

DNR'S DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
COUNCIL PURPOSE/MISSION

To advise the Department of Natural Resources on matters pertaining to the accessibility of all department programs and services by persons with disabilities.

- To draft recommendations to the Department for legislation, administrative rules, or department policy.
- To identify and evaluate needs of persons with disabilities and to communicate them to the Department.
- To help to increase public awareness and sensitivity to the needs of persons with disabilities.
- To communicate with individuals and other organizations dedicated to similar purposes.

MEETING MINUTES
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY APRIL 5, 2019
AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER
STEVENS POINT

Members Present: John Martinson, Kirsten Engel, Chris Hendrickson, Cathryn Scott, Keith Pamperin, Calvin Richtig, Jim Rutledge and John Mitchell

Others Present: Julie Amakobe with Barry Gilbeck and Nick Zouski via the phone

Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 10:25 am.

John asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Steve Johnson. Members of the Council mentioned how Steve had such a great sense of humor. They also emphasized Steve's many important contributions over the 18 years of service to the DAC. He will surely be missed!

First, the Council reviewed the agenda.

Kirsten made a motion to accept the agenda. Cathryn seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next, the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from December 14, 2018.

Jim made a motion to accept the minutes. John Mitchell seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Chair Martinson suggested the Council Members give introductions on behalf of our newest member Chris Hendrickson. Likewise, Chris gave background on his interest in wanting to be a member of the DAC. Welcome Chris!

Keith moved to have Barry give his updates and move his item up in the agenda. All were in agreement to this motion.

Barry gave the Customer Service and Licensing updates.

Bonus Turkey Authorization Sales March 18-22

- Sales during the week went well.
- There are still authorizations available for sale in Zones 1-5

Bear and Turkey Drawings have been completed and all customers have been notified and the Authorizations have been posted to their accounts.

Assembly Bill 79/Senate Bill 85

Disabled Veteran reduced rate Conservation Patron

- Qualifications would be the same as the qualification for the Disabled Veteran Recreation Card.
 - o This would only be for Wisconsin residents only
 - o Must produce evidence showing that he or she has a service-connected disability rating of 50% or greater, as determined by the Department of Veteran Affairs, or is receiving disability benefits from the VA due to being unemployable based on his or her education and skills as well as his or her medical condition.
 - o Fee for this new license would be \$65.00
- The bills were introduced March 15
- The DNR has provided all fiscal estimates to the legislature.

Jim made a motion for the DAC to support AB 79/SB 85 bills which will allow disabled Veterans to receive a reduced-price patron license for the cost of \$65.00. (Normally the cost is \$165.00.) Chris seconded the motion and all were in favor. Julie will get this information to the appropriate Programs.

2019-2021 Budget Bill

- Has an item included for the automatic renewal of hunting and fishing licenses
 - o This may or may not be included in final budget bill
 - o Unsure of how this would work, and more discussion will be needed as there are many considerations affected by this.

New Conservation Card for 2019

- It has a picture of Elk and a mat finish

Spring Hearings scheduled for this coming Monday, April 8

- A few of the questions of interest for the DAC
 - o DNR Question
 - Eliminate minimum barrel length restriction for handguns that are used for hunting.
 - o Conservation Congress Advisory Questions
 - Question 55 Restore deer tagging requirements in statute
 - Question 56 Baiting and Feeding ban
 - Question 75 Restore the bear application to the Conservation patron license
 - Questions 78-79 remove the uncocking or encasing requirements of unloaded crossbow in a stationary vehicle or transported in a vehicle.
 - o Many other questions concerning trapping and fishing and fish management.

- New Conservation Congress initiative this year will be the ability to provide input online
 - o People can go to the meeting and get a number to provide specific county input.
 - o Other input will be considered as statewide

Fishing App like the current Hunt Wild App is being considered for development by the Department.

Spring Wild Turkey Hunt for People with Disabilities

- Now is a good time to start thinking about next year's turkey hunt.
- Applications need to be submitted between September 10 and December 10 for the upcoming year.
 - o Possibly start making landowner contacts now
- More information and the application can be found at the following link
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/disturkey.html>

County Deer Advisory Committee input period is April 1-11.

- The public input survey is available on the CDAC webpage:
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html>
 (click on "Provide Your Input" button at top of page).

Next item on the agenda was the annual elections for Chair and Vice Chair.

Jim nominated John Martinson for Chair and Chris seconded the nomination. The nominations were closed after requesting any other nominations three (3) times. Keith closed the nominations for Chair and Jim seconded the motion. All were in favor of John Martinson for Chair. John Martinson continues as Chair of the DAC.

