

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

MAY 19, 2010 COMMISSION MEETING

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

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

Commissioner's absent/excused: T. Hubert, R. Rowan

Vacant Commissioner's Positions

Coastal Commissioner

Executive Director Normandeau – present

In Chairman Rowan's absence, Vice Chairman Guaraldi called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m., and asked the audience to join in the pledge of allegiance. She 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 Phillipson moved to approve the April 21, 2010 Commission Minutes as written, Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Consent Agenda - The following items were grouped together and were noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, which may not require public discussion.

Commissioner Orff moved to approve items 2a – 2e as presented below and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) Donations to the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center totaling \$200.79, from the fee of a home-study hunter education course and cash donations. Donation was eligible for Federal Aid match.

2b.) Donation in the amount of \$20.00 from Mr. Douglas T. Soholt, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2c.) Donation in the amount of \$14,800 from the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire, to assist with the cost of the *2010 National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration*.

3.) Colonel Garabedian stated that he was honored to be presenting three awards today.

He stated, "It is my distinct pleasure to recognize Conservation Officer Michael J. Matson as the recipient of the **2009 Conservation Law Enforcement Chief's Association Officer of the Year Award.**"

He reported that The Conservation Law Enforcement Chief's Association, also known as CLECA, is an organization made up of Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs from the States of Virginia to Maine, United States Fish and Wildlife Services, National Marine Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement and Canadian Provinces. The primary purpose of the Association is to encourage and promote conservation law enforcement cooperation among the eastern states represented. Annually, CLECA recognizes an officer from each state for their outstanding contributions to fish and wildlife protection of our country's natural resources.

He further reported that Conservation Officer Matson has been employed with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Law Enforcement Division, for a period of seven years, all of which have been working within District Five. Since the beginning of his career, Officer Matson has shown tremendous tenacity in the performance of his duties, consistently producing a high volume of activity and demonstrating the attributes of a reliable and thorough professional.

In addition, through his hard work and dedication, Officer Matson has earned the respect of his law enforcement peers and the general public within his patrol area. Officer Matson has demonstrated the attributes of a professional wildlife officer whose exemplary work performance is considered an asset to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

In closing, he reported that Conservation Officer Matson currently resides in Northwood, New Hampshire, with his wife Jessica, and their two sons Ryan and Jack.

The Commission, Director, and Colonel Garabedian congratulated Conservation Officer Michael J. Matson for his achievements and receiving the prestigious Conservation Law Enforcement Chief's Association Officer of the Year Award.

The audience applauded.

Colonel Garabedian stated that the next award to be presented was the 2009 Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award. He stated, "It is my distinct pleasure to recognize Conservation Officer Adam Cheney as the recipient of the **2009 Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award.**"

He reported that The Shikar- Safari Club International was founded in 1952, as a group of international hunters who joined together to exchange experiences and ideas about hunting. It started as a social hunting organization, but soon recognized its' potential to accomplish meaningful goals in the field of conservation. In 1973, the Shikar-Safari International Foundation was formed. Funds raised by the members of the Shikar-Safari International are used to carry out various conservation projects throughout the world.

He further reported that Conservation Officer Cheney has been employed with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Law Enforcement Division, for a period of ten years, all

of which have been working within District One. Throughout his tenure, Adam has consistently exhibited a strong work ethic and a level of professionalism that exemplifies what today's Wildlife Officer should strive to be.

In addition, Conservation Officer Cheney has shown a tremendous tenacity in the performance of his duties, consistently producing a high volume of activity as it relates to off highway recreational vehicle enforcement. He continues to successfully investigate numerous snow machine accidents and solve a number of wildlife law violations promoting our Conservation Officer Field Force. Officer Cheney has identified areas of concern where wildlife crimes are known to occur. As a result, Officer Cheney formulated and executed an effective patrol strategy using the Department's Decoy Program to address these concerns. Simultaneously, Adam is an effective Department ambassador always showing compassion and sympathy when appropriate. Through his hard work and dedication, Adam has earned the respect of his law enforcement peers and the general public within his patrol area.

In closing, he reported that Conservation Officer Cheney currently resides in Colebrook, New Hampshire with his wife Lisa and son Hayden. Adam and Lisa will soon be proud parents to their daughter Kaitlyn.

The Commission, Director, and Colonel Garabedian congratulated Conservation Officer Adam Cheney for his achievements and receiving the 2009 Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award."

The audience applauded.

