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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation...

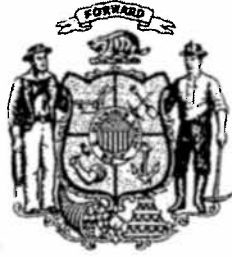
COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

SENATOR DALE W. SCHULTZ



Wisconsin State Legislature

AGENDA

CWD Meeting

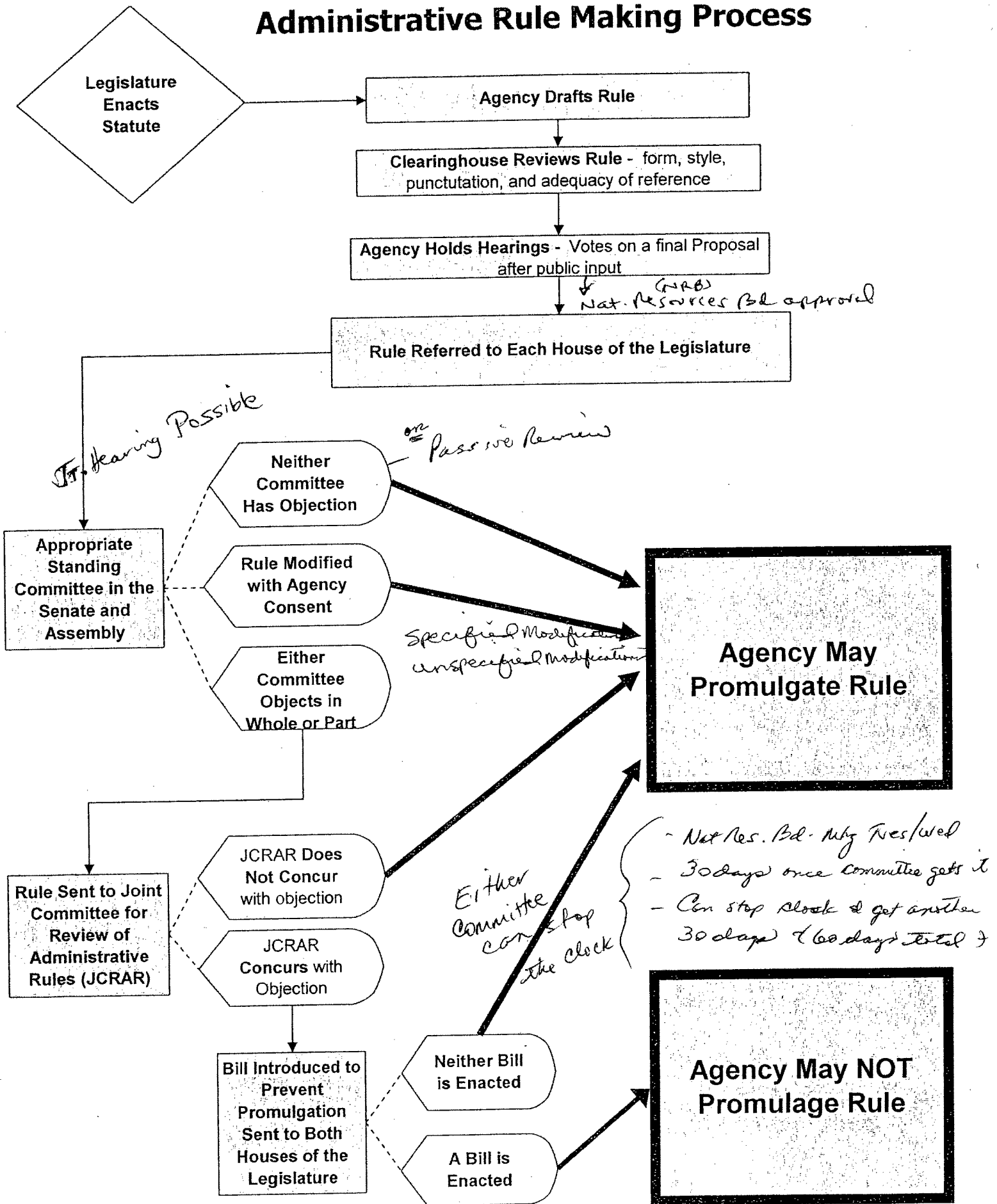
Lone Rock Community Center

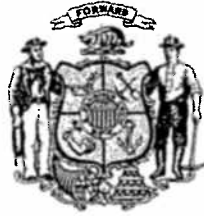
April 24, 2006

7:00 PM

- A.) Introductions & opening remarks
 - Senator Schultz - 17th Senate District
- B.) DNR Remarks on CWD Rules and related CWD topics
 - msd* ➤ Bill Vander Zouwen - Chief, Wildlife and Landscape Ecology Section
 - CSA* ➤ Alan Crossley - Wildlife Biologist
- C.) Comments on CWD rule process
 - Senator Neal Kedzie - Chairman, Senate Natural Resources Committee
 - Senator Schultz
- D.) Public comments/questions & answer

Administrative Rule Making Process





Wisconsin State Legislature

March 16, 2006

Senator Carol A. Roessler and
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-chairpersons
Joint Legislative Audit Committee
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

COPY

Dear Senator Roessler and Representative Jeskewitz:

We are writing to request an audit of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) efforts to address chronic wasting disease (CWD). Since CWD was first identified in Wisconsin in February 2002, the DNR has spent millions to combat the disease, but apparently has little to show for its efforts.

Despite the growing amounts invested to combat CWD, the disease continues to spread. In addition, I am concerned that DNR's focus on CWD has come at the expense of other fish and wildlife programs. Citizens who fund these efforts through their hunting and fishing fees need an accounting of all expenditures and work effort being devoted to CWD, including the specific activities and goods involved. In addition, an independent assessment is needed of whether DNR's efforts to eradicate the disease are working.

We respectfully request that an audit of the DNR's efforts include:

- a detailed accounting of all expenditures associated with CWD, including administrative costs, staffing costs, and supplies and services;
- an analysis of whether appropriate goals have been established for eradicating or preventing the spread of disease;
- an assessment of the effect CWD has had on other fish and wildlife projects;
- an analysis of the expenditures of other agencies involved in addressing CWD; and
- a determination of whether DNR has a reasonable and cost-effective plan for dealing with CWD in the future.

I believe these are important questions that need to be addressed. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Senator Dale Schultz

Representative Stephen Freese



STATE OF WISCONSIN

Legislative Audit Bureau

22 E. Mifflin St., Ste. 500
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 266-2818
Fax (608) 267-0410
Leg.Audit.Info@legis.state.wi.us

Janice Mueller
State Auditor

DATE: March 22, 2006

TO: Senator Carol A. Roessler and
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-chairpersons
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

FROM: Janice Mueller *Janice Mueller*
State Auditor

SUBJECT: Proposed Audit of Chronic Wasting Disease—Background Information

At your request, we have gathered some background information the Joint Legislative Audit Committee may find useful in considering a request from Senator Schultz and Representative Freese to audit Wisconsin's efforts to combat chronic wasting disease (CWD). CWD is a fatal neurological disease that affects members of the deer family, including white-tailed deer and elk. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the lead agency for coordinating the development of state policy on CWD-related efforts and for managing the disease in the wild deer population. DNR works cooperatively with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the University of Wisconsin Diagnostic Veterinary Laboratory, and the Department of Health and Family Services, which play important roles in addressing the spread of CWD among captive animals, identifying infected animals through laboratory examination, and monitoring the potential effects of CWD on humans.

