

DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 2015
SCHMEECKLE RESERVE
STEVENS POINT

Vice Chair Joe Greene called the meeting to order at 10:20.

Members present: Joe Greene, John Mitchell, John Kocourek, Jim Rutledge, Kirsten Engel, Keith Pamperin (new member), and Cathryn Scott (new member)

Members absent: John Martinson, Steve Johnson, and Monica Kamal (new member)

First, everyone in attendance including current and new DAC members and the Council liaisons introduced themselves. Welcome to the new members! We are happy you are onboard!

Anthonette handed out the DAC charter. Joe reviewed the Council's charter and led the discussion. He reviewed meeting conduct. There was a discussion on political activities and what is acceptable and what is not acceptably by members. Some of the items covered were the agenda, DAC recommendations, and speaking on behalf of the DAC to the Legislature. It was noted the DAC cannot speak on behalf of the Council unless the Council makes a specific recommendation to the Department liaison or technical advisor.

Other details pointed out during the discussion are as follows. The Council's travel, lodging and food purchases are tax exempt. Anthonette handed out the Wisconsin tax exempt certificate to new Council members. When a DAC member is booking a hotel for a Council meeting, ask for the state rate. The list of DAC members, their contact information and their terms can be found in the DNR's Cooperators Handbook. The list has been updated to include the new members. All DAC members were asked to look at the information listed and to update the information if changes are necessary. It was asked if the DAC always meets in central Wisconsin. Joe indicated that the DAC likes to do at least one property visit a year. This location will vary throughout the state. The DAC does try to meet at least once a year in central Wisconsin so that no one has to drive more than 3-4 hours.

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve the agenda. Kirsten asked to have something added to the agenda. The item was added and will be discussed under the Members' updates.

Jim Rutledge made a motion to approve the agenda. John Kocourek seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from July 23 and 24, 2015. There were no changes to the minutes.

John Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes. Kirsten seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The next agenda item was the response letter from Bureau Director Steve Miller to an all-terrain wheelchair (ATW) letter. The Council was provided with two letters; one from Jim Rutledge (Paralyzed Vets) and the response, from Steve Miller (DNR). Anthonette led the discussion. She went over the Other Power Driven Mobility Device (OPDMD) Policy and shared what the Department is currently doing and discussed the permits issued. She indicated that the Steve Miller letter explains that it is a significant policy change and needs to be reviewed by the various program and property managers before moving forward. Anthonette will go back to the Land Leadership Team (LLT) to get information since Steve Miller has since retired. Depending on the LLT's recommendation, Anthonette may be asked by the LLT to form a committee to look at allowing ATWs on state lands without a permit. It is possible that a decision could be made by next fall's hunting season.

Jim said the Access Ability Wisconsin has an All-Terrain Wheelchair (ATW) to lend out to members and if no member wants it, the group allows others to use it. No fee. Access Ability Wisconsin also has a trailer to transport the chair, but one needs to have a hitch on his/her vehicle.

John Mitchell indicated that Wild Wings was the first non-profit to make an all-terrain wheelchair available for public use. This all-terrain wheelchair is currently kept at Midwest Shooter Supply in Fond du Lac. The ATW is set inside of a closed trailer for use by persons with disabilities.

Anthonette stated the question Access Ability Wisconsin is asking is "Why can't one just use the ATW and not have to get an OPDMD for DNR lands?" The answer is the Federal guidelines indicate that the definition of a wheelchair is that it needs to be able to be used indoors and outdoors. She discussed reasons for the all-terrain wheelchair concerns.

Cathryn asked how long does it takes to get a permit. Anthonette said property managers are very prompt in signing, sending maps and other documents to permittees. Some property managers will even write the permit for more than one year.

Jim emphasized that his power chair does more damage to the environment than the Track chair. He indicated that Monica Kamal wanted to switch hunting locations if the first site wasn't productive (no turkeys).

John Mitchell suggested that during the summer Monica could ask all the property managers for permits within her driving range and have those permits for all the locations ahead of time. Kirsten stated the Council did discuss ATW's a lot at the last meeting and the DAC made a recommendation. Anthonette read out loud the recommendation from the last DAC meeting.