Jim nominated Kirsten Engel for Vice Chair and Chris seconded the nomination. John Mitchell nominated Calvin for Vice Chair and Keith seconded the nomination. The nominations were closed after requesting any other nominations three (3) times. Ballots were handed out and Members voted. Kirsten received the most votes and continues as Vice Chair of the DAC. Congratulations to John and Kirsten!

Next on the agenda was the Bear Plan. Keith informed the Council of the proposed changes to the Bear Plan. Julie handed out a 4-page summary of the Plan. Keith asked Barry if the Plan allows transfer of authorizations to disabled veterans. Legislation was submitted, and the department can do this now. Barry will get the number of harvested bears during 2018 for the Council. Keith asked Barry to share the Plan by email, specifically pages 46-48 to let the Council know what the impacts will be for persons with disabilities with the expansion of dog hunting in zones previously not allowing dog hunting.

Dog training is allowed, but hunting with hounds is currently not allowed in Zone C. Keith's concern is if dog hunting will be expanded into Zone C, then baiting will be more difficult after dogs have been there and will take away some of the hunting opportunities for persons with disabilities. Dogs versus baiting has been an issue for years. Hunters using dogs versus hunters using bait alternates by year and that determines which one goes the first week of each year. Barry will look up and share the plan with the Council which they can review for impacts on the disabled community.

Next on the agenda was the accessible fishing and boating opportunities in Dane County Parks. John Martinson took the lead on this agenda item. He had wished Nick would have been on the call for his input. (Nick was out of the office on vacation.) For the discussion, Bill Lunney called into the meeting. John asked the Council to do introductions. Since Nick is not here to provide input into the discussion; Bill proposed he can get his input offline. The Council, Barry and Julie gave their introductions. Bill also gave his introduction and background. Bill is the Chair of the Dane County Parks Commission and is the President of the Foundation for Dane County Parks. Bill helped originate the Foundation five years ago. Bill has also served on the Board of the Friends of State Parks and was a Board Member of the Capital Springs Friends Group and is currently a Board Member of the Natural Resources Foundation. Other Members of the Foundation for Dane County Parks include Darren Marsh, Chris James, and Judie Pfeifer. Darren Marsh is the Director of Dane County Parks.

Bill stated Dane County has 25 Parks, 29 Resource and Protection Areas and three (3) other Protection Areas, 3,500 volunteers and 18 Friends' Groups which support Dane County Parks. The Foundation is the organization which is spearheading the accessible piers project. Its goal is to fund raise and support the parks, not to run them. The Foundation is totally volunteer and is working to build on its current endowment of \$500,000. Its objective is to construct piers systemwide. This will be a multi-year task because fishing piers are not cheap. Dane County Parks is very supportive and is doing the design, construction, etc. The Foundation wants to create partnerships with private and public (County/State) entities. Examples of current partners are Accessibility Wisconsin and Madison Fishing Expo. The more partnerships it has actively engaged, the better chances for success. They are hoping to access some DNR funds as a match either through the non-profit (Foundation) or through Dane County Parks.

Chris James, Dane County Parks Senior Landscape Architect, and staff chose eight possible locations for the piers at the Dane County Parks. They particularly focused on the elderly and physically and cognitively challenged individuals. It's well known the benefits parks can provide; parks provide healthy surroundings. Babcock County Park on Lake Waubesa will be the first project. This one will surely be a showcase. The fishing pier should be completed by mid-summer of 2020. Selmo Pond and Fish Camp Park are the second and third in line for piers. Dane County Parks also works with the City of Madison Parks, but they are separate entities.

Bill suggested Nick Zouski can network with Chris James. Tom Thoreson, former DNR Chief Warden, is looking at DNR Waterways money. Julie will look for DNR Stewardship funds. John Martinson explained Easy Docks for kayaks have gone up in price. The cost is \$30,000-\$35,000 for the pier and 35,000 for the launch. Calvin mentioned Madison Independent Living Executive Jason Beloungy and he both love fishing and would like to help and get involved. One area of concern is the lack of involvement with the paralyzed veterans who are out there. The Commission doesn't know how to work with this group. Since Jim Rutledge is a paralyzed vet, the Commission wants Jim's input. Jim will get in touch with his governmental contact Scott Griffith, who is the Government Relations Director for the PVA-Wisconsin Chapter. Jim will get back to Bill. Julie will send Bill the DAC's e-mail addresses. John Mitchell said he could contact the Recreational Therapist at the VA in Madison. John Mitchell will e-mail Bill the Therapist's name and phone number.

Next on the agenda are the Accessibility Coordinator Updates.

The first item is the inventory of accessible features. Nick said he is meeting with the same involved/affected Programs on another topic in two weeks, so he can also bring this item up at that time.

The second item is the confirmation of availability of adaptive equipment listed on the website. Nick said the kayak at Mirror Lake is the only one that isn't up to date on the website. Everything else on the website is available at the designated property. Someone asked about the sit ski. Is it the only one and if "yes" did it get moved?

