

WISCONSIN WILDLIFE FEDERATION
BOD MEETING RAMADA INN STEVENS POINT, WI
OCTOBER 10, 2009

Call to order: 8:05am

Announcements: Jack Nissen

Jack Nissen informed that calendars are available to be picked up and sold.

Introductions

Motion made by Rick Lazarczyk, second by Dave Chingway, to approve the August BOD meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Charlie Brown, second by Larry Vanderhoef, to approve Executive Committee Report as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Laura Huber

Laura Huber handed out and presented 2009 Cashflow. Laura Huber discussed banquet income and George Meyers salary. Motion made by Keith Pamperin, second by Lil Pipping, to accept Treasurers Report as presented. Motion carried.

2010 Budget: Laura Huber

Laura Huber handed out and presented 2010 Proposed Budget. Laura Huber asked BOD to contact her with questions or comments and will be brought before BOD again in December. Don Hammes stated that if there was a cost savings in the Wisconservation paper, that the savings be moved to "Promotions and Advertising" and "Donations to other organizations". John Wetzel stated that EC should look into a fund for the future and asked for a brief summary at future BOD meetings of other WWF moneys. Bob Miller informed BOD to start a banquet in your home area if there is not one already.

2010 MEEC Budget: Ruth Ann Lee

Ruth Ann Lee handed out and presented MEEC Budget. Ruth Ann Lee discussed the agreement between WDNR, Friends of Mackenzie and the WWF. The MEEC will be brought to BOD again in December.

Presidents Report: Jack Nissen

Jack Nissen stressed the importance of selling calendars and informed BOD that Dave Lorenz will be looking for Youth Committee members.

Presentation of River Crossing School: Jeff Nania, WWA

Jeff Nania, WWA, gave presentation on River Crossing School which is just outside of Portage. George Meyer informed BOD the relationship between WWF and River Crossing. Motion made by Corky Meyer, second by Lil Pipping, that WWF sponsor, or co-sponsor with WWA the River Crossing School. Motion carried unanimously.

Water Quality Issues: Betsy Lawton, Midwest Environmental Advocates

Betsy Lawton gave presentation on what MEA does and the work that they do in relation to the Clean Water Act. Betsy Lawton described WDNRs lack of regulations on clean water in the State of Wisconsin. Betsy Lawton asked WWF to sign onto a "Petition for Corrective Action" which would tell EPA to enforce DNR in making better compliance with Clean Water Act. Motion made by Jake Macholl, second by Larry Vanderhoef, that the WWF Board authorize the EC to work with MEA to seek the improvement of Wisconsin's water quality programs and, if necessary, to sign a petition for for de-delegation of Wisconsin's WPDES program. Larry Vanderhoef and Keith Pamperin asked for a breakout session at Annual Meeting on this issue. Motion carried.

NWF Report: Jenny Pelej, NWF

Jenny Pelej presented NWF Report. Jenny Pelej thanked WWF for all the good work that has been getting done and informed BOD of strategic plans of NWF. The Great Lakes Compact, ballast water discharge, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a Great Lakes Conference in Milwaukee, Asian Carp, climate change, the Alberta Clipper Pipeline, and NWF's programs for involving children with the outdoors were the things that Jenny Pelej discussed.

Executive Director Report: George Meyer

George Meyer handed out and presented WWF October 2009 Legislative Report. George Meyer discussed the DNR Secretary Bill, Stewardship Rules, Deer Management, and informed BOD that emails being sent around about SB2099, which involves guns being placed on tax forms, is false. Motion made by Lil Pipping, second by Rick Lazarczyk, to accept Executive Director Report as presented. Motion carried.

Inland Fisheries Committee Report: Bob Miller

Bob Miller handed out and presented the Inland Fisheries Committee Report. Motion made by Bob Miller, second by Larry Vanderhoef, to accept Inland Fisheries Committee Report. George Meyer gave background of SB305, a bill to allow group bagging for fishing. Motion made by Ralph Fritsch, second by Lil Pipping, to oppose SB305 based on the reasoning that it had not gone through Conservation Congress process. Motion carried. Motion carried on acceptance.

Office Report: George Meyer and Laura Huber on behalf of Jennifer Evans.

Jennifer Evans handed out Office Report. Committee chairs need to submit a list of their committee members and their contact information to the office. Motion made by Jim Gleash, second by Rick Lazarczyk, to accept the Beloit Rifle Club into the WWF. Motion carried. Motion made by Russ Hitz, second by Jim Gleash, to accept the Rice Lake Rod and Gun Club to the WWF. Motion carried. Motion made by Ken Barbian, second by Chuck Matyska, to accept Office Report. Motion carried.

Club Dues revision was introduced to BOD by Laura Huber. This issue will be voted upon by the full BOD in December. Copies of the dues structure proposal will be mailed out to affiliate clubs encouraging them to contact their District Directors with comments and questions.

Motion made by Jack Nissen, second by John Wetzel, to appoint Ed Rollins to District Director for District 6. Motion carried. The gavel was returned to President Nissen. Motion made by Jim Gleash, second by John Wetzel, to appoint Walt Camp to District Director for District 2. Motion carried. NWF Affiliate Rep. swore Ed Rollins and Walt Camp into the Board of Directors.

