Wisconsin Conservation Congress
WARM WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS  
10/13/2020  
7:00PM  
ZOOM

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Joe Weiss - Chair at 6:58pm

B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES
Joe Weiss, Robert Lombard, Rick Olson, Mike Kelby, Steve Budnik, James Engelbretson, Bob Bohart, Ted Eisenbacher, Jason Brizzale, Adam Liebersbach, Michael Arrowood, Harry Bowey Jr., Scott Strok, Reed Kabelowsky, Brett Weir, Tom Christman, J. Michael Gould, Paul Reith, Noah Wishau

A quorum was declared.

EXCUSED
Joe Stuchlak, Kurt Justice, Randy Symice, James Winkler, Bob Wincek

UNEXCUSED
Al Brown, Pete Doperalski, Robert McNell

GUESTS
Kari Zimmerman, talon French, Chris Tall, Greg Sass, Alex Latzka, Rick Rosen (DNR); Public - Scott Wilkie, Greg Schauer, David DeTienne; Other WCC - Rob Bohan, Al Peterson.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION
Wisconsin Conservation Congress Warm Water Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 7:00 pm
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Warm Water Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will convene at 7:00 pm on October 13, 2020 via conference call to review the agenda below. Please log on to the meeting as 6:45 pm so that we can assist with any technical difficulties before the meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

Meetings of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress are public meetings and open to participation by any member of the public. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please register at https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMcu2hrjGjGNJ0WKlr-Hq-t-Mw0XaBPJ to obtain access information for the Zoom meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS
I. Organizational Matters
A. Call to order
B. Roll call
C. Agenda approval or repair
D. Review committee mission statement

The mission of the Warm Water Advisory Committee is to review, discuss, and make recommendations on questions, rules, and policies concerning warm water fisheries in the State of Wisconsin. The scope of this review includes all bodies of water (lakes, rivers, and streams) located within the state as well as boundary waters surrounding Wisconsin. Furthermore, it includes all fish species traditionally known as "warm water" species regardless of what type of water body they may be located in. Our recommendations are made in an advisory capacity to the public, the Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Board, and the Conservation Congress. The committee supports the long-term goal of protecting and enhancing our warm water fishery resource for future generations of Wisconsin citizens.

E. Public comments
Citizens who wish to address the committee should contact the committee chair (Joe Weiss at 715-520-0517) prior to October 11, 2020

II. Information & Action Items
A. Citizen Resolutions
1. Increase the musky size limit on Butternut Lake (Price/Ashland County) from 28" to the statewide limit of 40" (020120)
2. Spawning walleyes on the Wisconsin River (070120)
3. Stop fishing guides from gifting fish to paying clients (070220)
4. Northern pike slot limit (240120)
5. Panfish bag limit decrease (240220)
6. Black crappie on Rainbow Flowage (440120)
7. Allow unused upriver lakes sturgeon spearing license to be used on Lake Winnebago after upriver spearing season closes (520120)
8. 50" minimum length limit for muskellunge in Waukesha County (680420)

B. Department Information & Updates
   1. DNR fisheries update
   2. DNR fisheries research project update
   3. DNR LE update

C. Future committee meetings

III. Member Matters

IV. Adjournment

Chair and Vice Chair:
Joe Weiss 715-520-0517  Kurt Justice 715-358-2422

NOTE:
Per the WCC Code of Procedures VII.J.3, committee members must notify the committee chair or vice-chair no less than 5 days prior to the scheduled meeting to confirm.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT
**DISCUSSION**
The mission of the Warm Water Advisory Committee is to review, discuss, and make recommendations on questions, rules, and policies concerning warm water fisheries in the State of Wisconsin. The scope of this review includes all bodies of water (lakes, rivers, and streams) located within the state as well as boundary waters surrounding Wisconsin. Furthermore, it includes all fish species traditionally known as "warm water" species regardless of what type of water body they may be located in. Our recommendations are made in an advisory capacity to the public, the Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Board, and the Conservation Congress. The committee supports the long-term goal of protecting and enhancing our warm water fishery resource for future generations of Wisconsin citizens.

**ACTION**
Joe Weiss read the WWC mission statement aloud - A motion was made by J. M. Gould and 2nd by Bob Bohardt to accept the mission statement as read - motion carried with no dissents.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**DISCUSSION**
Some of the citizen authors were present at the virtual meeting and will present their resolution.

