



Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
 Warm Water Advisory Committee  
 Meeting Minutes

**WCC Meeting Minutes**  
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<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	08/14/2021	9:00AM	Zoom
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**I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by	Joe Weiss at	9:00AM
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**B. ROLL CALL**

ATTENDEES	Reed Kabelowsky (Secretary) conducted a verbal and visual roll call of meeting participants - Joe Weiss (Chair), Rick Olson, Larry Damman, Paul Reith, Thomas Schwefel, Robert Wincek, Randy Farchmin, Allan Brown, Nicholas Schertz, Kurt Justice (Vice Chair), Jason Brazzale, Joe Stuchlak, Harry Bowey, Reed Kabelowsky, Tom Christman, Jim Engebretson, Brett Weir, Robert McNeil, Michael Gould
EXCUSED	Michael Kelby, Bob Bohardt, Ted Eisenbacher, Michael Arrowood, Scott Strook
UNEXCUSED	Pete Doperalski, Randy Symicek, Adam Leibersbach
GUESTS	Kari Lee-Zimmerman (Liason), Rich Rosen (LE), Greg Sass (DNR Fish Research), Alex Latzka (DNR Fisheries), Don Stover (author - 580121), Allen Spaeth (author - 091121), Cal Straub (author 500521),

**C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR**

DISCUSSION	Joe Weiss presented the Agenda and there was no discussion or issues. Chairman Weiss went over the rules of the road for the meeting.
ACTION	Motion by Brett Weir and 2nd by Tom Christman to accept the agenda as sent out - carried.

**D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT**

DISCUSSION	The mission of the Warm Water Advisory Committee is to review, discuss, and make recommendations on questions, rules, and policies concerning warm water fisheries in the State of Wisconsin. The scope of this review includes all bodies of water (lakes, rivers, and streams) located with the state as well as boundary waters surround Wisconsin. Furthermore, it includes all fish species traditionally know as "warm water" species regardless of what type of water body they may be located in. Our recommendations are made in an advisory capacity to the public, the Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Board, and the Conservation Congress. The committee supports the long term goal of protecting and enhancing warm water fishery resources for future generations of Wisconsin citizens.
ACTION	There was no further discussion regarding the mission statement and no one brought issues - verbal acceptance of mission statement by group.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

DISCUSSION	There were no actual public statements or comments as pertained to the meeting - several authors were present and were recognized. They gave their support for their resolutions during the coverage of that resolution.
ACTION	N/A

**II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Resolutions with authors present were taken first - numbers to right represent the order in which they were discussed/voted on.**

1.	10) 580121 Increasing daily bag limits for Northern Pike on Tiger Cat Flowage	Don Stover & Joe Weiss
	DISCUSSION	Harry Bowey asked a question about bag limit and size? Rick Olson indicated that it helped on Chippewa Flowage when used - made comment about expanding tool box. Tom Schwefel - why have any bag limit? Rosen asked author for clarification if he was encouraging increasing catch within bag or increasing bag - A: increase bag.
	ACTION	Motion by Rick Olson and 2nd by Mike Gould to advance this resolution - carried with no dissent. (verbal vote)
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
	Chairman - committee	

2.	13) 091121 Legal transportation of game fish.	Allen Spaeth & Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Nick Shertz - Comment about fish cleaning - example where he felt wardens set up on people instead of teaching. Bob Wincek - Enforcement issue - different regs for same species could cause confusion. Harry Bowey - Same thought. Tom Schwefel - common sense enforcement - so many size limit variations. Allen Spaeth spoke again to further derine is resolution. Reed Kabelowsky - Canadian rules much simpler. Did not see an actual definition by author as to what he is proposing instead of current regulation - can't support.	
ACTION	Motion by Brett Weir and 2nd by Tom Christman to reject this resolution - carried (verbal vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

