

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Congress Matters: 2012 Conservation Congress Advisory Question Summary and Convention Report

FOR: MAY 2012 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE:
Rob Bohmann, WCC Chair

SUMMARY:

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress convened for its 78th annual convention on May 10, 11, and 12, 2012 in Manitowoc. The statewide delegation reviewed the Department advisory questions, Congress advisory questions, received informational updates on current natural resource issues, and conducted additional important Congress business including approving a funding plan for a strategic planning process.

The WCC endorsed the statewide vote on 50 of the 52 WCC advisory questions. Of the 48 questions that received a positive statewide vote, the Congress supported 47 for advancement and rejected one (question 63). Question 42 relating to the consolidation of jurisdictions for wetland management regulations was not approved by a statewide vote (1692 yes, 1867 no), but was approved by 35 counties, rejected by 35 counties and tied in two counties. It was advanced by the floor of the Congress for further consideration by the Department.

We request that the Department consider these 48 supported proposals as they work with the legislature and draft rule change proposals for the 2013 spring hearings.

RECOMMENDATION: Information only

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- No Fiscal Estimate Required
- No Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
- No Background Memo

- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached

APPROVED:

Tim Andyk
Bureau Director,

05/17/2012
Date

Cathy Stepp
Administrator,
Cathy Stepp
Secretary, Cathy Stepp

Date
5/18/10
Date

cc: NRB Liaison
DNR Rules Coordinator



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DATE: May 23, 2012
TO: Natural Resources Board
FROM: Rob Bohmann, Chair
SUBJECT: Congress Matters: 2012 Conservation Congress Advisory Question Summary and Annual Convention Report

Chair Clausen, Secretary Stepp, and members of the Board. I want to thank you for this opportunity to present the results of the WCC annual convention.

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 78th annual convention on May 10, 11, and 12, 2012 in Manitowoc. Our statewide delegation elected Executive Councilors and the Executive Committee in addition to reviewing DNR advisory questions, and each of the proposed congress advisory questions from the 2012 spring hearings questionnaire (Attachment 1).

Elections

The 2012 Executive Committee remains the same, consisting of Larry Bonde (Manitowoc County, Vice-Chair), Lee Fahrney (Iowa County, Secretary) and me (Rob Bohmann, Racine County, Chair). I would like to thank each of the councilors from 2011-12 that will not be returning this year for their dedication and hard work and also congratulate and welcome those that have been elected and re-elected. We have three new Executive Councilors and I have included a list of our 2012-2013 Council in this memo for your information (Attachment 2).

DNR Advisory Questions

At the 2012 Spring Hearings, the public voted on 91 advisory questions. The delegation reviewed the results of the questions that appeared as Department advisory questions - 15 wildlife questions, 23 fisheries questions, and one NRB question. At our convention, the Wildlife and Fisheries Programs reviewed the results summaries with the delegation, and discussed the future possibilities for each idea given the citizen feedback.

Because there were no Department proposed rule changes, this year afforded the WCC and Department a unique opportunity to spend more time on updates on current issues and topics of interest. Tom Hauge and Mike Staggs gave very informative presentations on issues such as the status of the wolf delisting and season framework, the CWD positive deer found in Washburn County, the deer study project, bear and badger research, VPA, Farm Bill, and NAWCA program updates, as well as a summary of the findings of the comprehensive study done on Wisconsin's fish propagation system.

WCC Advisory Questions

There were 52 Congress advisory proposals presented for public comment at this year's Spring Hearings. Forty-eight (48) of these proposals were approved by the statewide votes, and 48 were recommended for advancement to the Department and Natural Resources Board for consideration. Four proposals were not supported by the public vote, and consequently, three of the four proposals (numbers 47, 65, and 91) were not recommended for



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further consideration by the Department, Legislature or the Board. Question 42 relating to the consolidation of jurisdictions for wetland management regulations was not approved by a statewide vote (1692 yes, 1867 no), but was approved by 35 counties, rejected by 35 counties and tied in two counties. It was advanced by the floor of the Congress for further consideration. Question 63, the transfer of license or permit to a senior or disabled person, was approved both by statewide vote (2743 yes, 771 no) and by county vote (71 counties approving, 1 county rejecting), however, because the background language that was approved by the Executive Council was slightly different from the language in the original resolution, the author felt the intent of his resolution was altered and wanted the entire resolution and results rejected.

The other three that were not supported statewide were questions 47 (creation of a public/private antlerless deer system), 65 (creating a maximum of 25 mph on frozen water), and 91 (relating to panfish limits).

