

MEETING MINUTES
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 31, 2017
FITCHBURG SERVICE CENTER- GATHERING WATERS
3911 FISH HATCHERY ROAD, MADISON, 53714

Members Present: John Martinson, Jim Rutledge, Kirsten Engel, Cathryn Scott, Joe Greene, John Mitchell and Keith Pamperin

Members Conferencing: Monica Kamal and Steve Johnson

Others Present: Nick Zouski and Julie Amakobe

Others Conferencing: Barry Gilbeck, Chris Thielman, and Matt OBrien

Guests: Charlie Slater and Pamela Davies of Harvey Allen Outdoors showcasing its Platinum Blind Hunting Shack

Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Introductions were done for our guests.

First the Council reviewed the agenda.

John Martinson had received an e-mail from a person that was applying for a disabled permit. John had the e-mail from him and wanted this item added to the agenda. This item will get placed at the customer service update section.

Jim made a motion to accept the agenda with changes. Joe seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next, the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from December 16, 2016.

Joe made a motion to accept the minutes. Cathryn seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The next agenda item was the Wicked Freedom presentation on hunting blinds. Mr. Slater mentioned his company utilized all of what Anthonette Gilpatrick sent to them for the design and her other suggestions. He is a member of Whitetails Unlimited. In the winter of 2014 Harvey Allen Outdoors was approached by the local chapter of Whitetails Unlimited to bid out a hunting blind for disabled hunters. There were no specs available for building a wheelchair accessible hunting blind with ramp requirements, door size and window height being the main issues. It took 15 months of research and design until the final design was determined. While in the design phase, a disabled veteran was invited to the shop and spent time going over the design. The veteran became really excited about the project and thanked the group for doing this. That was the time when the company decided to focus the effort on disabled veterans and came up with the Wicked Freedom Project.

There are 3.5 million disabled veterans in the US with thousands of them mobility impaired hunters right here in Wisconsin. There are thousands more disabled and ageing sportsmen and women. Again, the final specs were completed per Anthonette's guidance. In 2015 the company produced and installed its first ADA compliant hunting blind. The Burnett County chapter of Whitetails Unlimited raised dollars through grants and fundraising to build and install four Freedom Shacks at Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. Three were installed in 2016 and the fourth will be installed this year. Their vision is to see Freedom Shack built and installed throughout Wisconsin on public lands accessible to all hunters with need. The price tag for the Freedom Shack is about \$6,500 delivered and installed and is designed to last 30 to 50 years.

Pam went over the company's goals. It contacted various organizations and government officials and received praise and encouragement, but not funding offers. Governor Walker suggested the DNR would be a good fit for the project. Anthonette had indicated that Wisconsin DNR would be happy to find locations for any units, but had no funds to offer and no information on where the units would go. Having official support for the project from the Wisconsin DNR and the Disabilities Advisory Council, and knowing where the units will go ahead of fundraising will help with the efforts. Mr. Slater is working on establishing the Wicked Freedom Foundation, a 501 (3) c to take over manufacturing for the Freedom Shack to be completed in the next few months and then do a "go Fund Me". Once the non-profit has been approved it can work with veterans' groups and organizations at the local, state and national levels, including the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks and more chapters of Whitetails Unlimited. The non-profit will need connections to DNR Property Managers. The non-profit would like the database of DNR property/land managers and the Friends' organizations.

The company also wants the DAC to endorse its product. As mentioned by the DAC members and liaisons, the DNR must be cautious regarding endorsing a certain product. Once the company has been approved for a non-profit, it won't be an issue. Kirsten asked what the mission was of the non-profit. The answer was "to put as many of the freedom shacks throughout the US, starting with Wisconsin".

Joe Greene made a motion for the DAC to go on record supporting the work efforts of the Wicked Freedom Foundation and its determination to place accessible blinds throughout public lands in Wisconsin. Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Overall, the inside presentation was great! Next, the Council members went outside and toured the Freedom Shack that was brought to the service center so the Council could tour the blind. The Council members were very impressed with the hunting blind and made some suggestions for further enhancement.

