

MEETING MINUTES
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
WISCONSIN RAPIDS SERVICE CENTER, HOVDE ROOM
473 GRIFFITH AVE, WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI 54494

Members Present: John Martinson, Steve Johnson, Jim Rutledge, Kirsten Engel, and John Mitchell

Members Conferencing: Monica Kamal and Cathryn Scott

Members not present: Keith Pamperin, Joe Greene, and alternate Calvin Richtig

Others Present: Nick Zouski, Barry Gilbeck, and Julie Amakobe

Special Guest: Rob Kovach from Senator Lasee's Office

Missy Vanlanduyt from the Bureau of Parks was on the phone along with Tim Gary DNR Legislative Liaison.

Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

First the Council reviewed the agenda.

John Mitchell made a motion to accept the agenda. Steve Johnson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next, the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from March 31, 2017.

John Mitchell made a motion to accept the minutes. Steve Johnson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

First item on the agenda was the DAC term limits. Joe Greene was going to bring in information on this topic, but Joe had an emergency and did not make it to the meeting. Therefore, Chair Martinson chose to table the topic until Joe is present and can discuss the topic.

Next on the agenda was the Yellowstone Lake shooting range update. Nick has not physically gone to the site. He did leave a message for the property manager to see if the property had made the DAC proposed changes. The manager did not get back to Nick yet. Therefore, there is nothing to update at this time. Nick briefly went over the proposed changes that the DAC had recommended after its visit to the shooting range site.

Next topic to be discussed by the Council was the ADA toilet/shower room and access to the key. Nick received some complaints from one of DNR's campers. He had visited Rocky Arbor and Mirror Lake state parks and wanted to use the accessible shower/toilet room and at both parks, the room was locked. Nick wants the Council to chime in with their thoughts on this issue. Some parks' reason for locking the accessible room is young visitors will lock the room

and occupy the room for one or two hours. Nick told the customer he would bring this up at the DAC meeting to get the Council's input. John Mitchell suggested the room should have a sign or notice on the building indicating the key is at the office. Monica said when she camped at a state park; the attendant gave her the key upfront when she registered. Kirsten talked about the national parks which leave their facilities open. But she added, her and her son do have to wait sometimes. Currently at the DNR parks, "open" door versus "locked" door is on a case by case basis at each park. Implementing something similar to a realtor key box for the disabled community at all parks was also suggested. One could apply up front. Monica said another possible solution would be having signage indicating the closet accessible restroom or shower if the room was locked and after hours. Kirsten asked, "Couldn't the campground host have the key?" After a lot of discussion, the Council agreed that if the accessible shower/toilet room was locked, there needed to be at a minimum a sign on the door of the room indicating where one could get a key and the location of the closest accessible toilet or shower facility.

Since the Council was running ahead of time, the Council next addressed the PDMD update agenda item. Nick indicated he met with the internal DNR PDMD work group. The group was in agreement to accept a general permit to allow the use of the track chair at all DNR properties. A federal definition of an indoor versus outdoor wheelchair was brought up, but that idea was not really practical. DNR legal counsel Diane Milligan met with Nick to discuss the use of the track chair. It was suggested anywhere pedestrians are allowed, the track chair could be used. Julie had an issue with this suggestion and referred back to the final revised DAC language that was used in its recommendation. Update: Julie found the Council's amended language which reads: **To allow a battery operated single occupant outdoor wheelchair access to a DNR Designated Use Area without a PDMD permit.** There should be discussion of this at the next meeting.

Rob Kovach a policy advisor from Senator Lasee's office arrived. The Council did introductions. Rob was at the DAC meeting to talk to the Council about the Eagle Tower. He indicated Senator Lasee's office has been working closely with DNR. There are three Eagle Tower replacement proposals coming from the Consultant hired by DNR. There is a consensus with Senator Lasee, Representative Joel Kitchens, and the DNR in that they will go ahead with meeting the ADA requirements, even though some are not 100% sure this project (new tower) requires ADA compliance.

The consultant has provided three ADA choices for the new tower. The first option is to have an elevator. With an elevator, the height it could reach is not feasible for a 70 foot tower and also there is no power source nearby. If this option is implemented, the power lines would have to be buried; there would be a need for blasting; and a lot of maintenance. The second option was a ramp. The ramp looks like a parking ramp and does not look anything like a tower. The third option looks like the old tower, but instead of a 70 foot tower, it would be between 50 and 60 feet. It would be connected to a viewing platform by a winding ramp (canopy walk ramp –U shaped) that goes through the forest and which meets up with the top of tower. The slopes of the canopy walk will meet ADA specifications. Through the central core of the proposed tower structure, there will be stairs in the middle. These stairs will be the same height as the canopy walk.

