

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

FISH AND GAME HEADQUARTERS, CONCORD, NH

MAY 16, 2007

Meeting Location: Fish and Game HQ, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301

Commissioners Present: T. Hubert, W. Morse, W. Carney, P. Costa, R. Rowan, R. Phillipson, M. Kalter, T. Tichy, S. Guaraldi, G. Normandeau and S. Nottonson.

Commissioners Absent: N/A

Executive Director Perry - present

The Chairman 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 the public may speak on any item on the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

1.) Commissioner Carney moved to approve the April 18, 2007 Commission Minutes with the following revisions and Commissioner Nottonson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Revisions:

(Page 4, under Commissioner Hubert's report)

He further reported that Sullivan County *has identified* a potential new 77- acre pheasant site on the Charlestown/Claremont border, *however, approval has not been received for that yet.*

(Page 5, under Commissioner Costa's report)

In closing, she reported that she received a call *from a young constituent from Gilford* inquiring as to why Walmart in Gilford has not received the latest saltwater fishing digest.

2.) Colonel Gray presented 2006 Conservation Officer of the Year Awards and 2006 Life Saving Medal Awards.

Colonel Gray announced that Irving "Chip" Joseph was the recipient of the Shikar Safari Club International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award. He reported that Chip was a 24-year veteran of the Law Enforcement Division, who was recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant. During his tenure, Chip has served as a search and rescue team leader, a field training officer, served on the Conservation Officer Trainee Oral Interview Board, a member of the dive team, team leader and organizer of the division's honor guard, which serves at special functions around the state.

In addition, Chip took on the role of team leader for the division's airboat, assisted in acquiring the boat and outfitting it for the special purpose of search and rescue.

In closing, Colonel Gray stated that throughout his tenure, Chip has exemplified the strong work ethic that we like to see in a Conservation Officer. He displays a very professional image of himself and the agency, and his accomplishments in community policing and public relations are exemplary as well. He presented Sergeant Joseph with the award and the audience applauded.

Colonel Gray announced that the second award to be presented was the 2006 Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Chief's Association Conservation Office of the Year Award. He announced that Lieutenant Kevin Jordan was the recipient of the award. He reported that Kevin was a 32-year veteran of the Law Enforcement Division and came to the department with prior law enforcement experience. He reported that Kevin conducts himself in an exemplary manner in promoting himself and the department. He stated that Kevin became a critical incident response team program leader, was a member of the search and rescue team for many years and still performs in that capacity, and in 2004 he was promoted to Lieutenant. Colonel Gray stated that Kevin exemplifies what's best in a professional supervisor and leads by example, with a strong work ethic in his ability to motivate others. Since becoming a Lieutenant, he has greatly enhanced the District 5 standing with regard to community policing and public relation initiatives. He presented Lieutenant Jordan with the award. The audience applauded.

Colonel Gray announced he would be presenting Life Saving Awards to Conservation Officers who were involved in unexpected search and rescue initiatives that resulted in two lives being saved. The Colonel reported that these incidents happened at the Lake Francis Inlet and were related to snowmobiles crossing on thin ice. He explained that on February 18, 2006, Lieutenant Douglas Garlenski, Officers Chris Eagan and Delayne Brown were checking fishermen on Lake Francis in the Town of Pittsburg, New Hampshire. At that time, the officers were approached by a snowmobiler who was waving frantically and reported that his friend had broken through the ice while riding on his snowmobile. The victim was submerged up to his armpits and was unable to get up onto the ice without assistance. After two attempts, the victim was able to grab the safety device thrown and was pulled through the thin ice and onto shore by all involved.

In addition, during this same rescue, the report of a second snowmobile breaking through the ice was received. Officer Brown stayed with the first subject while Lieutenant Gralenski and Officer Eagan went to assist in rescuing the second victim who was still in the water, clinging onto the edge of the ice. Upon arrival to the scene, the victim was pulled to shore with the assistance of all parties involved and was transported to a camp nearby and then transported to the hospital for further observation. Colonel Gray presented the three officers with Life Saving Medals and stated, "Undoubtedly had the officers not been there and not been well trained in how to quickly and effectively conduct a rescue, both lives of these individuals would have been lost. The audience applauded.

