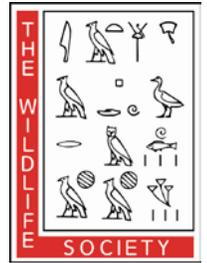




INTELLIGENT TINKERING

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter

To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of Intelligent Tinkering. – Aldo Leopold



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Submission Deadlines:
 Winter Issue: February 1, 2014
 Spring Issue: May 1, 2014
 Summer Issue: August 1, 2014

Mark Your Calendars - Winter Meeting

This year's annual conference will be a joint meeting with the Minnesota Chapter. It will be held in **Duluth, Minnesota February 17-19, 2015**. Events and sessions will be held in the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center with a block of guest rooms in the adjoining Holiday Inn. Do not be concerned about weather. The venues are connected by an enclosed skyway and we have put in a request for sunny skies.

Planning is well underway and will include a plenary session on coping with climate change, a quiz bowl, a discussion session on advocacy, a fantastic banquet, concurrent paper sessions, and other social events. Do not miss it! It should be a great meeting!

Your Help Is Needed

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society members:

I am asking you to assist me in developing a wildlife section to the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV) web site, which is: conservationvoters.org.

On July 7th, President Scott Craven called a special meeting of past presidents to discuss several critical issues relevant to the future of WCTWS. One issue that the group endorsed was advocacy. I suggested that WCTWS become a member of WLCV in order to better support and enhance progressive WI wildlife management, research, and education. Some suggested issues could be deer management, wolf management, selling of DNR lands, CWD, etc.

I have spoken to WLCV president Roger Larson about developing wildlife issues; he agreed that this is an excellent idea and welcomed WCTWS collaboration. Our chapter has given piecemeal donations to WLCV during the past several years. I have represented the Chapter during annual "meet your legislator" sessions.

Thank you for pitching in!

Chuck Pils
 5725 Cedar Place
 Madison, WI 53705

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise. – Aldo Leopold

Presidents Soapbox

By Scott Craven

Greetings to all! I hope all of our members and their families are able to take some time to enjoy summer as it quickly slips away. I cannot even think about facing another winter like the last one!

This is my first shot at a President's Soapbox since taking over at the annual meeting in Stoney Creek in March, 2014. As I said there, I am happy to have a second opportunity at leading the Wisconsin Chapter.

At the annual business meeting, it became clear that there were quite a few challenges and opportunities facing the Chapter. More than we could ever have resolved during a short business meeting which was squeezed in between a day of paper sessions and free beer! To address this problem, I called a special meeting of the Chapter Board on July 7th and invited as many past Presidents of the Chapter as I could find. The meeting was a great success. It is described in more detail elsewhere in IT. I will use the Soapbox to discuss several of the topics addressed at the meeting.

First, those of you who attended the March business meeting know about the motion made and passed (by a wide margin) to terminate our membership in the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The rationale can be found in the minutes of the meeting. The Board met with WWF leadership in April but little progress was made in resolving differences. Further discussion at the July 7th meeting strongly reaffirmed the discussion to separate from WWF. I sent a letter WWF Executive Director George Meyer on July 10th executing that motion. We are no longer affiliated with the WWF.

There was a lengthy discussion of our relationship with the North Central Section of TWS and the sections' relevancy given so many other levels of TWS organization. I expressed our concerns to the NC Section leadership and the NC Section Representative David Anderson. I was a bit surprised to learn that they shared some of our concerns. I will report back to the membership if I

hear more from the Section. It is down to only 300 members so something is clearly lacking in membership enthusiasm.

There has been a long standing concern that our money is not working hard enough for us. To that end, I met with a financial advisor in Madison (a former UW Wildlife Ecology joint major with Business) and he is taking a look at our options on a pro bono basis. I would like to see a slightly more aggressive (yet safe) management approach that would yield 5-6% per year rather than 1% or less on current CD's. I will keep the Board and membership informed on options. On the bright side, we are in very good financial shape with a "net worth" of about \$120,000. The Bjerke Fund continues to grow and the roughly 15K we earned for hosting the national TWS Conference in Milwaukee last fall was a real boost!

Given that financial picture, the July 7th group discussed the merits of a paid Executive Director. There are 3 primary reasons to consider an executive Director. First, we have had great difficulty finding members willing to help lead the chapter. Second, a Director would provide the continuity we lack with an annual rotation of presidents. Third, a Director might be able to meet some of our advocacy objectives. A Director could speak solely as a representative of our chapter without the baggage of being an active agency employee or retiree. This idea has not moved beyond the concept stage. The Board realizes this could be expensive; perhaps 5-15K per year, depending on what we want and who we hire. We will be asking the membership to provide some feedback on the idea through an email poll. Please respond. If you have any strong feelings about the idea – one way or the other – do not hesitate to contact me directly: srcraven@wisc.edu.

As noted above, leadership (finding volunteers) has been a real challenge in recent years. However, I am pleased to report that 4 individuals have contacted me in the past few weeks expressing a willingness to get involved. In addition, we hope the new student initiatives will yield future professionals willing to serve the Chapter. Further, the North Central Section is working on a regional leadership development project. And, Adrian Wydeven has volunteered to lead this year's nomination committee. (Thanks Adrian)! All very good news.

I think that is enough for now. I will leave the advocacy discussion for another newsletter, pending our ability to pull together a session on advocacy at the Duluth meeting. The current Board is working very hard on your behalf. We have a great Chapter. Enjoy the summer and get ready for the greatest time of the year – Fall.

Reaching Out To Student Chapters

Submitted by Scott Craven, President

During last winter's annual meeting, the Board invited representatives from our student chapters (UW-Stevens point, UW-Madison, and soon to be Northland College) to a breakfast discussion. The Board was interested in feedback on how to better engage students in chapter activities and operations. We discussed scholarships, timing and venues for meetings, information exchange, student representation on the board, research funding, and other topics. It was very productive.

As a result of the discussions, the Board is working on a plan to invite a student representative from each chapter to participate on the Board. This will require a By-laws change which will be part of a poll to the membership. A member of the Board will also speak at each chapter once a year. The Board hopes that more student participation will be good for both the Chapter and the students' professional development.

Special Meeting Held in July 2014

Submitted by Scott Craven, President

With a backlog of pressing issues and some controversial decisions facing the Board, President Craven called for a Special Meeting of the Board and past-Presidents of the Chapter over the past 30 years. The meeting was held in Fitchburg on 7 July from 9am to 3pm. The entire Board was present along

with an amazing turnout of Past-Presidents! (see photo on page 8). It was great to get this group of dedicated professionals and leaders together. Not only was it a good time, it was deemed worthwhile by those in attendance. Excellent progress was made on our relationship with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the need for advocacy, the challenges of leadership development, the future of Technical Training workshops, increasing engagement with student chapters, planning for the winter conference in Duluth, and financial management. More detail on these topics is contained in the President's soapbox and in an article on page 8 of this issue of IT. With only a short time to conduct business at the annual conference, such a meeting may be needed from time to time. A huge thank you to all who participated.

Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti

Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources

I'm so old I remember when vodka only came in vodka flavor.

If one door closes and another one opens, your house is probably haunted.

You drink too much, swear too much and have questionable morals...you're everything I've ever wanted in a friend.

I wish my life had background music so I could understand what the hell is going on.

Every time I say "Life can't get any more screwed up than this.", Life replies "Challenge accepted."

I just replaced the can of air freshener in the office bathroom with an air horn. And now we wait...

If at any time in 2013 I have annoyed you, made you mad, or said the wrong thing...suck it up buttercup, because 2014 isn't going to be any different.

