



Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
 Mississippi River Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

**WCC Meeting Minutes**

Form 8300-026 (R 08/23) Page 1 of 10

<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	10/11/2023	6:30PM	ZOOM
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**I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by	Michael Britton	at	6:33PM
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**B. ROLL CALL**

ATTENDEES	Mike Britton, Marc Schultz, Tom Schwefel, Bill Koller, Jason Brazzle, Travis Burce, Charles Gauger, Wes Domine, Dan Heidel, Wayne Stietz, Reed Kabelowsky
EXCUSED	Robert Wincek, Larry Dobbe, Ed Peters, Dave Zielke, Maurice Amundson, David Simonson
UNEXCUSED	Steve Ricleff
GUESTS	DNR: Kari Lee-Zimmermann, Bob Jumbek, Jordan Weeks, Jerome Donahoe (WCC) Public: Dave Koonce, Dustin Collins, Terry Frey, Pete Jopke

**C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR**

DISCUSSION SUMMARY	Agenda was discussed. The amended agenda was introduced with the 24 hour timeline. Reed thanks those involved for getting the YCC item on the agenda.
COMMITTEE ACTION	Motion by Reed Kabelowsky and 2nd by Dan Heidel to accept the amended agenda as posted on the website - carried.

**D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT**

DISCUSSION SUMMARY	Reed Kabelowsky read the mission statement from the website.
COMMITTEE ACTION	Motion by Wes Domine and 2nd by Reed Kabelowsky to approve the mission statement as posted/read - carried.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1.	<p>COMMENTOR (NAME; AFFILIATION, IF APPLICABLE)</p> <p>My name is Dave Koonce, I live in Prairie du Chien Wi and I have been fishing the backwaters of the Mississippi River since i was a youngster back in the late 60's.</p> <p>The concerns I have with the Airboat Guides are,</p> <p>Once they find an area that the fish are at, they completely tear up the ice at the boat landing making it impossible for other anglers to safely get out onto the ice and fish, most all landings I have been to they do not just use one lane but use the whole landing access busting up the ice over the complete access.</p> <p>I have personally watched the Airboat Guides shuttle a minimum of 10 and I have personally counted 22 fishermen in one outing. This is happening each day until they pretty much wipe out the area or areas of fish schools then they move onto the next.</p> <p>Last ice season I had a discussion with one of the guides that told me that in the past week his clients took out approximately 4000 perch in one location across from Ferryville Wi</p> <p>Last ice season 3 of us were ice fishing on pool 9 and saw a guide that had 14 clients out across from the New Albin Boat Landing. We were fishing in a different location when he started to shuttle his clients in our direction... 500 yards away from us... little by little a couple of his helpers started moving closer and closer to us until they were pretty much right ontop of us... We watched his clients all take their limits this day. He came to this location 3 more days in a row that I know of, taking limits for all his clients each day. I approached him asking him kindly that he not abuse this location. His reply was that he was not on fish and that he was booked full for several days in advance.</p> <p>I have met guides now coming from as far Port Clinton Ohio and Green Bay to cash in on these trips. I think most of the guides are coming from the La Crosse area and I don't have the answers but I am asking for your help before this fisheree is taken advantage of and the trophy fishing is gone?</p> <p>Some of us have put together a few ideas to help protect this fisheree for the future generations to enjoy..</p>
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	<p>1. Limit the number of guides per pool So many guiding permits per pool and per season open water and ice. Or the number of anglers each guide license can take per day.</p> <p>2. Lower the limit for the perch both during the open water season and ice season.</p> <p>3. Putting a slot limit on the perch population. Like each angle can keep 10 perch a day but only 2 of the 10 can be over 13” to help grow them into trophy fish. (Like what we are currently doing with our walleye population on the river and i am already seeing the success of this )</p> <p>Dave Koonce 37728 Hwy 18 Lot 8 Prairie du Chien Wi 53821 dndkoonce@gmail.com 6084123565</p>
TOPIC OF COMMENT	