CWD was first confirmed in Wisconsin in February 2002. In March 2002, DNR established a disease surveillance plan to identify and combat the spread of CWD. Since that time, DNR and other state agencies have worked to prevent the spread of CWD among both wild and captive animals. Information on total CWD expenditures is not centrally maintained. However, in October 2003 we released a report on CWD that found \$14.7 million had been spent on combating CWD in Wisconsin through fiscal year 2002-03. Of this amount, \$12.6 million was spent by DNR.

Several concerns have been raised about the State's efforts to combat CWD. First, some have questioned the effectiveness of the State's policy because the disease continues to spread in spite of the increasing amount invested in prevention. Second, questions have been raised about the extent to which CWD efforts are funded with fees paid by hunters and anglers and whether CWD control efforts have come at the expense of other fish and wildlife programs.

An audit of the State's CWD efforts could:

- analyze overall program goals and accomplishments;
- review trends in program expenditures, including administrative costs, staffing costs, and supplies and services;
- assess trends in the number of staff devoted to CWD and the effect disease eradication efforts have had on other fish and wildlife projects;
- compare Wisconsin's approach to addressing CWD with those of states with similar problems; and
- determine whether DNR and other agencies have developed appropriate plans and budgets for dealing with CWD in the future.

If you have any additional questions regarding this request, please contact me.

JM/PS/bm

cc: Senator Robert Cowles	Representative Samantha Kerkman
Senator Scott Fitzgerald	Representative Dean Kaufert
Senator Mark Miller	Representative David Travis
Senator Julie Lassa	Representative David Cullen

Senator Dale Schultz	Representative Stephen Freese
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Scott Hassett, Secretary
Department of Natural Resources

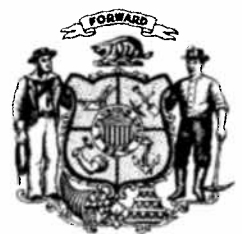
Helene Nelson, Secretary
Department of Health and Family Services

Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Kevin Reilly, President
University of Wisconsin System



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



A.C. Grabski
5180 Ridge View Road
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
P (608) 924-9717
e-mail: tony.grabski@emdbiosciences.com

April 24, 2006

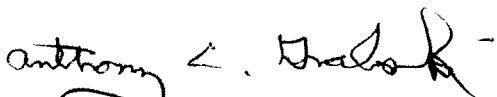
Dear Senators Kedzie and Schultz,

I am a scientist, hunter, and landowner living within the WDNR's CWD eradication zone near Blue Mounds, WI. I am also an Iowa County Delegate to the WI Conservation Congress and have been appointed to the CWD advisory committee. I have talked to hundreds of hunters and landowners both within and outside the CWD zones, and many of them including myself are disgusted with the CWD season structure, use of sharpshooters, and excessive spending on attempts to eradicate CWD. I am not here tonight to continue the criticism of the failed CWD eradication program, because the program's failures are self-evident.

Instead, I will present a resolution for the CWD zone deer season structure. I drafted the resolution with input from many stakeholders including hunters, landowners, the WDNR, the WI Conservation Congress, the Uplands Branch of the Quality Deer Management Association, several business owners, and many citizens both within and outside of the CWD zones. This resolution has received overwhelming support through its submission at the Conservation Congress hearings held on April 10th. It was submitted in 8 counties in the CWD zones and was approved in all 8 counties by almost a 3 to 1 overall voter margin. Additionally, Dave Poff CWD Committee Chairman has received approval for the resolution from the CWD Committee, Conservation Congress Executive Committee, and Big Game Committee Chairman. The resolution recommends changes to simplify the CWD zone season structure yet provides substantial opportunity to reduce the deer population within the CWD zones. Since hunter and landowner cooperation is paramount to herd reduction, the changes return us to a more traditional deer season. The nine-day deer gun hunting tradition has been equated to "Holy Week" in WI, and these groups have asked for its return since the CWD rules were imposed four years ago.

Although the CWD zone rules were intended to dramatically reduce the deer population and eliminate CWD, the reality is that the rules have resulted in less not more deer harvested, minimal deer population reduction, no significant drop in CWD prevalence rates, excessive WDNR spending (over \$30 million), destruction of hunting culture and tradition, and many angry hunters and landowners. Meanwhile, CWD has been found in new areas of Dane, Jefferson, Richland, and Columbia Counties, and in one new Illinois County. It is very clear that the CWD/deer eradication attempt is not only impractical but also impossible and represents the worst disaster in the history of white-tailed deer management. I urge you to consider the CWD season structure resolution submitted here and recommend to Governor Doyle, the legislature, WDNR and NRB that these changes be adopted as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration,



Anthony C. Grabski, Ph.D.

Scientist, Hunter, Landowner, and Iowa County Conservation Congress Delegate

Iowa County

250100

1

2006 Annual DNR Spring Hearings & Conservation Congress Meeting
Resolution

The Problem:

The DNR has spent over \$30 million since 2002 on CWD programs including extreme efforts to depopulate deer through complex and extended seasons, sharpshooters, and multiple eradication zones. Yet, CWD zones have expanded, deer harvest in these zones has decreased, and CWD incidence rate remains unchanged. Meanwhile, extensive collateral damage has been done to agency trust, hunting culture, and traditions.

Whereas, cooperative deer herd reduction, preservation of Wisconsin's hunting heritage, and fiscal responsibility, are necessary for CWD control.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Iowa County on April 10, 2006, recommends the DNR take action to correct this situation by introducing these rule changes:

- 1) Simplify CWD zones and deer season structure through a single CWD zone designation where CWD has been detected in wild deer having a Saturday prior to Thanksgiving opener, 23-day either sex gun hunt with unlimited harvest tags. Issue one gun buck tag to every hunter with additional buck tags issued under EAB rules.
- 2) One 4-day (Thurs.-Sun) unlimited tag antlerless only hunt nearest Oct. 15th.
- 3) Return archery season to its pre-CWD season date structure with a Sunday nearest Jan. 6th closure, but allow unlimited either sex harvest. Issue one archery buck tag to every hunter with additional buck tags issued under EAB rules.
- 4) Eliminate sharpshooters with exception for their removal of visibly sick or injured deer.

