

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Board Meeting
Ramada Stevens Point WI
2/9/2008

Call to order 8:30am

Introductions

Approval of December BOD Minutes:

Motion by Dave Chingway, second by Chuck Matyska to approve December 8, 2007 BOD meeting minutes with the following correction: Wildlife Committee Report change the crossbow age from 6 to 65 years. Motion carried.

Financial Requests:

Motion by Ralph Fritsch, second by Ken Barbian to reimburse the Dousman Gun Club \$221.68 to cover expenses for the Lobby Day Game Feed. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Chingway, second Al Phelan to approve up to \$500 for District 7 meeting expenses. Motion carried.

Motion by Laura Huber, second by Charlie Brown for Jerry Knuth to present 3 WWF prints to the Wilderness Sportsman's Club, Mosinee Sportsman's Alliance and the District 4 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Rick Lazarczyk, second by Chuck Matyska for Ken Barbian to present a shrink wrapped WWF print to the Wisconsin Hunters Education Instructors Association. Motion carried.

Motion by Ken Barbian, second by Chuck Matyska to allocate up to \$110 for Bob Miller to travel to the 3/22/2008 Annual meeting of the Wisconsin Council of Sportfishers Association. Motion carried.

Motion by Rick Lazarczyk, second by Dave Chingway to allocate up to \$65 for Bob Miller to attend the February DNR legislative tournament issue meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Ken Barbian, second by Rick Lazarczyk for Joe Zanter to donate 2 WWF sweatshirts for the Sparta Rod and Gun Club and the Cararact Sportsmen's Club banquets. Motion carried.

Motion by Al Pribnow, second by Rick Lazarczyk to allocate up to \$490 to cover airfare for Al Pribnow to attend the 2008 US Fish and Wildlife Conference in Colorado Spring on June 23-25, 2008. Motion carried.

Motion by Bob Miller, second by Dan Gries for Don Hammes to donate 2 WWF prints to the Dane County Conservation League banquet and the District 7 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Huhn, second by Rick Lazarczyk for Lonna Zeman to present a \$40 WWF donation to the Wisconsin Taxidermist Association for the Upland Game Bird award. Motion carried.

Motion by Chuck Matyska, second by Russ Hitz to pay \$525 toward the Anchor sound system. Motion carried.

Motion by Rick Lazarczyk, second by Dan Gries to allocate funds to cover mileage and meals for Ralph Fritsch to attend the Wolf Stakeholders meeting in Wausau April 19, 2008. Motion carried.

Motion by Rick Lazarczyk, second by Bob Miller to allocate funds to cover mileage and meals for Chuck Matyska to attend the Wolf Stakeholders meeting in Wausau April 19, 2008. Motion carried.

Request for \$400 to cover Ken Van Horn's travel expenses to the Fly Away Council no longer needed. According to DNR's Bill Vander Zowen the Governor's office has approved Kent's travel.

Approval of Minutes from Friday 2/8/2008

Treasurer's Report: Laura Huber

Laura presented summary of 2007 cashflow.

- Membership income \$5000 + above budget – strength in Sustaining Members (renewing at \$50 or more).
- Banquets hit goals.
- Interest income up from budgeted goals.
- Expenses kept down.

2008 cashflow report updated to reflect 2008 budget - income from meetings added, education income deleted.

Start 2008 in the black by over \$7200.

Calendar Raffle discussion. Ideas will be discussed further at the March Executive Committee meeting.

Motion Russ Hitz, second by Corky Meyer to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Presidents report: Lil Pipping

Continue with 2007-2008 directives: increase WWF affiliate clubs in each district, recruit new board members, work on keeping email contact addresses up to date.

In order to achieve the goal of increasing communication between affiliate clubs and WWF the attached District 4 meeting invitation letter from Laura Huber can be used as a guideline for conducting meetings in all districts.

Cards distributed for all to sign for members who can't make it to meetings or are not doing well.

Lobby Day was an impressive, interesting, learning experience.

DNR Report: Bill Vander Zouwen

- Energy - Life is an energy contest. What will power us after the oil is gone? Energy competition from 3rd world countries is skyrocketing. We have based our culture on cheap energy. In order to increase energy independence we will be looking to farms and forests which will affect wildlife.
- CWD: appreciation for committee that's developing recommendations.
- State hiring and travel freeze will affect a lot of staff. Missing a lot of meetings nationwide, but the DNR is part of a team and is cooperating with freeze while trying to represent interests.
- Grassland management aimed at birds, these birds most in trouble as grasslands decrease. Federal \$ allocated to put on workshops to get grassland bird management projects started. SAWE – Safe Acres for Wildlife Environment. Approval for land – federal \$ to help land owners set aside wildlife areas.
- Citizen bird monitoring conference in Green Bay 3/14/08 – 3/15/08. Check website www.wisconsinbirds.org for more information on bird management and citizen help.
- Spring hearing questions:
 - extend raccoon hunting and trapping season.
 - Defining box trap vs live trap.
 - Creating definition of body gripping trap.
 - Population goal for bobcat.
 - Prohibit paintballs on department lands without permit.
 - Establish system for duplicate trapper education certificates.
 - Dog training with captive wildlife outside of free roaming hunting season.
 - Closed areas in north dry land trapping trying to open up other ways to protect martins.