Colonel Garabedian stated that the last award to be presented was the prestigious Life Saving Award. He stated, "It is my distinct pleasure to recognize one of our Conservation Officers, Christopher McKee with the prestigious **Life Saving Award.**"

He reported that on the morning of January 10, 2010, Conservation Officer Christopher McKee was in route to Andover, New Hampshire, to participate in a concentrated snow machine patrol detail for the day. While traveling north on Route 4 in the Town of Salisbury, Officer McKee inadvertently happened upon a two vehicle head-on motor vehicle collision involving multiple victims.

He further reported that without hesitation, Officer McKee, who was the first person to come upon the accident, activated his emergency lights to protect the scene and the victims while calling 911 on his cell phone to activate the Emergency Medical Services. As Officer McKee began to triage the victims he remained in contact with emergency personnel to relay time critical information regarding the serious nature of the injuries involved. In one vehicle, Officer McKee found two young females, one who was deceased, who were trapped in the smoldering wreckage while their two male companions had been ejected from the automobile. Both of these male victims were lying in the middle of the roadway suffering from serious life threatening injuries. Officer McKee immediately began emergency first-aid treatment in the midst of what some seasoned police officers would later describe as one of the more horrific car accident scenes they had experienced in their careers. One of the male victims was found not breathing,

bleeding profusely and in imminent danger of losing his life. Officer McKee immediately rolled the victim onto his back and he began to breathe again. While still providing valuable information to emergency response units on his cell phone regarding the specific location of this car accident and the victim's conditions, another individual arrived on scene who was a paramedic in New Hampshire. Officer McKee went to his cruiser and retrieved his medical kit and returned to the male subject he had just left whom the paramedic was now with. While relying on his training and staying focused on the task at hand in the middle of what was a chaotic scene, Officer McKee was able to insert an airway into the male victim which assisted him in his labored breathing. Once Officer McKee determined proper breathing had returned, he immediately began to treat the multiple physical injuries the victim had suffered in this accident. Even after emergency personnel arrived on scene, Officer McKee continued to assist the emergency teams in treating and transporting the multiple accident victims.

In addition, he reported that the quick thinking response, extraordinary first-aid skills and determination to react under extreme circumstances all demonstrated by Conservation Officer Christopher McKee unquestionably averted the additional loss of life for the victims of this tragic event.

In closing he stated, "On behalf of the citizens of the State of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, please accept the Law Enforcement Division's Life Saving Award and our sincere gratitude for your professionalism and exemplary performance under extreme circumstances."

The Commission, Director, and Colonel Garabedian congratulated Conservation Officer Christopher McKee for his achievements and for receiving the prestigious Life Saving Award.

The audience applauded.

4.) Commissioner Orff moved to approve the Final Proposal for various marine rules as presented and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

LATE ITEM:

1.) Commissioner Orff reported that at the recent Coastal Conservation Association meeting in Epping, the board voted to ask the Fish and Game Commission to request that Governor Lynch not take \$500,000 from the Statewide Public Boat Access Fund. Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Orff moved that the Fish and Game Commission draft a letter, signed by the Chairman, to Governor Lynch, asking him not to take \$500,000 from the Statewide Public Boat Access Fund and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, presented the monthly financial statement. (See attached statement dated April 30, 2010)

2.) Colonel Garabedian provided an overview of proposed Guide Rules for the Commission. (See attached handout)

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 stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Ryan; Chair; Commissioner Ryan reported that the next meeting would take place on June 30th.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Orff; Commissioner Orff reported that the committee would be meeting on May 21st.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Commissioner Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Blake, and Orff. Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the committee did meet and things are moving along. She reported that Tanya would be typing up all the policies.

AUDIT & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Blake, Chair; Commissioners Hubert and Morse. Commissioner Blake reported that there was discussion regarding marketing strategies in order to get non-motorized watercraft users to contribute towards boat ramp usage fees. Further discussion revolved around deriving a method to facilitate the distribution of the conservation sticker so that registered boat owners, hunters, trappers and fishermen, who already contribute, will not be accessed another fee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Commissioners Tichy, Orff, and Phillipson all agreed to serve on the committee.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing was discussed at this time.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

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

COMMISSIONER BLAKE: Commissioner Blake reported that he attended a Bow Hunter Education Class and received his certificate, attended and participated in an Adapting to Changing Times Meeting, attended the Handbook Committee Meeting, was given a tour of the film & audio production room at Fish and Game with Mark Beauchesne and Jason Phillipy, visited a variety of sporting good stores and clubs including Taylor's Trading Post, Brian's Archery, Fox Ridge Outfitters and Major Waldron's Sportsmen's Association.

