



**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Environmental Committee
 Meeting Minutes**

WCC Meeting Minutes
 Form 8300-026 (R 09/16) Page 1 of 9

ORDER OF BUSINESS	10/8/2022	9:00 A.M.	Virtual (Zoom) Meeting
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I. ORGNIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Meeting called to order by Chair Mary Ellen O'Brien at 9:00 A.M.
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	<p>Committee Members: Sixteen of the 18 committee members were present: Chair Mary Ellen O'Brien, Secretary Scott Pitta, Douglas Kurtzweil, Ed Peters, Claude Bovi, Roger Roehl, Duane Harpster, Lester Ryder, Marc Schultz, Allan Balliet, Jason Shelly, Michael Arrowood, Michael Grimm, Mitch Baker, Ryan Lee Schutte, and Barbara Dahlgren.</p> <p>DNR Liaisons: DNR liaison Kari Lee-Zimmerman, Madi Johansen, and Paul Hartrick participated in the meeting.</p>
EXCUSED	Co-chair Julie De le Terre and Thomas Johnston were excused absences.
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	<p>Eleven people provided public comments under agenda item I.E: Francisco Santiago Avila (Madison), supports all resolutions; Amy Mueller (Waukesha) supports all resolutions; Meghan Pierce (Sauk City), supports fossil fuel resolution; Keven Grenzer (Tomahawk), supports lead fishing tackle and lead ammunition resolutions; Patricia Bowne (Milwaukee), supports Clean Water resolution; John Calabrese (Menominee), supports biosolid and alley cropping resolutions; Linda Hendrix (New Richmond), supports all resolutions; Marya Bradley (Milwaukee), supports all resolutions; Reese Southworth (Madison), supports fossil fuel infrastructure resolution; Steve Betchkal (Eau Claire), supports lead fishing tackle and lead ammunition resolutions; Linda Frank (Milwaukee), supports clean water resolution .</p> <p>Ten resolution authors provided comments under agenda item II.A: Katheryn McKenzie (Superior), biosolids resolution; Penny Bernard Schaber (Appleton), reinstate mining law resolution via comments to Mary Ellen O'Brien for record; Bruce Keyzer (Sarona), renewable energy plan resolution; Sam Laude (Fox Lake), alley cropping resolution; Dylan Hughes (Madison), lead fishing tackle and lead ammunition resolutions; Sue Reske (Dousman) via her daughter, Amy Mueller, lead fishing tackle and lead ammunition resolutions; Christina Ciano (Sun Prairie), lead ammunition resolution; Tom Hauge (Prairie du Sac), end lead poisoning of Bald eagles resolution; Annika Mersmann (Viroqua), clean water resolution; Timothy Kruser (Madison), clean water resolution.</p>

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	A motion was made by Scott Pitta and seconded by Alan Balliet to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	<p>Scott Pitta read the mission statement into the record:</p> <p>The mission of the Environmental Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to review citizen resolutions, rules, policies, regulations, and legislation affecting the air, land, and waters of the state of Wisconsin. The committee’s purpose is to ensure that the ecosystems of Wisconsin are fully protected with every effort taken to support Wisconsin’s native flora and fauna and educate the citizenry. The committee will work with DNR staff and the citizens of the state to effectively protect the health and integrity of Wisconsin’s natural ecosystems, utilizing the best available knowledge, technical resources, and keeping a balance for all interested stakeholders.</p>
ACTION	A motion was made by Michael Grimm and seconded by Ed Peters to approve the mission statement. Motion carried.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	<p>In preparation for the meeting, Kari Lee-Zimmerman sent out the meeting agenda to authors of 90 resolutions assigned to the environmental committee. Twenty one people contacted Kari or Mary Ellen about attending the meeting, providing input on the resolutions, or to obtain information about the resolution process.</p> <p>No other public comments were received.</p>
ACTION	None

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Citizen Resolutions

	<p>1. Biosolids testing and initiatives (160522) <i>One resolution speaker</i> <u>See Attachment 1 – Advanced by Environmental Committee (with edit)</u></p>
DISCUSSION	<p>Ed Peters read the resolution into the record. Supplemental information provided in the committee’s resolution packet included excerpts from Wisconsin’s December, 2020 PFAS Action Plan.</p> <p>This resolution focuses on concerns about PFAS contamination of groundwater and drinking water from the spreading of biosolids (wastewater sludge) for fertilizer. There are currently no standards for PFAS in biosolids. The 2020 PFAS Action Plan recognizes that land application of municipal sludge or biosolids is a common practice and that biosolids may be a significant dispersal mechanism of PFAS compounds. Per the Action Plan, DNR is in the process of identifying the extent of possible PFAS contamination in biosolids, developing laboratory certification for PFAS testing, establishing PFAS standards consistent with current water quality standards, and developing regulatory tools through the administrative rulemaking process.</p> <p>DNR Liaison, Madi Johansen noted there is a progress report update to the 2020 Action Plan; DNR has not yet developed water quality standards for PFAS contamination in biosolids.</p> <p>Resolution author Kathryn McKenzie (Douglas County) reviewed the primary environmental and health concerns associated with spreading biosolids/sewage on the land without testing, monitoring and regulating possible PFAS contamination to groundwater, surface water, and drinking water supply.</p> <p>Committee input included concern that the question portion of the resolution does not reflect the concern stated in the narrative (PFAS contamination in biosolids); question as to whether the question should ask for a specific PFAS standard for biosolids.</p>

