

MINUTES OF THE WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

REGULATION SIMPLIFICATION AD HOC COMMITTEE

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organizational Matters

- A. Call to order at 6:00 p.m. December 1, 2012
- B. Roll Call: Ron Krueger, Todd Cook, Dick Baudhuin, Dave Miller, Dan Cichantek, Steve Ninneman.
- C. Agenda approved
- D. Governor's Charge to the Congress was read
- E. No Public Comments

II. Summary of Town Hall meetings

A. A significant public concern was about Act. 21. General comments are a desire for a modification to Act 21 regarding hunting, fishing & trapping regulations to allow more biological management. A clear message was to keep politics out of game and fish management. At the same time the public wanted less micro-management of game and fish by the DNR.

B. It was very clear that the public wants more APPS from the DNR for all regulations. This was strongly stated in numerous requests for online/phone registration of deer similar to our current turkey registration.

- C. Youth education/involvement was of high concern among the public.
 - 1. More education of our youth to the benefits of fish and game management.
 - 2. Education of the health benefits of eating game meat and fish.
 - 3. A youth mentoring system similar to Big Brother/Big Sister programs.
 - 4. More emphasis on school programs such as NASP and school trap leagues etc.
- D. More public shooting ranges
- E. Hunter Education Classes focus mainly on deer hunting and less on small game, which was the backbone of our youth learning to hunt.
- F. License fees
 - 1. Senior Conservation Patron License
 - 2. Family Conservation Patron License (husband/wife type license)
 - 3. Lifetime License
- G. A public concern was the micro-management of our deer herd (most of these concerns have been pointed out in the deer report).
 - 1. Fewer antlerless tags
 - 2. Larger DMU's
 - 3. Fewer antlerless tags per hunter
- H. Elimination of the deer back tag
- I. Stay with the traditional 9-day gun season

III. Fishing Concerns

- A. More uniform regulations over regions, less lake-by-lake regulations
 - 1. An example would be a resolution from 2010 regarding crappie bag limits north of

HWY 8. A uniform 10 crappie limit because of significant reduction in the crappie numbers & size.

B. Yet there was concern that the Fish biologist should have the ability to manage the lake to the best of it's biological carrying capacity

C. There was strong concern over the increasing trophy management of fish. It is hard to get a youth involved when they can't keep a prize they just caught

D. Again phone APPS was strongly mentioned

E. Slot sizing was strongly recommended especially for walleyes in the northern half of the state. This is mostly a social issue, not a biological issue

F. A 2-day resident fishing license

Summary:

In summary the Ad Hoc Committee feels the public wants more involvement along with biological management and less politics. More emphasis on education involvement in our school systems. There is a public concern about micro-management and trophy emphasis.