

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of April 1, 2009

Maple Tree Restaurant, McFarland, WI

ARC Vice President Chuck Pils called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

60 paid members and guests were present.

The meal was \$12.00.

The raffle was held. Three "Easter Decoration" prizes were won by; Chuck Rieck, Dick Lindberg, and Jeanne Witt.

A moment of silence was observed for those who had passed and for those serving in harms way.

The minutes of the previous month's meeting were read and approved.

Financial Report:

The March balance was \$1405.82

We collected \$34 from the raffle. (Ken Wiesner has those funds)

We collected \$120 from the lunch proceeds today. (Ken Wiesner has those funds)

We collected \$8.00 from 4 new members today (Ken Wiesner has those funds)

\$107 was paid to Dave Croft to reimburse him for paying for printing of the ARC Directories and meeting notices.

\$55 was paid to John Glennon to reimburse him for paying for printing of the ARC summer picnic notices.

The treasury balance as of April 1 is \$1405.82

Guests:

Tom Sheffy attended his first meeting, introduced by Kevin Kessler

New Members:

Sarah Shapiro Hurley, Roger Larson, Brenda Hagman, and Dale Ziege attended their second meeting. They were voted in as members and their \$2.00 each lifetime membership dues were collected.

Birthdays.

It is Chuck Rieck's 86th birthday today.
Dick Lindberg recently had his 80th birthday.

"Frank & Miller Report"

No report due to having a guest speaker

Old Business:

None due to having a guest speaker

New Business:

John Glennon handed out printed invites to the ARC Picnic to be held on Wed. July 1, to everyone in attendance.

Harley Lichtenwalner's wedding ring was found in the Men's Room, and was returned to him.

Guest Speaker:

DNR Secretary Matt Frank, and Executive Assistant Mary Ellen Vollbrecht, attended. The Secretary had some intro comments about managing the deer hunt. He then went into a talk about Successes and Challenges.

1. The Stewardship Program was reauthorized for 10 years [to 2020] plus it's receiving additional funds. There were no cuts in the proposed budget.
2. The Great Lakes Compact passed in WI and 7 other States, and 2 Provinces.
3. Mercury in water will hopefully be reduced by reducing power plant emissions.
4. Ospreys are being de-listed as Endangered Species.
5. Funding has been tripled for Aquatic Invasive Species programs. There has been recent success in ballast water regulation.
6. It is a tough biennial budget this time. DNR is holding 300 position vacancies open, and is eliminating 85 positions including 50 from counter service at Service Centers.
7. The DNR website had 340 million hits last year. Many licenses are being sold online now.
8. Federal economic stimulus funds are coming through.

9. Gov. Doyle and Minn. Gov. Pawlenty have a cooperation initiative going. M. Vollbrecht is taking the lead on this for DNR.
10. DNR needs to retain good, quality staff – focus on recruiting.
11. Several points were mentioned about Energy/Climate Change:
 - The climate in WI is moving toward being similar to Arkansas
 - DNR is working with the Nelson Institute at U.W.
 - In order to reduce emissions we need to get off of fossil fuels
 - The Gov's Global Warming Task Force recommends more energy conservation, more green buildings, and better public transportation
 - As ag lands are converted to biomass production, this needs to be done in a sustainable way. Development is a challenge.

There were comments from the audience mentioning that energy impacts more than just air quality, and that wind turbines can have impacts on bird populations. Other comments were made expressing concern about budget provisions resulting in cuts and vacancies, reassignment of staff, and centralizing of attorneys at DOA.

Trips.

No report due to having a guest speaker

Deaths and Illnesses.

No report due to having a guest speaker

Jokes.

No jokes

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Next Meeting will be on May 6 at New Glarus Hotel, featuring our annual tribute to Ingeborg Sidwell