3.	7) 090321, 500221, 710221 - Expanding opportunities for underwater spearfishermen.	Cal Straub & Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Cal Straub defended his resolution and remarked that it was very similar to legal bowfishing of catfish. Pay same license fees as fisherman. Larry Damman - Knows of some participants and they have no issues with id - favors. Brett Weir asked question of author. Al Peterson - more stained habits - harder to id. Bob Wincek - believes there is ramifications for voting yes = expanding netting and spearing. Reed Kabelowsky - mentioned another spearing resolution in Great Lakes Committee - issues. Tom Chirstman - advised that scuba gear is legal to use. Harry Bowey - thinks that underwater spearing is more exact than bowfishing which is legal. Rick Olson - expressed concern for how it would be done and species id. Cal was given last word.	
ACTION	Motion by Brett Weir and 2nd by Kurt Justice to reject this resolution - carried with no dissents (verbal vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

4.	21) 500521 - Proposing a new harvest regulation on panfish for Lake Helen	Keith Hoffman - Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Greg Sass - still evaluating panfish research and regulations. Favors informed science decisions before deciding. Reed Kabelowsky - this is already in DNR panfish regulations toolbox - not part of study. Alex Lazka - There are other regs being tested/considered. Still don't have evals on these. If one waits, maybe more options. Brett Weir - If we wait, would changes be quicker to come - Latzka - yes. Rick Olson - We already have some positive data. Al Peterson - Stunted panfish - why - Latzka - 2 reasons = low predator pressure and size on harvests. Tom Schwefel - 1 of 8 choices - why not go all to 10 on all lakes - easier. Rick Olson - We do need options - just coming a little slow. Likes options v. one cure. Latzka - DNR considering leaving possession limits at 50 even with changes.	
ACTION	Motion by Rich Olson and 2nd by Larry Damman to advance the resolution - carried with no dissents (verbal vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

5.	1) 640621 Ban Trolling on Vilas County Lakes with Lake Trout populations.	Kurt Justice & Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Kurt Justice is a strong supporter in Vilas County. Hasn't heard from trollers directly. Al Peterson - Hasn't experienced catching trout while trolling for walleyes - different habitats. Rich Olson - don't know how they are trolling so deep and why - targetting? Latzka - Tagged fish research - DNR did some test trolling - explained the mortality and how. Sass - Saw the data and has seen steady decline in trout populations - doesn't think it is a bad idea to ban. Tom Schwefel - Thinks they are targetting and thinks it is muskie fisherman trying to get reg in through backdoor. Bob Wincek - Trolling or casting? Same results on mortality? Thinks it will help. Al Peterson - Doesn't think walleye fisherman are going to catch walleye. Nick Schertz - disagrees - thinks some walleye are in same areas/depth ranges.	
ACTION	Motion by Brett Weir and 2nd by Tom Christman to advance the resolution - carried (verbal vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee.		

6.	2) 90421 - Change netting regulations to allow use of casting nets for Minnows, Smelt, and rough fish.	Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Tom Schwefel - Doesn't believe that this will spread invasives any worse than other methods of fishing activities. Larry Damman - Need to get disease issues under control first - spread of disease is serious. Al Peterson - Reminded us the VHS is still out there - in minnows. Sass - Smelt ae included in concern about spreading this invasive.	
ACTION	Motion by Larry Damman and 2nd by Rick Olson to reject this resolution - carried (verbal vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

7.	3) 610121 Change the statewide muskellunge size limit	Lee Raby & Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Lee Raby presented his defense of his mother's resolution - gave some very in depth stats about muskie numbers, etc. Brett Weir - question to Lee - put-n-take lakes v. natural reproduction - which makes sense? Lee backs this in each setting. Larry Damman - catch rates are important to muskie fisherman = success. Tom Schwefel - doesn't like that muskie fisherman don't want any fish kept at all. Al Peterson - talked about sucker populations. Larry Damman - harvesting brings populatoin down quickly = reduces fishing interest. Lee Raby - last word - give more growth statistics and catch ratios at present regulations v. his proposed regulations. Rick Olson - called point of order - need to make second motion to advance - Kari concurred.  Kurt Justice - male to female ratio is off - not enough males already.	
ACTION	Motion by Joe Stuchlak and 2nd by Larry Damman to reject this resolution - Motion to reject failed after a roll call vote - 10-7 Motion by Brett Weir and 2nd by Toim Schwefel to advance the motion - carried (voice vote).	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

