

**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  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019  
WYALUSING STATE PARK**

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

Members Absent: Keith Pamperin (excused) and Chris Hendrickson

Others Present: Nick Zouski, Barry Gilbeck, and Julie Amakobe

Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm.

First, the Council reviewed the agenda.

Kirsten and Jim wanted to add agenda items, but it was decided these topics could be discussed under topics already listed on the agenda.

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

Next, the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from June 7, 2019.

**Jim Rutledge made a motion to accept the minutes. Kirsten the motion and all were in favor.**

Barry gave the Customer and Outreach Services update.

#### Deer Authorizations

- No changes for this season to use of Deer Harvest Authorizations
- Class A and C disabled permit holders can still use one Farmland Zone Authorization for an antlerless deer in any unit statewide for each deer hunting license type on the land type specified.
  - o The land type does not need to be followed during the Gun Hunt for Hunter's with Disabilities.
- See handout for authorization use options

#### Gun Hunt for Hunter's with Disabilities

- Will be conducted on October 5 – 13

#### Disabled Permit Applications

- Customer Service is processing these daily and remaining caught up to expedite service and have as short a turn-around time as possible while still reviewing the applications fully.

#### Elk and Elk Season

- Elk hunt will be October 12 – November 10 and December 12 – December 20
- 5 tags were issued four through the DNR drawing process and one through a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation raffle.
- \$7.00 out of \$10.00 of the application fee and the proceeds from the REMF raffle are earmarked for elk management in Wisconsin.
- There were 60 elk released in mid-August into the Flambeau River State Forest from the those captured in KY.
  - o 46 Adults and 16 Calves
  - o All have radio collars
- There was an elk illegally killed in the Clam Lake area
  - o Law Enforcement is investigating

#### 2019 Bill SB 383 Junior/Senior licenses to be included in the \$5.00 new buyer fee

- This bill expands the fish and game approvals to which a reduced fee for first-time approvals applies. The bill adds an annual fishing license issued to a person who is 16 or 17 years old who is a resident of this state or an annual fishing license issued to a resident who is 65 years old or older to the list of licenses eligible for the first-time buyer fee of \$4.25 (\$4.25 base fee + \$0.75 issuance fee).

#### 2019 Bill SB 85 Veteran Patron Bill

- Still awaiting scheduling during a legislative floor period
- No further action

#### Bear Management Plan

- The new zone structure recommended in the plan still needs to go through the rule making process before it can be implemented.
- It will go into effect once it is complete and in Administrative Code.
  - o It is planned to be in place by 2021, but may be later

#### Ruffed Grouse Season

- The season may be shortened again this year
- The scope statement was approved by the Natural Resources Board
- It is on the Natural Resources Board agenda for September
- It proposes that Zone A be closed on January 5
- This would be implemented as an emergency rule

#### Social Media

- DNR is using social media to provide safety information and reminders on how to complete your deer registration.

#### CWD Surveillance

- Search the DNR website for up to date information and self-serve kiosk locations <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/cwd.html>
- Click on “Get your deer tested” for an interactive map showing the locations

#### West Nile Virus Surveillance

- Many sample kits have been provided to grouse hunters
- This is the second year of monitoring

#### Bear Hair Snare – Population Estimate Survey

- This has been completed and the results expected next year some time.

#### Next on the agenda was the Accessibility Coordinator Updates

The first item was the Inventory of Accessible Features. Nick has to talk to other Bureau heads; he has talked already to Brigit Brown of Parks. Nick created the inventory list that the property managers will fill out during the off season. He is working on getting these out to the Bureau Directors so they can give the lists to staff to fill out. DNR as an agency is revamping its website, so this is very good timing to get the accessibility features into the website. Nick will contact the Bureau Director of Information and Technology to make sure he is part of the Committee which is updating the website. There was a lot of discussion on trails and what makes a trail accessible. Nick preferred to use the words “easily navigable”. There was discussion on the DNR purchasing an instrument to measure slopes, etc. Deanna Sell, Capital Development Coordinator, was a key person in this discussion. Nick will follow up.

Kirsten mentioned we should take notes at the tours and make them part of the minutes. Barry asked how official these notes should be taken. It was concluded the notes should generalize the features needing assistance but emphasize the really good accessible features. Nick can send notes with more details of the problem areas to the property managers directly. Kirsten wants the Council to also follow up with property managers. Kirsten asked if there should be a template? Calvin suggested the Independent Living Centers staff be invited to go out and do property assessments and give results back to DNR. The positive features at the property should be emphasized in the scenario as well. The Council decided to hold off at this time with formal assessments in order to avoid confusion and frustration with management due to the term “assessment” as opposed to informal recommendations.

