-I would like a non-consumptive license available for non-hunters and fishers. Miller-I will be leaving the Congress after this term. Thank you all. Suchla-If you need help in writing a resolution go to the website. I commend all delegates for their participation today. Boley-I will read the revised Mission Statement from this morning: "The mission of the Legislative Committee of the Conservation Congress is to advise the DNR and the NRB of the official positions of the Congress on legislative issues and to testify to such at Legislative hearings and meetings as needed; to review resolutions and legislation in order to advise and recommend positions to the members and leadership of the congress; and to work with the Department of Natural Resources in the development and implementation of wildlife, habitat and conservation legislation and administrative rules."</p>
ACTION	<p>Reith-Motion to accept amended mission statement 2nd by Tober Motion passes</p> <p>Breunig-Motion to adjourn 2nd by Krawze Motion Passes</p>

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	2:19PM
SUBMITTED BY	Chuck Boley
DATE	8/28/14