



WCC Meeting Minutes

11/27/23 Relevancy Meeting Minutes

Conducted via Zoom

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. Organizational Matters 7:00 pm

A. **Call to order** at 7:02 pm by Chair Terri Roehrig

B. Roll call

Larry Bonde, Mike Riggle, Mary Ellen O'Brien, Brian Haydin, Justin Loehrke, Paul Reith

Dept: Kari Lee Zimmerman, Scott Loomans,

Public: Dave Kuhr, Jerome Donohoe, Danita Doyle

C. Agenda approval or repair. ***Motion to approve by Mary Ellen O'Brien, second by Brian Haydin.***
Motion Carried.

II. Information & Action Items

A. 2024 Spring Hearing agenda and timeline (start, end times)

- a. Unique experience in Dane County compared to rest of state, during election ballot counting – went through deer report
- b. Discuss with department with what they want to message. Law enforcement – safety updates - leave the department decide what they want to discuss and cover. Parks – some counties had parks people and it went really well.
- c. Survey of open house participants – they found the interaction with the department staff was important and something the department is looking to engage with the public
- d. Should we cut the testimony, discussion to 2 minutes for Spring Hearing Questions per person. Is there something in open meetings laws? – No. It is the guidance we give across state.
- e. Perhaps more clarification and Communication about the difference between advisory questions vs rule changes
- f. Committee agreed to the proposed agenda as follows:

6:00 – 6:30 Arrival and Orientation

- Information/instruction boards to help explain what to expect
- Attendance sign-in sheets
- Delegates at front table to provide guidance
- Informational flyer for on-line input – answer questions and provide assistance, if needed (laptop available to demonstrate how it works)
- Delegate station for those running for seats or voting
- Show proof of residency
- Flyer on delegate responsibilities and sign up sheet for new delegates
- Pick up ballots



WCC Meeting Minutes

Hearing question station (Optional)

- Continuous loop screen projection with full questions/resolutions
- Limited number of printed questions/resolutions for review printed by county delegates and reference (not to be removed from hearing question station)
- "Ballot" form
- Ballot box for in-person ballots
- Attendees may choose to mark their in-person ballots at this time and leave them in the ballot box, or wait until after the listening session

6:30 – 7:00 DNR Presentations

- Wildlife
- Fisheries
- Law Enforcement
- Parks and Rec

7:00 – 7:30 WCC Delegate Elections and Final DNR Presentation

- Listen to brief presentations by candidate delegates (no more than 3 minutes)
- Vote for delegates - put ballot in ballot bucket or box
- DNR Presentation while votes are being counted
- When DNR presentation completed, delegate elections results are presented.

7:30 – 9:00 Spring Hearing Questions

- ***Wildlife Management, Fisheries Management NRB Advisory Questions read by DNR Staff***
 - DNR fish and wildlife representatives at front table
 - For DNR representatives - Hard copies of Wildlife Management, Fisheries Management and NRB Advisory questions
 - Read the preamble and the questions for the participants
 - Call for questions or comments from the audience
 - From microphone and with time limits no more than 2-3 minutes per person
- ***WCC Advisory Questions read by WCC Chair or designee***
 - WCC delegates at front table
 - For WCC delegates - Hard copies of WCC Advisory Questions (organized by committee). Hard copies printed by county delegates
 - Read the preamble and the questions for the participants
 - Call for questions or comments from the audience
 - From microphone and with time limits no more than 2-3 minutes per person

Note: This is a great opportunity to pitch for renewed emphasis on the environmental aspects of resource conservation and management



WCC Meeting Minutes

- **County Citizen Resolutions**
 - Authors will review their approved (through Resolution Review Committee/process)citizen resolution and answer any questions.
 - From microphone and with time limits no more than 2-3 minutes per person

9:00 – 9:15 Completion of in-person input and wrap up

- Call for any in-person ballots to be completed
- WCC and DNR representatives can help collect them if needed
- Thank audience for coming and for their participation in the hearing
- Encourage feedback (need to decide whom they should contact and give contact info)