Name: Anthony Grabski
 Address: 5180 Ridge View Road
 Blue Mounds, WI 53517
 County: Iowa
 Telephone number: (608) 924-9717

Signature: Anthony Grabski

YPS 32
 NO 15

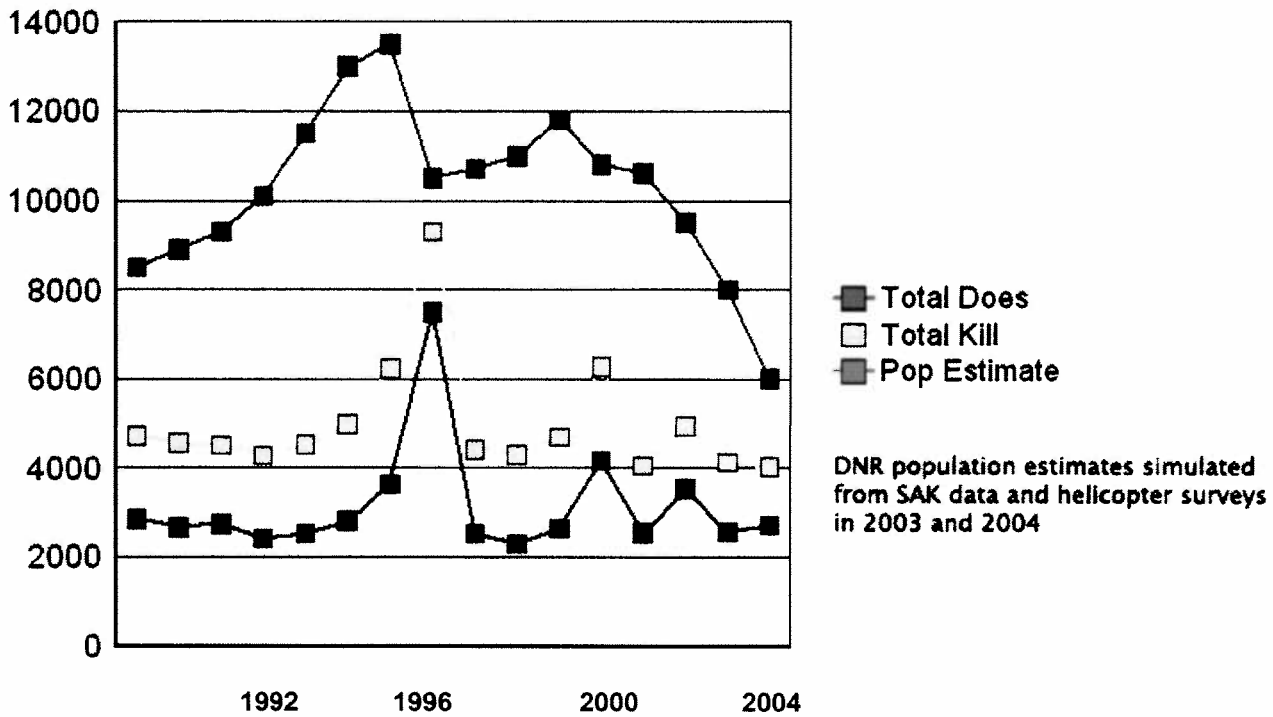
For Office Use Only:

County IOWA Passed Failed

County Resolution Number: _____

County Vote: (by show of hands or written ballot where appropriate) YES _____ NO _____

Unit 70A Harvest Data & Population Estimates 1989-2004



: History information

CWD Rules in Effect

1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	284	284	284	284	284
204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	219	219	219	219	219
1526	1603	1426	1459	1611	1703	2169	1658	1500	1625	1643	1754	1183	1363	1467	1264	1241
2687	2513	2460	2170	2405	2528	3338	6601	2253	2016	2255	3774	2302	3181	2315	2418	1792
4213	4116	3886	3629	4016	4231	5507	8259	3753	3641	3898	5528	3485	4544	*3790	3682	*3075
339	285	328	404	373	461	431	152	390	378	413	354	323	58	93	35	78
175	152	288	247	129	282	300	893	275	289	393	393	245	349	250	309	177
514	437	616	651	502	743	731	1045	665	667	806	747	568	407	*344	344	*256
1865	1888	1754	1863	1984	2164	2600	1810	1890	2003	2056	2108	1506	1421	1560	1299	1319
2862	2665	2748	2417	2534	2810	3638	7494	2528	2305	2648	4167	2547	3530	2565	2727	1969
4727	4553	4502	4280	4518	4974	6238	9304	4418	4308	4704	6275	4053	4951	*4134	4026	*3331

*Includes unknowns

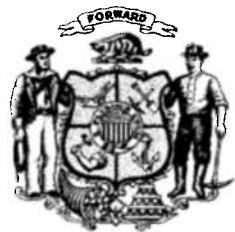
Prior to CWD 13 Year Average Kill 1989-2001= 5,143

W/O 1996 included Average Kill= 4,795

Since CWD extended eradication seasons Average Kill = 4,111 20% Drop



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



4/24/06 CWD Rule Hearing @ Lone Rock Comm. Ctr. w/ Dale Schultz

- 45 out of 100 deer tested in CO show CWD positive -
- The majority of CWD deer look normal.
- O'Gara: Totally against Oct. hunt Like Traditional Hunt -
- Werner: Against Oct. season. Went 9 day w/ EAB
- Get more bow hunting in subdiv. dev.
- Against Oct. Hunt.
- Advanced EAB is better accepted
- Don't like OCT Hunt, SAME, SAME
" " " "
- Favor EAB
- CW wisdom still killing some deer -
- Don't raise deer because \$ - Traditional season -
- Want plain hunting rule book.
- % of CWD not changing in HRZ.
- Keep up intensive effort

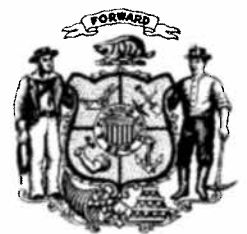
- Huelswan OIK
- Laura \$100,00 Bryce Styrza
- Mon. 3:36 Gene for Bryce Styrza 262 547-6810

- Mon. Tom Heffey (262) 951-45

- Ann



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Johnson, Dan (Legislature)

From: Smith, Amber M.
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 5:16 PM
To: Johnson, Dan (Legislature); Bruhn, Mike
Cc: Heinen, Paul H
Subject: FW: NRB action on the CWD Hunting Rules

A recap of what happened at the NRB on CWD rule yesterday:

From: Thiede, Kurt A
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 5:09 PM
To: Smith, Amber M.
Subject: FW: NRB action on the CWD Hunting Rules

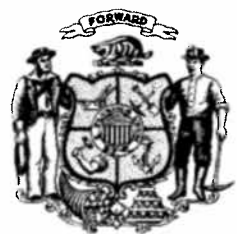
Yesterday, the NRB adopted the CWD rule with one change. They moved the early gun hunts in the HRZ and DEZ up by one week. The either-sex rule, shorter early DEZ gun season, and shorter late gun season were all offered as compromises to try to keep hunters and landowners with us for the long haul. The rule allows for extending the early gun season by 7 days and for using earn-a-buck rules in future years if this year's season framework is not successful at herd reduction.

