



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Deer & Elk Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes
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ORDER OF BUSINESS	12/17/2022	9:35 am	Mead Wildlife Refuge
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Larry Bonde at	9:35 am
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Robert Lombard, Rick Olson, Ken Risley, Charlie Brown, Scott Gunderson, Noah Wishau, James Morning, Eric Wijchik, Mike Riggle, Thomas Ryden, Dale Ebert, Kieran Dramer, Duane Beyer, Mark Noll, Al Marotz, Lars Loberg, Joe Stuchlak, Stan Brownell, Marlin Laidlaw, Larry Gohlke, Doug Seidl, Wright Allen, Mike Burkart, Andy Geiger, Larry Bonde, Anthony Grabski, David Breunig, Bradley Hasheider, Jeff Pritzl, Christina Maley, Kurt Butler, Dan Storm, Brad Hutnik.
EXCUSED	Tom Johnson
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Brian Schmidt, Bradley Heath

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	Approved by Riggle, 2nd by Gunderson

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Read by Bonde
ACTION	Approved by Seidl, 2nd by Gunderson

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A.

1.	210122 Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorizations Random Drawing	James Engebretson
	DISCUSSION	discussed how to decide what counties-decided it would be all counties that have bonus tags. DNR Jeff Pritzl said a possible cost for the department to do would be approx.25,000.00
	ACTION	Motion to pass by Ebert, 2nd by Seidl, motion passed.
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2.	310122 Adopt a 4 point antler restriction in Wisconsin	Brian Ihlenfeldt
	DISCUSSION	discussed that it is not a big impact on genetics. Alot of private land owners are doing this already for what they want. What are the consequences for shooting one too small. Bucks in the south a lot of times have 4pts as yearlings already. Northern weather severity is the most factor for deer density. If a bad winter the older class bucks are first to succumb to harsh weather from being wore down from the rut. So letting them go may not help a lot.
	ACTION	Motion to Reject my Noll, 2nd by Beyer, Motion passed as rejecting
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

3.	450222 Antler Point restrictions and deer quality	Nicholas Milheiser
DISCUSSION	Same as resolution 310122. Plus what is a trophy to one person may be different to another person	
ACTION	Motion to Reject by Noll, 2nd by Brown, Motion passed as rejecting	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

B. 411422 Eliminate December Doe only hunt in all Northern Forest Zones Brian Schmidt

DISCUSSION	Author said that by Dec. 15th is the average time snowmobile trails are opened in the North and the trails need to be cleared and groomed ahead of that time to be ready. Many private land owners do not want snowmobiles allowed until after all deer seasons are done. Some national forest is gated off and not opened up until deer seasons are done. Easements earliest is Dec. 15 for some national forests and the 4 day is done already anyway. Pritzl said approx. 1,100 antlerless deer are harvested during the 4 day state wide antlerless. Hunters like tradition and this 4 day has been in for quite awhile. Believed private landowners would not like this as they already can decide not to shoot does if they choose. The places where deer are need to be thinned are in and around cities and houses where they are protected already.	
ACTION	motion to Reject by Olson, 2nd by Beyer, Motion passed to Reject	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

C. 450522 Either sex holiday hunt Steve Ninneman

DISCUSSION	The doe only holiday hunt has been in place for some time and hunters are getting used to scheduling it for that time. Hunters like tradition and it is now getting to be a staple in the hunting world. Some learn to hunt classes are scheduled around the holiday hunt to do traditional deer drives. With shooting does only the landowners and neighbors are more receptive to letting this happen. When laws are changed not everyone reads the rule book like we do and there would be possible problems. If bucks are allowed there would probably not be anymore antlersess shot because they would target bucks. Bucks to not reduce the population like does do and the holiday hunt is designed to help bring the population in line with goals in those counties.	
ACTION	Motion to Reject by Grabski, 2nd by Laidlaw, Motion passed to Reject	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

D. 530522 Establish new deer hunting laws to control massive herds in Wisconsin Juliee de la Terre

DISCUSSION	Several committee members stated things that were happening in their counties on how the ag tags were being abused. Was discussed that the whole ag tag situation has to be watched more closely and changed to fix so landowners with these problems can be addressed. Was discussed with congress chair to see if a committee could be formed to accomplish this. He said yes and that there was one a few years ago and it could certainly be put together and updated to take care of situations stated. He would look into doing that as soon as he could	
ACTION	Motion to Reject by Beyer, 2nd by Laidlaw. Motion passed to Reject	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

E. 680622 Box blinds with visible blaze orange Tom Gorski

DISCUSSION	Putting this up and taking it down on raised blinds may be dangerous and cause injury. Already is a law on state properties on ground blinds. Anyone can do it if they want already. Most of these raised blinds are very visible already and just because there is no orange on the blind. You should not be shooting at it anyway.	
ACTION	Motion to Reject by Laidlaw, 2nd by Seidl, Motion passed to Reject	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