Rob mentioned he was at the DAC meeting because his office wants feedback and support from the Council. The renderings for the preferred option are not ready to share with the public. This proposal may set precedence for other states in the Country to follow. It is believed there are no other towers built in Wisconsin since the ADA law was passed. Missy indicated there will be a public meeting to share renderings September 28th in Sturgeon Bay. Monica asked if all areas of the canopy walk would give similar views of the park as the others would experience who climbed the stairs. Missy stated the canopy option is for all people, including those persons with cognitive issues, hearing impairments, visual impairments, etc. This option is also the middle cost. Friends of Eagle Tower raised enough funds for the traditional (non ADA) replacement of the Tower. An additional \$750,000 is in the 17-19 capital development budget and if approved will be a match to the Friends Group's amount. This total amount is still not enough. It is believed the steps of the tower cannot be built until the ADA part is constructed. Steve asked if the conceptual designs could be shared with the Independent Living Centers. Missy explained that these are only renderings and the canopy option is not yet designed. Steve thought the canopy option would be used more than the regular component (steps) of the tower. Missy agreed, she said persons with strollers, the aged, those persons with heart and lung problems, and those afraid of heights would more than likely take the canopy route. Monica asked how wide the canopy will be and the answer was 8-10 feet wide. There will be angled parking and additional parking to the area will be added. Kirsten asked if there will be breaks within the ramp area to rest to enable comfortable access to the top of the platform. Rob said, "Yes, whatever is ADA compliant". A \$2 million cost is a very rough estimate at this point. The DNR and the Friends are hoping for corporate financial assistance, engineering assistance, Forest Products Lab assistance, etc. to help with alleviating some of the costs. DNR's proposed schedule has an engineering firm hired within the next few months, with the construction of the new tower structure by next summer.

Rob said a 60 foot tower will have similar sight lines to the original tower at 75 feet. Missy indicated the aerial footage captured by the Consultant concluded the view shed at 50 feet is very similar to the view shed of the old tower at 75 feet.

Steve made a motion to support the Canopy Concept option for the new Eagle Tower. John Mitchel seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Next on the agenda was the Customer Service Updates item. Barry gave the Council his updates.

- Archery Season opens Sept. 16
- Small game opens Sept. 16
- Early Goose, Teal and Dove seasons open Sept. 1
- Drawings for Fall Turkey, Bobcat, Otter, and Fisher have all been completed.
- Next drawing deadline is December 10

- Spring Hearing Advisory Questions Rule Changes effective Aug. 1
 - Tree stands on state land can be left out overnight
 - North of Hwy 64
 - Hunting hours changed to Shooting Hours
 - Violation would occur after someone shoots

- Go Wild Emergency Rule effective June 17
 - Carcass tag validation
 - Remove bottom portion
 - No Goose report card

- WM Housekeeping Rule
 - Porcupines unprotected species
 - Up to 10 may apply as a group for a turkey permit
 - Electronic call use for the deaf now allowed

- 2017 Act 14 Turkey permit for certain Resident Disabled Veterans and Res/NR purple heart
 - The following individuals are eligible to purchase this turkey permit
 - Resident disabled veterans receiving benefits for a disability rating of 50% or greater for a service-connected disability or receiving benefits for being individually unemployable
 - Resident and Nonresident Purple Heart medal recipients.
 - Documentation is required as with other disabled veteran and Purple Heart products
 - Each qualified disabled hunter or PH recipient is eligible to receive the same number of these turkey permits as an applicant who is issued permits via the drawing. Currently 1

- 2017 Act 44 No minimum age to apply for bear preference point
 - Effective Aug. 4 – and allows a person of any age to apply for a bear preference point (formerly an applicant who was 9 could apply for a bear preference point, if turning 10 by the first day of season)
 - The only permit applications that currently have a minimum age requirement are: Turkey, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and Up River Sturgeon Spearing.

- 2017 Act 41 Sunset date for baiting and feeding
 - Removed deer baiting and feeding prohibitions in counties where 36 months have passed since any confirmed positive test for CWD or TB within the county
 - Removed deer baiting and feeding prohibitions in adjacent counties where 24 months have passed since any confirmed positive test for CWD or TB within a 10 mile radius of the county
 - The 24/36 month period would start over again with each new positive test result
 - Baiting and feeding restrictions will be lifted on 15 counties and will remain in place for 28 counties.

