

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

JUNE 18, 2008 COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Location: NH Fish & Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301

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

Commissioners absent: n/a

Coastal Commissioner: vacant

Executive Director Normandeau - present

Chairman Phillipson 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 may speak on any item on the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS:

1.) Commissioner Kalter moved to approve the May 21, 2008 Commission Minutes as written and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) Conservation Officer Jeremy Hawkes, President, Conservation Officer Relief Association, presented Ellis Hatch, former Commission Chairman, with an award recognizing him for his contributions and accomplishments. Below is a brief overview of the language in the award.

“Ellis is an ardent sportsman who has tirelessly worked to promote and provide opportunities for the youth of today, which enable them to enjoy adventures in the great outdoors. Further, Ellis has always supported and promoted wildlife conservation work done by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. He has routinely worked to facilitate hundreds of Department volunteers, including himself, who has performed thousands of volunteer hours conducting wildlife surveys and attending public relation events for the Department.”

Ellis stated that he was grateful for the recognition and reported that he has worked with approximately 72 Fish and Game Commissioners during his tenure on the Fish and Game Commission. He stated that he hoped the Department did not forget passed Commissioner's who also made significant contributions.

In closing, he stated that he was thankful he was blessed with good health and able to catch an occasional fish now and then. He stated that it was an honor working with the many members who served on the Fish and Game Commission as well as Department staff.

The Commission and Department applauded. The plaque will be displayed at Fish and Game Headquarters in Concord.

2b.) At this time, Commissioner Phillipson read aloud the following resolution honoring Bill Carney for his tenure serving as Merrimack County Commissioner on the Fish and Game Commission:

Resolution Honoring Bill Carney

Whereas, Bill Carney served the citizens of New Hampshire and Merrimack County on the Fish and Game Commission for more than 3 years, participating on the Commission Handbook, Policy and Legislative Committees with great passion, dignity and dedication; and

Whereas, he continued the tradition of joint liaison meetings in the Concord area and supported the concept of Commission meetings held at a variety of locations throughout the state to provide opportunities for a greater diversity of constituents to attend and provide their input; and

Whereas, he was devoted to a fair and reasoned approach to the Commission's responsibilities, demonstrated by his willingness to listen to the perspectives of sportsmen and women within the context of the science of wildlife management; and

Whereas, he served on the Public Working Group established to write the current 10-year Big Game Management Plan and the Deer Management Task Force to further refine the implementation of said plan; and

Whereas, he worked long and tirelessly to advocate for the Commission legislative positions and attended many legislative hearings on behalf of the Commission and Department; and

Whereas, he worked on the Commission Awards of Excellence since its inception helping to recognize citizens and organizations who have aided the Department in achieving its mission.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission hereby honors and congratulates Bill Carney on his retirement from service as Merrimack County Fish and Game Commissioner.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Fish and Game Department and Commission hereby expresses its sincere gratitude to Bill Carney for his contributions to wildlife conservation and wishes him many years of enjoyment in New Hampshire's great outdoors.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Phillipson presented Bill with a monogrammed jacket from the Commission.

Bill thanked everyone for their support and stated that it was a pleasure working with the Commission.

*Robert Phillipson, Chairman
NH Fish & Game Commission*

*Glenn Normandeau, Executive Director
NH Fish & Game Department*

3a.) Tim Acerno, Acting Chief of Law Enforcement, presented Conservation Officer Samuel Sprague with the 2007 Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Chief's Association Conservation Officer of the Year Award. Tim reported that Officer Sprague was a 13- year veteran of the Law Enforcement Division. He stated that throughout the past year he has taken on the role as Assistant Team Leader for the department's search and rescue team. He reported that Officer Sprague continues to take on additional duties as needed without hesitation.

3b.) Tim presented Conservation Officer Christopher Egan with the 2007 Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award. He reported that Officer Egan was a 7- year veteran of the Law Enforcement Division. He reported that Officer Egan is always on call and responds to a variety of situations. He stated that Officer Egan has earned the respect of Law Enforcement throughout Coos County because of his fair and professional treatment of all.

The Commission and audience applauded the above individuals for the outstanding efforts and contributions they make to the Law Enforcement Division.

4.) Tim Acerno recognized and presented a Lifesaving Award to Officer Michael Eastman for his successful efforts in saving the life of a distraught woman wishing to end her life. Upon Officer Eastman approaching a vehicle at a department owned boat access facility, he noticed a woman on the driver's side of the car wearing a wedding dress. After closer observation, she appeared to have illegal drugs inside the vehicle. Officer Eastman asked her to step out of the vehicle, the woman refused and accelerated the vehicle into the water. Officer Eastman, along with a Conservation Officer Trainee, and a few bystanders were able to successfully rescue the despondent woman from the vehicle and she taken to an area hospital for evaluation.

