

# NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

**SUBJECT:** Congress Matters: 2008 Conservation Congress Advisory Question Summary and Annual Convention Report

**FOR:** MAY 2008 BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Ed Harvey, Wisconsin Conservation Congress Chair

**SUMMARY:**

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress convened for its 74th annual convention on May 8, 9, and 10, 2008 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Our statewide delegation voted on each of the proposed DNR rule changes, and each of the proposed Congress advisory questions from the 2008 spring hearing questionnaire.

The congress voted to support the Natural Resources Board advisory question pertaining to the extension of the fall turkey hunting season. In addition, the delegation voted to advance two county resolutions pertaining to land acquisitions and land management that were introduced by citizens at the 2008 spring hearings. In regards to the issue of wolf management, considering the support for the advisory question on wolf management, the congress voted to request that the Board and the Department add an appendix to Wisconsin's Wolf Management Plan that outlines the parameters for establishing a wolf hunting and trapping season in Wisconsin.

The Congress also adopted a number of Code of Procedure changes that are intended to improve the operational procedures of the congress.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Informational

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- |    |                                     |   |     |                                     |          |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required                              | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Background Memo                                       | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

**APPROVED:**

Richard X Prossie  
Bureau Director, Richard Prossie

May 20, 2008  
Date

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Secretary Matt Frank

5/22/08  
Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/5

Tom Hauge - WM/6

WCC Exec. Council - 24 (c/o Thiede LS/8)

Tim Andryk - LS/8

Scott Loomans - WM/6

Laurie Osterdorf - AD/8

Joe Hennessy - FH/4

Todd Ambs - AD/6

Mike Staggs - FH/4

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DATE: May 20, 2008  
TO: Natural Resources Board  
FROM: Ed Harvey, Chair  
SUBJECT: Congress Matters: 2008 Conservation Congress Advisory Question Summary and Annual Convention Report

As established by Wisconsin State Statutes, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is officially recognized as the only natural resources advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests on natural resources issues on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Our mission is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

In accordance with our purpose and mission I would like to take this opportunity to review the business that was conducted by the congress at our annual meeting. The Wisconsin Conservation Congress convened for its 74th annual convention on May 8, 9, and 10, 2008 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Our statewide delegation voted on each of the proposed DNR rule changes, and each of the proposed congress advisory questions from the 2008 spring hearings questionnaire (Attachment 1).

### **DNR Rule Change Proposals**

Our 360 delegates for 72 counties reviewed and registered their support or opposition to each of the questions that appeared as Department rule change proposals. The bureau of wildlife management advanced 10 rule change proposals this year. Each of these proposals received wide spread support across the state by attendees to the April 14, 2008 Spring Hearings. Likewise the congress delegates at the annual meeting voted to support these 10 proposals as well.

Fisheries this year presented 32 rule change related questions for public consideration. Questions 12 – 16 related to rule changes that originated from legislation included in the state budget. The Congress did not support the Department's proposal to advance question 12, dealing with the proposed catch and release musky season. Although not supported by the statewide vote, the Department felt obligated by the language in the budget bill to advance some part of the proposal. The congress does not support either part of the question, or the language in the budget bill. Given that Sen. Meyer has since the convention publicly rescinded his support for the proposition, the congress wonders if the issue should be dropped, at least for the time being. Similarly, the Department proposed to advance question 16 dealing with the catch and release bass season. The Congress did not support either part of this question either. The question lost statewide, 1813 to 2849.

The Congress did not support the Department's position to advance question 24, dealing with musky size limits on the Chippewa Flowage. While the Department's position is supported by the statewide vote of 2,175 to 1,805, the delegation voted to oppose the advancement of this rule change proposal based on the discussion on the floor at the annual meeting.

The Congress did support the Department's recommended actions on all other proposed fisheries rule changes. This includes the Department's recommendation to reject question 36 dealing with returning part of the Prairie

River to a category 5 stream. This question carried statewide 2024 to 1494. However, based on the votes in local counties, the testimony of Oneida County, and the Chair of the Congress Trout Committee, the Congress recommended rejection.

### **NRB and WCC Advisory Questions**

The Congress supported the Natural Resources Board advisory question number 11 pertaining to the extension of the fall turkey hunting season.