8.	4) 550121 Changing the Thornapple Dam Fish Refuge	Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Rick Olson - gave a brief history of refuges. Tom Schwefel - Are there refuges open when this one is closed? No answer given. Enforcement issue. Rosen - not sure - thinks it is for walleye in the spring.	
ACTION	Motion by Rick Olson and 2nd by Tom Christman to reject the resolution - carried with no dissents (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

9.	25) 410421 Remove the Burbot from the list of Wisconsin rough fish. 131121, 640521, 600421, 520121, 050321, 110221, 270321, 430121, 681621, 490321, 410421, 660321, 560821	Paul Smith & Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Paul Smith - Milwaukee burbot pursuit is up in the area as is population. Catching lots of burbot. Resolution was strongly supported in all counties where resolution was heard. Rick Olson - Process needs to start now as it is quite lengthy. Latzka - reminder it take some funding to study after it would pass. Tom Christman - Money should not be driving factor. Paul Reith - compared to threatened redhorse - also on rough fish list. Harry Bowey - Due to large amount of resolutions - we should advance. Nick Schertz - Lake Winnebago example - people coming to catch them during spawning - much exploitation.	
ACTION	Joe Weiss did a count to make sure we were still at quorum - reminder about importance of quorum. Motion by Brett Weir and 2nd by Rick Olson to advance the resolution - carried with no dissents (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

10.	5) 411921 - Creation of a Sport Fishing Board (280421, 682121)	Bob Wincek & Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Rick Olson - CDAC example - more hands in the mix takes away from WCC mission. Bob Wincek (author) - explained the resolution. Paid people making rules for sportsmen. Ideas not moving forward fast enough due to red tape. Money going to commercial fishing enforcement. Brett Weir - adding another committee waters down WWAC work. Rick Olson - We have reps at NRB meetings - yes room for improvement. Bob Wincek - No lake trout out of Lake Superior due to catch quota being met - commercial fisherman still fishing. Tom Schwefel - Native American's have committee representation - we should.	
ACTION	Motion by Rick and 2nd by Brett Weir to reject the resolution - carried - roll call vote 9/6.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

11.	6) 090921 Establish Harvest season to allow catch and release fishing during the current closed seasons for all gave.	Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Rick Olson - Favor rejecting now, but may support some specific species in future. Al Peterson - Similiar sentiment. Tom Schwefel - targeting spawning fish - not a good idea.	
ACTION	Motion by Tom Schwefel and 2nd by Harry Bowey to reject the resolution - carried with no dissents (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

12.	8) 240121 - Fish limits on Little Green Lake	Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Bob Wincek - Should reject as it is a double resolution - two questions. Congress delegates helped to check these over and we should have caught and suggested author change. Brett Weir - Indicated he did reach out to author and did not get a response. Kari - Indicated that there were about 500 resolutions and many came in on the last few days and had to be dealt with - not job of R&R Committee to reject on face. Rick Olson - he has made recommendations to EC to reject some resolutions. Al Peterson - If we don't hold authors to one resolution - how many can be on each resolution?  Joe Weiss - Do you want to bring back in "other business"?	
ACTION	Motion by Harry Bowey and 2nd by Tom Schwefel to reject the resolution - carried with no dissents (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss		

13.	9) 720221 Funding for Boat Landing Improvements and maintenance.	Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Rosen - Contacted landing administrator who agrees with authors data. Legislation changed since 2007. Municipalities can do what they want now. Henry Bowey - Agrees, but too hard to enforce and administor. Brett Weir - Somtimes parking is determined per acres of lake - doesn't always follow common sense. Larry Damman - Would have preferred language to restore to previous rule instead of the way it is written. Al Peterson - author - Explained that if it was too specific, we can message the to language we want. Doesn't like getting only small amount of the \$13 mil at stake in this venue. Harry Bowey - Tried for 4 years to get a municipality to repair/ upgrade a landing - still no progress.	
ACTION	Motion by Henry Bowey and 2nd by Brett Weir to reject the resolution - carried (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

14.	11) 090521 Lake Wissota walleye size limit.	Kurt Justice & Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	No discussion.	
ACTION	Motion by Harry Bowey and 2nd by Rick Olson to reject the resolution - carried (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

