



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 District 10 Spring Meeting
 Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes
 Form 8300-026 (R 11/17) Page 1 of 4

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| ORDER OF BUSINESS | 03/07/2022 | 6:30 P.M. | Remote Zoom Meeting |
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

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| Meeting called to order by | Paul Reith at 6:45 P.M. |
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B. ROLL CALL

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| ATTENDEES | Dane County - Paul Reith, Mary Ellen O'Brien, Brad Wagner, George Meyer Green County - Ken Risley, Richard Marti, Ryan Schutte, Scott Lettman Jefferson County - Jeff Winn, William Kehoe, Dennis Jones, Lowell Wright Rock County - Larry Meyer, Charlie Brown, Ryan Stahl, Curt Jacob Walworth County - Martin Sands, Oscar Mueller DNR - Kari Lee-Zimmerman, Mark Aquino, Shelly Allness |
| EXCUSED | Tim Gorski (Dane), Cody Gadow (Green), Ronald Earnest (Walworth), Kathleen Tober (Walworth) |
| UNEXCUSED | Unexcused/status unknown: Thomas Schwefel (Jefferson), Kyle Walker (Rock), Kenneth Balestrieri (Walworth) |
| GUESTS | Dylan Hughes, Liv Halbach, Liz Merfel |

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

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| DISCUSSION | None |
| ACTION | |

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

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| DISCUSSION | None |
| ACTION | |

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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| DISCUSSION | None |
| ACTION | |

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Department and Secretary's Office Updates

Mark Aquino

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| DISCUSSION | <p>DNR Secretary's director, Mark Aquino (South Central Region), summarized a couple of items from the Secretary's office:</p> <p>Hunter Education - DNR announced that the on-line hunter education course option for those under 18 will end March 20; those already enrolled will have an opportunity to complete the course. The on-line option was provided to help protect the public and staff from Covid. It will continue for those over 18.</p> <p>PFAS - The DNR Board recently voted to approve a drinking water standard of 70 parts per million (ppm) for PFOA and PFOS; DNR had recommended a more restrictive standard of 20 ppm. The Board approved DNR's recommended 8 parts per trillion standard for PFOS in surface water. This needs legislative approval. DNR will collect PFOS data in Lake Monona this summer. Sampling will include the water column, additional fish species, plants, insects and sediments. It was noted that Black Earth Creek (trout stream) now has a consumption advisory of one meal per week.</p> <p>Habitat funding - Mark noted that there will likely be some funding available for upland and aquatic habitat through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act that provides dollars to states and tribes for developing conservation strategies to restore essential habitat. Information on this act was sent to the group ahead of the district meeting.</p> <p>Larry Meyer asked about how money from the Pittman-Robertson (wildlife restoration) Act was used last year. Mark said these funds were used for improving deer ranges, creating federally funded positions to help with workload in the field and at central office. Mark also noted that CDAC (County Deer Advisory Councils), DMAP (Deer</p> |
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| | Management Assistance Program), and CWD activities have also used these resources. George Meyer asked Mark to provide information to the WCC Districts on total funds received from the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson (sport fish restoration) Acts, what these funds were/are being used for, and any balance. |
| ACTION | DNR will provide information on Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson funds to WCC Districts. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Mark Aquino | |

B. DNR Program Updates

Kari Lee-Zimmerman

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| DISCUSSION | Kari Lee-Zimmerman sent a link for DNR program updates ahead of the district meeting: https://dnrmedia.wi.gov/main/Catalog/Full/53399fa3a44b4f7e84fc630a21b8d58021 Reports include wildlife management, fisheries management, parks, forestry, public safety and resource protection. |
| ACTION | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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C. Review Conservation Congress Advisory Questions

[PRESENTER]

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| DISCUSSION | The 2022 advisory questions were sent to WCC districts ahead of the district meetings. The group did not think it was necessary to review them at the district meeting. There were no questions or comments about any particular questions. |
| ACTION | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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D. Conservation Congress Annual County Meetings and DNR Spring Hearing Logistics

Paul Reith & Ken Risley

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| DISCUSSION | <p>Spring hearings - The spring hearings will again be held on-line beginning at 7:00 p.m. on April 11 and remaining open for 72 hours. Resolutions can be submitted on line via a survey tool through March 11. The requirement for resolution length has been changed from 250 words to 2,000 characters. Paul Reith noted that the WCC Rules and Resolutions Committee and DNR have asked 24 delegates to assist in reviewing the 2022 resolutions. Training and guidance has been provided to assist in uniform review and action on the resolutions. Updated guidance has also been put on the WCC website to assist resolution authors in preparing their submittals. Five people have also been identified to assist resolution reviewers and authors with particular questions (Paul Reith, Terri Roehrig, Tony Blattler, Reed Kabelowsky, and Mary Susan Diedrich).</p> <p>Delegate seats - current terms will be extended for another year. Anyone not interested in continuing for another year should notify Kari Lee-Zimmerman, your county chair, and your district councillor. County chairs can appoint persons to fill vacancies. The WCC outreach committee noted that there are several vacancies across the state and efforts should be made to fill them. Applications are being taken through March 11 to help fill vacancies. Applications will be sent to the County Chair and the chair will review them in consultation with county delegates to determine whether to appoint the applicant to a vacant seat.</p> <p>Delegate profiles - All delegates need to complete/update their profiles each year. The profiles are on line in the form of a survey. Note: DNR (Eric Christenson) has or will be sending out e-mail reminders to delegates to update their profiles. The deadline to complete/update profiles is Friday, April 8, 2022. Arrangements are also available for hard copy for persons who do not have e-mail. Appointed delegates will be sent information by Kari a few days after she is notified about their appointments (via e-mail notices if possible, otherwise by U.S. mail).</p> <p>Local spring hearing press - DNR will send an electronic press release about the spring hearings to delegates with e-mail. A designated delegate for each county is responsible for getting the press release to local media. If anyone wants hard copy of the press release, contact Kari-Lee Zimmerman at (608) 219-9134.</p> |
| ACTION | |

| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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E. Other Congress Business