Question number 54 pertaining to a statewide prohibition on shining from public roads was narrowly defeated at the April 14 hearings by a vote of 2805 to 2848. After a lengthy discussion at our meeting, the Congress recommends that question 54 dealing with a ban on shining, should be advanced for a statewide vote. Questions 52, deer research funding and question 61 on Managed Forest Law were not supported in April, and the delegation upheld those votes in opposition to those two questions. Question 55 pertained to the use of pistol cartridges for use in shotgun only areas. While this question was supported by a statewide vote, the delegation had a lengthy discussion and numerous concerns were voiced over the enforceability and complexity of this regulation. After the discussion the counties voted to reject this question and not to advance the proposal for consideration by the NRB or the DNR. The statewide votes on all other Congress advisory questions were supported and they are hereby advanced to the Board.

We hope that the Board and the Department will take each of these 25 Congress advisory into consideration as the next DNR rule and statutory cycle begins.

### **Other Business**

In addition to the discussion on the proposals included in the 2008 Spring Hearing questionnaire, two county resolutions were advanced to the floor by the Congress Rules and Resolutions committee due to the timeliness of the issues. The first was a resolution introduced in Clark County (# 100108), dealing with the purchase of a 2043 acre Plum Creek property in Clark County (Attachment 2). There is a great deal of local support for this proposal, as well as a great deal of statewide support based on the vote at the convention. We would urge the NRB and the DNR to look closely at using Stewardship Funds to secure this contiguous acreage for public use. The second resolution pertained to support for the Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Project (# 580608) (Attachment 3). Both of these resolutions have been attached to this memo for your review and future consideration.

Finally, under other business, a resolution was introduced and unanimously supported to recommend that Appendix "J" be added to the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan (Attachment 4). This appendix was prepared for inclusion as part of the plan in 1999, but was ultimately omitted. In light of the 4848 to 772 vote on question 71, dealing with developing a wolf harvest plan, we strongly urge that Appendix "J" be brought back.

### **Code of Procedure Changes**

Over the past two years, at the direction of the Executive Council, the Rules and Resolutions Committee was tasked with a review of the Congress Code of Procedure. This review was initiated based on issues brought forward by delegates and external partners. The Rules and Resolutions committee studied the issues, and based on their discussions, developed questionnaires to survey all delegates to get their input on proposed alternatives. If you recall, the Rules and Resolutions Committee presented a summary of the survey results at the 2007 statewide convention. Upon tallying the results of the survey, the Rules and Resolutions committee reviewed the results and prepared a final report for the January 2008 Executive Council meeting.

The following is the timeline that the Rules and Resolutions Committee has been utilizing:

August 25, 2006	Rules & Resolutions Committee Meeting
Mid-October	Mailed questionnaire to all delegates
October 30	Deadline for delegates to return questionnaires
October 31	November 10 - Tabulation of questionnaire data
Late-November	Review of questionnaire results
December 1, 2006	Rules & Resolutions Committee Meeting
January 5, 2007	Present Recommendations to Executive Council
April 30, 2007	Review Exec. Council Actions
May 11, 2007	Present Delegation with Summary of Results
September 8, 2007	Rules & Resolutions Committee Meeting
January 4, 2008	Final Report to Executive Council
Feb. 25 – March 6, 2008	Spring District Meetings - Final Changes Provided to Delegates for Review
May 10, 2008	Approval of Changes by Delegation

In accordance with the Code of Procedures, the delegation approved of the following changes on May 10:

1. Executive Council Election. Provide every delegate within a district with an individual vote, cast by secret ballot, for the councilors in their district.
2. Resolution Advancement. When the Rules and Resolutions committee forwards a resolution to a committee, the committee must act on the resolution, and the committee chair may combine similar resolutions. "Act" means that the resolution be read discussed and voted on by the committee.
3. Study Committee Guidance. Executive Council recommends that all study committee meetings be noticed 30-days in advance of the meeting, unexcused absences will result in removal from the committee, and that sample agendas and minutes be provided to the committee chair and secretary for their use.
4. Study Committee Mission Statements. All WCC Study Committees shall have a mission statement in place. The Executive Committee and the Executive Council would review and approve submitted mission statements for approval. For those Study Committees already in place it is the responsibility of the Committee Chair to ensure that a mission statement is created and approved. For any future Committees it will be the responsibility of the creating body to provide a mission statement prior to forming the Committee membership.
5. Endangered Res. and Law Enforcement committee be combined in the Code of Procedures to handle both issues.
6. Housekeeping. Similar to annual reviews of the administrative code by wildlife and fisheries, grammatical errors, edits and inconsistencies with established Congress policies were corrected.