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| 15. | 12) 090621 Lake Wissota Walleye regulations. | Joe Weiss  |
|     | DISCUSSION                                   | No discussion.   |
|     | ACTION                                       | Motion by Rick Olson and 2nd by Tom Christman to reject the resolution - carried with no dissents (voice vote) |
|     | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE                        | DEADLINE   |
|     | Joe Weiss                                    |  |
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| 16. | 14) 240421 - Little Green Lake panfish limit from 25 to 10 per day. | Kurt Justice & Joe Weiss  |
|     | DISCUSSION  | No discussion.  |
|     | ACTION  | Motion by Rick Olson and 2nd by Nicholas Schertz to advance the resolution - carried with no dissents (voice vote). |
|     | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE   | DEADLINE  |
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| 17. | 15) 220121 Make Woodman Lake no wake. | Joe Weiss   |
|     | DISCUSSION                            | Rosen - Jake the recreational warden - this is our jurisdiction. NR45 rewrite which is being considered now - probably passing. |
|     | ACTION                                | Motion by Tom Schwefel and 2nd by Brett Weir to advance the resolution - carried with no dissents (voice vote)                  |
|     | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE                 | DEADLINE  |
|     | Joe Weiss - committee                 |   |
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| 18. | 16) 500321 New pandish harvest regulation from 25 bag to 10 bag limit for Lake Jeauqueline (aka Glisezinski). | Kurt Justice & Joe Weiss   |
|     | DISCUSSION  | Larry Damman - does not meet the state significances per policy. Rick Olson - Wise use - one size does not fit all. Asked for DNR to forward the technology reports (use of technology devices). Larry Damman - We don't know why - stunted or not - DNR has to follow up. Doesn't like committing resources to all of these small lakes. Tom Schwefel - Q: 110 lakes in test - now we are getting more request due to this w/out results. Paul Reith - 10 bag not in the experiment - this is in toolbox. |
|     | ACTION  | Motion by Larry Damman and 2nd by Tom Schwefel to reject the resolution - motion to reject defeated after roll call vote 9/7.<br>Motion to advance by Paul Reith and 2nd by Brett Weir - carried (voice vote)  |
|     | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE   | DEADLINE   |
|     | Joe Weiss   |  |
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| 19. | 23) 700121 Reduce the panfish bag limit on Deer Lake in Town of Marion. | Kevin Fitzgerald & Joe Weiss  |
|     | DISCUSSION  | Latzka - not a "public" access - can't regulate this body of water.   |
|     | ACTION  | Motion by Larry Damman and 2nd by Jason Brazzale to reject the resolution - carried with no dissents (voice vote) |
|     | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE   | DEADLINE  |
|     | Joe Weiss - committee   |   |
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| 20. | 17) 090121 Northern Zone Muskellunge slot size/bag limit. | Kurt Justice & Joe Weiss  |
|     | DISCUSSION  | Tom Schwefel - yes on state wide resolution and should stay the same. Kurt Justice - reject due to only being for northern zone. Northern zone often expects to be considered different. Larry Damman - Which lakes would it effect - with what regulations? Lazka - only the 28" and 40" regulation lakes. |

	Paul Reith - made statement that he is voting with his county as they expect from him.
ACTION	Motion by Tom Schwefel and 2nd by Al Peterson to advance the resolution - motion to advance fails after roll call vote - 11/5. Motion to reject by Brett Weir and 2nd by Kurt Justice - motion to advance carried (voice vote).
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	
Joe Weiss - committee	
DEADLINE	

21.	18) 370421 Panfish limit on the Willow Flowage.	Kurt Justice & Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Reed Kabelowsky - No specific regulations in toolbox. Harry Bowey - Will we be asking to increase bag again in 5-10 years? Lazka - explained it only for crappies. Kurt Justice - trophy panfish water - gets pounded for crappies. Nick Schertz - DNR is conducting tests due to declining "quality" fishing - addressing technology and social media effects on fishing pressure. Ice fishing pressure has increased dramatically. I am in favor.	
ACTION	Motion by Nicholas Schertz and 2nd by Jason Brazzale to advance the resolution - carried (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