- Experimental fall hunting season to hunt turkeys with dog – extend 1 year. NRB allow turkey season in fall extended further – to end of Dec. 2 yr pilot advisory question.

Guest speaker: Mike Staggs, DNR Fisheries

- VHS getting the word out via Education outreach. Prevent the spread of VHS by NOT moving live fish, draining water out of boat and equipment when leave water, getting minnows from registered bait dealer. Working with other states on VHS research questions, but won't know for 5 to 10 years the affect of VHS on fish populations. VHS doesn't affect all fish equally. No defense mechanism against VHS is passed on to young populations. Emergency rules (in force until May/June) vs permanent rules.
- Tournament fishing regulations: Summary deals with 3 issues: 1) crowding issues; 2) Mortality levels for fish due to handling – reduce bag limits; 3) aquatic invasive species – biologist can set provisions on disinfecting etc. when issue permit. Fees: will pay for any new programs with fees.
- Fish rules – muskie catch and release and requiring barbless hook for bass during catch and release season. Prairie River Lincoln County –
- Legislation AB96 invasion species – huge loophole exempts anyone defined as a fish farm makes the rule pointless if the loop hole remains in.
- Legislation SB357 commercial fish bill – takes away one of the re-licensing requirements that could result in having to compensate commercial fishermen by requiring minimum catch (takings claim).

Executive Director: George Meyer

- NWF happenings:
 - Litigation on timber wolf as an endangered species. Brief filed by Friends of the court names WWF. Good thing.
 - Appeals court (federal circuit court of appeals for district of Columbia) struck down a EPA mercury rule. Rule weakened mercury rule, rule thrown out.
 - NWF doing good things on our behalf.

Legislation: George Meyer

- See attached report for additional legislation information.
- End of two year cycle. Session goes out in mid-March. 5 weeks left until session out – way behind schedule therefore a lot of things won't get passed this session, i.e. bills will die.
- Major things passed – budget, stewardship bill.
- Major things not passed – getting DNR secretary appointed by NRB. Senate passed 21 to 12 vote, separate bill in assembly came out of committee 13 to 1, in assembly rules committee to be scheduled on

floor (46 cosponsors – huge!), however, won't be scheduled due to perceived lack of support. We're actually fighting against manufacturing. WWF sent out letters/email asking people to email or call representative Mike Hess in hopes he could get the bill to the floor for a vote. The bill should have overwhelming support once it's on floor.

- Youth hunting bill – tougher time in senate may not go through in time.
- Other key issues working on ... Great Lakes compact strengthen rules on transferring water on Great Lakes, may not get through but Governor could call a special session – some opposition may end up going to next session.
- Ballast water – trying to stop, dealing with economic interests makes it tough. Tighten federal regulations. On state level bills aren't going anywhere. NWF filed notice of intent to sue because of violation of EPA clean water acts. Legal research, also violation of state clean water act. Don't need federal or state law changes to enforce. Can be 90% effective with salt water flushing. Coast guard proposed regulations requiring flushing already required in Canada. Mid ocean salt water flushing kills fresh water bad stuff.
- DNR secretary appointment issue getting good press.
- Hunting access requirements into stewardship areas.
- When set up district meetings George will attend to give short presentation of some of policy issues WWF working on.
- Motion by Corky Meyer, second by Dan Gries for board to support SB422 – Hunter/Angler/Trapper bill of rights. Motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion on idea to work with Alliant Energy and other conservation groups to develop a plan for Alliant to reduce global warming emissions by 60 – 80% by 2050.
 - Reasoning: Climate change – lots of policy issues in the legislature. Alliant's coal fired power plant in Cassville WI will increase greenhouse gas emissions. Alliant looking to biofuels verses coal. Positive support from other conservation groups because of the increase in wildlife habitat resulting from growth of biofuels. Challenge - need to come up with plan how major utility dependent on coal is going to reach 60-80% decrease in CO2 emissions. WWF would help develop a plan and talk about the biofuel issue. \$15,000 from Alliant would come into organization to cover George's time and meetings etc. Major reason to work on project is not the \$\$, rather it's a highly visible positive thing. We're not just talking about reducing CO2 emissions; we're working with Alliant to come up with practical solutions. 1st in country. Done within next four months.
- Motion by Corky Meyer, second by Rick Lazarczyk to support entering into negotiations and a contract to assist in developing a plan for Alliant Energy to reduce CO2 emissions by 60 – 80% by the year 2050.

