

**DNR'S DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL PURPOSE/MISSION**

To advise the Department of Natural Resources on matters pertaining to the accessibility of all department programs and services by persons with disabilities.

- To draft recommendations to the Department for legislation, administrative rules, or department policy.
- To identify and evaluate needs of persons with disabilities and to communicate them to the Department.
- To help to increase public awareness and sensitivity to the needs of persons with
- To communicate with individuals and other organizations dedicated to similar purposes.

**MEETING MINUTES  
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Friday December 6, 2024  
Held virtually via Microsoft Teams or call-in.**

Members Present: John Martinson, Calvin Richtig, John Mitchell, Kirsten Engel, Keith Pamperin, John (Jack) Heim, Amy Carlson, John Heim, and Lindsay Muench.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Nick Zouski, Shannon Holt, Brett Daul, Dan Olson, and Terry Bay

Guest presenters: Corrina Regnier – DNR/ FWP

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Chair Martinson called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

Next the Council reviewed the agenda. They wished to have these topics added:

- A. Membership terms and officer terms. To be discussed during Accessibility Coordinator updates.

**Jack made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Kirsten seconded the motion, and all were in favor.**

The Council next reviewed the meeting minutes from September 17th, 2024.

**Amy made a motion to approve the minutes. Lindsay seconded the motion, and all were in favor.**

## MOTIONS

**MOTION: Calvin moves that the DAC forms a subcommittee to write a letter of support for the proposed 2025-2027 budget. Amy seconds motion. All in favor.**

## ACTION ITEMS

- Nick to send out information on when members terms are up
- Nick to look up original terms for cabins
- Nick to compile a list of existing *Observation Towers* throughout the state.
- Shannon to send out contact list of DAC members.
- Members formed a Budget Subcommittee
- Members formed a Subcommittee for Cabin Reservations

## MEETING MINUTES

### **2025-2027 Capital Budget Request**

- \$505.1 Million requested compared to \$260.4 Million in 2023-2025.
  - o Of that \$170.6 Million was approved
- Largest budget request by far with \$415 Million for state parks.
  - o \$499.1 Million for existing facilities and repairs of which \$28.7 Million is enhancements
  - o Focusing on what we currently have rather than constructing new
- \$898,000 for Accessible Cabins across the state \*\*number of cabins and locations is dependent upon budget approval. Possible sites being considered for cabins are Devil's Lake SP, Governor Dodge SP, Kettle Moraine State Forest, and Point Beach State Forest.
- \$5.9M for accessible playgrounds across the state
- \$7.9M for accessible campsite repairs
- Tens of millions more in projects that will enhance accessibility at state parks and other property types
  - o Grouped into work units and not singled out as accessibility specific
  - o Includes projects like \$18.5M for toilet shower building replacements; \$8.4M in boat access improvements; \$9.7M PEVs replacement; \$11.1M in new toilet showers; and numerous other parking lot, trail upgrades, building repairs, campsite modifications, etc. that will address or increase accessible facilities and recreational opportunities.
- Biennial budget is approved on odd years. All submissions from department for upcoming budget are submitted in October of even years. Capital Development Projects are long-term planning and part of a six-year plan.
- Update on Potawatomi Tower by Terry Bay. The DNR only received funding for repairs. Funds were not approved for the proposed ramp but are being requested again in the 25-27 budget.

- DAC requested a list of existing *Observation Towers* throughout the state – the DNR does not have a comprehensive list that differentiates towers from other observation decks and platforms.
- Members would like to show their support for the budget being approved by Legislature, so an email will be sent to form a committee was formed to write a letter to the Joint Finance Committee. Due mid-February.

### **Accessibility for Blind Persons**

How are accessible cabins and campsites designed? Can the DNR hire a consultant or an expert in needs for visually impaired people? The DNR has our own internal property planners and engineers and everything newly built is built to ADA standards or better.

**MOTION: Calvin moves that the DAC forms a subcommittee to write a letter of support for the proposed 20257-2027 budget. Amy seconds motion. All in favor.**

### **Hunting Blinds on Ground and Treestands – Nick**

Rule change proposed in September meeting to allow for disabled hunters to be able to leave up their hunting blinds and tree stands overnight on department lands during hunting seasons has been proposed to Wildlife Management and they are working on proposed rule change. Once approved, estimated effective date would be fall of 2027.