Once the Code of Procedures has been updated we will provide the Board with an updated copy for your use.

### **Awards**

This year the Congress recognized DNR employee Alan Crossley, as DNR's CWD Project Coordinator for his professional and respectful leadership in forging a statewide approach to reduce the harmful impacts of CWD in Wisconsin. Also, the Congress recognized Warden Michael Young for his contributions to outdoor education and shooting sports recruitment.

Recipient of the Outstanding Local Conservation Club of the Year was the Stanley Sportsman's Club of Chippewa County. Certificates for Outstanding Achievement by Local Conservation Clubs went to the Star Prairie Fish and Game, Inc. of Polk and St. Croix Counties, the Chippewa Rod & Gun Club, Inc. of Chippewa County, and the St. Croix County Alliance of Sportsman's Clubs of St. Croix County.

The 2008 Educator of the Year is Kathleen Tober of East Troy (Walworth County), nominated by Triangle Sportsmen's Club, Inc. She is a volunteer wildlife educator, teaches 4-H Shooting Sports, established prairie plantings and tree planting projects and participates in leader training workshops for environmental education among her many other activities.

### **Officer Elections**

On Friday, May 9 our 12 districts elected their 2008-09 Executive Councilors. I would like to thank each of the councilors from 2007-08 that will not be returning this year and also congratulate those that have been reelected. I have included a list of our new Council in this memo for your information (Attachment 5).

We also have a new member of our Executive Committee. Rich Kirchmeyer, Price County, has been elected by the Executive Council to serve as the new Congress Secretary. Rich will join Rob Bohmann, Vice-Chair, and myself on the Executive Committee for the next year.

In closing we would like to thank Chair Thomas for her outstanding presentation at our convention, and Board members Preston Cole, Duke Welter, Jonathan Ela and Jane Wiley for attending our meeting. Your involvement and attendance is a testament to your commitment to the role of the Congress as an advisory body to the Natural Resources Board.

2008 DNR Spring Hearings WCC County Meeting  
 Statewide Results by Question  
 Including WCC Official Positions

Attachment 1.

