

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Shooting Sports Committee Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	11/17/2021	6:00 P.M.	Zoom meeting
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Harold Drake at 6:10 P.M
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Harold Drake- Steve Ninneman- Bill Lorenz- Gary Dieck-Charlie Brown- Scott Gunderson-Scott Tubs-Gary Schwoch - Kari Zimmerman- Emily Iehl - Robert Nack
EXCUSED	Steve Budnick – Dennis Vanden Bloom
UNEXCUSED	Robert Buscher- Pete Thiesen- Tim Gorski- Alan Pribnow
GUESTS	none

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	The chairman asked if there were any requests for changes to the agenda. Hearing none, he requested a motion to approve the agenda as printed
ACTION	Motion to except by Scott Gunderson. 2 nd by Gary Dieck. Motion carried on a voice vote.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	The committee mission statement was read by the chairman. Committee members were asked if they wanted to recommend any changes. No changes were requested.
ACTION	Motion to except the current mission statement as written was made by Steve Ninneman. 2 nd by Scott Gunderson. Motion Carried

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	There were no members of the public that requested to address the committee

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS

EMILY IEHL

DISCUSSION	There were no Citizen Resolutions assigned to this committee	
ACTION	none	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. RANGE GRANT PROGRAM

EMILY IEHL

DISCUSSION	Emily Iehl Updated the committee on the current status of The Range Grant Program. She reported that a total of 19 applications were received for the current grant cycle. Eighteen Private and one Public. Grant money available was about \$800,000 dollars. This was about \$300,000 more than last
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	<p>year. The increase funding was available due to a major increase in Pittmen- Robertson money because of increased gun and ammunition sales. The Range Grant scoring committee had met to score and prioritized all the applications. All of this year's requests were granted, with a total allocation of \$822,600. She also mentioned some changes to the current grant process and possible future changes. They included, combining Public/Private grant applications, reducing the match requirement for private ranges to 25%, moving the application dead line forward by one month to August, and revisions to the current scoring process. Current scoring methods tend to favor ranges with multiple venues over smaller ranges. Changes could be made in order to prioritize grants based on actual need. With more points awarded for upgrades associated with environmental or safety issues.</p> <p>To increase knowledge among sporting groups about the Range Grant Program they are working on a communications plan to help get the word out to all ranges on the state range inventory list. She has also been doing a Shooting Range Managers project with the W.W.F. which is helping generate interest in the grant program.</p> <p>Member comments: Scott Gunderson supported the idea of sending out a notice to all of the venues listed on the current range inventory listing. Reducing the private range match requirement was also a good thing.</p>	
ACTION	none. Informational update	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

C. STATE MANAGED RANGES

EMILY IEHL

DISCUSSION	<p>Emily Iehl Gave an update on the status of the 11 ranges that are state managed. Comments on each:</p> <p>Yellowstone: Range gets a lot of use. Current issues are shooting before and after hours. The range is managed with the help of Parks Department staff. While the range is functional, a number of upgrades have been identified for future consideration.</p> <p>Peshtigo: Needs staffing to manage. Current staff person left a short time ago. Currently closed due to lack of LTE staffer. Program is looking for a replacement. Department has reached out to local W.C.C. delegates to help find an interested person to help restore hours of operation. Currently being managed with assistance from local wildlife staff</p> <p>Hay Creek: Partnering with local clubs to make improvements. Range needs Berms maintained and regraded. Currently working on funding options. Federal funding is available with a state match of 10%. They are also looking at the possible addition of a 200- yard rifle range and a pistol range.</p> <p>Caywood: Closed in 2020 due to safety issues. This range gets heavy use and needs upgrades. Range is currently open while the adjacent gravel pit is closed for the winter. The range will return to limited hours when the pit reopens.</p> <p>Snake Track: Maintenance plan put in place in 2020</p> <p>Cornell: Not owned by the state but, is state managed. Currently being managed by the area Warden Supervisor.</p> <p>Columbia County: Range was closed for a short time. A staff person was hired to monitor the range 20 hours per week. Currently all venues are open except the pistol range which is closed until a bullet catcher is installed. They have entered this as an emergency project to help expedite completion of repairs. Bidding for the project is planned to go out in January 2022. A box has been set up to except donations from shooters. Also planning for installation of sound mitigation material in the remaining shooting sheds.</p> <p>Mc Miller: State owned but managed under contract by Wern Valley. Currently evaluating project needs for the remainder of the current lease period. The states share of the revenue generated goes back into the facility for upkeep and improvements. Preparing to apply for Federal matching funding to help with projects. Construction on a bullet catcher on the 50-yard range has been completed. Currently planning to update structures on the 25 yard and possibly the 100- yard firing lines.</p> <p>Boulder Junction, Northwoods, and Wautoma operations and maintenance are going well with help from partner managers and LTE staff.</p> <p>Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (TAR-Mar) The target practice and marksmanship training support act allows states to generate matching funds over the course of five years. Current law dictates that funds cannot be carried over for more than two years and reduces the matching requirement from 25% to 10%. These changes provide state fish and wildlife agencies with added flexibility to generate funds for range construction or improvement over time with the goal of giving them the resources needed to provide the public with more opportunities to embrace hunting and shooting sports.</p> <p>Additional Comment: The department is working on getting contractors to do site evaluations at all 11 ranges. Currently there is one staff person working half time to manage the upkeep of all 11 ranges, with limited support from other R3 program staff and 2-3 site specific LTEs</p> <p>Comments: Scott Gunderson voiced his concern about the long closure of the Columbia pistol range.</p>	
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	Steve Ninneman expressed concern about problems at state operated ranges and questioned whether more money should be invested in private ranges.
ACTION	None Informational only
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