You call them "cuss words". I choose to call them "sentence enhancers".

Sometimes you have to burn a few bridges to keep the crazies from following you.

Issues Committee Updates

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

On-going Climate Change Research in Wisconsin

Drs. Benjamin Zuckerberg and Lars Pomara (Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison) are undertaking a multi-year project to identify which species are most vulnerable to the impacts of modern climate change. Following an initial prioritization of species throughout the Upper Midwest, the researchers are developing quantitative vulnerability assessments for a subset of vulnerable species including eastern massasauga rattlesnake, ruffed grouse, and snowshoe hare. Using demographic models based on climatic variability and land use change, simulations of historic and future distributions are used to identify which aspects of a shifting climate (e.g., drought, flooding, temperature increases) might be more influential in driving species persistence. Early results suggest that the range contraction of eastern massasauga rattlesnakes has been driven by climatic forces such as winter drought and summer flooding and that the variability of ruffed grouse cycling will likely increase under future climate scenarios. Working with Dr. Karl Martin (WI DNR), these models will be used to identify areas of population persistence; representing refugia for existing populations and priorities for management. The next step will be assessing which conservation strategies will be most effective in adapting to a changing climate and reducing species vulnerability. Funding for this work is provided for by the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

Climate Change Research Findings in Wisconsin

A recently released USFS report “Past and Prospective Carbon Stocks in Forests of Northern Wisconsin” describes how various forestry management practices influence the amount of carbon sequestration in Northern Wisconsin forests. The goal is to identify management strategies which maximize carbon sequestration and economic value. Prescriptions for best management practices are offered to private landowners and public land managers. http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs127.pdf

WCTWS Annual Business Meeting

March 12, 2014, 4:30-6pm

Stoney Creek Inn, Rothschild, WI

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer

- I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:40 start Tami Ryan
 - a. Agenda Repair: none
- II. Treasurers Report Travis Anderson
 - a. Financial report for 2013 submitted by the Secretary/Treasurer, motion was made to accept and as well as a 2nd. Financial report accepted
- III. Recognition of Out-going Officers Tami Ryan
 - a. Sharon Fandel
 - b. Scott Hull
 - c. Executive Board honored President Tami Ryan with a print for her time spent as President
- IV. Election Results & in-coming President Tami Ryan/Scott Craven
 - Introduction
 - a. Mark Pfof – President elect
 - b. Travis – re-elected secretary/treasurer
 - c. Board – Brian Heeringa
- V. National Conference Report Jamie Nack/Karl Martin/Scott Walter
 - a. National was glad they returned to WI and will likely have an opportunity to host again in the near future
 - b. Over 1300 attendees
 - c. Awards presentation and Quiz bowl were successful
 - d. Jamie: big thanks to Lesa Kardash for volunteer organization

- VI. Committee Reports
- a. Climate Change
 - i. No report
 - b. Deer Management
 - i. Should we submit a statement on captive cervids?
We have one in our possession that could be used
 - c. Farm Wildlife
 - i. No report
 - d. Government Affairs
 - i. Chuck made a statement on behalf of the Chapter at the special NRB meeting on deer management and using science
 - ii. Chuck represents the chapter at League of Conservation Voters
 - e. Wildlife Damage Management
 - i. DNR working closely with UW-Extension on getting wildlife damage info into 1 location that is easy to reference and find
 - ii. A section in the new Farm Bill on livestock indemnity payments caused by wildlife (wolves) and avian wildlife, including raptors, herons, etc. Now, aqua culture operators can claim damage from avian predators
 - iii. Update to cormorant management plan
 - iv. Push in congress for feral swine initiative has passed, and WI should receive some money to eradicate feral swines (\$20 million total for the country)
 - f. Wolf Management
 - i. A new DNR wolf advisory committee was formed
 - ii. New committee is charged to re-write the WI wolf management plan
 - iii. The chapter no longer is officially represented (does not have a seat at the table)

Scott Craven
Mike Meyer

Keith McCaffery

Scott Walter

Chuck Pils

Jason Suckow

Randy Jurewicz

- iv. Randy is representing the Wolf Alliance on this new committee, however
- v. The goal is to reduce the wolf population, and there is concern that the new committee is biased towards the hunting groups who want the population brought back to 350 animals
- vi. The committee is drafting a new plan
- vii. The wolf hunting season is locked in state statute, and therefore difficult to amend, change, or update
- viii. WI wolf season is currently working under an emergency rule, which is being worked into a permanent rule, along with the new management plan
- ix. Unsure of how effective presentations by UW scientists on wolf management are to sway the committee members

- g. UW-Madison Student Chapter
 - i. Sent 5 students to national conference in Quiz bowl
 - ii. Working with Madison Audubon on kestrel study
 - iii. Game dinner raised \$700
 - iv. Has a team in the great WI bird-a-thon. Looking for donations and contributions to help out
 - v. Assisting DNR in bat and frog/toad survey
 - vi. Always looking for new ways to get students a chance to network with professionals...looking for ideas on more ways to do so
 - vii. Email list is up to 500
- h. UW-Stevens Point Student Chapter
 - i. Sent 10 students to national conf and 4 to Midwest, and attended Waterfowl conf
 - ii. 200 members
 - iii. Organizing a game feed
 - iv. Numerous on-going projects
- i. North Central Section update

Tyler Garwood

Elise Worthel

Karl Martin

- i. Begin planning for the next Midwest Fish & Wildlife conference. DNR is the lead, but chapter can help out
- ii. Karl Martin is no longer the rep
- iii. A new position at National dedicated to bring in more money
- iv. New faces are in various positions at the National level
- v. Council will begin to look for a new publisher
- vi. Leadership Institute applicants to are due April 10
- vii.
- j. WWF Pat Kaiser
 - i. WWF has numerous committees
 - ii. Pat attends the wildlife committee and feels we aren't having an impact on driving home science based decisions
- k. Silviculture Guidance Team Ron Eckstein
 - i. Changes to the DNR forestry committees are occurring, and user groups are more prevalent
 - ii. The WCTWS has a seat at the table on this new committee
 - iii. Make sure that forest decisions are made with wildlife benefits in mind
 - iv. There is a push by this committee for more timber cutting, and to open up more land to timber sales
- l. Awards committees
 - i. Acknowledge Ken Jonas and Bruce Bacon for their time leading these committees
 - ii. Lesa Kardash is new Scholarship committee chair
 - iii. Kris Johansen new Awards committee chair
- m. Fund raising committee?
 - i. Our bylaws state that there should be a Fund Raising committee, be we currently lack this.

