

MEETING MINUTES  
DISABLED ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)  
KOHLER-ANDRAE STATE PARK  
JULY 14, 2006

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

Member absent: Jim Rutledge, Dave Stinson and Joe Greene

DNR staff in attendance: Dotti Krieger, Julie Amakobe, Carl Mesman, Ken Anderson, Therese Gripentrog, Jim Buchholz, Tom Gierke, Bill Smith and Al Czeshinski.

Chair Burkat called the meeting to order at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Introductions took place for Therese Gripentrog and for Tom Gierke and his wife.

The meeting began by reviewing/approving the agenda. Jim Buchholz wanted to be added to the agenda at 11:30 to talk about proposed fees.

**John K made a motion to approve the revised agenda. John M seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Next on the agenda was the review and approval of the DAC meeting minutes from April 7, 2006. There were no changes suggested.

**Steve made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, John K seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

**Agenda item** – Action Requests review (continuation from last meeting). Julie led this discussion. She gave everyone a handout. Dotti explained to the guests what we were doing. The Action Request will be listed first followed by the status.

1. DNR should begin to use March 31<sup>st</sup> as the expiration date for Class A, B (longer term) C, Crossbow and Trolling permits as these permits start to expire...complete.
2. DNR needs to create a sponsor list to pass on Class A Bear Permits to disabled youths. Please note that ACT 59 is now signed into law...Dotti to check w/Wildlife Management.
3. Dotti will be doing some training in the field for property managers in April on the application for access to state lands by the disabled...complete.
4. Jim Rutledge will send Kurt Thiede his questions/issues regarding the special spring turkey hunts. Kurt will discuss these with Andrea and ask her if she could possibly attend one of the next meetings. Julie will distribute Jim's concerns/questions to the DAC...complete.
5. Julie will add to the next meeting's agenda – if the long term Class B permit is to be able to participate in the special hunt, will a survey be needed to see the

- impact? Kurt will look into this. DAC could ask the sponsors how they feel about adding the Class B permit holders...complete.
6. Dave Lato will get Dotti copies of his recommendation of Mr. Dale Petkovsek. Jim will write something up recommending Anthonette Gilpatrick and Steve will write up something recommending Fishing Has No Boundaries to get an award...complete.
  7. DAC recommends an administrative code change so that the assistant who is accompanying a person with a disabled trolling permit to be able to fish also...Carl to follow up.
  8. DAC recommends an administrative code change so that any bow legal for hunting in Wisconsin and equipped with a full draw lock is not considered a crossbow...it is considered a crossbow and this is complete.
  9. Ann Marie Kutzke is the Conservation Congress liaison and should receive a copy of these minutes highlighting the two DAC recommendations...complete.
  10. Bill recommended that the topic of guidance on the issue of retrieval, especially in regard to bear hunting, should be brought up for a future meeting. He had draft copies of the LE action request forms on this guidance...Carl to follow up.
  11. Bill will write up something for the next meeting regarding the legalization of crossbows to take rough fish by disabled archers...Carl to follow up.
  12. Bill updated the Council on the motorboat versus land use of an uncased/unloaded firearm. (See above requests) Bill said he would like to review the legislative intent. He wants this added to the next meeting agenda...complete.
  13. Dotti will see if it is possible to coordinate the ATV use and other special modes of transportation for the disabled on the same day as the State Parks and Trail open house day on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>...tabled.
  14. Dotti also said that she will be updating the Open the Outdoors to include information on institutional fishing permits and opportunities and Adaptive Sportsman and Wheelin' Sportsman organizations as they become available...complete.
  15. Tim Lawhern will be invited to one of the DAC's meetings as a guest to speak on shooting ranges...the agency is lacking funding to apply to shooting range projects...tabled.
  16. John K. asked about the accessible fishing pier/dock combination design and wants this put on the next meeting's agenda...complete.
  17. A customer wants the DNR's fishing regulations to be printed in Braille. Bill Schwengel is to call Steve Johnson to look at taking an electronic version and converting it to a reader system...complete.
  18. Dave Lato wants the DNR to publish or print a pamphlet like Minnesota's on Open the Outdoors...need to do a more "in depth" pamphlet.
  19. DNR should pick one or two locations to coordinate volunteer groups to help out and provide vehicles like "gators" and other special means of transportation...tabled.
  20. Someone from the DNR should check out the design of a combination pier/boarding dock in the City of DePere and Governor Nelson State Park and get back to the Council...complete.
  21. DNR will provide non-profits with the regulations and factors they can use to design their piers...complete.

22. The 9300-197 development request form should have a place to indicate if the project is to modify and repair piers and docks...Julie to follow up when form is revised next.
23. The pier fittings at the Hayward Ranger Station need repair...Dotti to follow up.
24. Steve Lewis hopes to begin entering statewide boat access inventory data into a database in spring 2005...it's happening a year later, and will be an ongoing database.
25. Jim Rutledge made a comment of the observation that DNR Service Centers' staff need to be more knowledgeable of the early season special turkey hunts for the disabled....it's improving.
26. Kim Cable and George Woodington need to resign from the DAC...complete.
27. Dotti and Bill will pursue the waiver to allow Class B permit holders to participate in the special hunts. Julie, Bill, Dotti and Al will work on implementing a hunter survey once the waiver is achieved...complete. Carl to follow up re: Archery.
28. Andrea will send out information to the Service Centers regarding the turkey hunts and procedures especially for the special (disabled) spring turkey hunts. The application needs some revision to be clearer...complete.
29. Andrea will work on changing the approval process so that all applications would come to her directly...complete.
30. Bill Schwengel asked if by expanding the Class B long-term permit holders to participate in the special hunts would that have a big impact on the parks with disabled turkey hunting only?...they aren't. Andrea said that they could not expand the number of permits for the current parks with disabled turkey hunting only....complete.
31. Dotti will develop a survey and she will send it to Andrea and to the DAC. Tom Zimmer said he would be willing to do Buckhorn State Park. All DAC members were asked to send Dotti a list of things to check at the parks so she can incorporate them into the checklist...complete.
32. DAC wants to expand disabled hunting for turkeys for Class A and Class C permit holders to all state parks that allow turkey hunting....can't do without a statutory change.

