

**DNR'S DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL PURPOSE/MISSION**

To advise the Department of Natural Resources on matters pertaining to the accessibility of all department programs and services by persons with disabilities.

- To draft recommendations to the Department for legislation, administrative rules, or department policy.
- To identify and evaluate needs of persons with disabilities and to communicate them to the Department.
- To help to increase public awareness and sensitivity to the needs of persons with disabilities.
- To communicate with individuals and other organizations dedicated to similar purposes.

**MEETING MINUTES  
DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019  
FITCHBURG SERVICE CENTER**

Members Present in Person: Kirsten Engel

Members Present via Teleconference: Cathryn Scott, Keith Pamperin, Calvin Richtig, and John Mitchell

Members Absent: Jim Rutledge (excused) and John Martinson

Others Present: Nick Zouski and Julie Amakobe (in person), Barry Gilbeck vis teleconference

Vice Chair Engel called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

First, the Council reviewed the agenda.

Calvin wanted to add another agenda item. This item was DNR videos are being placed on social media and none are indicating they are captioned.

**John Mitchell made a motion to accept the agenda with the one addition, Keith seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Next, the Council reviewed the meeting minutes from September 27, 2019.

Keith wanted the minutes to reflect his absence as excused. Julie will indicate "excused" after his name.

**Cathryn made a motion to accept the minutes with Keith's addition, Keith seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

The first item on the agenda was the Customer Service and Licensing updates given by Barry.

## Gun Deer Season

- Customer Service was very successful in assisting customers prior to and throughout the deer season
  - o Over 96% of the calls through the Statewide Call Center were answered in less than 30 seconds with most calls having zero wait time.
  - o There were no issues with the Game Reg system and the staff on the Call Center were able to assist any hunters having trouble understanding or entering information into the system.
  - o The Go Wild system functioned very well and sold over 180,000 licenses during the week prior to the Gun Deer season completing over a 130 transactions per minute on Friday afternoon.

## Additional Gun Deer Seasons

- Reminder - there is still the Holiday Hunt coming up in specific units.

## Legislative Updates

### **Current Legislative Proposals:**

- [2019 SB 85 \(see also AB 79\)](#) - This bill requires that a veteran who is a state resident be issued a conservation patron license at a lower fee (\$65 total) than the regular license fee if he or she produces evidence showing that he or she has a service-connected disability rating of 50 percent or greater, as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), or is receiving disability benefits from the VA due to being unemployable based on his or her education and skills as well as his or her medical condition. Status: Passed out of Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and available for scheduling 04/24/19. No action by full Senate to date.
- [2019 SB 231 \(see also AB 239\)](#) - This bill adds that the restrictions on placing or possessing a bow or crossbow on a vehicle do not apply if the vehicle is stationary. This bill adds that the restrictions on possessing a crossbow while operating an ATV or UTV do not apply when the ATV or UTV is stationary. Also under this bill, a cocked but unloaded crossbow may be outside a carrying case. Status: Voted out of Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry on 10/31/19 and available for scheduling. No action taken by full Senate to date.
- [2019 SB 383 \(see AB 414\)](#) - This bill expands the fish and game approvals to which a reduced fee for first-time approvals applies. The bill adds an annual fishing license issued to a person who is 16 or 17 years old who is a resident of this state or an annual fishing license issued to a resident who is 65 years old or older to the list of licenses eligible for the first-time buyer fee of \$4.25 (\$4.25 base fee + \$0.75 issuance fee). Status: Voted out of Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry and available for scheduling 10/31/19. No action by full Senate to date.
- [2019 SB 583 \(see also AB 652\)](#) - This bill makes numerous changes to the regulation of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and utility terrain vehicles (UTVs), including all of the following:
  1. Eliminates the requirement that ATVs and UTVs have low-pressure or non-pneumatic tires.
  2. Provides that a measurement of the width of an ATV or UTV must be measured between the outermost wheel rim on each side of the vehicle exclusive of tires, mirrors, and accessories that are not essential to the vehicle's basic operation.
  3. Provides that an ATV or UTV owned or leased by a political subdivision is exempt from registration if the name of the political subdivision is prominently displayed on the exterior.
  4. Creates

limitations on and requirements for the use of lights on ATVs and UTVs. 5. Provides that certain limitations on ATV and UTV operation and equipment do not apply to an ATV or UTV owned or leased by a city, village, town, county, state agency, federal agency, federally recognized American Indian tribe, public safety corporation, or public utility while the operator is engaged in an emergency. 6. Modifies certain existing requirements to apply to an ATV or UTV operated on an all-terrain vehicle route, all-terrain vehicle trail, or roadway. Status: Read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Energy 11/27/19.

