

DISABLED ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
CONFERENCE CALL
APRIL 12, 2013

Members present via the teleconference: Tom Zimmer, John Martinson, Jim Rutledge, Werner Burkat, Dale Petkovsek, Steve Johnson and John Mitchell

Members absent: John Kocourek (recent surgery) Kirsten Engel, and Joe Greene

Others: Barry Gilbeck – DNR Customer and Outreach Services liaison, and Tyler Strelow – DNR Law Enforcement DAC liaison, Julie Amakobe – DNR Facilities and Lands acting DAC liaison

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Zimmer at approximately 10:15 am.

First, Chairman Zimmer asked for an agenda repair. Agenda item “Proposed changes in crossbow legislation” will be postponed and the DAC will have Herb Schwartz of the Wisconsin Cross-Bow Federation come talk at a different time. Replace this agenda item (move up) the agenda item “Disability issues mentioned in the spring hearings”. Lunch will be from 12:00-1:00. John Mitchell mentioned that the DAC should hold off on the election of officers until the next meeting. Nominations should be made by e-mail or by letter and then take the nominations from the floor. There have been no written nominations yet. Chairman Zimmer indicated that people should submit nominations by e-mail to everyone.

Next item on the agenda was the discussion and approval of the last meeting’s minutes. The minutes regarding the Matt Denis letter were discussed. Mr. Denis proposed having the disabled deer season concurrent with the youth deer season on all land open to hunting. Tom didn’t read the letter the same as some others and suggested that the DAC may come back later to clarify. Julie will also clarify the numbers she wrote for the types of disabled permits and the corresponding numbers. Are the numbers the permits issued or the licenses sold?

Dale Petkovsek made a motion to approve the minutes. Werner seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The next item on the agenda was setting the tentative schedule for future meetings. The Council wanted to do a site visit for the next meeting. After some discussion, it was decided that Monday, June 10, 2013 will be the next meeting date with the location not yet identified. Possibly a location will be chosen for a site visit. Julie will check with Kelly Frawley. Two other tentative meeting dates are Friday, August 23rd and Friday October 18th, both of which are subject to change.

The Council came back to the last meeting minutes again. Tom didn’t want the word “deadline” in the minutes where it was written that the new application process will also get rid of the hard and fast deadlines and will be more flexible. For example, Julie wrote “The June 1st deadline for landowners will remain on the form, but the deadline will not be in the administrative rules”. In addition she wrote, “Likewise, the September 1st deadline for the disabled hunters to sign up won’t be enforced”. Tom thought these should be reworded and the example deadline language should be removed in case readers of the minutes don’t pay any attention to the deadlines any more. Werner indicated that we shouldn’t worry about it and leave it as it is; these are the

minutes of what was said. Steve said that the minutes are a record and not everyone will remember the exact wording. Werner agreed. John Mitchell also commented and decided it is best to keep it in.

Next agenda item was the “Disabled deer hunts: paperwork streamlining”. It was asked if the two new forms are working out OK. Are there any changes to offer? Dale said that he deals with 100 landowners and will do it manually. John Mitchell indicated that if you have the owner (ID) number, your landowner should be there. Julie will check it out and get back to Dale.

The next agenda item that the DAC discussed was the “Proposed bear tag transfer legislation”. The guest speaker at Stevens Point, Keith Pamperin, Chairman of Challenge the Outdoors, sent an e-mail to Representative Ott’s office and cc’d Rep. Bies, Rep. Klenke, Rep. Mursau, Rep. Genrich, Cathy Stepp, and Scott Gunderson. Mr. Pamperin wants to amend the law to allow bear tags to be transferred to disabled persons who have a Class A, C, or permanent (means long term) Class B hunting permit in addition to the youth hunters that are currently allowed in the law. Mr. Pamperin stated in the e-mail that the WDNR Disabled Advisory Council at their December 2012 meeting unanimously supported his Non-Profit’s proposal. This was not a correct statement in that the DAC voted and the results were: 5 members voted for the transfer to the disabled, 2 members voted for the transfer to anyone, and 1 member voted that no transfers occur at all.