2. COMMENTOR (NAME; AFFILIATION, IF APPLICABLE)	Dustin Collins
TOPIC OF COMMENT	<p>Hi, my name is Dustin Collins, I am writing you this email out of concern for our public fishery. I am concerned about the number of guides and the impact they have on the Mississippi River - especially the ones that are targeting the perch population both ice fishing and open water fishing.</p> <p>Pools 8 and 9 on the Mississippi have become a trophy destination for giant perch and numbers. However, more and more guides are coming in and decimating these spots in a matter of days. I don't want to not have guides; I understand we need them and the economic impact for the river towns. I have witnessed several guides bringing up to 15 fishermen out in airboats a day, with each fisherman taking their 25 or 15 (Minnesota license) panfish limit a day. Buckets of world class perch being taken each day for a week until they are gone. Then they move to the next hole and so on.</p> <p>I have met guides now coming from as far Port Clinton, Ohio and Green Bay to cash in on these trips. Lacrosse and other areas around here have guides as well.</p> <p>I don't have the answers but I am asking for your opinion on how much longer can this fishery go on with it being taken advantage of before the trophy fishing is gone?</p> <p>I have caught and released a number of fish over 14” last year personally but notice the impact these guides are having on it just within a day of fishing when they bring 15 guys, and all keep their limit.</p> <p>I have a few ideas that maybe help this fishery last for years to come as a trophy perch destination and would like your opinion:</p> <p>Limit the number of guides per pool (like what outfitters on public land out west have to do) So many guiding permits per pool and per season open water and ice. Or the number of anglers each guide license can take per day.</p> <p>Lower the limit for the perch both during the open water season and ice season.</p> <p>Putting a slot limit on the perch population. Like each angle can keep 10 perch a day but only 2 of the 10 can be over 13” to help grow them into trophy fish. (Like what we are currently doing with our walleye population on the river and it's been extremely successful)</p> <p>Regulate an off limit during the spring spawn?</p> <p>These are just a few Ideas that I have and would like your input. I would like to see these pools continue to be a world class fishery, but am very concerned about losing it if it continues with the abuse of the day-to-day trips of 15 guys with limits. I am just worried that in 2 years the impact that it will have from what I already noticed on just a few days of what they have done.</p> <p>I am open for some insight that you may have on these concerns, and I appreciate your time reading this email. Feel free to email or call my cell 608-778-3339.</p> <p>Dustin Collins</p>

	<p>Dustin Collins Power Sports Sales Manager Prairie Du Chien, WI O: (608)326-5649 F: (608)326-1352 Dustin.Collins@cabelas.com</p>
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3.	COMMENTOR (NAME; AFFILIATION, IF APPLICABLE)	Pete Jopke
	TOPIC OF COMMENT	<p>Dear Wisconsin Conservation Congress Mississippi River Advisory Committee:</p> <p>I am writing in support of the guided airboat resolutions up for discussion at your October 11, 2023 meeting.</p> <p>My professional career involves almost 33 years of direct work in the water resources profession. Includes aquatic plant management, habitat restoration, fisheries management, invasive species and monitoring aquatic ecosystems. I am an avid angler and have been drawn to the Mississippi River since my days as a student at UW Lacrosse in the 1980's.</p> <p>The resolutions proposed are undoubtedly aimed at the overall safety of the clients who contract with the guides for a day of fishing. Shuttling of patrons ultimately creates risks for those left unattended on a number of fronts. There are also some additional factors that should be considered as we see more and more guides coming to the upriver pools especially during the winter months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Require limiting guides to 4 persons/day per boat (as stated in resolutions)</li> <li>· Consider requiring catch records as is done with Great Lakes Charter Captains. This may aid biologists in continuing to evaluate harvest data.</li> <li>· Cap the number of guides per pool as there is with duck hunting. Remember they are utilizing a public resource for profit.</li> <li>· Work with Iowa DNR on coordination of bag limits similar to what Wisconsin and Minnesota have done.</li> <li>· Exploitation of pan fish can happen on the river. Studies have shown that backwater areas are key overwintering spots. Fish seek out low flow and oxygen rich areas. These populations will congregate in these areas making them extremely vulnerable to angling pressure. With access limited to the average angler, limiting clients to 4 on airboat clients will reduce potential over harvest.</li> </ul> <p>In closing I appreciate the Congress taking up this issue. I am not at all against the guides and their ability to put many first time or inexperienced anglers on the fish. I also understand they have much time and financial resources invested and should be rightly compensated for their efforts.</p> <p>However, what we are now seeing is an inundation of "new" guides who are into the business of capitalizing on a public resources. Add in the nonstop posting on social media with "limits" and outdoor TV personalities doing multiple shows and you have a recipe for disaster. The old saying, "loose lips sinks ships" is happening now. Anything that can be done to save the river gold is a first step in the right direction.</p> <p>Pete Jopke Mazomanie, WI</p>

4.	COMMENTOR (NAME; AFFILIATION, IF APPLICABLE)	Terry Frey
	TOPIC OF COMMENT	<p>Michael &amp; Mark Capt. Terry Frey here from Ultimate Outdoors Radio LLC</p>

I am writing you today to express my thoughts for the upcoming Zoom Meeting regarding Guides and Ice fishing on the Big River.