- Further discussion:
 - Our focus is wildlife and fish. Concerned about Federations image and maintaining integrity with legislation if we work with construction of new coal plant. We're not in the business to support construction of new coal plant in Wisconsin.
 - We're already on record as supporting reduction of CO2 so does fall in line with what we already stand for.
 - Who among us has the expertise to set up recommendations for this issue?
 - Consultants working with us have the expertise.
 - When industry steps forward voluntarily to work on conservation issues we need to support them. We'll get more done in the long run if we support voluntary efforts. We have opportunity to support industry that affects things we love. We need to get involved so they know what we're concerned about and we learn about their industry. We are the experts in what we want – clean water, healthy animals so we can hunt and fish.
 - What kinds of problems will the cash grant create? Money issue could overshadow the good that can come out of this.
 - We don't get bought. We do take corporate money, but it doesn't affect our position on issues. We'll still stand against issues if they don't do the right thing.
 - Here's a company that puts out more CO2 then anyone in country (except agriculture) making a commitment that they're going to meet reductions standards.
 - Clarify: motion doesn't state whether we support plant.
- Hand vote: 14 For; 3 Against. Motion passed.
- Motion by Corky Meyer, second by Don Hammes that any contract entered into with Alliant Energy to work on their CO2 emissions plan will state the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation would retain authority on how and when their name could be used in any product forth coming from the contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Corky Meyer, second by Bob Miller to accept George Meyer's Executive and Legislation report. Motion carried.

Develop director report: Meg Nelson

Overall goal for 2008 to raise \$225,000. Part goes into WWF – membership, MEC budget; part for special project grant restoration of Horicon Marsh \$110,000.

See attached.

Motion by Don Hammes, second by Rick Lazarczyk to accept Delveop Director's Report. Motion carried.

Business Manager report: Lonna Zeman

See attached.

Motion by Corky Meyer, second by Rick Lazarczyk to accept the River Valley Chapter of the NWTF as a new affiliate. Motion carried.

Motion by Bob Miller, second by Corky Meyer to accept the Polk County Sportsmens Club as a new affiliate. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Huhn, second Al Phelan to accept Business Managers report. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Youth: Corky Meyer on behalf of Kate Hau.

Youth Bear Hunting tag essay contest will be advertised in Wisconservation. Per Corky Meyer Cabelas will furnish equipment youth needs to bear hunt.

Motion by Ralph Fritsch, second by Al Phelan to nominate Corky Meyer to represent WWF at youth bear hunt. Motion carried.

Motion by Laura Huber, second by Bob Miller to accept youth committee report. Motion carried.

State Affairs: Al Pribnow

- No regulations governing shooting ranges. Should have a bill that takes care of shooting ranges in order to follow national standards. Recommend follow Minnesota laws for range protection.
- Hunters Education 2007 set record of number of youth who couldn't find a class. Big organizations limit number of people who can attend. Have cut out small instructors because fee structure.

- Numbers for 2006 – 4000 kids bought hunting license. 2007 maybe around 5000. Know of four volunteer hunter education instructors taught for 40 years with no recognition by DNR.

Motion by Rick Lazarczyk, second by Russ Hitz to accept State Affairs report. Motion carried.

Inland Fisheries: Bob Miller

See attached report.

Motion by Bob Miller, second Corky Meyer to support SB361. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bob Miller, second by Dan Gries to support SB385. Motion carried.

Motion by Bob Miller, seconded by Jim Huhn to support SB454. Motion carried.

Info: Dam spoke about last month. Dismantling dam in levels to avoid sediment going down stream. Job being done.

Info: Dairyland Coop reducing mercury output to 3 voluntarily.

Motion by Dan Gries, second Russ Hitz to accept Inland Fisheries report. Motion carried.

Inland Fisheries Wolf River Basin: Dan Gries

See attached report.

Motion by Bob Miller, second by Rick Lazarczyk to accept report. Motion carried.

Wisconservation: Dan Gries

Looked into cheaper way to produce paper. Discovered current paper produced at cheapest price.

Motion by Corky Meyer, seconded by Jim Huhn to accept Wisconservation report. Question by Joe Welch would cost go down if put paper on web and take members name off hardcopy list as requested. Dan will look into breakdown of numbers to see if that would be beneficial. Motion carried.

