

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Congress Matters: 2008 Conservation Congress Advisory Question Summary and Annual Convention Report

FOR: MAY 2008 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Ed Harvey, Wisconsin Conservation Congress Chair

SUMMARY:

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress convened for its 74th annual convention on May 8, 9, and 10, 2008 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Our statewide delegation voted on each of the proposed DNR rule changes, and each of the proposed Congress advisory questions from the 2008 spring hearing questionnaire.

The congress voted to support the Natural Resources Board advisory question pertaining to the extension of the fall turkey hunting season. In addition, the delegation voted to advance two county resolutions pertaining to land acquisitions and land management that were introduced by citizens at the 2008 spring hearings. In regards to the issue of wolf management, considering the support for the advisory question on wolf management, the congress voted to request that the Board and the Department add an appendix to Wisconsin's Wolf Management Plan that outlines the parameters for establishing a wolf hunting and trapping season in Wisconsin.

The Congress also adopted a number of Code of Procedure changes that are intended to improve the operational procedures of the congress.

RECOMMENDATION: Informational

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

APPROVED:

Richard X Prossie
Bureau Director, Richard Prossie

May 20, 2008
Date

Administrator
[Signature]
Secretary Matt Frank

Date
5/22/08
Date

- cc Laurie J Ross - AD/5
- WCC Exec Council - 24 (c/o Thiede LS/8)
- Scott Loomans - WM/6
- Joe Hennessy - FH/4
- Mike Staggs - FH/4

- Tom Hauge - WM/6
- Tim Andryk - LS/8
- Laurie Osterdorf - AD/8
- Todd Ambs - AD/6
- Randy Stark - LE/8

- Tom Van Haren - LE/8
- Laurel Steffes - AD/8
- Signe Holtz - ER/6
- Bill Smith - PR/5
- Steve Millet - LF/8



Edgar Harvey, Jr., Chair
N3635 Timberview Road
Waldo, WI 53093
920-528-7071

Robert Bohmann, Vice-Chair
1105 Melvin Ave.
Racine, WI 53402
262-681-2055

Rich Kirchmeyer, Secretary
N4824 Lound Rd.
Prentice, WI 54556
715-428-2321

DATE: May 20, 2008
TO: Natural Resources Board
FROM: Ed Harvey, Chair
SUBJECT: Congress Matters: 2008 Conservation Congress Advisory Question Summary and Annual Convention Report

As established by Wisconsin State Statutes, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is officially recognized as the only natural resources advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests on natural resources issues on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Our mission is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

In accordance with our purpose and mission I would like to take this opportunity to review the business that was conducted by the congress at our annual meeting. The Wisconsin Conservation Congress convened for its 74th annual convention on May 8, 9, and 10, 2008 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Our statewide delegation voted on each of the proposed DNR rule changes, and each of the proposed congress advisory questions from the 2008 spring hearings questionnaire (Attachment 1).

DNR Rule Change Proposals

Our 360 delegates for 72 counties reviewed and registered their support or opposition to each of the questions that appeared as Department rule change proposals. The bureau of wildlife management advanced 10 rule change proposals this year. Each of these proposals received wide spread support across the state by attendees to the April 14, 2008 Spring Hearings. Likewise the congress delegates at the annual meeting voted to support these 10 proposals as well.

Fisheries this year presented 32 rule change related questions for public consideration. Questions 12 – 16 related to rule changes that originated from legislation included in the state budget. The Congress did not support the Department's proposal to advance question 12, dealing with the proposed catch and release musky season. Although not supported by the statewide vote, the Department felt obligated by the language in the budget bill to advance some part of the proposal. The congress does not support either part of the question, or the language in the budget bill. Given that Sen. Meyer has since the convention publicly rescinded his support for the proposition, the congress wonders if the issue should be dropped, at least for the time being. Similarly, the Department proposed to advance question 16 dealing with the catch and release bass season. The Congress did not support either part of this question either. The question lost statewide, 1813 to 2849.