- ii. This committee could also meet in regards to the various Chapter accounts and funds, and what to do with our money
- iii. Executive Board should discuss this committee

VII. Chapter Business

Scott Craven et al.

a. WCTWS Advocacy

- Our bylaws are explicit on advocacy, but the chapter has been and is called upon to advocate on various issues, which sometimes puts members of the executive board in uncomfortable positions
 - What are the other societies dealing with on this issue (ASF, AFS,). Can we join with them on these issues?
 - Call a special meeting to discuss this issue? Fall Technical Training?
 - Discussion opened to the attending membership about having a paid lobbyist,
 - 1. Possibly at the Section level?
 - National chapter has created a conservation affairs document
 - Executive Board should take this issue up at their next meeting
- WWF membership
 - Concern with WWF not representing WCTWS views
 - 1. WWF rep to the DNR wolf committee does not follow WCTWS views on wolf management and should be changed

2. WWF constituency seems to be biased against science-based management
 3. Can the WCTWS file minority reports to reflect our disagreement with some of their stances? Yes
- We have the opportunity for more members to attend WWF meetings (3 total)
 - Discussion regarding whether we should remain members of WWF
 1. Can we expect the WWF to represent wildlife professionals?
 2. They appear to be a representative of user groups
 - The executive boards of each group (WCTWS and WWF) should meet
 1. WCTWS should draft a letter to request a formal meeting with WWF
 2. before the chapter makes a decision on non-renewal to WWF
 3. prepare a list of grievances with WWF
 4. Membership should supply Ex board with their issues (positive and negative) with WWF
 - **Motion was made** to have Ex board to meet with WWF with the result of a tangible change, and that change is WCTWS demands that WWF remove their current appointed representative to the DNR wolf committee, and if no agreement on that **point, the**

WCTWS will remove ourselves as members from the WWF. motion 2nd

1. Motion carries by hand vote, all in the room are in favor except 1
 2. It is stated that in addition to the Executive Board members attending this meeting between WCTWS and WWF, that members of the WCTWS who have issue with WWF, also make themselves available to attend such meeting.
- b. Running for Office; Voluntary vs. Paid
 - How do we engage the membership to be in a leadership role?
 - Should we consider an Executive Officer (paid) to run day to day operations?
 - c. Student Involvement
 - Students would like a “better” relationship with the Chapter and we are open
 - d. Fall Technical Training
 - Membership please submit ideas for training
 - e. Strategic Planning
 - Forestry Issues Committee
 Motion is made to establish a Forestry Issues committee. Motion is 2nd vote is unanimous

VIII. Adjourn

i. End 6:24

Scott Craven

WCTWS Special July Meeting Minutes

Fitchburg Public Library, July 7, 2014

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer

Attending: Executive Board members: Scott Craven, Travis Anderson, Tami Ryan, Brian Heeringa, Mandy Kamps, Mark Pfof, Lesa Kardash
Past Presidents: Scott Walter, Jamie Nack, John Olson, Jonathan Gilbert, Chuck Pils, Carl Batha, Mike Foy, Scott Hull, Karl Martin, Gerry Bartelt, David Drake, Randy Jurewicz, Harvey Halverson, Adrian Wydeven, Bruce Bacon, Jim Ruewaldt
Other: Jason Riddle
Meeting Begin: 9:32am



Introductions and Agenda repair

1) WCTWS relationship with WWF

- a. Scott Craven met one on one with George Meyer to discuss our relationship prior to the WCTWS Winter meeting.
- b. WCTWS membership passed a motion at the 2014 Winter Meeting to leave the WWF unless changes were made to WWF's representative to the WI DNR Wolf committee (see 2014 Winter Business meeting minutes).
- c. WCTWS Board met with WWF board to discuss the motion
- d. Discussion amongst the group as to whether we remain a member of WWF
 - i. Can we make a motion to reconsider and bring the vote back to the membership?
 1. Possibly: if the member who made the initial motion makes a new motion
 - ii. The bigger (real) issue is that the WCTWS gets out voted at WWF meetings, and yet they (WWF) use our name on their newsletter which gives the impression that we (WCTWS) are in agreement with their stances on wildlife issues, which is not the case.
 1. WWF does offer to their membership the opportunity to issue minority opinions to the stances that WWF takes
 - iii. Is there an opportunity to join the WF at the national level and not be a member of the state chapter?
 1. No
 - iv. We had not heard from the WWF since our board met with theirs to discuss this issue.
 - v. Bottom line: the motion that was made should be changed, or modified, to show that WCTWS feels our relationship with WWF is not about 1 person, but instead deals with their stances on many issues to do

not reflect or agree with WCTWS stances on wildlife management.

1. Motion was made to reflect the above statement.
 2. Motion passed
 - vi. We want our relationship with WWF to remain “good” so that they can always feel comfortable to ask for our opinions on wildlife matters.
 - vii. Scott will send a letter to WWF notifying them that we are removing ourselves from their membership, stating the above (line v.)
- 2) Student chapter survey results
- a. How can we engage students better?
 - i. Have student representative on the board?
 1. Students were interested in this, perhaps a rotating position amongst the 3 student chapters (non-voting) or have all 3 chapters have a non-voting position on the WCTWS executive board
 - ii. Send a letter to the UW campuses to have their students attend our winter meeting (in addition to the 3 official chapters)
 - iii. How can the WCTWS use social media to engage the students?
 - b. Student Chapters would like 1 WCTWS board member to speak at their student chapter meetings
 - c. Students would like a Fri/Sat winter meeting vs weekday conferences
 - d. Students expressed interest in \$\$\$ for research proposals
 - e. Students are in favor of a mentor type program
 - f. WCTWS will need to change the bylaws to add student chapter reps to the board.
- 3) Chapter Finances

- a. Current finance report given (Travis)
 - b. Discussion about direction and use of WCTWS finances
 - i. There is a sub-committee that deals with finances that has been inactive in recent years. Getting this committee active again is unlikely
 - ii. Bylaws are very restrictive on how we can use the Bjerke funds
 - iii. Consensus is to invest what we made from the 2013 National Conf in Milw.
 1. We should be getting 5% interest on the money
 2. We should get a 3rd party involved to help guide us in this investment
 3. Scott will contact an investor to set a meeting and begin the conversation about investing our money.
 - iv.
- 4) Relationship with North Central Section of TWS
- a. What is the role of the North Central Section?
 - b. Discussion began amongst the group about our role with the North Central Section
 - c. What is the value of the Section, and what does it bring to the WCTWS?
 - i. Leadership Institute
 - ii. Conservation Affairs Network
 - d. North Central Section is also struggling with membership and finding people willing to volunteer for leadership positions
- 5) Duluth Winter Meeting w/ MN, Feb 17-19 2015
- a. Scott has been in contact with the MN Chapter and a big topic will be Global Climate Change for the plenary
 - b. \$50 for a registration fee, plus \$30 add on for banquet fee, plenary awards program would be \$20 more...students will be half cost

- c. The WCTWS needs to convey our needs to the MN Chapter:
 - i. We need to hold a business meeting
 - ii. We need to hold our awards ceremony
 - 1. Hold awards separately (possibly during business meetings?)
 - d. MN Chapter would like to hold a Quiz Bowl competition between the student chapters of WI and MN. We need to report the potential interest of our student chapters to the MN Chapter to hold this quiz bowl.
 - e. Potential speakers: Scott Hyngstrom from UWSP, Bob Nack & DMAP, Tom Steele(?), Dave Anderson from North Central Section, Ken Williams,
 - f. We should focus on issues that cross both states
 - i. Mining issues, moose, lynx, young forest initiative, Lake Superior estuary, grassland habitat restoration, driftless area topics, hunter recruitment, northern long-eared bats, climate change effects on forest communities,
 - ii. **Hold a training session on advocacy?**
 - 1. **Bring in the ND Chapter advocate to talk and then hold a “session” with chapter members to discuss. The group is in support of this.**
 - g. Field trips/workshops?
 - i. Ice caves
 - ii. Berkie race
 - iii. Trapping workshop
 - h. Potential for state agencies to meet on various issues (WI, MN, MI, etc.)
 - i.
- 6) Advocacy Issues – What do we do?
- a. Many people/groups are insistent that the WCTWS advocate on behalf in using science in natural resource management
- b. Can we hire an executive director (with guidance from the board) to take on the advocacy issues (paid with funds from the Bjerke account)?
 - c. Discussion began among the group
 - i. The current political climate makes this issue even more important, that we do not give up on advocacy
 - ii. The membership seems to be interested in the WCTWS advocating, and if we need to pay a spokesperson to accomplish this then maybe we should do that.
 - iii. We need to be careful that when/if paying someone to advocate, that our non-profit status is not negatively affected.
 - iv. We need to have an outcome that is beyond being heard, but instead has an effect on the decisions being made. We currently are not effective by sending letters, etc.
 - v. Support for hiring an “executive director”, but how would the National Chapter support us? We do not currently have the finances to support such an effort.
 - vi. We should reach out to the other societies (Fish, Forestry, etc.) to see how they are addressing this issue. Then, we may be able to begin structuring how we see the job description of an Executive Director
 - vii. Look to The League of Conservation Voters adding a “wildlife” section to their web page similar to what they do with forests, wetlands, etc. (we are members of the League of Conservation Voters) Chuck Pils will continue as our representative to the League. **The group supports this idea.**
 - viii. Once we start down the path of being an advocacy group, it will be hard to return to the claim we’re an impartial group of scientists

