

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

LEGISLATIVE

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	10/15/2022	9:00 A.M.	Zoom Meeting
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	MarySusan Diedrich at 9:03 A.M.
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Michael Hamm-Kevin Schanning-George Meyer-MarySusan Diedrich-Dave Larson-Bill Rider-Chuck Boley-Peter Hellios-Butch Roberts-Todd Cook-Harold Drake-Tashina Peplinski-Colleen Locke-Robert Benson-Matt Obrien W.D.N.R.-Maggie Hunter W.D.N.R.- Kari Zimmerman W.D.N.R.
EXCUSED	Brad Wagner-Joel Taylor-Lowell Suring-Alan Suchla-Gary Roehrig
UNEXCUSED	None
GUESTS	Francisco Santiago-Barb Voigtman-Amy Mueller-Marya Bradley-Amy Mueller-Cynthia Samuels-Linda Hendrix- Tim Cotter- Tom Johnson- Al Peterson-Randy O'Connell

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	The chairman reminded committee members that the agenda was revised on 10/5/2022 to remove discussion items 3 and 4 because they were voted on at the May Convention. There was no request to amend the agenda.
ACTION	Motion by Micheal Hamm to approve the agenda as printed. Motion 2 nd by Dave Larson. Motion passed on a voice vote

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	Mission statement was read by the committee chair. There were no requests to amend.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Amy Mueller spoke in support for funding for non- lethal predator prevention programs. She related that the resolutions had wide spread support in the counties that they were submitted and asked that this resolution be forwarded. Cynthia Samuels spoke in support of illuminating compensation to hound owners for dogs killed or injured by wolves. Theses resolutions had broad support in the affected counties and she requested committee support for these resolutions. Marya Bradley asked the committee to support several resolutions which included Funding for non-lethal predator control, elimination of compensation for hound owners, Ecocide, Conservation fund for lead and enforcing term limits for N.R.B. Members. She also commented that we need to stop exploiting nature. Most people favor a change back to a naturel environment. Linda Hendrix related her personal experiences with hound hunter trespass issues and urged for support for Warden authority to issue trespass citations.
ACTION	none

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. RESOLUTION 160122 VETS ON THE LAKE

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	Tim Cotter Spoke on behalf of this resolution and gave supporting background information concerning current "VETS on the LAKE" programs being conducted in Douglas County. The resolution is in an
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	effort to create a specific Free fishing weekend For Veterans that would be state wide. Tom Johnson also spoke in support of the resolution. There is support by local legislators. Participants are vetted thru the local V.A. office. Committee discussion: Mike Hamm voiced his support but had concerns about which definition of a veteran would be used. the State and federal definitions are different which might create some enforcement challenges. George Meyer commented that more detail is needed in order to move this thru but, that can be worked out by the legislature when a bill is written. The Congress could testify in support at a legislative secession.	
ACTION	Motion to advance was made by Todd Cook with a second from Robert Benson. Motion carried on a voice vote.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

B. RESOLUTION 050322 “EVERY KID OUTDOORS”

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	Maggie Hutter stated that the Department is open to hearing the Congress position on this resolution. Mike Hamm stated that the state does accept “Every Kid Outdoors” passes at a few places because they accept federal money. He thinks that senior citizens be included if supported	
ACTION	Motion to advance was made by Kevin Schanning with a second by Bill Ruder. Motion Passed on a voice vote.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

C. RESOLUTION 020422 “ECOCIDE”

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	Committee comments: Chuck Boley- Resolution is vague and open to wide interpretation. Would be a legislative nightmare. George Meyer-Definition of Ecoside would need to be very specific. Any legislation would probable not pass constitutional challenge. MarySusan Diedrich- This is something that was introduced at the international level that has no current support by the United States. Todd Cook- Term is too broad. We need to do a lot of research on this. Is based on what some other countries are doing to control things like intensive livestock farming.	
ACTION	Motion to reject was made by Chuck Boley. Motion was 2 nd George Meyer. Motion carried on a voice vote.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

