

DAC Meeting Minutes
Stevens Point Campus
October 18, 2013

Members present: Kirsten Engel, Joe Greene, Werner Burkat, Chairman Tom Zimmer, John Kocourek, and Jim Rutledge

Members absent: John Martinson, John Mitchell, and Steve Johnson

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zimmer at 10:10.

Guests: Tyler Strelow, Greg Behling, Carl Mesman, Barry Gilbeck, Anthonette Gilpatrick and Julie Amakobe

Jim asked about the Turtle Flambeau Flowage accessible campsite and the issues associated with that site. The site is located on Big Island. Anthonette will follow up for the next meeting.

Meeting minutes of August 9, 2013, were discussed. Tom Zimmer said that in “others in attendance” section that Tyler Strelow and I (Julie Amakobe) were in attendance, but not listed. Tom also said that “agenda repair” should be changed to “agenda amendment”.

Tom indicated that the paragraph regarding “Resolve crossbow season issue” and starting with the section “It should be noted....” should be revised to: “Have the opportunity to use crossbows in the regular archery season should the crossbow season be shortened or eliminated.”

Tom had another minutes’ correction. During the campground shower conversation, he said the gentleman who likes to camp in state parks had asked for a longer bench in the showers and not that the bench be closer to the shower. During this same conversation Jim said that he had mentioned that the bench should be wider, too.

In addition, there is a spelling error in the paragraph regarding the permit application for hunting and trolling authorizations. The word “tunneled” should be corrected to “funneled”.

Jim clarified the members’ update section and said that he had mentioned that the State Trap Shoot had moved to Rome Township by Wis. Rapids and that they have accessibility issues/problems that need to be brought up to ADA standards. Jim also indicated that fifteen “youth” participants and not fifteen “new” participants had attended the PVA trap shoot in Green Bay.

John Mitchell clarified his update where he indicated that the shooting activity picnic on August 3rd featured trap, archery, rifle and pistol ranges.

Werner made a motion to accept the amended minutes, Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The next meeting agenda was the Recording of Minutes. Jim said that he does a short version for Paralyzed Veterans Association (PVA). Werner indicated that when the DAC tables or postpones an issue if there are no detailed minutes, this can inhibit the discussion later on. He suggested that one should address specific issues and then the actual discussion points and

counter points should be written down. Anthonette also chimed in and said that in the past she has had to go back to DAC minutes to look over discussion issues. One example was when she had a public request relating to something that was discussed by the DAC and she had to go back and look at the minutes. It helped to have more detail. Anthonette and Julie will play it by ear and base the depth of minute taking on the discussion topic.

Next on the agenda was the Presentation of Awards Ceremony. Anthonette explained who Richard Welsh was and what he did for the DAC and for those persons with disabilities. These awards are given out on his behalf. She then went through the awards criteria/categories.

The first award went to the DAC's Past Chair Werner Burkat. Anthonette read his nomination. Congratulations to Werner! Werner mentioned he was proud of initiating and implementing the alternate position on the Council and that this is one of his best accomplishments.

The next award given out was the Outstanding Service Award and this went to Greg Behling, Parks Manager. Anthonette read his nomination. Congratulations Greg! Greg mentioned the Big Bay accessibility projects and said that he is also doing 3 other major accessibility projects at Copper Falls where he is now located.

The second Outstanding Service Award went to Kelly Frawley. Anthonette read his nomination. Congratulations Kelly! Kelly couldn't make it to the meeting due to a personal commitment.

The Outstanding Property Award went to Big Bay State Park. Anthonette read its nomination. Congratulations Big Bay! This award will be handed out at the Parks conference. Julie will send the award and nomination to Big Bay's property manager.

The next Outstanding Service Award went to Dale Petkovsek. Anthonette read his nomination. Dale passed away on July 27th. His sister will be sent his award. She could not make it to the DAC meeting.

Julie read the thank you card from Dale Petkovsek's family thanking the DAC members for the memorial that they sent after his untimely death.

The next agenda item was the Update on Crossbow Legislation. Tom indicated that he had spoken with Senator Farrow's aide, Scott, and Scott said that on Tuesday it went to voice vote and he anticipates that it will go to the Governor's office for signature by the end of October.

Tom had made an impact on the crossbow legislation. The Legislators were going to strike all of the references to "disabled", but Tom urged them to keep those references in the legislation in case things changed, so that the legislation would revert back to the original statute to protect those persons with disabilities with Class A and C permits.

