

**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 JUNE 7, 2019
MACKENZIE CENTER
POYNETTE**

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

Members Absent: Jim Rutledge and Chris Hendrickson

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

Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

First, the Council reviewed the agenda.

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

Next, the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from April 5, 2019.

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

John Martinson said he had attended Steven Johnson's Memorial and that it was very nice gathering. He handed out the card which was presented to visitors attending the memorial.

Barry gave the Customer and Outreach Services update.

Follow up from previous meeting

- Letter on SB 85 Veteran Patron bill
 - o The letter from the DAC was received by the Legislative Liaison
 - o The hearing has been held and it has passed out of committee and is available for scheduling.
 - o If passed, it has a March 1, 2020 effective date.

- Bear Management Plan – Approved
 - o The Natural Resources Board approved the bear management plan, but rejected the use of hounds in the newly created Zone C.
 - o The plan will be in effect for the 2021 season
 - o Barry unsure if sent plan information and is not available at this time.
 - o **2017 black bear harvest**

Zone	Total Registered
Zone A	1,069
Zone B	816
Zone C	1,010
Zone D	1,264
Total	4,159

- o 2018 Black Bear Harvest - Revised population models produced a statewide estimate of approximately 26,000 black bears in fall 2018. A harvest of 4,500 bears, resulting in 12,970 permits, was approved by the Natural Resources Board for the 2018 season. Approximately 124,000 individuals applied for a harvest permit or preference point for 2018.
- o The Natural Resources Board approved a harvest quota of 4,550 bears for the 2018 season, a reduction of 450 from the 2017 quota of 5,000. This included 1,250 bears in Zone A, 800 in Zone B, 1,200 in Zone C, and 1,300 in Zone D.
- o Final harvest levels not available yet.

Elk application deadline was May 31.

- The quota is the same for this year as last year
- Drawing is currently being worked and will be completed soon.

2019 SB 21/AB19

- Designates the ruffed grouse as the state small game bird

Deer season structure has been approved

- No buck only units this year
- Buffalo County did propose an antlerless only season, but this was not passed.
- Antlerless bonus authorizations will be on sale August 19, 20, 21, 22
- No changes to the rules for disabled hunters for the use of antlerless authorizations during the Gun Hunt for Hunter's with Disabilities and choice of land type does not have to be

the same as what is chosen for the regular gun season or other antlerless seasons shown on the Farmland Zone authorization.

- Hunters participating in the hunt can harvest a buck with their buck authorization and may use one Farmland (Zone 2) Authorization in any unit and any land type. Two tags may be used if a person has purchased a gun and bow/crossbow authorization.
- Bonus authorizations may also be used for the specific unit and land type
- Farmland Zone Authorizations are now available to pick up for those that have already purchase a deer license.

Otter – Question from the Spring Hearings is being looked at

- Everyone with a trapping license would be issued a harvest authorization
- The Fur Bearer Advisory Committee would decide the levels of the permits
- Hopefully, this would improve the use of incidental takes.

Snowmobile renewals have just been sent

June 1 was the deadline for the Sponsors for the Gun Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities

- Late sponsor applications may still be accepted until June 14.
- Wildlife is leaning toward solidifying this deadline to expedite information updating on the website and allowing hunters to plan sooner.

Updated Gun Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities website

- Please take a look at the updated website. You can share comments directly with Matt Gross right from the website.

Next on the agenda was the Crossbow Issue which was raised by John Martinson. In LRB1598 firearms and conventional archery equipment are no longer required to be in a case while being transported in any type of vehicle. Crossbows were never included in the original bill. Barry checked into it, it was an oversight of the Legislature. Dan Trawicki (Safari Club lobbyist) is looking into this to try to correct it. Keith asked 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. 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 next item on the agenda was the Inventory of Accessible Features. Nick discussed this and said that most all recreational items needs to go through Parks, but he still wants to involve the other affected Bureaus such as Forestry, Wildlife Management, Natural Heritage Conservation and Information and Education. Nick explained the language used to describe accessible trails is tricky. He proposed changing the word “accessible” to “easily navigated”. In addition, a trail’s condition can change over time due to extreme weather conditions and other circumstances and not having the funding to fix it in a timely manner. For example, at Lake Kegonsa, there is a main trail that is designated as accessible on the map and yet it is in really bad shape. Funding and the low number of staff at the properties are some of the factors as to why these inaccessible areas haven’t been fixed. Nick handed out the inventory of accessibility features. The Council

