

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

APRIL 21, 2010 COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Location: New Hampshire Fish & Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.

Commissioners Present: E. Orff, R. Rowan, R. Phillipson, R. Blake, T. Tichy, J. Ryan, W. Morse, and J. McGonagle, S. Guaraldi.

Commissioner's absent/excused: T. Hubert

Vacant Commissioner's Positions

Belknap County Commissioner

Coastal Commissioner

Executive Director Normandeau – present

Chairman Rowan called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m., and asked the audience to join in the pledge of allegiance. He informed the audience that the public is entitled to attend all Commission meetings and when recognized by the chairman, may speak on any item on the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS:

1.) Commissioner Orff moved to approve the March 17, 2010 Commission Minutes as written, Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2.) Commissioner Guaraldi, Vice Chair and Grafton County Commissioner, announced that the **2010 Communication Award of Excellence** was awarded to the Great Northwoods Journal of Lancaster, New Hampshire.

She reported that the award recognized any outdoor communicator or writer, media source (radio, television, magazine, newsletter or periodical) that has written or published articles or materials beneficial to public understanding about fish, wildlife or marine resources as they relate to the Department's mission.

Commissioner Guaraldi introduced Commissioner Tichy of Coos County to present the award.

Commissioner Tichy presented the 2010 Communication Award of Excellence to Ms. Lyndall Demers, Owner/Editor of the Great Northwoods Journal and thanked her on behalf of the Commission for her contributions. She stated, "Thank you for this award. As long as I am owner of the Great Northwoods Journal I will continue to promote outdoor preservation." The audience applauded.

3.) Judy Stokes, Chief, Public Affairs Division, recognized Public Affairs Division staff for their outstanding efforts as noted by the Association for Conservation Information. She reported that in 2009 Fish and Game won 2 awards, a second place for “*Wild Times for kids*” created by Judy Silverberg, Educator/Naturalist, and Victor Young, Graphic Designer; and a third place for “*Call of the Sea*”, a fisheries magazine article in *New Hampshire Wildlife Journal*, written by Jane Vachon, Information Representative. Judy recognized other staff members for their contributions such as Liza Poinier, Programs Information Officer, and Pam Riel, Publications Manager.

4.) Dianne Timmins, Fisheries Biologist, Region 1, came before the Commission requesting to expend up to \$21,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account for seasonal employees who would be performing work related to the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture’s conservation strategies.

She announced that the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Fish Habitat Partnership (EBTJV-FHP), a nationally recognized partnership among state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and academic institutions, is taking a landscape-scale approach to brook trout management because brook trout are declining across the entire eastern range; causes for declines are similar; an integrated approach is cost effective; and, watersheds of concern span state borders and state and federal jurisdictions. The EBTJV partners have agreed that a range-wide conservation strategy is necessary to reverse brook trout declines, improve technology transfer, and effectively prioritize funds and projects to restore this recreationally and culturally important species.

In addition, she reported that the seasonal employees would focus their work efforts toward fulfilling priority 1, brook trout protection. The field crews will be documenting the status of wild brook trout populations and determining habitat conditions within selected index sites. This work is a critical first step towards implementing the EBTJV-FHP conservation strategy.

Commissioner Phillipson moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$21,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account for seasonal employees to perform work related to the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture’s conservation strategies and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) Commissioner Ryan moved to approve the 2010-2011 Deer Season Proposals as presented and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Orff moved to approve the 2010-2011 Bear Season Proposals as presented and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to approve the 2010-2011 Moose Season Proposals as presented and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Phillipson moved to approve the 2010-2011 Turkey Season Proposals as presented and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Orff moved to approve the 2010-2011 Furbearer & Trapping Season Proposals as presented and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Orff moved to approve the 2010-2011 Furbearer Hunting Season Proposals as presented and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Ryan moved to approve the 2010-2011 Other Deer Proposals as presented and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote carried with 7 in favor and 1 opposed (W. Morse)

Commissioner Phillipson stated that he was concerned with the antler point restriction and that he would be in favor of a 3-point restriction rather than no restriction.

Commissioner Morse reported that he heard comments at the public hearings of folks in favor of a 3 or 4-point restriction rather than a 2-point restriction.

Commissioner Guaraldi stated, "I feel more comfortable going with a 3- point restriction if biology thinks that is safer than no restriction."

Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, responded that staff had concerns that if we go with a 3- point antler restriction rule this year, that it would be extremely difficult to move away from it next year.

Commissioner Ryan moved to approve the Other Bear Proposals as presented and Commissioner Morse seconded. Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Blake moved to approve the Other Bear Proposals as presented, with the removal of 3rd bullet that reads: "*Restrict the taking of bear in "shotgun-only" towns similar to deer.*" Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote carried with 6 in favor and 1 opposed.

Colonel Garabedian reported that the language was for consistency and clarification purposes and more of a safety issue.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to approve the other bear proposals as presented with the removal of the 4th bullet that reads: "*Limit the number of bear baits in the Central Region (WMU's G, H, J1, J2) to 1 bait,*" Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote carried with 4 in favor, 3 opposed, and 1 abstention.

