

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Trout Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	19 December 2022	1831-2020 hrs.	Teleconference
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Vanden Bloomen at 1831 hours
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Dennis Vanden Bloomen, Chair (Eau Claire), Jim Wierzba. Vice Chair , (Ozaukee), Dave Ninneman (Outagamie), Roger Roehl (Rusk) Robert Tracyk (Iron), Travis Bruce (Buffalo), Michael Hranicka (Sheboygan), Bob Haase (Fond du Lac), Dale Ebert (Florence) David Baron (Richland), Kevin Seefeldt (Ashland), Randy Farchmin (Waukesha), Andrew Lester (Polk), Daniel Jerzak (Lincoln), Frank Schuettpelz (Oconto),
EXCUSED	Maurice Amundson (Monroe), Scott Pitta- Secretary (Adams), Martin Sands (Walworth), Andrew Novak (Crawford),
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Brad Simms, Jonathan Pyatskowitz, (DNR Fisheries), Matthew Mitro (DNR Office of Applied Science), Jamin Leuzzo (DRN-Law Enforcement), Allen Wertz (resolution author), M. Hranicka (resolution author)

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	No additions or deletions to agenda
ACTION	MB T. Bruce, SB J. Wierzba, Approved

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	No changes brought forward
ACTION	Approved

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS

1. DESIGNATE A 12" SIZE LIMIT FOR TROUT ON THE ENTIRE CLASS I PORTIONS OF THE ONION RIVER IN SHEBOYGAN COUNTY (60-02-22)

ALLEN WORTZ

DISCUSSION	Resolution: The size limit for trout on the Onion River is now 12" upstream of the County E bridge and 9" below County E. The size limits were put in place when rainbow trout were stocked in the river. Stocking is no longer done as the Onion is a
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	<p>self-sustaining brown trout fishery. A consistent size limit would improve the fishery by allowing more trout to reach spawning age. A consistent regulation would also reduce confusion and compliance with the regulation.</p> <p>Would you support a consistent 12 inch size limit for trout on all Class I waters of the Onion River?</p> <p>Discussion: Author—we would like a more consistent regulation on the Onion River to prevent inadvertent violation of the bag limit regulation which changes when you cross County Road E. This is a Class I stream that sustains the population by naturally reproducing trout. The 12 inch minimum size would also grow larger trout that could reach spawning age further enhancing natural reproduction.</p> <p>Committee—the idea of a consistent bag limit and size regulation for the entire stream was something the Trout committee worked on when the statewide trout regulations underwent major revisions in 2016.</p>
ACTION	MB: R. Roehl, SB: D. Ebert to Accept and forward the Resolution. Roll call vote because it was a teleconference. Motion accepted unanimously. Will forwarded to DLC.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Chair Vanden Bloomen	

2. Designate all Class I portions of the Onion River in Sheboygan County as “artificial only” (60-03-22)

DISCUSSION	<p>Resolution: The Onion River is a self-sustaining brown trout fishery in Sheboygan County. The stream is within a one-hour drive of Fond du lac, Sheboygan, West Bend, Milwaukee and Green Bay. As a result, this stream sees heavy fishing pressure including the use of live bait on a portion of the river which decreases survival rates of released fish. Currently the segment of the Onion River upstream of the County E. bridge is artificial only. A special artificial only designation for the entire class one portion would help to decrease the harvest pressure on trout in the river. It would also implement a consistent regulation that would reduce confusion and aid in compliance.</p> <p>Would you support an “artificial only” designation for all Class 1 waters of the Onion River in Sheboygan County?</p> <p>Author: Because of heavy fishing pressure we think there is a need to go to artificial bait/lures only on this stream. There are problems with people using live bait when they catch and then release using live bait. There is a higher “hooking” mortality rate as opposed to the use of artificial baits.</p> <p>Committee: This would limit the number of fishermen as not all trout fishermen use artificial lures such as spinners or flies.</p>
ACTION	MB: SB: to Accept and forward the Resolution. Roll call vote because it was a teleconference. Motion rejected unanimously. Will not go forwarded. DLC.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	Chair to inform the resolution author

3. Stricter water quality and depth regulations for millponds on trout streams and rivers (60-12-22)

DISCUSSION	<p>Resolution: For over 100 years many millponds are still in existence but are not being used for what they were first intended. Now many are filled in with sediment and are creating a very unhealthy environment. Many have very few gamefish and mostly rough fish like carp. They can have very high nutrient pollution and invasive species issues. The biggest threat is water quality degradation. Even though upstream from some of these impediments are high quality class 1 or 2 trout streams with temps in the 60's, these millponds can reach temps over 90 degrees! Temps that high will kill most gamefish, and will create massive algae blooms that can be toxic to humans and animals. Because these ponds are river systems, the poor water quality affects everyone and everything downstream. The dam owners and property owners should be held responsible for the negative environmental impacts these millponds cause. These much needed regulations would help prevent impaired water from millponds causing problems downstream to all the waters flowing out of the millpond.</p> <p>Would you support the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Board working with the state legislature to create water quality and depth regulations for millponds on class 1 or 2 trout streams?</p> <p>Author: The mill ponds are shallow and collect sediment. This warms the water in the pond and the water flowing downstream. Rough fish, such as carp, can tolerate higher water temperatures and they will flourish. Trout and smallmouth bass have less tolerance for higher water temperatures and will not survive.</p> <p>Committee: Agree that these 'warming' ponds do cause problems for cold water fish. See this as a necessary but a difficult and complicated problem to resolve. There are many groups that will support and oppose such a regulation. The cost of dam removal is expensive and long-drawn out.</p>
ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	MB: SB: to Accept and forward the Resolution. Roll call vote because it was a teleconference. Motion accepted unanimously. Will forwarded to DLC. Approved.

1. Department Information & Updates

1. Trout Management Plan Update

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Information only
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2. Trout Program Updates

DISCUSSION	<p>The following guidelines are being adhered to by the DNR in support of the Trout Management Plan.</p> <p>(1) Maintain trout diversity (2) Brook trout populations, (3) high quality opportunities—need creel surveys, (4) priority impact w/climate change (5) restore and reintroduce after fish kills, (6) maintain stocking for put-and-take</p>
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	ponds, stocking guidance needs updating.
	Trout crew--some restoration and monitoring were accomplished. More creel surveys are planned in 2023. Survey cards are a cost-efficient way to gather information.
ACTION	Information only
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

3. TROUT RESEARCH UPDATES

	Matthew Mittro slide presentation--update
DISCUSSION	2022 Field Season: 347 Trout streams—Fisheries 215 streams, Forestry 90 streams (shared 42) 1,350 beaver removed and 523 dams on 213 streams in 32 counties. Trout Stream Classification Updates. 47 trout stream classification changes in 14 counties. 33 new streams classified as trout water, New Class 1 designations on 16 stream, new class 2 on 17 streams. 13 streams with existing Class 2 were upgraded to Class 1.
ACTION	Information only....
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	

4. Trout Law Enforcement Update

DISCUSSION	No report/update
ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	WCC Convention— May 12,13, 2023
ACTION	Poll the committee members for best date for Trout Committee 2023 meeting by Chair.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	2020 hours MB ., SB . Adjourned
SUBMITTED BY	D. Vanden Bloomen, Chair
DATE	19 December 2022 (submission date 27 Feb 2023)