	<p>The Environmental Committee concluded that this resolution is directly related to protecting natural resources (surface water, groundwater and drinking water) from PFAS contamination, and that it warrants public input at the 2023 WCC spring hearing. Therefore, the committee advanced this resolution to the District Leadership Council (DLC) with an edit to the question portion of the resolution to better clarify its intent and to reflect the information provided in the narrative portion.</p>
<p>ACTION</p>	<p>A motion to amend the resolution was made by Barbara Dahlgren and seconded by Lester Ryder. A motion to advance the resolution as amended was made by Roger Roehl and seconded by Douglas Kurtzweil. Motion carried.</p>
<p>2. Reinstate prove it first mining law - 1997 Act 171 (451222) <i>One resolution speaker (could not attend, but provided input to committee chair)</i> <u>See Attachment 2 – Advanced by Environmental Committee (as written)</u></p>	
<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p>Ed Peters read the resolution into the record. Supplemental information provided in the committee’s resolution packets included the following:</p> <p>Act 171 was repealed in 2017 by Act 134 after it became clear that it was unlikely for permit applicants to be able to demonstrate safe examples of metallic sulfide mining which was a requirement for obtaining a mining operation permit. Act 134 eases environmental protection for mining impacts to wetlands, eliminates the prohibition on groundwater pumping over 100,000 gallons per day even if this would impact wells or public waterways, and allows bulk sampling (excavating in a potential mining site) of up to 10,000 tons of material without evaluating the potential environmental consequences.</p> <p>Resolution author, Penny Bernard Shaber (Outagamie County) could not attend meeting due to a conflict, but passed along the following comment: I introduced Citizen Resolution #451222 because I truly appreciate the natural beauty, the environment and ecological structure found in Wisconsin. Our state has a long history of protecting and conserving natural resources and the environment. I think reinstating the Prove It first Mining Law of 1997 Act 171 will reinforce Wisconsin's commitment to protecting our environment.</p> <p>The DNR Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Sustainability sent a note stating that the department has no position on this resolution as such legislation is the purview of the state legislature.</p> <p>The Environmental Committee concluded that this resolution warrants public input at the 2023 spring hearing because the current mining legislation under Act 134 does not have sufficient protection for eliminating or minimizing potential impacts to natural resources (surface water, wetlands, groundwater). Therefore, the committee recommended advancing this resolution to the DLC.</p>
<p>ACTION</p>	<p>A motion to advance this resolution was made by Michael Grimm and seconded by Scott Pitta. Motion carried.</p>

3. Creation and implementation of a renewable energy action plan (660322)
One resolution speaker
See Attachment 3 – Advanced by Environmental Committee (with edit)

DISCUSSION	<p>Ed Peters read the resolution into the record. Supplemental information provided in the committee’s resolution packets included the following:</p> <p>Wisconsin has a Clean Energy Plan prepared in April, 2022 by the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy. This plan aims to change the adverse impacts of climate change. The plan directly addresses the effects of climate change and environmental justice through programs and policies; supports the use of clean energy resources and technology; fosters innovation; protects public health and identifies and creates energy workforce opportunities.</p> <p>Resolution author, Bruce Keyzer (Washburn County) reviewed the importance of DNR’s involvement in initiatives to address environmental and resource impacts of climate change. He also noted that DNR should lead by example by developing its own renewable energy action plan.</p> <p>DNR liaison, Madi Johansen noted that DNR is a cabinet agency in the Clean Energy Plan effort and is developing initiatives to lead by example such as developing strategies for addressing the effects of climate change on natural resources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy supply, and procuring more sustainable products.</p> <p>The Environmental Committee concluded that this resolution warrants public input at the 2023 spring hearing because DNR’s leadership and participation in the statewide clean energy effort is crucial to protecting and sustaining the state’s natural resources. Therefore, the committee recommended advancing this resolution to the DLC with an edit in the question portion that recognizes DNR’s contributions to the state’s Clean Energy Plan.</p>
ACTION	<p>A motion to amend this resolution to clarify the question portion was made by Michael Grimm and seconded by Duane Harpster; motion carried. Motion made by Lester Ryder and seconded by Barbara Dahlgren to advance the resolution as amended. Motion carried.</p>

4. Updating Wisconsin RV park sanitary wastewater requirements (660922)
No resolution speakers
See Attachment 4 – Advanced by Environmental Committee (as written)

DISCUSSION	<p>Ed Peters read the resolution into the record.</p> <p>A Sawyer County committee member noted that large RV parks that are more like year around mobile home parks are getting to be more and more common in that county and elsewhere. Wastewater from these sites is either pumped into wastewater receptors at the park, or eliminated at pumping stations. Either way, it is important to monitor the wastewater discharge from the increasing number of RV’s.</p> <p>The Environmental committee concluded that this resolution warrants public input at the 2023 spring hearing because improper sewerage discharge or lack of adequate monitoring could have adverse effects on natural resources (groundwater and surface water). Therefore, the committee recommended advancing this resolution to the DLC.</p>
ACTION	<p>A motion was made by Douglas Kurtzweil and seconded by Roger Roehl to advance this resolution. Motion carried.</p>