Cathryn said she looks at this as access for everyone. Anthonette said that some OPDMD permits allow travel in some areas that the general public is not allowed.

Anthonette stated overall the OPDMD permit system is very successful. She receives a copy of each permit issued. She said that if a DNR Committee is formed they may recommendations on speed limits, weight limits, etc. The Committee may want to see the variety of track chairs available and the specifications, costs, etc. while evaluating and reviewing the issue.

Monica Kamal, Ray Anderson, and Mike Mohr met with Anthonette, Julie, and Mike Kowalkowski back in June. They presented two letters addressed to Anthonette, Julie, and Mike K. regarding the track chair. In these letters they make recommendations on the use of the track chair. Therefore, there are two recommendations currently on the table. There is the DAC's recommendation made in a motion at the July meeting and there is Monica's, Ray's and Mike Mohr's recommendation.

Keith indicated that the ATW is an alternative to the power chair because the ATW can go off trail.

Tyler asked if DNR could implement the use of the ATW without an OPDMD internally and not form a committee. Anthonette said there are significant differences between the properties and the current policy is being implemented statewide on DNR properties. Land use and the use of all-terrain wheel chairs will vary amongst DNR properties based on the property manager's knowledge of the property (wet conditions, endangered species, etc.).

Anthonette will follow up with Steve Miller (or Acting Bureau Director) as to the LLT's recommendation.

Next on the agenda was the transfer of tags to persons with disabilities. Keith indicated that Assembly Bill (AB) 44 (or Senate Bill (SB) 20) has been approved by Assembly's Natural Resources and Energy Committee. AB 44 allows the transfer of any tag that is allowed to be given/transferred to a youth would also be allowed to be transferred to a disabled person. Barry provided the names of the tags that are included in this legislation. It will now go to the Rules Committee. There was discussion on who is eligible for these transfers. Barry provided information on the types of tags that are included and who is eligible. It was noted Class A and B (long term and short term), active military, and Purple Heart recipients are eligible. Class C and Class D were not included. Anthonette believed that the law should not include short term B, but should include Class C and Class D. Joe said the DAC should go on record on potential changes. Keith explained how the bill made its way through the Legislature and how it had widespread support.

Tyler checked the statutes and Class C and Class D are included in SB 20. In addition, Tyler noted that Class B short term is not defined in statute (no differentiation between long term and short term Class B). He also informed the Council that Class A Bear tags can be given only to active duty vets and Purple Heart recipients.

Next on the agenda were the accessible hunting blinds. Anthonette indicated that Open the Outdoors website currently does not have a list of accessible hunting blinds on DNR properties. She also said that they must be fully accessible to be on the website; however you can find available blinds through external links on Open the Outdoors Website. It was noted that a

spreadsheet was to be done by the former accessibility coordinator showing all the accessible blinds, but there are no records to indicate this was completed. One was never completed. Some pictures were handed out showing several different blinds. John Mitchell provided some photos from a DNR blind on the Jackson Marsh. John requested to have something added on accessible blinds. There was a short discussion on a mapping application and other options. Anthonette talked about some old plans that had been prepared for hunting blinds by former DNR employee Ron Ellingson. She also indicated that DNR needs an engineer to design a new set of plans.

In order for Anthonette to advertise a list of blinds as accessible on the Open the Outdoors website, each site would need to be surveyed to ensure there is accessible parking and route of travel, appropriate interior dimensions, door widths, heights of stations and benches, etc. Adaptive Sportsman has a list of blinds which Anthonette refers to and their website. She also gives customers information about the DNR blinds she has seen or assisted with accessibility information and dimensions.

Barry gave the Council his Customer and Outreach services updates since he needed to leave at 1:30.

- Clarification of Disabled Trolling Permit
 - o We received clarification that the permit allows the use of 3 lines, hooks, or lures
 - o The permit is not just for use of a trolling motor on no motor lakes

- AB 336/SB 298
 - o Bill to provide sight impaired individuals to troll and their assistant to do the same
 - o The Dept. provide informational testimony on 10/14/15
 - o Sight impaired definition: Unable to read ordinary news print with or without corrective lenses
 - o The addition of wording that the assistant must drive the boat has not been added to the bill.