Let me start off by saying I am a licensed Coast Guard Captain and have been enjoying the river the last 45 years through past guiding, tournaments, and waterfowl hunting. My wife is from Lacrosse and we have a get away cabin in Lynxville Wisconsin for the past 20 years.

Before I get into my comments I will say we are losing the Tranquility of the River thru exploitation of a public resource!

Here are a few of my comments regarding Ice Guiding Shuttle Boats.

The first item that is heavily addressed during a Coast Guard Captains Course is the safety of your clients when on the water. That is why you have to pass a physical and be competent to perform a rescue of a person or persons in an emergency situation. When guides are just shuffling clients to a specified area of the river all day long their clients are basically left alone for many periods of time throughout the day. What happens if clients fall thru the ice or have a major health problem with no rescue gear available and no shuttle service available because of an absent guide?

Sooner or later there will be a drowning on an ever changing river with current, or a death from a health reason with no help around.

With the popularity of a perch population explosion guides are coming from different states to mop up on the frenzy of cash flowing to guides. I have witnessed many lakes overrun with guides when a lake or river is at the peak of their fish populations. For instance Lake Wisconsin in Columbia County had its crappie and walleye populations devastated by so-called traveling guides.

Now they are all gone to another body of water!

Are daily limits of fish and income reported to refuge managers for monitoring fish populations throughout the year which I believe was mandatory when the limiting of waterfowl guides discussion came up on the refuge several years ago. Waterfowl guides numbers are limited on the refuge unless that has changed.

You will find with some research hundreds of people are disgusted with the abuse on a public resource like the Mississippi River Ecosystem. Boat landings are over run with no parking available because of the guides being able to shuttle hundreds of people per day and eventually destroying the perch fishery.

I have watched many families with kids who want an outing on the ice struggle to drag gear and kids 1/4 of a mile on a busy road because of packed boat landings. Very dangerous!

Years ago the perch fishing craze wiped out the perch population on Lake Mendota in Dane County and has taken twenty years to finally see some perch again. This will happen on the Mississippi River and I don't believe it will take long with thousands of perch of all sizes harvested everyday.

A friend talk to a guide last year and he stated his clients had taken 4000 perch so far that season. Please research Kentucky and how they manage their trophy crappie populations. They do this by a slot selection to protect the spawning females' and also the smaller perch that will be a future harvest for fisherman. Kentucky suggests fisherman use a funnel like tool for exact measuring of a fish, with the protected fish sizes scribed onto the so-called funnel. Slide fish in and either keep the fish if legal or just dump fish in water. No handling required!!

Lets Save This Resource Before Its To Late!

In Closing I hope the Congress consults the refuge managers, the local wardens, the local fisherman and reaches out to us that have commented if they would need more info or on site visits to help move some new management laws for our Big River. Several people commenting including our wardens have access to air boats for ice travel.

Thanks for your time and effort on this matter which I call an emergency situation to manage one of the best and very rare ecosystems in the United States.

I will be logged into your Zoom Meeting

Thanks for your efforts!