- 2015 Act 98 Transfer of awarded permits to disabled permit holder and Class A bear license to active duty/purple heart recipients
- Current Legislation
 - SB 150 Turkey LTH for \geq 50% service connected disabled resident vets
 - SB 247 Authorizing hunting from a mechanical lift attached to motor
 - SB 372 Hunting approvals issued to certain terminally ill individuals

The next agenda item was the deer permit update. Nick talked about the requirement that deer hunters participating in the disabled deer hunt must specify private land for their antlerless tag. If they don't harvest a deer during that hunt and plan on hunting during the regular season, they can't use that tag on public land. Eric Lobner wanted to know the number of Class A and B permits. The reason for asking is because changing the rule could have a lot of extra people out hunting on public land with antlerless tags than are out on private land with antlerless tags. Last year there were around 400 people who signed up for a special disabled hunt. DNR doesn't collect numbers of successful harvests. About 40% of the 400 will participate in the regular deer hunt. Therefore, if new rule goes through, there would only be about 160-200 people this new rule would affect. This change is being looked into by Wildlife Management. A very small number will be affected. The DAC had already made the motion back in September 22, 2016. We will see how it will be implemented. (The motion was as follows: John Mitchell made a motion to allow any Class A, long term Class B, Class C, or Class D disabled permit holder to use any valid deer tag to hunt anywhere in the State and not be land type specific. Jim Rutledge seconded the motion and all were in favor.)

Next Nick updated the Council on hunting blinds (design and mapping). Nick let the Council know that the Land Management System database currently collects information on hunting blinds in a weird section of the database, but only a fraction of the blinds are accounted for. The programmers will update this section to collect more useful information regarding hunting blinds. Once this page is developed, it will be sent to all field staff (property managers). If the managers have a blind or blinds on their property, then they can fill in this section. Once the information is entered, it can then be incorporated into the active maps database. The Department's South Central Region Engineer is working on a set of universal designs. Nick will e-mail the DAC hunting and waterfowl designs that he likes and thinks will work well. Steve asked if Nick will send these to the federally run properties like Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge.

Nick asked a question. "Since none of the blinds are reservable, what does the DAC suggest?" Should the blinds be used on a first come, first serve basis or should the blinds be reservable, especially if they are being mapped and on the Internet. Jim said reserving is the best way. Barry said this is too much work and cost prohibitive for a formal reservation system. It was asked, "How about using a small indicator that this is being used". Monica said how about using the system used for reserving the kayak at Mirror Lake or Devil's Lake? Someone asked "How about using Google to reserve it?" Nick thought reserving it is the best idea, but not practical. Having an "occupied" or "open" sign (a post with hinge) is probably the best option. Barry asked Nick to look and see if the Managed Forest Lands (MFL) map could help. This map could incorporate the blinds, their location, how they appear, etc., and have a contact person (property manager).

Nick next talked about the DNR's DAC website links. Nick wants the DAC's input. For example, there is a site whose organization is called Wheelchair Whitetails in Niagara where they take around 20 disabled hunters out archery and crossbow deer hunting every year. The owners Steve and Kristi Nooyen have prime land for deer hunting. John Martinson is going hunting there on November 2nd through the 4th. So Nick is looking for any useful hunting, fishing, or outdoors links in Wisconsin. Any updated links is welcomed too. Nick will send out a reminder. Barry said Customer Service and Licensing is looking at redesigning the customer outreach licensing website. Barry will send it out to DAC to comment on and make possible changes.

The next item on the agenda was kayaks and other equipment needs led by Nick. Big Bay has a big demand for kayaks. Currently, there is no accessible kayak at Big Bay. Nick suggested the DAC should go on a tour at Big Bay. The new kayak vendor at Big Bay who contracts with DNR says they need to provide an accessible kayak and other accessible equipment. Nick is asking the DAC to think about the different parks they have visited and what equipment is needed. Jim talked about Cadiz Springs Recreational Area and how it went downhill.

Nick said bikes (accessible) are not a good piece of equipment to have to rent. They are expensive and hard to maintain. Kirsten asked if Paradise Springs was a State Property (part of Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit). Julie said "Yes." She was wondering about the upkeep of the wire which is used for the blind. Nick indicated any equipment to enhance a property is welcomed. John Martinson asked about "closed caption" for some of the videos. If it is DNR's video, then yes it has to be closed captioned. If someone else sends it in, then no it does not have to be closed captioned.