**Kirsten made a motion the DAC will take notes on the site observations regarding accessibility features and also troubled areas and make recommendations to the appropriate Bureau property manager after the site observations. Calvin seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Randy Sorensen from Options Outdoors called into the meeting. OptionsOutdoors.org is a non-profit service provided by Options: Resource Center for Independent Living. Randy works with OptionsOutdoors for Northwestern Minnesota and Northeastern North Dakota. We did introductions of the DAC members and DNR staff. Randy discussed accessible piers and blinds. He indicated many people don't know about the accessible blinds. The US Fish and Wildlife Service doesn't have an accessibility site listing all its accessible features and most counties in Minnesota don't have a major accessibility site either. His organization is taking all the different sites' information and combining it into one site. For example, duck hunting blinds will be mapped out, so a person can see what is available. These can be found on the Wheelmate app. Anyone can enter information on accessibility on the Options Outdoors platform, including posting fishing and hunting events. A person can also enter accessibility sites that are available. Please use the site or critique/make recommendations on it. His group is helping with technical assistance for accessibility and letting the public know of existing accessible sites. Building accessibility is good, but it's the cross slopes, routes of travel, etc. that need help. Program accessibility needs a lot of improvement/assistance as well. Randy's organization got a grant to do a lot of this work. They hold two disabled hunts in Minnesota. Randy is on the Parks and Trails Legacy Committee. There is a tax that goes towards parks and trails which is used for improvements such as: some bathrooms didn't have lever handles, etc. Many shooting ranges are not accessible. Randy was wondering about shooting bench specifications (different reaching ranges). Nick said he will ask and try to find the accessible shooting range specifications and share the accessible waterfowl and deer blinds and fishing piers specifications.

The second item was the Track Chair (outdoor wheelchair) Administrative Change. The Bureau of Facilities and Lands doesn't have a rules' coordinator, but our Division does. The Rules Coordinator will be the one to take the proposed change to DNR's Operations Management Team (OMT). After the OMT approves it, it will go to the Legislative Rules Committee. Julie asked if the Council needed to change its motion regarding the use of Track Chairs since the Council's recommendation specified the use of these chairs in designated use areas and not all places an indoor wheelchair (ambulatory persons) can go. Julie will look up designated use area definition and get back to the Council.

The third update was the PDMD application changes. Nick handed out the application with the changes being highlighted. Barry suggested for Nick to remind property managers what a PDMD permit is to be used for. One must be disabled. Allowing a PDMD permit for a person to use a vehicle to get wood is NOT the correct use for this permit.

The fourth item was the State ID update. Currently, anyone with a state issued ID instead of a driver's license cannot go online to get a hunting or fishing license and this needs to change. Calvin asked for an update for the Council. Calvin said he can make a call to the lobbyist. Nick indicated he had asked the Council of the Blind if he could contact the lobbyist firm directly, and the Council told him, "No". Barry indicated it is the DOT which must initiate the statutory

change. The Department has been in contact with the Department of Transportation and there have been no changes to the statutory restrictions on sharing the Wisconsin ID number. Until that restriction is changed, we are not able to do anything in Go Wild to accept the Wisconsin State ID since we are unable to verify that the number was entered correctly or that it matches the same person's DNR account. Nick can send an e-mail to Terry Bay, the Bureau Director of Facilities and Lands, to have the two Secretary's talk to each other.

There was a discussion on DAC meeting attendance. John M. will follow-up with the Member.

Next, the Eagle Tower update was discussed. Nick gave the timeline for the construction and the approval of State Building Commission (SBC) for additional money. He indicated there were some minor specification changes, but nothing major.

The next agenda item was the picnic tables. The Bureau of Parks wants a 6-foot option for picnic tables. Parks is pushing from using wood to plastic for the picnic tables. Fire rings are more costly for the accessible ones versus non-accessible ones. Not all campsites will have the accessible fire rings, but there will be more in Park's campgrounds in addition to where they are now which is usually only at the accessible site. The kiosks won't have the bench and table attached, but nearby.

Next on the agenda was the discussion of yurts. There will be a yurt at Flambeau River State Forest. The proposed site was not very accessible since you would have to ski to get back to it. Nothing was around the site to view either. Instead they have chosen an old homestead the Division of Forestry purchased. Although an accessible cabin was approved in the master plan, it was too expensive to build, so they have chosen to put the yurt at this location. You can drive back there. The yurt will have a stove and maybe some bunks. This will need to be reserved. The yurt should be completed in October.