Capt. T Frey

Capt. Terry Frey  
Ultimate Outdoors Radio™ LLC

**II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS**

A. Citizen Resolution - 060123 - Restrict Guided Ice fishing with Airboats

Mike Britton

CHECK ONE	<input checked="" type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] OR <input type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	<p>Citizen Resolution # 060123</p> <p>Restrict Guided Ice Fishing With Airboats                  Many recent days of ice fishing the Mississippi River backwaters near Nelson WI I have encountered ice fishing guides taking out as many as 20 people every day by airboat. They transport them out and charge \$200/day/person. 20 people/day is \$4000/day per airboat that they are making off a public resource. Should we let guides make this much money off public resources at the expense of our future generations of fishermen? People are not allowed to log trees off public ground to make money.                  I am 58 years old and like to fish. I don't care if I catch any more fish but I am worried that there will be no fish left for future generations! The guide that I encountered is booked almost every day throughout the winter. If these guides take 20 people per day and the fish are biting they will take 300 fish per day (15 per day limit on perch) and over 7 days that is 2100 fish. At that rate it would not take long to severely wipe out the fish population in an area. The guide will move on and ruin the next lake. What would happen if other guides started up in that area? I saw a guide spread out tip downs for 20 people and cover a huge area leaving no place to fish. The fish there will be gone before long. I saw the guide get in a disagreement with a fishermen because the fishermen went in between his tip downs of his customers. The fishermen complained he couldn't fish anywhere because of the huge area the guide covered.                  Do we want our lakes to be depleted of fish populations for years to come as a result of these guide practices?                  Summer guided fishing means boat fishing. You can usually only get about 4 people in a boat. So you are only guiding 4 people a day. Ice fishing you can take as many as you want. Just keep hauling people out and making lots of money at the expense of a public resource.                  We are letting ice fishing guides ruin a public resource and our fish populations for future generations by not limiting the number of people they can guide per day.                  Do you support the WCC work with the DNR and other agencies to limit airboat ice fishing guides to guide up to 4 people a day per guide business; except on Lake Winnebago, Lake Michigan, and Lake Superior?                  Additional Information provided by author:                  Submitting Author:                  Don Black                  W2277 Thibodeau Rd                  Durand, WI 54736                  (715) 533-2678                  don@blacksvallyag.com                  Buffalo County</p> <p>Discussion/Question:                  Buffalo county several members indicated that they have seen and heard of similar issues with guides with large customer groups, shuttling, and usage of airboats and associated airboats.</p> <p>Jordan Weeks (DNR): indicated that he has heard of these things too. Jordan stated that the department has been reviewing guide license and the involved issues/aspects. Question was asked if DNR is seeing the results of this high pressure fishing – no hard data on this as the river is such a vast resource. Jordan indicated that the guides remaining with their clients is a factor that can be assessed by the department. Size limits, etc. would be much harder to assess. Q (Mike B) – Can anything be done to compel guides to be more responsible. JW: tie items/factors to guide licenses is a tangible course of action. Something from the committee would be great. Travis B: some personal airboats being used as well – not all guides. Wardens have been checking these issues. Reed K: Mentioned that other guide related complaints have come through the WCC – gifting of guide caught fish. Need to hold guides accop9untable while them to make a living. Tom S: Does not agree with tying all of this to use of airboats – many other modes of transport. Stricter guidelines is key. Dan H: More issues involved in this draft than just airboats. Agrees with JW and tying it to license guidelines. Would like committee to rewrite resolution in committee. Marc S: Likes discussion of committee. Also spoke of uses of today's great technology. Believes the shuttling is a large issue and is key to resolution. Wes D: Spoke of importance of bring something forward even if it is not perfect. Need to get something outthere and not to reject and do nothing. Dave K. (allowed to speak) 0 Diud agree that airboats can save lives as well as ruin ice conditions. Dustin C. (allowed to speak) – Tie restriction on client numbers to capacity plat on transportation.</p> <p>Lengthy discussion</p>	
COMMITTEE ACTION	Motion by Tom Schwefel and 2nd by Marc Schultz to reject the resolution as written - motion to reject was carried (one dissent)	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)
Reed will call the authors and discuss the commitee drafting a resolution to replace		Will work on this week.

**B. Citizen resolution - 420223 - Fishing Guide Client Safety**

Mike Britton

CHECK ONE	<input checked="" type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] OR <input type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	<p>Citizen Resolution # 420223</p> <p>fishing guide client safety As ice fishing in Wisconsin comes to a close for the season, I think that patrons of ice fishing guides could use some help. Here on the Mississippi river, the local guides leave clients stranded on the ice while they make multiple trips in their airboats and utvs to bring more fishermen out. What would happen if the transportation broke down and was not able to return to pick the fishermen up or there was some kind of medical emergency? I think it would be a good safety measure to implement a rule that states that if a guide shuttles a fishermen to a spot by any vehicular means, that vehicle must stay with the fishermen at all times. Would you support a resolution that requires fishing guides to keep their mode of transportation that transported the fishermen with said fishermen at all times? Additional Information provided by author: Submitting Author: Stan VonRuden 12790 cth f Norwalk, WI 54648 (608) 632-0616 vranch4@centurytel.net Monroe County</p> <p>Discussion: Brief discussion carry over from first resolution. Dan H: Guides and public usages has large differences. Guides have compelling obligation to client safety. Reed K: Some popularity and enforcement issues – guides running to get bait or lunch for clients. Tom S: Agrees – but guides run to get something and bring out 4 more clients. Wes D: Can't continue to pick everything apart on a resolution. Mike B: disagrees with blind support on a resolution. This committee has done a great job of discussion on the topic and have agreed to work in committee on resolutions. Wes D: Mentioned the personal bait usage – this in process – pending with minor v. major changes possible.</p> <p>Plans were made to have a follow up meeting in November to do business just on the resolutions. 1 Client Safety. 2. Committee resolution (replacing rejected airboat resolution) 3. Railroad Crossing resolution.</p>	
COMMITTEE ACTION	Motion by Travis Burce and 2nd by Tom Schwefel to advance/forward this resolution as written - carried 6-3 vote.	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)
Reed to contact and work with author		Will work on this week.