Question	Question Description	Votes		Majority	Counties		Counties Rejecting	Counties Tie vote	Counties Not Voting	WCC Position
		Yes	No		Approving	Approving				
	2008 STATEWIDE ATTENDANCE	6407								
1	EXTEND THE RACCOON TRAPPING AND HUNTING SEASONS	5030	496	Yes	72	0	0	0	0	Support
2	DEFINE "CAGE OR BOX TRAP" AS A LIVE TRAP	4595	684	Yes	71	1	0	0	0	Support
3	CREATE A DEFINITION OF BODY GRIPPING TRAP	4449	700	Yes	72	0	0	0	0	Support
4	ESTABLISH A NEW POPULATION GOAL FOR BOBCAT	4217	1143	Yes	72	0	0	0	0	Support
5	PROHIBIT PAINTBALL ACTIVITY ON DEPARTMENT MANAGED	4543	1077	Yes	72	0	0	0	0	Support
6	ESTABLISH A FEE FOR A DUPLICATE COPY OF THE TRAPPER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE	4231	1125	Yes	72	0	0	0	0	Support
7	ALLOW DOG TRAINING WITH CAPTIVE WILD ANIMALS IN NORTHERN RESTRICTED ZONE	2741	2512	Yes	43	25	4	0	0	Support
8	ELIMINATE DRYLAND TRAPPING CLOSED AREAS - CLAM LAKE	3402	1148	Yes	69	2	1	0	0	Support
9	ELIMINATE DRYLAND TRAPPING CLOSED AREAS - FOREST COUNTY	3384	1167	Yes	69	3	0	0	0	Support
10	ADD AN ADDITIONAL YEAR FALL TURKEY HUNTING WITH THE AID OF DOGS	3335	2040	Yes	67	5	0	0	0	Support
11	NRB ADVISORY QUESTION EXTEND THE FALL TURKEY SEASON	4016	1595	Yes	68	4	0	0	0	Support
12	CATCH-AND-RELEASE SEASON FOR MUSKELLUNGE NORTH OF US HWY 10 - OPTION 1	1801	3232	No	14	57	1	0	0	Oppose
13	CATCH-AND-RELEASE SEASON FOR MUSKELLUNGE NORTH OF US HWY 10 - OPTION 2	1202	3617	No	3	68	1	0	0	Oppose
14	REQUIRE NORTHERN ZONE CATCH-AND-RELEASE SEASON FOR BASS - OPTION 1	1891	2909	No	20	51	1	0	0	Oppose
15	REQUIRE NORTHERN ZONE CATCH-AND-RELEASE SEASON FOR BASS - OPTION 2	1587	3068	No	7	62	3	0	0	Oppose
16	REQUIRE NORTHERN ZONE CATCH-AND-RELEASE SEASON FOR BASS - OPTION 3	1813	2849	No	16	54	2	0	0	Oppose
17	FLATHEAD CATFISH RULE CHANGES IN THE LAKE WINNEBAGO SYSTEM - OPTION 1	2392	1341	Yes	63	8	1	0	0	Support
18	FLATHEAD CATFISH RULE CHANGES IN THE LAKE WINNEBAGO SYSTEM - OPTION 2	2161	1558	Yes	52	16	4	0	0	Support
19	EXTENSION OF SOUTHERN ZONE MUSKELLUNGE SEASON	2371	1817	Yes	55	15	2	0	0	Support
20	SAUGER BAG LIMIT ON WINNEBAGO SYSTEM WATERS	2866	918	Yes	69	3	0	0	0	Support
21	OPEN SEASON ON LAKE ALICE, HAT RAPIDS FLOWAGE, AND WISCONSIN RIVER	2279	1251	Yes	63	8	1	0	0	Support
22	LOWER BLACK RIVER MUSKELLUNGE REGULATIONS	2326	1049	Yes	64	5	3	0	0	Support
23	WALLEYE REGULATIONS IN GREEN BAY TRIBUTARIES	2944	758	Yes	71	0	1	0	0	Support
24	CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE MUSKELLUNGE REGULATIONS	2175	1805	Yes	47	23	2	0	0	Oppose
25	CLARIFICATION ON THE USE OF THE TERM "LANDING NET" - OPTION 1	4152	594	Yes	72	0	0	0	0	Support
26	CLARIFICATION ON THE USE OF THE TERM "LANDING NET" - OPTION 2	4069	676	Yes	72	0	0	0	0	Support
27	WALLEYE REGULATION CHANGES IN ASHLAND AND IRON COUNTIES	1630	786	Yes	68	3	1	0	0	Support
28	BIG AND LITTLE DUMMY LAKE NORTHERN PIKE REGULATION CHANGES	1460	687	Yes	58	6	8	0	0	Support
29	BIG AND LITTLE DUMMY LAKE BASS REGULATION CHANGES	1335	747	Yes	53	7	12	0	0	Support
30	DESIGNATE MANGER LAGOON, CITY OF GREEN BAY, AS AN URBAN FISHING WATER	1817	525	Yes	69	1	2	0	0	Support
31	CATFISH REGULATIONS IN YELLOWSTONE LAKE	1386	717	Yes	62	7	3	0	0	Support
32	ENTERPRISE LAKE MUSKELLUNGE REGULATIONS	1449	1053	Yes	43	22	7	0	0	Support
33	ENTERPRISE LAKE WALLEYE REGULATIONS	1638	698	Yes	57	3	12	0	0	Support
34	DESIGNATE REMINGTON POND, CITY OF ANTIGO, AS AN URBAN FISHING WATER	1616	572	Yes	68	2	2	0	0	Support
35	DESIGNATE MIRROR LAKE, CITY OF TOMAHAWK, AS AN URBAN FISHING WATER	1668	599	Yes	67	3	2	0	0	Support
36	PRAIRIE RIVER TROUT REGULATIONS	2024	1494	Yes	47	25	0	0	0	Oppose
37	BONE LAKE MUSKELLUNGE REGULATIONS	1470	1084	Yes	47	22	3	0	0	Support
38	SAND LAKE WALLEYE REGULATIONS	1878	590	Yes	70	0	1	1	1	Support

