



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 WCC Wolf Committee
 Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes
 Form 8300-026 (R 11/17) Page 1 of 3

ORDER OF BUSINESS	09/23/2023	10:00	Marathon County Library
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	at 10:00 Harvey
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Jeff Wilson, Arby Humphrey, Lowell Wright, Dave Lois, Duane Hoefs, Ed Harvey, Chair, Mike Lane, Laurie Groskopf, Mike Rogers, Mike Hurlburt, Bill Yingst, Matt McHugh, Steve Ninneman, Paul Witalison, Jeff Giese, Scott McAuley, Floyd Drohman, Lisa Wilson,
EXCUSED	James Engelbretson, Steve Staver
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Randy Johnson, Scott Karel, DNR, Sandy Nass, NRB, Marci West, NRB, Linda Hendrix, Lois Lehmann, Steve Suchomel, Rob Bohmann, Merri Ann Gonzalez, Jerome Donohoe, Brad Heath, Dan Hansen (WON), Judy Aughey, Josh Mueller, Rep. Tom Tiffany

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	no changes
ACTION	

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Ed Harvey reviewed the committee mission statement

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	<p>Steve Suchomel who was on the DNR hunting advisory committee representing the Farm Bureau, and was on the wolf management plan committee representing the WI Wolf Facts organization, and is also a delegate for the WCC from Taylor County, but was appearing before the committee representing himself, talked about the three listening sessions sponsored by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the preponderance of disagreement with the draft wolf management plan, as well as the county board resolutions supporting a wolf goal of 350 or 350 or less. Wolves are not endangered in WI, nor in the world. Wolves are an animal of the wilderness, and there are safety concerns in WI where people feel they can't hike safely without a firearm, impacts on hunting, bear baits occupied by wolves, parents afraid to let their children play outside. Farmers are experiencing issues with weight gain on their disturbed cattle and issues with grazing animals, as well as a drop in property values in the wolf occupied areas. He is not anti-wolf, we just need fewer wolves that are allowed to exist in wolf friendly habitat. There has also been a decrease in people hunting birds with retrievers in the wolf areas. DNR has ignored data from the hunts in western states when developing their quotas in hunting seasons. The wolf management plan discriminates against rural residents and hunters.</p> <p>Lois Lehmann stated non-lethal controls for conflicts need to be used. 350 is not a sustainable wolf population. 64% of Wisconsin residents answer the DNR survey that they do not want dogs hunting wolves. We need to recognize the science DNR used on this management plan. Please prohibit night hunting of wolves.</p>
ACTION	none

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Wolf manager's report

Randy Johnson

DISCUSSION	Randy gave a report on the wolf management plan. He addressed the three objections the WCC had passed at a prior meeting. He addressed concerns about the amount of internet comments and said they are able to determine where comments originated and very few came from outside WI. He is confident in the wolf estimates and noted these methods are used in some form to estimate wolves in many locations. The department has modified the plan to include ranges of wolves for numbers and the department management response. The plan summary recognizes
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	outsized impacts of wolves on people living in areas where wolves exist. The department is using other ways to measure the abundance of wolves such as public reports and Snap Shot WI. There is little evidence of any health problems for wolves. When the plan is approved an advisory committee will be formed to meet annually or as needed. There will be unaffiliated members allowed on the committee, in addition to the agriculture, hunting/wildlife, affiliated agencies. The lifetime of the plan is 5 years. Previously, 40% of the state's area was designated as wolf territory in the previous plan. A member asked why zone 6, unsuitable wolf habitat, did not have unlimited harvest. He suggested permits in other zones might also be given a permit in zone 6. Randy replied that this might be a suggestion, but he prefers that more permits would be issued for zone 6, which is similar to how bears are permitted for harvest. The issues with tribal zones remain unresolved.	
ACTION	none	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. Wolf Harvest Rules [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Scott Karel, Policy Specialist	
ACTION	Scott gave his report on the wolf harvest rules, which will be finalized at the same meeting the wolf plan is considered. The department received 1000 comments. The responses will be presented at the NRB meeting October 24 or 25. Point of kill/night hunting rules will be clarified, as will clarified wording on tribal zones, and language regarding dog training ending when zone quotas are met. L.E. is working on clarity in the night hunting/point of kill rules for their staff.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
none		

C. Wolf Management Plan [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Motion to oppose Wolf Management Plan because of unresolved issues related to the three Points of objection provided previously. These three points were the statement of a population objective, that people in wolf country that are exposed to wolves be consulted in greater numbers and adequately, and that areas added to the plan as appropriate for wolf habitat should not be added as appropriate wolf habitat	
ACTION	referred to the DLC	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
1- Laurie Groskopf 2- Bill Yingst MC 11 in favor, 5 opposed		October DLC meeting prior to Oct. NRB

D. Group discussed response to WI Draft Wolf Harvest Rules [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Action item to Oppose Support for the revised wolf harvest rules. Motion 1 - Bill Yingst, 2-Mike Hurlburt	
ACTION	motion to support wolf harvest rules	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
1 - Bill Yingst 2- Mile Hurlburt MC 12/5		referred to DLC in October prior to NRB

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Jeff Wilson - muting public through changes in introducing resolutions is wrong.</p> <p>Matt McHugh - on line is good, but we need more control on this year's resolutions to do at spring hearings.</p> <p>Arby Humphrey - Thanked Randy for his hard work on the plan</p> <p>Mike Rogers - wolf numbers too high. Deer hunting has crashed in Iron County. There is a large predator load. There are parts of the plan he just cannot agree with.</p> <p>Steve Ninneman - wolves are attacking bear hounds more this year.</p> <p>Scott McAuley - Repeat resolutions should go through.</p> <p>Jeff Giese - sees wolves chasing cattle in areas of Wood and Portage Counties that used to be classified zone 6, unsuitable wolf range, but will be classified as zone 4, secondary wolf habitat if the plan is approved.</p>
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IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	2:55 1- Mike Lane 2- Scott McAuley MC
SUBMITTED BY	Laurie Groskopf
DATE	09/23/2023