22.	19) Plum Lake Muskellunge size increase.	Kurt Justice & Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Reed Kabelowsky - against growing the list of 50" only lakes. Al Peterson - agrees - doesn't see the 50" limit as good thing. Tom Schwefel - Spearing has no size limit. Kurt Justice - Does the lake have Cisco - Sass - yes. The lake has large Cisco and there aren't many lakes left that fit the criteria of Cisco, 1000 acres, etc. Larry Damman - Catch and release us the main reason for the 50".	
ACTION	Motion by Joe Stuchlak and 2nd by Randy Farchmin to advance the resolution - carried (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

23.	20) 370121 Proposed panfish limit change for Lake Dubay.	Kurt Justice & Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Kurt Justice - The panfish regulation experiment was to be 10 years - technology is big driver for reduction support.	
ACTION	Motion by Al Peterson and Kurt Justice to advance the resolution - carried (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

24.	22) 440121 Reduce crappie bag limit to 10 on Willow Flowage.	Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Paul Reith - opposes as it is not in toolbox.	
ACTION	Motion by Mike Gould and 2nd by Brett Weir to advance the resolution - carried (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

25.	24) 240321 Reduce walleye limit from 5 to 3 with slot.	Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Latzka - not in tool box with this slot. Reed Kabelowsky - why is it not in toolbox - Wisconsin River uses it. Sass - 20-28" slot only on river - special reg. Paul Reith - this is a put-n-take lake.	
ACTION	Motion by Paul Reith and 2nd by Harry Bowey to reject the resolution - carried (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

26.	26) 060221 Safe access to transfer from a dock to a boat.	Joe Weiss & Rick Rosen
DISCUSSION	Rosen - History has suggested that the ADA disabilities act be followed and is required now. If funds are assigned to any municipality or government they must comply with ADA requirements. This already happening now. Paul Reith - This is occurring and is required. I support the ADA compliant requirements - even if they are a bit troublesome at the landings. No need for this resolution as it is already happening.	
ACTION	Motion by Bob Wincek and 2nd by Paul Reith to reject the resolution - carried (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

27.	27) 131921 Support 10 panfish bag limit - Lake Mendota, Dane County - preserve size structure and increase.	Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Tom Schwefel - fishes this water a lot - bluegills are strong, perch cycle up and down for years. Spiny water flea definitely a factor. Paul Reith - author is an avid fisher of the chain. PFAS advisory will cause folks to leave the lower waters and move to Mendota increasing fishing pressure. Passed in county. One of the most studied lakes in state. Kurt Justice - Pollution problem? Latzka - yes down stream and will cause folks to move up to Mendota. Bob Wincek - 25 with 10 perch now right? No.	
ACTION	Motion by Tom Schwefel and Bob Wincek to reject this resolution - motion to reject failed 10/5 roll call vote. Motion to advance by Paul Reith and Al Peterson - carried (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

28.	28) 090221 Trial/test on Muskellunge slot size limit.	Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Joe Weiss - Somewhat similar to the other resolutions - same author - this lays out a test period. Al Peterson - What is different? We passed the other one. Lazka - involves a trial period with research - 7 years. 7 years would not touch the surface of the effects on muskie populations. Larry Damman - Agrees that it would not be covered in 7 years - only one generation studied.	
ACTION	Motion by Larry Damman and 2nd by Tom Chirstman to reject the resolution - carried (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

29.	29) 240221 - Walleye - reduce bag limit from 5 to 3 with 15"	Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Joe read a letter from the author supporting his resolution before motion. Harry Bowey - Pressure in spring increasing. Many fish have left Puckaway to spawn further north. Keep bag limit as is - doesn't believe it will hurt population. Joe asked why for response to author - New fish ladder may effect positively and not in toolbox. Author will accept the no and entertain tweaking. We can bring it up later with 18" limit.	
ACTION	Motion by Brett Weir and 2nd by Harry Bowey to reject the resolution - carried (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Joe Weiss - committee		