Tom talked to DNR's Legislative Liaison Michael Bruhn and asked if the Council has a strong opinion or voice on a topic, if he (Tom) can speak directly to Legislators on behalf of DAC and not have to go through the Department. Tom didn't fully understand why the DAC is restricted to talking to Legislators on DNR topics. Werner and Anthonette explained that the DAC is an Advisory Council and is funded by the DNR and therefore it cannot lobby on its behalf.

Anthonette is going to check on this and give guidance at the next meeting. **Update:**
Anthonette and Julie talked directly with Michael Bruhn and he indicated that since the

DAC is a DNR appointed Council, its members should not talk to Legislators unless they are doing so as private citizens.

Julie will be getting the previously approved DNR minutes up on the DNR website as soon as possible. This includes August 17, 2012, December 14, 2012, April 12, 2013 and August 9, 2013.

Lastly, it was pointed out that the crossbow has a separate license from the regular bow (archery) license, but has the same hunting season for the first two years. Cost of license is the same. One needs to tell a licensing person which license he or she wants. For an extra \$3, one can get both licenses, but only one set of tags. For those with patron licenses, they get both licenses for one price.

The next item discussed was the Purple Heart. The Legislature has approved a bipartisan bill that would offer wounded veterans discounts on hunting and fishing licenses. Anthonette and Barry handed out the information regarding this legislation. One example of this implemented bill is that a conservation patron license will cost an in-state Purple Heart recipient \$10 instead of the \$165 fee and a non-resident Purple Heart recipient \$161 rather than the \$600 fee.

Next there was a General Law Enforcement (LE) Update provided by Tyler Strelow. Tyler indicated that people thought that the Crossbow legislation would go through easily.

Disability permit applications are coming in and some are still getting denied (based on current legislation). Tom has gotten several calls on this. Next year they will be able to get it. Tyler gets to make the final decision on the questionable ones. Chris Thielman was the lead on a "Lean Project" looking into the disability permits application forms. There will be one application form for all the permits. On questionable permits, both Chris and Tyler will discuss and decide on the final call.

Having one application and point persons for questionable applications, will help with statewide consistencies. DNR will have two days to make the determinations. Tom asked if the crossbow permit has the largest number of applicants/permittees. Tyler indicated that crossbow permits accounted for about 70% of all disabled permits, so with the new legislation, the Department workload will go down considerably for the next two years. The crossbow applications tend to have the most questions, too (disputes). Those implementing the new law will give notice to customers.

In the past, those permittees that had "shoot from vehicle", but were Class B, did not necessarily get to use a crossbow. Customer Service and LE were not always in agreement with this determination. This will not be an issue now with the new crossbow legislation.

The new applications are being piloted in certain parts of the state. The application will go live in November.

Tyler informed the Council that the Federal shutdown made for a mess for a while. Out of LaCrosse office, the Natural Refuge was an issue. DNR said that the water will be open to everyone. The National Forests were closed.

Tyler also let the Council know that rifles can now be used statewide during gun deer season starting November 1st. The local municipality can pass an ordinance to restrict this if they so choose. The municipality needs to post the notice on public property.

Updates on other laws/regulations include the following. Twelve more lakes have been added which allow open water fowl hunting. The Federal law related to water fowl hunting is now adopted by the State. The State law allowed twice the daily bag limit, now one can get 3 times the daily bag limit with the adoption of the Federal law.

Tom asked Tyler if he had any numbers regarding the youth hunt participation. Tyler did not have those numbers. Tom thought the numbers had gone up considerably.

Tyler needed to leave early because there was a “learn to trap” session this evening.

Carl Mesman arrived at the meeting and we quickly changed back to the awards agenda item. The Outstanding Service Award was given to Carl Mesman. Anthonette read his nomination. Congratulations Carl!

Tyler then continued with his updates. He mentioned that eighteen recruit wardens will be stationed next March. The Bureau of Law Enforcement is still 6-8 people short. It will hire a new group next year with a class of 10 in January 2014.

Tyler indicated that DNR management dissolved the Division Administrator (Tim Lawhern’s position) for Enforcement and Science Division. In addition, DNR’s Chief Warden Randy Stark will retire in December. Recruitment for the position will be nationwide.

There will be a change to the current license (ALIS) system. The current agreement expires 2014 and there will likely be a new vendor. There are lots of proposed changes, for example, no “back tag”; going paperless; can check hunting licenses with smart phone based on driver’s license, etc. Jim also mentioned that there is a proposal to register deer online. Barry indicated that there are a lot of changes ahead of us.

Tyler let the Council know that he does specialized training (1-2 week trainings) for wardens. Currently, there are no disabled hunting scenarios (i.e., duck hunting,). He would like to pull in real life actors to portray actions. He asked if the DAC would like to be part of this training. The Council showed interest. While on this topic, Tom asked the question “Where can one legally park along the roadside?” Tyler answered the question.

