

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
Big Game Study Committee Meeting Minutes  
Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center Milladore, WI  
Saturday August 20, 2011**

**Meeting called to order** by Chairmen Mark Noll & Al Phelan at 9:05 AM.

**Members Present:**

Mark Noll Chairman, Al Phelan Chairman, Tony Janecek Secretary, Wright Allen, Jerry Aulik, Norman Blohm, Larry Bonde, Charlie Brown, Stan Brownell, Alan Gerber, Allen Jacobson, Steve Klicko, Marlin Laidlaw, Jerry Merryfield, Mike Riggle, Roger Sabota, Gary Schenck, Gary Severson & Paul Shaurette

**Members Excused:** Larry Hazen, Martin Hass, David Hraychuck, Arold Ninneman & Douglas Williams

**DNR Liaison Present:**

Bill Vander Zouwen & Kevin Mickelberg

**Others Present:**

Rob Bohmann, Chair Wisconsin Conservation Congress

**Study Committee Mission Statement**

Mark Noll read the mission statement “The Mission of the Big Game Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by blending the social and biological concerns of hunters, citizens and the Department of Natural Resources to provide successful management of Wisconsin’s big game animals which addresses the interests of all parties.”

Chairman Noll asked & received no changes to the mission statement

**Chairman Noll ask for public comments with none being given**

**Department Informational Items – Bill Vander Zouwen, Wildlife Section Chief, WDNR**

**A. 2010 Final Harvest Data**

Bill discussed filling of the Deer Specialist job previous held by Keith Warnke. He noted it still is in the process to fill.

Bill discussed the buck & antlerless harvest for the 2010 bow & gun deer seasons. He noted the total was 336,000 plus with the third highest archery buck harvest. He said gun deer licenses were 2.5% lower than 2009 & opening day gun weather was better than 2009. He noted we are now harvesting less yearly bucks, 40% in 2010, as compared to past years at approximately 80%. He said hunters donated over 3600 deer in 2010 & for 2011 there was over 60,000 acres offered for disabled hunters.

**B. 2011 Deer Season Outlook**

Bill said Deer Structure comparison of 2010 to 2011 shows less buck only units & less regular units. Deer Management map was shown & reviewed.

### **C Status of Deer Legislation / Rule Changes**

Bill discussed the “new rules” in the Legislature, that is, rifle hunting in Waupaca County (waiting legal review), use of archery equipment in firearm season, restricting the October antlerless season to October 15<sup>th</sup> or earlier, 4 day antlerless hunt only in CWD-MZ, modified EAB in CWD-MZ & all youth 10-17 receive a antlerless tag good in any DMU with purchase of gun license for gun & bow.

**D. Deer Research Update** - Bill passed out a handout showing the results to date.

### **CWD Management Update – Max Olson WDNR**

Max noted the DNR will only sample 4000 deer in 2011 due to insufficient funds. He said the DNR will use assistance from taxidermist to do adult buck sampling.

### **Kevin Mickelberg, WDNR Law Enforcement**

Kevin noted the DNR is moving towards a “enterprise agency” which will improve hiring, buying vehicles, more accountability through a increase in performance matrix & increasing customer service. He also noted to switching to a line organization & that wardens on call, voluntary basis, plan to improve by giving a call back response.

Kevin noted the department presently has 30 vacancies with a new warden recruit class of 12 to start soon. He discussed conceal carry gun law issues. He noted that a hunters education certificate can be used to get a permit. A application must be submitted to request a conceal permit likely available in November 2011.

### **Discussion & Action Items**

#### **Resolutions**

#### **A. 59-05-11 Allow use of rifles in all of Shawano Counties**

Al Phelan discussed status of rifle use statewide & noted shotguns were thought to be more dangerous than rifles. Mark Noll said rifles make sense, less shooting & more accurate. Motion to support by Larry Bonde second by Roger Sabota. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **B. 64-02-11 Archers in quota units must apply for antlerless permits**

Author Ken Anderson present. He noted the resolution passed 38 to 22 & was mostly in Vilas County. Motion to support by Mike Riggle with second by Jerry Merryfield. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **C. 39-01-11 Remove Marquette County from Herd Control**

Author Larry Schaff present. Larry noted hot spots in area cause the problem, “no deer around, just not there”. Larry wants DMU 67A taken out of herd reduction. Mark Noll asked if area was mostly private land? Al Phelan asked if there has large acreage land owners? Answer was yes, have hot spots. Mark Noll noted the longer in herd control makes the problem worse. Mike Riggle asked if the buck kill was staying the same? Larry did not know. Original motion by Marlin Laidlaw with second by Gary Schenck to support was withdrawn noting topic will be discussed later in the meeting.

