

**Wisconsin Recreation Best Management Practices for Invasive Species
Advisory Committee
Marathon County -UW Extension Office, Wausau
June 11th, 2007**

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Participating Organizations and Participants

Organizations and participants in italics are new to the group

Organization	Participant
Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs	Dave Newman
Friends of Wisconsin State Parks	<i>Tim Belter</i>
<i>Glacial Drumlin Horse Trail Association, Wisconsin State Horse Council District 2</i>	<i>Lynn Hanson</i>
Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin	Rolf Utegaard
North Country Trail Association	Bill Menke
ORV Council	Rob McConnell
<i>Sierra Club, John Muir Chapter Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation</i>	<i>Gary Werner</i>
The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin	Lisa Thomas
University of Wisconsin-Extension	Kris Tiles
WI Parks & Recreation Association	Bill Duncanson
Wildlife Forever	Brett Richardson
Wisconsin 4-Wheel Drive Association	Tim Krueger
Wisconsin ATV Association	Hank Wozniel
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Bureau of Endangered Resources and Forest Invasives Leadership Team	Kelly Kearns
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Office of Forest Sciences	Todd Miller
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Parks & Recreation	Kimberly Currie, Brigit Brown,
Wisconsin Department of Tourism	Will Christianson
<i>Wisconsin Donkey and Mule Society</i>	<i>John "Jonesy" Jones</i>
Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association	John Schnorr
Wisconsin State Horse Council	Mindy Krolick
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation	George Meyer

Kimberly announced that the DNR is a partner in this effort, not leading it.

Ground Rules

Kris Tiles shared some ground rules to kick-start the group establishing its own ground rules.

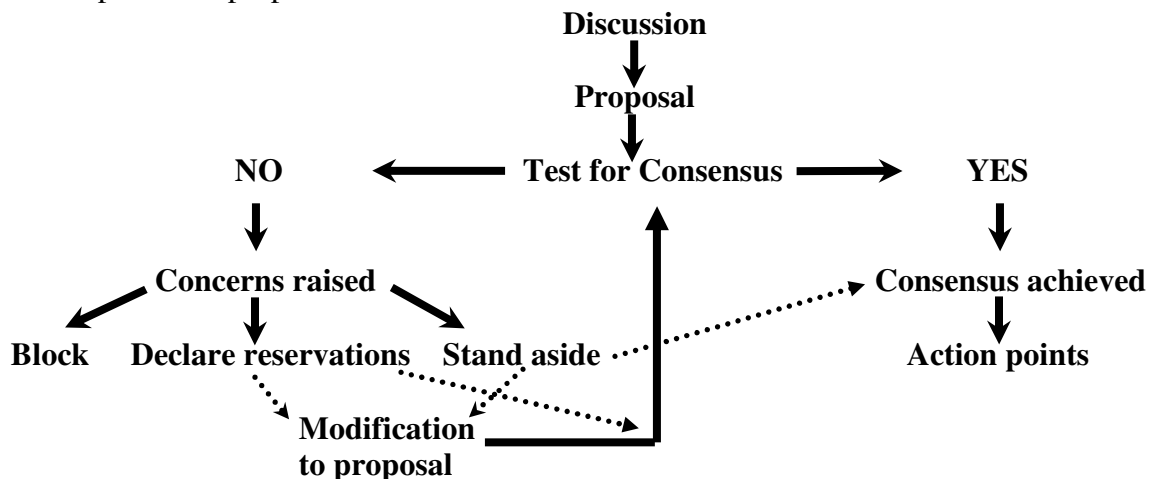
✓ Decision: After making some changes, the following ground rules were generally approved:

- Avoid speaking when someone else has the floor.
- Avoid personal attacks or accusations.

- Respect that others are here to speak; allow them time and opportunity to do so.
- Listen as others speak.
- The group will focus on issues of the present where possible.
- Remain curious and open to the perspectives of others.
- Share the reasons behind your questions and statements.
- Relax and enjoy ourselves today.
- “Creative no”- no isn’t good enough, it has to be accompanied by a proposal
- Turn off or silence cell phones
- Confidentiality
 - a) Keeping things draft until ready for final sharing with outside groups
 - b) Keep two sets of minutes:
 - 1 - Members’ Minutes – will contain content and conclusions, but not individual names unless comments represent the views of the members’ organization; the minutes should only be shared with other members of your organization, and even then, your discretion is encouraged.
 - 2 - Executive summary – this version will be put on the Web site and can be widely distributed.