As his role as LE liaison on the DAC, Tyler asked if members have some issue, question or something for him to prepare (project), let him know before the meeting. He will be happy to help out.

Next on the agenda was the Deer Trustee Hearing Locations. Those attending the hearings will watch a PowerPoint presentation, will be able to ask clarifying questions, and then testify. There will be nothing else. No baiting or crossbow topics are associated with these hearings.

Next Tom went over the Hunting or Trolling Disability Permit Authorizations Application. Barry will have Chris Thielman give a copy to Anthonette to review. It is also time to update the

“What You Should Know about Permits for Persons with Disabilities” Brochure. Anthonette asked if anyone has a good picture to offer.

Next on the agenda was the setting of the date for the next meeting. Tom thought we could have the next physical meeting in April. Werner indicated that Fall/winter meetings were needed if legislation was pending and DAC needed to comment. The dates to choose from were April 4, 11, 18, 25, or May 2. May 2 will be the next meeting. Anthonette will look at some locations and get back to the DAC.

Anthonette Gilpatrick, DNR’s Accessibility Coordinator, was next on the agenda. She said she was very happy to be chosen for this position again. We are happy to have her back! Anthonette mentioned term limits versus 3 year cycle term. There was discussion about term limits and how to address this. Anthonette said we have one application for the DAC. We have the DAC alternate vacancy. She asked if we should advertise with the Independent Living Centers and other Agencies or give the one current applicant the alternate vacancy. Jim said that for the next four months DNR should get a list of candidates and look at applications or resumes. Tom, Julie, and Anthonette will get together and discuss how the process was done in the past and what criteria was used, etc. Anthonette will set up a conference call this winter on how to proceed. The selection committee used to look at the DAC Charter, evaluation criteria, and the submitted application form. Whatever process will be used, it should be put in writing.

Anthonette’s mission is to continue to advocate and promote accessibility opportunities. She wants to do more training. She would also like to team up with DAC to do some of that training, including Bureau statewide meetings.

Anthonette talked about Mike Kowalkowski, DNR lawyer, who she worked with regarding PDMDs. She also mentioned that her workload regarding the PDMDs (3-4 questions per day) was heavy. Anthonette wants to talk about PDMDs at some meeting. She also wants to discuss yurts at some time. Shooting range access is another topic she wants to talk to the DAC about. Particularly, she wants to discuss heights, etc. regarding shooting ranges.

Anthonette handed out a highlight page of the Final Guidelines for Federal Outdoor Recreation Sites. She also handed out the 2010 Federal Rules of Outdoor Standards. DNR follows these rules. Anthonette also distributed a Respectful Disability Language sheet.

Next Anthonette and Tom discussed the topic Handling Room Reservations for DAC business. Tom asked if it was possible to get a DNR identification badge (or something similar) to facilitate getting state rates at hotels and for expediting entrance to DNR properties. Anthonette indicated that other DNR advisory groups do not have this privilege. Julie can fax the state rate letter to the hotel and this should suffice.

The next agenda item to be discussed was the Disability Expo. Kirsten discussed this topic. In the past it had talked about that DNR was to help co-host an outdoor recreational expo. At the last meeting Jim mentioned the same thing. Werner said that Lambeau Field has hosted events in the past. Werner indicated that the DAC could help with securing the permits, etc. It could help to get vendors on board such as NASA, Adaptive Sportsman, etc. DAC can contact Sandy

Popp of Options for Independent Living in Green Bay, she knows lots of vendors. The VA and Access to Independent Living could take the lead. Kirsten and Jim can talk and then they can talk to Sandy Popp on possible vendors, etc. DNR shouldn't take the lead. Since the DAC is interested in being part of it; it can contact potential vendors.

Next were the Members' Updates:

Tom read the notes from Steve Johnson. There will be a managed hunt in LaCrosse and NASA and DNR will be involved. NASA will also host a canned hunt in Iowa for wild boar. If people are interested, they should E-mail Steve. Tim Ewing of Navarino Nature Center is going to put in a disabled trail and boardwalk. Did the DAC visit in August have anything to do with him implementing this? The DAC asked Anthonette if she had grants or other money. Anthonette referred him to DNR's Community Financial Assistance (CF) Bureau for these types of grants.

Barry gave thanks to Tom for coming to his Bureau's Statewide to talk about the DAC.

Werner - None.

Kirsten - None.

John K. - None.

Joe - None.

Jim - None.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