<p>5. Require perennial vegetative buffers to slow runoff and filter out silt (661122) <i>No resolution speakers</i> <u>See Attachment 5 – Advanced by Environmental Committee (with edit)</u></p>	
DISCUSSION	<p>Ed Peters read the resolution into the record. Supplemental information provided in the committee’s resolution packets included the following:</p> <p>A similar resolution was submitted by a different author in 2020. That resolution also asked that the WCC work with the state legislature to mandate perennial vegetative buffers of native species up to 50 feet along rivers and streams and buffers of 16.5 feet along ditches. The previous resolution was ultimately advanced to the 2021 spring hearing questionnaire where is passed by a margin of approximately 6,500 to 2,300. No further action has been taken.</p> <p>The Environmental Committee concluded that the current resolution warrants public input at the 2023 spring hearing because it has merit for protecting water quality by providing a wider buffer than NR 115 (Wisconsin’s Shoreland Management Program) that requires a 35-foot vegetated buffer along streams, lakes, and other waterbodies, but no ditches. Further, not all municipalities have adopted shoreland zoning ordinances which eaves some waterways unprotected. The committee recommended an edit to this resolution to make the buffer distances specific rather than “up to” certain distances. It was also noted that legislation is required to implement this resolution.</p>
ACTION	A motion was made by Barbara Dahlgren and seconded by Douglas Kurtzweil to advance this resolution. Motion carried.
<p>6. Protect and improve soil health (682222) <i>No resolution speakers</i> <u>See Attachment 6 – Rejected by Environmental Committee</u></p>	
DISCUSSION	<p>Ed Peters read the resolution into the record.</p> <p>After discussion, the Environmental Committee rejected this resolution because it does not meet the resolution criterion that states the resolution must be practical, achievable and reasonable. Requiring the elimination of pesticides in both farm fields and private lawns is not practical or achievable.</p>
ACTION	A motion was made by Jason Shelley and seconded by Duane Harpster to reject this resolution. Motion carried.
<p>7. Avoid all new fossil fuel infrastructure (410422, 130322) <i>No resolution speakers</i> <u>See Attachment 7 – Rejected by Environmental Committee</u></p>	
DISCUSSION	<p>Ed Peters read the resolution into the record. Supplemental information provided in the committee’s resolution packets included the following:</p> <p>Similar resolutions were submitted in 2021 and advanced to the DLC with edits to reflect an objective that’s within DNR’s authority (permit issuance). The DLC voted to reject this resolution because they found it to be beyond the scope of WCC’s authority and mission. Further, the DNR Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Sustainability noted that DNR has no regulatory authority over the siting of fossil fuel pipelines. DNR’s authority extends only to the potential impacts of infrastructure construction on wetlands and waterways including stormwater discharge and erosion control.</p> <p>Based on these factors, the Environmental Committee rejected this resolution.</p>
ACTION	A motion was made by Michael Arrowood and seconded by Duane Harpster to reject this resolution. Motion carried.

<p>8. Alley cropping incentives (710222, 300122, 170222, 160222, 140222, 100122) <i>One resolution speaker</i> <u>See Attachment 8 – Rejected by Environmental Committee</u></p>	
DISCUSSION	<p>Duane Harpster read the resolution into the record.</p> <p>Resolution author, Sam Laude (Dodge County) reviewed the definition of alley cropping – The USDA Forest Service defines alley cropping as planting rows of trees, shrubs, or other vegetation to create alleys within which agricultural or horticultural crops are planted and produced. He summarized the key benefits of alley cropping including reducing soil erosion, increasing water retention, reducing nitrogen leaching and associated water pollution.</p> <p>Committee discussion indicated that while alley cropping practices would benefit the environment and natural resources, providing subsidies and grants for implementation of alley cropping programs is outside the jurisdiction and authority of the DNR and Natural Resources Board.</p>
ACTION	<p>A motion was made by Alan Balliet and seconded by Roger Roehl to reject this resolution. Motion carried.</p>
<p>9. Restrict lead fishing tackle in Wisconsin (681922, 650322, 641522, 530922, 521122, 441522, 412622, 340422, 330422, 300622, 280322, 250422, 133422, 110922, 042022, 020622) <i>Two resolution speakers</i> <u>See Attachment 9 – Advanced by Environmental Committee (with edit)</u></p>	
DISCUSSION	<p>Duane Harpster read the resolution into the record. Additional information provided in the committee’s resolution packets included the following: There are currently no statewide restrictions on lead fishing tackle. There are some individual waterways in DNR’s 2022-2023 Fishing Regulations that prohibit use of lead fishing tackle less than 1” in diameter or weighing less than 1 ounce.</p> <p>Resolution speakers Dylan Hughes (Dane County) and Amy Mueller (Waukesha County) for Sue Reske (Waukesha County), reviewed the impacts of lead toxicity on waterfowl raptors and noted that the cost of using other than lead fishing tackle would be nominal.</p> <p>The Environmental Committee concluded that this resolution warrants public input at the 2023 spring hearing and acknowledged that there have been several similar resolutions in the past. An edit to the question portion of the resolution was approved to be more specific on the intent which is to ban lead jigs and sinkers 1 ounce or less in size.</p> <p>Committee discussion included these key points: Concern that the District Leadership Council would reject this resolution as written due to language about WCC working with DNR and the NRB to implement a limitation... DNR liaison Kari Lee-Zimmerman stated that this language is acceptable because legislation would be required. Replacing lead fishing tackle with an alternative substance would not necessarily be inexpensive.</p> <p>The Environmental Committee concluded that this resolution warrants public input at the 2023 spring hearing and acknowledged that there have been several similar resolutions in the past. An edit to the question portion of the resolution was approved to be more specific on the intent which is to ban lead jigs and sinkers 1 ounce or less in size.</p>
ACTION	<p>A motion was made by Scott Pitta and seconded by Michael Grimm to amend the question portion of the resolution to clarify that a statewide ban is being requested. Motion passed. A motion was made by Michael Grimm and seconded by Alan Balliet to advance the resolution as amended. Motion carried.</p>