30.	30) 010321 Walley bag limit reduction on the Wisconsin River from Nekossa Dam downstream to the Prairie du Sac	Joe Weiss
DISCUSSION	Harry Bowey - what would happen to rest of regulations on river? Tom Schwefel - guides/fisherman can regulate themselves to keep less. Kurt Justice - practices a 3 limit in his boat. Reed Kabelowsky - Self-regulate not an option - need laws. I support the resolution and it is in the toolbox. Canada has reduced their limits and have great success. We need to follow. Al Peterson - Mixed emotions - 3 is not too bad. Harry Bowey - Less keepable fish - some might keep larger fish which they may have returned otherwise.	
ACTION	Motion by Al Peterson and 2nd by Harry Bowey to reject the resolution - carried (voice vote)	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

Joe Weiss - committee	
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**B. DNR Updates**

Alex - DNR Fisheries

DISCUSSION	<p>Alex Latzka provided an update of the state of Wisconsin Fisheries management: A few bullet points from me that should help cover general topics:</p> <p>Hiring / Vacancies:</p> <p>Current number of vacancies in the Bureau of Fisheries Management is 32 (about 17% of authorized hiring authority) Approved State budget eliminated 2.02 positions from Fisheries Management ( working to identify the positions but will use vacant positions) Hired on a new Northern District Supervisor Scott Toshner Recently filled 3 Central Office positions, Database Manager (Chris Tyrell), Great Lakes Specialist (Kari Fenske) and River and Stream Systems Biologist (Bradd Sims) Note Kari and Bradd start on August 30th Also hired fisheries technician advanced at KMS and Brule / LV hatcheries Hired program budget manager Completed round 1 interviews for the Statewide Electrofishing Coordinator At the interview stage for hiring Team supervisors for Oshkosh, Spooner, Woodruff and Treaty Unit West 4 habitat technician advanced positions are due to be posted within a couple of weeks for filling Anticipate a recruitment for all vacant biologist positions to begin in September (this will include potential vacancies created during the team supervisor hire) Currently we have 7 biologist vacancies (Dodgeville, Plymouth, Horicon, Green Bay, Oshkosh, Wautoma, Brule, Black River Falls) OAS is in the final stages of recruiting a research scientist in Spooner</p> <p>Other items to note:</p> <p>Walleye management plan Statewide sturgeon management plan approved by NRB Panfish regulation evaluation Minocqua chain emergency rule / permanent rule PFAs Fish consumption advisories Staff are in the field and conducting all scheduled surveys, habitat work and fish culture operations Undergoing a full program review of staff and funding to do a workload analysis</p> <p>Q: Joe Weiss - What was egg production like this year in hatcheries? Like last year with poor or no production? A: Egg production was good/normal for walleye and muskie. Q: Tom Schwefel - Are you back in offices A: Yes for the most part. Q: Brett Weir - any large scale initiatives to live transfer? A: Sass - We are conducting some re-introduction of Cisco and removal of Smelt. Sparkling and Crystal Lakes. Q: Al Peterson - Largemouth Bass v. Walleye equation - Research bas populations on walleye spawning/recruitment success? A: Systems only possess so much energy to convert to biomass - if one gets to much the others get less - yes they are researching this.</p>	
ACTION	Thanks from members for the update and information.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

**C. DNR Updates**

Greg Sass - Fisheries Biologist

DISCUSSION	<p>Greg Sass provided an update on his work and the work of the DNR in fisheries research: Summary below (briefly):</p> <p>DNR Office of Applied Science is hiring a permanent fisheries scientist in Spooner. This fills a vacancy from 2015. An offer will likely be made on Monday 8/16/21, and hopefully we will have the candidate in place within the next 3-6 months. New Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration projects : Brook Trout Genetics, Hatchery Walleye Sex Ratios, Climate</p>	
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	<p>Adaptation in Wisconsin Fishes, Fish Community Productivity, Brule River Spawning Run Model, Whole-lake Bullhead Removal, Walleye Genetic Pedigree, Invasive Rainbow Smelt Control in Inland Lakes, Brule River Salmonid Spawning Habitat</p> <p>Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts fisheries working group has developed a climate adaptation plan for Wisconsin fishes.</p> <p>The DNR Northern Highland Fishery Research Area celebrated its 75th anniversary this summer.</p> <p>Greg</p>	
ACTION	The committee thanked Greg for his work and wisdom.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