2008 DNR Spring Hearings WCC County Meeting  
 Statewide Results by Question  
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39	BIG PORTAGE LAKE BASS REGULATIONS	1266	828	Yes	41	24	6	1	Support
40	SPARKLING LAKE GAME FISH REGULATIONS	1471	611	Yes	63	5	3	1	Support
41	PRE SOUE ISLE CHAIN BASS REGULATIONS	1249	842	Yes	44	21	6	1	Support
42	STAR LAKE BASS REGULATIONS	1260	864	Yes	40	21	10	1	Support
43	LONG LAKE TROUT REGULATION CHANGES	1528	737	Yes	64	5	3	0	Support
44	LEGALIZE RIFLES FOR DEER HUNTING IN SHAWANO COUNTY	3227	870	Yes	71	1	0	0	Support
45	LEGALIZE RIFLES FOR DEER HUNTING IN DUNN COUNTY	3158	779	Yes	71	0	1	0	Support
46	USE OF ARCHERY EQUIPMENT WITH A GUN DEER LICENSE	3429	1959	Yes	64	8	0	0	Support
47	EITHER SEX CARCASS TAG FOR YOUTH DEER HUNTERS	4200	1029	Yes	72	0	0	0	Support
48	USE OF CROSSBOWS FOR NON-RESIDENTS 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER	3295	2059	Yes	65	6	1	0	Support
49	TRANSFER OF EARNA-A-BUCK STICKERS TO A YOUTH	3954	1388	Yes	70	2	0	0	Support
50	QUARTERING OF DEER BEFORE REMOVAL FROM THE FIELD	3540	1921	Yes	63	9	0	0	Support
51	DEER STAMP FOR DEER RESEARCH	1433	4097	No	3	69	0	0	Oppose
52	STATEWIDE DEER FEEDING & BAITING BAN	3092	2678	Yes	43	25	4	0	Support
53	VOLUNTEER SHARPSHOOTER PROGRAM	3680	1631	Yes	67	4	1	0	Support
54	PROHIBITION ON SHINING FROM PUBLIC ROADS	2805	2848	No	30	38	4	0	Support
55	USE OF PISTOL CARTRIDGES IN RIFLES FOR DEER IN SHOTGUN ONLY AREAS	2693	2359	Yes	48	22	2	0	Oppose
56	LEGALIZE COLONY TRAPS	2603	1849	Yes	57	13	2	0	Support
57	BOBCAT SEASON STRUCTURE	2521	1933	Yes	49	23	0	0	Support
58	COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF YELLOW PERCH ON LAKE MICHIGAN	3093	1145	Yes	69	3	0	0	Support
59	PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY ON PUBLIC LAND	4416	995	Yes	71	1	0	0	Support
60	PROPOSED MISSISSIPPI RIVER CORRIDOR 345 KV POWER LINE STUDY	3063	800	Yes	59	3	0	0	Support
61	DISCONTINUE CLOSING OF MANAGED FOREST LAW (MFL) LANDS	1763	3631	No	7	65	0	0	Oppose
62	REVIEW URBAN DEER SHOOTING PERMIT PROCEDURES	3577	857	Yes	71	0	1	0	Support
63	ELIMINATE THE BARBLESS HOOK REQUIREMENT FOR TROUT SEASON	2368	2105	Yes	47	25	0	0	Support
64	NON-RESIDENT STUDENT TURKEY LICENSE	2657	2383	Yes	40	28	4	0	Support
65	PHONE IN TURKEY REGISTRATION	3817	1452	Yes	67	5	0	0	Support
66	PANFISH LIMIT ON LOON LAKE, ASHLAND COUNTY	1730	940	Yes	58	11	3	0	Support
67	TRANSPORTATION OF INVASIVE SPECIES	3538	1497	Yes	69	3	0	0	Support
68	FISHING REGULATIONS BETWEEN KINGS AND GRANDFATHER DAMS	1632	1070	Yes	56	11	5	0	Support
69	BASS SIZE LIMIT ON BIG SISSABAGAMA LAKE, SAWYER COUNTY	2062	607	Yes	70	1	1	0	Support
70	WALLEYE BAG LIMIT ON MILWAUKEE RIVER	1761	822	Yes	65	4	3	0	Support
71	WOLF MANAGEMENT	4848	772	Yes	72	0	0	0	Support

100108

**Fragmentation of Land and the Future of Hunting**

The fragmentation, sale and posting of lands currently open to the public for hunting is a problem across the state.