Tom thought that the DAC’s guests should get the DAC’s approval before sending it onto the Representatives and others. Werner suggested that Tom/DAC refers back to December 2012 meeting and that the minutes differ from their version in the e-mail. Indicate that it was not unanimous into this meeting’s minutes as well and then follow up with an e-mail to the same parties that received Mr. Pamperin’s e-mail. John Mitchell agreed.

Werner made a motion for Tom to reply/respond to Keith Pamperin’s e-mail in order to correct the e-mail and indicate that his e-mail does not reflect the DAC meeting minutes of December 2012 where the vote of the DAC regarding bear tag transfers was not unanimous. The e-mail should be sent to the same parties that received Mr. Pamperin’s e-mail. Today’s minutes should reflect this as well. John Mitchell seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next item to be discussed was the “Handling of room reservations for DAC business”. Before the Council got into this discussion, Tom asked if the Council had ever talked about the 3 year term limits in the past. Werner indicated that the 3 year terms were governed by the By-Laws and that the Members were appointed by the Secretary of the DNR. Steve said he had sat in and listened as an observer since the DAC meetings are public meetings and then showed interest in the Council. Tom said he visited the DAC before joining. Jim indicated that the DAC would need to change the by-laws to change the 3 year term limits.

Regarding room reservations, Tom proposed that each DAC member receive a name plate or placard indicating that they are on the DAC and are eligible to get the State room rate and are tax exempt. Does the Department rules allow for this? In the past, Kelly booked all of their rooms. John Mitchell said that having a DAC ID would be good also when visiting state parks. It was suggested that this item wait for Andy’s replacement (Accessibility Coordinator).

John Mitchell asked what Barry Gilbeck’s role is that he is filling. Barry indicated that he was asked to be the Customer Service liaison to the DAC. Barry works out of the Ladysmith office.

The next agenda item discussed was the DAC Awards. Jim Rutledge nominated Greg Behling, Park Ranger at Copper Falls State Park. Jim also nominated Big Bay State Park. Tom Zimmer seconded the nomination of both. Tom nominated Werner for Past President/Chairperson and also nominated Carl Mesman and Kelly Frawley for outstanding service awards. Julie went over the four different categories of awards which are: Past President/Chairperson, Outstanding Service Award, Outstanding Property Award, and External Relations Outstanding Service Award.

Jim nominated all three persons, Greg Behling, Kelly Frawley, and Carl Mesman for the Outstanding Service Award. Tom Zimmer seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Jim then nominated Big Bay State Park for Outstanding Property Award. Tom Zimmer seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Steve asked about nominating Andy for all he did for the kayak program. Anyone can nominate, so it is up to the Council members regarding who they wish to nominate.

Next topic on the agenda was the proposed changes to the crossbow legislation. Tom indicated that since the Council is not meeting in person, Herb Schwartz of the Wisconsin Crossbow Federation was not on the phone. The Council will invite Mr. Schwartz to another meeting.

Tom mentioned that he is participating on the Deer Trustee Implementation Process Team and is committed to attending 7 Saturday meetings. Tom is representing the DAC. At the first meeting, Tom talked to Mike Brust, the President of Wisconsin Bow Hunters. Although this group appears to look “anti-crossbow”, they want a compromise in the proposed crossbow legislation. The Bow Hunters have agreed to a separate license and defined season (not a separate season).

Some statistics are that the current Gun Deer Season success rate is 18.8% for bucks and 24.4% for does. The current Archery Season success rate is 17.4% for bucks and 18.3% for does. The Bow Hunters are worried if the gun deer success rate should fall below the archery success rate. The legislation coming out of Legislative Committee is legalization of the crossbow use for everybody. The Crossbow Federation wants equal access for everyone, including women who when pulling back a traditional bow is very difficult.

Next agenda item is the Disability Issues mentioned in the Spring Hearings. Tyler went over those Spring Hearings questions that related to the disabled community. Here are the questions and what they are about and the spring hearings’ votes.

