

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

JUNE 16, 2010 COMMISSION MEETING

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

Commissioners Present: T. Hubert, E. Orff, R. Phillipson, R. Blake, R. Rowan, T. Tichy, J. Ryan, and J. McGonagle.

Commissioner's absent/excused: S. Guaraldi, & W. Morse

Executive Director Normandeau – Present

Vacant Commissioner's Positions - Coastal Commissioner

Chairman Rowan called the meeting to order at 1:03 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 May 19, 2010 Commission Minutes as written, Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
- 2.) Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the donation of \$25.00 from Rodger & Anita Neily, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
- 3.) Kristine Rines, Moose Project Leader, asked for Commission participation in drawing 4 names for prizes awarded in the following 2009 surveys:

SURVEY	WINNERS	PRIZES
Wing & Tail Survey	Bob Furlone, Spofford, NH	CZ-Bobwhite 202B 20 Gauge Shotgun
Small Game Survey	Glen Polucha, Campton, NH	10-22 RB Semi-automatic rifle
Deer Hunter Mail Survey	Dean Bennett, Charleston, VT	M77 Hawkeye All Weather .270 Rifle
Deer Hunter Mail Survey	George Nadeau, Loudon, NH	Triumph 50 caliber muzzleloading firearm

PRIZES
CZ-Bobwhite 202B 20 Gauge Shotgun –
10-22 RB Semi-Automatic Rifle -
Hawkeye All Weather .270 Rifle -

DONORS:
Merrimack Chapter/Ruffed Grouse Soc.
Donated by Sturm Ruger
Donated by Sturm Ruger

Triumph 50 Caliber Muzzleloading Firearm - Donated by Thompson Center Firearms

Kristine reported that Thompson Center Firearms has donated a prize to this raffle for 17 years. She further reported that Sturm Ruger has donated for approximately 15 years. The Commission and Department thanked Sturm Ruger and Thompson Center Firearms for their generosity.

4.) Scott Decker, Program Supervisor, Inland Fisheries Division, introduced David Godbout, President, Spectacle Pond Association, Alexandria, New Hampshire, who provided a presentation and requested assistance with funding to rebuild the dam at Spectacle Pond.

Dave reported that Spectacle Pond is a managed trout pond with no petroleum motors allowed. It has a public boat ramp in Groton, maintained by the Town of Groton, as a road to public waters. The Spectacle Pond Association is in the process of obtaining funding to repair the dam to keep it in its current state and have already received commitments for some of the funding.

He further reported that if the dam were removed, the pond would revert back to two smaller ponds, one that would become a shallow warm-water pond with no brook trout habitat and one that would have some brook trout habitat, although no public access to the boat ramp.

After much discussion, Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$25,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account to assist with rebuilding the dam at Spectacle Pond in Hebron/Groton and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) Commissioner Orff moved to authorize the use of \$1,999.00 from the "Sale of Fish Food Account" to purchase miscellaneous fish culture supplies from Eagar Inc., and an additional \$1,999.00 to purchase supplies from Aquatic Ecosystems, to be ordered as needed from July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative

6.) Commissioner Ryan moved to accept a \$50.00 donation to the "Let's Go Fishing Program" from Michele Angers, in memory of her father Ray Angers, and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

LATE ITEM:

1a.) Commissioner Phillipson moved to approve the operational budget for the Pheasant Dedicated Account and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

1b.) Commissioner Phillipson moved to approve the operational budget for the Wildlife Habitat Dedicated Account and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

1c.) Commissioner Orff moved to approve the operational budget for the Game Management Dedicated Account 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 May 31, 2010)

2.) Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, provided an overview of the Buck Age Ratio Management Survey. He reported that the current plan is to conduct an on-line buck age ratio management survey of New Hampshire Deer Hunters. He reported that the Buck Age Ratio Taskforce would be comprised of a mix of staff, Commissioners, and members of the public.

In addition, he further reported that the plan was to keep the survey brief (fewer than 20 questions). The planned survey would be accomplished by sending randomly selected deer hunters a letter briefly explaining what information we are looking for, why it is important, how to access background information, and how to access the on-line survey. A preliminary completion date for the survey is October 1, 2010.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner Hubert, Chair; Commissioners; Phillipson, Orff, and Ryan. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee did not meet this month.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Morse, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Rowan and Guaraldi. Commissioner Morse was absent, therefore no report.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Ryan; Chair; Commissioner Ryan reported that the committee had not met yet and would be meeting within a week or two.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Orff; Commissioner Orff reported that the committee met and discussed milfoil procedures.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Commissioner Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Blake, and Orff. Commissioner Guaraldi was absent, however, Commissioner Blake reported that there had been some e-mail interaction amongst Commissioners and a meeting to discuss a procedure/check list to assist new Commissioners coming onboard.

Chairman Rowan stated that he would like to see the department continue to purchase Fish & Game badges for new Commissioners.

AUDIT & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Blake, Chair; Commissioners Hubert and Morse. Commissioner Blake reported that there was no meeting this month.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Commissioners Tichy, Orff, and Phillipson.

Commissioner Phillipson announced that the committee wished to put forth the following recommendation for the slate of officers:

Chairman - Commissioner Rowan
Vice Chair - Commissioner Guaraldi
Secretary/Treasurer – Commissioner Ryan

At this time, Commissioner Hubert moved that the slate of officers remain as is with Commissioner Rowan as Chairman, Commissioner Guaraldi as Vice Chair, and Commissioner Ryan as Secretary/Treasurer and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Rowan announced that he sent letters to sporting clubs in the State inviting them to a meeting on September 18, 2010, at 11:00 a.m., at the Belknap County Sportsmen’s Association, to discuss options to improve communication between the Fish and Game Commission and the sportsmen. He further reported that he has heard from a few clubs offering to donate hotdogs, soft drinks, door prizes, etc.

At this time, Commissioner Phillipson moved to allow Chairman Rowan to pursue meeting with sporting clubs to improve communications and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Hubert stated, “I am very much in favor of this and feel it should have been done a long time ago”.

In addition, Chairman Rowan reported that he attended a meeting at Barry Conservation Camp where there was discussion as to sporting clubs adopting buildings to repair them. The Belknap County Sportsmen’s Association brought the idea before the Board of Director’s who were in favor of helping out.

Judy Stokes, Chief, Public Affairs, stated, “If we do not receive help with other issues it may be a negative aspect of fixing up camps that may never be used”.

Chairman Rowan stated that he was only looking for the Commission to support the aspect at this time.

Director Normandeau stated, “We need a roadmap so to speak to follow.” He stated that the department needs to find 6 or 8 groups to adopt buildings, in addition to spending money on the kitchen, other buildings, the water system, and the excavation of the swimming area.

He further reported that there would not be a line item in the budget to address the issues at Barry Conservation Camp and that all renovations would have to come from donations alone.

In closing, he stated, “We need to figure out how we are going to move forward on an ongoing basis and need to be creative on how to do this”.

Commissioner Tichy moved to support the concept of allowing sporting clubs to sponsor certain facilities in cooperation and in conjunction with the department’s renovation plan of

Barry Conservation Camp and Commissioner McGonagle seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Phillipson moved to cancel the July Commission Meeting and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Laura Ryder, Hunter Education and Aquatic Education Supervisor, came before the Commission to provide an overview of the new online registration process for registering for a hunter education course. It appeared there was some confusion as to the methods of signing up for classes and that you could only register online. She informed the Commission that there were a multitude of ways to register and those individuals that do not have access to a computer could still call the instructor, who in turn, could assist with the registration process.

Commissioner Ryan moved to support the hunter education registration process and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert reported that it was a quiet month. He reported that the Sullivan County Sportsmen's Club was supportive of restoring Barry Conservation Camp and has offered financial assistance, labor and services, as they feel it is very important to keep the facility open.

He reported that Don Clarke, former Acting Director, would be hosting a kids fishing derby at his home in Claremont in the near future.

He further reported that there would be a Wild Goose pre-conference hearing sometime during the 1st week of October.

COMMISSIONER BLAKE: Commissioner Blake reported that he attended a meeting at the Great Bay Discovery Center, attended the Adapting to Changing Times Meeting, received calls regarding bears and bird feeders, and calls relative to the "Point of Service", department's online licensing system.

In addition, he reported that he took his kayak up to Spectacle Pond and stated, "It's a great area."

COMMISSIONER ORFF: Commissioner Orff reported that he attended the NH Wildlife Federation monthly meeting, Conservation NH open house, field trial hearing, kids fishing derby in Epsom, the Coastal Conservation Association's monthly meeting in Epping, and the NH Wildlife Summit.

He further reported that he fielded calls on the proposed field trial and fishing rule proposals, as well as two calls on a fish kill in a local pond.

In closing, he stated that there was an ill feeling out there about the Winnicut Dam and the appearance & slow process of the whole project.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that he received calls of concern regarding bears w/cubs and their welfare. He reported that he attended the field trial hearings and the Wild Turkey Federation's Jakes Program held at the Cheshire County Fish and Game Club, where a good time was had by all.

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi was absent, therefore, no report.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse was absent, therefore, no report.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Commissioner Ryan reported that he attended the Wildlife Summit seminar on global warming, which was very informative, the Changing Times Meeting, and received calls regarding the saltwater license.

COMMISSIONER MCGONAGLE: Commissioner McGonagle reported that he had a long talk with Mike Normandin, President, Belkap County Sportsmen's Association, who is in full support of assisting with renovations to Barry Conservation Camp.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy reported that he had heard talk about the boat ramp on Umbagog and it continually requiring being pushed back into place every year. He reported that he has spoke with Lieutenant Gralenski regarding the pheasant stocking program. He reported that a new site in Success was being looked at on his employer's land.

COMMISSIONER ROWAN: Commissioner Rowan reported that he attended the Barry Conservation Camp meeting, the field trial hearing, fielded calls regarding bear complaints, and received numerous questions about the access money being taken from the Statewide Public Boat Access Fund. He reported that he informed individuals that the Fish and Game Commission wrote a letter opposing the taking of the money.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Normandeau reported that nobody was happy about the taking of the Statewide Public Boat Access Monies, however, reported that it would not affect our projects to date.

He further reported that he met with the new owners of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters, who are contemplating removing the Boundary Pond dam due to it being in a state of disrepair. Due to the damage over the winter, there was an order issued to breach the dam, which is now down approximately 6 feet. Additional dams on this property also have significant issues that need to be addressed.

In addition, he reported that there were significant issues with the contractor regarding the Winnicut Dam Removal Project and that the bonding company had been put on notice.

Chairman Rowan thanked Sandy, Judy, and Tanya for their assistance in planning the retirement gathering for Representatives Abbott and L'Heureux.

Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, distributed the latest turkey season update, which indicates that approximately 3,500 turkeys were registered.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

At this time, 4:36 p.m., Commissioner Tichy moved to adjourn and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

James Ryan, Secretary

Approved: _____
Robert Rowan, Chairman

Date: _____