Access to land to hunt, especially in the southern two-thirds of the state is a significant factor in recruiting and retaining hunters.

The state Stewardship fund was reauthorized this last year so we could continue to protect land for future generation, so they can enjoy nature based activities such as hunting, fishing and trapping.

Recently, 2043 contiguous acres of land in the Mead Township of Clark County was announced for sale by the Plum Creek Timber Company. This land, which was originally owned by Consolidated Papers, has been open for public access through the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program. If the land is sold to private entities, it will likely be parceled up and closed to public access.

Be it resolved, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Clark County, Wisconsin on April 14, 2008 recommends that the DNR and Natural Resources Board use Stewardship funds to purchase this 2043 acre parcel in Clark County in order to preserve this large contiguous acreage for present and future generations to enjoy?

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County: Clark

Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Project Proposal

Large tracts of sustainably managed forest lands open to the public are being sold off, fragmented, and developed in many parts of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Intact, these lands provide an array of positive impacts in their geographic immediacies, and beyond.

Among them are: a predictable volume of forest products for local harvesters and processors; a regular renewal of succession habitat for popular sport and subsistence species like grouse and deer; critical large block habitat for less popular but important species, like bobcat, grey wolf, a variety of woodland warblers, thrushes, and tanagers; increasingly important protection of watersheds; and sometimes, an ecological bridge, or connection to other significant similar lands. The federal Forest Legacy Program was created to help protect these types of lands.

We have the opportunity to do all of this. The Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Project proposal would permanently protect, by conservation easement, as sustainably managed forest open to the public (including hunting) approximately 18,000 acres of Plum Creek lands roughly bounded by the Chippewa Flowage on the north, Polish Road on the south, Helsing Road on the west, and the Chippewa River on the east.

Be It Resolved, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Sawyer County on April 14, 2008 strongly supports the Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Project proposal



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## Attachment 4.

### APPENDIX J PROPOSED WOLF HARVEST REGULATIONS. By Tim A. Andryk, and Randle L. Jurewicz

At its August 15, 1999 meeting in Hayward, WI., the Natural Resources Board requested the Wolf Advisory Committee add a section to the Wolf Management plan that describes the type of regulations necessary to implement a public wolf harvest season in Wisconsin.

No public harvest of wolves can occur in Wisconsin until the wolf is formally delisted as neither threatened nor endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Public Harvest will be considered as part of the total management strategy of maintaining the state wolf population at a level of 350 animals as described in this plan. However, public harvest is not expected to be the primary means of population management.

Wolf mortality will occur from a number of sources, all of which will help maintain the population at goal level. These mortality sources are: natural mortality (disease, predation, starvation, accidents intraspecific strife), and human-induced mortality (car kills, illegal kill, government depredation control activities, landowner control and law enforcement officer control). These forms of mortality may be sufficient to keep the population at 350. If not, then a controlled hunting and trapping program may be used.

The following are DRAFT statutory and administrative rule language and are for discussion purposes only to indicate the types of issues that will need to be agreed upon in order to have a public harvest.

The Wisconsin State Legislature will need to enact legislation to create the statutory authority for the WDNR to have a controlled public harvest of wolves. In addition to these statutory changes the WDNR will also need to promulgate Administrative Rules. Both of these processes provide for public input and public hearings.

The timeline to implement these changes takes many months. If the Board directs the Department to have hunting and trapping authority in place at the time the wolf is delisted the process will need to begin a number of months prior to that time.

The potential hunting and trapping of wolves is controversial. Both opponents and proponents need to understand that the Department expects the range of other forms of mortality to generally keep the population at the 350 goal level. Hunting and trapping may not be needed, especially if government depredation control activities are used proactively. If hunting and trapping are used they will be conducted in a well controlled, regulated, manner.

