



Executive Committee District Leadership Council Annual Meeting

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Meeting Minutes**

ORDER OF BUSINESS	06/09/2021	6:30PM	Zoom
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Tony Blattler at 6:32 PM
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Tony Blattler, Rick Olson, Joel Taylor, Dave Larson, Mike Riggle, Laurie Ross Goff, Dale Ebert, Ronald Krueger Senior, Kevin Smaby, Mike Nicholson, Dale Maas, Justin Loerke, Brett Weir, Dave Breunig, Mike Rogers (late), Kenneth Risley, Paul Reith, Eugene Altwies, Scott Gunderson, Kari Lee Zimmermann
EXCUSED	Terri Roehrig, Al Lobner, Tashina Peplinski.
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Meredith Penthorn, Scott Loomans, Trent Tonn, Corky Meyer, Jean Voss, Jim Lemke, Joe Weiss, Jerome Donahue and Cynthia Same.

C. Agenda approval or repair

DISCUSSION	Tony stated he would ask for some flexibility in the order of presenters.
ACTION	Motion by Weir 2nd by Larson for flexibility in agenda. Motion carried. (Secretaries note: based on above action order of the agenda may vary.)

D. Public comments

DISCUSSION	Chair Blattler stated that there were no public comments that he was aware of. Corky Meyer was in the audience and stated that he had emailed the request in earlier and was not sure what the confusion was. Since there were no other public comments Tony allowed Corky to make his three-minute presentation. Corky Meyer speaking on behalf of The Wisconsin Coon Hunters Association asked for reconsideration of questions 34, 35 and 36 having to do with the training and trailing on state land. 2 of the 3 questions past and one had real support the reason for this request is that they are 3 parts of a bigger question. By allowing this to advance we have a real chance to do some needed research and studies that could allow additional dog training opportunities and also clarify some of the current restrictions. Many of the current rules have morphed into something that they were never intended to do. As time goes on the old biologists have retired or moved on and the new ones are interpreting the rules entirely different, some are not issuing permits and some are actually canceling existing permits due to their interpretation of the rules have no faith in science. Chair Blattler thanked Corky for his comments and stated it would be discussed later on in the meeting.
ACTION	

E. Introduction of new DLC members

Blattler

DISCUSSION	District 1 Rick Olson Rick is a 44 year delegate to the Congress and has served on the DLC in the past. Served on the Bear Committee and Warm Water committee and others. He also sent a letter stating his interest in a position on the EX Committee. District 2 Joel Taylor past DLC member was passed Chairman of the Outreach and Public Relations committee. District 3 Laurie Groskopf is new to the DLC she has served on Strategic Plan and Wolf committee and many others. District 6 Mike Nicholson Portage County to the DLC 18 year veteran of the WCC and has been on Fur Harvest committee. District 7 Justin Loerke from Neenah in Winnebago County he is new to the DLC, he serves on the Fur Harvest, Sturgeon Advisory Committee, Outreach and Technical Committee and is also the one of the Facebook Administrators. He is also chair of his county CDAC. District 10 Paul Reith is new to the DLC, a 7 year delegate of Dane County and has followed in his father's footsteps as he was a delegate from Clark County in the past, he is chair of the Dane County CDAC. District 11 Scott Gunderson returns to DLC one-year absence, Scott brings much knowledge to the DLC, is a past Legislator, DNR Deputy and Conservationists.
ACTION	Information only no action taken.

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Election of the Executive Committee

Blattler

DISCUSSION	Tony said that he has asked Scott Gunderson to run the election process since he was not running for any of the offices. At this time Scott took over.
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Nominations are now open for the position of chairman. Kevin Smaby nominated Tony Blattler 2nd by Rick Olson. Laurie Groskopf nominated Terri Roehrig seconded by Brett Weir there were no other nominations for chair. Tony stated that Terri had previously accepted the nomination.

Scott asked how we would actually do the ballot vote on our elections?