#### **D. 58-06-11 Wisconsin Elk population**

Motion to support “modified resolution” by Larry Bonde with second by Jerry Merryfield.

Motion passed. Larry Bonde to write question

**E. 23-05-11 Change minimum barrel length requirement for handguns (deer)**

Motion to reject by Jerry Merryfield with second by Gary Schenck Motion to reject passed.

**F. 45-05-11 Use of rifles for deer hunting north of Hwy 54 in Outagamie County**

Motion to support by Larry Bonde with second by Charlie Brown. Motion passed.

**G. 25-01-11 Return deer season to pre-CWD Structure, revise EAB**

Motion to reject by Mike Riggle with second by Marlin Laidlaw. Motion to reject passed.

**H. 59-01-11 EAB alternative for Shawano County**

Motion to support by Tony Janecek with second by Marlin Laidlaw was withdrawn. Motion to table by Tony Janecek with second by Marlin Laidlaw passed. Rob Bohmann noted the bill is going to the Governors office to not use EAB.

**Suggested Changes to 2 Northern DMU Boundaries (Jerry Merryfield)**

Jerry presented a resolution to reconfigure the DMU's boundary's of units 6 & 13 to address a problem of forested land & agricultural land in these DMU's. Motion to support by Wright Allen with second by Larry Bonde. Motion passed.

**Governor's Charge to the Congress for Regulation Simplification**

Larry Bonde read the Governors letter to Rob Bohmann, Congress Chair. Larry then read Rob Bohmann's letter to the Congress body. Discussion was held on possible changes with spring hearing resolutions & some simplification thoughts.

**Mark Noll – Simplify Deer Hunting License System for Wisconsin**

The committee discussed the possibility to have different public / private land harvesting of antlerless deer. A motion was made by Mike Riggle with second by Larry Bonde to draft a question asking if hunters would support different tags issued for public & private land in a DMU. Motion to write question passed. Mike & Larry to write question.

**Member Matters**

Paul Shaurette – noted baiting has effected some of the public & private land issues

Jerry Aulik – noted the issues discussed today were the same ones discussed in Deer  
2000 Public / Private Land Committee. He said land use will stay the same.

Norman Blohm – deer hunting & hunters have changed; some hunters hunt public land first  
then private land.

Stan Brownell – Packers & deer hunting two most important things in the state

Allen Jacobson – talked about releasing of free ranging Elk

Marlin Laidlaw – talked about a good new magazine coming out

Steve Klicko – likes public land tag discussion

Roger Sabota – 4000 antlerless permits in his deer unit is wrong

Mike Riggle – talked about outlawing baiting & said the USDA thinks wild Elk & deer are a  
threat to their species

Alan Gerber – talked that the WCC has run its course

Gary Severson – talked about baiting

Mark Noll – have no baiting statewide to make things simple

Al Phelan – asked the Big Game Committee to let him & Rob Bohmann know what each thinks about the deer season structure. He stated hunters care about the deer they have access to noting no access to deer in the city limits of Madison & Portage.

Handouts provided at the meeting – Simplified Deer Hunting License System for Wisconsin, 2011 CWD Update for Conservation Congress (rev. 8/16/2011), 2011 Wisconsin Deer Hunting Regulations, 2010 Wisconsin Big Game Summary, Great Lakes States Record Book Whitetails Info, Wisconsin Deer Status Report 2011 & Jerry Merryfield's resolution to reconfigure boundaries of units 6 & 13.

Next Big Game Meeting will be in March 2012

Meeting adjourned 2:45 PM.

Tony Janecek, Big Game Committee Secretary