- In order to implement a wolf season, a federal rule change is needed to remove the gray wolf from the federal endangered and threatened species list. (currently listed as federally endangered) and a state rule change is needed to remove the gray wolf from the state threatened species list. Additional state statute and state rule changes for a controlled wolf hunting and trapping season are listed below. The components of this potential wolf hunting and trapping season are:
- Restriction to Wisconsin residents;
- Application fee of \$10;
- License fee of \$100;
- License issued to one person only once in a lifetime;
- Mandatory successful completion of a wolf hunting and ecology course taught by WDNR-designated instructors;
- Hunting methods which could include predator calling, or hunting with dogs

- Fifty percent of permits available for the Chippewa Ceded Territory to be reserved for Chippewa Tribal Harvest.
- If wolf hunting with dogs is implemented damage payments for dogs killed by wolves will no longer be paid on dogs used in any hunting or training. Reimbursement payments would continue to be made for wolf depredation on pets on homesteads.

**PROPOSED STATUTE CHANGES FOR A WOLF HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASON**  
**DRAFT**

Appropriation 20.370(1)(gt) Wolf Management and Damage Claims. All monies received under ss.29.563(15) and 29.595(4) to be used for the wolf management, wolf education programs and payment of wolf damage claims under s.29.889(7)(d), Stats.

29.184 is created to read:

29.184. Wolf Licenses. (1). Department Authority. The department may regulate and limit the number of wolf hunters or wolf trappers, or both, and may limit the maximum harvest of wolves in any area of the state.

(2). License Required. (a). No person may hunt or trap wolves in any area of the state unless they are a resident who has obtained a wolf license, or they have obtained a removal permit under s. 29.885.

(b). No person may hunt or trap wolves in any area of the state without obtaining a certificate of accomplishment for successfully completing a wolf education course under s. 29.595.

(c). No person may apply for a wolf license or preference for a wolf license without paying the wolf license application fee under s. 29.653(15).

(3). License Issuance. (a). If the number of qualified applications for wolf licenses exceeds the number of available licenses, minus the licenses set-aside under par. (c), the department shall select applicants to be issued wolf licenses based upon a cumulative preference system. This system shall award a preference point for each applicant who applied for but was not issued a wolf license for a given season, with highest priority for licenses given to those with the most preference points. The department shall also award a preference point to each individual who is selected for a license but declines to pay the required fee for a wolf license or who applies for a preference point for a given season, rather than the license. A person needs to apply for a license or preference point at least once during any three year period in order to maintain their cumulative preference.

(b). The department shall issue a notice of approval to those qualified applicants selected to receive a wolf license. A person who receives a notice of approval and who pays the required license fee shall be issued a wolf license.

(4). Use of Fees. All fees received by the department under this section shall be credited to the appropriation under s. 20.370(1)(gt) to be used for wolf management, wolf education programs, investigation and payment of wolf damage claims under s.29.889(7)(d).

(5). Carcass Tag and Registration

(a). The department shall issue a wolf carcass tag to each person who is issued a wolf license. A person who kills a wolf shall immediately validate and attach the carcass tag to the wolf in the manner prescribed by the department.

(b). A person who kills a wolf, shall transport and register the wolf with the department in the manner prescribed by department rule. The department may keep the wolf carcass but the holder of the carcass tag shall be allowed to retain the hide or pelt.

(6). Back Tag. The department shall issue a back tag to each person who is issued a wolf license. No person may hunt or trap wolves unless there is attached to the center of the person's coat, shirt, jacket or similar outermost garment where it can be clearly seen the back tag issued to the person under par. (a).

(7). Use of Dogs. Needs further discussion

29.563(15) is created to read

29.563(15) Wolf License

(a) License: \$100.00

(b) Application fee: \$10.00

29.595 is created to read

29.595. Wolf Education Program.

(1). Establishment; Contents.

(a). The department shall establish a wolf education program. The department shall conduct these courses of instruction in cooperation with qualified individuals, organizations, groups, corporations, and federal, state and local government entities.

(b). The wolf education program shall provide a course of instruction that includes all of the following:

- 1 History and recovery of wolves in Wisconsin and the Great Lakes States.
- 2 Wisconsin's wolf census methods and opportunities to volunteer in census efforts.
- 3 Traditional European and Native American view of wolves.
- 4 Wolf social structure and pack interaction.
- 5 Wolf depredation.
- 6 Hunter and trapper ethics.
- 7 Harvest methods including trapping, predator calling, and hunting with dogs.
- 8 Map reading skills.

(c). The department shall appoint wolf education program instructors based on criteria established by the department. These appointees are responsible to the department and shall serve on a voluntary basis without compensation.

