

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Mission

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is the only statutory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to advise the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources on how to responsibly manage Wisconsin's natural resources for present and future generations. The Congress accomplishes this through open, impartial, broad-based actions.

Citizen input on natural
resources since **1934**

*"Let us work together to
properly manage and wisely
use our natural resources...."
Prologue of the Congress Creed*

GET INVOLVED!

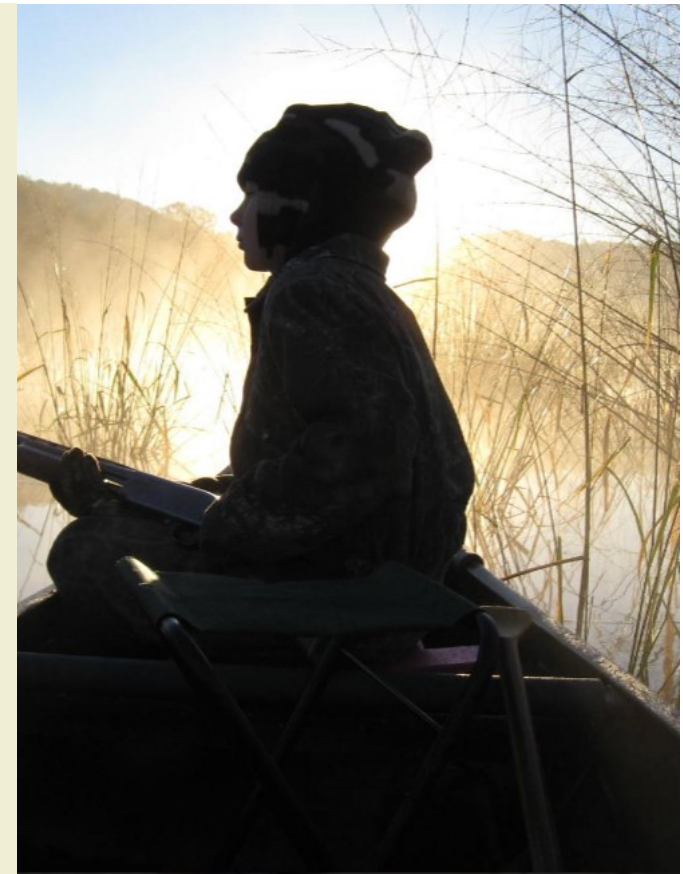
- ◆ *Represent the interests of the citizens
in your county:
—Become a Congress delegate.*
- ◆ *Provide input on issues of concern to
your local delegates.*
- ◆ *Attend your local Spring Hearing and
provide input on proposed rule
changes and WCC advisory
questions.*
- ◆ *Present an idea for change through a
citizen resolution.*

Become a part of the process!

Find out more at
dnr.wi.gov
search keywords
"Conservation Congress"

WCC/DNR Liaison
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
(608) 266-0580

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*Working together for
future generations*



YOUTH CONSERVATION CONGRESS

The Youth Conservation Congress is a recent initiative to give young people a voice and instill a sense of ownership, civic pride, and advocacy in these future stewards of our state's natural resources. Just as we are attempting to recruit ethical and avid outdoor enthusiasts, we must also recruit the next generation of informed, dedicated and conservation-minded citizens that will help to serve as the voice of the citizens of this state on matters concerning natural resources.

Know a youth who would like to get involved? Contact your county delegates or the WCC/DNR Liaison.



*WE ARE OUTDOOR AMBASSADORS, PASSING
ON OUR RICH CONSERVATION HERITAGE
TO OUR NEXT GENERATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS.*

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

"In the final analysis, no matter what the commission or the department believes to be in the best interest of the state, if the citizenry are not in accord, any program set up would eventually be doomed to failure. The birds, animals and fish belong to the people of the state."

*Wisconsin Conservation Congress,
Democracy in Wildlife Regulations. (1941)*

History

In 1934, lead UW professor Aldo Leopold, Chief Warden Harley MacKenzie, and Superintendent of Game William Grimmer formed the county-based system of citizen involvement we know as the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC). In 1971 the Wisconsin Legislature gave formal recognition to the Conservation Congress as it exists today through the creation of s. 15.348, Wis. Stats. This legislation formalized the WCC's advisory capacity with the Natural Resources Board. Today, the



Aldo Leopold
Ctsy. Leopold Fdn.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress remains one-of-a kind, nationwide.

Delegates

Citizens in each county have the opportunity to elect delegates to represent their interests in natural resource management at the Conservation Congress County Meeting, which is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings. Each of the 72 counties have five delegate seats on the WCC for a total of 360 delegates. Based on their interests and knowledge, delegates are selected to represent the citizens of their district on WCC advisory committees which examine a broad range of resource management

issues. We need a diverse group of delegates to provide input on these areas so we can fulfill our statutory duty to advise the Natural Resources Board on all issues under its jurisdiction-from the management of fish and wildlife game species to environmental concerns and everything in-between.

Our Purpose

We are an avenue for the Natural Resources Board and the Legislature to gather public input, and we frequently provide representation on Department of Natural Resources' committees. We are also part of the administrative rule-making process here in Wisconsin, collecting public input, studying problems, and proposing solutions.



"The vision of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to strengthen and enhance our ability to gather and convey the wisdom and influence of Wisconsin citizens in the formation of natural resource policy, research, education, and conservation."