Under the rule:

Unlimited either-sex for all seasons in both HRZ and DEZs
Archery season from September 16 to January 7 in both HRZ and DEZs
Youth Gun Hunt October 7-8 (same as rest of state)
~~Early gun season from October 19-22 in HRZ and October 14-22 in DEZs~~
Late gun season from November 18 to December 10 in both HRZ and DEZs
No change in HRZ and DEZs boundaries



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 160 | 170 Whitetail Way | Bogart, GA 30622
PHONE: 800.209.3337 | FAX: 706.353.0223 | www.QDMA.com

16 May 2006

Mr. Keith Warnke
Big Game Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
WM/6 PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Mr. Warnke,

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to provide input on Wisconsin's 2006 CWD-zone deer season proposal. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ethical hunting, sound deer management and preservation of the deer-hunting heritage. The QDMA has 40,000 members nationwide with Wisconsin ranking ninth in statewide membership. Our membership includes more than 1,000 of the nation's leading deer biologists, researchers and managers. As such, QDMA is widely regarded as the most respected whitetail organization in the United States.

We understand the difficult situation and appreciate the Department's efforts for compromise. We recognize the Department's goals are to reduce the deer population in the CWD zones and improve relations with the hunting public. We support your goals but have some concerns with the proposed season structure for achieving them.

Early firearms seasons can be very effective at reducing deer populations when strategically implemented and have hunter support. Research from Connecticut clearly shows early firearms seasons are most effective when they are short duration, high intensity, antlerless-only hunts. Early firearms seasons are often during archery season so short duration hunts are important to minimize conflict among user groups. High intensity hunts are important because they allow hunters to indirectly work together to move deer and increase harvest. Antlerless only hunts are critical because they focus on the reproductive segment of the population. Extended early firearms seasons, like those proposed, often cause conflicts with archery hunters due to the user group's different hunting strategies and fluorescent orange requirements. Early firearms seasons permitting either-sex harvest can be counterproductive. Allowing hunters to harvest bucks during early firearms seasons often reduces the total antlerless harvest and creates more conflict among user groups.

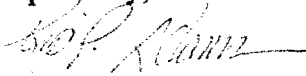
Increasing the antlerless harvest during any season requires hunter support, and we acknowledge the strained relationship between the DNR and the hunting public. We understand the Department's decision to remove Earn-A-Buck (EAB) was largely a result of

The future of deer hunting.

public comment. However, allowing unlimited either-sex harvest throughout the season can have serious negative implications. This format sets the stage for overharvesting bucks and significantly underharvesting does. This can negatively impact hunter support and be counterproductive for deer management in Wisconsin. We realize EAB programs are not popular with some hunters and suggest a modified approach where hunters are allowed to harvest a buck prior to being required to follow EAB rules. Another modification could include a "Bank-A-Doe" program where hunters who harvest multiple antlerless deer could use those to fulfill future EAB requirements.

Deer management is a complex biological, social and political issue. We acknowledge the difficult decisions you must make and offer our assistance. We look forward to working with you to improve Wisconsin's deer population and hunting experiences.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kip P. Adams", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kip P. Adams
Director of Education & Outreach / Wildlife Biologist



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 160 | 170 Whitetail Way | Bogart, GA 30622
PHONE: 800.209.3337 | FAX: 706.353.0223 | www.QDMA.com

16 May 2006

Mr. Keith Warnke
Big Game Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
WM/6 PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

opposed

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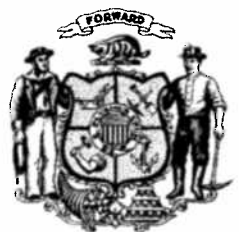
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Respectfully,

Kip P. Adams
Director of Education & Outreach / Wildlife Biologist



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



A.C. Grabski
5180 Ridge View Road
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
P (608) 924-9717
e-mail: tony.grabski@emdbiosciences.com

May 17, 2006

Dear Senator Kedzie,

Thank you very much for holding the public forum in Lone Rock on April 24th to discuss the State's CWD eradication policy. The subject of this letter is my summary of what took place two days later (April 26th) at the Natural Resources Board (NRB) meeting in Stevens Point in relation to these same CWD season structure proposals. Although I personally heard Senator Schultz urge Alan Crossley and Bill Vander Zouwen to listen and respond to public concern on the CWD season structure proposed by the DNR, especially in relation to the October hunt, his recommendations and those of the people in attendance at Lone Rock were ignored by Alan, Bill, and the NRB. The October deer hunts remain in the DNR CWD zone deer season for 2006. This October hunt must be eliminated or at a minimum reduced to 4-day antlerless only in both the DEZs and HRZ or I fear the deer kill will continue to decline, and the herd size will increase because people will choose not to hunt in opposition to the DNR plans.

Unfortunately, it seems the democratic process in relation to DNR rule making has become seriously flawed. Unless this process changes, further erosion of public trust for the DNR will render the agency ineffective in any program requiring voluntary cooperation from the general public. This is especially true for CWD/deer management. The public is continually ignored during this process while the DNR has its way on most issues. Although the NRB is supposed to represent the will of the public, it is very unfair that the people within the CWD zones do not seem to have any board members willing to listen or question the CWD rules, but instead rubber stamps the proposed DNR changes each year. After participating in the CWD rule making scenario for the past four years, it proceeds like clockwork: 1) The DNR proposes the rule changes; 2) Presents the proposed changes to the public through minimally advertised almost clandestine hearings (as one person stated at Lone Rock, the Dodgeville hearing was on Friday night, St. Patrick's Day); 3) The few people who attend the public hearings overwhelmingly disagree with the changes; 4) The Agency ignores the public input, makes no revisions, and presents the rule changes back to the Board in their original form; 5) The Board goes through the motions of hearing public comment allowing only 5 minutes of comment for individuals who may have taken off from work and traveled to present their views on the rules; and 6) The Board also ignores the results of the public hearings and public input at the meeting, voting to approve the proposed changes.

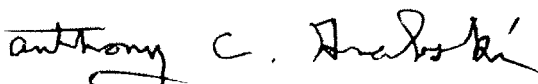
What was the purpose of the meetings held within the CWD zones to elicit the public's response to these rule changes? There was overwhelming hunter and landowner dissatisfaction with the rule changes that are now approved by the NRB for another year. **The dissatisfaction was reflected in the Disease Eradication Zone deer population which increased from 23 deer per square mile in 2004 to 33 deer per square mile in 2005.** Alan and Bill asked for a season structure that people would support in order to increase deer harvest in these zones. The quotes below were taken from an Associated Press news article about the NRB meeting in Stevens Point.

"What this means is that we haven't been able to figure out a reasonable strategy," said Alan

Crossley, the DNR coordinator of chronic wasting disease. "We're not there. We're still struggling."

I worked with many people to devise the resolution presented to the board (attached), and this resolution as a "reasonable strategy" was ignored by the Board and DNR. Dan Paulson asked the right question when he asked Mr. Vander Zouwen, "What is wrong with the resolution presented by Dr. Grabski?" No legitimate reasons were given to dismiss the resolution, but the DNR's failure to yield in any way to the public concern and criticism heard in Lone Rock spoke volumes. Their current CWD management (eradication?) policy will continue in the face of overwhelming public opposition even though the program's success critically depends on the very people who oppose it. The paradigm of managing deer as a public resource on private property is broken. Please work to eliminate the October hunt in the CWD zones.

Thank you for your consideration,



Anthony C. Grabski, Ph.D.