**D. DNR Law Enforcement Update**

Warden Rick Rosen

DISCUSSION	<p>DNR Law Enforcement provided an update on the state of Law Enforcement in the Wisconsin Warden Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Bureau of Law Enf is now the Division of Public Safety &amp; Resource Protection (1 of 6 divisions within the DNR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Chief (Division Administrator) – Casey Krueger</li> <li>o 2 Deputy Chiefs (Assistant Division Administrators) – Matt O’Brien &amp; Jeremy Peery</li> </ul> </li> <li>· Staffing Levels: Very good at the moment. Have filled or in process of filling numerous positions: EE specialists, investigators, policy officer, boating law administrator, marine enforcement unit supervisor, training director, recruitment and hiring director, business services manager, tactical officer and several new supervisors. New class of field wardens to be hired...background checks underway.</li> <li>· Warden Experiences Lately (Burning the candle at both ends): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Outdoor activities and recreation property use is very high and a demanding workload. Wardens are celebrating the new outdoor energy spurred on by the pandemic, but lamenting the recent add-on work of traditional law enforcement such as deployments to civil unrest, capitol security and pandemic assignments such as protecting the strategic national stockpile supply warehouse and providing security at covid isolation centers. The Milw Bucks championship was one for the celebration books as well...but...the wardens were also pulled into public safety efforts due to the huge crowds. Wardens saved many folks that j</li> <li>o The Division will be doubling down efforts on life saving initiatives in water sports (boating &amp; swimming) and recreational vehicle activities. Wardens have responded to numerous fatal and near fatal incidents this year.</li> <li>o During the pandemic wardens made every effort to cover field needs of other programs that were not allowed to do field work due to safety protocols put in place. This has decreased immensely now that other staff are allowed to get back in the field. The Governor and Secretary both recognized the extra efforts the wardens undertook during these unprecedented times. The Division of Public Safety and Resource Protection was exempted from hiring freezes which were in place for most programs. Great call...it kept efforts afloat! Other programs are now hiring and getting back up to full speed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>· Wardens will be getting body cameras due to a recent budget initiative. Currently in the planning and development stages of setting up this program. Lots of Open Records and data storage logistics. Many legalities to iron out.</li> <li>· We are rolling out new computers to wardens. Their other computers are 5 years old, off warranty and starting to malfunction. This was good timing to make the move to another computer, similar in design and price...no particular upgrades really.</li> <li>· Operation Budget: Status quo. Saved a lot of \$ when significant #'s of staff weren't traveling or incurring expenses during Covid; however, we are now nearly full staffed and will see where the rubber meets the road with a full contingent of Division staff.</li> <li>· Salary Budget: OT hours will be cut somewhat...from 420 hours annually to 410 hours annually. We have a special account that was granted to the warden service many years ago from the legislature, but has never increased or</li> </ul>
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	<p>decreased whatsoever. More positions finally filled and an increased cost of doing business is pushing this account to its limits. Wardens try to cover shifts 24/7/365 with only 1 or 2 wardens per county, which is a great stroke of business (cost-savings) when not having to hire, train and equip more full time staff to cover shifts. To do this... wardens are allotted up to 410 hours of annual overtime to be used on pressing matters for after-hours call-outs or responding when off-duty. From year to year...not every warden will need those hours, but some incident somewhere will dictate where they are used...and they sure are needed.</p> <p>The agency, as a whole, is moving towards a much greener fleet of vehicles and an increased effort in trying to decrease our carbon footprint to help out with climate change. Put your money where your mouth is, right!! Fleet vehicles will be going more electric and hybrid as this technology rolls out...expect the DNR to be on the first wave and not the last! Lead by example. We will see how warden squads will play into the big picture due to towing needs, energy consumption, remote operations and availability of charging stations in certain areas of the state. More to come...</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Rick</p>
ACTION	The committee thanked him for his update and wished the warden service well in their efforts.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**E. Future meetings and business**

Joe Weiss

DISCUSSION	Joe offered a meeting date for next years' meeting and solicited comments for planning this. Saturday, August 13 was accepted by the group.
ACTION	N/A
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**F. Note from Secretary**