The Congress did not support the Department's position to advance question 24, dealing with musky size limits on the Chippewa Flowage. While the Department's position is supported by the statewide vote of 2,175 to 1,805, the delegation voted to oppose the advancement of this rule change proposal based on the discussion on the floor at the annual meeting.

The Congress did support the Department's recommended actions on all other proposed fisheries rule changes. This includes the Department's recommendation to reject question 36 dealing with returning part of the Prairie

River to a category 5 stream. This question carried statewide 2024 to 1494. However, based on the votes in local counties, the testimony of Oneida County, and the Chair of the Congress Trout Committee, the Congress recommended rejection.

NRB and WCC Advisory Questions

The Congress supported the Natural Resources Board advisory question number 11 pertaining to the extension of the fall turkey hunting season.

Question number 54 pertaining to a statewide prohibition on shining from public roads was narrowly defeated at the April 14 hearings by a vote of 2805 to 2848. After a lengthy discussion at our meeting, the Congress recommends that question 54 dealing with a ban on shining, should be advanced for a statewide vote. Questions 52, deer research funding and question 61 on Managed Forest Law were not supported in April, and the delegation upheld those votes in opposition to those two questions. Question 55 pertained to the use of pistol cartridges for use in shotgun only areas. While this question was supported by a statewide vote, the delegation had a lengthy discussion and numerous concerns were voiced over the enforceability and complexity of this regulation. After the discussion the counties voted to reject this question and not to advance the proposal for consideration by the NRB or the DNR. The statewide votes on all other Congress advisory questions were supported and they are hereby advanced to the Board.

We hope that the Board and the Department will take each of these 25 Congress advisory into consideration as the next DNR rule and statutory cycle begins.

Other Business

In addition to the discussion on the proposals included in the 2008 Spring Hearing questionnaire, two county resolutions were advanced to the floor by the Congress Rules and Resolutions committee due to the timeliness of the issues. The first was a resolution introduced in Clark County (# 100108), dealing with the purchase of a 2043 acre Plum Creek property in Clark County (Attachment 2). There is a great deal of local support for this proposal, as well as a great deal of statewide support based on the vote at the convention. We would urge the NRB and the DNR to look closely at using Stewardship Funds to secure this contiguous acreage for public use. The second resolution pertained to support for the Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Project (# 580608) (Attachment 3). Both of these resolutions have been attached to this memo for your review and future consideration.

Finally, under other business, a resolution was introduced and unanimously supported to recommend that Appendix "J" be added to the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan (Attachment 4). This appendix was prepared for inclusion as part of the plan in 1999, but was ultimately omitted. In light of the 4848 to 772 vote on question 71, dealing with developing a wolf harvest plan, we strongly urge that Appendix "J" be brought back.

Code of Procedure Changes

Over the past two years, at the direction of the Executive Council, the Rules and Resolutions Committee was tasked with a review of the Congress Code of Procedure. This review was initiated based on issues brought forward by delegates and external partners. The Rules and Resolutions committee studied the issues, and based on their discussions, developed questionnaires to survey all delegates to get their input on proposed alternatives. If you recall, the Rules and Resolutions Committee presented a summary of the survey results at the 2007 statewide convention. Upon tallying the results of the survey, the Rules and Resolutions committee reviewed the results and prepared a final report for the January 2008 Executive Council meeting.

The following is the timeline that the Rules and Resolutions Committee has been utilizing:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| August 25, 2006 | Rules & Resolutions Committee Meeting |
| Mid-October | Mailed questionnaire to all delegates |
| October 30 | Deadline for delegates to return questionnaires |
| October 31 | November 10 - Tabulation of questionnaire data |
| Late-November | Review of questionnaire results |
| December 1, 2006 | Rules & Resolutions Committee Meeting |
| January 5, 2007 | Present Recommendations to Executive Council |
| April 30, 2007 | Review Exec. Council Actions |
| May 11, 2007 | Present Delegation with Summary of Results |
| September 8, 2007 | Rules & Resolutions Committee Meeting |
| January 4, 2008 | Final Report to Executive Council |
| Feb. 25 – March 6, 2008 | Spring District Meetings - Final Changes Provided to Delegates for Review |
| May 10, 2008 | Approval of Changes by Delegation |