<p>10. Restrict lead ammunition for hunting in Wisconsin (681822, 650222, 641422, 530822, 521022, 441422, 412522, 371022, 340322, 330322, 250322, 110422, 050722, 041922, 133322) <i>One resolution speaker</i> <u>See Attachment 10 – Advanced by Environmental Committee (as written)</u></p>	
DISCUSSION	<p>Duane Harpster read the resolution into the record. Additional information provided in the committee's resolution packets included the following: Per DNR's 2022-2023 Wisconsin Hunting Regulations use of lead/toxic shot is currently prohibited for hunting migratory and upland game birds, including wild turkey, on all national wildlife refuges and federal waterfowl production areas (WPAs); for hunting ducks, geese, brant, snipe, rails, coot and common gallinule; and for hunting mourning dove on DNR-managed land.</p> <p>Resolution speaker Amy Mueller for Sue Reske, spoke in support of this resolution and requested that it be advanced.</p> <p>Committee discussion included the following: Education along will not cause hunters to change from using lead ammunition; there needs to be more push as well as an educational component. Muzzleloaders use lead and banning it will eliminate their use.</p> <p>The Environmental Committee concluded that this resolution warrants public input at the 2023 spring hearing and acknowledged that there have been similar resolutions in the past.</p>
ACTION	<p>A motion was made by Scott Pitta and seconded by Alan Balliet to advance this resolution. Motion carried.</p>
<p>11. Get the Lead Out of Ammunition (132122) <i>One resolution speaker</i> <u>See Attachment 11 – Advanced by Environmental Committee (as written)</u></p>	
DISCUSSION	<p>Duane Harpster read the resolution into the record.</p> <p>Resolution speaker Christina Ciano (Dane County), reviewed concerns about wildlife being exposed to lead poisoning from both lead fishing tackle and lead ammunition. Lead shot is ingested by waterfowl and raptors and wildlife ingest lead shot from carcasses and gut piles left by hunters.</p> <p>The Environmental Committee concluded that this resolution warrants public input at the 2023 spring hearing and acknowledged that there have been similar resolutions in the past.</p>
ACTION	<p>A motion was made by Barbara Dahlgren and seconded by Michael Grimm to advance this resolution. Motion carried.</p>
<p>12. Restrict Lead Ammunition for Hunting in Wisconsin (133322) <i>One resolution speaker</i> <u>Combined with Resolutions in item 10 due to nearly identical language. See Attachment 10</u></p>	
DISCUSSION	<p>Chair recommended combining this resolution with the multiple resolutions in agenda item 10 because it is essentially identical to those resolutions.</p>
ACTION	<p>Committee agreed with combining resolution with those in agenda item 10.</p>

13. End lead poisoning of Bald eagles (630322, 600822, 570422, 530422, 520722, 411722, 380322, 370522, 360322, 240322, 230322, 200522, 180622, 131722, 120322, 110222, 080122, 041222, 010422)

One resolution speaker

See Attachment 12 – Advanced by Environmental Committee (as written)

DISCUSSION	<p>Duane Harpster read the resolution into the record.</p> <p>Resolution speaker Tom Hauge (Sauk County) reviewed the impacts of lead poisoning on wildlife, and emphasize the importance of an educational versus a regulatory approach to ending the use of lead ammunition.</p> <p>The Environmental Committee concluded that this resolution warrants public input at the 2023 spring hearing and acknowledged that there have been similar resolutions in the past.</p>
ACTION	A motion was made by Scott Pitta and seconded by Claude Bovi to advance this resolution. Motion carried.

14. End the sale of lead core bullets to save our eagles (411822)

No resolution speakers

See Attachment 13 – Rejected by Environmental Committee

DISCUSSION	<p>Duane Harpster read the resolution into the record.</p> <p>Committee discussion indicated this resolution is too narrow in scope because it focuses only on lead core bullets, a specific type of ammunition.</p>
ACTION	A motion was made by Duane Harpster and seconded by Roger Roehl to reject this resolution. Motion carried.