B. Resolutions

- a. Process for authors for the night of the spring hearings to present their resolution
 - Having a requirement to present their resolution, if the questions are online, there is not a way to pull them
 - Author should submit the resolution/be there and to answer questions, may not need to present it – maybe chair if they don't feel comfortable. Should be there to answer questions.
 - Need consistency and treated equally – submitted online, reviewed and approved, listed online. Authors then can talk about their resolutions if they feel they need/want to.
 - If we don't pursue an in-person option, we could pull the question and open input the next day at noon. We have online submission, online input and then to WCC committee and we continue to promote shotgun resolution. We are setting bar low for submission if we don't require presentation then recommend to group to change the process.
 - Let's try to provide reasons for people to show up.
 - Do we keep the input separate – in person vs online. Do we change the COP to accommodate the different process. Capturing data to show the difference of in person input vs online input. The value is in the discussion of the resolution.
 - Change in process was never part of the process due to Covid hitting. We still have a fundamental issue, people had to be present to win was the concept – set the bar high. Need to step toward an improved process. Anyone can provide input from anywhere. Anyone can present an online resolution.
 - If an author submits a resolution online and then should be required to present the resolution or designee and should be noted they didn't show up. We would get weighted results this way. Could avoid the shotgun resolution. Can we leverage the primary author?
 - No reason to require them to present them or flag them to present. Solving to provide input in person.
 - Resolutions shouldn't be available online prior to Spring Hearings. What is the reason for people to show up for Spring Hearings. We are diminishing the quality of the event.
 - Very close to doing away with Spring Hearings.
 - **Motion by Brian Haydin that resolution authors or designee present their resolution and county chair reports to Kari if the author did not show up and resolution will be removed from in person and online input. Motion was seconded by Larry Bonde. Motion carried.**



WCC Meeting Minutes

- Discussion:
 - Public may get frustrated with providing input and then it get yanked
 - Trying to encourage engagement
 - Struggle to not include in person input and passes even with author was not there. Maybe just flag it. Then it goes to R&R or full floor.
 - People have to take ownership. If you don't want to attend to show ownership or have a designee, then your resolution doesn't move forward.
 - When you show up at the hearing, it got up on board, you got a serial number but it is not set in stone. And share with them that it has been approved through the process and now you have show up. Then the online goes live the next day once all the questions are removed for authors that didn't show up.
 - It is our program, we can dictate what is required.
 - Some education will be needed with the county chairs.
 - We do require the author to submit their county of residence on the resolution
 - We are changing the process.
 - Online process was for the statewide questions. We didn't have the process for resolution. We have a process now resolutions that gets vetted to correct standards and well written. And gets input at the county level.
 - This is one of the last chances to get back to in person.
 - Provided after meeting by Mary Ellen: As WCC delegates, voted in by our citizens and acting on their behalf, we could act as designees for those who might not be able to make the hearing at the last minute, or due to previous commitments beyond their control. Those authors could call on one of the delegates ahead of the hearing to present their resolution on their behalf. This is showing a good faith effort toward being good citizen advocates.
- b. Questions and Resolutions at Spring Hearings
 - Have them displayed on the screen with projector
 - Where projector is not available or attendance less than 50, then printed copies
 - Resolution station – continuous loop with details, etc on PowerPoint and people and mark which ones. And we wouldn't read through all the resolutions. And discuss only the ones they want to discuss. Have a limited number of hard copies available. Flexible – work it out within the county and if they access to the AV equipment.
 - Kari doesn't have time to create 72 PowerPoints and send to county chairs who are not technically savvy. Sees challenges with 72 different PowerPoints
 - Have the resolutions read.
 - Will be cumbersome to go through each resolution but have them read.
 - Clarification – a resolution study area to review the questions. Screen for the bigger crowd.
 - Chair or delegate should bring 3 printed copies or can put in PPT but need to modify the PPT for the resolutions.
 - Author needs to check in in order for the resolutions to go up on the wall. Bring a copy of the resolution to the Spring Hearing. Chair can read it or author will need to read it.
 - Responsibility of chair to cross check to the author's approved version.
 - Author would have to present in their county of residence



