



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Turkey & Upland Game Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes
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ORDER OF BUSINESS	10/30/2021	9:30am	Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	David Zielke at 9:35 am
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Jeff Winn, Oscar Mueller, Stephen Kenesie, Larry Wehrheim, Dave Larson, Dave Orf, Rick Koenig, Marcell Wieloch, Dave Zielke, Charles Gauger, Jason Leis, Roger Greenwood, Otto Bowe, Arlyn Splitt, Clarence Koch, Bernard Newman, John Cler, Bradley Hasheider, Jeremy Holtz, Jake Donar
EXCUSED	Daniel Tyrolt, Roxanne Broullire, Michael Kautz, Robert Nicksic, John Edelblute, Nick Gall, Brock Rosenkranz, Dave Pennings
UNEXCUSED	Mike Wade, Ryan Zimmerman
GUESTS	

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	Motion to approve by Dave Larson, 2nd Larry Wehrheim, motion carried

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	Read by Dave Zielke

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Extending the pheasant season, Spread the pheasants out to areas that do not get any now. Blaze colors for upland game hunting, All states around Wisconsin require it.
ACTION	none

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Extend the Days of the Youth Turkey Hunt (370321)

1.	Include Friday as a day to hunt when the hunt falls on a holiday weekend	[PRESENTER]
DISCUSSION	Some years it is and some not and may cause confusion for hunters and cause illegal hunting. Possible to resubmit to change to 3 days every year to not cause confusion.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Arlyn Splitt, 2nd by Dave Larson. Motion carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

2.	Hunting Small Game Mammals and Unprotected Species with a Slingshot and Small Game License (681221)	[PRESENTER]
DISCUSSION	A lot of kids learn this way, Can hunt more urban areas possibly where firearms not allowed.	
ACTION	Motion to accept by Roger Greenwood, 2nd by Marcell Wieloch. Motion Carried	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

3.	Extend Pheasant Hunting Season In Certain Counties (110121)	[PRESENTER]
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DISCUSSION	New close would be Feb. 28th for counties that do not have a natural reproduction. Would not release pheasants a Would like to see what counties are proposed. Do by County and not smaller areas due to confusion. Maybe talk to Pheasants forever or the DNR pheasant committee.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Marcell Wieloch, 2nd by Dave Larson. Hand count 9 in favor for reject and 8 in favor for passing. Motion passed to reject so it failed.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

4. Upland Blaze Orange Requirements (650121) [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Only state in the Midwest that does not require it. 400 square inches is proposed to be blaze above the waist and blaze cap. Turkey should be excluded but does not say so in resolution. Was discussed it is a good idea but needs to be better explained that it omits turkey and waterfowl. Law enforcement suggested the same amount of blaze from the waist up as the deer gun season-50% so it is constant.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Clarence Koch, 2nd by Otto Bowe. Motion to reject passed so the resolution failed	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. Department information and updates

Jeremy Holtz, Jake Donar, and Forester

DISCUSSION	Wildlife staffing lost some high profile staffers to transfers and retirement. Others to fill in until new are hired. Turkey harvest was down 17%. Possibly due to less hunters this year, latest possible start to season. Was in line with 2018 & 2019. Youth harvest was up. Mild winter and dry Spring should have made for good reproduction of all upland game birds. Ruffed Grouse West Nile Virus testing in its last year of 3 years. Last year of 3 for sending 100 grouse each year to Missouri. Approx. 200,000 ruffed grouse harvested each year. Sharp Tailed Grouse 36% drop in population since 2019. Greater Prairie Chicken increased slightly since 2019. Pheasant bill in congress now to increase pheasant release to 200,000 from 75,000 will not be possible without staff and resource increase. DNR and Pheasants Forever is not in favor for the most part. Law Enforcement: 2020 we had a lot more hunters in the field probably due to the pandemic. Always have registration issues for phone in registration. Just a different way of doing it and needs to be reminded to do it. If you forget, please do it when you remember because the department needs the information. Forestry talked about prescribed burns and that they are mainly used to keep grass land type habitat for the wildlife. Forestry has been in charge of the actual burning for 3 years but the Wildlife Biologists work with them and give then their priority list to burn.	
ACTION	None but a lot of questions were asked to the DNR staff	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

C. Future Committee meetings

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	several dates were discussed and came to best date would be the 3rd Saturday in August which will be August 20th of 2022	
ACTION	None, information will be forwarded to make plans	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Lots of members expressed happiness of having an in person meeting where real discussion can take place. Everyone should look up their Senators and Representatives and call them with their concerns for the bill being brought up in congress now about changing the turkey season structure. Especially about safety of the hunt being compromised, private and public lands with too many hunters at one time. losing private land access. season now has over 80% public approval and hard to beat that. Do not change something that is not broken. Run rule changes through the DNR and the Conservation Congress like it has been because they are much more versed in it than a political group. Maybe	
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	<p>have a day at the Capital to meet and greet our government officials and let them know about the Conservation Congress and our role.</p> <p>THAP, Turkey Hunter Access Program is a good idea but is not policed properly. Supposed to be 40 acres or more and 50% wooded. There are grain farmers putting in over 1,400 acres and is only 17% non field. Land owners get 5.00 per acre. Needs to have accountability and properly enforced or the program should be stopped.</p> <p>Hope to have a State in person Convention.</p>
ACTION	none

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	2pm
SUBMITTED BY	Bradley Hasheider
DATE	10/30/2021