The Commission and audience applauded the efforts made by the Officers and the outcome of the situation.

5.) Steve Miller, Executive Director, Youth Shooting Sports Alliance, provided a brief presentation on the importance of getting youth involved in outdoor activities. Steve reported that the Youth Shooting Sports Alliance was organized in July of 2007 and currently is a 501(c)(3) private foundation based out of North Carolina. He reported that it was unique youth program, as they do not have a youth program of their own. He stated that most members on the Board of Director's serve as leaders in the shooting sports industry. The group helps identify and support youth programs across the country and provides leadership in the development and promotion of family friendly shooting range facilities. In closing, he reported that he would be attending a National Shooting Sports Foundation Meeting in the near future and would share the results of the meeting with the Department. Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division thanked Steve for the informative presentation.

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 Hubert moved to approve the following donations and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

6a.) Acceptance of a \$300.00 donation, \$200.00 from Regina Pine and \$100.00 from Gregory Pine, to be utilized for Search and Rescue purposes.

6b.) Acceptance of the donation of a Triumph 50 caliber muzzleloader from Thompson Center Firearms, to be utilized for the moose project's deer hunter mail survey.

6c.) Acceptance of donations totaling \$1,620.00 from the below donors, in memory of Russell Bussiere, to be utilized for Search and Rescue purposes.

Jenn Cooper	\$ 75.00
Linda Anderson	\$ 25.00
Harry C. Crooker & Sons, Inc.	\$ 500.00
Gorham Sand & Gravel, Inc.	\$ 50.00
Lakes Region General Hospital	\$ 35.00
Roger and Lucille Amyot	\$ 25.00
S. Roberta Pratt	\$ 20.00
Linda A. Bailey	\$ 100.00
Karen Joslin	\$ 20.00
Dean and Nancy Edmunds	\$ 50.00
Hector Emond	\$ 20.00
Livingston's Auto Repair	\$ 50.00
Bertha Stritch	\$ 50.00
David and Beulah Carter	\$ 50.00
Richard and Priscilla Bussiere	\$ 200.00
Jon and Clara Hall	\$ 25.00
Swenson Granite Company, LLC	\$ 100.00
Frank and Ruth Quimby	\$ 30.00
Advanced Excavating and Paving	\$ 50.00
Richard and Gloria LaFond	\$ 20.00
Norbert and Ann Emond	\$ 100.00
Betty Woodward	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,620.00

7.) Todd Baldwin, President, Pemigewasset Chapter of Trout Unlimited, provide a brief presentation on the proposed Pemigewasset River Restoration Project. Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Tichy questioned what Steve Perry, Chief, Inland Fisheries thoughts were on the project. Steve responded that it was a big river and stated that the project could have long-term benefits.

John Magee, Fisheries Biologist, agreed with Steve Perry and reported that from a technical sense felt it was a good project. He stated that one of the objectives was to make it narrower and deeper, thus colder water temperatures.

Commissioner Kalter moved to approve the expenditure of \$52,000, from the Fisheries Habitat Account, to be utilized by the Pemigewasset River Restoration Project and Commissioner Costa seconded. The vote carried with 8 in favor 1 opposed. (T. Tichy)

8a.) Kristine Rines, Moose Project Leader, requested Commission participation to draw a name from those that participated in the Small Game Hunter Survey in 2007-2008. Chairman Phillipson drew #87, belonging to Ronald Kelley of Stewartstown, NH. Ronald is the winner of a 10/22 Ruger rifle, donated by Sturm Ruger Company.

8b.) Kristine also requested Commission participation to draw a name from those that participated in the 2007 Deer Hunter Mail Survey. Chairman Phillipson drew #109, belonging to Robert Fraser of Merrimack, NH. Robert is the winner of an Omega Z-5 Muzzleloader.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Phillipson congratulated the above winners and thanked them for their participation in the surveys.

9.) Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the expenditure of \$2,859.00 of Wildlife Legacy Initiative Funds, in support of the Landowner Relations Program, and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Chuck Miner, Landowner Relations Coordinator, reported that \$11,359.00 was raised through the 2007 Wildlife Legacy Initiative. He further reported that the requested expenditure of \$2,859.00 would be utilized for database use, recognition of landowners, and expanding programs.