- ix. If we hire an Executive Director, they would need to do more than advocacy....fund raising, communication and outreach, education, etc.
- x. We should invite the person from North Dakota Chapter that is “advocating” on behalf of their chapter, to our winter meeting.
 - 1. Possibly have a panel discussion at the Winter meeting on advocacy, that includes National Chapter reps.
- xi. We need to take the idea of a part time Executive Director to the membership, and see what they say/feel . **The group supports this.**
 - 1. **Possibly raise the yearly dues from \$10 to \$20 to support a \$12,000 yearly salary.**

7) Leadership

- a. Needs for the WI Chapter
 - i. Hold a Technical Training that deals with Leadership?
 - 1. Attendance would be small.
 - ii. May be hard to pull off in time for this fall
- b. North Central initiatives
 - i. Wants to link agencies at the state level for young professionals (networking) and use TWS Chapters as the link
- c. Workshop in Duluth
- d. Need for a paid Chapter position
 - i. Could help to attract members to run for board positions

8) Misc. Issues

- a. Venues for winter meeting
 - i. American Fisheries Society wants to have a joint meeting in Green Bay

- ii. Piggy back with WI DNR WM meeting when their meeting is 1 day.
- iii. Stevens Point, Wausau, WI Dells
- b. Topics for technical training
 - i. Fall Technical Training will not be held
 - ii. Possibly recycle past ideas.
 - iii. IT needs, social media,
 - iv. Landscape scale planning
 - v. Invasive species management
 - vi. Ecotype management
 - 1. Grasslands
 - 2. Wetlands
 - 3. Young Forest
 - vii. Co-management with Tribes
 - viii. Leadership Training?
 - 1. Contact Randy Stark to speak?

ix.

c. Review bylaws

- i. Need to make changes to accommodate student participation with the board
- ii. Bylaws allow the Executive Director
- iii. Need to add new Forestry committee

d. Reinstate summer meeting

- i. Past summer meetings seemed to be low turnout.
- ii. Technical training seemed to take the place of the summer meeting

iii.

9) Review of Committees

- a. Has been impossible to find candidates for the committees
- b. Nominations Committee – Adrian W.
- c. Issues Committees
 - i. Forestry
 - ii. Climate – no change

- iii. Deer – no change
- iv. Farm Wildlife – no change
- v. Gov’t Affairs – no change
- vi. Wildlife Damage – no change
- vii. Wolves – no change
- viii. Student Chapters
- d. Public Comment Committee was for speaking on behalf of the Chapter before the legislature, which makes is different than the Gov’t Affairs Committee. However, the Gov’t Affairs committee has been serving in this role
- e. Awards
 - i. Lesa
- f. Leopold
 - i. Tim, Randy J, Lesa, Kris Johansen

10) Other issues

- a. Tami – strategic planning for the chapter: what are the goals and visions for our committees? Should we hire a professional to aid us in developing a strategic plan for our committees to help with the Chapters goals and objectives? We can review what the National level did.
- b. Today’s meeting will be presented to the membership via Scott’s column in the newsletter.
- c. Karl – Midwest Fish & Wildlife meeting: WI DNR and WCTWS needs to be a part of the discussions when the next meeting is held in WI

Meeting adjourn: 3:30pm

Financial Status Report, 06/08/14

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer

<u>Credits – 2014</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year (total)</u>
Winter Meeting		\$11,390.00
Silent Auction/Garage Sale		\$ 152.00
Membership		\$ 1,480.00
Donations		\$ 10.00
Pint glasses		\$ 512.00
		\$13,544.00

<u>Debits – 2014</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year (total)</u>
Winter Meeting		\$ 14,964.86
Awards – Winter Meeting		\$ 997.80
Conservation Hall of Fame		\$ 100.00
Leopold Scholarships		\$ 2,000.00
Outstanding Student Award		\$ 116.00
Mileage & Meetings		\$ 252.00
Postage/clerical/etc.		\$ 118.08
		\$ 18,548.74

ACCOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE
CHECKING	12/31/13	\$5,226.83	
	5/31/14	\$2,095.09	-\$3,131.73
SAVINGS 1	12/31/13	\$17,926.67	
	5/31/14	\$15,932.49	-\$1,994.18
SAVINGS 2	12/31/13	\$1,068.11	
	5/31/14	\$1,068.59	\$0.48
CD #1	12/31/13	\$1,950.06	
	5/31/14	\$1,951.72	\$1.66
CD #2 (Bjerke)	12/31/13	\$83,464.57	
	5/31/14	\$83,568.23	\$103.66
CUNA Brokerage	12/31/13	\$125,777.52	
	5/31/14	\$120,757.41	-\$5,020.11
TOTAL	12/31/13	\$125,777.52	
	12/31/13	\$120,757.41	-\$5,020.11

Annual Winter Meeting Summary

Submitted by Lesa Kardash, Editor

The 2014 Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society (WCTWS) winter meeting took place March 11th – 13th at Stoney Creek Inn in Rothschild. On Tuesday, an evening reception was hosted by the 2013 Arrangements Committee for The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. A summary of the successful national conference was presented and conference volunteers acknowledged.

The plenary theme was *One Health: The Wildlife-Human Connection*, which included presentations from three highly accomplished individuals. Dr. Milt Friend provided perspectives on wildlife disease in a changing world. Diep “Zip” Hoang Johnson discussed Lyme Disease management in Wisconsin. Finally, Bryan Richards from USGS presented on One Health.

New this year, we partnered with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology to co-host a special symposium on Wednesday afternoon dedicated to the latest technology in avian research and monitoring. We also continued to provide a session to student presentations.

The WCTWS business meeting took place late Wednesday afternoon and early evening and the awards banquet was held in the evening. Both had good attendance.

Sincere gratitude goes out to all presenters and session moderators for a great meeting. We would like to thank the WCTWS Executive Board: Scott Craven, Scott Hull, Travis Anderson, Amanda Kamps, Sharon Fandel, and Lesa Kardash. Special thanks to outgoing president Scott Hull for taking the lead in planning and organizing the agenda for the general and student sessions, David Drake for his lead role in the WSO special symposium, Krista McGinley for continuing to compile our program and oversee the garage sale and silent auction. Finally, a thanks to the 2013 TWS Conference Arrangements Committee co-chairs Jamie Nack and Karl Martin and President-Elect Scott Craven for planning the Tuesday evening welcome reception.