Next on the agenda were the annual elections. Julie handed out ballots attending the meeting and those on the phone sent in their votes. John Martinson is the Chair and Kirsten Engel is the Vice Chair. Congratulations to both John and Kirsten!

Since the demonstration of the blind was completed ahead of schedule, the Council decided to move the Member's updates up to the time slot before lunch.

Cathryn - IL centers got new money for AT. She is looking to get a hand cycle and an adaptive kayak with accessories with the money. The American Canoe Association has grants to start and continue adaptive paddle clubs.

Keith - This Saturday (April 1st) is the Challenge the Outdoors sporting clay fundraising event. It is the only fundraising event they do all year. You can come and shoot or just watch and buy raffle tickets.

Jim - WI PV chapter is having a trap shoot the first weekend in August and will sponsor 15 youth ages 12-17 including 2 nights lodging. He went on an Outdoor Adventure trip in Wyoming and got an antelope. You can apply online, but they do have a waiting list now.

Monica - Accessibility WI has 4 outdoor track chairs with trailers that are available to check out. The spinal cord group has 3 hand cycles and 3 kayaks, one of which is a tandem. There is a conference May 6th – How to be the Future of Hunter Education. You can get more info at www.wheia.com.

Steve – NASA’s annual banquet is coming up. They have sold out all 650 tickets! They raise over \$200,000 at this event. NASA is doing more in the Tomah area with Vets. They have an annual turkey hunt and bass fishing tournament that they do with Vets.

John Martinson - Adaptive Sportsman has a turkey hunt May 12th and 13th up by Baraboo. On May 20th there will be a Fisheries at Tenney Park.

John M - Adaptive Sportsman is having a pheasant hunt in Kenosha County the first week of June. Check out the website for a schedule of all their events.

After lunch, the Council moved up the agenda item “other electronic calls”. The question being asked is could a hearing impaired person be allowed to use electronic calls for all types of hunting? The members questioned how this is affected by the Federal regulations. It was decided to wait until Matt OBrien from Law Enforcement joins the meeting.

Next on the agenda was the DAC meeting attendance. Chair Martinson led the discussion. Joe gave the example of his Board of Directors. He or any member of the Board would step down if he/she could not make the meeting or commitments. All members have the same objective to make Wisconsin even more accessible. John Martinson agreed with Joe’s comments. Even if a member had medical issues, the person might have to back off and step down. Jim said his Board had the policy that if a member had three (3) unexcused absences, the person was out. Cathryn indicated it takes a while to get up to speed on the various topics. Then when someone misses the meetings, that person can’t understand the issues. Monica said some members help by providing information and doing things for the council outside the meetings and this should count. Jim made the suggestion if a member misses 3 meetings in a year, he/she will be terminated. All members contributed to the discussions on this topic.

Kirsten made a motion that the DAC has expectations that a member will be present at the meetings with the accommodation of phoning in being allowed. Meetings will be established at the first meeting of the calendar year. If a member misses 2 meetings, then the Chairman will contact the person to discuss absences and indicate further absences will result in Council review and action. Joe seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next, the Council discussed term limits for the DAC. John Mitchell suggested a Member have two full three year terms and then leave the Council for one year and then reapply for another three year term. There was lots of discussion on this topic as well. Cathryn asked “If there a reason for the discussion on term limits? Is there a big demand to be on the DAC?” The answer was “Yes, there were several people who applied for the last three openings.” Because John Kocourek has resigned from the DAC, an opening is available for Keith to become a full-fledged member. This makes his alternate position open.

Joe made a motion to pick the next person on the list from before to be the alternate. John Mitchell seconded the motion for the alternate and all were in favor.

Monica suggested a sub-committee be formed and for this committee to bring back ideas regarding term limits. Joe then suggested that everyone put down pros and cons for having term limits. Joe will put together a cheat sheet of things to consider.

Joe made a motion to table the term limits and he will send out a sheet for pros and cons and a transition plan. Jim seconded the motion and all in favor.

The next agenda item was Customer Service and Licensing updates from Barry.