Town Hall Meetings

The WCC also discussed the town hall meetings which were held in each county following the spring hearings. This was a new approach that the WCC was attempting to gain input on the Governor's charge to the Congress to create recommendations for regulation simplification and elimination of barriers to participation. Input from the meetings was wide-ranging, with some counties reporting a lot of participation and some good ideas, while others indicated that no one spoke up at their meetings. One suggestion for improvement of the town hall meeting style that came up a number of times was that attendees did not like having to write down their ideas and would have preferred to have someone else taking notes of the discussion. This will be taken into consideration for any future town hall meetings the WCC may hold.

County delegations were to have summarized the input from the town hall meetings and turned them in at the convention. The Executive Committee will appoint an ad hoc committee to review the summaries from these meetings and prepare a report of recommendations for the Governor.

Strategic Plan

Art Lersch, a Community Resource Development Educator with the UW-Extension was on hand to present the WCC Strategic Plan process that will take place over the next year and will provide a full review of the WCC's organizational structure and operations. We are excited about beginning this process and have nominated delegates to the newly formed WCC Strategic Planning Committee to begin working on this charge beginning next month. Our Vice-Chair, Larry Bonde, will provide a more detailed report to you on this endeavor.

Awards

This year, as in the past, the Congress recognized a number of DNR employees for their outstanding service and dedication to Wisconsin's natural resources. Kent Van Horn, Wildlife Biologist, received an award for his exceptional achievements in wildlife management, his dedication to enhancing opportunities for waterfowl hunters, and his commitment to working cooperatively with the citizens of Wisconsin. Retired fisheries supervisor Paul Peeters received our fisheries award for his exceptional leadership and dedication to improving Wisconsin's world-class Lake Michigan fishery. Darrell Waldera, Training Director for the DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement, was recognized as our law enforcement officer of the year for his dedication to the protection of Wisconsin's citizens and natural resources and his commitment to providing exceptional law enforcement training to warden recruits. And Warden Mike Nice, Richland County, was honored as Waterfowl Officer of the Year for his outstanding efforts in waterfowl education and wetland protection.



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We also honored our Congress delegate of the year, Dale Maas, Dodge County for his exceptional service to the citizens of this state, his unwavering dedication to conservation and for selflessly giving of his time and knowledge. Dale is a driving force of the successful Outdoor Education Expo held annually in Dodge County. Since 2006 this hands-on event has brought the classroom to life for about 25,000 kids, providing a free, fun outdoor experience and inspiring children to become active outdoor enthusiasts. And the success of this event is due in large part to Dale's behind the scenes work. We also gratefully acknowledged the dedication of our delegates by handing out our years of service certificates and pins to those delegates who have served the congress for 15, 20, 25, 30 and over 35 years.

In addition, awards recognizing Bradley Swenson, Clarence Uhren, and Joe Janak were given for their efforts to mentor first-time bear hunters. Dave and Gary Mabie, who continue to mentor the winner of the WCC Learn to Hunt Bear tag, were also recognized for their ongoing dedication to passing on our outdoor heritage. And Maurice Amundson, Mitchel Kirchmeyer, and Richard Kirchmeyer were recognized for generously transferring a 2011 bear permit to a first time hunter.

The Outstanding Local Conservation Club was the Beaver Dam Conservationists and the Statewide Organization of the year was the Milwaukee School of Engineering Ducks Unlimited. Both organizations were recognized for their impressive conservation accomplishments last year. The 2011 Educator of the Year award was received by a very deserving Cathy Chybowski, retired Kettle Moraine High School Biology and Advanced Placement Environmental Studies teacher, who tirelessly engages her students in conservation efforts through "work parties" at LuLu Lake Preserve and Lapham Peak State Natural Area and who has made a lasting impression on so many.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Conservation Congress, I would like to thank Jane Wiley for your attendance and presentation to the delegation. 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.