D. RESOLUTION 030622 NON-LETHAL PREDATOR CONTROL

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	Committee Comments: Mike Hamm-Information in resolution is mostly from western states. Where is the money Coming from? Farming is a business and has certain risks associated with it. Farmers should not be paid out of the general fund. George Meyer-Agrees that any money from governmental sources needs to be looked at. Supports this resolution. Understands wolf territory farmers problems being caused of our inability to manage predators with current efforts. Federal and state courts are causing the problem with wolves. Congress has failed to de-list wolves and allow professional Managers to manage. Chuck Boley- Agrees with George’s comments. This is only a band aid. The key is proper predator management, other wise we are putting money down a dark hole.	
ACTION	Motion to advance was made by Kevin Schanning. 2 nd by Bill Ruder. Motion passed on a roll call vote with 7 in favor and 5 opposed.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

E. RESOLUTION 040882 ELIMINATE COMPENSATION

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	Randy O’Connell spoke on behalf of the resolution author requesting support for the resolution. They would like to see this practice ended. Tax payers should not be paying for dogs in know wolf territory. Committee discussion: Chuck Boley- Agrees with COP rule that allows to advance. Does not support the resolution. Tashina Peplinski- Information in resolution is biased. Their reasoning is based on money/expense. The \$2500 cap for dogs was from 1985 is not even close to their current value. It also	
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	values all dogs the same. There needs to be a better definition of dogs because all dogs are not hunting dogs. The replacement value of a well- trained hunting dog far exceeds other dogs. She further commented on the real costs associated with dog training and boarding. Of the damage money paid out 50% was for Cattle/Farm animals. 30% for hunting dogs and 4% for pet dogs. The remaining was for other farm animals. She felt that the committee should take a vote on the resolutions and forward it to the D.L.C. George Meyer- Would oppose this resolution. Losses taking place are way to high due to inaction by the courts and legislature. The payment amount for losses was negotiated as part of the original wolf plan and was to compensate for legal hunting and farm losses.
ACTION	No vote taken. Resolution was automatically moved to the spring Hearing questionnaire per code of procedure XI D 2 Page 16. No vote taken
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

F. RESOLUTION 041552 TRESPASS AUTHORITY

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	Committee Discussion: George Meyer-Resolution does not match the question. Question is too broad and sets no limits on trespass authority. Wardens have no business enforcing all trespass violations. He does not support broad trespass authority. Question needs to be narrowed down to hunting related issues. Chuck Boley-This question has been presented previous times with no action. People are tired of trespassers on their property. Fines are minimal and not a deterrent. Legislature has to increase fines. Robert Benson-Supports the resolution. Trespassers can legally shoot a deer on your property and face a trespass fine only. Had that occur and the prosecutor did not push. Tashina Peplinski-Northern counties are a problem. Local law enforcement dose not handle these situations well. We should adjust the wording of the question and forward. Michael Hamm- Northern counties have limited resources to handle issue. Agrees with limiting to hunting related trespass. Kevin Schanning-recommends change of question to hunting related. MarySusan Diedrich- Local police have value and time constraints. She would prefer warden response to hunting issues. Need to stress getting land owner permission. Kari Zimmerman- Questioned if this would include training activities as this might come up at the D.L.C. considerations. Peter Hellios- Questioned if this would include fishing on ponds also.
ACTION	The original motion to advance was made by Dave Larson with a second by Robert Benson. Following discussion, the motion was amended to advance the resolution by adding the words "In hunting related activities" to the question. Motion passed on a voice vote with none opposed.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

G. RESOLUTION 080222 N.R.B. TERMS

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	Committee Discussion: Mike Hamm- Opposes resolution. Feels that this is a Legislative issue. Is outside the Congress mission and we should not be involved. If not satisfied change who you vote for. Tashina Peplinski- Oppose resolution. Board is politically appointed. We should not take this up. George Meyer- Supports. The process for appointments was designed to keep things even when administrations change. This is part of the democratic process and should reflect the will of the people. The board should represent the majority no matter who is in power. Todd Cook- this is not the first time this has happened. Both parties have done the same. George Meyer- No, last time it was the same party.
ACTION	Motion to advance by George Meyer 2 nd by Dave Larson. Roll call vote was taken. Results were 7 in favor of advancing and 5 opposed. Motion carried
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