10.) Commissioner Kalter moved to go forward with the following rulemaking and Commissioner Rowan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

- * To implement a 200 lb possession limit for scallops.
(This rule would be compatible with federal rules developed as a result of Amendment 11.)
- * Modify rules for fixed gears such as gillnets and lobster traps, to require weak links that will break away to reduce the number of whale entanglements.
(The proposed rule change would make F&G rule compatible with federal rules.)

11.) Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the operational budget for the Pheasant Dedicated Account as presented and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Costa moved to approve the operational budget for the Wildlife Habitat Dedicated Account as presented and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the operational budget for the Game Management Dedicated Account as presented and Commissioner Rowan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

12.) Commissioner Nottonson moved to rescind the February 21, 2007 motion to expend up to \$180,000 from the Game Management Account to provide technical assistance to landowners regarding habitat improvement or protection for 3 years and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

LATE ACTION ITEM:

1.) Commissioner Tichy moved to accept the donation of 14 acres in Concord, NH from Praxair Surface Technologies Company and Commissioner Costa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Charlie Bridges, Habitat & Diversity Coordinator, reported that the 14 acres is known habitat for the Federal and State endangered Karner Blue Butterfly. He further reported that the Karner Blue Butterfly requires pine barren habitat, especially blue lupin. In closing, he stated that he could coordinate to have a future presentation before the Commission on the Karner Blue Butterfly and it's status. The Commission thanked Charlie and agreed to have a future presentation.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Support Services, provided the monthly financial statement dated May 31, 2008 (see attached). Kathy reported that at Discover Wild New Hampshire Day the front desk sold 199 licenses and \$326.10 in merchandise, totaling \$4,600.40. Additional Fish and Game merchandise sold outside totaled \$1,561.20.

2. Steve Perry, Chief, Inland Fisheries Division, provided an overview of fishing license sales for the 2007 calendar year. He reported that overall, fishing license sales increased by 7.1% in 2007, which resulted in a 3.3% increase in unrestricted fishing license revenue. (See attached)

3. Kris Rines, Moose Project Leader, provided an overview of a new moose research initiative. She reported that this effort would investigate the development of a methodology for predicting the impacts of winter tick on moose survival and the impacts of moose on forest regeneration in northern New Hampshire. She stated that considerable work would need to be done yet to coordinate these efforts with forestry interests to determine a sampling design, the division of labor and project costs. It is anticipated that supporting information would be supplied over the summer in order to be acted on at a future Commission Meeting.

4. Karen Bordeau, Pheasant Project Leader, provided an overview of the preliminary plan for the initiation of a youth pheasant-hunting event in southwestern New Hampshire. She reported that it was clear that the first step would be to schedule meetings with Fish and Game clubs in order to discuss and develop a model that everyone can work with. She reported that safety is a big component of this and stated that once a model is developed, perhaps it could be expanded throughout the state.

Commissioner Phillipson stated that Cheshire County Fish and Game Club would be interested in assisting in any way and reported that the club usually meets the first Tuesday of

each month. Commissioner Hubert reported that the Sullivan County Sportsmen's Club would also be interested in helping out.

5. Jon Charpentier, Broadcast Media & Promotion Manager, provided an update on the Public Affairs Spring promotion. He reported that the activities underway are to promote fishing and fishing licenses. He stated that the activities range from a 3-year Direct Mail partnership with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Fisher Cats AA Baseball promotion, private/public partnerships, sporting shows and events, print and electronic media (TV, radio, web) seminars and related initiatives.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner T. Hubert, Chair; Commissioners; Nottonson, Kalter, Orff, and Costa. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee did not meet this month. He reported that the committee would be meeting in August, prior to the Commission meeting to discuss a few pending issues.

Chairman Phillipson inquired whether Commissioner Orff would like to serve on the Policy Committee. Commissioner Orff agreed to serve on the committee.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Rowan and Morse. Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the committee did not meet this month. She announced that the committee would be meeting prior to the August Commission Meeting.

Chairman Phillipson inquired as to whether Commissioner Rowan would like to serve on the Legislative Committee. Commissioner Rowan agreed to do so.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Morse; Commissioner Morse reported that the committee met last week and is looking to put the Ammonoosuc River in a higher class.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Kalter; Commissioner Kalter reported that the committee continues to work with the HB-710 Commission regarding the leasing of state owned lands. He reported that the final report was due November 1, 2008. He further reported that the committee would be meeting again later this month.

