

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER 21, 2011 COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Location: NH Fish & Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301

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

Commissioners absent/excused: All present

Executive Director Normandeau - Present

Vacant Commissioner's Positions - Coastal Commissioner & Carroll County Commissioner

Chairman Guaraldi called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m., and asked the audience to join in the pledge of allegiance and to pause for a moment of silence. She informed the audience that the public is entitled to attend all Commission meetings and when recognized by the chairman, the public may speak on any item on the agenda. The Chair reserves the right to limit comment to the extent necessary for the orderly conduct of the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

1.) Commissioner Orff moved to approve the November 16, 2011 Commission Minutes as written and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2.) Consent Agenda - The following items were grouped together and noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, which may not require public discussion. The Commission was asked to vote to approve these matters as presented. Commission members have the option to remove certain items if further public input or discussion is deemed necessary.

Commissioner Hubert moved to approve items 2a & 2b as identified below and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) Commission accepted the following donations in memory of Hardik Shah, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account:

Mr. & Mrs. Lathia -	\$15.00
Mr. & Mrs. Vora -	\$50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Palkhiwala -	\$51.00
Mr. Kejriwal & Ms. Shah -	\$100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd -	\$50.00
Ms. Brown -	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total:	\$316.00

2b.) Commission accepted a \$50.00 donation to be utilized by the fish stocking program in memory of Richard Lee.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Office, reviewed the monthly financial statement with the Fish and Game Commission. She stated that license revenues were down and that she would be monitoring that. (See attached statement)

2.) Jessica Fisher, Marine Fisheries Biologist 1, provided an informative overview of the shrimp population in the Gulf of Maine and the warming ocean temperatures.

Jessica reported that the 2011 growth rate for shrimp has declined, leading to smaller shrimp, which has been on a steady decline since 2006. She reported that there were no young shrimp coming into the fishery.

She further reported that there were some new management tools being proposed for 2012 such as trap limits, days out of the fishery, limited entry, and mandatory weekly reporting. These tools will allow for closer monitoring relative to the take of shrimp.

Much discussion ensued. The Commission thanked Jessica for the update.

3.) Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, had a preliminary discussion with the Commission on the topic of hunting season rule changes for 2012 & 2013.

He reported that he would bring the recommendations before the Commission at the January 18, 2012 Commission Meeting, the Initial Proposal in February, Notice of rulemaking in March, and will hold the public hearings on April 3, 4, & 5, and bring the draft final proposal back before the Commission for approval at the April 18, 2012 Commission Meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner Orff, Chair; Commissioner Ryan. Commissioner Orff reported that the committee did not meet.

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

Commissioner Hubert moved to oppose HB-1156 as written, relative to due process in all common law matters and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Blake moved to oppose HB-1318 as written, relative to carrying firearms and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Tichy moved to monitor HB-1341 as written, relative to repealing the provision relative to the unauthorized use of firearms in the compact part of a city or town and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Blake moved to oppose HB-1452 as written, relative to the prohibiting the establishment of sobriety checkpoints and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Orff moved to oppose HB-1486 as written, relative to prohibiting the State from accepting federal funds that could be used to enhance the militarization or federalization of law

enforcement and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Blake moved to oppose HB-1511 as written, relative to felons possessing firearms and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Ryan moved to oppose HB-1132 as written, relative to fish and game laws concerning the Blue Mountain Forest Association and Commissioner McGonagle seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner McGonagle moved to oppose HB-1219 as written, relative to the definition of wildlife for purposes of regulation by the Fish and Game Department and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner McGonagle moved to oppose HB-1244 as written, relative to firearms possession while trapping and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner McGonagle moved to oppose HB-1245-FN as written, relative to the fee for retail dealer's licenses for lobster and crab and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Blake moved to oppose HB-1332 as written, relative to the law enforcement authority of fish and game conservation officers and Commissioner Tichy seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner McGonagle moved to oppose HB-1333 as written, relative to the revocation or suspension of a fish and game license for a conviction and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner McGonagle moved to monitor HB-1334 as written, relative to the suspension of a fish and game license by the Executive Director and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner McGonagle moved to oppose HB-1335 as written, relative to the authority of the Fish and Game Department to refuse to issue a hunting license and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner McGonagle moved to support HB-1336 as amended, relative to reciprocity for nonresident trainers of hunting dogs and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The motion carried with 7 in favor 1 abstention (E. Orff)

Commissioner McGonagle moved to oppose HB-1337 as written, relative to the enforcement of violations of Fish and Game laws, and establishing a committee to study the disposition of wildlife confiscated by the Fish and Game Department and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner McGonagle moved to oppose HB-1341 as written, relative to prohibiting agreements to limit or reserve access to hunting, fishing, and trapping on private land and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner McGonagle moved to monitor HB-1392 as written, relative to oyster aquaculture licenses and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner McGonagle moved to oppose HB-1455-FN as written, relative to special

licenses for taking lobster while engaged in recreational scuba diving and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The motion carried with 6 in favor and 2 opposed (R. Blake & T. Hubert).

Commissioner McGonagle moved to monitor SB-224 as written, relative to lead fishing sinkers and jigs and Commissioner Blake seconded. The motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 opposed (T. Hubert). Commissioner Hubert stated, "I understand monitoring it, however, there are a lot of lead alternatives out there."