- [2019 SB 585](#) - Under current law, veterans are eligible for a fee waiver for certain licenses and certifications (i.e. professional/occupational licenses). This bill expands eligibility to include the spouse of any veteran included in the current program. Status: Read first time and referred to Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations 11/27/19. Fiscal estimate received 12/09/19.
- [2019 SB 587](#) - This bill modifies the disability rating required for a disabled veteran to qualify for certain authorizations issued by the Department of Natural Resources and for exemptions from certain admission fees (Dis. Vet. Rec. Card, spring turkey harvest authorization purchase even if sold out, Dis. Vet. Fishing License, and State Park/Trails Admission). Under current law, the qualifying disability rating is either 50 or 70 percent depending on the authorization or exemption. The bill provides for a qualifying disability rating of 30 percent for these authorizations and exemptions. Status: Read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Energy 11/27/19.
- [2019 AB 543 \(see also SB 611\)](#) - This bill raises the fee for a waterfowl hunting stamp to \$11.75. The bill requires DNR to prepare a biennial report for the legislature that identifies how the money received from fees for waterfowl hunting stamps is used for habitat projects. Status: Read first time and referred to Committee on Sporting Heritage 10/14/19. Fiscal estimate received 11/11/19.
- [2019 AB 555 \(see also SB 508\)](#) - This bill creates a resident lifetime fishing license and provides for the establishment of a lifetime fishing trust fund. The bill establishes the fee for a resident lifetime fishing license at 30 times the fee for a resident annual fishing license, which under current law is \$19.25 plus a 75-cent issuing fee. Thus, at the current rate, a resident lifetime fishing license fee under the bill is \$577.50, plus a 75-cent issuing fee. Status: Read first time and referred to Committee on Sporting Heritage 10/18/19. Fiscal estimate received 11/04/19.

#### **WM Rule Proposals**

- [WM-01-19 \(CR 19-133\)](#), **Black Bear Management Zones** – stepped effective dates: elimination of 3-day waiting period for licenses purchased after start of bear season proposed to be effective for '20 season and applications with new zones to be offered summer of '20 for the '21 bear season. While not officially in effect, this proposed rule has passed all Legislative review. The rule must be published in the Administrative Register/paper and then the stepped effective dates will be official. Will offer bear applications once rule becomes effective.
- [WM-21-18 \(CR 19-017\)](#), **2019 Wildlife Spring Hearing Rule** - Note: stepped approach to effective date to make otter changes effective May 1, 2020 (following the close of the otter season on April 31, 2020, which allows for consistency throughout season), with remainder of rule to be effective Feb. 1, 2020; department will withhold otter applications and issue otter harvest authorizations with the purchase of a license authorizing trapping

at the beginning of LY 2020. Two items relating to trapping (raccoons incidentally caught in beaver sets may be kept and allowing nuisance and fur trappers to place traps within 15 ‘of a beaver dam) will become effective 02/01/20 and so the 2019-20 Trapping Regs will not contain information on expanded opportunities while trapping beaver.