Legislative Updates

- One bill working through the legislature
 - o SB 46/AB 82 Turkey Permit for Resident Disabled Vets and Purple Heart recipients without entering the turkey drawing
 - Bill would require the department to issue wild turkey licenses and permits to \geq 50% disabled resident veterans and Purple Heart (R/NR) recipients without requiring they be issued pursuant to the cumulative preference system.
 - Public hearing held on 3/9/17
 - Currently it has passed out of committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry 3/23/17
 - If passed, it will take affect for the turkey season following passage

Jim asked if the disabled vet provision was for duty related disability. Barry answered that he was not sure if this was for service related disabilities or generally receiving 50% disability and he would need to check on it. Update to the minutes: The 50% or greater disability rating is for service-connected disabilities, just like the disabled veteran.

- One administrative rule change
 - o The provision to use an electronic turkey call is not a bill, but an administrative rule change proposal. It was included in Wildlife’s housekeeping rule that was approved by the NRB at their Dec. 2016 meeting. See attached summary with a link to the rule, including the paragraph at the end stating hunters need not carry documentation/proof from a medical professional, which is based on my communication with Wildlife and LE:

Allow the use of electronic turkey calls by people who are deaf

Administrative rule currently has an exception to the prohibition of using an electronic turkey call for those hunters who possess a Class A or Class B disabled hunting permit which authorizes hunting from a stationary vehicle and which is issued for more than one year. This rule change would add an exception for hunters who are “unable to proficiently use a turkey call because they are deaf or severely hard of hearing due to some pathological or functional cause as verified by a medical professional.” A hunter who meets the “unable to proficiently use a turkey call because they are deaf/severely hard of hearing” criteria is authorized to use an electronic turkey call without carrying documentation or proof they meet the criteria.

- Not in affect yet.
- Needs to pass legislative review and be signed by the Governor
 - May or may not be in place for this Spring

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearings April 10, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Information on some questions

- Authority for CDACs to extend deer seasons
- Ammunition restrictions
- Fisheries Questions
- Eliminating the Fall Turkey drawing
- Online Voter Accessibility
- Question #77 Class A assistance

Nick asked about other disabled permits for question #77 (allow the assistant of a person with a Class A hunting permit to pursue and dispatch an animal, if legally shot, wounded and subsequently tagged by the disabled hunter) and not just the Class A permit. Currently, the mentor of youth hunter can help the youth when asking in dispatching an animal. The answer from Barry was that the current question only mentions the Class A disability permit and no other permits. Also, John Martinsen indicated that it was meant to include the other permits and would if it was moved forward in the Conservation Congress process.

It was at this time that John Martinson brought up his issue from a person applying for a disabled permit. John will forward the e-mail to Barry. Barry will respond to the e-mail and get back to John.

License sales for 2017 began on March 8.

Left-Over Turkey Sales

- Sold March 20 – 24. Sales went well.
 - o Still remaining permits

	A April 19 - 25	B April 26 - May 2	C May 3 - 9	D May 10 - 16	E May 17 - 23	F May 24 - 30
Zone 1	0	0	0	2,209	10,161	11,756
Zone 2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zone 3	0	0	0	3,444	8,772	9,947
Zone 4	0	0	0	0	2,424	4,862
Zone 5	0	0	0	0	0	808
Zone 6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zone 7	0	0	0	0	0	0

Deer Carcass Tag Changes

- Remove bottom portion of the tag to validate the tag.
 - o Still need to register as before
- Handout provided that shows example of deer tags

Goose Validation Changes

- No longer need to mark a tag- call in harvest and register only

Next on the agenda was the update on the Eagle Tower at Peninsula State Park. DNR went out to bid for renderings. The successful consultant still has about 30 days to respond. The consultant is definitely addressing accessibility.

Next item on the agenda was the Disabled Permits Application Form led by Monica. Monica said doctors indicated that is very cumbersome. There are also HIPPA concerns. Monica went over her concerns that she had listed on a document distributed to everyone. Monica said in order to get a disabled fishing license, one needs to show their SSI document/letter and this cannot be done through the Internet (need to do in person). This reduced priced license is income based (SSI) and not disability related. This was confirmed. Jim gave the history of the disabled fishing license and explained the reduced fee fishing license is not necessarily based on being disabled, you have to be on SSI or SSDI in order to obtain a reduced fee fishing license. You can be a quad and not be eligible for a reduced fee fishing license if you are working and not receiving SSI or SSDI.