Scientist, Hunter, Landowner, and Iowa County Conservation Congress Delegate

2006 Annual DNR Spring Hearings & Conservation Congress Meeting
Resolution

The Problem:

The DNR has spent over \$30 million since 2002 on CWD programs including extreme efforts to depopulate deer through complex and extended seasons, sharpshooters, and multiple eradication zones. Yet, CWD zones have expanded, deer harvest in these zones has decreased, and CWD incidence rate remains unchanged. Meanwhile, extensive collateral damage has been done to agency trust, hunting culture, and traditions.

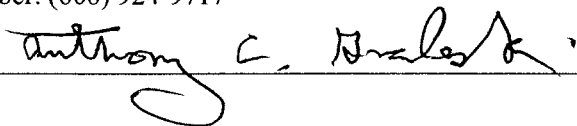
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- 2) One 4-day (Thurs.-Sun) unlimited tag antlerless only hunt nearest Oct. 15th.
- 3) Return archery season to its pre-CWD season date structure with a Sunday nearest Jan. 6th closure, but allow unlimited either sex harvest. Issue one archery buck tag to every hunter with additional buck tags issued under EAB rules.
- 4) Eliminate sharpshooters with exception for their removal of visibly sick or injured deer.

Name: Anthony Grabski
Address: 5180 Ridge View Road
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
County: Iowa
Telephone number: (608) 924-9717

Signature: _____



For Office Use Only: County _____ Passed _____ Failed _____

County Resolution Number: _____

County Vote: (by show of hands or written ballot where appropriate) YES _____ NO _____

A.C. Grabski
5180 Ridge View Road
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
P (608) 924-9717
e-mail: tony.grabski@emdbiosciences.com

April 26, 2006

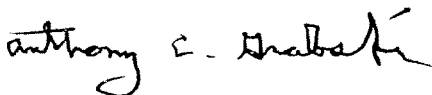
Dear NRB Members,

I am a scientist, hunter, and landowner living within the WDNR's CWD eradication zone near Blue Mounds, WI. I am also an Iowa County Delegate to the WI Conservation Congress and have been appointed to the CWD advisory committee. I have talked to hundreds of hunters and landowners both within and outside the CWD zones, and many of them including myself are disgusted with the CWD season structure, use of sharpshooters, and excessive spending on attempts to eradicate CWD. I am not here today to continue the criticism of the failed CWD eradication program, because the program's failures are self-evident.

Instead, I will present a resolution for the CWD zone deer season structure. I drafted the resolution with input from many stakeholders including hunters, landowners, the WDNR, the WI Conservation Congress, the Uplands Branch of the Quality Deer Management Association, several business owners, and many citizens both within and outside of the CWD zones. This resolution has received overwhelming support through its submission at the Conservation Congress hearings held on April 10th. It was submitted in 8 counties in the CWD zones and was approved in all 8 counties by almost a 3 to 1 overall voter margin. Additionally, Dave Poff CWD Committee Chairman has received approval for the resolution from the CWD Committee, Conservation Congress Executive Committee, and Big Game Committee Chairman. The resolution recommends changes to simplify the CWD zone season structure yet provides substantial opportunity to reduce the deer population within the CWD zones. Since hunter and landowner cooperation is paramount to herd reduction, the changes return us to a more traditional deer season. The nine-day deer gun hunting tradition has been equated to "Holy Week" in WI, and these groups have asked for its return since the CWD rules were imposed four years ago.

Although the CWD zone rules were intended to dramatically reduce the deer population and eliminate CWD, the reality is that the rules have resulted in less not more deer harvested, minimal deer population reduction, no significant drop in CWD prevalence rates, excessive WDNR spending (over \$30 million), destruction of hunting culture and tradition, and many angry hunters and landowners. Meanwhile, CWD has been found in new areas of Dane, Jefferson, Richland, and Columbia Counties, and in one new Illinois County. It is very clear that the CWD/deer eradication attempt is not only impractical but also impossible and represents the worst disaster in the history of white-tailed deer management. I urge you to consider the CWD season structure resolution submitted here and recommend to the WDNR, Governor Doyle, and the Legislature that these changes be adopted as soon as possible.

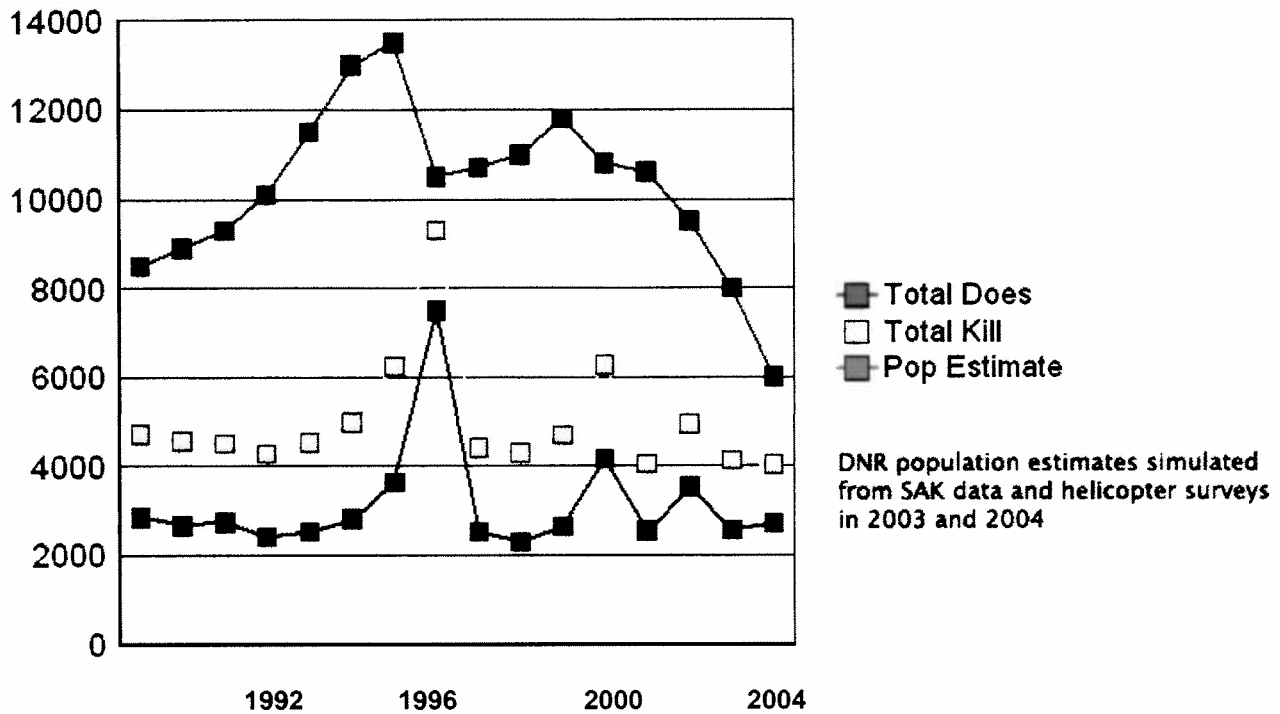
Thank you for your consideration,



Anthony C. Grabski, Ph.D.

