

ADA Advisory Committee

Notes from December 8, 2016 Work Session

At 9:30 am, the work session began by conference call. Present in Olympia were Chairman Reno Pellegrini (Region 3), and from staff, Sam Taylor, HR High Risk Program Manager. HR Director Cindy Colvin attended briefly during the session. Present on the call were Dan Dickerson (Region 2), Rick Erickson (Region 5), and Kevin Frankeberger (at large). Mr. Frankeberger participated until shortly before noon. The conference call ended at approximately 12:30 pm.

The purpose of the work session was to prepare a two year work plan for the Committee for the 2016-18. The ADA AC intends to prepare and submit the updated charter and work plan to the Commission in March at Moses Lake.

The ADA AC Committee Charter was recently updated and is being currently reviewed for approval. The Agency's Advisory Committee Handbook is also being updated at present.

During the work session, the members brought forward the following recommendations for the work plan:

- 1) Increased marketing of ADA hunting and fishing opportunities at regional and state-wide events.

National Hunting and Fishing Day in Wenatchee was raised as an example of an event in which many of the major sportsman groups participate, together with major outdoors business interests and state and federal agencies. There is opportunity for exposure to a large group of people, with much support for our ADA efforts/opportunities. Discussion centered on developing a "road show" for ADA accessibility opportunities, programs, and products. Manufacturers like Cabela's could demonstrate pneumatic bows, or other products designed for persons with disabilities. The growing industry in construction for persons with disabilities could show pictures of their projects, or otherwise communicate their services. Better marketing of DFW ADA opportunities could be developed, specifically press releases and handouts. The agency can improve its message by touting successful stories of accommodations made that enabled persons with disabilities to hunt or fish successfully. We need a bigger presence at these large regional events to get our message out. This same material could be shared in the Hunters Education program as well.

- 2) Uniform reservation system for ADA accessible hunting blinds.

The Committee believes the rules for use of ADA accessible Duck or hunting blind units should be made uniform throughout the state, and should change to a reservation system, maintained by the regional office, that allows holding a particular unit up to two days per

month/user with the provision that if the hunter does not arrive at the unit an hour before shooting time, the unit is then open to use by the public. The aim is to make use of such blinds easier and predictable, while preventing persons with disabilities from having to arrive several hours prior to the actual use of the unit. This may also make enforcement easier and dependable.

3) Review Road Access Program eligibility rules.

The Committee expressed a desire to review the Road Access Program laws and regulations to evaluate the eligibility rules, as they may wish to make recommendations for more clarity in the definitions.

4) Review reduced fees for Persons with disabilities.

The Committee discussed making recommendations relative to changing the reduced pricing of hunting and fishing licenses for persons with disabilities, and making any discount optional. The Governor's government-wide study and uniformity in any cost measures were also discussed.

5) Increased use of Master Hunters for persons with disabilities (Companion Hunter/Damaged Hunts).

The Committee expressed a desire to encourage Hunters Education Program/Master Hunters to team up with Hunters with disabilities in need of companions, both for credit, and to evaluate that as an alternative to the current use of others as companion hunters, which has given rise to some abuse. Another alternative for review was further defining who can be a companion hunter. Additionally, a desire was expressed to see master hunters team up with persons with disabilities on damaged hunts.

6) Increased use of Damaged hunts for persons with disabilities.

The Committee expressed a desire to take more advantage of damaged hunts as an additional opportunity for persons with disabilities. Recognizing that not all these opportunities are feasible, many are good opportunities to get hunters with mobility disabilities an equal opportunity to hunt.

7) Web site Accessibility Project Oversight.

The Committee wished to keep the web site accessibility overview project on the agenda to follow that project to its conclusion.

8) ALEA grant for outreach.

The Committee wished to explore the possibility of using an ALEA grant to fund an outreach effort for persons with disabilities, and to insert ALEA Program materials in the "tool kit" proposed for the "roadshow" they'd like to see take place in the regions at various shows or events.

9) Increased interaction with Volunteer Program.

The Committee searched for more ways to work with the volunteer program at DFW. Specific ADA projects had limited interaction, as did specific fishing events. Assistance at shows and events offered some limited interaction as well. It is hoped that more can be done in this area.