2014 WCTWS Award & Scholarship Recipients

Wisconsin Award – Tim VanDeelen

Tim’s professional activities as a wildlife research scientist for the WDNR and Illinois Natural History Survey as well as his recent tenure as a faculty member at UW-Madison exemplify his dedication to the wildlife management profession. Tim has excelled at TWS activities as a Certified Wildlife Biologist, President of the Illinois and Wisconsin Chapters and Student Chapter Advisor at UW-Madison. Tim currently serves on the elite Certification Review Panel for the National TWS and as a member of the State Chapter Deer Issues Committee. Tim’s dedication to and accomplishments in the wildlife profession are unquestioned. He has enthusiastically led and participated in many new and innovative applied research projects on ungulates, furbearers, carnivores, mammalian diseases, and small mammals. He is a valued partner of the Wisconsin DNR’s Research, Wildlife Management, and Endangered Resources Programs, often sought out to conduct research projects or as a consultant on wildlife population trends or quantitative analyses.



Tim has trained numerous Masters and Doctoral Students over the past 10-years focusing on a variety of species and aspects of population dynamics, disease, and habitat associations. These have included small mammals, flying squirrels, deer, wolves, black bears, bats, cougars, white-nosed syndrome, chronic wasting disease, forest biomass, and climate impacts. Tim has also mentored numerous post-doctoral research scientists. He has co-authored

over 40 peer reviewed publications, wrote several popular articles, and has testified numerous times on behalf of sound science-based management.

Tim has been a valued advisor to numerous undergraduates over the past 10 years. He has made a special effort to develop field trip opportunities for students, coordinate internship opportunities for undergraduate and recent graduates, and is always available to provide a written or verbal reference for current and past students. Tim is the instructor for Population Dynamics, a cornerstone class at UW-Madison. Tim has initiated a new course on white-tailed deer ecology and management based on his research interest and as an example of a keystone species from an economic, social and biological perspective

In summary Dr. Tim Van Deelen is a consummate wildlife professional - engaging students in undergraduate and graduate training; while serving the profession as an officer, committee member, author, and leader. His approachable demeanor and ability to communicate with farmers, hunters and landowners as well as managers and high level administrators makes him very effective at advancing wildlife conservation and influencing wildlife policy and decision-making, thus enhancing the scientific understanding of wildlife in Wisconsin and beyond. In addition, he is just a heck of a nice person and great to work with! Congratulations Tim!

Don Rusch Memorial Award – Scott Hull

It is often quoted that many natural resource professionals focus on the trees and by doing so, lose sight of the forest, but nothing is further from the truth for Scott. His natural ability to focus on large-scale issues while collecting data and managing at the local scale is epitomized by his recent work on Prairie Chickens, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Pheasants, and Turkeys. Scott's efforts with both Prairie Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse epitomize a major conservation challenge facing Wisconsin. Scott's work with his colleagues focuses on multi-temporal and multi-spatial scale analyses in an effort to not only maintain these species in the short-term, but to develop long-term management plans that will allow these species to persist for future generations. Scott plays a pivotal role to help managers and policymakers understand the impact of decisions on both

the short and long-term conservation of these two important upland game bird species in Wisconsin.



Scott is often sought out by colleagues to lead high profile efforts related to wildlife management and conservation because they know his get-it-done attitude will move important issues forward. In the past couple of years Scott has led three major

efforts, including the development of a comprehensive document on non-forest biomass management, an assessment of Wisconsin's Prairie Chicken genetics, and most recently as co-leader in revamping Wisconsin's hunting and fishing license system. In all, these cases Scott was sought out for his wildlife expertise and professional, yet pragmatic approach to address high profile issues. Recently, Scott accepted a new position as the WDNR's Game Research Team Leader – a position he is well suited for. His demonstrated ability to work with diverse groups to address wildlife challenges was a definite factor in his selection for this important role.

Scott is an avid hunter and outdoors person who values the hunting tradition and the importance of its role in wildlife conservation and management. He understands the balance between wildlife conservation and societal desires to have huntable populations of a variety of species, especially game birds. Scott encourages his children to be involved in the outdoors and to value their relationship with the land. Much of Scott's work with turkeys and pheasants has an end goal of increasing hunting opportunities and providing a quality hunting experience.

In summary, Dr. Scott Hull is a highly respected wildlife professional who works extremely hard to improve the understanding, conservation and management of wildlife species in Wisconsin. His ability to build coalitions around important conservation issues and organize collaborative research

efforts makes him an outstanding choice for the Don Rusch Memorial Award. Congratulations Scott!

Student Award – Jacob Marty



Jacob has done extremely well academically as an undergraduate wildlife student, maintaining a near perfect GPA of 3.97. He has been deeply involved in a number of extra-curricular activities, with the UWSP student chapter of the Wildlife Society foremost among them. Within TWS, he is

actively promoting a “quizbowl project” that will provide year-round wildlife trivia experiences and better prepare wildlife students for competition with other programs at regional and national bowls. He is also expanding this effort to create a “Natural Resources Quizbowl” among the student organizations within the College of Natural Resources. He currently serves an associate director at the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation – a leadership position that has him engaged at the state-level with a number of wildlife organizations and conservation issues. He has volunteered for at least 3 research projects over the past 3 years dealing with everything from trapping prairie-chickens, to trapping and tagging deer fawns, to aging harvested deer and collecting lymph nodes for CWD testing. In addition as part of his TWS commitment, he is currently spearheading a research project on coyotes

Jacob has shown an unusually high degree of initiative in everything he has done while at UWSP. Right now he is starting an independent research project using GIS to create a habitat suitability map for caracals in the South African national park where he worked in last winter. Clearly, Jacob is a self-starter with a dedication and perseverance that is unusual in this generation of students. He obviously believes that learning is his responsibility and learning opportunities are found both in and out of the traditional classroom.

The nominating staff at UWSP remarked that Jacob is always friendly, cheerful, enthusiastic, and positive. As a testament to his “people skills”, he was hired this year as a “peer advisor” - a select set of students that have the skills and ability to help other undergrads plan their schedules and find necessary resources. Needless to say, he is exceptionally popular with both peers and the faculty.

In addition to the WCTWS student award, Jacob has been selected as the 2014 recipient of the “Outstanding Undergraduate Student” award for the UWSP College of Natural Resources. This is the top award that is given out annually to a CNR student and in winning that award he was competing against more than 1,700 other natural resource undergraduates and stood significantly above them all. Congratulations Jacob!

Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship Graduate Student Scholarship – Andrew Norton

Andrew Norton is in his 4th year of a PhD assistantship in the Wildlife Ecology program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and during this time he has maintained a 4.0 GPA. His research involves evaluating survival patterns of white-tailed deer in Wisconsin. The project is a collaboration between UW-Madison and the Wisconsin DNR and is one of the largest deer research projects ever undertaken with two landscape-level study areas, >1500 deer captured, and >1,000 citizen volunteers. One of his recommenders wrote, “Without his dedication, leadership, good humor, and hard work this project would not have been as successful as it has been.”

Prior to coming to Wisconsin, Andrew was contracted to develop a Valley Forge National Historical Park deer population model to assess contraceptive effectiveness. During his masters graduate research assistantship at Pennsylvania State University, he coordinated white-tailed deer capture and monitoring efforts to evaluate population estimators. He has authored and co-authored numerous manuscripts and has been described as a “better scientific writer than most of his peers, in addition to being on par with more seasoned researchers.”



Prior to graduate school, he surveyed Sharp-tailed Grouse in northern Minnesota, collected vegetative data in Minnesota and Mississippi, and completed a white-tailed deer research internship with the Minnesota DNR. He has been an active member of The

Wildlife Society throughout his career, attending and presenting his research at numerous state and national conferences.