- Changes the river otter framework from a quota/permit system to a bag limit/quota system. No otter drawing application would be required. Harvest authorization(s) issued with sale of each trapping license – 2 for LY2020. Bag limit equal to the number of harvest authorizations issued by the department. Otter trappers no longer required to carry or validate physical tag.
- Allows trappers to keep incidental taken raccoons in beaver sets after the close of the raccoon season. Current law allows trappers, during the closed season for muskrat, to retain muskrat incidentally taken during the open beaver season. This rule change proposes a similar exemption for raccoon harvested in beaver sets, after the close of the raccoon season. (2019 Trapping regs will not have this information included)
- Moves the close of pheasant season daily shooting hours on stocked public properties from 2 pm to 12 pm. Currently, shooting hours close at 2 p.m. on public lands stocked with pheasants during the pheasant season to allow staff to stock birds without hunters pursuing them straight out of the stocking truck. In some cases, due to staff limitations and other logistics, DNR staff must begin stocking pheasants earlier. This proposal would establish a noon closure on stocked properties to give staff more time and flexibility to stock while removing hunting pressure on the birds until the next morning.
- Eliminates minimum barrel length restrictions for handguns that are used for hunting and minimum caliber restrictions on pellet guns used for hunting small game mammals.
- Allows trappers to place traps within fifteen feet of a beaver dam. Current law prevents the placement of traps, except enclosed trigger traps, at any time within 15 feet of any beaver dam. The landowner exemption does allow a landowner to trap on a dam, but this exemption does not extend to agents of the landowner. The United States Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services can trap on dams as part of their beaver program as well. This proposal would allow both nuisance and fur trappers to trap on a beaver dam with written permission from the landowner. (2019-20 Trapping regs will not have this information included)
- Regulates shooting on DNR lands in Rock County. Target shooting is unregulated on DNR owned lands unless these lands are in counties listed Ch. NR 45.09(5), Wis. Adm. Code. There are no designated public shooting ranges in Rock County, a county with a relatively high population density and relatively flat topography. There is significant unregulated target shooting on state owned lands such as the Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area. This proposal would allow the department to regulate target shooting on state-owned lands in Rock County.

#### Bear Management Plan

- The new bear management plan can be viewed on the DNR website
  - Key word “Bear”
  - There is a link to the Bear Management Plan at the top of the page.

Bear Application availability delayed

- The applications to apply for Bear for the 2021 season will be delayed until the implementation of the rules above.

Grouse Season

- The grouse season will close early on January 5.

Collector Trout stamps discontinued for 2020

- The Great Lakes and Inland collector trout stamps will be discontinued for the upcoming season
- The stamps are still required for fishing trout, but this will be an approval only.

John Mitchell had a question about the number of permits being issued for the bear hunt and wondered if the number will increase with the new rule. Barry wasn't sure if there would be an increase or decrease in permits. It really depends on the way the zones are set up. The Bureau of Wildlife Management is taking care of this and it will likely look at past hunts in order to determine the number of permits to be issued. Keith asked if there would be more Law Enforcement presence due to the change in the time for hunting and the overlapping hunting periods.

The next agenda item was the 2019 deer hunting regulations question posed by Jim. Since Jim was not at this meeting, Nick suggested this agenda item be answered by Barry directly after he clarifies with Jim what the question relates to.

Next item was the 2020 DAC meeting dates. The Council came up with the following dates and meeting locations.

March 27 at Schmeekle Reserve in Stevens Point.

June 18 & 19 at TBD.

September 24 & 25 at Peninsula State Park (tower) and as a back-up Newport State Park or Potawatomi State Park

December 18 as a Teleconference or in person at Fitchburg

The next agenda item was the Accessibility Coordinator updates.

Inventory of accessible features: Nick talked to the Parks folks and gave them a list of the inventory of accessible features. They will be using the survey monkey to gather information from each of the parks. Calvin wanted to see a copy of the survey once it is finalized. The set up will be a "drop down" menu type.

Track chair administrative rule change: Nick got an e-mail and phone call from the Southeast Region (SER) Director's office. It was call relating to the track chair and the caller wanted to know where in the process the rule change was which would allow for it to be used without a PDMD permit (same as a wheelchair). The SER director had received a call from Access Ability Wisconsin. Somehow the caller bypassed talking to Nick.

Nick indicated to the Council the administrative code change which will now define the track chair as a wheelchair and will also define what a PDMD is, etc. All of this will be part of the rule change. This rule change will allow the track chair to go anywhere a wheelchair goes. This rule change package is ready to go to the next level for approval.

PDMD application changes: The application has been changed to reflect what was proposed.