Kari stated that we should be able to use the chat function on zoom. You can privately message her with your vote, Dale asked for a point of order as his chat function didn't allow for that. That it would be sent to everyone. He also stated that it wasn't that he didn't trust Kari, but he felt that there should be a 2nd set of eyes to help tally the vote. Kari stated that the tally will be captured as a record since it is being recorded and can be reviewed after the meeting and Dale was okay with that. Scott then requested that everybody vote as explained. Tony asked for clarification of the secretary according to his records we have 18 delegates able to vote, Dale stated that out of the 22 we have 3 excused and Mike Rogers was going to be late and hasn't checked in. Kari stated that her record showed that yes there are 17 people currently online eligible to vote. Scott asked if there was anybody only on the phone and not on a computer, Dave Breunig was on the phone, Kari stated that he was also on the computer if you clicked on her name it should work. Dale said he had Kari's name on with the red dot but she stated that was just saying that she was recording the meeting. She stated that in the toolbar you should be able to click on her name and it would give it to Kari Lee Zimmermann from Dale Maas chat. Dale stated that nothing happened there was also one other delegate that had the same issue. Kari then said that those delegates could call her work phone and gave that out for use. After the ballots were tabulated Kari reported that Tony Blattler was elected as WCC chair for 2021 - 2022.

Scott then opened nominations for Vice Chair, Brett Weir nominated Terri Roehrig 2nd by Dave Larson. Ron Krueger nominated Joel Taylor that was 2nd by Rick Olson. There were no other nominations for Vice Chair. Scott then called for the vote. Dale stated for information according to the Code of Procedure you could still nominate off the floor or self nominate. Scott agreed.

Kari asked the question because she didn't have the Code of Procedure in front of her if the requirement was for a two thirds majority? Tony stated it was 50% +1.

Kari stated that Joel Taylor was elected as Vice Chairman for the 2021-2022 year.

Scott then opened the position of secretary, Brett Weir nominated Dale Maas 2nd by Ron Krueger. There being no other nominations Brett Weir made a motion to close the nominations and cast the unanimous ballot for Dale Maas secretary 2nd by Ron Krueger motion carried.

Dale Maas was elected as the secretary for the 2021-2022 year.

Scott then opened nominations for the number four executive committee position, motion by Dave Larson to nominate Brett Weir 2nd by Laurie Groskopf. Motion by Kevin Smaby to nominate Terri Roehrig 2nd by Mike Riggie, motion by Dale Maas to nominate Rick Olson 2nd by Joel Taylor.

Nominations were then closed. Tony stated that he had pondered this possibility because the code of procedure says that if you have 3 separate ballots and no one receives 50% +1 as successful that you would draw straws. There is no way that we can draw straws at a zoom meeting and was suggesting that if you did not get anyone with 50% plus one vote on the 1st ballot that you would consider this a runoff election and dropped the individual that received the least and have a runoff between the top 2?

Scott suggested that we do 3 ballots and see if we get anyone with a 50% plus one and make a decision at that time.

Kari stated that she was short one vote, and was asked who it was and said it was Dale Maas. Dale said that it was sent and then resent with still no receipt. Dale said that he didn't have a problem saying who he voted for, it was Rick Olson.

Kari reported that there was not a 50% plus one vote majority, we are going to re vote. Ron Krueger stated that why couldn't we drop the low vote-getter and was told that we had just discussed earlier. Scott Gunderson stated that he felt that we would probably have the same results in two more ballots. Kari stated that according to the tally quite a number of people would have to changed their votes. Tony then asked if the DLC would feel more comfortable with the motion to drop the person with the least ballots on the 1st round. Ron stated he would.

There was a motion by Ron Krueger 2nd by Kevin Smaby that if we had no clear-cut 50% +1 winner we would have the next ballot be a runoff of the top 2 vote getters. Motion carried one vote no (Justin Loeke).

Those running for the 4th executive position will be Terri Roehrig, Brett Weir and Rick Olson please vote now.