Question Description	Votes Yes	Votes No	Majority	Counties Approving	Counties Rejecting	Counties Tie vote	Counties Not Voting	Congress Recommendation
2012 STATEWIDE ATTENDANCE								
4611								
1 Eliminate the sunset of split season framework for bobcat hunting and trapping	2251	1126	Yes	66	4	2	0	
2 Modernizing license requirements for hunting guides	2402	1210	Yes	64	6	2	0	
3 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-Beaver Dam Lake	1894	845	Yes	63	8	1	0	
4 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-Lake Butte des Morts	1968	803	Yes	66	5	1	0	
5 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-Lakes Poygan and Winneconne	1936	812	Yes	64	5	3	0	
6 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-Castle Rock Lake	1915	804	Yes	67	4	1	0	
7 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-Grindstone Lake	1858	833	Yes	65	5	2	0	
8 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-Fence Lake	1853	845	Yes	63	5	4	0	
9 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-North Twin Lake	1847	854	Yes	63	6	3	0	
10 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-Trout Lake	1851	847	Yes	64	5	3	0	
11 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-Lake Koshkonong	1878	829	Yes	64	4	4	0	
12 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-Lake Puckaway	1891	811	Yes	65	4	3	0	
13 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-Shawano Lake	1872	852	Yes	64	4	4	0	
14 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-Lake Wisconsin	1887	806	Yes	66	3	3	0	
15 Expanding open water hunting for waterfowl-Lake Wisconsin	1915	829	Yes	65	5	2	0	
16 Eliminate closed seasons if biologically unnecessary	2427	1352	Yes	61	8	3	0	
17 Eliminate management zones if biologically unnecessary	2399	1267	Yes	60	11	1	0	
18 Motor trolling- 3 lines per angler	1379	2258	No	16	56	0	0	
19 Motor trolling- 2 lines per angler	1327	2237	No	14	54	4	0	
20 Motor trolling- 1 lines per angler	1420	2127	No	19	52	1	0	
21 Access fishing regulations using printed regulation booklets	3543	205	Yes	72	0	0	0	
22 Access fishing regulations online	1936	1730	Yes	33	32	7	0	
23 Access fishing regulations posted signs at the water	3233	439	Yes	72	0	0	0	
24 Find out fishing regulations through other anglers	1793	1818	No	32	35	5	0	
25 Typically don't check fishing regulations	361	3151	No	1	71	0	0	
26 Would you use a DNR Fishing Wisconsin App for a smart phone	1575	2061	No	10	60	2	0	
27 Is it important to have identical bag limits for a fish species on all inland waters	869	2847	No	1	71	0	0	
28 Is it important to have identical length limits for a fish species on all inland waters	943	2774	No	0	71	1	0	
29 Is it important to have identical seasons for a fish species statewide	976	2601	No	2	68	2	0	
30 Is it important to have border water regulations consistent with inland regulations	1476	2060	No	13	57	2	0	
31 Is it important to have border water regulations consistent with neighboring states'	1879	1694	Yes	48	23	1	0	
32 Would you prefer simplifying by eliminating less popular licenses	1528	2152	No	19	51	2	0	
33 Would you prefer Wisconsin eliminate separate stamps and tags	1253	2484	No	3	68	1	0	
34 Should Wisconsin issue the same fishing license regardless of residency	514	3263	No	0	72	0	0	
35 Rough fish spearing	2353	1078	Yes	66	6	0	0	
36 Non-toxic fishing tackle on Escanaba, Nebish, and Pallette Lakes	1646	1703	No	26	40	6	0	
37 Eliminate fish refuges if populations are adequately protected by other regulations	1715	1790	No	41	29	2	0	
38 DNR publish a comprehensive list of refuges instead of posting signs	1604	1900	No	27	41	4	0	
39 NRB Question: overnight placement of trail cameras on DNR managed lands	2190	1605	Yes	56	14	2	0	
40 Phase-out fall sole wading products (# 130311)	2632	970	Yes	68	4	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
41 Wisconsin recycling program (# 040711)	2493	1215	Yes	67	5	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
42 Consolidating jurisdictions for wetland management regulations	1692	1867	No	35	35	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
43 Consolidating jurisdictions for storm water management regulations	2256	1227	Yes	60	11	1	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
44 Consolidating jurisdictions for erosion control management regulations	2279	1069	Yes	63	9	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration

45	Open burning citation authority	2619	1136	Yes	67	3	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
46	Archers in quota units must apply for antlerless permits (# 640211)	1990	1555	Yes	56	14	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
47	Creation of public/private antlerless deer system	1293	2106	No	12	59	1	0	Rejected-No Further Action
48	Allow the use of rifles in all of Shawano County (# 590511)	2155	723	Yes	72	0	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
49	Use of rifles for deer hunting north of Hwy 54 in Outagamie County (# 540511)	2103	703	Yes	71	0	1	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
50	Northern deer management unit (DMU) boundaries	1676	683	Yes	66	2	4	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
51	Allow trolling while position fishing (#440411)	2161	1236	Yes	67	4	1	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
52	Allow sale of turkey bones and feathers (# 180411)	2462	1160	Yes	70	2	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
53	Legalize cage type traps for turtles (# 330111)	1870	1099	Yes	64	7	1	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
54	Use of handheld artificial lights to scan while predator hunting (# 320311)	2448	1178	Yes	66	6	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
55	Allow bowhunting on the closed areas of Grand River Wildlife Area (# 240211)	1975	899	Yes	62	8	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
56	4-day check for weasel traps (# 720211)	1878	1133	Yes	61	7	4	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
57	Combine muskrat and mink zone into one (#590111)	1959	890	Yes	62	8	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
58	Increase trapping license fee by \$2.00 to fund permanent trapper education position.	2098	1162	Yes	59	8	5	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
59	Spring closure for northern pike on Green Bay and tributaries (# 380111)	2456	549	Yes	72	0	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
60	Allow use of crossbows during bear season (# 520411)	2268	1125	Yes	65	5	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
61	Allow use of crossbows during fall and spring turkey seasons (# 520311)	2235	1140	Yes	62	8	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
62	Weapon option for deer, bear, and turkey (# 520711)	2193	1294	Yes	63	9	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
63	Transfer of license/ Permit to senior or disabled person (# 440111)	2743	771	Yes	71	1	0	0	Rejected-No Further Action
64	Make land owner preference turkey tags valid only on private property (# 650611)	2314	1093	Yes	61	10	1	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
65	Create a maximum of 25 mph on frozen water (# 180311)	1900	1971	No	33	35	4	0	Rejected-No Further Action
66	Sturgeon spearing preference point (# 130211)	1884	825	Yes	71	0	1	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
67	Use of crossbow for rough fish with valid fishing license (# 200111)	2376	947	Yes	70	2	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
68	50% concealment rule for waterfowl hunting (# 350211)	1862	1038	Yes	61	9	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
69	Sandhill crane season (# 550111)	2559	1271	Yes	65	4	3	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
70	Exterior Canada goose season dates (# 490111)	2345	539	Yes	71	0	1	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
71	Delay start to spring crow season (# 060511)	1875	1064	Yes	67	4	1	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
72	Canada goose tagging - Horizon Zone (# 520811)	1954	866	Yes	67	5	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
73	Mecan Springs Area - Waushara County (# 700211)	1734	619	Yes	69	3	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
74	Continuous open season for trout in "pur and lake" lakes (# 660411)	2052	840	Yes	69	1	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
75	Allow motor trolling statewide	1928	1576	Yes	53	18	1	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
76	Prohibit the spearing of panfish by divers (# 500211)	2162	1109	Yes	66	5	1	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
77	Spearing rough fish within 200 ft. of a dam (# 540411)	2386	833	Yes	68	4	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
78	Eliminate late opening of largemouth bass season in northwest Wisconsin (# 380111)	2329	654	Yes	70	2	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
79	Walleye restoration on Lake Chetek, Sawyer County (# 580211)	1745	704	Yes	65	5	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
80	40" minimum size limit for musky on Spider Lake, Sawyer County (# 580511)	2003	381	Yes	71	0	1	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
81	Reduce largemouth bass size limit to 12" Shawano Lake, Shawano County (# 590611)	1475	859	Yes	61	6	5	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
82	Reduce bag and increase size for northern pike, Caroline Pond (# 590711, 590811)	1483	599	Yes	68	2	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
83	Reduce daily bag limit for panfish, Little Hills Lake, Waushara County (# 700311)	1479	657	Yes	66	4	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
84	Largemouth bass size limit on Winnebago system (# 200411)	1523	910	Yes	59	10	3	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
85	Largemouth bass size limit reduction on Pickerel and Crane Lake (# 210511)	1794	421	Yes	70	0	2	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
86	Lower daily bag of crappies to five on Oneida Lake, Oneida County (# 440311)	1450	807	Yes	62	7	3	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
87	Notification of wolf depredations or attacks to livestock (# 350111)	3034	448	Yes	71	1	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
88	Allow state coyote harvest during deer firearm season (# 440211)	2501	1048	Yes	71	1	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
89	Pittman-Robertson money for shooting range (# 040211)	2483	784	Yes	71	1	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
90	Shooting range initiative	2735	505	Yes	72	0	0	0	Advance to DNR for Consideration
91	Panfish limit	1620	1704	No	22	48	2	0	Rejected-No Further Action

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