As a note to these minutes, the reduced fishing license used to be free at one time and then it changed due to the income DNR earned from the Feds on each license that it sold. This came about back in 1994 when the DNR requested the DAC to support a reduced fee fishing license which the DAC did because that would give the DNR revenues that they had not had previously had and with the revenues the DAC believed that the Council could lobby for more fishing access (accessible fishing sites and piers).

Chris Thielman spoke regarding the disabled permit application. A committee was formed to work on streamlining the application(s). He stated in 2013 he worked with late Tom Zimmer on the application revisions. Prior to this, DNR had several (six) disabled permit applications. Chris said DNR contacted 500 doctors to get input and received 200 responses. The doctors indicated they wanted something more streamlined. Six hundred fifty (650) applicants were surveyed in person or in e-mail regarding the applications. The committee took fourteen pages of the six disabled application forms and took the pertinent information from each form and boiled these applications down to two pages. Chris went over the four pages of the application form of which the two last pages are the physician's narrative (page 3) and descriptions of the different permits (page 4). Tom Zimmer wanted and got page four included. HIPPA was fully discussed amongst the doctors and not done in a vacuum. The committee worked with the DAC, Law Enforcement, and Legal etc. Julie mentioned for clarification that the DAC saw the new application for the first time when it was being finalized.

Monica said the doctors appreciated the narrative, but wondered why the patient couldn't fill it out. Chris said it was a statutory requirement that the medical provider prepare and sign the application form provided by the Department. Chris indicated twenty-three percent (23%) of the doctors are filling out more than one application.

Nick then talked about the shoot from vehicle section and he commented on using "safely" in all sections of the document. He didn't see the consistency in the current application.

Monica asked if the application could be put on-line like DOT's application. Chris said doctors or applicants can mail, fax, e-mail, or hand deliver the application. John Mitchell said the application is a great improvement from the others used in the past.

Once again John Martinson referred to the e-mail from an applicant for a disabled permit. His doctor had issues in filling out the 2013 Disabled Permits Application. John was to forward the e-mail to Chris and he would follow up immediately.

Nick asked "How much wait is given to doctor's narrative on the application?" "Is the Class B a discretionary permit?" The answer was Customer Service will look at the narrative and then decide if he/she can hunt from vehicle. Matt OBrien pointed out Optometrist is spelled wrong on application.

Next, Barry asked about the Council's opinion on the fifty foot issue in the application. The Council was ok with the 50 foot rule. Kirsten asked if one should "self-reveal" they no longer qualify for a Class B permit.

Cathryn made a motion 50 foot in application is fine, but add regardless of surface and safely in all related sections of the application. Joe seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The next agenda item is the DAC Awards. It was decided to table this agenda item until the next meeting.

Next, there was the Law Enforcement (LE) liaison update. Tyler Strelow is still the LE liaison only when needed for LE related agenda items.

Nick asked Matt OBrien about using other electronic calls for waterfowl hunting. Matt indicated because it is a federal regulation, what is Wisconsin's stand on that? Migratory birds are regulated by the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service, and other Federal agencies. The question was asked if Wisconsin can file for an accommodation on this. One can ask the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Matt has never heard of one, but doesn't know. Nick was going to follow up with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Next on the agenda was the PDMD update. Nick is meeting with internal team in two weeks.

At this point in time, Chris responded to John Martinson's e-mail from an applicant for a disabled permit. The applicant had gotten a long term Class B permit, but then later he was denied a permit. The County Forests take the DNR permit for them to shoot from a vehicle in the Forest. To shoot from vehicle would need a statutory change in order to have access to County lands.

Next on the agenda were the DAC awards. Kirsten wanted to give an award for Anthonette. It was mentioned that Anthonette had already received a DAC award back in 2004. Julie suggested she would get a catalog and the DAC could pick out something from that, possibly an inspirational saying plaque or picture. The DAC awards agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Martinson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25.

John Kocourek has resigned and the Council wanted to sign a card for him. Julie will coordinate.

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