Dale asked if Kari had gotten his text and she said no but that he could vote as he did in the last round and Dale agreed.

Kari stated that no one got 50% +1 and the top tied that being Terri and Brett.

Scott stated as per our previous motion, please now cast your ballots for either Terri or Brett.

Kari stated Mike Rogers just came online motion by Altwies 2nd by Taylor to allow Mike Rogers to vote on this round of executive officer position 4. Motion carried.

Mike Rogers was then informed of the previous election results and where we were prior to him coming online.

Kari stated that there was another tie. Tony questioned how we could have a tie when there were 19 eligible voters recorded with the addition of Mike Rogers unless someone abstained. Kari stated she would recheck the count again, after doing that she realized that Brett Weir had not shown as casting a ballot. Brett stated that it appeared that he had sent a text but he was going to call. Kari asked if it was his wish to vote for himself, he said yes thus allowing a breaking of the tie with a 50% plus one vote.

Kari questioned the math because technically 50% be 9.5% so they would need a half and then get +1. She stated that she wasn't trying to be a stick in the mud about it but the that's what the math tells her. Mike Rogers stated one half of 18 is 9 plus one is 10 that's the way it was done. Dale commented that we never took that fine of a look at it in the past and he got it that you are

	<p>trying to be exact in the math but this past procedure should be observed. Scott Gunderson declared that Brett Weir is elected for executive committee position four for the 2021-2022 year.</p> <p>Scott then open nominations for executive position number 5 Dale nominated Rick Olson, Dave Larson 2nd the motion . Mike Rogers then nominated Terri Roehrig 2nd by Brett Weir there were no other nominations. Everyone was instructed to vote for either Rick or Terri. Kari stated that Terri is elected by the math that we used on the last election at 50% +1. Scott Gunderson declared that Terri Roehrig is the new executive position number 5. He reviewed the results of the elections as follows: Chairman Tony Blattler. Vice Chairman Joel Taylor. Secretary Dale Maas. Position number 4 Brett Weir. Position number 5 Terri Roehrig.</p>	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. Review the results of DNR spring hearing question Meredith Penthorn, Scott Karel

DISCUSSION	<p>Scott reviewed the State wildlife questions stating that the following questions were supported: Allow falconry to take place on the Richard Bong state recreation area after 2 PM closure. Increase the times that cable restraints are allowed during regulated trapping seasons. Return to a 3-zone framework for trapping muskrats. Allow the department to regulate target shooting on department properties in Columbia County (Mud Lake Wildlife Area). Extend the date of gray and fox squirrel seasons.</p> <p>Meredith stated that 23 out of the 24 fisheries questions were approved the following exception: question 19. Trout-removal of late catch-and-release season on the Popple, Peshtigo and Rat rivers in Florence Forest and Marinette counties. This proposal would remove the late catch and release only season from the Popple, Peshtigo and Rat rivers in Florence Forest and Marinette counties. The late catch and release season runs from October 16 to November 15, and only artificial lures may be used. Removing the late-season will make regulation simpler and more consistent on the Popple, Peshtigo and Rat rivers and neighboring Pine River. Effector waters would be: Popple River from the Forest\Florence County line (State Highway) downstream Peshtigo River from Highway 8 to County Road Rat River in its entirety. Since the vote by the users in adjoining counties were so close the department has decided to proceed with the proposed changes.</p>	
ACTION	Motion by Rick Olson 2nd by Dave Larson to approve both reports to the NRB. Motion carried.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