His desire is to work in a position where he can help bridge the gap between research and application by both strengthening the science behind management objectives and increasing public involvement and understanding regarding management decisions. Specifically, he hopes to be involved with population research as it relates to broad scale management of game species.

Andrew “embodies the sentiment of the Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship with excellence in scholarly activities, dedication to sound research and public involvement, and applied research in the area of game management.” “[He] is a rare talent and is going to [be] a rock star as a researcher, teacher, and public face for science-based wildlife conservation.” Congratulations Andrew!

Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship Undergraduate Student Scholarship – Tyler Garwood

Tyler Garwood is a senior majoring in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has maintained a 3.7 GPA. He looks “for ways to rekindle a basic connection between the land and [his] everyday actions.” His professional goals are to continue to promote Leopold’s legacy of The Land

Ethic through teaching at a university and contributing to the conversation in a meaningful way through research.

Tyler is described as a “true believer in the value of professional organizations in the life and careers of wildlife professionals.” These beliefs, as well as his leadership skills, are demonstrated in his involvement in several campus groups. As President of the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, he coordinates several projects, organizes chapter meetings, and has even served on two quiz bowl teams at the annual Wildlife Society conference. As Vice-President of Students for Bird Conservation, he collaborates with the Madison Audubon Society on a kestrel monitoring project and is coordinating a Great Wisconsin Birdathon Team as a fundraiser for both protecting bird habitat and funding the student organization.



He has demonstrated great initiative and well-rounded interests with his diverse experiences outside of the classroom. Some of these experiences include setting up camera traps and conducting vegetation surveys for an Andean Bear movement study in Ecuador, assessing the impacts of management techniques on grassland birds in the western U.S., serving as a laboratory technician on the UW campus for a study investigating interactions between several species in the Andes of Argentina, and interning at the UW-Madison Zoology museum.

According to those who recommended him, “We would do well as a profession to do all that we can to attract and keep students like [him].” “He has clearly claimed the Leopold legacy as his own and will honor the title of “Leopold Scholar” with the pride that it deserves.” Congratulations Tyler!

*Chapter Members with 50+ Years of Membership
Chuck Pils & Keith McCaffery*



*Best Student Presentation, Undergraduate –
Nate Francois*

“Observer discrepancies with environmental covariates: let’s agree to disagree”



Best Student Presentation, Graduate - Andrew Norton

“A Bayesian approach to estimating white-tailed deer abundance using an integrated age-at-harvest model”



Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Meeting Summaries

Submitted by Pat Kaiser, WCTWS Liaison to WWF

Wildlife Committee Meeting, February 1, 2014, Stevens Point, WI

The Wildlife Committee meeting agenda included the following topics and discussion. Several representatives from the WDNR staff provided updates regarding the Wildlife, Forestry and Natural Areas programs.

1. Bill VanderZouwen, WDNR Wildlife Specialist provided a summary and update of DNR programs . Some of the program issues were: a) Sharptail grouse populations in WI. are very low – thus no hunting permits were issued for 2013, b) Waterfowl – discussions are under way for a possible ‘early teal season’ as teal populations in the US are now at their highest level ever recorded, c) Wolf – the harvest for the 2013 season was 257 , with 65% taken by trapping and 35% by hunting, d) Bear – a quota harvest goal of 4700 has been set for 2014, e) Bobcat - a ‘south zone’ for harvest has been established and will have a harvest quota for 2014, f) CWD in Deer – testing of deer in 2013 resulted in 350 deer positives, and four of those positives were outside of the CWD zone, g) Farm Bill – a new US farm bill has been passed and one of its elements puts a cap of \$24 million to be used for land leases, h) Animal Damage program – 185,00 acres were open for public hunting because of animal damage payments made to landowners, of which 23,000 acres was due to wolf damage payments, i) Education – a state-of-the-art interactive education display will be established at the WDNR Horicon Marsh office and due to open in April 2015, and j) Bill VZ is retiring from WDNR in mid-February and will be taking employment with Pheasants Forever as a regional representative in Michigan.
2. Kevin Wallenfang, WDNR Big Game Specialist provides updates on the deer and elk programs. Deer program; a) the 2013 overall deer harvest was approx. 337,000 with 250,000 via gun harvest and 86,000 by archery, b) Winter Weather Severity – this 2013/14 winter’s very cold and significant snowfall has already resulted in ‘very severe

category’ for numerous areas in northern WI and will likely occur in some of the central and southern regions of the state. Antlerless harvest quota’s will probably be reduced or even eliminated in some areas for 2014, c) Implementing the Deer Trustee program – the WDNR Board via ‘emergency rule’ approved the ‘Deer Trustee Report rule Package’ so that some of its recommendations could be implemented in 2015. Some changes include; 1)eliminate in-person deer registration with statewide automated deer registration beginning in 2015, 2) deer management units will be defined by county boundary’s, 3) deer herd populations will no longer be identified by population goals and scientific population estimates, instead a ‘Deer Advisory Committee’ composed of approx. 7 – citizens will arbitrarily decide if the “deer herd” is stable, increasing, or decreasing and then make the recommendation for harvest, 4) ...four - deer management zones are now established ..Northern Forest Zone, Central Forest Zone, Central Farmland Zone, and Southern Farmland Zone, 5) hunting season structure (i.e. license type and antlerless tag availability) will vary within the four management zones, 6) antlerless deer tags will be allotted by private land vs. public land and additional antlerless deer tags will cost \$12 , 7) – All this makes for a “simplified” regulations.

Elk program;

- a) Current elk population approx. 180 at the Clam Lake site,
 - b) Clam Lake elk site is an area of approx. 1100 sq. mi. but the elk are using only about 100 sq. mi.,
 - c) WDNR has enlarged the Clam Lake site to include more county forest land and MFL lands and they intend to capture 12 – 15 elk and relocate them to the south part of the zone; d) before a limited elk hunting season can be implemented the population must be 200 animals, e) plans are still in progress to bring additional elk into WI. to establish an additional herd in the Black River Forest area and add additional elk to the Clam Lake area to increase genetic diversity.
3. Erin Crane and Randy Hoffman of the WDNR ‘Natural Heritage and Conservation Program’ presented information on the State Natural Areas (SNA) of Wisconsin. Erin provided an overall perspective and Randy presented some informational facts regarding SNA’s ;

a) less than 2% of Wisconsin lands and waters qualify as ‘natural areas’, b) there are 673 designated SNA’s , c) there are approx. 373,000 acres of SNA, d) approx. 186,000 acres are part of lands already owned as wildlife, forestry, fishery, parks areas, and including 77,000 acres that are standalone state natural area properties. The remaining SNA acres are part of county, federal ownerships and some private ownership, e) most recreational activities are allowed on SNA’s including hunting, fishing, hiking, etc. .

4. Bob Mather of WDNR Forestry program provided information on a legislative issue involving the Managed Forest Law. Assembly Bill 700 is an attempt to modify some of the current guidelines of the MFL law. The bill has changes that address; a) lands eligible for entry into MFL, b) access to closed lands in a MFL ownership, c) leasing of MFL land, d) sale and transfer of MFL land, e) withdrawal of MFL land, f) assessment of withdrawal taxes and yield taxes, g) renewal of lands into MFL program. Discussions regarding possible changes to MFL have been ongoing between WDNR staff and the WI. Council of Forestry for a couple years and this AB 700 reflects some of those discussions.
5. Ralph Fritsch, WWF Wildlife Committee Chairman discussed several other topics; a) Hunter Education Policy – regarding ‘course length’. Starting in 2016 overall class length can be no longer than 19 hours, and classes can be no longer than 3 weeks from start to finish. b) Assembly Bill 691 – ‘sport shooting range’, this bill protects an existing shooting range from any state or local zoning rules relating to noise or nonconforming use. Wildlife committee voted to support this bill.