Decision-making

Kris proposed and distributed a consensus model with three choices for people who do *not* agree with a particular proposal:



Proposed Consensus Model

- 1) Declare reservations – the group member is willing to let a motion pass but desires to register their concerns with the group. If there are significant reservations about a motion, the group may choose to modify the proposal.
- 2) Stand aside – the group member has a serious personal disagreement with a proposal but is willing to let the motion pass. It is often regarded as a strong “nay vote” and the concerns of group members standing aside are usually addressed by modifying the proposal.
- 3) Block – a single block is usually sufficient to stop a proposal, although some measures of consensus may require more than one block. Blocks are generally considered an

extreme measure, and are only used when a member feels a proposal ‘endangers the organization or its participants, or violates the mission of the organization; anyone engaging in a block should work towards a solution. According to the second-to-last ground rule adopted by the group (see above), a group member opposing a proposal must work to find a solution that will work for everyone.

Related points that were discussed included:

- When voting, people should represent their *organizations*, not themselves. Consequently, decisions at upcoming meetings should be anticipated and outlined in the agenda to allow the Advisory Committee to poll members of their organizations prior to the meeting.
- Kris will use a technique called “Fist to five” to quickly gauge Advisory Committee members’ comfort level with a particular proposal, prior to an actual vote. Members hold up anywhere from 0 fingers (a fist) to indicate absolute opposition to 5 fingers to indicate complete willingness to move forward. Members should feel free to use intermediate numbers (i.e. 1-4).
- If multiple people are present from one organization, each person gets to vote separately.

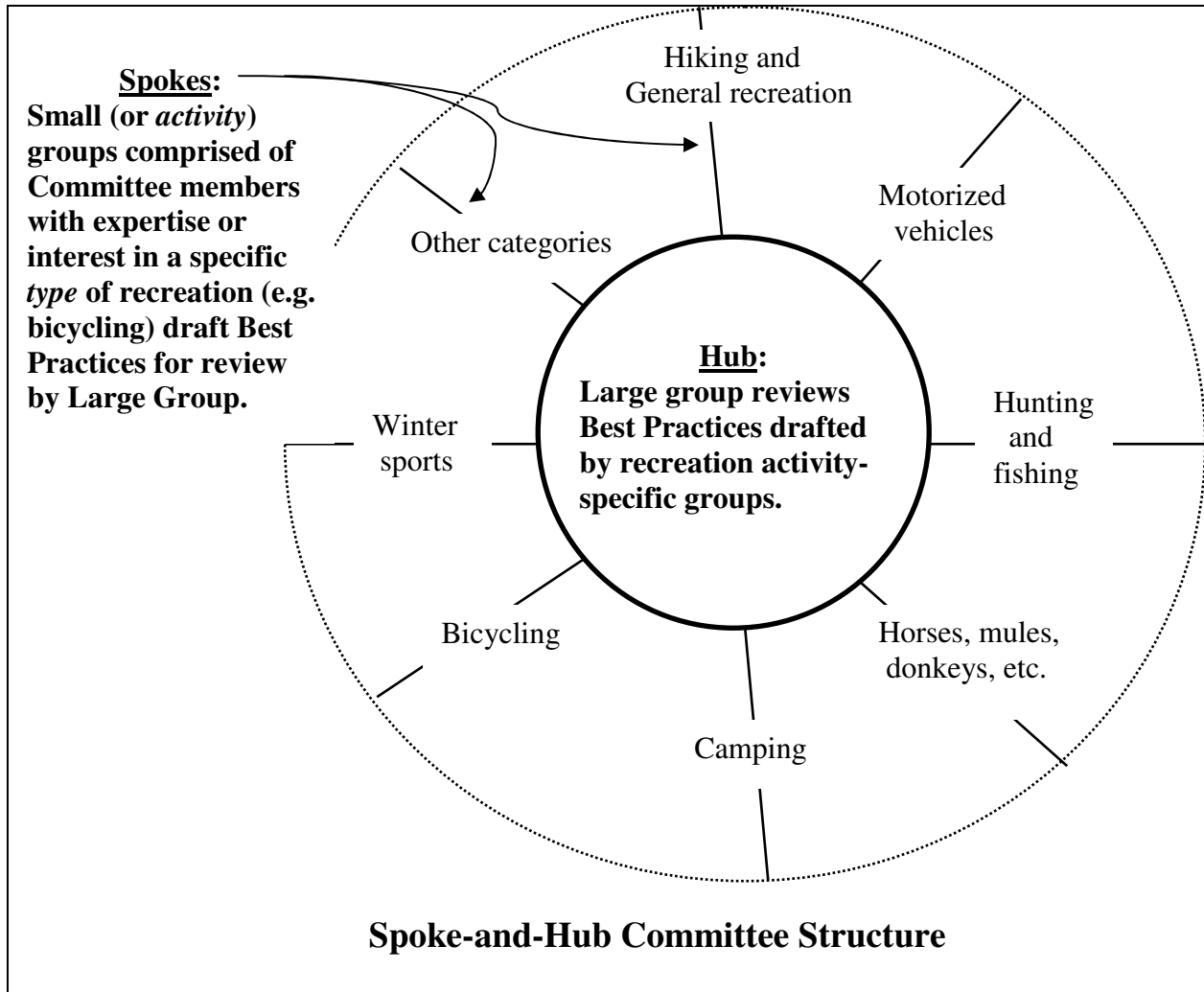
✓ **Decision:** The decision-making model was accepted by the Advisory Committee.

