

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

MARCH 19, 2008 COMMISSION MEETING

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

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

Commissioner Normandeau, Coastal Commissioner, recently resigned from the Commission.

Commissioners Absent: none

Acting Executive Director Clarke - present

Chairman Phillipson called the meeting to order at 1:02 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.

ACTION ITEMS

The financial statement was heard out of sequence due to the need for Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Support Services, to attend another meeting. Kathy provided the monthly financial statement dated February 29, 2008. (see attached)

1.) Commissioner Morse moved to approve the February 20, 2008 Commission Minutes with the following amendments and Commissioner Nottonson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Page 2, paragraph 5 - Commissioner Guaraldi asked Steve to leave the language, "Establish reciprocity with other states for participation in New Hampshire's youth weekend deer season", in the proposal to obtain public comment at the upcoming hearings. Steve agreed to do so.

Amended for clarification purposes to read - *Commissioner Guaraldi asked Steve to leave in the language of the current rule in order to obtain public comment relative to "Establishing reciprocity with other states for participation in New Hampshire's youth weekend deer season". Steve agreed to do so.*

Page 2, paragraph 7 - *Remove paragraph 7 as it was in duplicate.*

Page 2, last paragraph - Commissioner Tichy moved to approve the turkey season proposals as presented (see attached) leaving the language, "Archery draw weight reduction", in the proposal to be brought forward to public hearing and Commissioner Nottonson seconded. The vote carried with 9 in favor and 1 abstention. (G. Normandeau)

Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, stated that his recollection was that we did move forward with the recommendation to change the minimum draw weight to 30 pounds for turkey, however, we did not bring forward the proposal for judo points.

2.) At this time, Doug Grout, Acting Chief, Marine Division, read aloud a resolution honoring John I. Nelson, former Chief, Marine Division as follows:

Resolution honoring John I. Nelson

WHEREAS, *John I. Nelson, Chief of Marine Fisheries, retired on February 29, 2008, after completing outstanding service to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department since 1980; and*

WHEREAS, *John I. Nelson has had a long and illustrious career in fisheries management and conservation serving the State of New Hampshire, New England Region, and Atlantic Coast of the United States; and*

WHEREAS, *John I. Nelson received the Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Chemistry from St. Anselm's in 1967, a Masters of Science Degree in Zoology and Civil Engineering from the University of New Hampshire in 1968 and 1986 respectively, and a MBA from Rivier College in 1982; and*

WHEREAS, *John I. Nelson served in the New Hampshire Army National Guard as a staff sergeant and medic from 1968 to 1974; and*

WHEREAS, *John I. Nelson started his esteemed career as Principal Investigator of St. Anselm's College Institute for Research and Services, conducting power plant monitoring on the Merrimack River from 1967 to 1968; and*

WHEREAS, *John I. Nelson continued his career as Project Director for several monitoring programs, Project Manager, and Director of Piscataqua Marine Laboratory for Normandeau Associates from 1969 to 1980; and*

WHEREAS, *John I. Nelson began his leadership of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Marine Division as Senior Biologist for the Coastal Energy Impact Program, more commonly known as the Great Bay Monitoring Study, from 1980 to 1982; and*

WHEREAS, *John I. Nelson became Chief of the Marine Division in 1987 and under his leadership the Division has experienced exceptional growth and success in the conservation, regulation and promotion of the recreational and commercial use of the marine natural resources of the State of New Hampshire that meets the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishing industry of the Atlantic coast; and*

WHEREAS, *John I Nelson has demonstrated a fair, reasoned and balanced approach to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's responsibilities and in his representation on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and New England Fisheries Management Council for marine resources Atlantic coastwide; and*

WHEREAS, *John I. Nelson provided leadership for marine resources along the Atlantic Coast as Chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission from 2002 to 2004; and*

WHEREAS, *John I. Nelson earned the admiration and respect of his staff and colleagues at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, and the Marine Fisheries industry for his dedication, enthusiasm, professionalism, sense of humor and hard work;*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that the Acting Executive Director and Commission of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department hereby congratulate John I. Nelson on his retirement as Chief of the Marine Division of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marine Division, Acting Executive Director, and Commission of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department takes great pleasure in recognizing the significant professional achievements of John I. Nelson, and hereby express their sincere gratitude for his invaluable contributions made to the State of New Hampshire, and extend best wishes for many years of enjoyment with family, travel and retirement endeavors.