In accordance with the Code of Procedures, the delegation approved of the following changes on May 10:

1. Executive Council Election. Provide every delegate within a district with an individual vote, cast by secret ballot, for the councilors in their district.
2. Resolution Advancement. When the Rules and Resolutions committee forwards a resolution to a committee, the committee must act on the resolution, and the committee chair may combine similar resolutions. "Act" means that the resolution be read discussed and voted on by the committee.
3. Study Committee Guidance. Executive Council recommends that all study committee meetings be noticed 30-days in advance of the meeting, unexcused absences will result in removal from the committee, and that sample agendas and minutes be provided to the committee chair and secretary for their use.
4. Study Committee Mission Statements. All WCC Study Committees shall have a mission statement in place. The Executive Committee and the Executive Council would review and approve submitted mission statements for approval. For those Study Committees already in place it is the responsibility of the Committee Chair to ensure that a mission statement is created and approved. For any future Committees it will be the responsibility of the creating body to provide a mission statement prior to forming the Committee membership.
5. Endangered Res. and Law Enforcement committee be combined in the Code of Procedures to handle both issues.
6. Housekeeping. Similar to annual reviews of the administrative code by wildlife and fisheries, grammatical errors, edits and inconsistencies with established Congress policies were corrected.

Once the Code of Procedures has been updated we will provide the Board with an updated copy for your use.

Awards

This year the Congress recognized DNR employee Alan Crossley, as DNR's CWD Project Coordinator for his professional and respectful leadership in forging a statewide approach to reduce the harmful impacts of CWD in Wisconsin. Also, the Congress recognized Warden Michael Young for his contributions to outdoor education and shooting sports recruitment.

Recipient of the Outstanding Local Conservation Club of the Year was the Stanley Sportsman's Club of Chippewa County. Certificates for Outstanding Achievement by Local Conservation Clubs went to the Star Prairie Fish and Game, Inc. of Polk and St. Croix Counties, the Chippewa Rod & Gun Club, Inc. of Chippewa County, and the St. Croix County Alliance of Sportsman's Clubs of St. Croix County.

The 2008 Educator of the Year is Kathleen Tober of East Troy (Walworth County), nominated by Triangle Sportsmen's Club, Inc. She is a volunteer wildlife educator, teaches 4-H Shooting Sports, established prairie plantings and tree planting projects and participates in leader training workshops for environmental education among her many other activities.

Officer Elections

On Friday, May 9 our 12 districts elected their 2008-09 Executive Councilors. I would like to thank each of the councilors from 2007-08 that will not be returning this year and also congratulate those that have been reelected. I have included a list of our new Council in this memo for your information (Attachment 5).

We also have a new member of our Executive Committee. Rich Kirchmeyer, Price County, has been elected by the Executive Council to serve as the new Congress Secretary. Rich will join Rob Bohmann, Vice-Chair, and myself on the Executive Committee for the next year.

In closing we would like to thank Chair Thomas for her outstanding presentation at our convention, and Board members Preston Cole, Duke Welter, Jonathan Ela and Jane Wiley for attending our meeting. Your involvement and attendance is a testament to your commitment to the role of the Congress as an advisory body to the Natural Resources Board.