Next Julie talked about the DAC awards. She handed out the DAC awards criteria, samples, and who DAC awarded in 2013. Nominations are due to Julie by October 15th, summarized by Julie and out to Members by October 31st. There will be one week (until November 7th) to give final votes of approval. Julie will order awards and will distribute at December meeting or first meeting of 2018.

Next on the agenda were the Members' Updates.

Jim – There were 21 (15 from WI and 6 from Iowa) youth shooters age 11 - 17 that the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Wisconsin Chapter sponsored at the PVA-WI Green Bay Trap Shoot during the first week in August. A total of 150 birds were taken. The PVA covered the shooting expenses. Another trap shoot will be held at the Boxhorn in Muskego. The PVA is big into wheel chair costs.

Jim talked about WASA's program. WASA is a group of veterans that our based out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association. They are big into wheelchair lacrosse and other wheelchair athletic sports. Dr. Lee the Chief of Staff for the Zablocki VA Spinal Cord section runs the program.

John Mitchell – Mentioned the Adaptive Sportsman will be making decisions on its annual bow hunts (for example Clintonville is one) that will be coming up in October and then the Board will meet in January to plan the 2018 events.

Jon Martinson – At Rock Creek (by Willard) there will be a disabled outdoors deer hunt in first week in October (special deer hunt). John is going out to Wyalusing to hunt antelope; a nonprofit runs this event. This is John's 2nd year to do this. On September 20, 2017, John had a booth for the Adaptive Sportsmen at William S. Middleton Memorial VA Hospital in Madison, WI, for its Adaptive Recreation and Wellness Expo. Doctor Kenneth Lee, who is with the Medical College of Wisconsin, is a service man, is with the Veterans Administration, and is the organizer. John was there to tell others what accessibility organizations are available, what adaptive hunting equipment is available, etc. He brought along his Wilcraft Ice Fishing Machine and handed out brochures to disabled Veterans!

John also said Rock Creek Disabled Outdoors Inc., has the largest disabled deer hunt in WI. Anyone can contact them at www.sunsetpinesresort.com.

Steve Johnson – The NASA organization has been busy since the last time the DAC met. We have added new programs including adaptive water skiing, adaptive kayaking, and sled hockey. There are 4 kayaks including 2 tandem. It is planning 2 events a year for the adaptive water skiing. In the last event there were 22 participants. Nasa continues to have a strong focus on veterans programs which include our annual turkey hunt which is held the 5th season each year, a bass tournament on Lake Onalaska, a pheasant hunt at Woods and Meadows, and coyote hunting through Coulee Region Coyote Hunters. The LaCrosse County deer hunts harvested 7 deer. NASA sent a youth on a bear hunt and is waiting to hear the results.

This year's NASA banquet was the most successful to date, and is still the premier conservation banquet in the region. Finally, NASA had a group of accessible-minded volunteers approach us from Tomah to become part of NASA and form a committee. They now have an annual banquet with this next year's falling on February 24. Their fund-raising focus is on an all-inclusive park which is located on Lake Tomah, called Butts Park. They have substantial community and regional support, and have constructed a shelter, put in paved accessible walkways, and will be putting in an accessible fishing pier, all-inclusive park, and eventually, purchasing a pontoon for the lake. We are excited about this group, and look forward to the great work they will be doing to create and enhance access to the outdoors.

Kirsten – A group is starting a power soccer league for persons with disabilities in Southern Wisconsin.

Cathryn – She is no longer with the Independent Living Center. She now consults for Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) out of Richland County. IRIS is Wisconsin's Medicaid self-directed long-term care waiver program. It is an option to Family Care which is the Medicaid managed care long-term care waiver program. The difference between the two is that people in the IRIS program have more choice and flexibility on how they spend their budget.

Cathryn is with TMG (the Management Group) which is an IRIS consultant agency. So, if someone selects Medicaid long-term Care through IRIS they can choose which consultant agency they want to work with. As an employee of a consultant agency, she assists people in getting their chosen services set and keeps in touch with people she partners with to ensure their needs are met as things change in their lives. She is enjoying her new job.

Next meeting will be a conference call OR in person meeting at Fitchburg on December 15, 2017.

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kirsten seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.