

DAC MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2009  
WISCONSIN DNR NORTHEAST REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

DAC members in attendance: Chair Werner Burkat, Joe Greene, John Kocourek, Tom Zimmer, John Mitchell, Jim Rutledge, David Lato, Steve Johnson (Conference Call), David Stinson (Conference Call) and Dale Petkovsek.

DAC members absent: None

Others in attendance: Randy Douglas, Jean Rombach-Bartels, Mark Baehr, Andy Janicki, Carl Mesman, and Kelly Frawley

Chairman Burkat called the meeting to order at approximately 10:07 a.m.

Northeast Regional Land Leader Jean Rombach-Bartels and Northeast Region Facilities Engineer Randy Douglas welcomed the group to the Northeast Region. Rombach-Bartels mentioned the NER Headquarters is the first Green state building. Zimmer thanked the NER for the additional temporary handicapped parking.

Douglas welcomed the group and offered a tour for of the Green Building. Douglas commented that he welcomes the DAC to view properties in the Region. Burkat commented that the DAC attempts to schedule meetings throughout the state to address regional needs.

**Rutledge motioned to accept the agenda. Zimmer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

The DAC reviewed the minutes from April 4, 2009, meeting held in La Crosse. Zimmer referenced those omitted as absent and requested modification of the deer baiting discussion.

**Petkovsek motion to accept the minutes as amended. Rutledge seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Disabled Hunt Permit Concerns

Mark Baehr is a disabled hunter confined to a wheelchair. Baehr commented that before his injury he was an avid trout fisherman.

Baehr expressed concerns over property access. Baehr has difficulty finding access on trout streams. Baehr recommends the DNR install a simple slide or grass ramp for canoe access at public sites and trout streams.

Chair Burkat asked if the DNR has a design that can be implemented to reduce runoff and if providing a slide or grass ramp would be an acceptable alternative.

Janicki commented that the DNR has used a geo-web design utilizing soil and grass plantings allowing for a pervious surface similar to a regular embankment.

Kocourek commented that the improvement would have to be in pairs – an access for placing a canoe in and an access for removal. Baehr commented a dual is not essential for a trout can work upstream and/or downstream and return to the same location.

Mesman commented that many of the locations are bordered by wetlands and wetland regulations must be a consideration. Mesman also commented there may be opportunities near bridge crossings.

Chair Burkat encouraged that private, non-profits be engaged in developing sites. The users would benefit for they are actively involved in developing the sites. The DNR should be utilized as a resource to make certain the improvements meet environmental regulations.

Rutledge suggested a temporary structure can be placed at a location and removed seasonally.

Mesman commented that county zoning and Army Corps issues may be something of concern for adding structures. Mesman commented that these are issues that are not insurmountable.

Greene asked what Mr. Baehr would be seeking from the DAC. Baehr commented that he wishes to spread the word either through awareness, rule making or legislation.

Chair Burkat recommended that users be actively involved in the implementation through requests. Having DNR staff actively place structures without a request may not necessarily address the need.

**Greene motioned that Janicki formally review the feasibility of implementation. Seconded by Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.**

Baehr will be working through Andy and Trout Unlimited to move forward.

Baehr further addressed access around gates. Baehr expressed concern that long driveways are oftentimes gated off due to facility maintenance and enforcement issues. Baehr commented the gates are blocked off but no area is allowed for disabled access. Mesman commented the gates are primarily for maintenance issues. Petkovsek offered the use of keys to the gate – something that is done in several counties throughout the state.

Chair Burkat asked if there is a formalized process for obtaining access. Mesman commented the individual should contact the property manager directly.

Rutledge asked Janicki if he could contact the property managers and ask how they wish to handle such requests. Mesman asked if there is a manual code on this issue.

Kocourek commented the key addresses the concern. As part of disability it may be necessary to ask for a key versus placing accessibility improvements statewide at all the gates.

Chair Burkat commented his concern is over the inconsistency in the application of issuing keys for access. Some property managers allow daily keys while others allow seasonal keys.

**Motion by Greene to direct Janicki to look at disability access to the sites. Seconded by Mitchell.** Discussion. Rutledge commented that the DAC not get away from allowing vehicular access to properties through gate. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Baehr requested consideration for use of a crossbow for fishing. Baehr questioned why fishing with a crossbow is not allowed. Mesman commented that opposition has argued against the use of crossbow for activities other than fishing for roughfish. In this area it is likely an act of omission. Chair Burkat commented that this may be an issue for the Conservation Congress hearings.

Baehr expressed concerns regarding disabled persons being able to take a bike on a non-biking and walking trail. Baehr commented he can get a permit during the season to use a vehicle. He questions why he cannot get a permit to use a bike on a state trail that prohibits bicycle use.

Chair Burkat commented that the hand cycle has front wheel traction and would be difficult to use on an unimproved trail.

Mitchell commented that Janicki should be able to place the request on the alternative use form and address the issue. Janicki agreed to address through amending the form.

Baehr commented it is difficult or impossible to pass under bridges in a canoe. Mesman commented there is a regulation defining the height above the normal water mark. Mesman commented that those structures should be reported to the DNR.

Baehr expressed his opinion that the disabled hunting program is to assist the mobility impaired versus those hunters with disabilities unrelated to mobility.