C. Review results of WCC spring hearing advisory questions Blattler

DISCUSSION	<p>There was discussion about the WCC spring hearing results. Ken Risley District 10 - the White deer issue should be moved forward it was resolution 33 number 720120. It was passed in 47 counties rejected in 23. Paul Reith also from District 10 wanted to bring up, Corky comments earlier on questions 34, 35 and 36 he wanted to point out that there is very little class I dog training grounds in his area and would like to see the opportunity be expanded. There is less than 2000 acres statewide and when spring breaks and people are wanting to get a start on training and exercise their dogs we need to have more access. Discussion worked its way back around to resolution 33, the harvest of white deer. Many of the districts supported it and it was noted that the majority of the votes came from Dane County which tended to tip the scales on the tally. Justin Loerke District 7 thinks that this should be a CDAC option. If one county wants to have White deer as a tourist attraction it should be able to and not be challenged by other counties. There was a motion by Ken Risley 2nd by Kevin Smaby to move the White deer harvest along(33) to the NRB. Note this is for White deer only not albino. Motion carried. 2 no votes. Motion by Weir 2nd by Risley to move 36 to the NRB for consideration. Motion carried with 2 no votes. Motion by Smaby 2nd by Groskopf not to support question 40 There are other methods and the mandatory are unfunded. Rick Olson thinks this would not be a proper action to take 71 of 72 counties approved. Motion failed. Motion by Krueger 2nd by Weir to move rest of the questions forward to the department for support. Motion carried.</p>	
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ACTION	As stated above.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

D. Review and finalize the assignment of resolutions to WCC committees for further consideration Blattler

DISCUSSION	<p>The following resolutions were discussed:</p> <p>510321 (poaching) assigned to deer and elk-wanted to go to outdoor Heritage.</p> <p>020121 (antler point restriction) assigned to deer and elk-wanted to go to outdoor Heritage.</p> <p>131521 (Beaver) assigned to for harvest-wanted to go to environmental.</p> <p>130921 (ban dogs) assigned to Wolf-wanted to go to legislative.</p> <p>550221 (allow multiple riders on ATV) assigned to motorized vehicle-wanted to go???</p> <p>Motion by Smaby 2nd by Olson to leave as assigned. Motion carried. Motion by Krueger 2nd by Larson to confirm resolutions as assigned. Motion carried.</p>	
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ACTION	As stated.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

E. Code of Procedure Changes advance by Rules and Resolutions Committee. Blattler

DISCUSSION	<p>The proposed Code of Procedure changes advanced by the Rules and Resolutions Committee reviewed. Motion by Krueger, 2nd by Larson to approve Code of Procedure changes with the following amendment. Page 6 (F.) "The Conservation Congress may provide opportunity for citizens to appear in person or via electronic device (if available)"</p>	
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ACTION	Motion carried as amended.	
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PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

Discuss amending the Code of Procedure as follows: V. B. District counselors shall be elected from all county delegates (striking and not more than one counselor shall be elected Blattler

F. per county.)

DISCUSSION	<p>There was much discussion about this proposed Code of Procedure change. When a district elects 2 delegates from the same county and no one has objected to it this becomes problematic. It was confirmed that District 8 had failed to comply. Motion by Smaby, 2nd by Larson to reject. Motion carried.</p>	
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ACTION		
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PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

YCC Oversight Committee report regarding extending age of YCC participation and request for approval for funds from Friends of WCC. Trent Tonn