wanted to add bathrooms and playgrounds. Calvin mentioned High Cliff State Park. Calumet County Parks (in which High Cliff is located) produced a brochure called “Accessible Adventures”. The County used Tourism funds to produce it. Anthonette Gilpatrick was involved with this brochure.

Julie handed out Mirror Lake State Parks’ “Open the Outdoors” page which listed its accessible features and their locations within the park. There was a lot of discussion on Mirror Lake State Park. Calvin agreed with Nick on just having a boiler plate and not being property specific like for Mirror Lake. On the other hand, Keith mentioned Kohler Andrae State Park. He said it has a path from the Nature Center to the beach and it is no longer accessible. He felt by having the accessibility features be property specific will require property managers to actually go out and look what they have and what needs to be fixed/improved. DNR’s Bureau of Information and Technology staff will need to update each park’s webpage or the property managers will need to take on that responsibility. Nick will be getting this to Parks in three months and will be on the next meeting’s agenda.

The next item was the Universal Design topic lead by Nick. There has been lots of money spent by Parks for picnic tables. All picnic tables should be the accessible, but property managers still have a choice between accessible or regular tables. Ken Keely and Bridget Brown from the Bureau of Parks have been working on universal designs for picnic tables and kiosks. All kiosks will be the same with two models to choose from. The designs are “do it yourself” type designs that Ken Keeley (landscape architect) has designed or pre-designed. All picnic tables and fire rings in Parks should be accessible. Keith said the accessible fire rings are three times the cost of regular ones. Nick is going to use the same company in Madison that makes the accessible picnic tables to make the accessible fire rings. This same company is currently working on the fire ring design. As of now, not all new fire rings will be accessible, but a larger percentage than before will be accessible. Nick is still working with Parks on this issue and Parks is listening to Nick’s requests.

Next on the agenda are the Accessibility Coordinator Updates.

The first item is the PDMD Administrative Rule Change. When Nick first met with the group, a disabled person using a battery-operated device (i.e. Trackchair) needed to fill out a PDMD permit application, get the application approved, and had to carry the permit on person. Now there are proposed changes to allow these devices to be used without a permit. Nick’s definition of this device (the Trackchair) was handed out to the Council. Nick said for this specific DNR rule, the Trackchair will be considered an outdoor wheelchair and meet the definition of pedestrian. Julie asked if the DAC wants to re-word their previous resolution? The Council’s most current resolution is more restrictive in that it says the battery-operated single occupant outdoor wheelchair user would have access to only DNR designated use areas. Nick’s definition would allow the Trackchair to go anywhere a pedestrian could travel. Julie wants to know if the resolution needs to be revised.

The second update is the PDMD application changes. Nick met with the same people as the Inventory of Accessible Features group. The properties up in Northern Wisconsin (Flambeau River SF for example) are experiencing an influx of PDMD permit requests. There are a lot

more than usual and the property managers are becoming suspicious. The managers asked if DNR could change the current procedures and require an ID card showing the applicant's disability. Nick told them "No, DNR can't ask for an ID"; the federal statute is clear about that. As a compromise, there will be a couple of changes to the PDMD application. The first change is on the signature page where it states something like "I hereby certify the information provided on this application is correct". This signatory box area will now be bigger and bolder. The second change to the application will require the PDMD permit holder to use/place a sign in their vehicle (when using the PDMD permit) stating they are "Disabled Access Permit Holder".