Colonel Gray stated that the Search and Rescue Mission of the Department would be almost impossible to accomplish without the assistance and support of a variety of volunteer

state and federal agencies. He recognized 2 organizations that have been instrumental in assisting the department with search and rescue missions and have been an intricate part in saving lives.

The first award given was to the New Hampshire Army National Guard 1159th Medical Company. He reported that this company has a long standing history in assisting the department with helicopters and support services on a variety of search and rescue missions and is something the department is forever grateful for. He continued to say that their level of professionalism and capabilities are outstanding under the worst of weather conditions. The audience applauded.

The second award given was to the New England Canine Search & Rescue Volunteers, founded by Nancy Lyon. Colonel Gray recognized this organization and stated that they have been crucial to many successes involving search and rescue. He reported that his relationship with this organization goes back over 20 years. He continued to say that these volunteers are not being paid and do this out of the goodness of their hearts. The audience applauded.

3.) Chairman Normandeau reported that this item would take place at a future Commission Meeting as the recipient of the award was not able to attend the meeting.

4.) Much discussion took place relative to the boundary descriptions for area restrictions on Berry Brook and fishway closure. Commissioner Kalter stated that he had some concerns relative to closing that water to the public. Commissioner Carney moved to table this item until Sandy Falicon, Legislative/Rules Coordinator returned from a meeting for clarification purposes and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) Commissioner Carney moved to approve the Moose Lottery/Permit Proposals as presented and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Tichy moved to approve the WMU-D Deer Season Proposal as presented and Commissioner Carney seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Kalter moved to approve the WMU-M Deer Season Proposals as presented and Commissioner Costa seconded. The motion was defeated with 3 in favor and 6 opposed. Commissioner Nottonson commended staff for moving forward with the proposal to take a second deer either using a Unit M Tag or Special Archery Tag before having to register the first deer taken in WMU –M. Officer Jordan spoke to the fact that landowners have posted land due to the influx of hunters. He further stated that he had safety concerns allowing hunters to take 2 deer before tagging the first. Colonel Gray echoed the safety concerns for loosening the tagging restrictions. Commissioner Rowan agreed with those concerns.

Commissioner Phillipson moved to approve the Long Island Deer Permit Proposals as presented and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Carney moved to approve WMU-A Deer Season Proposals as presented and Commissioner Tichy seconded. The vote carried with 8 in favor and 1 opposed (S. Nottonson). Commissioner Phillipson stated, “The North Country people want this”.

Commissioner Carney reported that the Adhoc working group put a great deal of time and effort into these recommendations and felt they should not be picked apart. He further stated, "I'd like to stick with the 2 point restriction". Commissioner Guaraldi stated that she agreed and felt it would be difficult to see the 3 points unless the hunter is hunting from a treestand.

Commissioner Nottonson stated that he would vote for the 3-point restriction and not reduce the season.

Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, introduced Lieutenant Doug Garlenski and announced that he would be providing the overview of the baiting proposals. Lt. Gralenski reported that baiting has been a hot topic item this past legislative session. He stated that these rules would offer a little of everything in moderation. He stated that the intent is to consolidate all baiting rules under Fis 307, as a house cleaning measure and to make them easier to understand. At this time, Commissioner Phillipson moved to approve the baiting rules as presented and Commissioner Carney seconded. After much discussion, Commissioner Tichy proposed an amendment to the proposal, Commissioner Phillipson moved to amend his original motion, with Commissioner Carney rescinding his second, to include the April 1st deadline for applications by guides and individuals, with guides being allowed to have up to 3 bait sites per Wildlife Management Unit, provided that no person shall have more than 1 bait site per parcel of State-Managed land, and a minimum of a ½ mile radius between sites on state managed land, and Commissioner Tichy seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Daniel Lynch, Assistant Director, provided the monthly financial statement dated April 30, 2007. (see attached)

2.) This item was tabled last month pending the following presentation: Peter Bowman, Ecologist, Natural Heritage Bureau, provided an overview of the proposed rare plant and exemplary natural community survey on the Ellis Hatch Wildlife Management Area. Peter reported that the survey involves a landscape analysis, field data collection, data analysis management, and report writing and mapping of the rare plants identified from the survey. He reported that the bulk of the contracted help is with the Nature Conservancy, providing ecological services. He informed the Commission that the cost would be \$8,400 for these services and would most likely take place in July and August of 2007. At this time, Commissioner Carney moved to approve the proposed rare plant and exemplary natural community survey on the Ellis Hatch Wildlife Management Area and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