The Accessible Restroom Lock Policy was the next agenda item. There was an incident where the room was unlocked and some family was using it, but people were pounding on the door so they could wash their dog. The husband of the disabled person inside of the accessible restroom was upset. The suggestion to solve this dilemma (closed versus open) was to close the restroom, but provide a code to be used by the disabled person. A different code would be provided for each property. The code would be given to the disabled person. A punch combination lock pad was suggested as the type of keypad to be used.

The next agenda was the MacKenzie Center Issues and Concerns update. Nick, Deanna, the Construction Rep., and Julie met with Matt Seguin, Supervisor of MacKenzie. It was decided the best location to use for the accessible restroom/shower was the covered porch area at one of the dorms. There would be a separate girls and boys accessible restroom/shower. The Lodge will use the storage closet area for its accessible restroom. The storage closet area would be separated and ½ would be an accessible restroom and the other would be used as storage.

The Crossbow Issue, raised by John Martinson, was the next item on the agenda. John handed out the pamphlet regarding the crossbow and other definitions. The Oversight Committee was to quickly correct the crossbow error. Keith had asked at the previous meeting if they could still

cock the crossbow which he thinks is allowed if it is in a case. Barry responded and Keith is correct that it is legal to leave the crossbow cocked as long as the bolt is removed and enclosed in a case. The law states: It is illegal to place, possess, or transport a cocked crossbow inside or on a motorized vehicle unless it is unloaded (bolt removed) and enclosed within a case.

The last agenda item was the Members' Updates.

Calvin – No updates at this time.

Jim – Jim indicated he went to the Yellowstone Shooting Range. He said they updated many items, but did not blacktop the area to 100 yard range. The 50 yard is well kept. The 100 yard was ok. Jim also informed the Council the Cadiz Springs damn broke. The park was not busy at the time.

Cathryn – No updates at this time.

John Mitchell – Adaptive Sportsmen events are done for the year. There will be one more archery deer hunt on October 23-27 in Clintonville. There will be a disabled hunt at Feather Ridge farms near Marshall. This hunt will be a disabled pheasant hunt on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

John Martinson - John indicated there will be a wheelchair whitetails will have a bow hunt for deer in Niagara. The Nooyana family opens up their land for hunting.

Kirsten – No updates at this time.

**Kirsten made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cathryn seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

The meeting was adjourned approximately at 4:40 pm.

**SITE REVIEW FOR ACCESSIBILITY  
DISABLED ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019  
WYALUSING STATE PARK**

April Ammann, the Park Ranger, gave the DAC a tour of the Wyalusing State Park.

**Interpretive Center**

The CCC (civilian conservation corps) lived at the Park and built this facility. The CCC was established by Congress in 1933 to provide jobs to young men during the Depression. This is a beautiful historic building. With a couple of corrections, it will be much more accessible. Here are the concerns:

- 3” step up into the building (add a transition plate)
- 30” door width which is too small (needs to be 32”)

### **Toilet Shower Building (newly constructed and very accessible)**

- 36” door width
- Has a self-contained fully accessible room with toilet, sink, and shower
- The accessible restroom is unlocked during regular visitor hours

### **Knob Shelter**

- Beautiful location back in the woods
- No accessible pathway to shelter
- One of the paths leading to the shelter **could possibly** be made accessible
- With an attendant, a wheelchair could currently reach the shelter
- Add an accessible fire ring at the site

### **Peterson Shelter (Concession)**

- Kayaks and canoes to rent
- 1” lip into special room which is right off the main shelter area (looking at making it a nature center)
- **Could** add a newer accessible grill
- Add another accessible picnic table or move the accessible picnic table into flat area

### **Point Look Out**

- Beautiful scenic view
- To make the view accessible for all users (sign location impedes those in wheel chairs to see the view): Add a pad next to the sign so those in chairs can move to this location and see the beautiful view
- Door on the pit toilets at this location closes too fast; adjustment in door pull

### **Boat Landing on Long Lake**

- Nice view
- No “Accessible Parking” sign(s) in the parking lot

### **Sentinel Ridge Trail**

- Basically accessible, but possibly could add more gravel (low priority)

Thank you for a wonderful tour April! You have a beautiful and very accessible Park!

Thanks also to the Radio Team, Greg and Jennifer, in Forestry for graciously letting us use their high-tech radios!