H. RESOLUTION 110722 FUND FOR LEAD MITIGATION

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	The resolution was read by the Committee chair. Committee discussion: Kevin Schanning- We are all aware of the negative effects of lead in the environment and we are moving away from it's use. Congress leadership supports these efforts. Tashina Peplinski- Do not see this resolution moving forward. Issues with funding sources. Changes to funding language would be needed. George Meyer-
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	<p>Agrees with purpose of the resolution. The problem is that this is an excise tax and the State may not have legal authority to do this. Manufacturers are out of state and covered by Interstate commerce laws that might require Federal statutes changes. There would also be issues with who would be administering the program. Mike Hamm- Opposes the resolution. Lead needs to be cleaned up. Funding and grants should come from the general fund. Too much is already on the backs of hunters and fisherman. Kevin Schanning- Suggest changing the question by illuminating all verbiage in the question after Conservation fund. Question would read "Do you support creation of a Conservation fund" Robert Benson-Opposes resolution as written for reasons given by others. We are moving in the right direction on the lead issues. The tax idea appears to be a federal government issue. George Meyer -The clear intent of the author is for the state to administer such a program. Resolution should be sent back to the author. The author should be advised of potential problems with the resolution along with possible changes to the question. Mary Susan Diedrich- Would oppose as written. Resolution needs to be amended or sent back to the author. Every processor having an x-ray machine not realistic. Peter Hellios- Suggest tabling and send back to author for reconsideration later. Dave Larson- oppose tabling resolution. Would have to meet again to take it back up prior to D.L.C. meeting. Kevin Schanning- We have worked with the author in the past to fix and resubmit. Kari Zimmerman- Would be ok with language changes. It would be cleaner to reject the resolution for now. Consult with the author on changes and have it resubmitted later. George Meyer- Need to explain committee concerns to the author. Resolution needs legal research done before advancing.</p>
ACTION	Motion by Kevin Schanning to advance. Motion 2 nd by George Meyer. Following discussion, the original motion was withdrawn. A motion to reject was made by Robert Benson. Motion 2 nd by Chuck Bowley. Motion to reject was approved on a voice vote with no objections.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Chair will consult with resolution author on possible legal issues with the resolution and suggested changes to the question. Will ask to resubmit next year.	

I. RESOLUTION 150622 HUNTING LICENSE FEES

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	The chair asked if anyone wanted to discuss. There was no discussion.
ACTION	Motion by Chuck Boley to Advance. 2 nd by Robert Benson Motion carried on a voice vote. No objections.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

J. RESOLUTION 320922 RECIPROCATING LICENSE FEES

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	Committee comments: George Meyer- Supports the resolution. Suggests that the resolution question be changed by eliminating the second sentence all together.
ACTION	Motion to forward the resolution was made by Michael Hamm. 2 nd by Robert Benson. Following discussion, the motion to advance was changed to advance as amended by removing the second sentence of the question. Motion passed on a voice vote with no objections.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

K. RESOLUTION 450922 HARVEST OF EXPIRED ANIMAL

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	Public Comment: Peterson requested support for the resolution. Most states require hunters to retrieve wounded game animals and avoids wonton waste issues. Committee comments: Tashina Peplinski- Understands authors intent. Believes it would establish a bad precedent for future. Agrees with provided submitted comments. Robert Benson- Can see both sides of the issue. Does not support trespass. Resolution opens up a can of worms for enforcement issues. Kevin Schanning- Something that should be considered is wonton waste. Related his situation where he was unable to secure permission to access land to retrieve a goose, so it went to waste. Tashina Peplinski-Resolution is too broad. Author should be provided with recommendations for changes and asked to re-submit. Michael Hamm- Suggested that It might be a good idea to contact the local warden for assistance.
ACTION	Motion to reject the resolution was made by Tashina Peplinski. 2 nd by Butch Roberts. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objections