Background on Related Efforts:

The idea to develop Recreation BMPs grew out of the Forest Invasives Leadership Team (FILT), a committee of the Wisconsin Council on Forestry. An effort has been underway for 1½ years to develop Best Practices in Wisconsin Forestry for Invasive Species. The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council has agreed to coordinate the development of Best Practices in the Green Industry (nurseries, garden centers, etc.). There are also plans for a (transportation and utility) Rights-of-Way Best Management Practices for Invasive Species. The Wisconsin Council on Invasives Species was created to make recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources regarding a system of classifying invasive species, as well as the awarding of cost-share grants to control invasive species.

Committee Structure

Brett explained that the Core Group, which has been laying the groundwork for the Recreation Best Practices since August 2006, envisioned the Advisory Committee to contain two levels of participation, like the spokes of a wheel (see diagram below).



➤ **Assignment:** The Core Group will make one more round of snail mails, phone calls and e-mails to enlist target groups that have not yet participated.

Group Work

Todd demonstrated the Web site: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/recreation.php>
The public can access several documents including background material, minutes, and notice of upcoming meetings. Committee members can access and edit additional documents in the “Members’ Area” by typing in a user name and password. This area is restricted to ensure that committee members can interact freely without feeling scrutinized by the public. Currently, the group is using a survey to indicate the level at which each organization wants to participate. There is also a blog for members to post their work and view the work of others.

Next Meeting Date:

Tentatively, the Committee will meet again on Monday, August 20th from 10 am – 3 pm (August 27th is a back-up date). Kris will confirm the date and meeting place (probably UW/Marathon

County Extension) with the Committee by July 16th. Topics may include funding the outreach efforts after the Committee has drafted and approved the Best Practices.

Acceptance of April 21st Meeting Minutes

✓ **Decision:** No one had major objections to the minutes from the April 21st meeting.

As a point of record, the recommendations in Jane's and Kelly's presentations at the April 21st meeting were suggestions for the Committee. They would need to be discussed and approved by the Committee before inclusion in the Best Practices.

Finalizing the Committee's Charge

The Committee does not want the term "forest" in its name and charge since its members recreate in many kinds of ecosystems and also recognize that invasive species can be spread to and from other ecosystems.

Several changes to FILT's wording of the Committee's charge resulted in the following:

| *"Wisconsin recreationists seek to protect Wisconsin lands through the development of Voluntary Best Management Practices for Invasive Species. Through a collaborative process that includes recreationists, land managers, and resource professionals, the Advisory Committee will strive to develop and disseminate standards of practice to aid in the management and control of nonnative, invasive species in Wisconsin."*

(Deleted "practitioners, experts, and affected stakeholders")

(Deleted "voluntary" in line 4)

There was considerable discussion about whether the Best Practices should be voluntary or mandatory. For a variety of reasons, including increased buy-in from participating organizations, many members thought voluntary was preferable to mandatory. Several people added that mandatory compliance should only be considered if voluntary participation was attempted but deemed inadequate.

➤ **Assignment:** Since Kelly is a member of FILT, she will ask whether they intended that the Best Practices be voluntary or mandatory, and whether the Recreation Committee's charge should or shouldn't include implementation (i.e., dissemination). She will also inquire about which entity should send out press releases and whether a public participation process is expected.

One member thought the charge should be re-written and offered to re-write it, but several people said that they were uncomfortable with one person or a small group rewording the charge. Todd shared that the Forestry group spent part of five meetings over 1¼ years tweaking the charge, and he suggested that it would be better use of time if the Committee focused on developing and discussing Best Practices. Kris asked the person who wanted to re-write the charge to declare reservations rather than block approval of the charge, and the person agreed.

Small Group Exercise - Kris asked the Committee to brainstorm, in small groups, how to separate the spokes (saved in a separate document).

Submitted by Todd Miller, WDNR Division of Forestry