

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

MAY 21, 2008 COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Location: Great Bay Discovery Center, 89 Depot Road, Stratham, NH

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

Commissioners absent: W. Morse

Coastal Commissioner: vacant

Executive Director Normandeau - present

Chairman Phillipson 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.

ACTION ITEMS:

1.) Commissioner Kalter moved to approve the April 16, 2008 Commission Minutes with the following amendment and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Page 8, insert after paragraph 5, “ Commissioner Nottonson verified with the Chairman that the process he took regarding his communication with the Council was acceptable”.

2.) Commissioner Costa moved to accept the donation of two Advanced Telemetry Systems, Inc., VHF bear collars, from Katie Callahan, valued at approximately \$546.00, for use in the Department’s bear research projects and Commissioner Carney seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

3.) Commissioner Kalter moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$10,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account for seasonal employees performing work related to the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture’s conservation strategies and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

4.) Commissioner Tichy moved to rescind the March 16, 2005 request to expend \$75,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account in order cover maintenance costs of four department owned dams and Commissioner Rowan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) Commissioner Kalter moved to accept a donation in the amount of \$17,500, from the Conservation Fund, to be utilized for easement monitoring and stewardship on behalf of Fish and Game and Commissioner Costa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

6.) Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the below donations totaling \$770.00, in memory of Roger Bellerose, to be utilized by the Barry Conservation Camp and Commissioner Carney seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Anne & Paul Smith, N. Chelmsford, MA -	\$50.00
Elaine & Gerald Tremblay, Merrimack, NH -	\$25.00
Patricia & Steven Costa, Ctr. Barnstead, NH -	\$30.00
Rhena & Richard Prince, Bedford, NH -	\$25.00
Barbara Brown, Hooksett, NH -	\$20.00
Ann & Norbert Emond, Hooksett, NH -	\$15.00
Rita Bellerose, Allenstown, NH -	\$30.00
Friends in Personal Market Info Mgmt, Danvers, MA -	\$100.00
Carol & Raymond Despres, Marlow, NH -	\$25.00
Patricia & Richard Moquin, Bedford, NH -	\$250.00
Pointers Fish & Game Club, Manchester, NH -	\$100.00
Sharon & Kevin Travis, Bedford, NH -	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total:	\$770.00

Commissioner Carney reported that prior to Roger departing for Ireland, they had a discussion about meeting to try and come up with a plan for providing cover over the porch of the Barry Camp Dining Hall. Bill reported that this was important to Roger and making it happen would be very meaningful.

7. (This item was tabled at the April 16, 2008 Commission Meeting) Chairman Phillipson reported that the Commission took a site visit to the Winnicut Dam the morning of the Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Kalter moved to approve the expenditure of \$100,000 over a two-year period, for the removal of the Winnicut Dam and Commissioner Rowan seconded. Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Kalter stated that he strongly supports the project and feels it is a great opportunity. Commissioner Carney stated that he felt it was unfair to run this project through Fisheries Habitat Account Funds.

Commissioner Carney moved to amend the motion, reducing the expenditure to \$50,000 and Commissioner Tichy seconded. Commissioner Tichy stated, "Cheri, great job, however, I'm not totally convinced as there are many questions that can't be addressed today and this is a big money project." The amendment to reduce the expenditure to \$50,000 carried with 5 in favor and 3 opposed. (S. Guaraldi, R. Rowan, M. Kalter).

The vote was unanimous to authorize the reduced expenditure of \$50,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account for the removal of the Winnicut River Dam and construction of fish passage under Rt. 33. Commissioner Phillipson stated that Cheri would now be required to come back before the Commission next year requesting the additional \$50,000.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Support Services, provided the monthly financial statement dated April 30, 2008. (See attached). She reminded the Commission to submit their travel expenses in a timely fashion, as to avoid fiscal year end deadlines.

Commissioner Phillipson inquired as to how many hunting and fishing licenses were sold at Discover Wild New Hampshire Day. Kathy responded that she would provide that information to the Commission at the June Meeting.