Donald Clarke, Acting Executive Director
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Robert Phillipson, Chairman
New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission

Commissioner Carney moved to adopt the above resolution as written and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Acting Director Clarke stated that John Nelson was a very dedicated employee who did a great deal for the department and the Marine Division. He stated, "He will be missed".

3.) Commissioner Costa moved to accept 9 limited edition, signed prints of "Shadow" by Victor Young, valued at \$2,587.50, along with associated framing costs and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Kevin Sullivan, Marine Division, reported that this was the sixth year that the Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire has donated these prints. He reported that the prints are used as an incentive for recreational anglers to participate in the survey, which allows the department to obtain beneficial data.

4.) Consent Agenda - The following items were grouped together and were noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, which may not require public discussion. Commissioner Tichy moved to approve the below donations as follows and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

4a.) Donation of \$15.00 from Michael Applegate, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations account for Wildlife Management purposes.

4b.) Donation of \$1,000 from Robert Potter and Roberta Arbree, to be deposited into the unrestricted Fish and Game Fund.

4c.) Donation of \$5,000 from the Meredith Rotary Club, to be utilized to support fisheries research and management activities.

5.) Julie Robinson, Wildlife Biologist, requested Commission participation to draw the winner of a CZ Bobwhite 20 gauge, donated by the Ruffed Grouse Society, from those individuals who participated in the 2007 Ruffed Grouse Wing and Tail Survey in the North Country.

Chairman Phillipson drew #16, belonging to Louis DeGray, Jr. of Pittsburg, NH. Julie reported that this was the 2nd full year of the survey with 112 samples submitted from 49 different hunters. She reported that the information provides age, sex, and distribution data, which is very beneficial in determining the grouse population in that area. The Commission thanked the Ruffed Grouse Society for their generosity.

6.) Cheri Patterson, Marine Fisheries Biologist, provided a presentation on the removal of the Winnicut River Dam and construction of fish passage under Rt. 33. The request was to expend up to \$100,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account for the removal of the dam. Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Carney stated that he had many concerns with the project, including the fact that the \$100,000 would be taken from the Fisheries Habitat Account and that Marine Fisheries contributes nothing to that fund. He further stated that he had a few questions for Steve Perry, Chief, Inland Fisheries Division, who was absent from the meeting today.

Commissioner Guaraldi stated that she would like to see the fund balance in that account prior to voting on this item.

Commissioner Tichy stated that the Commission made a motion some time ago requesting large expenditures be brought to the Commission at least 1 month in advance in order to allow adequate time to do the necessary research prior to voting on the item. He further stated that he had concerns with the Rt. 33 Bridge and it's deterioration underneath and could see potential for it to interfere with the project.

At this time, Commissioner Guaraldi moved to table the item until the April Commission Meeting, pending more information be provided to the Commission so they can make an informed decision and Commissioner Rowan seconded. The vote carried with 8 in favor and 1 opposed. (M. Kalter)

7.) After a lengthy presentation by John Magee, Fisheries Biologist, Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$20,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account for radio-telemetry work, to be used to provide better guidance for the Nash Stream Restoration Project and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Tichy asked that John provide a time-table of the project to the Commission.

John reported that from this research, it became apparent that wild and hatchery brook trout are making more extensive movements into and within the tributaries than anticipated.

8.) Commissioner Kalter moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$28,000, which will be reimbursed 100% with federal funds, in Fiscal years 2008 and 2009 from the Fisheries Habitat Account for fisheries research work at Nash Stream State Forest and Commissioner Carney seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

John reported that since 2005, much information has been collected on the habitat, water quality and fish in the Nash Stream Watershed. He stated that the project was to document whether or not two of the culverts in the watershed were passable by fish. He further reported

that the \$28,000 requested would be used to pay seasonal help, using the Fisheries Habitat Account to be reimbursed 100% with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service research grant funding.

9.) Commissioner Carney moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$42,000, which will be reimbursed 100% with federal funds, from the Fisheries Habitat Account for replacement of two stream crossings in the Nash Stream Watershed and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

John reported that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has given the department \$42,000 to specifically replace both culverts with crossings that are passable by fish. He stated that the restoration project would likely take 3-5 years to complete.

10.) Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, introduced Paul Doscher, of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Paul provided a very informative presentation on the proposed acquisition of a conservation easement of 2,100 acres of land in Clarksville, New Hampshire. He reported that the project is currently known as the Connecticut River Forest Project and includes 5 1/2 miles of frontage on the Connecticut River and associated uplands, which includes a significant deer wintering area.

