



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 District 9 Fall Meeting
 Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes
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ORDER OF BUSINESS	08/15/2023	District 9 Fall	Shifflet's WI River Resort, Spring Green, WI
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Mike Rogers at 7:15 pm
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Columbia, Crawford, Iowa, Lafayette, and Sauk all Delegates in attendance. Grant- Rick Knutson and Steve Gehrke; Richland- John Cler, David Barron, and Doug Duren
EXCUSED	Grant- Nathan Budack; Richland- Brock Rosenkranz
UNEXCUSED	Grant- Kevin Lange; Richland- Juliee de la Terre
GUESTS	Mike Dampf- DNR Wildlife; David Rowe- DNR Fisheries; Joe Frost- DNR Warden Law Enforcement

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	Approved

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	District Meeting
ACTION	

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. DNR Staff Updates- Fisheries, Wildlife, Law Enforcement David Rowe, Mike Dampf, Joe Frost

DISCUSSION	DNR Staff gave updates on effects of the state budget on their staffing and projects. Fisheries reported on creel surveys from several southwest WI water bodies, rough fish (buffalo) removal from and effects on Yellowstone Lake, and trout recruitment being low due to drought. However, several streams are showing good brook trout reproduction. Wildlife reported on the Wolf Plan, the draw down on Cruson Slough in Richland County to prepare the site for upcoming construction and repairs slated for late summer of 2023, CWD, avian influenza, duck banding activities, DMAP and the open DMAP coordinator position, the Voluntary Public Access (VPA) program, and their prioritization of over 1,000 infrastructure projects. Pheasant stocking plans for 88 state properties, and the elk reintroduction program were also discussed. Elk damage to cranberry bogs is of concern and damage abatements are being paid to some growers. Law Enforcement is able to make wage competitive offers and have hired 7 new regular wardens and 1 new recreation warden for ATVs, UTVs, watercraft, and snowmobiles. ATV and UTV accidents are up, but fatal boating accidents for the year are down. Recent fatal fall at Devil's Lake State Park. State law enforcement has converted from a 5 region model to a new 4 region model.	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. Conservation Congress Updates [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	District Councilors Tony Grabski and Mike Rodgers discussed guidance for upcoming committee meetings and committee assignments for our District 9 Delegates. Resolutions originating from our district were reviewed. Several other items briefly covered were committee evaluation forms, delegate reimbursement, and the importance of attendance and problems caused by unexcused absences. Finally, WCC outreach and the YCC were discussed.
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ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Delegate Mark LaBarbera from Lafayette County notified the district members of an outreach opportunity in the Shopping News to promote outdoor sports. Stories, photos, and advertisement can be published at minimal cost and will reach almost 50,000 homes. Steve Staver from Lafayette County and Tony Grabski from Iowa County emphasized the need to fill open CDAC seats in our counties. The application process is ending and open seats need to be filled to have good representation of stakeholder groups. Doug Williams from Columbia County reported that the new electronic licensing units supplied to vendors do not provide any guidance or instructions on their use. Need to allow the licensing agents more time to learn how to use these systems when changes are made. Must be aware of efforts that prevent development of hunting and shooting sports. Recently groups have blocked funding to archery in the schools program and some newspapers have dropped local writer Jerry Davis. New Richland County Delegate Doug Duren from Richland County introduced himself and gave a brief bio. of his conservation and land access activities. Mike Murphy from Columbia Count said the WCC Trailer is fully refurbished and ready to go on tuor where needed. Taxidermy fish mounts of species from WI waters (bluegill, bass, crappie, walleye, lake trout, etc.) are needed to display. Very important update from Jim Burmeister of the Rules and Resolutions Committee that all of the Code of Procedures Changes and related discussion from the Convention and DLC (Ed's letter) will all be revied and considered at their upcoming committee meeting(s) at Mead on September 9th.</p>
ACTION	None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	9:01 pm, motion to adjourn Mike Murphy, 2nd by Mark LaBarbera
SUBMITTED BY	Tony Grabski, Iowa County WCC Chair and District 9 Councilor
DATE	08/21/2023