

**NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT**

**FISH AND GAME HEADQUARTERS, CONCORD, NH**

**AUGUST 15, 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

Acting Executive Director Clarke - present

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:04 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 may speak on any item on the agenda.

On behalf of the Fish and Game Commission, Chairman Normandeau introduced and welcomed Acting Executive Director Donald Clarke to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. He informed the audience that Don was not unfamiliar with the department, as he was the former Sullivan County Commissioner, prior to Commissioner Hubert.

Director Clarke thanked Commissioner Normandeau for the introduction. He stated that he is getting to know the folks around headquarters and learning the important work they do. He reported that he has been meeting with each Division Chief and/or Senior Staff member in their respective divisions, which gives him the opportunity to meet support staff from each division as well.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1.) Commissioner Phillipson moved to approve the June 20, 2007 Commission Minutes, with the following clarifications, and Commissioner Carney seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Page 2 of the June 20, 2007 Commission Minutes, #7, strike last sentence (~~It was determined that it would cost approximately \$7,500 to monitor the easement.~~) Replace it with following sentence, "An endowment is being established with the Office of Energy and Planning with a grant of \$7,500 from the Conservation Fund to provide funds for long-term monitoring of the tracts".

2.) Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, announced that the Waterfowl Hearing would take place on August 28, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., at Fish and Game Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.

In addition, Steve reported that there was 1,020 deer hunter mail surveys submitted this year. He requested Commission participation in the drawing of the .50 caliber Thompson Center

Omega Z5 muzzleloader and a .270 Ruger 77 to participants in the 2006 Deer Hunter Mail Survey. Acting Executive Director Clarke drew # 285, belonging to Bruce Knipstein, of Newfields, NH, winner of the Ruger, and Commissioner Costa drew # 408, the belonging to Alexander Lawn, of Hampton, NH, winner of the Thompson.

3.) Commissioner Costa moved to accept four donations, totaling \$7,459.07 from the Great Bay Stewards and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. These donations represent the profit from the Great Bay Discovery Center bookstore, the donation box and kayak program for 2006, and the materials and supplies for the educational programs held at the Great Bay Discovery Center.

4.) Commissioner Kalter moved to accept the donation of a computer and monitoring equipment from the State of Maine, valued at approximately \$20,156.49, in support of a multi-state smelt monitoring project through the The National Marine Fisheries Service and Commissioner Rowan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) Commissioner Tichy moved to accept the donation of \$50.00, from Michelle Angers and Thomas Dooley, in memory of Michelle's father, Raymond Angers, to the "Let's Go Fishing Program" and Commissioner Costa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

6.) Commissioner Phillipson moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$50,000, from the Fisheries Habitat Account, for the removal of the Homestead Wollen Mills Dam and Commissioner Carney seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. John Magee, Fisheries Biologist, explained that this dam is a barrier to the movement of upstream migrating fish, in particular to American shad, blueback herring and Atlantic salmon. He reported that the feasibility study had been completed and the proposed project was now in the design and permitting phase. He stated that the anticipated date for removal is the summer/fall of 2008.

7.) After a brief presentation by Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, and Lori Somer, Wetlands Bureau, Department of Environmental Services, Commissioner Hubert moved to accept the donation of a 274 acre parcel of land in the Town of Berlin, NH, from the United States of America, Federal Bureau of Prisons, and to accept a \$25,000 contribution for the management of state owned properties and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote carried with 10 in favor and 1 abstention. (T. Tichy)

8.) Commissioner Carney moved to accept the donation of \$100.00, from Howard Dickinson Jr., to be utilized by the Landowner Relations Program, to help fund the Cooperative Sign Program and Commissioner Nottonson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Chuck Miner, Landowner Relations Coordinator, reported that through the sign program Mr. Dickinson is able to maintain 800 acres of his property in Center Conway that remains open for hunting.