The biggest change to the PDMD permit application has to do with the review time. In certain locations, several applicants would come in the week before deer hunting weekend to apply for their PDMD permit. Now persons will be required to submit their PDMD permit applications 30 days prior to use. Nick said in reality this will really only affect a couple of properties. There will also be exceptions such as unforeseen circumstances. This requirement is mainly to deal with "the rush" before deer hunting season. Other times should not be a problem. There was a lot of discussion on this last change. Cathryn, Kirsten, and Calvin voiced their opinions. Their major questions and concerns evolved around the 30 day wait time. Kirsten said a disabled person will now have to plan 30 days in advance for his or her outing. They felt like persons with disabilities will be punished for having to wait 30 days, whereas able-bodied persons do not have to wait. Nick reminded the Council able-bodied persons can't even apply for these permits. Nick was asked how the applicants will know of this change. Nick didn't know if the change would be on the application itself and/or if it would be stated on the website. He will check on this. There was concern that some property managers may not want to deal with the permit applications right away, so the applications may not be reviewed in a timely manner. Nick said he will get the DAC concerns to the Group, particularly the Bureau of Parks.

The third item is the State ID update. Currently, the visually impaired cannot go online to get a hunting or fishing license without a driver's license and this needs to change. This is a big issue for individuals who use a State identification card (ID) and not a driver's license. Nick said, "it is what it is". Nick said he had called the Council of the Blind. The person who answered told Nick not to call the lobbyist directly. He did not have much to update. The lobbyist needs to work directly with DOT. The problem lies with DOT. The DNR's "Go Wild" side can't do anything until the law is changed by DOT. Nick said he will follow up with the Council of the Blind in a couple of weeks to see if there is an update.

The fourth item is the DAC vacancies and selection process. Nick said he only has a few applications. The bigger question is, "what is the deadline for submitting applications?" Nick thinks we should send out the notice again soliciting new applications. The Council felt that there are enough applications to choose from if we include the ones from the previous round when Cathryn, Calvin, and Monica were chosen. Julie asked who should be on the Selection Committee. Staff from the Bureaus of Wildlife Management, Parks, and Law Enforcement were suggested. Cathryn wants a timeline for the filling of the two vacancies by the next meeting.

The last update was DNR Trails money and two Special Projects at Devil's Lake and Copper Falls State Parks. Devil's Lake and Copper Falls will receive some money earmarked for accessibility. Devil's lake has a rescue road up the West Bluff with a small clearing at the

bottom. The clearing will be a parking lot to access the rescue road that will have a portion resurfaced and possibly rerouted to be more accessible. Copper Falls improvements will likely be to expand an existing parking area for an accessible trail along with minor trail improvements. There may also be a section of boardwalk built to access an overlook observation deck.

The last agenda item was the Members' Updates. Since the meeting time allocation was up, it was decided Members were to e-mail Julie with any updates. John and Keith sent in the following.

John Mitchell - John informed the Council to look for any Adaptive Sportsman events on its web page calendar.

Keith Pamperin - Challenge the Outdoors had a successful Shawano Lake Fishing Outing on June 1st. It was a beautiful sunny day and the bluegills cooperated, making for some fine fish fries! On June 10th CTO members participated in a Rockin Rollin, Lake Michigan Salmon Fishing Outing. With the weather cool, windy and rainy, fishing was a struggle with eight Salmon/Lake Trout caught on the four boats.

The Disabilities Advocacy Coalition continues to speak out on accessibility issues, including transit improvements and new developments. The Coalition has developed a spin-off known as the UWGB Disability Workforce Coalition which focuses on allowing graduates with a disability to secure employment commensurate with their level of education. This allows them to be successful and to live life as they wish.

There was discussion on the location for the next meeting. Since Peninsula State Park's Eagle Tower is not constructed, the Council needs to pick another location. Wyalusing State Park was suggested because of its recent accessibility upgrades and Newport State Park was also suggested because of its unique kiosks which incorporated braille for the visually impaired visitors. Nick or Julie will send out an e-mail seeking input on which location to choose for the next meeting.

It was also mentioned that new council members be notified of the Council's policy on dealing with members who miss more than two meetings in a calendar year. It is the Chair's role to notify the members of this policy.

The meeting was adjourned approximately at 1:30 as the Council was getting ready for the MacKenzie property tour. I don't think we had a person making the motion or a second motion, but all were in favor.