Scientist, Hunter, Landowner, and Iowa County Conservation Congress Delegate

Unit 70A Harvest Data & Population Estimates 1989-2004



Unit 70A Unit History information

	CWD Rules in Effect																
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Area	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	284	284	284	284	284
Deer Range	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	219	219	219	219	219
Gun Buck	1526	1603	1426	1459	1611	1703	2169	1658	1500	1625	1643	1754	1183	1363	1467	1264	1241
Gun Doe	2687	2513	2460	2170	2405	2528	3338	6601	2253	2016	2255	3774	2302	3181	2315	2418	1792
Gun Total	4213	4116	3886	3629	4016	4231	5507	8259	3753	3641	3898	5528	3485	4544	*3790	3682	*3075
Bow Bucks	339	285	328	404	373	461	431	152	390	378	413	354	323	58	93	35	78
Bow Does	175	152	288	247	129	282	300	893	275	289	393	393	245	349	250	309	177
Bow Total	514	437	616	651	502	743	731	1045	665	667	806	747	568	407	*344	344	*256
Total Bucks	1865	1888	1754	1863	1984	2164	2600	1810	1890	2003	2056	2108	1506	1421	1560	1299	1319
Total Does	2862	2665	2748	2417	2534	2810	3638	7494	2528	2305	2648	4167	2547	3530	2565	2727	1969
Total Kill	4727	4553	4502	4280	4518	4974	6238	9304	4418	4308	4704	6275	4053	4951	*4134	4026	*3331

*Includes unknowns

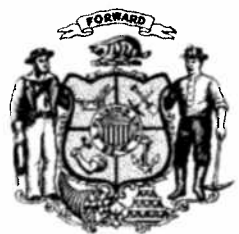
Prior to CWD 13 Year Average Kill 1989-2001= 5,143

W/O 1996 included Average Kill= 4,795

Since CWD extended eradication seasons Average Kill = 4,111 20% Drop



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Johnson, Dan (Legislature)

From: Heinen, Paul H
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 2:19 PM
To: Bruhn, Mike; Loomans, Scott; Johnson, Dan (Legislature)
Subject: FW: CWD Update #61
Attachments: Core Area Prevalence 2002-05.xls

From: Crossley, Alan X.

Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 1:56 PM

To: DNR_CE_RPAMNEWS; DNR_CS_ALISLOC; DNR_WM_ALL; Van Haren, Thomas; Bartelt, Gerald A.; Jurewicz, Randle L; DNR_CE_PA; DNR_AD_DLT

Cc: Hassett, P. Scott; Smith, Amber M.; Smith, William H - DNR-AD; Osterndorf, Laurie J; Hurley, Sarah S.; Smith, Amy R. (DNR); Bier, Elizabeth A; Schlaefer, Mary W. (DNR); 'Craven, Scott'; Kazmierczak, James; Bourie, Richard D DATCP; 'John Major'; 'TOM BEISSEL'; 'Barbara.L.Bodenstein@aphis.usda.gov'; 'Bryan J Richards'; 'bruce.morrison@ngpc.ne.gov'; 'wfporter@esf.edu'; 'Gary Goff'; 'pdc1@cornell.edu'; 'mla14@cornell.edu'; 'wcottrell@state.pa.us'

Subject: CWD Update #61

CWD Update #61

CWD testing is basically completed save for sick or targeted deer that may be sent in. Our website shows that we sampled 24782 during the 2005-06 season and found 181 positives, with fifteen of those in the HRZ. Since 2002 we have sampled 100147 deer and have found 634 positives, 19 which were from the HRZ.

No change in prevalence in the 210-square mile core area. Now that the testing is completed, Robert Rolley was able to run an analysis on prevalence in the core area of the Western DEZ. There has been no statistically significant change in prevalence over the 4 years in either adult males or females, which we think is encouraging news. I've attached the two graphs for you.

<<Core Area Prevalence 2002-05.xls>>

The Long and Short version of my CWD Power Point talks are just about ready for distribution. I am updating the PowerPoint presentations that I made available to folks last year with new data and some new messages. If you want me to burn you a CD with those talks, please let me know, I'll put you on my list, and drop one in the mail to you when it is ready to go.

Message that Bears Repeating – I'm reminded constantly that just because we deliver a message once or twice, doesn't mean that people heard it, saw it, got it, or remember it. Just count the number of times in one day that you hear or see the exact same commercial on radio or television. So it is in that spirit that I repeat the answer to this question - *what are the consequences of the state not controlling CWD?*

- o All evidence suggests that without management action, CWD will increase in prevalence and distribution

- Social surveys suggest that a significant number of deer hunters will drop out if CWD infected animals are widespread and common
- Because uncertainty remains about the potential human health effects of consuming CWD-infected animals, surveillance and testing costs will increase if the disease spreads. We have averaged 460,000 deer killed statewide each year over the past decade. If the disease spreads – what percentage of those deer will hunters expect us to test?
- If landfills, despite indemnification, are unwilling to accept waste from CWD zones, the state will bear the burden of disposing of carcasses, butcher waste, road kills etc. and that cost increases if the disease spreads.
- The state will assume greater responsibility for testing deer before they go into a food pantry if the disease spreads. Or, the alternative will be not sending venison from CWD zones to food pantries which then takes away one of our tools for encouraging hunters to shoot more deer than they can use themselves.

No matter how I look at it, taking an aggressive approach to managing CWD now continues to make the most sense. To do otherwise would be abdicating our responsibility as a Natural Resources agency.

That's it for this week. Have a good weekend.

 *Alan Crossley*

CWD Project Leader

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

South Central Region

3911 Fish Hatchery Road

Fitchburg, WI 53711

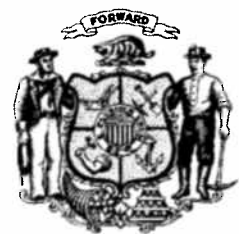
(☎) phone: (608) 275-3242

(☎) fax: (608) 275-3338

(✉) e-mail: Alan.Crossley@dnr.state.wi.us



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Johnson, Dan (Legislature)

From: Paul Brandt [wildbio64@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2006 10:51 AM
To: Sen.Kedzie
Subject: Clearinghouse Rule 06-013

June 21, 2006

Senator Neal Kedzie, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Senator Kedzie:

I am contacting you about Clearinghouse Rule 06-013, the chronic wasting disease zone deer hunting rules. I understand this rule will be discussed at the Senate Natural Resources and Transportation Committee on June 27, 2006.

I live in the Herd Reduction Zone near Boscobel and hunt on my property and on nearby public and private lands. The nearest CWD positive deer were killed about 15 miles east in Richland County. But about 14 miles northwest in Crawford County is a deer farm with CWD positive deer and I understand this facility is contesting a Dept. of Agriculture order to depopulate. You might say that CWD is on my "doorstep".

