



2022 Spring Hearing Online Input FAQ

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will once again hold the Spring Hearings online. The public will continue to have the opportunity to provide input on the natural resources advisory questions from the DNR, Natural Resources Board (NRB) and WCC through the online input option. In addition, the WCC will be accepting resolutions submitted by citizens utilizing an online submittal form.

- **Who can participate in the Spring Hearings?**

Anyone can provide input on the 2022 Spring Hearing questions. Just as anyone can attend a Spring Hearing and provide input when they are held in person, anyone can utilize the online option. There is no age or residency requirement for providing input through this process. For security, and to ensure the integrity of the results, individuals will be required to sign in to use the online version, just as they are required to sign in if they attended a hearing in person.

- **How do I find the online input option?**

The link will be placed on the DNR's Spring Hearing webpage and can be found at dnr.wi.gov by searching "Spring Hearings."

- **How do I provide input using the online option?**

The online form is being run through SurveyMonkey. Once you sign in, simply read and follow the directions carefully.

- **When can I provide my input online?**

The link will "go live" on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM and will remain open for three days (until 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 14). Each person can provide input once for each of the survey questions.

- **What if people try to provide their input multiple times and "sway" the feedback?**

We have security systems in place to identify these issues and will continuously monitor the online input system for intentional misuse. The DNR and the WCC will analyze the data and consider any inappropriate attempts to influence the outcome when they interpret this input.

- **What about WCC delegate elections?**

The delegate elections will not be held at this time but interested individuals can fill out an application. Vacancies in a county can be filled by the WCC County Chair. If you are interested in filling a vacancy, please complete the application linked on the Spring Hearings website. The application process will close at midnight on March 11, 2022.

- **What devices can I use to provide input on the online form?**

SurveyMonkey is compatible with most cellular devices, tablets and computers. If you leave your session before completing the questions, you will need to continue your session using the same device, or your input may not be captured.

- **How long will it take to provide my input?**

If you want to provide input on all the questions, we recommend that you set aside at least 20-30 minutes to complete the online form in one sitting, though having more time may be beneficial particularly if you haven't read the background information ahead of time.

- **Do I have to provide input on all the questions?**

Again this year you have the option to answer "NO OPINION" to most of the questions. If you do not have a preference or opinion on the issue, we'd prefer you indicate that by marking "NO OPINION" instead of leaving it blank

because it gives us better data to analyze (we don't have to make as many assumptions about why the question may have been skipped). However, if you do not answer all the questions, your response will still be counted.

- **What should I do if I do not have time to finish the form in one sitting?**

If you cannot finish in one sitting, SurveyMonkey will retain your answers through that point. Upon your return you can complete the survey. Your answers will not be collected until you click the submit button at the end of the form.

- **When will results be available?**

We don't have definitive answer for this. The online input option will be available for three days, and our ability to compile, analyze and report the input, while monitoring the data for intentional improper influences will depend largely on the volume of input we receive. Be assured that they will be posted on the Spring Hearing website as soon as they are available.

- **In the online option, why are you asking me where I recreate most?**

People often recreate in multiple locations and may spend most of their "outdoors" time in a county other than where they live. The online version allows us the opportunity to ask and gather some additional (optional) demographic information which may be used as context to assist the DNR and the WCC when interpreting the input received.

- **What should I do if I received an error when trying to open the online form?**

SurveyMonkey should be compatible with all mainstream internet browsers, however, they suggest using some over others. If you should receive an error opening the link, please try using a different internet browser. SurveyMonkey suggests:

- Google Chrome 18 or later
- Firefox 24 or later
- Internet Explorer 11
- Safari 7 or later
- Microsoft Edge