WCC Meeting Minutes

- Recommend having education session with County chairs and delegates.
 - Advisory Questions – they would have to be shown via a projector or have printed hard copies. Kari can prepare this for Hearing Officers.
 - Proposal to have same Ad-Hoc Resolution Review Committee as last several years as it is such a better process for WCC, DNR, Authors, committees
- c. Input length of time
- Committee reviewed the data provided from Kari via email prior to the meeting about the input submissions from previous years.
 - Discussion around the length of time for online input-24, 48, 72, hours, etc
 - Keep it to 3 days
 - After Spring Hearing need to allow time for Kari to make changes if authors didn't show up to present their resolutions. Those resolutions will be removed.
 - Proposed schedule:
 - Monday: Spring Hearings
 - Tuesday: Kari/Depart time to make changes
 - Wed – Fri: Online input
 - How much time would it take to process for Kari to delete resolutions of authors that did not show up to present their resolutions?
 - Committee agreed that the DLC will be responsible to collect information from County Chairs by 9 am Tuesday and if the DLC does not receive the information by noon the EC will work to get responses from DLC and County Chairs.
 - In previous years, if resolution got rejected they brought it back the next year.
 - We can continue to improve the process next year. We are going to have to continue to evolve as things change around us.
 - The way to get engagement is to get in person.
- d. Determine mechanism for in person input
- Bubble tabulation is available from the department
 - Sec Payne collection in person input would “help relationship with the WCC”
 - Bubble tabulation is very costly.
 - Can we manually count the bubbles, especially for counties with smaller numbers?
Department – a little concerned about the public's perception of too much handling of input.
 - Bubbles – Statewide Dept/WCC/NRB Advisory
 - Separate Form for resolutions
 - For manual counting for large numbers of would be difficult.
 - Statewide Advisory Questions:
 - Go through and read the pre-amble and read the questions
 - Form is Yes, No, N/A
 - No Books – waste of money
 - Some counties would have ability to project on a screen
 - Print enough ballots based on historical trends
 - Not everyone may want to provide input in person and will go home to provide input



WCC Meeting Minutes

- People will be able to provide input in person and on line. We have no mechanism from preventing this from happening with this process.
- Department will use a contractor to do the counting of the input.

D. Communication

1. WCC - Internal to Delegates
2. WCC - External to Public
3. WCC - Communication with Authors
4. Department - What are their communication plans?

Press Releases

Social Media Posts

Email to gov delivery pushes

ACTION: Kari to work with Department on the communication plan.

E. Next steps

- Terri to send out the minutes
- Terri to create the DLC Pre-Read
- Terri to create the PPT for January DLC meeting
- Terri/Kari to work on Communication for County Chairs pending DLC approval
- Terri to work on Communication plan (Internal and External)
- This committee encouraged to reach out to DLC to talk through this process

III. Members Matters

- Larry - Nothing
- Justin – Can't remind folks enough that authors need to present in person. Do you have your schedule cleared for April 12 to be there as first question to the resolution process.
- Mike – Agrees with Justin – trying to get people to attend. Nobody wants to be involved yet they wants change – this is society in general.
- Mary Ellen - Thank you to Terri for being appreciated. Willing to help Terri out with everything that needs to be done. Feels like we are going to get some pushback.
- Brian – Nothing
- Paul – Thank you to everyone and to Terri for leading another ad hoc committee. We continue to chip away at things.
- Kari – Appreciates everyone viewpoints and ideas.
- Scott – Thanks for your time.

IV. **Adjourn** at 9:46 pm motion by Justin Loehrke and seconded by Larry Bonde. Motion carried.