**ACTION**

**II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS**

**A. [Agenda Items]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Spawning walleyes on the Wisconsin River (070120)</th>
<th>David DeTienne</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DISCUSSION</strong></td>
<td>Joe read aloud the resolution and the DNR response. DeTienne: Last year similar resolution south from Wausau. Now asking north from Wausau to Tomahawk. Offered a history regarding open season laws on Wisconsin River. Would leave Wausau to Tomahawk as only open area in spring - concentrate fishermen. Would like to see only large fish harvested at this time. 88% voted yes in his county. Harry Bowey asked for clarification of boundaries. DeTienne: This would make it consistent from Miss. R. to Tomahawk. DeTienne asked about an amendment being possible. None offered. Joe advised to keep as written.</td>
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<td><strong>ACTION</strong></td>
<td>Motion by Steve Budnik and 2nd by Harry Bowey to advance the resolution. Motion was carried with 1 dissent.</td>
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<td><strong>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</strong></td>
<td><strong>DEADLINE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>2. Stop fishing guides from gifting fish to paying clients (070220)</th>
<th>David DeTienne</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DISCUSSION</strong></td>
<td>Joe Weiss read aloud the resolution and the DNR responses. DeTienne: Guides should be guiding not fishing for clients. Stated he sees it on social media. Doesn't think it is allowed in other states. Q: Joe posed question to Rosen on LE - gifting would take place off the water and away from the landing. Then it is possession limit v. bag limit issue. Cannot occur at the place of catch or it could be overbagging. Believes it has some merit. C: Rick Olson - gifting at the landing/lake/river = bag limit. Paul Reith - If client catches nothing he goes home empty handed. Rob Lombard - This is their business to catch fish with their clients. Harry Bowey - what about equaling one bag limit? Rosen - Defined group baggage = someone goes over bag limit to give to someone else. M. Arrowood - Gymnics can go back out and catch more after gifting. Rick Olson - if done in boat it is group bagging. Many participants. Kari gave explanation regarding proxy voting - no authority to vote in place of another committee member.</td>
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<td><strong>ACTION</strong></td>
<td>Motion by Bret Weir and 2nd by Rick Olson to advance the resolution - motion carried after roll call vote 13 in favor and 4 dissenting.</td>
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<th>3. Allow unused upriver lakes sturgeon spearing license to be used on Lake Winnebago after upriver spearing season closes (520120)</th>
<th>Rob Bohmann</th>
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<td><strong>DISCUSSION</strong></td>
<td>Joe read aloud the motion and the DNR responses. Rob Bohmann - 2nd time he has presented this resolution. His resolutions are directed to simplifying and maximizing opportunities. He talked to biologists and they say it would not cause a hardship on sturgeon population. It currently takes about 7 years to get a tag for upper lakes. Q: Bret Weir - Clarification that no population issues? Rob Lombard - Is this going to cause issue with Winnebego spearers? A: Bohman - very seldom get to Winnebego quota. M. Arrowood - Can you get tag for both? A: Bohman - no. Permit process does not allow this. Rick Olson - Can it go the other way? A: Bohman -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motion by Brett Weir and 2nd by Rick Olson to advance the resolution - carried with no dissents.</td>
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<td>Scott Wilkie</td>
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**4. 50° Minimum Length Limit for Muskellunge in Waukesha County (680420)**

**DISCUSSION**
Joe read aloud the resolution and the DNR responses. Scott Wilkie - Unique fishery with lots of pressure. Lots of Sisco for forage in this system. Believes many 40° fish are harvested. Q: none. / Scott Strook - Any problems that could arise for the forage base due to more big fish? A: Greg Sass - strong Sisco population in this system - doesn't believe it will be an issue - surveys bear out Sisco population. Believes the musky team is coming to an end on waters that they can recommend for 50° rule. Latzka - These lakes were on list to consider for 50° rule. Sass - can adjust stocking if issue arises. Q: Brett Weir - What effect on panfish - these lakes not on the panfish lake list for study. A: Latzka - might be very minor increase in panfish predation. Q: Tom Christman - How many 40° fish are being kept? - No real info, but does not believe it is high. Many participants.

**ACTION**
Motion by Steve Budnik and 2nd by Adam Liebersbach to advance the resolution - carried with 1 dissent.

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<td>Steve Budnik, Adam Liebersbach</td>
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**5. Increase the musky size limit on Butternut Lake (Price/Ashland County) from 28° to the statewide limit of 40° (020120)**

**DISCUSSION**
Joe read aloud the resolution and the DNR responses. C: Latzka - DNR plans to pursue this issue at spring hearing with a question. No further discussion.

**ACTION**
Motion by Tom Christman and 2nd by Brett Weir to advance the resolution - motion carried with no dissents.

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<tr>
<td>Joe Weiss</td>
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**6. Northern pike slot limit (240120)**

**DISCUSSION**
Joe read aloud the resolution and the DNR responses. Author states in resolution that he had input from biologist and he is in favor. C: Greg Sass indicated they did talk, but he in no way endorsed the resolution. C: Rob Lombard - Appears to be a toolbox issue - Reed Kabelowsky agreed that it is outside toolbox. / D: Brett Weir - Took years to get toolbox where it is now. Don't want to alienate our biologists. A: Latzka - Toolbox allows a slot for Northern of 25-35" with 2 or 5 per day. D: Rick Olson - Seems like a multi-lake and county resolution - bigger than one resolution. Harry Bowey - Agrees with multi-lake/county issue.

**ACTION**
Motion by Rick Olson and 2nd by Noah Wishau to advance the motion / Motion to advance failed with all voting nay. The resolution is rejected.