15. DNR support for clean water - stronger enforcement to reduce drinking water contamination from factory farms (710522, 680722, 630222, 600422, 570322, 530322, 520422, 460322, 450322, 440422, 420222, 411122, 350222, 320622, 310222, 290122, 260222, 220222, 170322, 131122, 120222, 090222, 040722, 010322)

Two resolution speakers

See Attachment 14 – Advanced by Environmental Committee (with edit)

DISCUSSION	<p>Duane Harpster read the resolution into the record. Additional information provided in the committee's resolution packet included the following: The permit program for CAFOs is administered by DNR. CAFOs are required to have WPDES (Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination) permits in place to ensure proper construction and nutrient management to protect waterways. Specific permit requirements are contained in Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 243 (Animal Feeding Operations).</p> <p>Resolution speakers timothy Kruser (Dane County) and Annika Mersmann (Vernon County) reviewed the adverse impacts of contamination from CAFO runoff on groundwater, surface water and drinking water. Nitrates and e-coli are the primary contaminants.</p> <p>Committee discussion recommended an edit to the question portion of the resolution to clarify its intent with respect to nitrates and e-coli contamination. The Environmental Committee concluded that this resolution warrants public input at the 2023 spring hearing because contamination of surface and groundwater by manure runoff from CAFOs has potential adverse impacts to natural resources including surface water and groundwater.</p>
ACTION	A motion was made by Michael Grimm and seconded by Michael Arrowood to amend the resolution. Motion carried. A motion was made ty Ed Peters and seconded by Michael Grimm to advance the resolution as amended. Motion carried.

B. Department Information and Updates

DISCUSSION	DNR liaison Madi Johansen stated that the public should stay involved in upcoming department actions regarding PFAS and associated rulemaking. There will be several opportunities for public input throughout the process. Mary Ellen O'Brien thanked the DNR liaisons for participating in the committee meeting.	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE:		DEADLINE:

C. Future Committee Meetings

DISCUSSION	<p>This item is to allow members an opportunity to weigh in on possible dates, times and agenda items for upcoming meetings. Mary Ellen O'Brien noted that there were a few requests at last year's meeting to hold the environmental committee meeting before September 15 if possible.</p> <p>In general, committee members support having Saturday meetings and would like as much lead time as possible prior to the meetings. DNR liaison participation is important so future scheduling will try to meet their availability while also choosing a date that most committee members can make. A couple of members noted that the Zoom meeting format is good in that it saves a lot of travel time.</p>	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE:		DEADLINE:

III. MEMBER MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Several members thanked the chair for conducting the meeting in an efficient and thorough manner. Michael Arrowood noted that the resolutions need to be edited more carefully by the authors and by initial WCC reviewers before they are forwarded to committees. Barbara Dahlgren stated that we need to push the resolutions forward as much as possible.	
ACTION	None	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	A motion to adjourn was made by Douglas Kurtzweil and seconded by Michael Grimm. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
SUBMITTED BY	Scott Pitta, Secretary and Mary Ellen O'Brien, Chair
DATE	October 17, 2022

Citizen Resolution # 160522

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Biosolids Testing & Initiatives

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of over 4,000 “forever chemicals” that are used in a wide variety of consumer products from water repellants, non-stick pans, stain resistant materials, cosmetics, fire-fighting foams, fast food wrappers and paper production. In Wisconsin and in many states biosolids or wastewater sludge are commonly applied to farm fields as a substitute for fertilizer. Research indicates biosolids may contain high concentrations of PFAS. Studies have shown that PFAS concentrations in soil indicate a direct correlation between bioaccumulation in plants after application. As a potential contamination source for soil, groundwater, and crops for human consumption, the citizens of Wisconsin need to be assured that the wild game, fish, and domestic animals Wisconsin residents consume are safe to eat. Smelt consumption from Lake Superior have been restricted to an 8 oz portion per month for adults by the state of Michigan due to PFAS contamination. In December 2020, the Wisconsin DNR released the PFAS Action Plan. According to this plan, it has been discovered that PFAS substances bioaccumulate in the human body and studies have found that 98% of Americans have measurable levels of PFAS in their blood. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), certain PFAS substances pose a number of risks to human health, including developmental problems in fetuses and infants, certain types of cancer, reduced antibody response, decreased immune response to vaccinations, and kidney disease. The PFAS Action Plan includes 8 different action recommendations including Standard Setting, Sampling, and Pollution Prevention. In February 2022, the NRB voted to approve a drinking water standard of 70 parts per trillion (PPT), while the DNR had proposed 20 PPT as part of the action plan and as recommended by the Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services.

~~Should WI adopt more restrictive standards for PFAS levels? Should the Wisconsin Conservation Congress take a position supporting the December 2020 PFAS Action Plan?~~

Does the public support more testing and stricter standards for PFAS levels including in biosolids and groundwater?

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your local WCC delegates with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.

Citizen Resolution # 451222

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Reinstate Prove it First Mining Law (1997 Act 171).

Issue: Act 171 was passed in 1997-98, with overwhelming bipartisan support (29-3 in the Senate and 91-6 in the Assembly and was signed by Gov. Thompson), "Prove It First" was a reaction to high-profile cases of pollution from sulfide mines. When sulfide rock comes into contact with water, the reaction produces sulfuric acid runoff—a dangerous and long-lasting pollutant that devastates rivers, lakes, and streams. This landmark legislation requires mining corporations to provide an example of a metallic sulfide mine in the U.S. that hasn't polluted local watersheds in order to establish operations in the state. One peer reviewed study in 2006 found that 76% of mining projects that claimed they would not pollute still did so. More importantly, 100% of sulfide mines have failed to properly contain sulfide pollution. In 2017, Act 171 was repealed and replaced with 2017 Act 134 which was passed mainly on a party line vote. Because metallic mining continues to pollute where it is done; it is necessary to reinstate the Prove it First Act 171 from 1997.

