

## Lee-Zimmermann, Kari A - DNR

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**From:** Scott Pitta <spottrout@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 5:15 PM  
**To:** Lee-Zimmermann, Kari A - DNR  
**Subject:** 12/4/2023 revised version of WCC trout committee minutes

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All were present . Dave Ninneman was excused.

The hearing began at 7pm via zoom,.

Agenda approval by Maurice Amundson and Roger Roehl. passed.

there were no public comments.

Mission statement review. Change mission statement items from being numbered to bullet points. Motion by Maurice Amundson and Duke Tucker. Motion passed.

Vision statement ideas... keep it short and sweet. Do we need it ?

Duke Tucker thinks it is good marketing.

"cold clean trout water forever"

"It's just about the trout"

Bob Haase says he needs time to think it over, but worth exploring. It is not on the agenda.

motion to table by Dave Barron. Motion passed.

resolution 130923

resolution author on phone. His name is John Lasky.

The stream in question has lots of brook trout and some browns. He wants to protect the brook trout and to thin out the browns.

Hasse: does the fish manager approve of the resolution ?

Tim Parks is the fisheries manager in Grant County and he approves this resolution

Looks like there is a management report coming out soon for the Blue River watershed.

Dennis Vanden Bloomen: Will this be a watershed rule anyway ?

Brad Sims: not sure

motion to approve

There was a discussion about opening the rule to bait. There were concerns about brook trout mortality with bait fishing.

Maurice Admundson wanted to know what the county vote was.

Dane County vote. 342 yes 29 no and 324 no opinion

Bob Haase questioned the bait fishing option. The resolution author does not have strong feelings one way or another about bait fishing.

Brad Sims: leave the wording as is. It fits in with other local stream regs.

Motion to pass by Haase. Second by Mike Hranicka. Motion passed.

DNR updates

There will be trout surveys out in 2025-2026 in review of the trout management plan

There are 2 items the trout team has for advisory questions.

Harvest season to open the first Saturday of April. It will result in more harvest of browns and protect brook trout. 84% of fishermen release their trout, so an early season will not have a negative impact on the resource.

There are 3 statewide categories. Green, yellow and red. The change is to eliminate the yellow and replace it with a 5 bag limit with no size limit. People do not keep trout until they are 8 inches long. Simplify rules and encourage harvest.

Jim Wierzba wants special regs on streams where needed.

Jim Wierzba: Will there be working groups or a survey ?

Brad Sims: Surveys, bujt working with stakeholder groups.

Jim Wierzba: WCC trout com. would be game to work with DNR on review of regs.

Mike Hranicka: Can there be areas of the state that are blocked off from the new 5 trout bag ? Or special regs ?

Brad Sims: Special regs. Creel data will reveal harvest impact with 5 fish bag.

Mike Hranicka: He wants to protect what they have in Sheboygan County.

Bob Haase: open positions on fish managers are a problem.

Brad Sims: adjacent fish managers are helping to fill in where fish manager positions are open.

Harvest Update

stocking numbers 2022

232,000 brook trout fingerlings

315,000 brown trout fingerlings

20,000 went to Lake Michigan

267,000 rainbow inland

inland lake trout 78,000 into 6 lakes. They were yearling class fish.

Stocking guidance review, no big changes. Perhaps not stocking browns in Brook trout water in certain watersheds.

The internal trout dashboard used by DNR is to be updated to include data from 2015-2023.

Trout research

Beaver dam impacts on trout streams is keeping Matt Mitro busy. Beaver dams impact stream banks and water temps. Beaver dams are not positive for trout long term.

Bob Haase: Is there beaver dam research taking place in the central sands ?

Matt Mitro: USDA wildlife service are included in the research did not include the central sands. Study sites were selected in areas of the state where the DNR contracts with USDA Wildlife Services to remove beaver and beaver dams from streams. Since there is no such contracted work in the central sands area, so no study sites were selected in that area.

Law Enforcement: none

Discussion on how the committee can engage more proactively. Tag along with shocking crews? Get to know local biologists. Share minutes from meetings.

Bob Haase: trout management team communicates with WCC trout committee.

Brad Sims: Fins, the internal quarterly DNR newsletter can be shared with WCC trout committee members. The annual trout workshop video presentations can be shared. Or attend in person. The videos are to be sent to Wierzbica by Mitro.

The brook trout resources program (Paul Cunningham) can be shared.

Bob Haase: meet more than once per year ? Every 6 months or as needed ?

Mike Hranicka: work on a project together ?

Member Matters

Bob Haase: Adopt a stream program is a worthwhile program. It is part of the fish and wildlife program.

Pitta: Cater Creek, a trout stream in Adams County dried up this summer.

Jim: no

Bob: no

Martin Sands: no

Randy Farchmin: no

Roger Roehl: a local century dam did not have a permit so it was removed. A new dam project was too expensive for interested parties.

Duke Tucker: new delegate. He is focused on a water quality problem at Crex Meadows.

Daniel Jerzak: no

Dale Ebert: no

Dennis Vanden Bloomin: no

Travis Burce: vandalism at St. Croix hatchery ??

Maurice Amundson: DNR are good people. DNR needs an increase in the budget. Townships have a problem with beavers.

Mike Hranicka: His resolution about mill ponds last year an issue. Mil ponds damage trout streams. YCC worked on the Onion River.

Dave Barron: no

Motion to adjourn by Barron, second by Haase

Motion passed