B-Monthly Committee Meeting, February 14-15, 2014, Stevens Point, WI

A. George Meyer, WWF Executive Director discussed several topics.

1) Legislative Issues: a) – Assembly Bill (AB 602) this bill would designate a specific property in city of Sturgeon Bay, WI to be exempt from wetland filling so a family residential unit can be constructed. Motion made that WWF oppose this bill – Motion Approved! b) (AB665) this bill pertains to ‘access to land acquired with stewardship funding’, and, ‘access to managed forest lands’. This

bill would prohibit the expenditure of stewardship \$\$ to acquire land to acquire land that is required to be open to the public unless the land is accessible to the public on foot; and, this bill establishes an additional requirement for MFL eligibility--- for land to be designated as MFL it must be accessible to the public on foot, unless it has been designated as closed to public access. Motion for WWF to support this bill – Motion approved! c) Senate Bill (SB527) this bill pertains to ‘sport shooting ranges’ by providing additional protections. Under this bill a sport shooting range is not subject to any state or local zoning conditions or rules related to noise or nonconforming use, it provides the owner or operator immunity from civil liability in any action by the state or its political subdivisions, .. Motion for WWF to support this bill – Motion approved!

2) WWF Annual Meeting, April 11-12, 2014 --- will be held at the Mead Inn, Wisconsin Rapids, WI. . At this meeting the Annual Resolutions will be presented, discussed and voted on. Also, the newly organized Youth Conservation Leadership Corp will present their resolutions to the WWF Board for discussion and voting. Several guest presentations will include; a) Preston Cole – NRB Chair will likely be the keynote speaker, b) the topic of ‘Future Wolf Mgt. in WI by Dave McFarland, and c) topic of ‘Impact of Climate Change on Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Wisconsin’ – speaker to be determined. Finally the presentation of Annual Awards will be made during the evening dinner program.

3) Youth Conservation Leadership Corp -- this first class of 14 students have gone thru two weekend training sessions. They are doing quite well and their final training session is Feb. 21-22, 2014 in Stevens Point, WI. With completion of this session, they will be developing ‘conservation resolutions’ and presenting them for discussion and voting at the WWF Annual meeting in April 2014.

B. Committee Reports: a) Wildlife Committee – refer to the report that was submitted for the WWF - Wildlife Committee meeting that was held February 1, 2014. However, one additional topic for discussion was in reference to the new Wolf Mgt. Plan. Ralph Fritsch, Wildlife Committee chairman indicated that the previous wolf mgt. plan had a population goal of 350. He stated that in the new plan some of the discussions include raising the goal to ‘500 + - 20%’ or maybe ‘No Goal’. He stated that there are indications that the WI. Conservation Congress may be supporting the 500 + - 20% level, which would be contradictory to their previous support of 350 wolf population goal. The

WWF have at previous meetings supported a motion for a population goal of 350. b) Calendar Committee – The annual calendar raffle is the primary source of fund raising by WWF. A total of 8140 (2014 WWF Calendars) were sold, -- this compares to 7797 calendars sold for 2013, and 7850 sold for 2012. c) Dog Committee – Andy Lewandowski, Chairman identified some issues being worked on include; meetings with DNR staff at Bong and Ottawa grounds pertaining to multiple user conflicts, the need for at least one Class 1 & Class 2 dog training areas in every county, the dealing with dog training prohibitions on MFL lands and some Nature Conservancy lands that were purchased partially by Stewardship \$\$\$. d) Forestry, Parks, Recreation Committee – Jerry Knuth, Chairman discussed AB700 which pertains to Managed Forest Law program (refer to the report from the WWF Wildlife Committee mtg. of Feb. 1, 2014). e) Fishery and Environmental Committee – two issues of concern are: the New Zealand Mud Snail invasion in Wisconsin trout streams and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is concerned about a oil pipeline that crosses the Mackinac Straits in the UP of Michigan. The oil industry intends to pass ‘tar sands oil’ thru this pipeline which is now 60 yrs. old. Tar sands oil is much more corrosive than existing crude oil, thus the concern is that the pipeline is much more prone to rupture with tar sands oil flow. The NWF asks for WWF support to discuss with federal legislators the need to replace the 60 yr. old pipeline across the Mackinac Straits before tar sands oil flows thru the pipeline. A resolution for each of these two issues will be proposed at the WWF Annual meeting in April 2014.

C. Frank Trcka, DNR – Wildlife Management Deputy Director provided updates on several activities in the wildlife management program. Some topics he discussed; the DNR intent to hire 13 wildlife techs in 2014, CWD sampled approx. 6500 deer during the 2013 deer season and found 350 + positive’s for CWD of which 4 were outside of the CWD zone, DNR intends to bring an additional 75 elk into WI during 2015 and 2016 to supplement the Clam Lake herd in northern WI. and start a new herd in the Black River Falls area, a new educational exhibit is near completion at the Horicon Marsh Education Center with opening expected to be late April 2014, construction of the new pheasant incubator facility at the State Game Farm, Poynette, WI has been delayed because costs are now greater than previously estimated and over the amount of \$\$ budgeted for the project. DNR is trying to utilize other funds within its wildlife mgt. program to cover the deficit.

Annual Meeting, April 11-12, 2014, Stevens Point, WI

The annual meeting has the purpose of submitting ‘Annual Resolutions’ for discussion and vote. A total of thirteen (13) resolutions were submitted. This year, for the first time, four of the resolutions were submitted by the newly established ‘Youth Conservation Leadership Corp’. Also, the evening Awards Banquet identifies people and groups and recognizes them for accomplishments of conservation activity.

Nine (9) Resolutions were submitted from within the WWF membership.

1. “WWF Scholarships” – (submitted by Betty Borchert, Scholarship Committee). This resolution requests that an additional \$1000 scholarship be made available. Currently the WWF awards 6 - \$1000 scholarships for students attending colleges/universities in Wisconsin. Additional \$\$ are now available to add one more annual \$1000 scholarship. Resolution was approved!
2. “Proposes that hunters in Wisconsin using firearms be limited to magazine/clip with the capacity of no more than 10 rounds of ammunition” – (submitted by Ralph Olsen, WWF Member). Included in this resolution was that no more than one additional magazine/clip be in the hunters possession. Motion was made to return the resolution to the author for more clarification and explanation! Motion approved!
3. “Develop a system in Wisconsin to monitor the effectiveness of ‘youth outdoor programs’ for keeping youth involved in hunting and fishing” – (submitted by Philip Mersberger, WWF Member. Request that Wisconsin DNR and WWF develop a tracking system for a 20 year time period of youth activity in various outdoor activities, i.e. youth trap shooting, 4-H archery and fishing, hunter safety course participants, etc. The intent is to measure the success / effectiveness for the retention of youth to continue participation in hunting and fishing. Resolution approved!
4. “Use of Rockets at Bong Recreational Area, Kenosha County” – (submitted by Andy Lewandowski, WWF Dog Committee) . Bong Recreational Area is a multi-purpose recreational property owned by WDNR. Firing of amateur rockets has been allowed for many years in the same area designated as Class 1 Dog Trial Area. Firing of these rockets has caused danger to other people using the property as well as interfering with dog trial activities. Request that

WDNR relocate the ‘rocket activity’ to another area of Bong RA or other WDNR property in southeastern Wisconsin. Resolution approved!