3.) Director Perry reported that there was some uncertainty relative to the budget with the legislature. He reported that there has been some serious discussions regarding eliminating some dedicated accounts. He stated that the department offered one alternative relative to the Game Management Account, whereby the implementation of the Game Management Account consolidates the waterfowl, turkey, bear, and moose accounts into one account. The department has proposed that some of that money be foregone as revenue into the dedicated accounts and be kept as unrestricted Fish and Game funds for a period of time. That doesn't seem to be solving the concerns. He continued to report that in many of the accounts we are banking current year revenue. In closing, Director Perry reported that we are still in discussion with the Finance and

the Senate, and stated that he would keep the Commission abreast of the next few weeks discussions.

4.) Steve Perry, Chief, Inland Fisheries Division, provided an overview of the proposed changes to administrative rules relative to fishing. (see attached)

Commissioner Phillipson stated, "In regards to Dublin Lake, this is right in line with what people want".

At this time, Sandy Falicon, Rules/Legislative Coordinator, returned from her meeting to address the questions to Action Item #4 that was tabled earlier in the meeting. Commissioner Carney moved to take the item off the table for discussion and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Sandy explained that there was a change in the language, that being to change Rte 1A Bridge to Brackett Road Bridge. Commissioner Kalter moved to approve Action Item #4 changing the Rte 1A bridge to read Brackett Road Bridge and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, recognized Eric Orff, Furbearer Biologist, for receiving The New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2007 Professional Achievement Award. Steve stated that he has a true passion for and dedication to wildlife and he effectively communicates this passion to a wide variety of audiences. He is especially proud of the relationship that he has been able to build with sportsman and they have responded in kind. He was voted the NH Wildlife Federation Sportsman of the Year in 1998 and the Nashua Fish and Game Outstanding Biologist and friend to NH trappers and Hunters in 2006. He is a prolific writer and contributes many articles to popular outdoor publications, as well as keeping a wildlife diary on his own website. In 2004, the New England Outdoor Writers Association named him the Dick Cronin Sportsman of the Year.

Judy Stokes, Chief, Public Affairs Division, recognized Dr. Judy Silverberg for receiving the John Pearce Memorial Award, an award that is annually given to a distinguished professional in the Northeast that has made significant contributions to the wildlife profession. Judy reported that she has been the Supervisor of Wildlife Education Programs at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department since 1985.

In addition, Judy Stokes reported that Judy has been a leader in New England's environmental education community at the state, regional, and national levels during her 30+ years in the field, was the founder and Chairman of the New Hampshire Environmental Educators; served on the board of the New England Environmental Education Alliance; and is a member of the National Association for Interpretation and the North American Association for Environmental Education. Further, she reported that Judy has received various awards including the New England Environmental Education Alliance Award (1990), Project WILD Director's Award for Excellence in Teaching (1991), the Howard I. Wagner Award for Outstanding Contributions in Science Education in New Hampshire (1997), and the New England Environmental Education Alliance Presidents Award for long term contributions in the field of environmental education (2003). She also developed New Hampshire's 'Watchable Wildlife

Program' and authored the state's Wildlife Viewing Guide, she serves as an instructor at several area colleges including Plymouth State, Granite State College, and Antioch New England Graduate School, and last but not least, she initiated the New Hampshire Education and Environment Team which provides ongoing teacher professional development, including a summer institute and graduate courses.

Dan Lynch, Assistant Director, announced that Judy Stokes recently completed her Master's of Science Degree in Communications from Syracuse University and graduated with a 3.96 grade point average.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner R. Phillipson, Chair; Commissioners; Nottonson, Kalter, Hubert, and Costa. Commissioner Phillipson reported that there was no meeting this month, therefore, no report.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner S. Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Carney, and Morse. Commissioner Guaraldi reported that there was no meeting this month.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to ratify the e-mail vote on HB-653, relative to the determination of benefits, funding, and administration of the New Hampshire retirement system, with 6 Commissioners responding in favor, 2 abstentions, and 3 no responses, Commissioner Rowan seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to ratify the e-mail vote on HB-665, relative to the comprehensive shoreland protection act, with 6 Commissioners responding in favor, 2 abstentions, and 3 no responses, Commissioner Rowan seconded. The motion carried.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Morse; Commissioner Morse stated there was nothing new to report.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Kalter; Commissioner Kalter reported that the committee last met on April 27, 2007 and is focusing on the same issues.