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<td>Joe Weiss</td>
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**7. Panfish bag limit decrease (240220)**

**DISCUSSION**
Joe Weise read aloud the resolution and the DNR responses. C: Alex Latzka indicated he has recently taken on Leadership of panfish team. Indicated that this resolution is outside their current toolbox. The team does not wish to push through other experimental regulations during this period of testing. / D: Mike Arrowood indicated he feels it is same multi-lake and lake type issues as last resolution. Mike indicated that on Big Green fishing is much tied to vegetation manipulation in Meyer's Bay which can lead to over-exploitation. Harry Bowey - agrees and prefers to stick with DNR plan. This is in his back yard. No recent surveys on some of these lakes as well. Rick Olson - People are calling for change and this is a good thing that they are engaged, but resolution is too broad.

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<td>Joe Weiss</td>
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WARM WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8. Black crappie on Rainbow Flowage (440120)

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<th>ACTION</th>
<th>Motion by Scott Strock and 2nd by Brett Weir to reject the resolution / motion to reject is carried with no disssants.</th>
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**DISCUSSION**

Joe Weiss read aloud the resolution and the DNR responses. C: Latzka - author did not contact the DMNR at all and should. Information from a DNR associate indicates there will be a census of the Flowage in 2021. This resolution is outside the experimental regulations in our lakes. D: Rick Olson - Public vote was very strong at 556 for v. 50 against. The DNR should contact this public. Brett Weir - When is next survey? A: Latzka indicated that Zac (DNR) indicates it is 2021. D: Brett Weir - I would like to see us wait for survey results. We are not dismissing the author, we just need more info. C: Latzka - this was not one of the original survey lakes for panfish. Latzka - explained the toolbox items when and how to use them. D: Reed Kabelowsky - Congress/ Warm Water Committee should be the body to contact the author to help him draft a resolution within the toolbox guidelines. Rob Lombard - Agrees with rejecting resolution, but indicates we need to reach out to author(s) to help them know the tools to draft a good resolution. Scott Strock - Wait for survey and stick with science. Help author(s) hook up with their DNR people in their areas. Jason Brazzale - Some authors have spoken to proper people but still don't have resolutions written to succeed.

**ACTION**

Motion by Scott Strock and 2nd by Brett Weir to reject the resolution / motion to reject is carried with no dissents.

**B. DNR Updates**

**DISCUSSION**

Fisheries Update: A. Latzka - Spring hearing questions are being finalized for submission to Natural Resources Board. Minocqua Chain walleye update - still being discussed with public. COVID - Most of us are still fully employed but working from home a lot. Some Techs have been bumped around. Some fall sampling is taking place. Some stocking still going on, somewhat reduced. Greg Sass - Research is also still occurring and also at a reduced level. Escanaba Lake research and creel people are still working. Hiring freeze is in place, but Spooner vacancy to be filled soon after long vacancy. A new candidate for Fish Genomics studies has been selected and should be in place soon. Law Enforcement: Rick Rosen - Uptick in outdoor consumption all season so far. Essential workers are working. Parks have been filled up right up until this week. Many new opening in the upper levels are open with lots of recent turnover. Q: Harry Bowey - Did Green Lake Area get a new warden yet? A: Not all field stations are filled as much job shifting has occurred during COVID. Mike Arrowood stated that a new warden had transferred just this week. Q: Bob Bohart - A change from red to green (stream indicator) on Embarrass River? A: Latzka - This may be a county change - these changes occur faster than the same state level.

**ACTION**

| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | Deadeline |

**C. Upcoming meetings**

Joe Announced that a meeting for next year on the normal August date of 8/14/21 is tentatively scheduled. This will depend on in person meetings being allowed to resume at that time.

**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

Jason Brazzale - gave an exciting summary of activity in the High School Fishing Organization. The Wisconsin Interscholastic Fishing Association (WIFA) board has scheduled the Petenwell/Castle Rock Flowages as the site of the 2021 High School State Championship. Championship weekend is February 19-20, 2021.
WIFA has 110+ HS fishing teams registered to fish this year with two or three more waiting on their district to approve. Only a couple of 2021 regional events are on our calendar as of today. Things are still up in the air if "in-person" tournaments are going to be held or if we will pivot to a app-based virtual tournament using FishDonkey. WIFA’s website: http://studentfishing.com/index.html (I didn’t mention our website, but it would be nice to have in the minutes).

Reed Kabelowsky - Asked the DNR to please consider coming up with event in the Portage County Area for our YCC folks for the spring convention next year. Please look for my correspondences and encourage your associates to help us.

Breit Weir - Executive Committee will be doing some evaluations of the committees in the upcoming months - general evaluation to try to get symmetry throughout the committees.

Joe Weiss - They are assigned to sit in on a couple of committees each.

Paul Reith - We should provide some guidance to the public regarding resolutions and toolbox items.

Noah Wishau - Perhaps tying the toolbox items to the resolution writing part of the site. Kari will look into this.

Kari Zimmerman - Good meeting!

Q: Reed Kabelowsky - Asked Kari how much use the committee evaluations are seeing? Kari said that the evaluation form is used infrequently. Reminder to members of this important tool.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

| MEETING ADJOURNED | Motion by J. Gould and 2nd by Scott Strook to adjourn at 9:17pm - motion carried |
| SUBMITTED BY      | Reed C. Kabelowsky - Manitowoc                                             |
| DATE              | [Date]                                                                    |