9.) Commissioner Phillipson moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$8,500 of Wildlife Legacy Initiative Funds, in support of the Landowner Relations Program, and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Chuck reported that the funds would support the following projects:

Recruit, train and recognize volunteers	\$1,000
Landowner's Guide to Liability Protection	\$1,000
Hunter's Guide to Landowner Relations	\$1,000
Anglers' Guide to Landowner Relations	\$1,000
Program outreach	\$1,000
Program database development	\$ 750
Ask First Access Initiative	\$ 750
Electronic communications	\$ 500
Saltwater Angler Access Initiative	\$ 500
Coheco River Angler Access Initiative	\$ 500
Pheasant Hunter Landowner Relations Initiative	\$ 500

10.) Commissioner Kalter moved to recognize the Great Bay Stewards, Inc, as an official non-profit partner of the Fish and Game Department and Commissioner Costa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. John Nelson, Chief, Marine Division, reported that the State of New Hampshire has assigned management responsibility of the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to the Fish and Game Department, to be administered by the Fish and Game Department's Marine Fisheries Division. He further reported that the agreement had been reviewed and approved by the Attorney General's Office regarding the day-to-day operations of the Great Bay Discovery Center, including the Great Bay Discovery Store located within the Great Bay Discovery Center.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1.) There was no financial statement presentation, however, the financial statement dated June 30, 2007 was provided to the Commission in hard copy. (see attached)

2.) Steve Perry, Chief, Inland Fisheries, provided an overview of the final proposal for fishing rules. (See attached). The three items that are not moving forward are:

1.) Proposal to allow a “barbed” hook to be used in those sections of rivers that have delayed harvest regulations.

2.) Not going to define a “cast of artificial flies” at this point.

3.) Department is withdrawing the “branching of a line” proposal for further discussions.

3.) This item was tabled until the September 12, 2007 Commission Meeting.

**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, however, he reported that there would be a 10:00 a.m. meeting prior to the Commission Meeting in September at Fish and Game Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner S. Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Carney, and Morse. Commissioner Guaraldi reported that there was an organizational meeting in August, prior to the Commission Meeting to discuss 2008 session expectations. She encouraged

all Commissioners to be in contact with their Representatives and Legislators. She further reported that the committee would be meeting on August 28, 2007, at 1:00 p.m., at Fish and Game Headquarters in Concord. In closing, Commissioner Guaraldi reported the committee would be meeting before the September Commission Meeting, time to be announced.

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

**LAKES COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Kalter; Commissioner Kalter reported that the committee visited the Ossipee Natural Area to observe how it was being managed and learned a great deal. In addition, he reported that he was named the Lakes Management Advisory Committee's representative to the 710 Commission, which is the commission to study issues relative to the practice of leasing state owned real estate on the shores of public waters. He announced that the first meeting would take place on Thursday, August 16, 2007.

**REVENUE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Nottonson, Chair; Commissioners Morse and Guaraldi. Commissioner Nottonson reported that he was looking forward to receiving a copy of the changes made to the hunting digest.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:**

**COMMISSIONER HUBERT:** Commissioner Hubert reported that there was no liaison meeting last month. He reported that he attended the Hunter Survey Committee Meeting and felt that it was made up of a good variety of people. He stated that he continues to work on the volunteer pheasant program. He further reported that he had received a call regarding the potential for having a bobcat season. In closing, he reported that he received calls from upset constituents regarding the shortening of the bear dog season.

**COMMISSIONER KALTER:** Commissioner Kalter reported that in July he attended and taught fly fishing lessons at Boundary Pond in Pittsburg, NH, to children who attended a trout camp sponsored by Great Bay Trout Unlimited. He stated it was a great success and reported that the children were very excited to see the Officers who came to check for fishing licenses, amongst them was Colonel Gray himself. Colonel Gray was in the audience and stated, "It was great to see the kids having fun and to see one of our own Commissioners out there."

**COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON:** Commissioner Phillipson reported that he continues to work on the Cheshire County Volunteer Pheasant Program and that people are more enthused than ever to get started. He stated that a meeting has been scheduled for September in order to make sure things are organized before the season starts.