Do you support increasing protection of Wisconsin's environment by recommending the Wisconsin Legislature reinstate the Prove It first Mining Law 1997 Act 171?

Additional Information provided by author:

The peer review study from 2006 can be found here: <https://earthworks.org/files/publications/ComparisonsReportFinal.pdf>

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Citizen Resolution # 660322

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Creation and Implementation of a Renewable Energy Action Plan

Over the years the WDNR's response to the challenges of a changing climate has been a wild ride: In 2011 WDNR collaborated with WICCI (Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts) to publish its 2011 Assessment Report: Wisconsin's Changing Climate. A few years later no reference to climate change could be found in a search of WDNR website. In 2021, WICCI, with the WDNR and others published another Assessment Report. This verified the predictions and impacts it warned of 10 years earlier. In the meantime Climate Change is back on the WDNR website. The website provides a great deal of good information and resources. It also references links to action plans in other states. For an example of an action plan from the Minnesota DNR see the link: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/climate_change_info/what-dnr-doing.html Every farmer, forester, hunter, trapper, angler, boater, hiker, biker, skier birder, camper, resident and visitor is being impacted by, and is contributing to climate change. The WDNR is highly respected and plays a leadership role in stewardship and management of our natural resources. For these reasons our DNR should "lead by example" and create its own Renewable Energy Action Plan, ~~the state's current Clean Energy~~ ^{accelerated} ~~creation and implementation of a Renewable Energy Action Plan~~ ^{the state's current Clean Energy} by WDNR to achieve sustainability and net carbon emission reduction goals over all its facilities and operations?

Additional Information provided by author:

<https://wicci.wisc.edu/> https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/climate_change_info/what-dnr-doing.html

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Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.

Citizen Resolution # 660922

(For Hearing Officer completion)

Updating Wisconsin RV Park Sanitary Wastewater Requirements



Annual lease RV parks are becoming prolific in Wisconsin. These RV parks contain park model dwellings which contain all of the plumbing amenities of modern homes and therefore generate similar quantities of wastewater. Wastewater from these large RV's is regulated by the administrative rules for campgrounds of old based on 30 gal. per day usage, instead of by the wastewater regulations for comparable one and two bedroom cabins. The USEPA estimates wastewater generation of 50 - 70 gal. per person per day in a residential setting. Wisconsin's out dated usage estimation for RV's presents a real potential to pollute nearby water bodies and degrade their fisheries. The State of Wisconsin should make appropriate administrative rules and statutory changes so that park models and similar units are regulated the same as comparable cabins with respect to wastewater discharge requirements.

Do you support the State of Wisconsin updating the sanitary sewage discharge requirements for annual lease RV parks with park model dwellings to be the same as permanent cabins or dwellings?

Additional Information provided by author:

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Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.

Citizen Resolution # 661122

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Wisconsin's perennial vegetative buffer requirements along rivers, lakes, streams and ditches are not adequate to effectively slow runoff and filter out silt.

Wisconsin

BE IT RESOLVED: that the ~~Was~~the state legislature mandate perennial vegetative buffers of native species up to 50 feet along rivers and streams and buffers of 16.5 feet along ditches

~~Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the state legislature to mandate perennial vegetative buffers of native species up to 50 feet along rivers and streams and buffers of 16.5 feet along ditches~~

Do you support mandatory perennial, native species vegetative buffers 50 feet in width along rivers and streams, and 16.5 feet along ditches?

ditches keep flowing water clean. Perennial vegetative buffers of native species along lakes, streams and ditches provide wildlife habitat. Perennial vegetative buffers of native species along lakes, streams and ditches filter out phosphorous, nitrogen. Perennial vegetative buffers of native species along lakes, streams and ditches deter flooding by slowing run-off. Perennial vegetative buffers of native species along lakes, streams and ditches prevent erosion.

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Citizen Resolution # 682222

(For Hearing Officer completion)

Soil is the foundation of life on earth. Focusing on soil health has unmeasurable benefits.



Focusing on soil health is the foundation to a healthier ecosystem. It will protect and restore the land, water and air shared by plants, animals, insects and humans. A great way to do this is to focus on topsoil health, which in turn benefits the biodiversity among native insect, plant and animal populations. It also greatly helps our lakes and streams and the plants and animals in them. Among the many ways to promote soil health: Require native prairie strips in agricultural fields. These additions to ag. fields take up very little space. Devoting 10% of the total acreage to protecting the integrity of the soil will drastically reduce soil and nutrient runoff by retaining key nutrients. These strips also prevent water runoff allowing the fields themselves to be more drought resistant and will require less time, effort and resources consumed by constantly watering. Eliminate the usage of herbicides and pesticides in both farm fields and private lawns. Lastly, road salt and brine have an extremely negative effect on our soils as well as our lakes, streams, and groundwater. These are just a couple of possible solutions to a healthier environment by protecting our soil, water, food and air. While also promoting native insects, plants, and animals.

Would you support the Conservation Congress working with state legislature to increase the efforts protecting and improving soil health by requiring the use of prairie strips in ag fields as well as eliminating the use of herbicides and pesticides?