Acting Director Clarke reported that he and incoming Director Glenn Normandeau met with Steve Weber, Steve Perry, and Paul Doscher and gave their support for the project.

Commissioner Carney moved to support the concept of the project, pending language in the management agreement, to expend up to \$60,000 from the Wildlife Habitat Account, up to \$70,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account, and up to \$120,000 from the Game Management Account, to be spent on the acquisition of a conservation easement of 2,100 acres of land in Clarksville and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) The financial statement was heard at the beginning of the meeting.

2.) Steve Weber provided an update on the Pheasant Account Expenditures. He reported that prices for pheasants this year have gone up significantly. He reported that prices per bird are \$8.92, up from an average price of \$8.24 last year. He stated that if the Commission wanted to change the number of birds ordered this year, that change would have to be made now. Much discussion ensued. It was decided to leave the number of pheasant ordered at 13,500 and to discuss what should be done for next year's season.

Commissioner Guaraldi thanked Steve for bringing this forward early enough and before it becomes a problem. She stated, "This will allow the Commission ample time to research the issue and to come up with a suitable solution for next year". Commissioner Nottonson, Hubert, and Phillipson echoed Commissioner Guaraldi's comments.

Kent Gustafson, Deer Project Leader, provided a brief presentation and handout to the Commission detailing modifications to the proposed deer season. (See attached)

LATE ACTION ITEMS:

- 1.) Commissioner Guaraldi moved to accept memorial donations totaling \$3,040.00 in memory of Laurence Frederickson, Jr., to be deposited into the Search and Rescue Account and Commissioner Costa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. (See attached list of donations).

- 2.) Commissioner Morse moved to accept a donation of \$500.00 from Eleanor Davis, to be deposited into the Search and Rescue Account, in recognition and thanks for the efforts to save the life of her son, Benjamin Davis, and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

LATE INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 1.) Major Acerno informed the Commission that Daniel Nutting of Orford, New Hampshire, is requesting a license suspension reduction hearing before the Commission at the April 16, 2008 Commission Meeting. He reported that Daniel Nutting lost his hunting license on February 20, 2002 as a result of a hunting related incident. The Commission concurred to allow Mr. Nutting to reconsider the length of the suspension after a 5-year period.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner T. Hubert, Chair; Commissioners; Nottonson, Kalter, Rowan, and Costa. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee met the morning of the March Commission meeting to discuss the issue of signage on Fish and Game owned lands. He reported that Charlie Bridges, Habitat & Diversity Coordinator, attended that meeting and provided some insight on how to approach getting proper signage. He reported that the committee may meet the morning of the April 16, 2008 Commission meeting to further discuss the issue. Time of meeting to be announced.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Carney, and Morse. Commissioner Guaraldi provided 2 handouts to the Commission. The handouts consisted of Fish and Game related bills scheduled for the week of March 24-28th and monitored legislation as of March 19th. In closing, she reported that things are moving along smoothly and would keep the committee posted if there was a need to meet next month.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Morse; Commissioner Morse reported that the committee met via teleconference due to inclement weather conditions on March 5, 2008. He reported that the topic was regarding a piece of property in Colebrook and stream gauging and the lack of funds.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Kalter; Commissioner Kalter reported that there was a presentation made to the committee regarding the Ossipee Natural Area. He stated that the committee discussed assisting the Department of Resources and Economic Development in compiling a management plan. He further reported that the next meeting would take place on March 28, 2008.

REVENUE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Nottonson, Chair; Commissioner Nottonson reported that the committee did not meet this month, therefore, no report.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Commissioner Rowan, Chair; Commissioners Carney and Kalter. Commissioner Rowan reported that the committee met the morning of the March meeting and continued to review the handbook. He reported that he distributed some of the findings to the Commission at last month's meeting and stated the review was still ongoing. He reported that the committee felt it would be beneficial to establish this committee as a standing committee to oversee the handbook and keeping it up to date. He listed many areas where the book was outdated and lacking recent policies and resolutions. He further reported that Commissioner Kalter has compiled a more user- friendly version of the handbook and welcomed the Commission to review it if they so wish.

In addition, he informed the Commission that the handbook states that the Commission will have 3 off site meetings per year, not including public hearings. He stated the he found no policy in the handbook that adopted this statement, therefore, questioned what standing it had and whether it should be revisited as well as many other inconsistencies.

Chairman Phillipson stated that he was impressed with the Handbook Committee and thanked them for the work they have done in a short timeframe.

