

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

FISH AND GAME HEADQUARTERS, CONCORD, NH

JUNE 20, 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 Kalter moved to approve the May Commission Meeting Minutes with the following revisions and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

1. Page 2, 4th paragraph - ~~Garlenski~~ Gralenski
2. Page 2, 5th paragraph, add "warming" to "camp near by"
3. Page 3, 1st paragraph, ~~intrical~~ integral
4. Page 4, 2nd paragraph, ~~Garlenski~~ Gralenski

2a.) Commissioner Costa moved to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Epping Walmart, to support the upcoming Atlantic Flyway Council Meeting and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2b.) Commissioner Nottonson moved to accept a donation in the amount of \$565.41, from Welch's Gun Shop of Lebanon, to be utilized by the Operation Game Thief Program and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2c.) Commissioner Guaraldi moved to accept a donation in the amount of \$80.00, from Eastern Mountain Sports of Peterborough, to be utilized by the Broodstock Salmon Program and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

3.) Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, requested Commission participation in the drawing of the winner of Small Game Survey for the Ruger 10/22 rifle. Commissioner Guaraldi picked a piece of paper out of the basket with the #94 on it, belonging to Camille Thebault of Errol, New Hampshire. Congratulations Camille!

4.) Commissioner Phillipson moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$12,648 in class 050 (temporary services) and \$968 in class 060 (associated benefits) and \$3,000 in travel, from the Wildlife Habitat Account and Commissioner Costa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Commissioner Carney requested the department obtain clarification from the Attorney General's Office as to the use of travel monies from this account. Steve Weber responded that staff training is an integral component of management.

5.) Steve Weber reported that the department would not be purchasing birds from Valley Game Farm this year as bad weather conditions took their birds in New York. He reported that Full Flight Game Farm, Bernardston, Massachusetts would be providing the birds for a total cost of \$111,260.00. At this time, Commissioner Morse moved to approve the expenditure of \$111,260.00 for the purchase of 13,500 pheasants for the 2007 pheasant season and Commissioner Rowan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Commissioner Hubert questioned whether the birds would be full-flight and weigh between 2- 2 1/2 lbs. Steve Weber responded, "The department will be looking closely to make sure we are happy with the birds".

6.) Commissioner Kalter moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$400,420 for the operating budget for game management account for fiscal year 2008 and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Commissioner Guaraldi requested that the Commission be provided with quarterly updates relative to where the funds are being spent and the current balance in the account.

7.) Commissioner Carney moved to approve the donation of a conservation easement and possible ownership of selected parcels in Colebrook and Columbia, throughout the Connecticut River Northern Valley Project and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. It was determined that it would cost approximately \$7,500 to monitor the easement.

At this time, 2:01 p.m., Chairman Normandeau stated, "Now comes Glenn Normandeau, Chairman, New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission, and move the Commission during its meeting of June 20, 2007, to hold a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a). In support hereof, movant respectfully represents as follows:

1. On June 18, 2007, the Department received a copy of a document accompanying a letter from Mr. David M. Carney of Hancock, NH, which purports to be a "formal petition for injunctive relief under New Hampshire RSA-91-A, Section 7."

2. In the Petition Mr. Carney makes allegations about the Town of Hancock and its conservation commission with respect to acquisition of certain land in Hancock.

3. The Petition requests that the Hillsborough County Superior Court enter orders enjoining the Commission and the State of New Hampshire.

4. The Commission should hold a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II(e) to meet with counsel to the Commission and the Department to discuss the Petition because the Petition is a “pending claim or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed” against the Commission. RSA 91-A:3, II(e).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 20, 2007

Glenn Normandeau, Chairman
NH Fish & Game Commission

Commissioner Kalter seconded. A roll call vote was taken of all Commissioners present: Commissioner Hubert, "Yes", Commissioner Kalter, “Yes”, Commissioner Phillipson, "Yes", Commissioner Carney, “Yes”, Commissioner Costa, “Yes”, Commissioner Tichy, “Yes”, Commissioner Nottonson, “Yes”, Commissioner Morse, “Yes”, Commissioner Rowan, “Yes”, Commissioner Guaraldi, “Yes”, and Chairman Normandeau, “Yes”.