KenRisley

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| DISCUSSION | <p>Committee appointments - District leadership councilors will work with their delegates to identify appropriate members for various advisory committees. Ken Risley asked everyone to let him know which committees you want to be on. He also has a list of current committee assignments; if anyone wants to see that list, contact Ken. Committee assignments need to be finalized by the annual meeting (May 12-14, 2022).</p> <p>Youth Conservation Congress (YCC) - WCC delegates are encouraged to reach out to new and current YCC members and to be involved in their activities. Scott Lettman (Green County YCC mentor) stated that he did not make it to the January fishing event, but had attended other events during the year. Kyle Zenz (DNR YCC coordinator) is gearing up for this next year. Go to the DNR/WCC website to find out what's being planned. Gavin Wright (YCC member) gave a brief rundown of the activities he and his sister, Gabby and Dad Lowell participated in during the year: YCC had a booth at the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association meeting; otter skinning, pheasant hunt, fishing tournament and duck banding. Gavin participated in deer, pheasant and rabbit hunting tournaments and made a video teach youth about trap shooting. Gavin was conference champion at the fall trap league and Gabby was runner up. Gabby also built Wood duck nesting boxes. Mary Ellen O'Brien mentioned how much fun it was to spend a day in September with the pheasant hunt group. The YCC members she interacted with, Gavin and Gabby in particular, made for a very special gathering.</p> <p>Outreach and public relations efforts - There are a number of delegate resources and educational materials available on the DNR/WCC website to educate the public about the WCC and their opportunity to participate in CDACs and the spring hearings. There is also a short promotional video that delegates can use when giving talks about the WCC and encouraging others to get involved. It can be found on the DNR/WCC homepage (https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc). Business cards are also available to hand out when speaking to others about the WCC. Supplies can be ordered by contacting Kari Lee-Zimmerman.</p> <p>Shooting sports range - The WCC shooting committee is requesting assistance in updating the statewide shooting range inventory listing. Ken Risley asked each county to identify someone to do this task and forward the information to Emily Iehl at DNR (emily.iehl@wisconsin.gov). Mark Aquino stressed the importance of making sure the inventory of shooting ranges is complete (both public and private ranges). Ken Risley will forward his previous e-mail to county delegates reminding them to update any information and provide it to DNR.</p> <p>Awards - Nominations are being sought for local or statewide organizations and clubs and educators who have made a significant contribution to conservation in the past year. The nomination form is on the WCC website under "Annual WCC Awards." Nominations are due by March 31, 2022.</p> <p>The executive committee would also like nominations for a fellow WCC delegate to receive the Dave A. Ladd Heavy Lifter Award. There is no WCC form for this nomination. Your nomination should provide a brief summary of your nominee and their accomplishments, both within the WCC and in the community. Nominations are due by March 31 2022 and should be sent to one of the Executive Committee members or the DNR liaison.</p> <p>Nominations are also being requested for the outstanding DNR staff award. Any DNR staff person, regardless of the bureau they work in are eligible. The nomination form for this award is on the WCC website under "Annual WCC Awards." The submittal date is March 31, 2022.</p> <p>WCC Learn to Bear Hunt Tag - The WCC is holding the essay contest for the Learn to Bear Hunt tag. Essays are due April 27, 2022 and can be found online.</p> <p>2022 Annual Convention - The annual convention is scheduled for May 12-14, 2022 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. At this time, an in-person convention is planned with modifications as needed to address Covid concerns. District councilor should poll their district members to ensure that enough of the delegates will be comfortable attending the in-person meeting and so there will be a quorum for various business sessions. Kari stated that so far, DNR protocol indicates they will be able to attend the annual meeting, provided enough WCC delegates attend. Ken Risley noted that District 10 is slated to be the hospitality suite host and wondered if that will still take place given crowd size and continue Covid concerns. Kari will check on potential accommodations that could include an outdoor facility so the group can spread out.</p> <p>Delegates should collect items for the WCC raffle and make sure that all deceased county delegates have been</p> |
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| | identified so they can be recognized with a memorial resolution. |
| ACTION | Check on annual meeting accommodations for hospitality suite and other group functions at the Chula Vista Resort, to help address possible Covid concerns. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Kari Lee-Zimmerman | |

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

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| DISCUSSION | <p>There were several comments about the upcoming annual convention. Most people prefer having an in-person convention this year if possible. Ken Risley said he polled the chairs to find out the interest in having an in-person meeting. County delegates were encouraged to get back to their county chairs with a final read on whether they are willing to attend an in-person annual meeting. Ken reminded the group that District 10 is on tap for the hospitality suite so if there will be one, arrangements need to be made soon.</p> <p>Brad Wagner asked about the agenda for the annual meeting. Kari noted that it would follow the same format as past meetings. The first night, Thursday, May 12, would include the District Leadership Council meetings, YCC activities, and a group dinner. Friday, May 13 would be for WCC business, an evening awards banquet and hospitality suite. Saturday, May 14 would be for resolution review and action.</p> <p>Paul Reith noted that had previously made a list of committee preferences and pulled this up at the meeting. He will send out link so delegates can look at their past input and get back to him with any updates.</p> |
| ACTION | Paul Reith will send an e-mail to county delegates seeking their final input on committee preferences. |

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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| MEETING ADJOURNED | 7:45 P.M. Motion to adjourn by Jeff Winn, seconded by Dennis Jones. Passed. |
| SUBMITTED BY | Ken Risley |
| DATE | 03/22/2022 |