(2). Instruction fee. The department shall establish by rule a fee for the course of instruction under the wolf education program. An instructor conducting the course shall collect the fee from each person receiving instruction. The department may authorize an instructor to retain up to 50% of the fee to defray expenses incurred by the instructor conducting the course. The instructor shall remit the remaining portion, or if nothing is retained the entire fee to the department.

(3). Certificate Accomplishment. The department shall issue a certificate of accomplishment without charge to a person who successfully completes the course of instruction under the wolf education program and who pays the required instruction fee. The department shall issue a duplicate certificate of accomplishment to a person who is entitled to a duplicate certificate of accomplishment. The department shall establish by rule the fee for a duplicate approval.

(4). Use of Fees. All fees received by the department under this section shall be credited to the appropriation under s. 20.370(l)(gt) to be used for wolf management, wolf education programs and payment of wolf damage claims under s. 29.889(7)(d).

29.889(l)(f) is created to read

29.889(l)(f) Wolves if hunting and trapping of wolves is authorized by the Department.

29.971(11s) is created to read:

29.971(11s). (a). Hunting, trapping, shooting, shooting at, setting traps for, taking, catching or possessing a wolf without a valid wolf license, or for possessing a wolf which does not have a carcass tag attached or possessing a wolf during the closed season, by a fine of not less than \$1,000 or more than \$2,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both for the first violation, and by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment not more than one year or both for the any subsequent violation, and in addition, the court shall revoke all hunting and trapping approvals issued to the person under this chapter and shall prohibit issuance of any new hunting and trapping approvals under this chapter to the person for 3 years.

(b). Except as provided under par. (a), for the violation of any provision of this chapter or rules promulgated under it relating to wolf hunting or wolf trapping or to the validation of a wolf carcass tag or registration of a wolf, by a forfeiture of not more than \$1,000.

**2008-2009  
WCC  
Executive  
Council**

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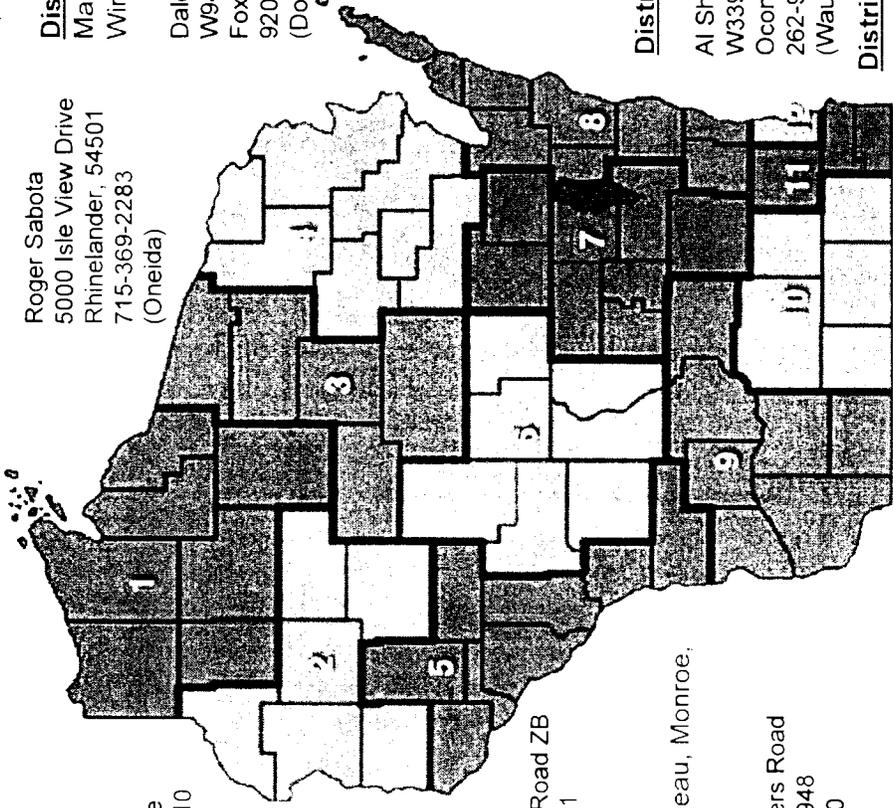
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