I support the intensive efforts to limit spread of this disease and feel we must continue to work toward deer population reduction. I support the clearinghouse rule with some reservations:

1. Any firearm seasons in October should be scheduled late in the month after leaf fall. Visibility is a safety concern and in this region of the state the leaves will still be on trees when the early gun seasons are scheduled.
2. The October seasons should be limited to antlerless deer with the earn-a-buck requirement during the November-December seasons. I think the DNR compromise with the Conservation Congress in 2005 reduced the antlerless deer kill because only part of the season required earn-a-buck. As a consequence the kill was down - 28% in the eradication zone and 23% in the herd reduction zone.
3. If we are working toward herd reduction as a goal to control spread of CWD, the earn-a-buck rule has demonstrated that it works to reduce deer numbers. The new system for advance qualification should make earn-a-buck more acceptable to hunters.
4. A 4-day late October season gives older hunters and disabled hunters an opportunity to hunt when the weather is more favorable. These folks do not tolerate colder temperatures typical of late November and December. And in our area the schools have a fall break for teacher's convention and this is an opportunity to take a young person deer hunting. The earlier (Oct. 7-8) season for youth occurs too early in the month when visibility is not good, compromising safety concerns.

I recognize that the proposed rule is already a compromise and will support it. I attended the DNR

06/21/2006

hearing in Dodgeville and the meeting that Sen. Schultz held in Lone Rock. I appreciate these efforts to involve the public in the decision process, but I believe too many people are only interested in their personal situation and do not look beyond their own property lines. CWD does not respect zone lines, boundaries or borders. It is a North American problem, not just a Wisconsin problem. And some people think it is only a southern Wisconsin problem. I wonder how many people you have heard from in Dunn County, or Vilas, Oconto, Marathon or Jackson counties. They don't see CWD on their doorstep, but I do. And I want Wisconsin to continue to control the spread of this disease and in the long-term eliminate it from our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

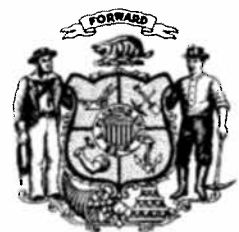
Paul F. Brandt
4496 Hwy 133 East
Boscobel, WI 53805
Tel. 608-375-5983

c. Senator Dale Schultz

Talk is cheap. Use Yahoo! Messenger to make PC-to-Phone calls. Great rates starting at 1¢/min.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Johnson, Dan (Legislature)

From: Phillips, Matt
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2006 2:11 PM
To: Johnson, Dan (Legislature); Kedzie, Neal
Subject: Phone Message on CWD Rule

Kaz called to let you know about a concern they have with the CWD rule. They are going to be there to testify on Tue., but wanted to make you aware of this issue ahead of time in case you wanted to question the DNR about it during their testimony.

Kaz said that hunters were told last year that if they shot a doe in a CWD/Earn a buck (EAB) zone, that it would prequalify them for a EAB sticker in this year's EAB zones, much like if they shot a doe in their own zone. Knowing this, hunters headed into the CWD zones to pre-qualify. DNR has on their website a page that will let hunters know if they are prequalified. Hunters have checked this only to find that they don't qualify for preregistration. They have then contacted the DNR which has confirmed this. (Kaz cited a DNR employee as the hunter in this story)

Here is what the DNR told people in a Q&A document last year:

8. What if I harvested an antlerless deer in the CWD zone? Antlerless deer harvest in a CWD zone between November 19, 2005 and January 3, 2006 are eligible to qualify a hunter for a buck sticker ~~if there is EAB in CWD zones the following year~~. Buck stickers earned in the CWD zone will be valid in any EAB unit--within the CWD zone or throughout the rest of the state.

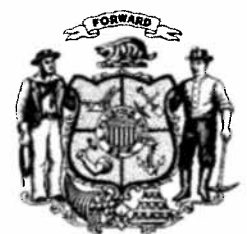
Therefore, if the CWD rule before the committee eliminates the EAB zones in the CWD areas for 2006 (which I believe it does), I think ~~all EAB prequalifications earned in CWD zones last year are negated~~. The concern here is that hunters in good faith do something one year, only to find out that the ~~DNR has changed the rules~~ on them and penalizes them the next.

Nonrelated question for the DNR if the rule indeeds eliminates EAB: If the goal in CWD zones is to get rid of as many deer as possible, especially does, and the EAB tool is the best way to accomplish this, as evidenced by requiring hunters in various other zones across the state to EAB, why then aren't they doing it in the CWD zone this year? Have they found it to be a disincentive leading to less hunters and a smaller harvest?

THERE
IS NOT.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



ATTN: Matt

From: KAZ

Page 1 of 4

Matt,

I did even better than news articles. I found it in the DNR's own press releases.

If you or the Senator have any questions give me a call on Monday at 262-547-0535.

KAZ

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The DNR News is usually updated every Tuesday afternoon, except weeks with Monday state holidays when it is updated on Wednesdays. Click on this link to reach the most current issue.

Previous DNR News are also available on-line.

Edited by Paul Holtan
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
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 Madison WI 53707
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 Fax: (608) 264-6293
 E-mail address: paul.holtan@dnr.state.wi.us

This Week's Articles

- Fall gun deer seasons to begin Oct. 27 in Zone T and CWD zones
 - Waterfowl hunters cautioned to watch for swans
 - Stocking of 10,000 walleye opens new chapter for Lower Milwaukee River
 - Oct. 31 deadline to purchase sturgeon spearing licenses
 - Fall brings composting opportunities
 - Public input sought on Environmental Assessment for Wild Rose Hatchery reconstruction
 - Nominations sought for statewide Ethical Hunting Award
 - Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control grants available
-

**Fall gun deer seasons to begin
 Oct. 27 in Zone T and CWD zones**

MADISON – The first of the 2005 gun deer hunting seasons is set to open on Oct. 27 with antlerless deer only hunts in deer management units that are designated as Zone T and in southern Wisconsin's Chronic Wasting Disease zones. An annual youth deer hunt will take place on Oct. 29.

Zone T antlerless deer hunt

The four-day Oct. 27-30 Zone T antlerless deer only hunt will take place in 45 deer management units (DMUs) outside of the CWD zones. Units are designated as Zone T when wildlife managers project that the traditional deer season framework would not reduce the deer populations to within 20 percent of that unit's over winter (or post-hunt) population goal. Many of the units in this year's hunt are Zone T for the second year in a row.

"Thirty-eight Zone T units are on a watch list and could be recommended for Earn-a-Buck in 2006," said Keith Warnke, DNR deer and bear biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "These units are in their second year of Zone T status. Strong antlerless kills are needed in all Zone T and quota units to get deer populations headed toward established population goals."

In 2005, the second-year Zone T units are: 22A, 23, 24, 25, 27, 46, 47, 51A, 51B, 54B, 54C, 57, 57B, 59B, 59C, 59M, 60M, 61, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64M, 65A, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 74A, 77C, 77M, 78, 80A, 80B, 81.

Earlier in the year, the Natural Resources Board declined to designate any deer management units outside of the CWD zones as Earn-a-Buck for 2005 but indicated that it would consider designating units Earn-a-Buck again in 2006.

A new deer harvest data collection system will keep track of hunters registering antlerless deer from this year's Zone T units, giving those hunters a leg-up on earning a buck tag for the following year if the unit they hunt in becomes Earn-a-Buck next season.