At this time, 2:57 p.m., Commissioner Guaraldi moved to come out of a nonpublic session and Commissioner Kalter seconded. A roll call vote was taken of all Commissioners present: Commissioner Hubert, "Yes", Commissioner Kalter, “Yes”, Commissioner Phillipson, "Yes", Commissioner Carney, “Yes”, Commissioner Costa, “Yes”, Commissioner Tichy, “Yes”, Commissioner Nottonson, “Yes”, Commissioner Morse, “Yes”, Commissioner Rowan, “Yes”, Commissioner Guaraldi, “Yes”, and Chairman Normandeau, “Yes”.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Daniel Lynch, Assistant Director, provided the monthly financial statement dated May 31, 2007. (See attached)

Commissioner Nottonson stated that he felt the current licensing agreement with agents requires revising.

2.) Ed Robinson, Waterfowl Biologist, gave an overview of the early season waterfowl recommendations. Ed reported that the early season waterfowl hearing was scheduled for June 20, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., at Fish and Game HQ, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord. Ed stated, “Waterfowl regulations are exempt from state driven administrative rules processes”. He reported that there are early season recommendations that include seasons for crows, sea ducks, resident Canada geese, youth waterfowl, snipe and woodcock. He further reported that given recently expressed interest in moving the woodcock season later, the department is proposing to open 5 days later (Oct 6) so the season can open on a Saturday and close on a Sunday, and then to extend the snipe season to provide for a consistent closing date (with woodcock). Other duck and goose seasons are in the late season package that will be done in August. (See attached for proposed migratory game bird seasons.)

3.) Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, stated that the Game Management Team would like to initiate a broad survey of hunters to determine hunter opinions and preferences on different issues, options and hunting methods to achieve the goals and objectives of existing species management plans. Steve stated that he was not asking for approval of funding at this time, however, did want to determine if some members of the Commission would be interested in participating in the design and implementation of the survey. Steve stated that there were several reasons for conducting the survey. He stated the department is often in the position of promulgating regulations that benefit the majority of hunters, without the benefit of always knowing what the majority really wants. With all the changes occurring in the hunter demographics and participation, it is important to have an up-to-date understanding of hunter views and opinions. In addition, the proposed survey will also provide us with the opportunity to re-establish a closer link with hunters by sharing the results and creating what could become an ongoing dialogue.

Commissioner Phillipson thought this was a good idea and stated, "I am willing to be a part of this". He stated that magazines have surveys in them all the time. Commissioner Carney stated that he thought this was a good idea as well as the department has lost contact with sportsmen. Commissioners Hubert, Phillipson, Carney, Rowan, Morse, and Nottonson all agreed to assist the Game Management Team in the creation of the survey.

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.

The subject of voting via e-mail was discussed at length and it was determined that a policy needs to be derived in order for the full Commission to follow proper procedures.

After much discussion and concern, Chairman Normandeau stated that the Policy Committee would be reviewing and developing a Policy Resolution to address methods of voting on emergency situations, such as legislative issues requiring an immediate position by the Commission.

Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the committee would be meeting in August or September to discuss issues/ideas that the Commission may want to bring before the Legislature.

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

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Kalter; Commissioner Kalter reported that the committee would be taking a site visit to Ossipee Natural Area to observe how it is being managed.

REVENUE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Nottonson, Chair; Commissioners Morse and Guaraldi. Commissioner Nottonson reported that that he received recommendations for the 2008 Hunting Digest and has forwarded them to Director Perry for consideration. He stated that he would like to see the hours of operations for check stations be inserted into the digest, mirroring the information on the website.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that the Wild Turkey Federation sponsored a Youth Fishing Day at Cheshire County Fish and Game Club recently with 40 kids in attendance. He reported that the department matched the trout donation of 200 and everyone had a great time.

COMMISSIONER KALTER: Commissioner Kalter reported that he received a letter regarding stocking policies, particularly in the southeastern part of the state.

COMMISSIONER CARNEY: Commissioner Carney reported that he received the same letter. He thanked Colonel Gray for handling a call that he received regarding a frantic woman who had a bear in her chicken pen. The woman called back and was very appreciative of the end result. He reported that he had received calls from woodcock hunters with their input on the season.