DISCUSSION	<p>Trent wanted to give a shout out and thanked the YCC Oversight Committee for doing a great job in working together for a common goal. He also wanted to thank Kyle Zenz the YCC coordinator we now have 41 active youth members and she has done a terrific job in supporting and getting our program better established. The delegates represent all districts with the exception of District 4 and we would love to have representation in their district soon.</p> <p>French shared the 1st proposal coming from the committee one was to create a YCC alumni program. As of September 1 they'll be 10 students aging out of the program. The point of the alumni program is to keep them connected to the YCC in the WCC. Emails, updates programs, etc. will be emailed to this group. Opportunities for this group can be created to meet virtually in face-to-face. The current program lets them complete through September of their senior high school year. They could create a new program for ages 18-25 the alumni program could continue to keep YCC alumni and updated with what is going on with YCC and WCC. YCC alumni can share their jobs, school and conservation highlights with current YCC delegates. It will keep them engaged with the Conservation Congress until they are ready to consider running for a WCC position. Possible considerations; do we automatically add all graduating YCC delegates to this program or do we have an option for opt in/opt out? The other question is how long do we continue to connect with YCC alumni? The creating of a new program for those that have aged out would allow recent high school graduates up to age 25 (?) to join this new program. This will be similar to the YCC but with new name, geared for the 18 to 25-year-olds linking them with the WCC. These advantages will be to keep the middle aged engaged until they consider running for a WCC seat, expand awareness of the WCC to new audiences and create new opportunities to develop conservation leaders and encourage them to mentor YCC delegates. A consideration is will we require a subcommittee to develop a Strategic Plan with goals and objectives? It will take more time and resources to develop this program. The committee doesn't want to spend a lot of extra time researching this if the DLC is not interested.</p>	
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	Laurie Groskopf thinks that this is a terrific idea and should be supported. We are spending time getting these kids involved and then we just leave them, she said that is a waste of time. We need to keep them involved if they would like to be involved. Scott Gunderson thinks it's a great idea asked that Trent come back with a final proposal.	
ACTION	See above information.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

H. DNR real estate acquisition updates

Jim Lemke

DISCUSSION	<p>Jim stated he was coming before us tonight to explain and ask for our support on 2 projects that they have been working on. The 1st one being a land acquisition adjoining the Devils Lake State Park of 220 acres addition to the southwest corner with a value of \$1.64 million plus 80 acres by the Conservancy at the park which is putting in \$666,000 also included is a grant application for \$249,000 along with that, they are getting \$250,000 from private donations. Jim stated the Devils Lake State Park is the busiest state park in the entire state of Wisconsin with well over 2 million visitors a year. After his presentation a number of questions were asked and answered. Mike Rogers stated that this was a good addition to this particular park, it's very busy and gets a lot of use throughout the year.</p> <p>The next piece of property was an addition to the Pelican River Forest which is southeast of Rhinelander. This property is being asked to put into a conservation easement which is 12,496 acres, the easement would be for \$4.675 million. Of which \$500,000 would be put into and annuity for road maintenance of the 20 miles of access roads, the stewardship money would allow the land open for public use July 1 through December 31.</p> <p>There was lengthy discussion on road maintenance and access properties and was emphasized that this should be a major discussion as the plan evolves. Tony stated that in his letter to the Natural Resources Board he would fully describe our concerns, entire road access and availability issue.</p> <p>After much discussion there was a motion by Smaby 2nd by Weir to support both acquisitions. Motion carried.</p>	
ACTION	As stated.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