- AB 44/SB 20
 - o Bill to allow transfer of permits awarded through drawing process to a “disabled person” (Class A, B, C, or D). Allows transfer of Class A Bear license to a person awarded a Purple Heart or to a service member (person serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces)
 - No definition of Class B short term or Class B long term (states Class B)
 - No residency restrictions for active military
 - o This would include Turkey, Bobcat, Fisher, Otter, Bear, Up River Sturgeon, Sharp-tail Grouse, and Deer – if offered.
 - o This bill has passed both Houses and will be effective the day after it is signed.

- AB 187
 - o Bill requires the department to issue wild turkey licenses and tags to greater than or equal to 50% disabled resident veterans and Purple Heart recipients without requiring they be issued pursuant to the cumulative preference system.

- Limited to residents for veterans with 50% or greater disabilities
- Non-residents or Residents with a purple heart would qualify
- It has passed out of Assembly committee and has been referred to the Committee on Rules
- Companion bill SB 115 has not had any movement

Jim Rutledge asked if this was 50% due to service related injury or non-service related. Barry was not aware; however Tyler Strelow looked up the bill and provided the definition in the bill. Tyler searched the statutes and found the definition of Disabled Veteran which is one who receives compensation from the Veterans and therefore it is a service related injury/disability.

- AB 112/SB 88
- Bill allows a physician assistant or certified nurse prescriber to provide information, conduct tests, and sign off on disabled permit applications
 - No action has been taken at this point
- New License System
 - Design and Testing is underway
 - New brand name: Go Wild
 - Examples provided of new logo
- Snowmobile Trail Passes
 - Every snowmobile needs to have a pass attached
 - Currently the department is unable to issue a temporary operating receipt, so each snowmobile must have a pass attached prior to riding
 - Customer Service will be working to get passes to the service centers and local VRS agents if needed
 - There will be communication on this next week if needed.
 - Dealers must display a pass on every snowmobile, not just on the plate.
 - Legislation may allow the use of temporary operating receipt in the future
- ATV/UTV
 - The definition has been changed – Cargo box has been removed for UTVs.
 - Must provide weight and width and verify it meets the definition prior to registration.

Joe Greene asked about back tags. Tyler said that DNR might be getting away from requiring back tags since other provisions, like paperless licenses, are being implemented. Most other states do not require back tags.

A question was asked about Senior Recreational Cards. These cards are good forever (must be born on or before 1927).

Tyler indicated that there are problems with the Class A permit applications. Some doctors are signing off on Class A permits applications and the person may not legitimately qualify and he thinks this is because Class A permit holders can take an antlerless deer. Once a Class A permit

application comes into the DNR, someone in Customer Service confirms with doctor. There are many more buck only zones which could also be a contributing factor to this problem.

Joe asked Tyler about the unloaded uncased law. Joe said this can be a challenge for the disabled hunter. Tyler responded that an uncased and loaded firearm is a safety issue.

Keith informed the Council that currently the Mentor Hunt is for persons 10 years or older. There is now a proposal for the Mentor Hunt where both can carry firearms and there is no age limit.

Next on the agenda was Anthonette giving the Council her updates. First, DNR's Open the Outdoors Accessibility Program received a Silver *Spirit of the ADA* award from Disability Rights Wisconsin for positively changing and improving the lives of people with disabilities in Wisconsin. Anthonette was chosen to receive the award at the ceremony. Congratulations Anthonette!

Next Anthonette updated the Council regarding the use of an electronic turkey call by a legally deaf person. A Class A or B permit holder can currently use an electronic turkey call. An updated rule that will allow a legally deaf person to use an electronic call is working its way through DNR housekeeping rules. The new rule needs an administrative rule hearing, adoption by the NRB, and lastly Legislative review and approval. DNR is hoping by April, 2016, it will get the 30 day approval period and be enacted. Scott Loomans in the Bureau of Wildlife Management will talk to the Wardens and Wildlife Staff about this change as it occurs before the start of spring turkey season.