5. “Wisconsin Statute 29.193, Class A and C Disability Permits” – (Submitted by Ralph Fritsch, WWF Wildlife Committee). Currently the Class A and C Permits when approved are issued for 5 years and then 10 year time period when a permit is renewed. The Class A permit is for citizens who have a permanent or irreversible physical disability and Class C permit is for permanent or irreversible visual disability. Request is to make these disability permits ‘Permanent Class A and C Permits when issued. Resolution approved!

6. “Gogebic Taconite Mine – Natural Resource Threat in Northern Wisconsin” – (Submitted by Don Hammes, WWF Director, District #7). This resolution identifies that the proposed Gogebic Taconite open pit mine in the Penokee Range of Ashland and Iron counties will cause numerous problems to the Wisconsin environment. Some of the concerns are: destruction of forested lands, wetlands, and small streams; plant smokestacks release of sulfur dioxides, nitrogen oxides, mercury particulates into the atmosphere; probable sulfide deposits when exposed to water will result in sulfuric acid entering trout streams and the Native American rice fields along shores of Lake Superior, etc. Resolution requests that the WWF work actively to oppose the Gogebic Taconite mine in northern Wisconsin. Motion was made to table this resolution, because of a previous WWF Resolution regarding the Gogebic Mine passed at the October 2013 meeting. Motion approved!

7. “Designate a Class 1 Dog Trial Area for Flushing Dogs and Retrievers on the Muckwonago River Unit of the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest” – (Submitted by Andy Lewandowski, WWF Dog Committee. Currently there are no public properties in Waukesha and Walworth counties for the training of flushing and retrieving dogs. In southeastern Wisconsin and northeastern Illinois there are many flushing and retrieving dog owners with insufficient locations to train their dogs. Recently the WDNR acquired the former Rainbow Springs Golf Course and this facility has great potential for dog trial area. Requests that this proposed Class 1 Dog Trial Area be included in the Southern Kettle Moraine Master Plan. Resolution Approved!

8. “Revise Wisconsin Property Tax Regulations to Encourage Wetland Restoration” – (Submitted by Russ Hitz, WWF Environment and Wetlands Committee). Currently in Wisconsin, lands identified as ‘wetlands’ are taxed at

a lower rate than lands identified as ‘undeveloped land’. When wet soil agricultural lands are restored to wetlands under the Conservation Reserve Program and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement program those lands are then taxed as wetlands. However, when similar wet soil agricultural lands are restored to wetlands via the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) or the Watershed Protection Floodplain Easement Program (WP-FEP) they are taxed as ‘undeveloped lands’ at a substantially higher tax rate. Request for WRP lands and WP-FEP lands be changed in the WI tax code so they are taxed as wetlands. Resolution approved!

9. “Prevent the Spread of New Zealand Mud Snails” – (Submitted by Russ Hitz, WWF Environment and Wetlands Committee). The New Zealand Mud snail has been found in Black Earth Creek, a Class 1 trout stream in Dane County. The snail is a threat to native aquatic species as the mayflies, caddis flies, and chironomids which are important food sources for trout. Measures need to be taken to prevent the spread of this snail specie into other waters of Wisconsin. Request that the WWF assist in the effort to publicize and inform the sportsmen and women on measures of how to prevent the spread of this New Zealand Mud Snail into other waters. Resolution Approved!

10. “Make Wisconsin Natural Resources More Accessible to Educating the Next Generation of Conservationist” – (Submitted by Youth Conservation Leadership Corp, Emma Keese, Elsa Litecky, Breckyn Ryg, and Alex Harp). Environmental education is required in Wisconsin schools and shall be integrated into K thru 12 curriculum plans. Currently the WDNR has a waiver process that limits the ability of schools to deliver quality outdoor educational experiences. Requests that the WDNR simplify its waiver process so PK – 12 educators can use more easily the state resources. Resolution Approved!

11. “Integrate LED Lighting at Wisconsin Higher Education Campuses” – (Submitted by Youth Conservation Leadership Corp, Cody Kamrowski, Maggie McAuley, Diana Szeinburg). There are 85 public and private higher education institutions in WI. Incandescent and CFL light bulbs are the primary sources for lighting at these institutions. Significant fossil fuel pollution occurs in the process of providing this type of lighting. An alternative is LED light bulbs which are more cost and energy efficient consuming 80% - 90% less energy. Also, the LED bulb uses a little more than \$1.00 of electricity /year vs incandescent bulbs at about \$13.15 / year. Request that higher education

institutions take action to replace all incandescent and CFL bulbs with LED bulbs when the current bulbs expire. Have the WWF send this resolution to all of the Wisconsin Higher Education campuses. Resolution approved!

12. “Separate the Mississippi River Basin and Great Lakes Basin for concern of Aquatic Invasive species” – (Submitted by Youth Conservation Corp., Tyler Hundt, Chris Leighty, Amanda Smith, Colin Dassow). The Mississippi River Basin and Great Lakes Basin are artificially connected by a series of canals and waterways in the Chicago area. A ‘Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study’ has been completed that evaluated eight alternatives for separating the two basins. The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and WWF support alternative #4. In addition to the current electrical barrier, this alternative includes screened sluice gates, physical barriers and pumping stations to separate invasive species between the basins. Request that WWF formally petition the US Congress to move forward with alternative #4 and that the project be completed within a 10 – 15 time period. Resolution approved!

13. “Phosphorus Surface Water Pollution in Relation to Agriculture” – (Submitted by Youth Conservation Corp, Molly O’Grady, Daniell Browne). In Wisconsin, 80% of phosphorus pollution is generated from non-point sources, primarily agricultural activity. Wisconsin’s 15,000 farms are largely unregulated in terms of phosphorus discharge to Wisconsin waterways. Wisconsin’s livestock population exceeds the human population by 10 fold in terms of organic pollution potential. Significant phosphorus discharges to Wisconsin waters results from inadequate manure management activities. Requests that the WWF ask the State of Wisconsin develop more effective manure management practices, identify agricultural landscapes most vulnerable to phosphorus loss, and develop control technologies to reduce phosphorus pollution from those landscapes. Resolution approved!

The keynote address for the annual meeting was given by DNR Natural Resources Board Chairman Preston Cole. He presented his vision of the WDNR to include more involvement from Wisconsin citizens. Other keynote speakers included, a) former NRB Chairman Dave Clausen regarding CWD status in Wisconsin, b) Dave McFarland – WDNR Wolf program, discussed future wolf management in Wisconsin, c) Professor Scott Naper, Univ. of Saskatchewan and his work on developing a CWD vaccine, and d) Jack Sullivan

– WDNR Bureau of Science Services, discussed the Impact of Climate Change on Wisconsin Fish and Wildlife Habitat.

The 2014 Annual WWF Awards Banquet was held and some of the awards presented were: a) Conservation Organization of the Year – Racine County Conservation League, b) Water Conservationist of the Year – Tom Ward of Manitowoc County, c) Conservation Communicator of the Year – Todd Hanson, editor of Wisconsin Trout the quarterly newspaper of WI. Trout Unlimited, d) Forest Conservationist of the Year – Nancy Munson Livingston of Adams County, e) Conservation Warden of the Year – Joe Paul in Oconto County, e) Wildlife Conservationist of the Year – Eric Lobner of WDNR Southern Region, f) Legislators of the Year --- two people were recognized , Rep. Jeff Mursau represents the 36th Assembly District , and Rep. Fred Clark represents the 81st Assembly District . They worked together to improve the Managed Forest Law program. g) 2014 Conservationist of the Year – Dave Clausen, NRB Chairman from 2009 – 2012, recognized for his concern and further spread of CWD in the deer herd.

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