At this time, Commissioner Ryan moved to approve the bear proposals as amended, removing bullets 3 & 4, and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Orff moved to approve the Other Moose Proposals as presented and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to approve the Other Furbearer Proposals as presented and Commissioner Orff seconded. Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Blake moved to approve the proposals with the removal of the 3rd bullet, that reads: "*Shotgun only*" town restrictions shall apply to coyote hunting from September 1 through the end of the firearms deer season," Commissioner Tichy seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Tichy moved to approve the Miscellaneous Rule as presented and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

At this time, Chairman Rowan introduced the newest member of the Fish and Game Commission, John McGonagle, who will be representing Belknap County.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, presented the monthly financial statement. (See attached statement dated March 31, 2010)

2.) Lieutenant Craig Morrocco provided an overview of proposed field trials rules. He reported that the department was proposing changes to rules relative to field trials by definitions, for field trial rules and requirements for the conduct of a field trial, information required on the field trial application form, as well as some changes to Chapter 800 relative to import, possession, and release of the species used in field trials.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner Hubert, Chair; Commissioners; Phillipson, Orff, and Ryan. Commissioner Hubert was absent, therefore no report.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Morse, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Rowan and Guaraldi. Commissioner Morse reported on the following legislation:

Commissioner Morse moved to support the amendment to HB-1201, relative to loaded muzzleloaders in a vehicle and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The amendment would establish a committee to study all of the guns laws.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Ryan; Chair; Commissioner Ryan reported that the committee did not meet this month. He reported that the next meeting would take place in June.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Orff; Commissioner Orff reported that the committee did not meet this month.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Commissioner Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Blake, and Orff. Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she distributed an update to the Commission Manual and anticipated that the committee would be meeting in May prior to the meeting.

AUDIT & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Blake, Chair; Commissioners Hubert and Morse. Commissioner Blake reported that the committee met on April 8, 2010 to prepare for the Audit Meeting with the House Fish & Game and Marine Resource Committee on April 15, 2010.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Morse moved to approve the April 8, 2010 Special Commission Minutes as written and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert was absent, therefore, no report.

COMMISSIONER BLAKE: Commissioner Blake reported that he fielded several calls regarding freshwater rules, specifically the 2 lines per vessel, regardless of how many licensed fishermen/women are on board.

He further reported that he was in the process of checking on reports of posted land designated in "Current Use".

In addition, he reported that he attended the Adapting to Change Meeting, attended and spoke at the Farmington Fish & Game Club in New Durham, attended a meeting of the Audit Committee and the proposed rule hearing in Concord, attended the paddlers exposition at UNH, attended the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation Banquet in Manchester, attended the House Fish & Game and Marine Resources Audit meeting and the luncheon following, attended Discover Wild New Hampshire Day at headquarters, and attended the Hackle & Tackle Club's Annual Banquet.

COMMISSIONER ORFF: Commissioner Orff reported that he attended the 3 Public Hearings across the state, attended the Wildlife Federation's Annual Banquet and monthly meeting, Pointer Fish & Game Club's banquet in Manchester, attended the Audit Meeting with the House Fish & Game and Marine Resources Committee, attended the Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire's Annual Banquet, attended Discover Wild New Hampshire Day, and visited several regional sporting good stores.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that he attended the public hearings, attended the Special Commission Meeting held on April 8, 2010, and addressed the routine calls relative to proposed season changes.

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she visited the Winnicut Dam Removal Project, where there was much activity going on, attended the Changing Times Meeting, attended the public hearings, the Wildlife Federation Banquet, Discover Wild New Hampshire Day, Special Commission Meeting, and visited local sporting good clubs.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse reported that he attended the public hearings, attended the Audit Meeting, the Pointer Fish & Game Banquet, attended the Wildlife

Federation Banquet, taught a hunter education class in Hillsboro, and fielded calls regarding the season proposals.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Commissioner Ryan reported that he attended the Wildlife Federation Banquet, the public hearings, and the Lamprey River Watershed activities. He further reported that he received calls regarding the season proposals and a call of concerns regarding the hunter education courses switching to online sign-ups and felt it was not fair for those who do not have a computer.

COMMISSIONER MCGONAGLE: Commissioner McGonagle reported that he had done some fishing prior to becoming a Fish and Game Commissioner this month.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy reported that he attended the public hearings, received calls with comments and questions regarding the season proposals, attended the Legislative Audit Meeting, attended the Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Banquet and encouraged their membership to attend more public hearings to get their comments and suggestions heard. He further reported that he spoke with Representative Bulis regarding representation from Coos County, had discussion with Andy Schafermeyer, Region 1 Fisheries Biologist, regarding the proposed fishing regulations for trout, salmon and bass fishing rules.

In closing, he reported that he would be attending the Spring Sale at L.L. Cote the weekend of April 24th & 25th.

COMMISSIONER ROWAN: Commissioner Rowan reported that he visited the Green Mountain Shooting Club, attended Discover Wild New Hampshire Day, which was a great event considering the weather conditions, attended the Pointer's Fish & Game Banquet, attended the Let's Go Fishing Appreciation Dinner and the Hunter Education Recognition Dinner, the Legislative Audit Meeting and Sportsmen's Caucus, and attended the public hearings held around the State with approximately 300 participating.

He further reported that he received many calls and e-mails relative to the season proposals.

In closing, he reported that he sat in on numerous hearings covering a variety of legislative issues at the Legislative Office Building.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Normandeau reported that he would be meeting with the Forest Service to continue discussions regarding Barry Conservation Camp.

He reported that he would be attending the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies conference being held just outside of Boston, Massachusetts.

He further reported that he attended the Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Banquet and reported that Jason Stock hit a moose near Waterville Valley while driving home.

In addition, he reported that it appeared Fish and Game would have a chunk of access monies (\$500,000) swept into the general fund. He stated, "Luckily there was a substantial balance in that account and this will not affect our projects to date."

In closing, he reported that Governor Lynch attended Discover Wild New Hampshire Day and made his rounds to all the exhibits.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

At this time, 3:52 p.m., Commissioner Orff moved to adjourn and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

James Ryan, Secretary

Approved: _____
Robert Rowan, Chairman

Date: _____