Additional Information provided by author:

https://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPS/files/page/files/ae3613_1.pdf

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Citizen Resolution # 410422

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Avoid All New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

Fossil fuels pose threats to our waterways. Whether it's an oil spill from a pipeline, a coal ash spill, or thermal pollution from general operations, there is a risk of permanent water contamination. Additionally, the Wisconsin Task Force on Climate Change report recommended that state agencies implement this suggestion. The Report states that Wisconsin should "avoid new fossil fuel infrastructure" and that it was "consistently and repeatedly requested" in public comments. According to the report, building any new fossil fuel infrastructure will lock Wisconsin into carbon emissions in the future. Not only do fossil fuels contribute to climate change through emissions, but they also put the health and safety of our communities at risk based on the report. Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline expansion project put Copper Falls State Park, wetlands, and natural resources in the region at additional risk of contamination.

Do you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress directing the Natural Resources Board and Department of Natural Resources to avoid all new fossil fuel infrastructure?

Additional Information provided by author:

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Citizen Resolution # 710222

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Alley Cropping Incentives

As the state of Wisconsin undergoes the impacts of anthropogenic climate change and rapid biodiversity loss, it has become more evident than ever before in human history that now is the time to adapt and conserve vital environmental systems that our economy and society is built on. Implementation of sustainable agricultural methods including but not limited to alley cropping will greatly improve the security and sustainability of Wisconsin fisheries and agricultural land. Alley cropping greatly reduces soil erosion, increases water retention, reduces nitrogen leaching and subsequent artificial eutrophication of nearby waterways, increases carbon capture, helps improve ecosystem resilience, carrying capacity for many biota (including deer), improves ecosystem diversity, reduces pesticide usage, and promotes a local/ family-owned farm dynamic that allows for crop freedom and diversity instead of corporate consolidation on farm land. Considering the beneficial impacts alley cropping will have on many farms in this state

Should the Wisconsin conservation congress propose incentives including subsidies or grants to farmers that implement alley cropping, proportional to the area of land used?

Additional Information provided by author:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/nac/practices/alley-cropping.php>

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Citizen Resolution # 681922

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Restrict Lead Fishing Tackle in Wisconsin

All anglers have experienced lines breaking, fish getting away and losing lures. Lost tackle has a direct impact on populations of loons, swans, eagles, and osprey. In the last 27 years, Northern Wisconsin's Common Loon population has decreased by 22%. A surveillance program examining lead toxicity as a factor in mortality of Common Loons in Wisconsin found that approximately 30% of the dead loons submitted for necropsy were lead poisoned. It's important to look at this as a preventable issue. Limiting the amount of small lead sinkers and jigs would help reduce stress on breeding loons and increase the health of the ecosystem. Many alternatives to lead tackle are available, including tungsten, tin, iron, and others. The cost of replacing small lead jigs and split sinkers would be nominal for most anglers.

statewide ban

Do you support the WCC working with the DNR, the Natural Resources Board and our state legislature to implement a limitation on lead jigs and sinkers weighing 1oz or less?

~~Limitation could be phased in over time.~~

Additional Information provided by author:

<https://bit.ly/3pwwgAdt> <https://bit.ly/3truJJU> <https://bit.ly/3KbS3Cg> <https://bit.ly/3pyrnE5> <https://bit.ly/3ICo3zj> <https://bit.ly/34634pl>
<https://bit.ly/3tsnfGV> <https://bit.ly/3HCmDDF>

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Citizen Resolution # 681822

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Restrict Lead Ammunition for Hunting in Wisconsin

A recent study that sampled 1200 eagles in thirty-eight states, including Wisconsin, found nearly half of all bald and golden eagles suffer from chronic lead poisoning. Unsafe levels of lead are present in many of our state's game species, impacting the health of our ecosystem and the safety of our food chain. Lead-based ammunition rapidly expands on impact and fragments into hundreds of pieces. These fragments scatter as far as eighteen inches from entry point, rendering the practice of trimming around the wound unreliable and fragment detection difficult. A detailed 2008 report from Wisconsin's Department of Health Services reported on the potential for ingestion exposure of lead fragments in donated venison. The WDHS recommends the use of non-lead ammunition as the simplest and most effective solution to lead poisoning, in both humans and wildlife, arising from the consumption of deer killed with lead ammunition. Lead loyalists cite concerns over price and effectiveness of copper alternatives. Yet, there is no major difference in the retail price of equivalent lead-free ammunition for most popular calibers. Modern lead-free ammunition has set benchmark standards for accuracy, lethality, in some cases proving superior in terminal performance and takedown effectiveness. As responsible hunters and stewards of the land, it is our responsibility to reduce lead in the environment to ensure a diverse and viable wildlife population for future generations.

Do you support the WCC working with the DNR, the Natural Resources Board and state legislature to implement limitations on lead ammunition? This would exclude ammunition used in target shooting and could be phased in over time.

Additional Information provided by author:

<https://nbcnews.to/3lxZ8Nn> <https://fxn.ws/36HFUa1> <https://bit.ly/35jX9xg> <https://bit.ly/3JRPAwl> <https://bit.ly/3tc0TsQ>
<https://bit.ly/3vgiFvV> <https://bit.ly/3Mkm4li>

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Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.