Wildlife Committee Report by Ralph Fritsch

Ralph Fritsch handed out and presented Wildlife Committee Report. Motion made by Ralph Fritsch, second by Jim Gleash, to reaffirm support for AB470, a bill that mandates a member on the NRB have an agricultural background. Motion carried. Motion made by Ralph Fritsch, second by Jim Gleash, to oppose AB436, an illegal raid on the Stewardship Fund. Motion carried. Motion made by Ralph Fritsch, second by Connie Pribnow, to support AB373, a bill which strengthens the penalties on those purchasing firearms only to transfer it to another person who is prohibited from purchasing a firearm. Motion carried. The Wildlife Committee will next meet on November 14, 2009, location TBA.

DNR Public Hearings on Alternatives to Earn-a-Buck will begin in October. WWF representatives will be testifying at each hearing. Highlights of the WWF testimony are:

- support the 16 day gun deer season with a traditional opener with a 7-day muzzleloader season following the gun season
- support the youth hunt, antlerless-only muzzleloader hunt, and herd control hunt all being on the same October dates (5 days)
- oppose the “holiday hunt” beginning December 26
- support coon hunting during the extended gun season.

Opposition to the early gun opener is based upon the cultural impact that the traditional opener has - vacations, factory shut-downs, etc. are all scheduled based on the traditional gun deer season dates. An early opener would also increase the number of bucks harvested – contrary to the goal of harvesting more antlerless deer. This would be for the 2010 deer season.

Motion made by Dan Gries, second by Chuck Matyska, to accept the Wildlife Committee Report. Motion carried.

Wolf River Subcommittee Report: Dan Gries

An update on the progress along the Fox River PCB cleanup was given. A December court date has been set regarding clean up costs. Motion made by Larry Vanderhoef, second by Chuck Matyska, to accept Wolf River Subcommittee Report. Motion carried.

Wisconservation: Dan Gries

The Wisconservation Ad-hoc Committee has recommended the paper be cut down to 8 pages in 2010. When this is done, page 2 may be altered with the removal of names and contact info because the space will be needed for articles.

Banquet Advisory Committee: Jack Nissen

Two new banquets are scheduled at Rice Lake and at Poynette. Support of these banquets is very important – please support all of our banquets whenever possible.

Education Committee: Ruth Ann Lee

Ruth Ann Lee submitted Education Report.

Endangered Resources: Chuck Matyska

Chuck Matyska handed out and presented Endangered Species Committee Report. Two states are moving ahead with wolf seasons out west.

Forestry and Parks Committee: Walt Camp for Jerry Knuth

A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 13 October in Stevens Point. National Forest road closings will be reviewed. Maps and comment forms were provided. There is still time for comments to be submitted.

Great Lakes: George Meyer for Larry Freitag

Ballast water decision should be issued by the end of the month. Asian carp electric barrier has been increased to ½ power but there are new concerns about carp entering additional waterways when the sanitary canal and the Des Plaines River flood into a waterway that the carp can jump. A barrier of some sort needs to be created for several miles where this merge can occur. Motion made by Larry Vanderhoef, second by Rick Lazarczyk, to support the building and maintaining of a barrier between the Des Plaines River and the shipping canal. Motion carried.

Lake Superior Sub committee: Connie Pribnow

Ballast water continues to be a serious concern. The committee will continue to work on this item.

Shooting Range Committee: Jack Nissen

Minutes from the first meeting were distributed. There is a great demand for this committee and a committee chair is needed. Anyone interested please talk to Jack Nissen. The McMiller Range has been reopened in Waukesha County. Jack Nissen reviewed the history of the conflict and its resolution.

Youth Committee: David Lorentz

The WWF Youth Conservation Alliance is a program of the Federation to develop youth conservation organizations in state high schools. If interested in serving on the committee, please contact David Lorenz.

Wetlands Committee: Don Hammes

Currently working on:

- Giving DNR wardens enforcement ability over small, local wetland filling violations.
- Excavations (ponds) are being built right in wetlands and the soil deposited from those excavations is not considered “filling the wetland.”

- Streamline the permitting process for projects funded by federal agencies like NRCS, USFWS and USGS.
- Wetland notification legislation
- Agricultural land that is converted into wetlands is currently taxed at a higher rate after restoration. A bill is being drafted to eliminate this financial penalty.

Wisconsin Wetland Association has published a new document to assist landowners in determining if their property includes wetland areas.

Midwest Outdoors article on SB 787, the Wetland Restoration Act contains much false information.

Old Business:

Motion made by John Wetzel, second by Dan Gries, to direct WWF Executive Committee and staff to create a document reviewing WWF activities and action twice a year. This document would be used by Directors and affiliate clubs. Motion carried.

New Business:

December BOD meeting will include a Friday night hospitality room.

A resolution dealing with allowing the use of metal detectors on public lands was introduced by Larry Vanderhoef. Motion made by Larry Vanderhoef, second by Bob Chojnowski, to adopt this resolution. Motion made by John Wetzel, second by Jim Weishan, to table the motion. Motion to table carried. This issue will be referred to the Forest Parks & Recreation Committee.

Motion made by Connie Pribnow to adjourn.

Submitted by Tom Nissen, Secretary, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation