

MEETING MINUTES  
DISABLED ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)  
SCHMEECKLE RESERVE VISITOR CENTER in STEVENS POINT  
APRIL 7, 2006

Members in attendance: Chair Werner Burkat, Tom Zimmer, John Kocourek, Dave Lato, Steve Johnson, Dave Stinson, John Mitchell, Joe Greene and alternate Dale Petkovsek.

Member absent: Jim Rutledge

DNR staff in attendance: Dotti Krieger, Julie Amakobe, Bill Schwengel, Carl Mesman and Al Czeshinski.

Chair Burkat called the meeting to order at approximately 10:15 a.m.

The meeting began by reviewing/approving the agenda.

Joe wanted to add a discussion on how the department/state purchases supplies for day-to-day operations. We would plan to have this discussion prior to Action Request review. Tom suggested we move "Elections" because a couple of the members had not yet arrived. It was agreed to decide on this when we got to this item on the agenda.

**These changes were so noted, and we moved on to the next item.**

Next on the agenda was the review and approval of the DAC meeting minutes from December 16, 2005. There were no changes suggested.

**John K made a motion to approve the minutes. Joe/Steve seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

At this time Werner welcomed alternate Dale Petkovsek and asked him to tell us about himself. Dale is from Clark County. He has been in a wheelchair for 27 years. He has been doing disabled hunts in Clark County for 7 years. And he operates the Sunset Pines Resort located near his home.

At this point it was decided to move the agenda item "Elections" to 11:00.

**Agenda item** – Review award process and criteria. Dotti led this discussion. She gave everyone a handout. This was a listing of the 4 categories for the DAC awards. She reviewed each category: Past President/Chairperson, Outstanding Service Award – Richard Welch Distinguished Service Award, Outstanding Property Award and External Relations Outstanding Service Award. There will also be a news release by the department asking for nominations. After we have collected the nominations, Dotti will follow up with a conference call with the Council to vote on these.

A past recipient for the Past President/Chairperson award was Jim Rutledge. Past recipients for the Outstanding Service Award were Anthonette Gilpatrick, Dave Vetrano and Kent Goeckermann. Past recipients for the Outstanding Property Award have been

Buckhorn State Park and Mirror Lake State Park. Past recipients for the External Relations Outstanding Service Award have been Fishing Has No Boundaries, Sunset Pines Resort and Miller Engineering & New Horizons Unlimited.

John K suggested that the High Cliff Friends Group be considered for a 2006 award.

Deadline for nominations is July 1, 2006.

**Agenda item** – Elections. Werner led the discussion. Three member's terms had expired as of 12/31/05. The members are Jim Rutledge, John Kocourek and Dave Stinson. In Jim's absence, Jim had notified Werner prior to the meeting that he would like to serve another 3-year term. John K and Dave S also stated that they would like to serve another 3-year term. With the willingness of each of these members wanting to serve another 3-year term, Werner agreed and that he approved, and that Al would get letters out regarding these 3-year extensions.

At this point John K nominated Werner to be the Chair of the DAC for 2006. Dave L and Joe also supported this nomination. There were no other nominations.

**Steve/John K made a motion to close the nominations for Chair. Joe seconded the motion and all were in favor. CONGRATULATIONS WERNER!!!!**

At this point Dotti suggested that we should have done the voting for Chair by ballot, so we should at least do the Vice-Chair by ballot. Dotti had sent out an e-mail Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, describing that we need to do the electing of the Chair and Vice Chair in a more formal and documented way. Dotti reviewed what she stated in her e-mail. Ballots were handed out that were for both positions, Chair and Vice Chair, and that we could just write Werner's name down on the ballot for Chair when we nominate/vote for Vice-Chair. At this point, the ballots were filled out by the members, and Julie assisted Steve and Al assisted Dave S. Al collected the ballots, and would present results of the voting for Vice Chair after lunch.

**Agenda item** – Department/state purchasing. Joe wanted to make the Council aware that there are vendors with disabled employees out there that make products and do services that State offices use, and that we, as a Council, should try to support these vendors. Joe checked into how some of the DNR Regions go about purchasing supplies, and they are all a little different. Vendor.net has a list of vendors that anyone could use. Joe made a motion that the DAC make a recommendation to DNR/DOA reminding them to look closely at state use regarding the statute requirement that 2% of the supplies and services the State uses should come of vendors with disabled employees. All were in favor. Joe will draft a letter stating the issue and identify qualified vendors for Werner's signature. The Governor's Committee should also be contacted.

**Agenda item** – Action Requests review (continuation from last meeting). Julie led this discussion. The Action Request will be listed first followed by the status.

1. Rocky Arbor should be checked out for accessibility since there have been some complaints...Joe had done a survey on this site and will send his notes to Dotti.

2. Julie or Dotti will talk with Keith Warnke or another representative from the Bureau of Wildlife Management about the following: if one can apply for the special turkey hunt and the regular season and can one get a tag for New Glarus Woods and hunt in the zone next door ...these would take administrative code changes. Carl said “no” to both. We should be looking at more sites. Dotti suggested we should work with private landowners to have special hunts September 10<sup>th</sup> through December 10<sup>th</sup>.
3. The Class A, Class B and Crossbow denial letters need to be updated...complete.
4. The manual code needs to be updated with the Class B greater than one year permit language...complete.
5. DAC needs to ask someone from the Bureau of Licensing to come to the meeting to discuss ALIS and how disabled permits will be entered...complete.
6. Julie will make sure those not at this meeting will get copies of the Motorized Vehicle for Disabled Hunting on State Lands Application and Permit forms...complete. At this point in the meeting Dotti handed out her summary of data showing who are using the Motorized Vehicle for Disabled Hunting on State Lands. It is noted that very few Class B permittees are using this permit.
7. Bill is checking the reasoning behind the motorboat and why this is OK to have an uncased weapon in a moving boat...Bill gave the reasoning and why it is OK to have an uncased/unloaded weapon on a moving boat. The DAC is on record supporting this, but does not make the law...complete. (Jim, as a private citizen, can go to his legislator, and talk to them about this.)
8. If a wounded animal goes off the property, should the assistant contact a warden or can he/she go and kill the deer if wounded? Does the assistant need a license to do this?...Yes, the assistant can go and kill the animal if wounded. No, is isn't necessary for the assistant to have a license.

After lunch, Al informed all of the voting for Vice Chair. There were three members nominated, and the voting for them was 1 vote for Jim Rutledge, 3 votes for John Kocourek, and 6 votes for Tom Zimmer. So Tom is the new Vice Chair for 2006. CONGRATULATIONS TOM!!!!!!

Steve brought up that he had a rough time trying to get information on boat access/fishing sites in his 13-county region. So he ended up contacting the Fisheries Managers for each county and created a list for his Independent Livings Centers and sent it by e-mail and handed it out at this meeting.

John M had also some problems getting information for Adaptive Sportsmen.

Carl mentioned that they should use the “Outdoor News” for a source for information. The editor is Dean Bortz, phone # (715) 358-8844, fax # (715) 358-8899.

Werner at this point wanted to discuss the next 2 meetings. We have the next meeting scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup>. **It will be held at Kohler-Andrae State Park.** After discussion, the following meeting will be on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. The location will be determined at a later time.

**Agenda item** - Legislative/Rule Update. Bill and Carl led the discussion. There was a public hearing on AB 1129 (re: disabled hunts). Bill handed out a copy of “2005

ASSEMBLY BILL 286". This was the bill that eliminated the 100-pound draw weight minimum for compound bows that are equipped with a device that holds the bow at full draw.

The Natural Resources Board took out earn-a-buck last year. Bill handed out proposal.

Class A and C permittees will have to earn-a-buck if they are hunting in those zones.

Carl and Bill both went over the questions that were for the upcoming DNR Spring Hearings and the Conservation Congress County meeting for each county that were to be held on April 10<sup>th</sup>. They highlighted questions #20, 51, 52, 56 and 57. And there will be electronic balloting in all counties.

The disabled permit application needs to be addressed for long-term Class B from a vehicle before June 1.

Landowner sponsors for special hunts can allow hunting on other land.

**Agenda item** - Member's updates/Other issues. Dave S gave us an update regarding Hayward's Fishing Has No Boundaries. They installed a new 6' X 60' dock. They are starting on the plans for their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007. And there is no progress to report on an accessible cabin for the Willow Flowage.

Steve was pleased that the National American Squirrel Association (NASA) received the 2005 Hunter Ethics Award from the La Crosse Tribune and the Department. The Natural Resources Board is holding their June meeting at River Falls where Steve will accept the award as president of NASA. The contractor has been selected for the Lake Onalaska pier. He is still hoping to get the Lake Neshonoc pier in this year. And next spring they would like to get a pier for Perch Lake near Sparta.

Dotti reported that there were over 3,000 hits from Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> through Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> on our "Open the Outdoors" website. She will be updating the site.

Dave L said this will be the 7<sup>th</sup> year for his Fishing Has No Boundaries event at Lake Holcombe on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. He passed around a brochure describing the event.

John M handed out information on the 27<sup>th</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games being held in Milwaukee during June 19-23, 2007. He also handed out a 40-page booklet he picked up at a wayside in Illinois that was entitled "Illinois Access for All". It list accessible sites in Illinois's 5 regions. John also had comments on the agreement that the department has with the Turkey Federation. Carl agreed to contact the Turkey Federation.

Tom thanked the members for the vote electing him to be the Vice Chair in 2006 – he looks forward to the challenge.

Joe mentioned about a swish rod for ice fishing that Handishop Industries produced.

Werner mentioned that he was suppose to report on issues regarding state trails but he and Brigit Brown, State Trails Coordinator, had not connected. And he reminded us that Dotti will get back to the group on the location for the next meeting.

At this time Julie, for the DAC, Anthonette, Dotti, Al and herself, presented Bill with the 2005 DAC Richard Welch Memorial Award for Outstanding Service.

**Werner suggested that we adjourn. John K made the motion, Dave L seconded, and all were in favor.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.