I. Members Matters

Various

DISCUSSION	<p>Rick Olson-nothing</p> <p>Joel Taylor-need to have CDAC Oversight Committee meeting. He has asked a couple of times about having this happen with no results. He also stated that in a coming agenda we should talk about appointments to the Natural Resources Board.</p> <p>Dave Larson-need to fill empty positions in our counties, he also said that the district meeting minutes were not posted. If we're not going to post them we should stop. Kari stated she had a lot of information to get out and that she no longer had an assistant. She would work to get that done, some districts have not turned their also.</p> <p>Mike Riggle- nothing</p> <p>Laurie Groskopf-that she was a new delegate to the DLC . She has been a member of various other organizations and is excited about the new position.</p> <p>Dale Ebert-nothing</p> <p>Ron Krueger-nothing</p> <p>Kevin Smaby- requests a new Ethics Committee and that we bring back the Hunting Dogs Committee. Stated that there were a lot more resolutions sent in and that we need to get fellow sportsman involved. He also wants meetings to go back to in person.</p> <p>Mike Nicholson-nothing</p> <p>Justin Loerke- wants to know what we're doing on a leadership basis on building re-pore with the Natural Resources Board and the Legislature. He feels that we don't have that re-pore and were behind a lot of the other conservation groups that are out there. The other organizations are looking at the issues candidly and able to garner support and until we get that same re-pore were always going to be irrelevant. We need to follow our own Code of Procedures that are in place. We need to do a better job of listening to others. We can't keep blaming Covid on our inability to network with organizations out there that want to partner up with other organizations that are relevant and we need to be that.</p> <p>Dale Maas- wanted to know if we had any data on the money that we requested from the Friends to boost our Facebook pages to increase participation for the spring hearing? We did have a report last year and was just wondering if we had anything for this year. Justin stated that they had a report and if you wanted it, put it on the agenda.</p> <p>Dale wanted to thank everybody that supported him for the secretary position and he knows that there are some disagreements out there and it is time to start healing. He stated he thought it was time for us to be doing what were supposed to; representing the citizens of our state and sharing their thoughts with the Natural Resources Board. A time to start pulling together as a</p>	
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	<p>unified body.</p> <p>Dave Breunig -would like to see us get together with legislatures in the lobby day, he has been involved other organizations that have participated in that and found it was a good way to understand what was going on within the Legislature and where they may be able to help in some of the things that we feel strongly about.</p> <p>Mike Rogers-the discussion on the NRB nominees, he thought that the DLC should have a kick at that issue. He also mentioned to Kari that the committee assignments for District 9 were in the minutes of the meeting.</p> <p>Ken Risley- wanted to make sure that it was understood that the donation he had talked about was from the Green County delegates directly.</p> <p>Paul Reith-wanted to announce that with George Meyer retiring as the head of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation that he had asked if George would accept the open seat from Dane County and George has agreed to occupy that position as soon as he is retired from the Federation. He went back also to the class DI training grounds, would like to have somebody from the department provide us with an action plan since there is only 2000 acres of DI dog training property available and would like to see what their long-range planning is.</p>
ACTION	Continued below.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	
DEADLINE	

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Eugene Altwies-he said that if they are expected to act on any information we needed farther in advance than the day or afternoon of the meeting. We are all very busy, we need to have it sooner so that we are properly prepared to act on the issues it's not only today but in past meetings also.</p> <p>Scott Gunderson-after thinking about how the election was run, in hindsight it probably would've been better to give people a chance to speak about themselves prior to the election. It's just that we are all volunteers and not perfect. He thinks everything turned out probably the way it was supposed to, but he doesn't know so he apologizes for that. He thinks we need to continue to work our way back to the in person meetings and yes it has been difficult the last couple years, but we are the only body, a unique organization the only one of its kind in the United States and he thinks we are doing a good job. We are not the same as all the other organizations out there. We need to recognize that we are the only one that is recognized in state statute the other organizations are not responsible to report to the NRB and yes a lot of times we can't get things done the way he would like to but we are doing good work representing the citizens of our state.</p> <p>Brett Weir-need to fill vacancies in ranks and thank you for putting it on the agenda previously at other meetings.</p> <p>Tony Blattler- we are actively working to get us back to in person meetings and we are going to need department liaisons to get involved. We need to get them involved if committees want to hold meetings but until we can get permission from the state we have a problem. Individuals from the public who can't attend physically we are going to have to try to work with the department in providing that opportunity when available for the outside public to enter in through zoom or some other electronic means. We need to find venues or facilities that will allow the in person as well as the electronic support. Once we open the floodgates and everybody starts and try to get it going. We have to be very careful that we maintain some continuity on how this happens.</p> <p>Executive Committee heads up we are going to get together on June 17 Committee meeting, the NRB will be meeting the 22nd and 23rd so we have things to get ready for that. He also mentioned that if anybody's trying to get a hold of him between June 18 and July 15 he will not be available, he will be in Alaska using a trip that he had planned last year before Covid eliminated it.</p> <p>Thank you everybody for donating your time considering how long the elections took. We got through the rest of the meeting in record time.</p>
ACTION	Motion by Rogers 2nd by Weir to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 10:24 PM.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	10:24 PM
SUBMITTED BY	Dale C. Maas
DATE	07/03/2021