F. 700422 Working together to find solutions to CWD

Bradley Heath

DISCUSSION	<p>Author Heath was present and expressed the following: Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee into promoting my resolution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was born and raised in central Wisconsin. Grew up in a hunting family that went for drives in the evening to look for deer as a family culture. • I harvested my first buck with a bow in 1968 when I was 12 years old. Bow licenses were a dollar if you were under 18 in those days. • This is not the first time I have attended the Deer and Elk committee in asking for support of this resolution that impacts ALL deer hunters in our state. • In 2020 I attended every meeting after this resolution passed unanimously at the county level as others with like resolutions passing in their counties in multiple past years. • In one particular year there was even a resolution submitted by the NRB for the same research request to the WCC as my submittal today. • In 2020 my resolution passed at the Deer and Elk advisory meeting but ran into some form of derailment at the DLC meeting I attended in Rothschild on January 10th. • At this meeting, I was surprised to see my original resolution had been changed and condensed to 2 sentences where as my resolution had lost all its meaning and was rejected because of that. • The DLC chair even laughed and implied it was a ridiculous resolution. <p>It has been almost 2 years since that meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWD continues to be found in more counties across Wisconsin in the wild deer herd. • Even by estimates by our own DNR, Wisconsin had over 50,000 active CWD infected deer on the landscape after the 2020 deer season and that that number was growing at 25% per year. • Current methods used by the DNR in wild deer are to just monitor CWD spread and provide dumpsters for control. <p>The USDA research services have embraced working with the private sector market and stakeholders alike at the state level. This collaborative research effort continues to make great advances in active research for finding real solution to this disease.</p> <p>Some recent research has shown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how insects like Bot Flies can carry the infectious prions found in the noses of deer • how raccoons have been found with CWD infection and can spread back to deer • how one research group is in its 3rd year of vaccine use for deer in an endemic area • how testing is able to show more resistant genetic markers in deer to this disease • I even tested some wild deer harvested in my area that had these gene resistant markers <p>My resolution provides a pathway forward for the Deer and Elk committee to come together and send the message to the DLC and Executive Committee it's time to support these promising research efforts through collaborative research as outlined in my resolution.</p> <p>I am hopeful that the Deer and Elk committee sees the benefit of working together to control CWD and will support my resolution to work together.</p> <p>If any committee member has any questions, I would be happy to try and answer them.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to address your committee. The committee discussion follows: Does this fit in the congress role to work with cervid farmers, The congress role is to advise the DNR. Will this hurt the DNR funding by putting dollars to others? DNR Dan Storm said they get a USDA grant to study CWD already. To take blood samples for this has to be approved through animal care & use rules. Even if blood is already taken it has to be approved by the animal care & use department to test for this. CWD research does need a cooperative effort to have goals and reports. We do need to work with all. There are already groups around the nation working on this already. It would be a win/win to share info and leverage money towards finding a cure. Private companies can react faster to get things done than a government agency like the DNR. Some of the statements in the resolution are just not true.</p>	
ACTION	Motion to Pass by Grabski, 2nd by Risley. Took a roll call count. 10 yes, 16 no. Motion failed.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

G. Department Information items and Updates

Jeff Pritzl, Christina K., Dan Storm

DISCUSSION	<p>Preliminary season update: vertical bow harvest lowering, xbow raising a bit. Muzzle loader is a pretty predictable harvest year in and year out. 5 year average above this year in central farmland, central forest and Northern forest. Southern farmland was close to 5 year average- just a bit higher. The state has 23,000 less hunters from 2018-2022. Antlerless harvest changes did not parallel with permit changes. Non compliance for not having in house registration</p>
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	is thought to be level at around 15%. Approx. number of deer hunters is 300,000 dual license holders, 250,000 gun only, 50,000 archery only. Elk update: Central herd 130 elk max. approx. 47 bulls, 53 cows, 30 calves. 65% success on survival of one year olds, 2yr olds higher. 80-90% calving for the cows. Mortality = 7 vehicle, 3 health, 2 illegally shot, 1 unknown. Want to trap 12 and disperse to North of hwy 54. North herd: 336 total. Approx. 175 cows, 80 bulls, 81 calves. One elk dropped collar. 7 have collars. Mortalities = 8 legally hunted, 4 tribal hunted, 4 unknown, 3 ice, 2 old age, 3 wolf, 1 bear, 1 was in poor condition. Want to relocate 26 to clan lake area because of crop damage. 16 to Flambeau area. South West deer study and predator update. Since 2015 800 adults and 323 fawns were collared. CWD is growing, using data to see trends and will print when done. Some very interesting findings. Doing a composting study to dispose of CWD deer. CWD update- no sampling updates. Dumpster update- Positive feedback from the public. Less deer dumped along roads.	
ACTION	none	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

H. 16 day gun deer season discussion

Larry Bonde

DISCUSSION	Probably from Nov. 15 to Dec.1. 2 years ago it failed major as Spring hearing question. Would have to start what ever day the 15th was. 2nd option would be start as now and go through muzzle loader season and call it weapon of choice season which would be a 19 day season. To go earlier that Nov. 15th would conflict with bow hunters.	
ACTION	Motion by Gunderson, 2nd by Stuchlak, to to have a 3 part question on the Spring hearing. 1) Have a 16 day gun season starting earlier and ending the Sunday after Thanks Giving. 2) Combine gun and muzzle loader season as now int one any weapon season that would be 19 days. 3) leave it as it is. Motion passed	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

I. Crop damage, ag tags

committee

DISCUSSION	crop damage getting tags and not using the rules. Need to review ag damage program	
ACTION	Motion by Gunderson, 2nd by Allen. Motion is to have the District Council review all Ag Crop damage tag rules and regulations. Motion passed	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Crop damage getting tags and not using the rules are getting more often. Need to review the ad damage program. White deer are becoming a problem. We all like some but when it is getting to be the bulk of the population in some areas, there needs to be a solution. Try to figure how to get access to private lands. dumpster program doing good. Maybe next time we could have a herd health speaker. Why are water tubs legal for baiting? They are used a lot and if put where not much water they are very effective. Why do we still have baiting rules?-CWD is here to stay in areas that have it already, and there has been found that there is many other ways CWD can be spread. No free tags, give deer a value. Was wondering if anyone has a standard form that they can give to their county authorities to get reimbursed for the cost of the annual convention and meeting reimbursements. What should we do about future meeting, you want it different or same	
ACTION	It was talked about keeping the Deer and Elk meeting the same time of year and one day like it is now.	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	302pm
SUBMITTED BY	Bradley Hasheider
DATE	12/21/2022