2008 DNR Spring Hearings WCC County Meeting
 Statewide Results by Question
 Including WCC Official Positions

Attachment 1.

| Question | Question Description | Votes | | Majority | Counties Approving | | Counties Rejecting | | Counties Tie vote | | Counties Not Voting | | WCC Position |
|----------|---|-------|------|----------|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|----|--------------|
| | | Yes | No | | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| | 2008 STATEWIDE ATTENDANCE | 6407 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | EXTEND THE RACCOON TRAPPING AND HUNTING SEASONS | 5030 | 496 | Yes | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 2 | DEFINE "CAGE OR BOX TRAP" AS A LIVE TRAP | 4595 | 684 | Yes | 71 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 3 | CREATE A DEFINITION OF BODY GRIPPING TRAP | 4449 | 700 | Yes | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 4 | ESTABLISH A NEW POPULATION GOAL FOR BOBCAT | 4217 | 1143 | Yes | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 5 | PROHIBIT PAINTBALL ACTIVITY ON DEPARTMENT MANAGED | 4543 | 1077 | Yes | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 6 | ESTABLISH A FEE FOR A DUPLICATE COPY OF THE TRAPPER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE | 4231 | 1125 | Yes | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 7 | ALLOW DOG TRAINING WITH CAPTIVE WILD ANIMALS IN NORTHERN RESTRICTED ZONE | 2741 | 2512 | Yes | 43 | 25 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 8 | ELIMINATE DRYLAND TRAPPING CLOSED AREAS - CLAM LAKE | 3402 | 1148 | Yes | 69 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 9 | ELIMINATE DRYLAND TRAPPING CLOSED AREAS - FOREST COUNTY | 3384 | 1167 | Yes | 69 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 10 | ADD AN ADDITIONAL YEAR FALL TURKEY HUNTING WITH THE AID OF DOGS | 3335 | 2040 | Yes | 67 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 11 | NRB ADVISORY QUESTION EXTEND THE FALL TURKEY SEASON | 4016 | 1595 | Yes | 68 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 12 | CATCH-AND-RELEASE SEASON FOR MUSKELLUNGE NORTH OF US HWY 10 - OPTION 1 | 1801 | 3232 | No | 14 | 57 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Oppose |
| 13 | CATCH-AND-RELEASE SEASON FOR MUSKELLUNGE NORTH OF US HWY 10 - OPTION 2 | 1202 | 3617 | No | 3 | 68 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Oppose |
| 14 | REQUIRE NORTHERN ZONE CATCH-AND-RELEASE SEASON FOR BASS - OPTION 1 | 1891 | 2909 | No | 20 | 51 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Oppose |
| 15 | REQUIRE NORTHERN ZONE CATCH-AND-RELEASE SEASON FOR BASS - OPTION 2 | 1587 | 3068 | No | 7 | 62 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Oppose |
| 16 | REQUIRE NORTHERN ZONE CATCH-AND-RELEASE SEASON FOR BASS - OPTION 3 | 1813 | 2849 | No | 16 | 54 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Oppose |
| 17 | FLATHEAD CATFISH RULE CHANGES IN THE LAKE WINNEBAGO SYSTEM - OPTION 1 | 2392 | 1341 | Yes | 63 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 18 | FLATHEAD CATFISH RULE CHANGES IN THE LAKE WINNEBAGO SYSTEM - OPTION 2 | 2161 | 1558 | Yes | 52 | 16 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 19 | EXTENSION OF SOUTHERN ZONE MUSKELLUNGE SEASON | 2371 | 1817 | Yes | 55 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 20 | SAUGER BAG LIMIT ON WINNEBAGO SYSTEM WATERS | 2866 | 918 | Yes | 69 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 21 | OPEN SEASON ON LAKE ALICE, HAT RAPIDS FLOWAGE, AND WISCONSIN RIVER | 2279 | 1251 | Yes | 63 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 22 | LOWER BLACK RIVER MUSKELLUNGE REGULATIONS | 2326 | 1049 | Yes | 64 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 23 | WALLEYE REGULATIONS IN GREEN BAY TRIBUTARIES | 2944 | 758 | Yes | 71 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 24 | CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE MUSKELLUNGE REGULATIONS | 2175 | 1805 | Yes | 47 | 23 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Oppose |
| 25 | CLARIFICATION ON THE USE OF THE TERM "LANDING NET" - OPTION 1 | 4152 | 594 | Yes | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 26 | CLARIFICATION ON THE USE OF THE TERM "LANDING NET" - OPTION 2 | 4069 | 676 | Yes | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 27 | WALLEYE REGULATION CHANGES IN ASHLAND AND IRON COUNTIES | 1630 | 786 | Yes | 68 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 28 | BIG AND LITTLE DUMMY LAKE NORTHERN PIKE REGULATION CHANGES | 1460 | 687 | Yes | 58 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 29 | BIG AND LITTLE DUMMY LAKE BASS REGULATION CHANGES | 1335 | 747 | Yes | 53 | 7 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 30 | DESIGNATE MANGER LAGOON, CITY OF GREEN BAY, AS AN URBAN FISHING WATER | 1817 | 525 | Yes | 69 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 31 | CATFISH REGULATIONS IN YELLOWSTONE LAKE | 1386 | 717 | Yes | 62 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 32 | ENTERPRISE LAKE MUSKELLUNGE REGULATIONS | 1449 | 1053 | Yes | 43 | 22 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 33 | ENTERPRISE LAKE WALLEYE REGULATIONS | 1638 | 698 | Yes | 57 | 3 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 34 | DESIGNATE REMINGTON POND, CITY OF ANTIGO, AS AN URBAN FISHING WATER | 1616 | 572 | Yes | 68 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 35 | DESIGNATE MIRROR LAKE, CITY OF TOMAHAWK, AS AN URBAN FISHING WATER | 1668 | 599 | Yes | 67 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 36 | PRAIRIE RIVER TROUT REGULATIONS | 2024 | 1494 | Yes | 47 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Oppose |
| 37 | BONE LAKE MUSKELLUNGE REGULATIONS | 1470 | 1084 | Yes | 47 | 22 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |
| 38 | SAND LAKE WALLEYE REGULATIONS | 1878 | 590 | Yes | 70 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support |