Acting Director Clarke suggested having a meeting in the near future with the Handbook Committee, Judy Stokes and Tanya Haskell so everyone involved with the handbook in one way or another is aware of the changes and what is expected from this point forward.

At this time, Commissioner Carney moved to reconsider his motion made at the February 28, 2008 Commission Meeting regarding aerial stocking by helicopter of remote ponds in the North Country, with the funding to come from the un-appropriated Fish and Game Fund and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Carney moved to remove the words, "from the unappropriated Fish and Game Fund", and replace it with, "appropriated funds approved by the Executive Director and Chief of Inland Fisheries", and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. He further stated, "Nothing in this motion prevents this stocking from taking place".

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she has received calls relative to constituents seeing large number of deer. She further reported that ATV's are an ongoing issue and now riders have been made aware that they cannot ride on rail tracks as well. She further reported that she has received calls of concern for getting lands open for ATV use.

COMMISSIONER ROWAN: Commissioner Rowan reported that he received inquiries regarding what the department was planning to do regarding winter kill. He thanked Kent Gustafson for the update and now he can relay the plan that is in affect to mitigate the problem.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse reported that he needed to sit down with Steve Weber at some point to discuss high fence hunting as he received a call relative to that issue. He further reported that the ATV issue is ongoing statewide and hoped the department could do something to not lose revenue, as people are getting discouraged and may stop registering them.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy departed the meeting prior to Commissioner's comments.

COMMISSIONER NOTTONSON: Commissioner Nottonson departed the meeting prior to Commissioner's comments.

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert reported that it was a slow month. He reported that he attended the Sullivan County Sportsmen's meeting and encouraged people to attend the upcoming public hearings. He further reported that he took the time to study other state's websites and found New Hampshire's to be very user friendly and efficient.

COMMISSIONER KALTER: Commissioner Kalter reported that things had been fairly quiet this month. He reported that he did receive calls regarding the new incoming Director, mostly in support.

COMMISSIONER CARNEY: Commissioner Carney reported that he received a call from a woman with an injured deer in her yard and referred her to the Fish and Game dispatcher. He further reported that the recent informational fishing seminars held at headquarters have been very well attended, with standing room only. He thanked Judy Stokes, Chief, Public Affairs and Mark Beauchesne, Outreach Coordinator, and stated they did an excellent job in scheduling these events and suggested looking at holding the meetings at a larger facility in order to not turn people away.

COMMISSIONER COSTA: Commissioner Costa reported that she distributed her first official report as Commission Treasurer. She reported that she received a call regarding wild boar in the Sandwich area and the person wanted to know what the rules were for taking them. She stated that Mark Ellingwood, Wildlife Biologist, provided her with the necessary information to pass along and thanked him for that. She further reported that she received a call regarding the potential for a permit type hunt on Governor's Island, similar to the hunt on Long Island. Steve Weber responded that Kent Gustafson was working with the Governor's Island Association regarding that same issue.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that the Cheshire County Fish and Game Club has been holding, "Women-on-Target" programs and has held 3 to date that were very well attended. He reported that the club would be holding 2 more, June 14th and September 10th. He further reported that there was some desire to have a Hunter Education Class held for just women at the club. Judy Stokes responded that she felt it was a great idea and would be happy to discuss it further with him. He further reported that he has been in touch with the Youth Shooting Sports Alliance, who actively tries to get youth involved in shooting events.

He inquired whether the Commission felt it was a good idea to have the group come before the Commission and provide a presentation. The Commission felt it was a great idea and encouraged the Chairman to schedule the presentation at an upcoming meeting.

After much discussion regarding the motion from last month's meeting, it was agreed that the topic of "allowing a third unarmed person to assist the permittee and subpermittee in the moose hunt", be brought forward to public hearing for purposes of discussion.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Acting Director Clarke reported that Discover Wild New Hampshire Day would take place on April 26, 2008, at Fish & Game Headquarters. He stated that a paving project was planned for that particular weekend, however, Jeff Brillhart, from the Department of Transportation assured Director Clarke at a recent meeting that they would schedule the paving for an alternative date, not to interfere with Discover Wild New Hampshire Day. He further reported that he has spent some time with incoming Director, Glenn Normandeau, bringing him up to date on issues facing the department.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

At this time, 5:12 p.m., Commissioner Hubert moved to adjourn and Commissioner Carney seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Costa, Secretary

Approved: _____
Robert Phillipson, Chairman

Date: _____