Anthonette informed the Council that Fishing has no Boundaries (FHNB) former National Board Chair, Bill Kohls, used to come to DAC meetings in the past. He advocated for Class B permit holders to be able to participate in the early season disabled hunt, which is now possible. Bill was instrumental in securing a DNR grant for his town and getting an accessible fishing pier constructed on the Rock River. The fishing pier project took ten years to become a reality. Anthonette, Bill's wife Jan Kohls, and the Hospice Staff were able to get Bill out to the pier and an article was written in the Jefferson county Union paper. Bill passed away in early October.

The Department of Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehab (DVR) Internship Program is a great opportunity for the DNR to participate in. The DVR pays for 6 months of limited term employment. Anthonette wants to improve the Open the Outdoors website and hopes to hire a DVR intern for six months to help with this project. This person may also work on the accessible blinds list and other ADA related assignments.

Last February Anthonette completed the Civil Rights Fish and Wildlife audit that was brought to her attention when she started in 2013. She is now doing another Civil Rights Fish and Wildlife audit.

Next Anthonette discussed observation towers in State Parks (SP). Peninsula SP has a 70 foot observation tower. It is now closed due to structural problems. Anthonette pointed out that once you construct a new structure, the ADA 2010 design standards apply. Only two states are doing

elevated towers based on a survey done by the Bureau of Parks. The towers also need an accessible route of travel. She will keep the DAC posted on the Department's decision on elevated towers.

When a land owner has a public easement, who is allowed to hunt on his/her land was asked. Tyler answered and said "the easement will specify if it is a public hunting easement."

Anthonette is working with the Telephone Pioneers on the 25 year cabin anniversary at Mirror Lake State Park (SP). The Telephone Pioneers constructed the first three accessible cabins for DNR. The Friends' Groups currently raise funds and receive grants to construct the cabins. The Telephone Pioneers did the first three at Mirror Lake, Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit, and Potawatomi; then DNR built Buckhorn and High Cliff; then the last three Kohler Andrae, Harrington Beach and Bong were constructed by the Friends' Groups. Unfortunately there are areas of the state that currently do not have an accessible cabin. Comments were made that having a cabin in the Northern Region would be a good option.

Next on the agenda were the Members' updates.

Keith Pamperin said he is working on getting an accessible pier at the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Area. The City can't get the grant because the railing is not strong enough. Keith wanted to know who approves and/or tests the loading for a railing for the DNR. DNR requires that its pier vendors for example Port a Pier, must have stamped plans from an engineer to account for the loadings.

Kirsten went to Governor Dodge SP and she said the fishing pier is very steep by Cox Hollow. It is very old. She asked that Kirsten send her an e-mail and she will discuss this with the property manager. Kirsten was wondering if there is another accessible pier at Governor Dodge. Anthonette will find out.

Kirsten said Council Grounds SP has a great fishing pier and a good route of travel (path to it), but the vault toilets are not accessible. Many of the DNR vault toilets are currently in the design phase and the engineering section in DNR is work with the Department of Administration.

It was emphasized that the DAC does not only advise on hunting issues, but also advises on accessibility issues at State parks. The DAC has visited several parks and has given recommendations on accessibility improvements.

John Mitchell - Adaptive Sportsman picnic August 23, 2015. There were 80 people altogether that attended including 20 youth and 10 disabled. There was a disabled bow hunt last weekend with 10 hunters, but no deer harvested.

John K. – No report.

Cathryn – No report.

Jim – In August there was a Paralyzed Vets trap shoot. The PVA sponsored up to 15 youth aged 12-17. This organization likes to give disabled youth precedence.

Joe – No report.

Anthonette handed out calendars in order for the Council to set 2016 meetings. In mid-December there is scheduled to be a conference call. The Council should let Anthonette know about agenda items; otherwise we won't have the call. December 18th is the date if we need a call. If there are enough agenda items, then the DAC conference call will be at Fitchburg. Council Members who live nearby can attend if they want. On March 18th the DAC will meet at the Wisconsin Rapids Service Center. On June 2nd and 3rd The DAC will meet at Crex Meadows near Grantsburg. On September 15th and 16th the DAC will meet at Point Beach SP. On December 16, 2016, there will be a conference call in Fitchburg.

John K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Mitchell seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.