### **Power Driven Mobility Device (PDMD) Permit Changes**

PDMD Permit is a DNR form (#2500-124) sent to Property Manager where disabled person would like to recreate. Proposed changes to wording to two *'Terms and Conditions: Permittee Agrees'*

- A maximum of two additional people may occupy the device for the purpose of assisting the permittee.
- To use permitted device to remove or otherwise transport only game taken and tagged by the permittee.

This language prohibits the assisting party from doing their own hunting if they use the PDMD at all. We wish to make this language less restrictive.

**Lunch Break – 11:57 to 12:55pm.**

## **Cabin Reservations – Corrina Regnier, DNR Camping Program Manager & CAMIS Administrator.**

Cabin Reservation issues were discussed. There are three main issues identified:

- **Categories** – reservation are based on need, applicants are categorized 1-5, meaning that those who are category 2-5 rarely are selected for reservation and the cabins are frequently reserved by the same parties year after year. Should Categories be consolidated? Would a lottery system work better?
- **Timing** – All applications for cabin reservation are due once per year, on January 10<sup>th</sup>, while all other campsites can be reserved 11 months in advance. This makes it difficult, if not impossible for cabin users to coordinate camping trips with friends and family. Would rolling reservation dates work better? Could park managers hold campsites off CAMIS to accompany the cabin reservation?
- **Paper System** – Can this be an online automated system, or can the application at least be fillable online (Form # 2500-085)?

**\*DAC formed a sub-committee to continue working on this issue.** Primary purpose is to make a list of priorities of what needs to be fixed and included on next reservation software RFP, and to revise category system.

## **Public Comments – None**

## **Disabled Deer Hunt**

There was some concern over a rule change that Michigan had recently adopted regarding only harvesting antlerless deer. All members felt that this is not an issue in Wisconsin after our previous conversations with Wildlife Management, and current Wisconsin hunting rules.

## **Accessibility Coordinator Updates**

- **New Customer Service Rep, James Chitek**
- **Next Meeting Ice Age Trail (IAT) guest speaker**
- **Changing Benches** – more universal use changing benches for adults are being added to parks in day-use areas.
- **Universal Toilet/Shower Design** – DNR formed a committee to decide on best design for universal Toilet/ shower areas. All universal T/S will have an adult changing bench.
- **Camp American Legion** – Nick recently visited and recommends anyone who can to visit.
- **Terms for Members and Officers** – Nick will look up and send and email.
- **Any other follow-up from last meeting**

## **2025 Dates**

- **Friday March 14, 2025** at Challenge the Outdoors Inc, Peter's Pond, 2647 Cherry Drive, Pulaski, WI 54162 in the Town of Angelica. Directions HWY 29 West from Green Bay Exit 242 Hwy 55. Turn left south to county Trk C. Jens Naughty Pine Bar & Grill on left, turn Right to Cherry Lane (Peters Pond sign) right to Peters Pond. Bring your fishing rod if you would like.
- **Tuesday June 17, 2025** at Sandhill State Wildlife Area, 1715 County Hwy X, Babcock, WI 54413
- **Thursday & Friday September 18-19<sup>th</sup>, 2025** at Mirror Lake State Park for Thursday business meeting, address: E10320 Fern Dell Rd, Baraboo, WI 53913. Property tour on Friday will be at Devil's Lake State Park, address: S5975 Park Rd, Baraboo, WI 53913
- **Friday December 5<sup>th</sup>, virtual.**

## **Action Steps**

- Nick to send out information on when members terms are up
- Nick to look up original terms for cabins
- Nick to compile a list of existing *Observation Towers* throughout the state.
- Shannon to send out contact list of DAC members.

## **Member's Updates**

- Keith – CTO is having a fundraising banquet January 16<sup>th</sup> at Stadium View in Green Bay to raise money for a new 3D indoor archery range at Peter's Pond.

## **Adjourn**

Jack moved to adjourn the meeting. Keith seconded. Motion passes.  
Chair Martinson adjourned the meeting at 2:59 pm.