Commissioner Tichy suggested selling hunting and fishing licenses at State Fairs. He stated that there is much interest for it and felt the department could benefit.

2. Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, provided an update on proposed changes to the Threatened & Endangered Species List. (See Attached) Steve reported that the public hearing would be held on July 9, 2008, at 6:30 p.m., at Fish and Game Headquarters in Concord.

Commissioner Tichy stated that he had some concerns with the Eastern Timber Wolf being on the endangered list. Steve responded that he did not see it having any impact on timber sales.

3. Doug Grout, Acting Marine Chief, thanked everyone for coming on the morning tour of the Winnicut Dam. He reported that the Commission had good questions and stated that he hoped to have them back to see the free flowing river once the dam is finally removed.

Doug provided an update on the proposed amendments relative to the size of lobster taken from various management areas. He stated that the amendments would make us compliant with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Fisheries Management Plan for lobsters. He reported that there would be a public hearing on June 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., at the Portsmouth Public Library. (See attached)

4. Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, provided notification of dedicated accounts operating budgets for FY'2009 to the Commission. (See attached)

STANDING COMMITTEES:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner T. Hubert, Chair; Commissioners; Nottonson, Kalter, Rowan, and Costa. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee has not met since last month. He stated that there were two issues to be reviewed, handbook committee investigations, and the date of election of officers. Commissioner Rowan reported that a nominating committee should be appointed at the May Commission Meeting in order to have names brought forward for a vote at the June Commission Meeting.

Chairman Phillipson appointed Commissioner Hubert to Chair the committee, with Commissioners Tichy and Guaraldi serving on it as well.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Carney, and Morse. Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the committee did not meet this

month. She announced that it is not too soon to start thinking about 2009. She suggested forwarding any potential legislative initiatives to either Sandy or herself.

Sandy Falicon, Rules/Legislative Coordinator, reported that there have been some amendments made to the Mosquito Policy and the Volunteer Bill, however, both are almost complete. She reported that she would keep the Commission updated on the status.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Morse; Commissioner Morse was absent, therefore, not report.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Kalter; Commissioner Kalter reported that the committee has been putting the final edits on a book called, "Guidelines for Coordinated Lakes Management and Shoreline Protection Plan". He reported that it is basically a how to do guide to assist Lakes that do not have a management plan go through the management process. He further reported the HB-710 Commission continues to meet and has broken up into several sub-committees and he is on the Public Access and Water Quality committees. In closing, he reported that July 1, 2008 is the date for the Shoreline Protection Act to go into affect.

REVENUE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Nottonson, Chair; Commissioner Nottonson reported that the committee did not meet. He reported that he has not received any comments or suggestions from the Commission relative to the hunting digest.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Commissioner Rowan, Chair; Commissioners Carney and Kalter. Commissioner Rowan reported that the committee did meet this month. He provided the Chairman with a draft version of the updated handbook, disks containing the text for the Director and Division Chiefs, and asked for feedback. He further reported that the committee suggests including the topic of "Old Business" on the Commission Agenda to address issues that are still pending or have not been resolved. Another recommendation was to mark the minutes posted on the website as "Draft" until approved by the Commission.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that it was a busy month. She reported that she attended the Enfield Outing Club and thanked Director Normandeau, Major Acerno, and Officer Dakai for attending and answering questions. She further reported that she recently attended the Wildlife Federation Meetings. She announced that people are signing up for the Fall Becoming an Outdoor Woman Program. She further reported that there was a bill being introduced in Missouri for reimbursement for animal/vehicle collisions and had some concern for that.

COMMISSIONER ROWAN: Commissioner Rowan reported that he worked traffic control at Discover Wild New Hampshire Day and thought it was a great event. He stated that he received a call in regards to an ATV driver under the influence and reported it to Law Enforcement. He reported that the Winni-Derby was very successful and anglers were happy taking good quality fish.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse was absent, therefore, no report.