John Wilson, Lakes Association, reported that in 2011, approximately 11 chicks were lost due to lead ingestion. He continued to say that he hoped the Lakes Association could work with the Department as they move forward to address the issue.

Commissioner Phillipson moved to support SB-250 as written, relative to the operation of ATV's and trail bikes on state lands and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse reported that the next Legislative Meeting would take place on January 18, 2012.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Ryan; Chair; Commissioner Ryan reported that the committee did not meet and that the next meeting would take place in January of 2012.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Orff; Commissioner Orff reported that the committee did not meet and that the next meeting would take place in January of 2012.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Blake; Chair; Commissioners Orff and Tichy. Commissioner Blake reported that the committee would be meeting in the near future to review the nominations received and postmarked by December 31, 2011.

HANDBOOK & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE: Commissioner Hubert, Chair; Commissioner Hubert reported that he had overcome some technical issues and was optimistic to have the handbook update ready for distribution in the near future.

CHANGING TIMES: Commissioners McGonagle and Blake. Commissioner McGonagle reported that the committee did not meet this month.

WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION LIASON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that the committee did meet this month to discuss the proposals they plan to sponsor.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing heard at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: .The Commission continues to work on strengthening the landowner liability laws.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert reported that he held a liaison meeting in conjunction with the Sullivan County Sportsmen's Club Meeting this month. He reported that he attended the ATV certification class and found it to be very informative and commended the OHRV program.

COMMISSIONER BLAKE: Commissioner Blake reported that he received calls regarding loons &

lead and calls regarding the Adam's Point Road Project. He reported that he attended the Climate meeting in Greenland.

COMMISSIONER ORFF: Commissioner Orff reported that he attended the recent NH Wildlife Federation Meetings, the NH Guide's Banquet, and the quarterly meeting of the New England Outdoor Writers Association Board of Director's Meeting. He reported that he offered to host the 2012 Spring Safari in New Hampshire again since Vermont is unable to host due to the damage of tropical storm Irene.

He further reported that he attended a hearing of the Suncook River nomination to the State's Rivers Program, attended a day long meeting in Portsmouth on the impacts of climate change to our coast, attended the NH Coastal Climate Summit held at the Hugh Gregg Education Center, provided lectures at the UNH Cooperative Extension's NH Natural Resources Stewards training, and attended the holiday celebrations at Fish & Game HQ, and at the Region 3 Office in Durham, NH.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that he attended the Biennial Hearing in Lancaster and the Pheasant Volunteer Meeting. He stated that the pheasant volunteers were getting familiar with the tasks involved in the pheasant stocking program. He reported that he attended the Department's Holiday Party and had a pleasant time

He further reported that the Cheshire & Sullivan County Sportsmen's Clubs presented Chuck Miner, Landowner Relations Coordinator, with a gift honoring his retirement from the Fish & Game Department.

In closing, he inquired about Caldwell Pond and it having no access due to the road not being passable at this time.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy reported that things were quiet in Coos County this month. He reported that he did receive comments about the lack of deer sightings.

COMMISSIONER MCGONAGLE: Commissioner McGonagle reported that the Department's Christmas Party was great! He reported that he attended the Lancaster Biennial Hearing this month and met with Conservation Officers at Region 2.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Commissioner Ryan reported that he attended the Department's Christmas Party, the Lancaster Biennial Hearing, attended the Climate Change Seminar in Greenland, and attended the Water Sustainability Meeting.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse reported that he received the usual seasonal calls and received some comments about coyotes from deer hunters.

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she attended the Wildlife Federation Meeting, the Department Christmas Party, the Guide's Banquet, and the Lancaster Biennial Hearing. She reminded Commissioners to routinely check the department's website for any upcoming meeting and hearing notices, etc.

In closing, Commissioner Guaraldi welcomed and reminded everyone that there was a retirement party being held for Chuck Miner, Landowner Relations Coordinator on Thursday, December 22, 2011, at 2:00 p.m., in the East Conference Room, at Fish & Game HQ.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS: Director Normandeau thanked Dave Poole of the Guide's Association for the personal invite to the banquet and stated that he was unable to attend due to a prior engagement.

Director Normandeau reported that he visited Jones Pond with Scott Decker of the Inland Fisheries Division and a member of the Dam Bureau from the Department of Environmental Services (DES), to review the existing situation. The project will be contracted out as the Dam Bureau has a 10 year back log. The Dam Bureau will review the design and it will be stamped by the Engineer. He stated that he would be meeting with Bill Carney, former Merrimack County Commissioner, and other concerned parties next week.

He reported that the Sunapee Access project received a partial overturn on the shoreland permit. He stated that he hopes to move forward at a faster pace soon.

He reported that it was the 75th Anniversary of Pittman Robertson Act. He stated that not a great deal of people know about it, how it actually works, or the importance of those funds. He stated that you could obtain more information by going to their website at www.wsfr.75.com.

In addition, he reported that there was concern that cod may be being overfished in the Gulf of Maine. He stated that if this leads to a cod closure it could seriously impact the saltwater license sales.

In closing, he reported that Boundary Pond and Scott's Bog were both scheduled to be rebuilt in the spring of 2012.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

At this time, 4:06 p.m., Commissioner Phillipson moved to adjourn and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

James Ryan, Secretary

Approved: _____
Sharon Guaraldi, Chairman