100108

Fragmentation of Land and the Future of Hunting

The fragmentation, sale and posting of lands currently open to the public for hunting is a problem across the state.

Access to land to hunt, especially in the southern two-thirds of the state is a significant factor in recruiting and retaining hunters.

The state Stewardship fund was reauthorized this last year so we could continue to protect land for future generation, so they can enjoy nature based activities such as hunting, fishing and trapping.

Recently, 2043 contiguous acres of land in the Mead Township of Clark County was announced for sale by the Plum Creek Timber Company. This land, which was originally owned by Consolidated Papers, has been open for public access through the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program. If the land is sold to private entities, it will likely be parceled up and closed to public access.

Be it resolved, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Clark County, Wisconsin on April 14, 2008 recommends that the DNR and Natural Resources Board use Stewardship funds to purchase this 2043 acre parcel in Clark County in order to preserve this large contiguous acreage for present and future generations to enjoy?

Name: Mike Hayes

Address: 211 S. Union

City, State, Zip Code: Loyal Wi. 54446

Phone Number: 715-255-8656

County: Clark

Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Project Proposal

Large tracts of sustainably managed forest lands open to the public are being sold off, fragmented, and developed in many parts of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Intact, these lands provide an array of positive impacts in their geographic immediacies, and beyond.

Among them are: a predictable volume of forest products for local harvesters and processors; a regular renewal of succession habitat for popular sport and subsistence species like grouse and deer; critical large block habitat for less popular but important species, like bobcat, grey wolf, a variety of woodland warblers, thrushes, and tanagers; increasingly important protection of watersheds; and sometimes, an ecological bridge, or connection to other significant similar lands. The federal Forest Legacy Program was created to help protect these types of lands.

We have the opportunity to do all of this. The Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Project proposal would permanently protect, by conservation easement, as sustainably managed forest open to the public (including hunting) approximately 18,000 acres of Plum Creek lands roughly bounded by the Chippewa Flowage on the north, Polish Road on the south, Helsing Road on the west, and the Chippewa River on the east.

Be It Resolved, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Sawyer County on April 14, 2008 strongly supports the Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Project proposal



Douglas Kurtzweil
11055W Arrow Road
Hayward, WI 54843
Sawyer County
715-462-9679