Reed Kabelowsky

DISCUSSION	Added to minutes: Meeting was orderly and delegates did a very good job of identifying themselves for recordable items making it much easier to properly record the meeting and its key components. Joe Weiss did a very good job of keeping the meeting on point and timely.
ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Delegates and guests	

**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

DISCUSSION	<p>Joe reminded members of the Green Lake resolution - The matter was resolved under further resolutions that were offered singly - no further action needed/taken.</p> <p>Paul Reith: Thanked everyone for a productive and orderly meeting.</p> <p>Brett Weir: Asked us to be cognizant of e-mail paths and not always use the "reply all" to keep orderliness. Brett talked about his efforts as a DLC representative that he was involved in overseeing some of the committee meetings. Indicated that a couple of the meetings were ill prepared and leaders did not even have the agenda. The agendas come from Kari and are posted. Reach out before the meeting with questions.</p> <p>Tom Schwefel: Tom asked about how many committee members should have been at meeting today and expressed his sorrow and frustration over the lack interest and responsibility of some members. Was frustrated by the narrow margin with which we needed to run this meeting today. Indicate that this year there were 8 panfish resolutions and expects 10 or more next year. Talked about how we are going away from simplification of the regulations. Also spoke to our need as a body to regulate advances in technology which are greatly effecting our fishing. We are loosing credibility with our public.</p> <p>Al Peterson: Spoke to a resolution from last year about protecting spawning walleyes that was supported in all</p>
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	<p>counties, but gained no traction with the DNR. Are they disregarding our recommendations? Expressed dismay for our turning down \$9 mil grant from today's proposal regarding managing funding for upkeep of our landings.</p> <p>Kurt Justice: Understands everyones' frustrations. Indicate that we are an advisory body only - we collect public opinion and pass it on. Thanked delegates that showed up and worked on today's resolutions.</p> <p>Tom Christman: Indicated he is a new delegate and although he learned much today he has a long ways to catch up on thing. Expressed concern for use and advancement of technology. Rule simplification is getting more complicated - concerned.</p> <p>Bob Wincek: Credibility issue is a concern. Expressed concern about warden and research suffering losses in visibility and public work due to COVID while the public usage was growing drastically. NRB call - talked about an argument that took place on the NRB floor between Chair and member - expressed concern for how this bodes.</p> <p>Jason Brazzalle: Offered exciting news - spoke about the High School Fishing Association - board meeting recently. Championship this year will be on Castlerock and Petenwell waters. Jason can be resource for other schools to start program. Spoke about the Master Angler Program - Jason showed highlights of students that are accomplishing much in the world of fishing. Current leader has 24 species caught thus far. Thank you Jason for this info!</p> <p>Randy Farchmin: Thanks to delegates who participated today and for the DNR folks for their information and work.</p> <p>Joe Stuchlak: Thanks all for their participation.</p> <p>Nicholas Schertz: Spoke about resolution passage - P v. F. Spoke about fishing opportunities and mentioned that although technology is a concern it is driving factor for participation by many.</p> <p>Rick Olson: Rick highlighted that he has 35 years on WW committee and has seen a lot. Wise use is important concept over make everything simple just for sake of simplicity.</p> <p>Mike Gould: Thanked Kurt and Joe for running a good meeting.</p> <p>Reed Kabelowsky: Offered a highlight of last weekend's YCC conservation outing. Mentioned all the work by YCC committee members, Kyle Zenz the coordinator, and many volunteers - much given in time, talent, and even money. Very successful outing. Keep this in mind when we are frustrated - these folks are depending on us to see things through and they are watching. Larry Damman commented that one of the youth delegates registered a trout in the YCC fishing contest (Larry oversee's this) and is anxious to hear if he used some of his skills learned at the event.</p>
ACTION	No actions necessary

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED	<b>Motion by Brett Weir and 2nd by Tom Christman to adjourn at 2:40PM - carried.</b>
SUBMITTED BY	<b>Reed C. Kabelowsky - Committee Secretary</b>
DATE	<b>08/15/2021</b>