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

L. RESOLUTION 660822 RESTORE LOCAL CONTROL

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	The resolution was read by the committee chair. Committee discussion: Michael Hamm- Supports the resolution. We need to keep in mind that if passed, things can go either way depending on the situation. Ordinances can be strengthened by the change but, they can also go the other way. Tashina Peplinski- questioned if counties do not already have the ability to do so? George Meyer- commented that there is some history behind this. We do have statewide shoreland ordinances. At one time County boards had the ability to do so and several counties did. As the result of a budget amendment some years ago, their ability to do so was taken away. Peter Hellois- Some local governments have no zoning committee or ordinances which means things cannot get done locally. George Meyer- All counties have shoreland planning and that would apply to all townships. Butch Roberts- Much of the text refers to buffers. The question is very broad and therefore he does not support it.
ACTION	Motion to advance was made by George Meyer. 2 nd by Kevin Schanning. A roll call vote was taken. Results 7 in favor and 4 opposed. Motion to advance carried.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

M. RESOLUTION 711422 SEARCH & RESCUE COST

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	Committee discussion: Michael Hamm mentioned that he would like to see this added at the state level when filing your taxes. Chuck Boley stated that Colorado has a voluntary search and rescue fee that pops up when you apply for a license and most hunters and fisherman are willing to help out. MarySusan Diedrich-Questioned on how that would apply to snowmobile, boat or A.T.V. license? Chuck Boley suggested that it could be applied in the Go Wild system when you renew your licensing. He also recommended combining this resolution with Resolution 711522 and removing the specific dollar amount to be established later and putting them forward to see if there would be support. George Meyer-Questioned that the two different resolutions offer the option of a voluntary program or mandatory program. Also pointed out that resolution 711522 is taking \$0.50 from each license instead of an increase in fees which would reduce revenue for other programs. The differences in the two resolutions were discussed to decide what to move forward with. Chuck Bowley recommended a friendly amendment to advance with the dollar amount removed.
ACTION	Motion to advance by Chuck Boley. 2 nd by Michael Hamm. Following discussion Chuck and Michael agreed to amend the resolution to advance with the dollar amount removed. Motion Carried on a voice vote with no objections.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

N. RESOLUTION 711522 SEARCH AND RESCUE FEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	Motion to reject was made by Dave Larson. 2 nd by George Meyer. Motion carried on a voice vote
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

O. RESOLUTION 720522 MARINE FUEL TAX

COMMITTEE CHAIR

DISCUSSION	Al Peterson, the author of the resolution, spoke on his background and the conflicts that lead him to write the resolution. George Meyer questioned as to where the majority of the money is going? Maggie Hutter pointed out that a large portion goes to water quality management. Chuck Boley pointed out that the resolution calls for removing boat launch fees and replacing them with a larger portion of the fuel tax funds. Other groups/individuals use the launches but do not buy fuel. These fees should be kept in place as well. Kevin Schanning commented that he supports better funding for launches but doesn't feel this is the best approach. The resolution author said that the 75% is the same percentage that the
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	A.T.V. users are getting from their portion. George Meyer and Kevin Schanning expressed concerns about the large percentage requested.
ACTION	Motion to reject was made by George Meyer. 2 nd by Kevin Schanning. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objections.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Committee Chair will contact the resolution author with committee concerns and asked that he revise the resolution and re-submit next year.	

P. DEPARTMENT UPDATE

MAGGIE HUTTER W.D.N.R.

DISCUSSION	Maggie Hutter of the D.N.R. presented the 2022 legislative secession update. Copies were supplied to committee members in advance for review. Priorities for 2023 legislative secession: Starting January first work will begin on establishing a budget. Expect to take up to 6 months with legislative approval by July. Looking for recommendations from the Congress on budget items.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Michael Hamm requested that the department could look at filling current open Warden positions in northern Wisconsin. It would also be nice to get the service centers open. There were no other concerns expressed by the members. Many thanked MarySusan for her efforts as the new chair of the committee. She in turn thanked everyone for their participation and expressed that she would like to meet earlier next year.
ACTION	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion to Adjourn was made by Dave Larsen. 2 nd by Chuck Boley Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 12:13 P.M.
SUBMITTED BY	[Committee Secretary]
DATE	[Date]