

2024 Spring Hearing Online and In-Person Input FAQ

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will once again hold the Spring Hearings the second week of April. 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 (April 10-13) and an in-person option (April 8). 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 2024 Spring Hearing questions. 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 DNR/WCC Spring Hearings in person.

How do I find the online input option?

The link will be placed on the WCC and 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 an online survey tool. Once you sign in, simply read, and follow the directions carefully.

When can I provide my input online?

The link will "go live" on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 12:00 PM and will remain open for 72 hours until 12:00 PM on Saturday, April 13, 2024. 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.

When can I provide my input in-person?

All 72 counties will have an in-person Spring Hearing on Monday, April 8, 2024, and will provide an in-person option to provide input at that time.

What about WCC delegate elections?

Delegate elections will be held in each county at the in person WCC Spring Hearings which will occur on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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

The online survey tool 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.

For the in-person input we are anticipating a couple of 20 minutes to a couple of hours depending on questions and discussion that occur during the reading of the questions.

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. If you have issues or trouble with the online input form, please email staff at SpringHearingInfo@Wisconsin.gov.

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

If you cannot finish in one sitting, the online tool 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.

In-person input must be completed and submitted the night of the Spring Hearings on Monday, April 8, 2024.

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. We will also be collecting the in-person input from all 72 counties and will need to compile, analyze and report that input in conjunction with the online input. 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?

The online tool 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. The online tool suggests:

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