REVENUE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Nottonson, Chair; Commissioner Nottonson reported that the committee did not meet. He reported that he has not received any correspondence regarding serving on this committee.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Commissioner Rowan, Chair; Commissioner Kalter. Commissioner Rowan reported that the committee did not meet this month. He provided the Commission with a draft of, "Actions recommended for inconsistencies in Commission Manual current practice". He asked that the Commission review the draft and provide input as to what action they feel should be taken to correct these inconsistencies.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Commissioner Hubert, Chair; Commissioners Tichy and Guaraldi. Commissioner Hubert thanked everyone for his or her input regarding Commission

Offices. Commissioner Hubert moved to appoint the following slate of officers and Commissioner Tichy seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Chairman -	Robert Phillipson
Vice Chairman-	Mitchell Kalter
Secretary/Treasurer -	Patricia Costa

At this time, Commissioner Costa moved to cancel the July Commission Meeting and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote carried with 8 in favor and 1 opposed. (S. Nottonson)

Commissioner Rowan moved to hold the August 20, 2008 Commission Meeting at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness and Commissioner Costa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that things were fairly quiet. She stated that she discussed the Becoming an Outdoor Woman Event on WNTK radio and got it some deserved publicity.

COMMISSIONER ROWAN: Commissioner Rowan reported that he spent some time out of state this past month. He stated that he did visit numerous boat ramps on Lake Winnepesaukee and Squam Lake and had the opportunity to speak with some fishermen. He reported that he visited the Region 2 Office and had an enjoyable experience. He stated that he found the staff to be very dedicated and enthusiastic. In closing, he stated, “We have to find a way to support them for the great job they do”.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse reported that he received favorable remarks regarding the fishing on the Contoocook River.

COMMISSIONER NOTTONSON: Commissioner Nottonson reported that he was contacted in regards to Pulpit Rock and the potential use of a cell tower at that location.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy reported that things have been fairly quiet and that he wasn’t receiving many calls.

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert departed meeting prior to report.

COMMISSIONER KALTER: Commissioner Kalter reported that he has been involved with the Great Bay Estuarine Research Reserve, Great Bay Trout Unlimited, and the Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire, in the planning of the “Celebrate the Bay” event taking place at the Sandy Point Discovery Center in Stratham on August 16th and 17th. He reported that some of the activities include a kayak race, stripper tournament and lobster-bake. To stated that it should be a great event and encouraged everyone to attend.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Phillipson welcomed Commissioner Eric Orff, replacing Bill Carney as Merrimack County Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER ORFF: Commissioner Orff had nothing to report at this time as his term on the Fish and Game Commission just began.

COMMISSIONER COSTA: Commissioner Costa reported that she was unable to attend the recent “Women on Target Event”. Further, she commended the Conservation Officers involved in the bear relocation in Rochester. She reported that she has received positive feedback regarding fishing this year. In addition, she reported that she attended the Hunter Education Volunteer Recognition Event at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that the Wild Turkey Federation recently held a Jakes event at the Cheshire County Fish and Game Club with approximately 70 kids in attendance. He reported that a Conservation Officer was on hand to answer questions and everyone had a good time. In addition, he stated that 3 members of the Fish and Game Department attended the “Women on Target” event with 57 others. He reported that Becoming an Outdoor Women literature was distributed in hopes of getting mothers, daughters, sisters, etc interested in the program. Commissioner Phillipson inquired whether the 18 year age requirement be reviewed and possibly adjusted so younger daughters may attend with mothers. Sandy Falicon, Rules/Legislative Coordinator, stated that the Department could possibly hold similar events off site with a similar program.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Normandeau reported that he continues to travel to facilities and hatcheries and concurs with Commissioner Rowan that the Department has very dedicated employees. He commended everyone involved in the recent bear relocation in Rochester. He reported that everything went as planned and had a successful outcome. He further reported that the Pleasant Lake Boat Access Project has been completed and have received reports that it is heavily used. In addition, he reported that the planning is underway for the July 30, 2008 Winnisquam Boat Access Dedication Ceremony. He announced that the Commission’s Awards Committee would be presenting awards to recipients at the August 20, 2008 Meeting, being held at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness, NH. Further, he announced that the Department has applied for a capitol expenditure for the Fish and Game Building #2 for roof repairs, repairs to the Region 3 Office in Durham, the hatchery building at Twin Mountain, and a few other Department owned buildings at the Berlin Hatchery. In closing, he reported that he was approached by Verizon in regards to the potential use of Pulpit Rock as a cell tower. Since then, he has met with a group known as, “Friends of Pulpit Rock”, to try to reach an amicable solution. He stated that the group is made up of very determined folks and reported that we are giving them an opportunity to provide an alternative, to which we anticipate having a resolution sooner than later.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Costa, Secretary

Approved: _____
Robert Phillipson, Chairman

Date: _____