- #6 Allow trolling statewide. Voter response was a “No” answer. 8 Counties don’t allow trolling at all. As an FYI, three (3) lines per person are allowed with regular fishing.
- #33 Allow the use of rifles for deer hunting statewide. Vote response was a “Yes” answer. Local ordinance can supersede if more stringent.
- # 66 Expand the use of crossbows – full inclusion in archery season. Voter response was a “No” answer.

- #67 Expand the use of crossbows – separate season and license. Voter response was a “No” answer. (The Bow Hunters can agree to a specific open archery season from mid to late October).
- #85 Transfer of license/permit (to a person aged 65 or older or a disabled person with deteriorating health). Youth transfer already in place. Vote response was a “Yes” answer.
- #86 Waterfowl hunting concealment rule. Voter response was a “Yes” answer. Jim asked if there was any talk about the disabled and waterfowl concealment. “Yes’ this is already in place.
- #70 Expand hunting/trapping in state parks. Voter response was a “Yes, starting now” was the answer. Turkey hunting season goes through the 3rd season. This will apply to the deer season, too. November 15-December 15 can early bow hunt in park (through archery season) after campers are out of the parks.
- #68 Hunting wolves with dogs. Voter response was a “Yes” answer. If dogs are allowed, then follow these rules. The Natural Resources Board (NRB) Advisory question was Prohibit use of dogs in wolf hunt. Judge indicated that they hunters can’t use dogs this season because no rules are in place.
- #73 Remove backtag requirements. Voter response was a “No” answer. FYI Wisconsin is one of five states that require backtags.

Tyler also mentioned that he is on a DNR Lean Six Sigma Workgroup Team. The Team is to come up with ideas to help reduce the workload for Customer Service staff and streamline and improve the Disabled Hunters’ Permit Applications in order to increase public satisfaction with the permitting process. Law Enforcement reviews the applications as well.

A doctor survey was put together to get their input on the applications. Do doctors understand the permit process?

John Mitchell indicated one way to simplify the process would be to let DNR staff make the determinations of obvious applicants (uses 2 canes, etc.) Tom said that someone could abuse this process if he/she came into the building in a wheelchair and really didn’t need to use one. Tyler said that LE does not want to make the determinations. Currently the Lean Team is tracking all aspects of permits, i.e., how much time it takes to get one approved, etc. Tyler will keep the council updated.

Next Tom talked about the Deer Trustee Implementation Process Team. March 9th was the first meeting. Two weeks ago they had another one. DNR wants a committed person who will attend the rest of the meetings. There is a lot of homework involved. They occur on Saturdays. The Deer Trustee Report is on the DNR website. You can see the survey. They survey will be pulled on April 20th. Tom encouraged the Council members and others they know to fill out the survey because the Implementation Team wants as many responses as possible. Each Team member was assigned to one specific area of concern which included: 1) Works with landowners 2) Science and research 3) CWD and herd health 4) Rules and regulations (This is the one Tom is on).

Next were the Members’ updates.

Werner - no updates.

Dale - not present, left conference.

John Martinson - Adaptive Sportsman had a pheasant hunt on a game farm in Holten in Kenosha County. Thirty four (34) physically challenged persons and 100 volunteers participated. There will also be a turkey hunt in May (it's on Adaptive Sportsman's website calendar). There will be two bow hunts in October.

Jim - Jim attended to Dotti Krieger's memorial in Cambridge. It was a very nice memorial.

Steve Johnson – NASA's 10th annual banquet is set for April 24th. Hundreds of people are expected. There are raffle tickets available (canoe). A dredging project is planned on Lake Onalaska where there is an accessible boat landing that was built in 2004. Project will enhance fishing opportunities. Steve's disabled Deer Hunt Sponsor signed up using the new electronic system. It went well. Steve also talked about the plan for an accessible cabin at Goose Island. Julie is to get Art Miller Engineering information to Steve. Steve also mentioned that the link to NASA's website, Nasasquirrel.org, is found on DNR's Open the Outdoors section.

Werner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Mitchell seconded the motion and all were in favor.