**C. Department updates**

Jordan Weeks/Bob Jumbek

CHECK ONE	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] OR <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	<p>Staffing -fully staffed for the first time since August, 2022 Brian and Kevin in Alma Jeff, KP, Evan, Trevor in LAX Patrick, Jess in PDC</p> <p>Invasive carp</p> <p>March 13, 2020 The DNR identified 39 silver carp and 11 grass carp caught in Pool 8 of the Mississippi, just south of La Crosse, and one silver carp caught in Pool 6, about 20 miles farther upstream. • The DNR is an active partner in the Upper Mississippi River Invasive Carp Workgroup. The group includes representatives from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and several federal agencies.</p> <p>April, 2022 The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and neighboring state and federal agencies will conduct an intensive invasive carp removal effort in Pool 8 of the Mississippi River near La Crosse beginning April 5. The innovative Modified Unified Method (MUM) combines netting and herding techniques to drive and concentrate invasive carp from a large area of water into a small zone for removal. Thirty-four silver carp were captured during the first MUM operation in the same locations in April.</p> <p>October, 2022 Second MUM Event Although seven silver carp were observed jumping out of the sampling area, no invasive carp were captured during the October removal using MUM. Thirty-four silver carp were captured during the first MUM operation in the same locations in April. In addition, the October invasive carp removal produced hundreds of native fish in each of five locations along the river. The...</p>	

**D. USFWS Report** [PRESENTER]

CHECK ONE	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] <b>OR</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	No report available	
COMMITTEE ACTION	No action needed	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)

**E. US Army Corp** [PRESENTER]

CHECK ONE	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] <b>OR</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	No report available.	
COMMITTEE ACTION	No action needed	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)

**F. Navigation Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP)** Marc Schultz

CHECK ONE	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] <b>OR</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	Funded currently at \$100 million. Blueprint from another separate program. These folks are trying to forge ahead in a vast resource with vast issues and challenges.	
COMMITTEE ACTION	No action needed	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)

**G. River System impacts from 2023 flood/drought** Marc Schultz

CHECK ONE	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] <b>OR</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	2023 was a very unique year – 3rd largest flood in history affected and already challenged resource. This was followed by some notable droughts in some areas. This has had good and bad effects on the river. Difficult on programs and resources.	
COMMITTEE ACTION	No action needed	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)

**H. Update on Mississippi River Restoration Program** Marc Schultz

CHECK ONE	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] <b>OR</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	This program is moving along well. Challenges with cost with rapidly rising ezpenses challenge budgets. Resource conflicts – especially between people and resources.	
COMMITTEE ACTION	No action needed	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)

**I. Invasive Species Update**

[PRESENTER]

CHECK ONE	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] OR <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	This was covered by Jordan Weeks. Continuing to battle and assess the invasion of Asian carp into the system. Reports of Bighead, Silver, and Grass Carp are known.	
COMMITTEE ACTION	No action needed	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)

**J. Surface Water use impacts**

Marc Schultz

CHECK ONE	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] OR <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	Wake boat issue was discussed briefly. This not just a river issue. Vast amounts of bilge/ballast water are taken into these boats and it cannot all be emptied without much work. This is a large risk for spreading invasives as well as riparian and riverbed destruction.	
COMMITTEE ACTION	No action needed	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)

