

**DNR'S DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
COUNCIL PURPOSE/MISSION**

To advise the Department of Natural Resources on matters pertaining to the accessibility of all department programs and services by persons with disabilities.

- To draft recommendations to the Department for legislation, administrative rules, or department policy.
- To identify and evaluate needs of persons with disabilities and to communicate them to the Department.
- To help to increase public awareness and sensitivity to the needs of persons with
- To communicate with individuals and other organizations dedicated to similar purposes.

**MEETING MINUTES
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2022
PENINSULA STATE PARK NATURE CENTER**

Members Present: Keith Pamperin, John Martinson, Kristen Engel, John Mitchell, and Andrea Frisch (joined virtually on MS Teams until lunch break).

Members Absent: Calvin Richtig, Shannon Columb, and Cathryn Scott (Resigned days prior to meeting).

Others Present: Nick Zouski, Shannon Holt, Deanna Sell, Ryder Will, and Barry Gilbeck (via Teams), Brett Daul (via Teams), Ellen Tatro (via Teams).

Guest presenters: Jeff Pritzl and Ally Magnin

Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 10:45 am.

Introductions: Committee Members, Shannon Holt, Deanna Sell, and Ryder Will

Next the Council reviewed the agenda.

Keith made a motion to approve the agenda. John Mitchell seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The Council next reviewed the meeting minutes from March 18th, 2022.

Keith made a motion to approve the minutes from March 18th, 2022. Kirsten seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The meeting was running behind schedule due to the late start and our guest presenters were ready; everyone agreed to hear about Disabled Deer Hunt from Jeff Pritzl and Ally Magnin and move the Customer Service and Licensing Updates by Barry Gilbeck after lunch break.

Disabled Deer Hunt: Jeff Pritzl and Ally Magnin

The DNR Deer Program staff attended to get feedback from the DAC on a proposal to expand disabled deer hunter opportunity by combining it with the Youth Firearm deer season. A rule change proposal to expand the youth hunt to 4 days is in development. The youth hunt occurs within the dates of the disabled hunt. During the youth hunt, high visibility clothing is required statewide, so during those dates it would not be necessary for disabled hunters to be limited to specific properties established by sponsoring landowners and organizations if Administrative Codes were amended to allow it. If the youth and disabled hunt dates were matched, sponsors of disabled hunts would not be required to sign up and register specific properties or submit hunter rosters for their events; but promotion of their willingness to sponsor and support hunters would still be provided by the DNR. The specific request for feedback was when the youth hunt expansion to 4 days is proposed during the coming annual spring rule proposal hearing, should the DNR also ask the public if they would support combining the youth and disabled hunt as a 4 day event that would allow statewide hunting access. The DNR provided background information that currently around 80 sponsors support 400-450 hunters annually. However, over 6,000 Wisconsin residents hold a disability permit that would allow participation in the hunt. Michigan estimates that they have around 6,000 disabled hunters participating alongside youth hunters for a weekend event. Michigan also has an additional weekend firearm hunt specifically for disabled veterans.

The DAC's feedback was that they felt strongly about retaining the full 9-day disabled hunt to allow hunting over 2 weekends. They would welcome the youth hunt being expanded to the full 9 days as well, to address the goal of dropping property and hunter sign up requirements. DNR staff shared that it is expected the general hunting public will not support requiring hi viz clothing for the full 9 days in October. The DAC also supported a compromise by where disabled hunters would be required to register for sponsor properties for the 9-day hunt but could hunt statewide whenever the youth hunt was open. DNR staff shared this option was not supported by several other committees due to concerns of inconsistency and added complexity, rather than simplification.

Keith moved for the DAC to support and maintain the nine (9) day window for the Disabled Deer Hunt and to look for ways to increase access to land statewide. Kirsten Seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion passed.

The DAC approved a motion that confirmed their desire to retain the full 9 days of the season and encouraged the DNR to promote increased participation by private landowners as sponsors by reducing the administrative and hunter participation restrictions currently in place. DNR staff said they would follow up with law enforcement staff on possible sign update and participation restriction reduction. They will also pursue conducting surveys with current sponsors and permit holders to gauge support for a change in approach in the future. They do not plan to introduce this idea through the annual spring rule proposal hearing currently.

Break for Lunch 12:10pm – 12:30pm

DAC Member Andrea Frisch was joining us virtually via MS Teams but was travelling in her vehicle. She hoped to rejoin the group at approximately 1:30pm but was unable to and therefore the DAC did not have quorum after the lunch break and no official business was conducted.

Customer Service and Licensing Updates: Barry Gilbeck

DAC Notes for 9/22/22

- Fall Turkey and Deer Bonus Authorization sales went well in August.
- Customer Service has filled many positions including two new Section Managers and a Policy Analyst.
- Fall hunting seasons are under way.
 - Gun hunt for hunters with disabilities season dates are October 1-9, 2022
 - The deadline for sponsor to enter their list of participating hunters was September 1, 2022
 - 2022 Farmland Zone 2 Antlerless Authorizations are available. If a deer license was purchased prior to July 5, you may now select your harvest authorizations.
 - 75,000 Pheasants to be stocked statewide for 2022 hunting season
- Fall Hunting regulations had a small delay but are now available.
 - Available Online
 - Available at open DNR Service Centers
 - Available at some agent locations
 - Soon available at all agent locations
- Reminder - Go Wild has been recently updated with a new online customer dashboard. In addition to the new dashboard, a splash page will pop-up the first time a customer reaches their dashboard. This pop-up will give a brief description about the new dashboard, with the option to Close or Tell Me More. The Tell Me More button will take the user to a DNR web page with more information. Once the pop-up is closed, it won't appear again upon future log ins.
- No Legislative updates
- Possible Rule Change
 - Expand youth and disabled gun season
 - o Would expand the youth hunt to 4 days and allow disabled permit holders to hunt statewide during the youth hunt – still in discussion.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service issued a News Release on September 19
 - Trempealeau Refuge to Offer a Waterfowl Hunt for Persons with Disabilities
 - Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge will offer the opportunity to hunt the River Bottoms tract from Saturday, October 15 – Friday, October 21, 2022
 - Must have a Class A or C Disability Permit
 - Hunt is limited to 14 participants

- If more than 14 applications received by the deadline, a random draw will be held.