"Thanks to the new system, hunters shooting and registering a deer from a Zone T unit this fall will be prequalified for a buck tag the following year, if that unit becomes Earn-a-Buck," said Warnke. "So concentrating on antlerless deer in Zone T units accomplishes two things, it reduces the likelihood that the unit will become EAB in the following year and if it does, hunters taking an antlerless deer from the unit this fall will have already earned their buck tag for that unit or for any other EAB unit in the state."

The prospect of hunting during milder end-of-October conditions is popular with many hunters and combined with the annual Youth Deer Hunt on Oct. 29 makes it the second most popular deer season, second only to the traditional nine-day November season according to wildlife officials. Zone T was first implemented in 1996.

CWD Zones

Oct. 27 also marks the start of the Earn-a-Buck portion of the deer hunting seasons in the CWD zones of southern Wisconsin. Starting on Oct. 27, hunters may harvest deer in the following ways.

In the Herd Reduction Zone

- Earn-a-Buck firearm hunting runs Oct. 27 – 30
- Either sex firearm hunting resumes Nov. 19 – Jan. 3
- Earn-a-Buck archery hunting runs Oct. 27 – Nov. 18
- Either sex archery hunting resumes Nov. 19 – Jan. 3

NOTE: All hunters with the exception of waterfowl hunters must wear blaze orange during the Oct. 27-30 and Nov. 19-Jan. 3 periods

In the Disease Eradication Zone

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News & EventsDNR News

News Release

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

DNR Central Office - Madison
 PO Box 7931
 Madison WI 53707
 Phone: (608) 266-6790 Fax: (608) 264-6293

For Release: November 29, 2005 


Contact(s): Keith Warnke - (608)264-6023

Hunters register 312,519 deer over nine-day season

MADISON – A preliminary total of 312,519 deer were registered by hunters at the close of Wisconsin's nine-day gun deer season. Hunters registered a preliminary 303,162 deer during the same period in 2004.

"A number of factors came together nicely for this year's hunt making it a memorable one," said Keith Warnke, DNR deer ecologist. "The rut was still on, there was snow on the ground in many areas, the corn harvest was ahead of schedule and in general, weather was good on opening day.

"The increase in this preliminary harvest count makes this a pretty good hunt in terms of statewide herd management," he said, "but as for what impact this will have on individual deer management units, we won't have a picture at that level of detail until we have final harvest figures for all seasons. It's clear that some units had good antlerless harvests and can expect movement toward population goals while others can be expected to see population growth due to weaker than desired antlerless harvests."

It's not too late for hunters to make an impact on unit population numbers, according to Warnke. The late Zone T antlerless deer only hunt is coming up Dec. 8-11 in selected units south of Highway 8. Not only can hunters add meat to the freezer or donate it to the food pantry program, this is one of the last chances to prequalify for a buck harvest authorization for the 2006 season in units that are on the watch list for Earn-a-Buck in 2006. 

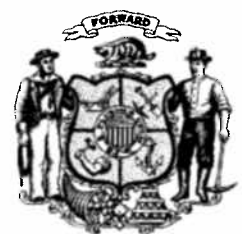
"EAB is a possibility next year in many units statewide," says Warnke. "Hunters have asked DNR to make it easier to qualify for EAB and we have. You can pre-qualify by killing an antlerless deer in a watch unit this year, including CWD units. There are four days of gun hunting remaining to do that."

Wildlife officials remind hunters and citizens that the muzzleloader gun deer season opened Nov. 28 and runs through Dec. 7. The late archery season also opened Nov 28 and runs through Jan. 3. The late Zone T antlerless deer hunt will take place Dec. 8-11 in selected deer management units south of Hwy. 8.

Three hunters died and 10 others suffered injuries as a result of hunting.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Senate Natural Resources and Transportation Committee
Public Hearing and Executive Session
330 SW, State Capitol
June 27, 2006 10:00

Agenda

1. Call of the Role
2. Agenda

Clearinghouse Rule 06-013 - Relating to deer hunting and the control and eradication of chronic wasting disease.

Senator Stepp will not be with us today.

Under the rule:

- Unlimited either-sex for all seasons in both HRZ and DEZs
- Archery season from September 16 to January 7 in both HRZ and DEZs
- Youth Gun Hunt October 7-8 (same as rest of state)
- Early gun season from October 19-22 in HRZ and October 14-22 in DEZs *5/18/06 18 to 9 days mid-Oct. not late*
- Late gun season from November 18 to December 10 *(instead of JAN 3)* in both HRZ and DEZs
- No change in HRZ and DEZs boundaries

Can take either sex in HRZ/DEZ & shoot as many as you want

Registered Comments of the Rule:

From Paul Brandt, Boscobel:

- Any firearm seasons in October should be scheduled late in the month after leaf fall.
- The October seasons should be limited to antlerless deer with the earn-a-buck requirement during the November-December seasons.
- If we are working toward herd reduction as a goal to control spread of CWD, the earn-a-buck rule has demonstrated that it works to reduce deer numbers. The new system for advance qualification should make earn-a-buck more acceptable to hunters.
- A 4-day late October season gives older hunters and disabled hunters an opportunity to hunt when the weather is more favorable.
- The earlier (Oct. 7-8) season for youth occurs too early in the month when visibility is not good, compromising safety concerns.

From Greg Kazmierski:

- ⊙ Deer populations in the Eradication Zones have not been reduced.
- Deer populations in the Herd Reduction Zones have grown to all time highs.
- Disease prevalence has remained the same.
- Hunter numbers in CWD Units have declined by 38%
- Land owners have closed access.
- 30 million dollars has been squandered.

He recommends these changes:

1. Simplify CWD zones and deer season structure through a single CWD zone designation where CWD has been detected in wild deer having a Saturday prior to Thanksgiving opener, 23-day either sex gun hunt with unlimited harvest tags. Issue one gun buck tag to every hunter with additional buck tags issued under EAB rules.
2. One 4-day (Thurs.-Sun) unlimited tag antlerless only hunt nearest Oct. 15th.
3. Return archery season to its pre-CWD season date structure with a Sunday nearest Jan. 6th closure, but allow unlimited either sex harvest. Issue one archery buck tag to every hunter with additional buck tags issued under EAB rules.
4. Eliminate sharpshooters with exception for their removal of visibly sick or injured deer.

Kaz said that hunters were told last year that if they shot a doe in a CWD/Earn a buck (EAB) zone, that it would prequalify them for a EAB sticker in this year's EAB zones, much like if they shot a doe in their own zone. Knowing this, hunters headed into the CWD zones to pre-qualify. DNR has on their website a page that will let hunters know if they are prequalified. Hunters have checked this only to find that they don't qualify for preregistration. They have then contacted the DNR which has confirmed this. (Kaz cited a DNR employee as the hunter in this story)

Therefore, if the CWD rule before the committee eliminates the EAB zones in the CWD areas for 2006 (which I believe it does), I think all EAB prequalifications earned in CWD zones last year are negated.

The concern here is that hunters in good faith do something one year, only to find out that the DNR has changed the rules on them and penalizes them the next.