**K. Status of fish overwintering areas**

Marc Schultz

CHECK ONE	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] OR <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	<p>Overwintering sites are unique in that they have the right water depth, water temperature, adequate dissolved oxygen, and very importantly about .05 feet per second of water flow.</p> <p>Lake fish (sunfish, bluegill, bass and crappie etc.) have a significantly reduced metabolism in winter and do not do well in areas with too much flow.</p> <p>In 2019 the river had very high flows all winter which had a number of significant impacts on river fish and wildlife including reduced or significantly compromised overwintering areas. Some fish use the same overwintering areas year after year. I do not know of good overwintering habitat that is short on fish in the winter. Loss of overwintering habitat can be related to the aging of the river pools as they fill with sediment and flows change.</p> <p>Increased flows and sediment filling overwintering sites are critical factors for fish to survive winter. Spring, summer and fall habitat are important, however overwintering habitat is key to fish population survival. Dredging can be a very important tool in rehabilitating overwintering areas.</p> <p>Three overwintering areas on Lake Onalaska that have been impacted are Sail Boat Club Bay, Upper Brice Prairie Channel and Fisherman's Road.</p> <p>Projects to improve overwintering habitat in those areas have been proposed for funding but are still in the queue awaiting agency action.</p> <p>Marc Sailboat club bay is directly adjacent to Nelson Park not far from the La Crosse airport.</p>	
COMMITTEE ACTION	No action needed	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)

**L. Status of Mississippi River Flood Plain Forestry**

Marc Schultz/Wes Domine

CHECK ONE	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] OR <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	Very challenging issue. Floods and droughts often set back progress made. Leaner trees fall down over time and expose roots that can then be washed away. Roots do not hold soil in place well. A program to cut some of these trees would allow roots to stay in place and grasses to grow to hold soil in place. Big wakes are another serious issue to damaged shorelines further deteriorating banks compromised by falling trees. Beavers also become an issue and set back much of the forestry efforts. Beavers like trees like black oaks that are desirable residents of this system.	
COMMITTEE ACTION	No action needed	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)

**M. Sauger recruitment - 15" size limit suggested to increase sauger recruitment**

Travis Burce

CHECK ONE	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] OR <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	We have experienced 20 years of concern. Sauger recruitment is not good. Looking for management to make effective changes. Suggestion to have a 15" limit or 1/day limit. With info from other states what are your thoughts Jordan? JW: would need more info from all across the river sphere. Does not agree with 15" as Sauger growths are very slow – this would be unrealistic for Sauger. Need more info on age v. growth rates. Feels (gut feeling) that a 12" might be in the ballpark. Sauger can have one spawn season before 12". Mike B: Take away deep areas below dams? JW: This would be an enforcement nightmare. Jordan indicates he has to look closer at the data to answer these questions.	
COMMITTEE ACTION	No action needed	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)

**N. Moment of silence for former river partner - Rick Wayne**

All

CHECK ONE	<input type="radio"/> [ACTION ITEM] OR <input checked="" type="radio"/> [INFORMATION ITEM]	
DISCUSSION SUMMARY	Rick was a passionate and knowledgeable individual for the river. Mike offered and acclamation of Ricks activities on the committee and on behalf of the river. Reed indicated that the YCC newsletter featured an acclamation of Rick's work in youth areas.	
COMMITTEE ACTION	No action needed	
FOLLOW UP ACTION & PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)		DEADLINE (if applicable)

**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

DISCUSSION SUMMARY	Rick was a passionate and knowledgeable individual for the river. Mike offered and acclamation of Ricks activities on the committee and on behalf of the river. Reed indicated that the YCC newsletter featured an acclamation of Rick's work in youth areas.Rick was a passionate and knowledgeable individual for the river. Mike offered and acclamation of Ricks activities on the committee and on behalf of the river. Reed indicated that the YCC newsletter featured an acclamation of Rick's work in youth areas.Rick was a passionate and knowledgeable individual for the river. Mike offered and acclamation of Ricks activities on the committee and on behalf of the river. Reed indicated that the YCC newsletter featured an acclamation of Rick's work in youth areas.Rick was a passionate and knowledgeable individual for the river. Mike offered and acclamation of Ricks activities on the committee and on behalf of the river. Reed indicated that the YCC newsletter featured an acclamation of Rick's work in youth areas.Rick was a passionate and knowledgeable individual for the river. Mike offered and acclamation of Ricks activities on the committee and on behalf of the river. Reed indicated that the YCC newsletter featured an acclamation of Rick's work in youth areas.
COMMITTEE ACTION	Committee is working on finding resources for the YCC Summer program.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED	<b>Motion by Dan Heidel and 2nd by Marc Schultz to adjourn at 9:31PM - carried.</b>
SUBMITTED BY	<b>Reed Kabelowsky</b>
DATE	<b>10/14/2023</b>

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	[Committee Chair]
DATE*	[Date]
<b>*Must be approved within 14 days of meeting</b>	