The third item is the website. It is believed it would be easy to have each property page linked back to Open the Outdoors page. The harder issue is for each property to have all accessibility features listed at that certain property. Kirsten again asked about having an accessible tab on the main menu. She thought DNR IT was going to do that. Nick indicated that it hasn't been discussed with the appropriate Program yet.

The fourth item is license issue for individuals who use a State ID. Nick said he would get in touch with the Council of the Blind next week and find out the status of this item.

The fifth item is the status of the Eagle Tower. Nick said he talked to DNR's Chief Engineer, Rick Schmale, and Rick told him the bids came in much higher than anticipated. Rick is looking at what part of the design plan may have caused the bids to come in so high. Nothing is final at this time. Were these plans close to being the official plans?

The sixth item is the DAC vacancies and selection process. Nick said he had sent out information regarding the DAC vacancy to his friend who works at Access to Independent Living in Madison. Nick doesn't believe it has been sent out yet. Nick needs to revise the message to include another vacancy. There is now a permanent member vacancy along with the alternate member vacancy due to the untimely death of Steve Johnson. Once Nick revises the message, he will give it to Calvin. Calvin had asked if he could do the distribution to all the Independent Living Centers for their newsletters. (He has the contact information for all the Independent Living Centers.) Julie is to get the Council the DNR scoring criteria used in ranking the DAC applications.

The seventh item is the PDMD Implementation (no need for a permit with a Track Chair). Nick is having a meeting in 2 weeks to discuss the finalization of the new policy. Nick noted there has been an uptick of complaints from properties regarding the PDMD permit. The Programs are thinking of putting different information on the form because many are not telling the truth. In addition, the property managers want to have people place a sign in their vehicle which indicates they have a permit. The Track Chair issue goes back to when Anthonette was still the Accessibility Coordinator. The Council already has given the specifications for the use of the Track Chair on state properties without a permit. These specifications are: Single occupant, mobility required, battery operated, and to be used at a designated use area. Calvin asked for this update along with the accessibility features when Nick meets with the Programs in two weeks.

Next on the agenda was the DNR ads for upcoming events. John Mitchell led this discussion. John said the Natural Resources Foundation (NRF) has various programs and hikes, etc. during the year and they indicate right on the ad if the hike or property visit is strenuous or easy travelling for persons with disabilities. The Bureau of Parks also has different functions and they do not give the four categories of easiness to get around.

Next on the agenda was the DAC Member Updates. Some Members gave their updates and other Members will be sending theirs into Julie and she will carbon copy all the Members. Julie will then include them in the minutes.

John Mitchell - The 2019 events for Adaptive Sportsmen are listed on the calendar on its website. More events may be added.

John Martinson – John is designing a prototype to get people and their kayak from land to water easier.

Kirsten Engel – No updates at this time.

Jim – The Paralyzed Veterans Chapter of Wisconsin will be holding its Annual Trap Shoot & Pistol & Rifle Competition on May 17th through May 19th in Green Bay. The Pistol & Rifle Competition will be on May 17th at the Nicolet Pistol & Rifle Range. The Trap Competition will be held at the Brown County Sportsmen's Club. The events are open to all shooters, disabled or non-disabled. The PVA-WI Chapter will be funding registration, lodging and meals for the first 15 youth who sign up to compete in the youth event.

Cathryn – No updates at this time.

Keith - We are pleased to announce the re-establishment of a Disability Advocacy Council in NE Wisconsin to advocate for persons with disabilities. The Council has provided input to the new Green Bay Booyah Baseball Stadium design, input on various commercial accessibility issues and has a task force working with the University of Wisconsin Green Bay on employability advocacy for graduates with disabilities.

Challenge the Outdoor (CTO) Inc. is gearing up for their Sporting Clays Fundraiser to be held at J & H Sporting Clays in Navarino, WI. CTO is expecting 400 shooters to participate. Challenge the Outdoors will also hold an indoor archery shoot on April 13th in Black Creek, a Turkey Hunt on May 17-20 in Clintonville, and its Shawano Lake Fishing Outing on Shawano Lake, June 1st.

Chris Hendrickson – No updates at this time.

Calvin Richtig – No updates at this time.

Keith made a motion to have the DAC minutes and the DAC charter which outlines the purpose of the DAC (first distribution only), sent to the Secretary, Division Administrators,

and all DNR Bureau Directors. All DAC minutes will have the mission of the DAC located at the top. Cathryn seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Kirsten wants Chair Martinson to draft a letter to all affected Bureau Directors on behalf of the DAC.

Cathryn made a motion to have Chair Martinson draft a letter to all affected Bureau Directors asking for an inventory of accessibility features at DNR properties. Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Chair Martinson adjourned the meeting at 2:55.