D. RANGE ISSUES COMMITTEE

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Committee chair Harold Drake asked if this was still under consideration and who would be leading the effort to make this happen? Emily lehl said that the idea, as discussed at the last meeting, was brought up within their group. The concept is still out there but no specific action has taken place at this time. Bob Nack was introduced as the new R3 director. Emily explained that the R3 team is currently hiring for positions that have been unfilled due to the pandemic. More time is needed to make adjustments. She will keep us up to date with any progress, The committee chair will follow up with her at a later date.
ACTION	none
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Harold Drake	

E. STATE WIDE RANGE INVENTORY

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Prior to tonight's meeting all committee members were sent a copy of the most recently updated statewide range inventory for their review. Committee chair Harold Drake asked for an update on the effort to keep the inventory up to date. Emily lehl reported that progress has been made with input from many W.C.C. County chairs, and individual delegates, over the past two years. Committee efforts are making an impact. Overall response has been good but, there are still some counties that have not been heard from. It is not possible for current staff to reach out to everyone. Asking for yearly updates maybe a little much. She suggested that every 5 years might do. Committee comment: Scott Gunderson commented that he would like to see the yearly update continued. Steve Ninneman commented that the lack of in person district meetings may be hurting the effort in some areas of the state. He will support continued update effort at district meetings once the continue.
ACTION	Request permission from D.L.C. to include at spring District meetings
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Harold Drake	

F. FULL TIME SHOOTING SPORTS COORDINATOR

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Chairman Harold Drake asked if the department has given any consideration to creating a full- time shooting sports coordinator position. The citizen resolution requesting the creation of this position passed with wide support. Who would be responsible for advancing this idea? Emily lehl and Bob Nack commented that the need is there. Recreational shooting is growing. Creating a new position within the department would require the restructure of existing staff and is difficult to make happen. Not sure if this change can come from within the department itself. Scott Gunderson commented that any change would have to come from the legislature. This position would have to be budgeted for. Under the current political climate, it is probably not going to happen anytime soon. He and Bob Nack suggested that an option would be for the Department to partner with an outside agency to fund the position as an expansion to the R3 effort. We should continue to ask the D.L.C. to support the creation of this position.
ACTION	Request D.L.C. support
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Harold Drake	At January D.L.C. Meeting

G. STATEWIDE SHOOTING COMPETITION

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	The committee chair gave some back ground on this issue. The decision was made at the 2020 meeting to hold off discussion on this pending the creation of the Full time Shooting Sports Coordinator position. Since this has not happened the chairman asked whether or not to discuss.
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ACTION	Motion was made by Scott Gunderson to postpone discussion on this agenda item. Motion was second by Gary Dieck. Motion Carried on a voice vote.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

H. THIRD PARTY MANAGEMENT OF RANGES

EMILY IEHL

DISCUSSION	The committee chairman asked for an update on this proposal from 2020. Emily Iehl responded that 3 rd party management of select ranges is being discussed as an option. They have limited staff and 3 rd party operators could provide individualized management of some ranges.	
ACTION	Emily will update the committee on future actions	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

