

## 2024 Spring Hearing Citizen Resolution Online Submission Process

### Submittal FAQ

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will once again hold the Spring Hearings online and in-person in 2024. The public will continue to have the opportunity to provide input on the natural resources advisory questions from the DNR, Natural Resources Board (NRB) and WCC through the online and in-person input options.

In addition, the WCC will only be accepting resolutions submitted by citizens utilizing an online input form.

### How do I submit my resolution?

Resolutions must be submitted through the online submittal tool. Please click on the link and follow the directions. All citizen resolutions must be received by midnight on February 26, 2024.

### What are the criteria for a resolution to be accepted?

1. The author of the resolution or designee must be available to present their reviewed and approved resolution at their local county Spring Hearings on Monday, April 8, 2024, between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm.
  - a. **Note:** *If the author or designee fails to show up to present their resolution, the resolution will be removed from the in-person and online input options.*
2. The concern must be of statewide impact.
3. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
4. The concern must be within the mission and vision of the WCC.
5. The resolution must have a concise title and specifically define the concern.
6. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
7. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired. Include: links, facts, studies and data supporting the Resolution.
8. Resolutions must be 2000 characters or less, exclusive of the title and author contact information.
9. The author's name, mailing address, county, email address, telephone number are required with the resolution. If this is a similar or identical Resolution to others, include original author's name.
10. An individual may introduce no more than two resolutions per year.

Citizens interested in submitting a resolution are encouraged to reach out to the resolution review committee for guidance in drafting a resolution.

Submitted resolutions by the February 26, 2024, deadline will be reviewed by a committee of WCC delegates to ensure they meet the criteria for inclusion. If there are issues or concerns with your resolution not meeting the requirements, a member of the review committee will reach out to you to work with you to bring it into compliance.

## **What is appropriate resolution content?**

Do not use “whereas” and “be it resolved” statements. This is unnecessary and adds extra words and complexity to the resolution. Simply state the issue or concern, the supporting information or background for your issue, and how you think the issue can be addressed.

Do not attack individuals or groups with inflammatory language when stating your concern. Disrespectful or disparaging remarks towards people who may have a differing viewpoint will not be tolerated and the resolution will automatically be rejected. You should be able to identify the issue and your proposed solution without denigrating others and/or their viewpoint.

## **What can I do to help make my resolution more likely to be successful?**

Do your homework ahead of time and find out some background on the issue. It is helpful to know why the current law is in place, whether it requires legislative action or an administrative rule change to change the law, if this change has been considered before (and the result), and any other information that is important for the public to know before providing input on the topic. If your resolution requires legislative action after it passes through the WCC process, it will be up to the author to seek that legislative action, as WCC is not a lobbying group.

Use known facts whenever possible to make your case and cite legitimate sources when possible. A resolution based solely on an individual’s opinion and anecdotal evidence is unlikely to advance through the process without evidence.

If the resolution passes, authors should be ready to defend their resolution to a WCC advisory committee.

If you are suggesting a change related to a fisheries bag or size limit, it is helpful to check the DNR’s [“Fisheries Toolbox”](#) to see what options are available. Links to the Fisheries Toolbox can be found under “For your information” on the Spring Hearings homepage.

If the WCC has taken a position on a resolution within the last five years, the resolution will be rejected. To determine if the WCC has a position, go to the [Find WCC Position document](#) for instructions.

## **How will the online input work for citizen resolutions?**

Resolutions that meet the criteria and are submitted by the deadline and the authors present their resolution at their local county Spring Hearing on Monday, April 8, 2024, will be added to the online input survey as a county-level resolution from the author’s county of residence. Individuals who participate in the online input survey and indicate they would like to provide input on the resolutions from their county will be able to see the resolutions provided.

## **Can the same resolution be submitted in multiple counties?**

Similar or identical resolutions can be submitted for multiple counties if there is an identified author for the resolution from the county in which it is being introduced. Only someone residing in the specific county can author a resolution in that county. **The resolution must also be presented at the author’s local county Spring Hearings on Monday, April 8, 2024.**

**Note:** WCC will only communicate with the identified original author on similar or like resolutions. If the

*submitted resolution requires changes to be in compliance with writing requirements, the WCC Review Committee will work with the original author only and it will be the responsibility of the original author to notify all other authors of changes.* If the resolution is submitted and passes in the county it will be advanced to an Advisory Committee and the Committee Chair and/or DNR Liaison will communicate with the original author only and it will be the responsibility of the original author to communicate with all other authors of committee related communications.

If you have issues or trouble with the online input form, please email staff at [SpringHearingInfo@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:SpringHearingInfo@Wisconsin.gov)