Rutledge commented that the Class A permit holder may have heart and lung issues and other related disabilities that may impair mobility. Rutledge commented the long-term Class B permit came to fruition due to others falling through the cracks.

## Update on Hunting for Persons with Cognitive Disabilities

Mesman met with Oconomowoc YMCA representatives to discuss allowing persons with cognitive disabilities to participate in disabled hunts. Mesman informed the DAC that no other states surveyed had a program. Many state representatives commented the program did not exist for it has never been an issue. Mesman referred to the request as developing criteria for a new "Class D" permit.

Other states are watching and have requested the policy or program documentation be forwarded to them upon completion.

The recommendation of the YMCA representatives is to allow for a permit should the candidate meet the following criteria:

- A minimum legal age of 18;
- The ability to make the decision of shoot or don't shoot tied in to mentorship or a supervision requirement;
- Annual participation in hunter safety with an exemption from shoot or don't shoot requirement only when hunting with a qualified mentor or other supervisor with hunter safety certification;
- Differentiation for permitting for cognitively disabled only versus the mentally ill;
- Examination by a certified mental health professional to certify cognitive disability; and, Exemption from Earn-A-Buck requirements.

Lato commented that a close look at a definition is a must to differentiate cognitively disabled and developmentally disabled. Lato used epilepsy as an example.

Johnson suggested joint attendance of mentor/supervisor and the candidate at the annual hunter safety program.

Burkat mentioned establishing minimum standards must be the base regarding control of gun and other safety issues.

Greene commented the base of the decision must be a certification of cognitive disability by a certified professional.

No formal action was taken by the DAC.

Mesman reviewed the Class C assistant statutory language with the Council. The Class C assistant statutory language restricts the assistant to anyone that would not qualify for a permit "under this section." The language would mean anyone that would qualify for a disabled permit could not be an assistant. Mesman will pursue a change that will state that the assistant cannot qualify for a Class C permit.

Mesman stated that the language changes permitting Class B permit holders to operate a vehicle on state land is being addressed by Janicki.

Note: Greene and Kocourek were excused from the meeting.

### Disabled Hunt Sponsor Survey Results

Janicki reviewed the results of the disabled hunt sponsor survey. Janicki received comments from sponsors that opened their lands, had animals harvested, and were not able to harvest a deer during the regular hunt. Janicki was concerned that the sponsors may be less likely to continue should a sponsor believe the hunt impacted the harvesting of animals during the regular season.

Mitchell commented his concern is based on the number of “no-shows” for designated hunts. Will the program be able to continue if candidates do not show at a sponsored site? Will those sponsors limit their property or decide not to participate?

Zimmer said the results of this survey were to determine if we should expand the program to hunters with other disabilities. Zimmer’s view of the results would indicate that the program may not necessarily warrant expansion at this time.

Petkovsek commented that he does not see that hunters are being turned away. Petkovsek cannot see that there is much more that the DAC can do for the disabled hunt.

**Zimmer motioned that disabled hunters should be able to attend more than one hunt with the sponsor approval. Rutledge seconded.** Discussion. Mitchell asked for Petkovsek view on the matter. Petkovsek commented that he does not believe a hunter should be able to jump from hunt to hunt. Lato commented it could be a scheduling and administrative nightmare for the sponsor. **Motion defeated, 4-4.** Yes: Burkat, Rutledge, Zimmer and Lato. Noes: Petkovsek, Mitchell, Stinson and Johnson.

### DNR Service Center Closings and Disabled Hunting Permits

All applications will have the address for the central office. Anyone going to a service center that is closed or with limited service hours will have to drop off and await a response.

### Buckhorn Observation Tower Update

Janicki distributed the engineering drawings for the Buckhorn observation tower.

### Members Updates

Burkat: The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual disabled fishing for youth event that was scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to the inability to find a replacement sponsor on short notice. The event will be back in 2010.

Rutledge: Wisconsin Chapter of Paralyzed vet sponsoring trap shoot August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Brown County trap club in Green Bay. The event is open for any shooter wishing to compete. Prizes are awarded for high overall wheelchair and high overall regardless of ability.

Mitchell: Adaptive sportsmen held its Madison Fishery event June 20<sup>th</sup> on Lakes Mendota and Monona. Mendota anglers brought in walleye and bass and Monona anglers caught a number of perch. On August 29<sup>th</sup> the Muskego Family Picnic Shoot will be held at Schultz's Gun Club in Muskego in preparation for fall hunting. On October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Baraboo-Badger archery deer hunt.

Johnson: Two new fishing piers installed with one at Pettibone Park in La Crosse and Perch Lake in Sparta. Johnson is working with Ron Lichtie on urban deer hunt. The hunt will likely be on Goose Island and in City of Onalaska.

Zimmer: No update.

Kocourek: No update.

Petkovsek: Ready for fall hunt.

Greene: No update.

Lato: No update.

Stinson: Fishing w/o Boundaries had 147 participants. Program was on Chippewa Flowage.

Mesman: No update.

Janicki: No update.

Next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m., Friday, November 6, 2009 at the Schmeekle Reserve, University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, 2419 North Point Drive, Stevens Point, Wisconsin (Phone: 715-346-4992).

**Lato motion to adjourn. Rutledge seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**