

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of September 1, 2010 Hilltop Tavern, Cross Plains

ARC Vice President, Jim Miller, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
40 paid members and guests were present.
The meal was \$12.00

A moment of silence was observed for friends and family who have passed and for our troops who are serving in harms way.

The minutes of the July Meeting and the Financial Statement from the August Picnic were read by the secretary and approved. Motion by Linda Meyer, Second by Gerry Dorsheid.

Financial Report

The opening balance was \$2,215.28 (including the \$392.17 balance from the picnic)

We collected \$40 from the lunch proceeds

The closing balance is \$2,255.28.

Guests and New Members

John Hagman, retiring the end of September, attended his 1st meeting.
Bill Hauda, retired Legislative Reporter, attended.

Frank and Miller Report (Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants)

August 2010 was the worst since 2001. A core return of 14.2% - 15.4% at the end of the year will result in a zero reduction. A variable of 20.2% - 21.4% would result in a gain of 0.5 of 1%. Year-to-date as of 7/31 has the core up 1.9% and the variable down 0.3%.

Note: these funds exceeded the benchmark.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Doris Rusch asked for volunteers for prairie seed collecting to plant new public lands.

Jim Miller made the following announcements:

- Oct 6 Meeting at the Hotel in New Glarus
- Nov 3 Meeting at Maple Tree in McFarland we will have Elizabeth Kluesner as a guest speaker. Ms Kluesner will be talking about an effort to build a partnership between the DNR, the Madison Foundation for Public Schools and the Toki School.
- Election of Officers for ARC will be in November. Nominations for candidates will be accepted at our October Meeting. Get your names on the ballots early so you too can serve!

- Several of our members have art work on display at the Beaver Dam Area Art Association's Center on the north side of Beaver Dam. The Center is open from 1-4PM Wednesday through Sunday. The show goes until Mid-October. No admission charge, but donations are accepted.

Death and Illness

Brad Brown, from Engineering, passed away on Monday last.

Gene Kohlmeyer, Wildlife Supervisor, passed away.

Chuck Rieck is still recovering at the Willow Brook Home in Lake Mills. He may be released next week.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Brenda Hagman turned 57 on Aug 8 & John Hagman will celebrate his 58th later this month
Kermit Traska will celebrate 36 years of wedded bliss.

Nancy Diebold will be 80 on Oct 6.

Roy Lembroke is now 67.

Dave Ives.....

Guest Speaker

Vice President Jim Miller introduced our guest speaker. Secretary of the DNR, Matt Frank. Beginning with Secretary Darrell Bazell, we have been inviting the Secretary of DNR as a guest speaker a least once a year. Secretary Frank was well received and some highlights (and lowlights)of his presentation follow:

Budget likely won't improve soon. The 2011-2013 budget will be tough. 300 vacancies have not been filled, but DNR is maintaining those positions, and hoping to return to full staff in future. They are also maintaining staff, offsetting the savings from layoffs with employee furlough time. The Dept is deciding 'core' work. Although other states have made drastic cuts, such as closing State Parks, the WiDNR has chosen other routes to cost-savings.

The State Stewardship Program was re-authorized.

Air quality rules were passed, reducing mercury emissions by 90%.

Great Lakes Compact was passed.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative got a boost through \$475 million Stimulus dollars. Water Quality also got a boost through \$150 million Stimulus dollars.

Certification of forests has moved forward to ensure sustainable paper and wood products. Shoreland Preservation Rules were upgraded for the 1st time since 1968, and now limit the amount of imperviousness allowed.

Efforts to reduce the huge phosphorous load in lakes and streams are continuing with rules for point and non-point pollution.

Sec Frank endorsed the Plan to address CWD in the deer herd, saying we are in for the long-term in dealing with this problem and will not write it off as some of the Western States had done. Deer hunting is too important in Wisconsin to allow the disease to run unchecked.

Osprey and Trumpeter Swan have been de-listed. Of course, the Dept is pushing for delisting wolves, but delisting is confounded by many lawsuits.

Bear population and bear hunting permits are up.

Asian Carp. Sec Frank gave the governor credit for increasing the dollars spent on invasive species management. The Dept has sent staff, equipment and chemical to Illinois to help w/ the carp eradication program. Also, the Dept is beginning to regulate ballast water.

Matt accepted some questions from the floor and was given

Trips

John and Brenda Hagman reported on several previous trips and several trips yet to come. Floyd Stautz reported on a trip from Norway to Scotland, noting especially the rough passage on the North Sea, a rough passage.

Dave and Nancy Ives flew to Anchorage, toured Alaska, then Northern California, Washington and Oregon. Mount St. Helens is a must-see.

Jokes

Dave Gjestson told the tale of a vacuum salesman willing to eat all the horse manure his vacuum didn't pick up, only to learn the power was out.

Meeting adjourned at 1:37 pm

The next meeting is the New Glarus hotel on October 6, 2010

Minutes recorded by Doris Rusch