**Agenda item** – Master plan updates for Harrington Beach State Park and Kettle Moraine State Forest - Pike Lake. Therese Gripentrog led the discussion.

For Harrington Beach, she discussed the restrooms, an accessible trail around Quarry Lake, the shuttle bus used at the Park, plans to expand a parking lot, developing up to an equivalent 75 site campground (maybe 2 sites with yurts), 30-person group camp, 6 walk-in sites, changing the Puckett Pond area, adding 2 accessible piers, accessible beach access is planned to be completed in 2007, etc. There is no boating allowed on Quarry Lake.

At this time there is no accessible cabin planned for Harrington Beach State Park.

In a brief discussion of yurts, John K mentioned that some disabled persons can not use cots. You would need to use platform beds in the yurts if these were going to be available for all users.

Therese passed around pictures of walk-in tent sites, and asked for guidance on type of accessible tent pads.

For Kettle Moraine State Forest – Pike Lake, they have started to do a Master Plan. They are thinking of expanding the campground, improving the beach access, adding acreage to the State Forest, etc.

**Agenda item** – Proposed fees. Jim Buchholz led the discussion. Jim had a booklet that was circulated for the mobility impaired. He would like it printed again, if possible.

Jim is on a fee proposal committee that is looking at the possibility of raising some fees at the State Parks. The Bureau of Parks is projecting to have budget shortfalls in the near future. One of the fees that is being considered is the per night charge for using an accessible cabin. Currently this is at \$30.00/night and has never been changed. It is suggested to be increased by \$20.00, so the revised nightly rate would be \$50.00/night. He asked the Council to comment on this proposal.

Dotti mentioned that the operation and maintenance costs of an accessible cabin are estimated at \$58/night. Maybe if we have “donor envelopes” at the cabins, revenue could be gathered this way rather than increasing the nightly fee. Try to get sponsorships for the cabins.

Werner suggested that don't just raise it to \$50.00, may be \$40.00/night.

Tom liked Dotti's idea, leave it at \$30.00/night, but donate additional funds if the user can afford it.

Steve asked if the fees for disabled hunting were going to be increased. John M said the fees currently were \$17.00 for the weekend, \$15.00 for mid-week, and \$13.00 for off season.

Ken Anderson suggested increasing to the \$40-50 range. Have open houses and ask for donations.

Jim mentioned that he thought any revenue that the property raises should stay with the property, not be returned to Madison and combined with other revenue that is brought in by other properties.

Tom suggested that the Council seemed to be in agreement that a fee increase was needed, but should be a small increase. Donations were welcome, and sponsorships should be explored, and any additional revenue collected should stay with the property. **This was made into a motion, John K seconded, and all agreed to it.**

It was 12:15, and we needed to leave the Nature Center and break for lunch which was being held at one of the shelters in the Park.

At 1:10, the meeting was reconvened.

Werner wanted suggestions for the location for the next meeting which is on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. After discussions it was decided to try to meet first at the Horicon Nature Center, and if that isn't possible, then try the MacKenzie Environmental Center near Poynette. **The September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the MacKenzie Environmental Center.**

At this point in the meeting we had the 2 presentations for 2006 DAC Awards. For the External Relations Outstanding Service Award, this was given to the National American Squirrel Association (NASA) and Steve Johnson, a NASA and DAC member, accepted the award for NASA. And for Outstanding Service Award within the Department, this award went to Dotti Krieger.

**Agenda item** - Legislative/Rule Update. Carl led the discussion.

Using bifocals for a crossbow...follow medical guidelines. The need to use bifocals is not a criteria to get a crossbow permit.

Still following up regarding Class B's for the special deer season and "earn a buck" issue.

Hasn't followed up with the agreement that the department has with the Turkey Federation...

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, Carl is giving a presentation on disabled permits at Fort McCoy. If any DAC members can come, they should let Carl know.

**Agenda item** - Member's updates/Other issues.

Steve said that the Lake Onalaska accessible fishing pier, landing, parking lot and lighting should be in by now. There is going to be a "nuisance" deer gun hunt on Goose Island City Park to take out approximately 60 antlerless deer. The public has until the end of the month to sign up to participate.

Dale P says that he is planning his Clark County disabled hunt...he will have over 100 landowners involved.

John M said that the bow hunt in October and pheasant hunt in Portage was on.

Tom had a handout - it has some possible new goals for 2006/2007. He would like all to review these and have this as a discussion at the September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Werner attended the DNR Northeast Region Headquarters Open House.

Ken Anderson asked for any assistance in an advisory capacity for the accessible cabin that will be built at Richard Bong State Recreation Area. John Mitchell volunteered to represent the DAC in that advisory capacity.

Al updated the Council members on the May 1 revised reimbursement rates...the current rate of \$.385 for business use of a personal vehicle is increased to \$.425 per mile and the

current rate of \$.56 for use of a specially equipped van for persons with disabilities is increased to \$.60 per mile.

**Werner suggested that we adjourn the formal meeting since it was 2:00, time for the accessible cabin site tour. John K made the motion, Dave seconded, and all were in favor.**

The formal business meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.