Citizen Resolution # 132122

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Get the Lead Out of Ammunition

Throughout the 20th century, federal regulations were established to ban lead exposure to humans in their daily lives for the purpose of health and human safety. Yet we have failed to take into account the safety and suffering of wildlife through their exposure to lead via ammunition and fishing tackle. Lead poisoning, which occurs when waterfowl ingest spent lead shot, or wildlife consumes gut pile remains left by hunters, is a preventable disease because it is caused entirely by humans. Lead bullets fragment into tiny shards which can lead to a slow, miserable death when ingested by birds, particularly, bald eagles. Since non-toxic bullets and fishing weights are widely available and in many cases, comparable in price to lead, it is incumbent upon the hunters in this state to discontinue the use of lead ammo and switch over to non-lead shot, if they care about preventing the unnecessary suffering experienced by animals that scavenge off of their deer gut piles.

BE IT RESOLVED: The WI DNR must end the preventable deaths of millions of birds and wildlife by imposing a statewide ban on hunters' use of lead ammunition, since suitable, moderately priced copper and non-lead alternatives are available.

Additional Information provided by author:

1) huntingwithnonlead.org; 2) The Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota; 3) SOAR (Saving Our Avian Resources); 4) Ducks Unlimited

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Contact one of your local WCC delegates with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.

Citizen Resolution # 630322

(For Hearing Officer completion)



End Lead Poisoning of Bald Eagles

Bald eagles, our national symbol, made a remarkable recovery after their populations were decimated by wide use of the pesticide DDT. Although our eagles are no longer classified as threatened, they continue to face a serious threat. Recent research has documented that lead poisoning from bullet fragments is a health problem for eagles across the nation, and that lead poisoning has suppressed the growth rate of northeastern U.S. eagle populations. Here in Wisconsin, our licensed wildlife rehabilitators treat a couple hundred eagles and other raptors annually for lead poisoning from feeding on carcass remains. It's clear that eagle poisoning cases peak in the fall and early winter as they feed upon deer or other wildlife remains left in the woods from the hunting seasons. Hunters are not intentionally poisoning eagles, but the lead core bullets sold to them fracture upon impact and is ingested by scavenging birds. The good news is that non-lead bullets are increasingly available and just as effective for hunting. The bad news is most Wisconsin hunters are unaware of the lead poisoning issue for eagles, and the benefits of switching to non-lead alternatives. We can fix this. Wisconsin needs a statewide outreach program to inform hunters of the lead poisoning problem and how they can help by switching to non-lead bullets. Many state conservation organizations are willing to partner with the WDNR and Conservation Congress to build such a program.

Do you support the Conservation Congress and WDNR working cooperatively with other conservation organizations to develop a statewide outreach program that increases the use of non-lead ammunition to end the lead poisoning of wildlife?

Additional Information provided by author:

Studies indicate that lead poisoning from lead shot is a major cause of mortality to eagles. The shot contaminates the guts, etc., of deer which are left out where eagles feed on it.

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Citizen Resolution # 411822

(For Hearing Officer completion)



End the sale of lead core billets to save our eagles

Every year eagles are poisoned by lead core bullets. Eagles are carrion feeders and eat dead animals, which at times are animals who have been shot but not removed for a variety of reasons. Wildlife rehab centers see a marked increase in cases during fall and early winter coinciding with hunting season. There are alternatives to lead core bullets and hunters should use those instead. If we stop the sales of lead core bullets that fit into hunting guns this will reduce the casualties from lead poisoning. Eagles are important to people of Wisconsin and are a symbol of our country

Will you support the ending of sales of lead core bullets that are used for hunting purposes?

Additional Information provided by author:

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Citizen Resolution # 710522

(For Hearing Officer completion)



DNR Support for Clean Water

Clean water is essential to life -- for drinking, bathing, fishing, recreation, and more. Factory farms, or CAFOs (defined for the dairy industry as 700 or more milking cows) pose a threat to clean water and their numbers have increased dramatically since 2005. In much of rural Wisconsin, factory farm sewage is raising the nitrate in groundwater to levels that put babies at risk for birth defects and blue baby syndrome. Nitrates have also been implicated in colon cancer and thyroid problems. Over 10% of Wisconsinites' private wells have unsafe levels of nitrates, and private well owners in Wisconsin have paid an estimated 3 to 5 million dollars to repair or replace their wells, treat nitrate in drinking water or obtain bottled water. In addition to the economic burden of well replacement, the health costs associated with high nitrate levels are a major issue. Much of the nitrate contaminating Wisconsin's water comes from manure, which is rich in nitrate, and which is produced in unsustainable amounts by factory farms. Factory farms are subject to rules requiring that an acceptable manure management plan be adopted and implemented. The fact that well water in our rural communities continues to show nitrate contamination indicates that these measures have been inadequate. The problem can be addressed with a robust enforcement program requiring groundwater monitoring and reporting by factory farm owners and imposing corrective actions when contamination is found.

~~Do you support strong enforcement to reduce contamination of drinking water from improper manure management at factory farms?~~

To reduce potential groundwater and surface water nitrate and ecoli contamination, do you support the DNR requiring best available groundwater monitoring protocols for all permitted CAFO operations in Wisconsin?

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