COMMISSIONER NOTTONSON: Commissioner Nottonson reported that he spoke with Ron Colburn, Savage Arms, who stated they are very interested in having a positive effect on youth coming into shooting sports. He further reported that Steve Miller, Youth Shooting Sports Alliance, would be attending the June 18, 2008 Commission Meeting to provide an overview of the program.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy reported that he had discussions with landowners regarding access to northern sites. He inquired about Success Pond and Head Pond. Kathy responded that she would get back to him with the answers to his questions. He reported that the owners of Head Pond were interested in seeing the department obtain access to the pond. He thanked staff for their coordinated efforts in delivering fish to more than one site per trip, which is more economical and will save the department money in the long run. He further suggested having the department contact GM regarding the new Tahoe Hybrid vehicles and the potential for contracting with the department and giving GM free publicity around the state. He stated that energy conservation is a big concern for everyone and maybe the department and GM could come to some sort of agreement or contract.

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert reported that he received calls from turkey hunters complaining about the fee structure. In addition, he reported that he did speak with some happy youth turkey hunters. He asked the Commission to contact him if they would like to nominate a fellow Commissioner for an office. In closing, he personally thanked Commissioner Carney for all his efforts during his tenure as Merrimack County Commissioner and stated, "You will be missed."

COMMISSIONER KALTER: Commissioner Kalter reported that the Cochecho River Field Day was a great success with Director Normandeau participating, many employees from the department, and a great turn out of volunteers. He reported that the day consisted of collecting debris, installing new easement signs, and demonstrations on water testing, just to mention a few. He received glowing reports from the recreational fishermen who appreciate the department's efforts. He stated that trail and parking improvements are ongoing.

COMMISSIONER CARNEY: Commissioner Carney reported that he received calls from turkey hunters complaining about the fee structure.

He requested that Chairman Phillipson forward the issue of the establishment of a Salt Water Guide's License, required by law, to the Commission's Policy Committee to address the issue.

Commissioner Phillipson asked the Policy Committee to address the issues and report back to the full Commission.

Commissioner Carney thanked everyone and stated it was a pleasure to work with them on the Commission.

COMMISSIONER COSTA: Commissioner Costa reported that she received fish stocking questions and calls from happy anglers as well. She reported that she attended the Pointer's Annual Banquet, Colonel Gray's Retirement Party, visited the Veteran's Home, and attended Discover Wild New Hampshire Day. She further reported that she received a call from Hooksett with complaints of being kept awake by coyotes.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that he received turkey fee complaints as well as a comment relative to the youth fee being high. He reported that after attending Discover Wild New Hampshire Day with his 4 year old daughter, she now believes that when he comes to headquarters to attend the monthly Commission Meeting, that he is coming to see live animals, make paper crafts, use the dart system, and all kinds of exciting things. He thanked everyone for his or her efforts in making Discover Wild New Hampshire Day such a success.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Normandeau reported that he has been busy visiting the department's facilities around the state. He reported that the attendance at Discover Wild New Hampshire Day was a record turn out of 5,300 people visiting throughout the day. He further reported that he visited the Winnisquam Access Site and is hopeful to get the ramp open for the July 4th holiday. He stated that there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the ramp to the public. He further reported that the department was working to obtain a new on-line licensing contract. He reported that he attended the Cocheco River Field Day and former Governor Shaheen was in attendance as well. In closing, he reported that he would be meeting with the House Finance Committee on May 22, 2008 to review the status of the audit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dan Kelleher, Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor and Becoming and Outdoor Woman Volunteer Turkey Instructor, was in attendance at the meeting and thanked the Commission for coming to the seacoast area so he could witness how Commission Meetings are run.

Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, reported that the turkey harvest was behind a few hundred, however, biologists feel it has the potential to be a new record after all the slips are entered into the database.

At this time, 3:55 p.m., Commissioner Costa moved to adjourn and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Costa, Secretary

Approved: _____
Robert Phillipson, Chairman

Date: _____