COMMISSIONER COSTA: Commissioner Costa reported that she attended a very successful “Women On Target” event held at the Cheshire County Fish and Game Club. She stated that there were no injuries and everyone had a great day. She stated that she was sorry she wouldn’t be around for the next event in September as she would be out of State.

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert reported that he attended the Sullivan County Sportsmen’s meeting. He stated that during their next meeting they would be taking names of pheasant stocking volunteers. He reported that Ted Walski, Wildlife Biologist, Chuck Miner, Landowner Relations Coordinator, and Officer Brian Suttmeier would be in attendance at the upcoming meeting as well.

He further reported that the Sullivan County Sportsmen’s Club, along with the local chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation, would be holding a Youth Fishing Derby at former Fish and Game Commissioner Donald Clarke’s home, Chestnut Street, Claremont, on Saturday, June 23, 2007, from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. He reported that there were approximately 70 children that participated last year and had a great time.

In addition, Commissioner Hubert brought forward another potential item for the Policy Committee to review/investigate. He stated that as a result of his audit interview, he felt that the Commission needs clarification as to whether are fulfilling their statutory obligations, such as the right to know law, and whether the Commission is providing enough financial oversight to the department based on statutes.

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she has received calls from local clubs regarding legislative issues relative to ATV's and that they feel they would like more opportunity to ride if they are going to continue to pay registration fees. In closing, Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the registration for the Fall Becoming an Outdoor Woman Program was open and available online at: www.nhbow.com. She reported that the event would take place the weekend immediately following Labor Day.

COMMISSIONER ROWAN: Commissioner Rowan reported that he has received nuisance beaver calls. In addition, he reported that he received 3 calls regarding the Ellis Hatch Wildlife Management Area. He reported that he took it upon himself to walk the property and could see their concerns. He questioned what the plans were for that area.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse reported that he has heard from OHRV people who are upset and feel they are not getting much for their money.

COMMISSIONER NOTTONSON: Commissioner Nottonson reported that he received a call regarding a potential tame Bob White and suggested the woman call Law Enforcement to obtain further information. He further reported that he would be in attendance for the Hunter Safety Recognition Awards on Saturday, June 23, 2007, at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Facility in Holderness.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy reported that he has received letters and phone calls regarding stocking issues. He reported that the referred calls to Regional Biologist, Dianne Emerson for addressing. He announced that he would not be seeking re-nomination for Coos County Fish and Game Commissioner. He stated that he has enjoyed being a Commissioner for many years, however, feels he does not have the adequate time to put into the job, however, would like to still stay active.

GLENN NORMANDEAU: Commissioner Normandeau, on behalf of the Commission, stated that Commissioner Tichy would be missed. He reported he has received calls regarding lobster trap tags arriving late.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Perry was attending an important meeting, therefore, Assistant Director Dan Lynch reported the following in his absence:

Dan reported that there would be a recognition event held for Hunter Education and Aquatic Education Volunteers on June 23, 2007, at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Facility in Holderness.

He further reported that the Performance Audit was still ongoing and that interest remains in the legislature to see the audit results sometime in November or December, 2007.

He stated that the department is working with the Financial Disclosure Form for volunteers to make them exempt from having to file.

In addition, Dan reported that bids were received from 3 out of 12 firms who indicated interest in the Lake Winnisquam Access Project. He reported that low bid was \$1.4 million dollars and was awarded to a company out of Ashland called Latulippe.

Dan stated that work was set to start at Powdermill on July 9, 2007 and reported that the boat ramp would be closed for the months of July and August for necessary repairs to be completed.

At this time, Commissioner Phillipson moved to cancel the July 2007 Commission Meeting, unless something arises that requires the Commission's immediate attention, and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dan Lynch inquired as to the Executive Director selection process and that status of that. Chairman Normandeau responded that the decision was in Governor Lynch's hands and that the Commission was hopeful to hear something in the near future.

At 4:37 p.m., Commissioner Hubert moved to adjourn and Commissioner Nottonson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Guaraldi, Secretary

Approved: _____
Glenn Normandeau, Chairman

Date: _____