I: RANGE SURVEY UPDATE

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	The committee chairman gave the committee an update on the history of the survey. He questioned who the survey results were shared with within the department and if there was any feedback? Emily Iehl reported that the survey results were shared with department staff in her group. She highlighted several of the questions that stuck out the most. The lead management questions received the most attention in their discussions. The fact that most of the respondents to the lead management plan question answered “no” or “did not know” is concerning. Other items included, lack of knowledge regarding the “Range Protection Act”, support for high school shooting sports and lack of specific locations for new ranges. They continue to review the results and look for ways to incorporate them in future planning. Bob Nack commented that they are working on a new strategic plan for Shooting Sports. He would like to generate a list of outside partners to be included in these discussions. If any committee members have thoughts or suggestions, please forward them to him. Firearm safety is also being discussed. They are discussing how best to deal with the issue. Should this be a department function or should this be shifted to the Department of Education in the future.	
ACTION	Informational discussion	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Committee members		

J: Y.C.C. EVENT 2022

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	The committee chairman asked if there was interest by the committee for organizing a shooting event for the Y.C.C. at the 2022 State Convention? The idea was supported by the Shooting Sports Committee and the Y.C.C. oversight Committee in the past.	
ACTION	Motion was made by Scott Gunderson to move forward with an event for the 2022 convention if the Y.C.C. supports. Motion was 2 nd by Charlie Brown. Motion approved on a voice vote	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
The committee Chairman will contact Kyle Zenz the Y.C.C. coordinator to if there is support for the event and will advise the committee.	D.L.C. Meeting	

K: S.C.T.P. UPDATE

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Scott Gunderson gave an update on the current status of the Scholastic Clay Target Program. Scott reported that Wisconsin is number two in the country in participation and is number one in growth. There are 420 school districts in the state so more growth is possible. Most teams are supported by local gun clubs. Currently there are 130 teams with about 3500 participants in the state. Wisconsin also had the highest number of participants at the nationals in Ohio. The state shoot at Rome includes trap and skeet. Doubles and handicap events have been added. He also reported that the Scholastic Shooting program is also expanding. This program is the rifle and pistol equivalent of the S.C.P.T. There is only one bunker trap in the state and a new one has been installed in Racine County, with a second one under consideration.	
ACTION	Informational update	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

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L: COMMITTEE DIRECTION

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	The committee chairman asked if the members had any suggestions for future committee actions or agenda items. Scott Gunderson commented that as a committee we were moving in the right direction. Steve Ninneman suggested that we should put some emphasis on Hunter education issues at future meetings	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

M: NR 45.095

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	NR 45.095 covers a list of general rules of conduct at shooting ranges. Bob Nack reported that the department is looking to establish a list of stakeholder groups willing to participate in discussions on NR 45.095. They are looking at possible changes to keep ranges safer There were no specific changes suggested at this time. Scott Gunderson commented that language in NR 45.095 is pretty straight forward and has been in place a long time,	
ACTION	The committee chairman requested that committee members review the text of NR 45.095 and forward their comments or suggestions for participants to Emily lehl or Bob Nack.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Committee members.		

N: Future Meetings

DISCUSSION	The Committee Chairman reported that he encountered many conflicts with meeting scheduling for this year. Fall hunting, other meetings, and personal issues made a date hard to establish were there would be enough members present. He asked if there was a major problem with holding this meeting in November or later provided there are no resolutions to consider? He also stated his position that he would prefer in person at a Range location. Steve Ninneman stated that he is comfortable with later dates. He would like to meet at Ranges that have issues so we can see the problems first hand. Bill Lorenz commented that he would like to schedule after deer season.	
ACTION	None Specific at this time	

III MEMBER MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Harold Drake asked for support for his Gun Safety in Schools resolution that passed as a spring hearing Question by a 2 to one margin. He is looking for ideas on how to move it forward. Steve Ninneman voiced concern about the current direction that hunter safety is going in. Would like to see a return to in person spring hearings and annual convention. Important feedback on issues is being lost without in person. Gary Schwoch commented about frustration over hunter education. Groups/individuals no longer interested in participating. Scott Gunderson commented that as individuals and committee members we need to continue to do all we can to support shooting sports at all levels. Emily lehl commented that she is looking forward to getting back to in person meetings at all levels when possible. Gary Dieck commented that he is pleased to see some movement on the Gun Safety in the school's initiative. Kari Zimmerman commented that people are pretty evenly split on in person meetings. More people are preferring meetings without driving long distances. The intent moving forward is a return to in person district meetings and D.L.C. meetings as well as Spring hearings and delegate elections.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion to adjourn by Scott Gunderson. 2nd by Charlie Brown. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.
SUBMITTED BY	Minutes by Committee Chairman Harold Drake
DATE	11/21/21

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