He further reported that he visited, hiked, and cleaned up trash at a few Wildlife Management Areas in Strafford County, including Adam's Point, The Bellamy River WMA, and

The Ellis R. Hatch WMA, and was able to fish with New Hampshire Conservation Icon, Ellis Hatch, who caught four (4) beautiful trout.

COMMISSIONER ORFF: Commissioner Orff reported that he attended the NH Wildlife Federation Meeting, the Handbook Committee Meeting, visited sporting shops and turkey registration stations, attended a Sierra Club rally for the Gulf Coast spill clean up, attended a Coastal Conservation Association monthly meeting, and attended the John Nelson Memorial at Odiourne State Park.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported, “Things have been quiet in Cheshire County as most folks are turkey hunting.” He further reported that he would be assisting with the Women-on-Target class on May 22nd for ½ day with approximately 30 women signed up.

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she had a busy month. She reported that she attended the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Banquet and the Friends of NRA Banquet. She further reported that she attended the Facebook meeting and the B.O.W. meeting, and fielded calls regarding bears.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse reported that he attended the Pointer Fish & Game Banquet this month, assisted with a hunter education class, and assisted in registering 160 turkeys.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Commissioner Ryan reported that he attended the Lamprey River Watershed Activity, 3 public hearings, and fielded a few fishing calls this month.

COMMISSIONER MCGONAGLE: Commissioner McGonagle reported that he had a few person to person requests this month and took a nature walk through the trails at Kimball Forest.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy reported that discussion has revolved around Licensed Guides and a system for distributing the tags, as some guides did not get their tags this year. He reported that the turkey season was slow in the North Country. He further reported that he received positive comments about fish stocking, thanks to the fisheries folks.

COMMISSIONER ROWAN: Commissioner Rowan was absent, therefore no report.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Director Normandeau reported that he received a letter from Dick Pinney of Greenland that read:

Dear Glenn,

It was my pleasure to be aboard one of the Gauren’s Party Boats out of Hampton Harbor on May 7th as an angler. Your two staff members (Lon Robinson and Kevin Sullivan) were also on the boat doing a voluntary survey of size, species and numbers of groundfish caught.

Both Kevin and Lon were very gracious and low-key about asking us to be part of their survey and that resulted in all that were asked accepted to take part.

It was obvious that several of the anglers aboard that day were inexperienced and with a good sea running and heavy currents, fishing was difficult. Kevin was weighing and measuring the fish while Lon was recording. And in between that chore, Kevin was working the deck like an extra first mate! Untangling lines and helping to unhook fish, all with a great sense of humor and a non-threatening attitude. He needs to have special recognition for going the extra mile and still being able to fulfill his mission of doing the survey.

Both myself and my fishing partner, Roy Syphers, of Greenland, were very impressed with both of these staff members and there was no doubt that they made the trip much more pleasant and in some instances more successful by their presence. You should feel proud of having them as part of your team.

Please see that this letter gets read before the Fish and Game Commission at their next meeting and placed in both Sullivan's and Robinson's permanent personnel files.

Best to you –

Dick

Director Normandeau reported that the Statewide Boat Access Fund was about to be hit for approximately \$500,000, which is included in an amendment to the proposed budget. He reported that this would not affect the Department's ongoing projects at this point.

He reported that he had the opportunity to go fish stocking a few weeks ago and was impressed by the quality of the fish. He stated, "They are extraordinary, good size and very brilliantly colored."

He further reported that the Fish Food Factory broke down and as a result the department had to go to Fiscal Committee to request additional monies be added for fish food.

He stated that there would be a meeting at Barry Conservation Camp on June 3, 2010. He reported that he believed the water and contamination issues had been identified, and that there had been discussion on developing a new swimming hole at the camp as well.

He reported that the Department would be renegotiating or sending out a "Request For Proposal" for the Internet contract this fall as it expires June 20, 2011.

In closing, he reported that Chairman Abbott wrote a letter to Marjorie Smith stating that he concurred with the Fish and Game Commission as to why some recommended changes in the audit were not made and felt that the action taken was appropriate. Director Normandeau recommended keeping an eye on the observations and to use them as a reference for the future if needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

At this time, 2:45 p.m., Commissioner Ryan moved to adjourn and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

James Ryan, Secretary

Approved: _____
Robert Rowan, Chairman

Date: _____