Application and additional Information in attached News Release



2022DisDuckPR.pdf

Accessible Kayaks and Launches: Nick Zouski

- Mod-u-dock – This is the company that we have been working with (more affordable) and they have also been working with the company (Creating Ability?) that makes the Kayaks and fit in the launch.
- Two docks are installed. One at Merrick State Park and one at KMSFNU- Mauthe Lake. Wisconsin State parks' Friends Group is looking at buying two accessible kayaks for these two locations. Moving forward we are looking at buying tandem kayaks for versatility.
- Working with Missy Vanlanduyt (Mirror Lake) to update concessioner agreements to add that an adaptive kayak will be supplied and made available for guests.
- Deanna is working on making sure all adaptive/accessible recreation options are on Website. Ryder mentioned making sure that there is signage at each location to make sure visitors are aware that equipment is available.
- Bike Trails- no motorized bikes, must at least have pedal-assist.

Mobi-Mat Project: Nick Zouski

**Rename to Beach Access Mats, not brand specific.

- Discussed challenges of lake level fluctuations. Better to order the mat longer than needed in case water level drops. Require some maintenance when sand gets washed out from beneath. Smaller beaches such as Bigfoot, that are not candidates for mats would be candidates for beach wheelchairs. Mats will have side offshoots for people to enjoy the view without blocking path.
- Pike Lake- hopefully coming soon.
- Harrington Beach -path from campground and cabins to Puckett's Pond (accessible fishing pier) but path needs to be accessible.

Accessibility Coordinator Updates: Nick Zouski

- Accessible Cabins - Looking at building more (smaller) ADA cabins and Kits with bathrooms. Trying to find cross between rustic & barrier free. Must have Bathroom and kitchenette. State statute: Parks are prohibited from having permanent lodging (cabins are explicitly exempt). Funding is undetermined - Partners? Friend's groups? Fundraising? DNR/ State cannot solicit donations. Yurts have not been approved due to permitting issues with anything over 400sqft, Parks has been looking at. Once a project is on the horizon, bring back to DAC to help with fundraising efforts.
- Accessible Cabins Reservation System - Moving to online reservations through CAMIS, will then be reviewed by staff for approved based upon need. Booking 11 month in

advance to align with regular campsites so families and groups can coordinate and book at the same time.

- Jackson Marsh Hunting Blind - Under construction and goal to open is 10/01/22
- Pike Lake Visit - Accessible boat Launch completed in 2022. Possible site for Beach Mat.
- Website updates - Wish to add more accessible items to DAC and DNR website, such as hunting blinds searchable map (63 blinds- some are ADA). Increase public knowledge and awareness of what is available. Possibilities to reserve online, otherwise call park.
- Peninsula SP playground near beach – ADA playground completed September 2022, will visit and see 9/23/22.
- Potawatomi Tower- potential future project like Eagle Tower.

All Terrain Chair--AAW Site Hosting Agreement Update: Nick

- Have not been able to reach agreement with AAW.
- Working with Friends groups to provide chairs.
- Parks buys chairs with donated funds
- Forming an Internal DNR Accessibility Team?
- Terrain Hopper – off-road mobility chair/vehicle made from bicycle parts. Batteries and maintenance can be performed at an e-bike shop. Less intimidating to use for people who may have mobility issues but do not regularly use a wheelchair. Demo rescheduled; no date available at time of meeting. More information: <https://www.terrainhopperusa.com/>

Trail Mapping Project

- What trails are accessible?
- Forming an internal team to provide better descriptions.
- Universal descriptors for trail conditions and difficulty.

DAC Member Attendance Policy

- Imperative that members attend meeting to have quorum.
- Down three members; two permanent and one alternate.
- Need new recruitment & hopefully new members by December meeting.
- Target recruit – Northern WI
- Contact outdoor groups – Adaptive Sportsmen, ADRC, Color the Outdoors, Disabled Vets, etc.
- Further update coming from Kirsten.
- **Deadline to put out requests for recruitment: October 7th.

Members' Updates

- John Martinson – Game hunt in Marshall, Madison Boating and Fishing, Wheelchair Whitetails in Niagara WI.
- John Mitchell - Adaptive Sportsmen: 2022 events have gone well, and the web page is updated for our activities. <https://adaptivesportsmen.org/>
- Kirsten Engel
- Craig Richtig
- Shannon Columb
- Keith Pamperin – Challenge the Outdoors in Green Bay, Duck Hunt, 40 people signed up for deer hunt, Chasing Rainbows trout fishing, end of summer picnic.
- Andrea Frisch

Kirsten moved to adjourn the meeting. Several seconded. All present in favor (no quorum).

Chair Martinson adjourned the meeting at 2:49 pm.