Endangered species report:

See attached report.

Motion by Corky Meyer, second by Rick Lazarczyk to accept report as presented on paper. Motion carried.

Wildlife: Ralph Fritsch

See attached report.

Motion by Ralph Fritsch, second Rick Lazarczyk to support AB672. Motion carried.

Motion by Ralph Fritsch, second by Al Phelan to reaffirm stand on wolf population figures hunting and trapping on public or private land. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ralph Fritsch, second by Charlie Brown to support AB703 - at least one DNR board member must have an Ag background and at least 3 a hunting background. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to support AB602 by Ralph Fritsch, second by Corky. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ralph Fritsch, second by Al Phelan to oppose AB716. Why do we oppose? DNR should handle rather than department of justice. Clarification list of DNR license names given to DOJ. Cross check names against felon list cost money and causes problems when license issued. Reason for objection to bill: needs to be worked out too many conflicts, wording not clear. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ralph Fritsch, second by Jerry Knuth to support restructuring of bobcat season. Motion carried.

Motion by Ralph Fritsch, second by Corky Meyer to look into reopening coyote hunting season during gun deer season in northern closed area. Motion carried.

Motion by Ralph Fritsch, second by Al Phelan for DNR to provide a method to apply for limited special license when license expires by March 1st. Motion failed.

CWD report: Al Phelan

Al Phelan served on CWD Advisory committee representing WWF.

Major recommendations from committee:

1. Change from 2 CWD zones to 1 encompassing both
2. Open all state and county lands within CWD zone
3. Holiday antlerless season Sept 26 – Dec 26.
4. No earn a buck in 2008.
5. Allow use of rifles in all CWD Zones
6. Get rid of sharpshooting program.
7. Ban feeding statewide.
8. Strong support for food pantry program.
9. Support for continued and increased testing.
10. Encourage use of aerial counts for deer population trends.

Report from CWD advisory group on web at :

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/CWD/advisory.htm>.

Motion by Jerry Knuth, second by Rick Lazarczyk to accept Wildlife and CWD reports. Motion carried.

Additional Bills: George Meyer

Motion by Corky Meyer, second by Al Phelan to oppose AB722 – second version of not issuing license to people with firearm restrictions. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Al Phelan, second by Rick Lazarczyk to support AB 723 – Feeding and baiting restrictions if not following increases penalty. Motion carried.

Motion by Dan Gries, second by Rick Lazarczyk to accept reports on two bills presented by George. Motion carried.

Education:

Motion to accept Education committee report as written. Motion carried.

Wetlands: Don Hammes

See attached report.

Motion by Corky Meyer, second by Jim Huhn to accept wetlands report. Motion carried.

Scholarship: No report presented.

Great Lakes Fisheries: No report presented

Environmental: George Meyer

Motion by Bob Miller, second by Don Hammes to support SB715. Motion carried.

Motion by Dan Gries, second by Jim Huhn to support SB725. Motion carried.

Bylaws: No report presented.

Waterfowl: Conference 2/29/08 - 3/1/08

Forest, Parks and Recreation: Jerry Knuth

See attached report.

Motion by Jerry Knuth, second by Rick Lazarczyk to support AB607. Motion carried.

Motion by Jerry Knuth, second by Corky Meyer to accept Forest, Parks, & Recreation report. Motion carried.

Banquet Advisory: No report presented.

Organizational & Development: Laura Huber

Working on creating concrete list of benefits to clubs.

Motion to accept Organizational & Development report, second by Jerry Knuth. Motion carried.

Old business: None

New business

1. Motion by Don Hammes, second by Dan Gries to have George and the WWF staff explore the cost and logistics of putting on a hunter safety instructor class and hunter safety class at MacKenzie. Report on progress at June meeting. Motion withdrawn.

2. Motion to invite to Tim Longhorn and Randy Stark to give report on hunting safety instruction in WI, second by Corky Meyer. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Dan Gries, second by Corky Meyer to nominate Bucky Kilshek as an honorary director of WWF. Motion carried.
4. Gavel passed from Lil Pipping to Laura Huber.
5. Motion by Lil Pipping, second by Corky Meyer to make Mary Cassidy and Ken Zettlemeier honorary directors of WWF. Motion carried.
6. Gavel passed back to Lil Pipping.
7. Motion by Corky Meyer, second by Ken Barbian to go on record in support of question #7 at the Spring hearing and be allowed to send a letter to congress w/copies to wildlife management. Motion carried.

Motion by Corky Meyer, Second by Al Phelan to adjourn. Motion carried.