State ID update: Nick said he had no update at this time. Calvin said he contacted the Council of the Blind and they thought DNR was working on this. Calvin is to write a letter. Kirsten suggested other agencies that support this should also write a letter. Cathryn wanted to know if there was some other way to prove your identity that could be done on line other than a State ID (and driver's license). Barry said for Nick to talk to Mark Rappe (section chief of IT section in Customer Service and Licensing) about a current accommodation at this time. There was a lot of discussion on this topic. DNR and DOT reps could possibly be invited to the next DAC meeting. Calvin wants any update sent to him. Keith said the minutes should reflect this request.

Calvin noticed when he was going to upload videos from DNR Facebook, that there were no captions. YouTube does have captions (but probably not DNR; YouTube is probably the one captioning). DNR Facebook videos should be captioned. Nick said they need to be captioned. Nick will follow up on this.

**Due to the observation of uncaptioned Facebook videos and pictures, the DAC recommends all DNR media sent out to the public needs to be accessible. John Mitchell seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

DAC vacancies: Nick said he contacted everyone who did the scoring last time around and everyone is on board except our Law Enforcement (LE) contact. Nick is going to look for a LE replacement. Originally the meeting was scheduled for the second week in January. Nick also indicated he and Jim R. went to a Vets Fair a few weeks ago and tried to get more interested parties to fill out the DAC application. Kirsten reiterated three new DAC members should be on board by March!

Eagle Tower: Nick indicated the ground-breaking should be in March and the project completed by October.

Yurt at Flambeau River SF: Nick said the DNR purchased a homestead and wanted an accessible cabin built there, but the cabin was too expensive. They decided to put a yurt there instead. Anyone can use the yurt, so it is not restricted to the disabled community, but it is accessible.

MacKenzie Center: An accessibility project (accessible restroom and shower at each dorm) is on the 21-23 capital development budget list and hopefully will stay on the list and get funded.

Nick said the brochure for Lake Kegonsa say it has an accessible trail along the water. There is a patch of the trail where roots have come through and is difficult to maneuver. It was determined that 100 feet of boardwalk through that area would work the best.

It should be noted the Federal government is labelling its trails with the features of the trail and not if it is accessible or not accessible.

Nick also said National Recreational Trails Act (NRTA) grant monies will be targeted for use on properties for accessibility projects. Buckhorn, Mirror Lake, and Lake Kegonsa State Parks will use the NRTA money for their trails to make them more accessible. Nick indicated it would be good to use DVR interns to do this work and also the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC) to do this work. Nick talked about the trail mapping equipment DNR is going to purchase and it would be placed into the Engineer's closet at DNR Central Office.

Nick let the Council know the DNR Website is being revamped. Each park page will have tabs on the top of the page. There will be an accessibility tab for accessibility inventory features and it will link back to Open the Outdoors page. Calvin asked about the parks' maps to include the accessible inventory features. Nick said the maps are not updated often, but if they are updated, that would be the time to add the accessibility features. Nick will ask Parks "How often the maps get updated?"

The next agenda was the discussion of the accessible blinds led by John Mitchell. The blinds are listed in the Building Inventory System (BIS), but the accessible blinds section has its own location and it is difficult to find exactly where they are listed in the BIS. Once they are in the BIS, the blinds can be transferred to the interactive mapping system. It's ready to take off right now. John said the boating application maps are not working; but the others are working. After checking, it appears it is something in John's computer that is not allowing this function to work as other DAC members could view the boating application maps.

The final agenda item was the Members' updates.

Cathryn: Cathryn told everyone "Happy Holidays!"

Keith: Challenge the Outdoors has a successful first year Archery Hunt with 10 disabled hunters participating and two deer harvested. The CTO October disabled gun hunt brought 30 disabled hunters into the field with fourteen deer harvested! The highlight was having two blind ladies harvest does with the help of mentors.

The Brown County Disability Advocacy Coalition, UWGB Disability Mentoring effort has been successful in securing course credit for mentors and mentees and grant funds for stipends for students participating!

Calvin: None at this time.

John Mitchell: Adaptive Sportsman Board meeting will be in January and then its website will list all of the events for the year.

Kirsten Engel: None at this time.

Cathryn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kirsten seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50.