**COMMISSIONER CARNEY:** Commissioner Carney reported that he received calls from Guides regarding the definition of "cast of flies". He stated that the signs are up at the Ellis Hatch Wildlife Management Area and thanked Commissioner Costa for purchasing a sign as her contribution. He reported that he and Rick Estes were able to put the signs up with some much-needed assistance from Conservation Officer Mark Hensel and Lieutenant Jim Goss.

**COMMISSIONER COSTA:** Commissioner Costa reported that she attended Director Perry's farewell celebration and thought it was a great party. She stated that she was happy to have Acting Director Don Clarke on board to fill in and to keep the department on an even flow. She further reported that she attended the Public Hearing and that the branching of fishing lines was a very hot topic. She reported that she received calls regarding the subject immediately. In closing, she reported that she would be attending an OHRV training class on Saturday with a relative.

**COMMISSIONER NORMANDEAU:** Commissioner Normandeau reported that the seacoast meetings would start up again the 1st Tuesday of September. He reported that he currently has spent a great deal of time on the Acting Executive Director search and related issues.

**COMMISSIONER TICHY:** Commissioner Tichy reported that most of his calls have stopped, most likely due to constituents hearing about his term expiring soon and him not seeking reappointment for Coos County Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER NOTTONSON:** Commissioner Nottonson reported that he was invited to attend an event on September 22, 2007, in Washington, D.C., to participate in a nominating committee meeting to select a Legislator of the Year. He reported that he would be able to nominate 1 Legislator from New Hampshire for the Legislator of the Year Award. He further reported that he attended an event sponsored by the Manchester Republican Committee, held at the Pelham Fish and Game Club, where there were approximately 350 people in attendance donating to Manchester GOP.

**COMMISSIONER ROWAN:** Commissioner Rowan reported that he had received a few calls this month regarding a variety of topics. He reported that he received one call from a constituent asking him to elaborate on his comments he made at the previous Commission meeting regarding nuisance beaver. He reported that another call was relative to rocksnot, aquatic nuisance algae, which he obtained some helpful information from the Region 1 biologist on. He reported that other calls received were relative to the changing of some fishing rules and a fish kill at Castle in the Clouds. A biologist from Region 2 provided some assistance to the Castle in the Clouds staff and it was determined that there were low oxygen levels and temperatures were too warm. In addition, he inquired as to the future of Owl Brook, particularly the vacant Hunter Education Coordinator position. Judy Stokes, Chief, Public Affairs, explained that interviews were taking place for the Hunter Education Coordinator position and that she hoped to have a candidate in the position in the very near future. He further inquired as to the status of the dam at the Ellis Hatch Wildlife Management Area and asked that the item be placed on the September Commission Agenda. He stated that he would like to initiate the process so the dam gets rebuilt and the pond gets restored.

**COMMISSIONER MORSE:** Commissioner Morse reported that he has been made aware of a nuisance fox problem on Long Island. He received a call from a landowner who reported that she had to pay to have it removed.

**COMMISSIONER GUARALDI:** Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she attended Director Perry's retirement party and felt there was good representation by the Commission. She stated

that everyone did a great job planning the event and thought Director Perry was happy with the attendance and touched by the many presentations made to him. She further reported that she has been referring routine calls to the proper sources for attention. She stated that her constituents are very happy overall with the increase of deer being seen in the area.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Acting Director Clarke reported that everyone has been kind and very cooperative in his first days on the job and looks forward to working with everyone. He further stated that his first intentions are to meet with Division Chiefs and Senior Staff to get know everyone and what they do. He reported that a tour would be scheduled in the near future to get more familiarized with the various Fish and Game Facilities and Regional Offices.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments heard.

At this time, Commissioner Hubert moved to go into a non-public 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".

Commissioner Carney moved to come out of the non-public session and Commissioner Guaraldi 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, 4:11 p.m., Commissioner Costa moved to adjourn and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Guaraldi, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Glenn Normandeau, Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_