REVENUE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Nottonson, Chair; Commissioners Morse and Guaraldi. Commissioner Nottonson reported that there was no meeting, therefore, no report.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she attended the training provided by the Attorney General's Office relative to the Administrative Procedures Act and thought it was very informative. She further reported that she has received calls inquiring as to when the Department was anticipating replacing the dam at the Ellis Hatch Wildlife Management Area and asked that it be put on a future agenda.

COMMISSIONER ROWAN: Commissioner Rowan reported that has received calls relative baiting issues as well. He further reported that he attended the Administrative Procedures Act Training provided by the Attorney General's Office and found it very beneficial. In addition,

Commissioner Rowan reported that he attended the Trapper Education Class held at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Facility and reported that it was an excellent program and felt staff should be commended for their work.

COMMISSIONER NOTTONSON: Commissioner Nottonson reported that he was reviewing a Licensing Agent Agreement and further stated that the agreement does not talk about grandfathering. He stated that he felt it was inconsistent with RSA 214:7, which clearly states that the Executive Director has all responsibility to make any changes to any type of agreement. He continued to stated that he felt the agreement should be amended and cleaned up to reflect current action going on today.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy stated that he had nothing substantial to report at this time.

COMMISSIONER COSTA: Commissioner Costa reported that she annually attends the St. Charles School Fishing Day, which she was unable to do this year due to the excessive floods, as the dam was lost and there is no longer a pond to take the kids fishing. She further reported that she attended Discover Wild New Hampshire Day, which was great weather and thought it was well attended. She further reported that she attended the public hearing. In closing, she stated that she was looking forward to the Volunteer Recognition Cookout being held at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Facility in Holderness on June 23, 2007.

COMMISSIONER CARNEY: Commissioner Carney reported that he received baiting calls as well. He further reported that he attended the All Fish Exposition held at Fish and Game with over 400 people in attendance.

COMMISSIONER NORMANDEAU: Commissioner Normandeau departed the meeting early, therefore, no report.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON Commissioner Phillipson reported that things were quiet in Cheshire County.

COMMISSIONER KALTER: Commissioner Kalter reported that the local Trout Unlimited Chapter conducted a clean up day. He further reported that George Taylor's wife (Carol) of Taylor's Trading Post, Madbury, NH recently passed away.

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert reported that he attended the Attorney General's Office training as well and felt he left there with some good knowledge on how the Right-to-Know procedure works. He further reported that he attended the All Fish Exposition held at Fish and Game and found it to be very interesting.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse reported that he attended a Hunter Education Course held in Hillsborough. He further reported that there was a record turn out of turkey hunters this year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Perry reported that the performance audit was ongoing and informed everyone that there was a team working at Fish and Game Headquarters. He informed the Commission that the auditors would be contacting each of them to schedule an interview within the next few weeks.

He reported that New Hampshire hosted the Project Wild National Meeting, held at Purity Springs Resort, East Madison, NH, with folks in attendance as far away as Japan and Canada. He reported that it was the 25th Anniversary of Project Wild and the 100th Anniversary of Conservation Education in North America.

Director Perry reported that improvements at Pleasant Lake are moving forward in regards to developing a formal parking and staging area and should be completed in early summer. He further reported that the ramp would be replaced this fall.

He reported that the department would be going out to bid for the Winnisquam Project in the near future.

He reported that the Powdermill Hatchery improvements to the waterline are moving along with the intent to move the line to a deeper portion of the lake in order to kill parasites before making it to the hatchery.

He reported that the department received approval from the Department of Environmental Services to start work on the Big Bog Brook Project. He stated that it was deemed a medium risk.

In closing, he reported that the All Fish Exposition on May 5, 2007 was well attended with over 650 people in attendance with a great deal of vendors. Further, he reported that Discover Wild New Hampshire was a great success as well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At 5:05 p.m., Commissioner Guaraldi moved to adjourn and Commissioner Costa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Guaraldi, Secretary

Approved: _____
Glenn Normandeau, Chairman

Date: _____