

# NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

## AUGUST 20, 2008 COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Location: Owl Brook Hunter Education Center, 387 Perch Pond Road, Holderness, New Hampshire.

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

Commissioners absent: n/a

Coastal Commissioner: vacant

Rockingham County Commissioner: vacant

Executive Director Normandeau - present

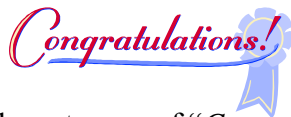
Chairman Phillipson called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m., and asked the audience to join in the pledge of allegiance. He informed the audience that the public is entitled to attend all Commission meetings and when recognized by the chairman, may speak on any item on the agenda.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1.) Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the June 18, 2008 Commission Minutes with the following revision and Commissioner Costa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Revision – Page 6, Information Item #3, should read Steve Weber, not ~~Kris Rines~~.

2.) At this time, Chairman Phillipson and Director Normandeau presented the Commission Awards of Excellence to the following individuals:



The first award honored the category of “*Conservation Organization*”. This award recognizes an organization, group, foundation, or agency that has excelled in efforts to enhance the welfare of fish, wildlife, and marine resources, supporting the achievement of the Department’s mission.



The 2008 *Conservation Organization Award* was presented to the Amherst Conservation Commission. The Amherst Conservation Commission stands as an example of enlightened and educated community members living in a rapidly changing and complex community who support conservation. They have retained the values and beliefs of conservation, hunting and outdoor life and education.

The second award presented was the “*Habitat Stewardship Award*”. This award recognizes an organization, non-governmental entity, an individual or corporation that has excelled in the enhancement, conservation, or creation of land management practices beneficial to New Hampshire’s fish, wildlife and marine resources and the Department’s mission.



The 2008 *Habitat Stewardship Award* was presented to the NH Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. In the early 1990’s, the NH Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation developed a program to provide landowners with a selection of trees and shrubs that would provide critical food for wild turkeys and other wildlife during the winter months. The Department thanked Dr. Charles Williams for his efforts and contributions. Dr. Williams thanked Bambi Miller for her assistance in making the program successful.

The third award presented was in the category of “*Landowner Appreciation*”. This award recognizes an individual who has excelled in the preservation or enhancement of opportunities for public use on private property as it benefits the Department’s mission.



The 2008 *Landowner Appreciation Award* was presented to Allan & Judy Forbes of Lancaster, New Hampshire. Allan & Judy Forbes leave their land open to hunters, anglers, trappers and snowmobilers, providing excellent opportunities for recreation of all types. Today, more than ever, landowners like Allan and Judy are key to maintaining our traditional outdoor activities and the license sales that sustain the Department’s work.

The fourth award presented was the prestigious “*Ellis R. Hatch Award of Excellence*”. This award recognizes an individual, group, organization, club, foundation, or agency that has excelled in efforts to promote, enhance or benefit fish, wildlife, or marine resources of the Department’s mission through any variety of involvement.



The 2008 *Ellis R. Hatch Award of Excellence* was presented to Cynthia Wyatt of Milton Mills. Ms. Mills has been instrumental in keeping thousands of acres of land open to hunting, fishing, and other forms of outdoor recreation. In addition, she has hosted many educational events, such as nature walks and outdoor learning opportunities. We know that Cynthia Wyatt exemplifies the legacy of Ellis Hatch.

3.) 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 Kalter moved to accept the following donations and Commissioner Costa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

3a.) \$25.00 donation from Anita & Norman Letendre, in memory of Roger Bellerose, to be utilized by the Barry Conservation Camp. (J. Stokes)

- 3b.) \$40.00 donation from Seth & Roberta Potter, in memory of Robert Potter, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account. (K. LaBonte)
- 3c.) \$50.00 donation from John Pandolfo, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account for assistance in rescuing him on the Old Bridle Path in Franconia, NH (T. Acerno)
- 3d.) \$9,113.93 donation from Lakeview Neurorehabilitation Center, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account for assistance in locating patients and clients of the Center. (T. Acerno)
- 3e.) \$50.00 donation from Ronald & Marilyn Berkey, in memory of Russell Bussiere, to be deposited in to the Search & Rescue Account. (T. Acerno)
- 3f.) \$200.00 donation from Frederick Appleton, for services provided to him while fishing in the Dartmouth College Grant, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account. (T. Acerno)
- 3g.) \$25.00 donation from Harold & Joy Webster, in memory of Chesley Goodwin, to be deposited in to the Search & Rescue Account. (T. Acerno)
- 3h.) \$1,000 donation from the New Hampshire Chapter of Safari Club International, to support nuisance black bear research in Southeastern New Hampshire. (S. Weber)
- 3i.) \$450.00 in labor and parts to repair the Region 2 Office dry sprinkler system, from Ted Bryant (dba Bryant Fire Protection L.L.C.) on behalf of the Groton Grunters Hunting Club. (S. Perry)
- 4.) John Magee, Fisheries Biologist, requested approval to expend up to \$30,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account for stream restoration work on the Mohawk and Connecticut Rivers in Colebrook. Much discussion ensued. Commissioner Tichy stated that he had concerns with the proposed engineered log jams potentially being moved due to ice. He also inquired as to whether public hearings were held in the area. Commissioner Tichy recommended that John obtain clarification on some of the concerns prior to asking the Commission to vote.

Commissioner Hubert moved to table the item until further information was provided to the Commission and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) In accordance with RSA 206:33-c, Commissioner Costa moved to designate the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire as an official non-profit partner of the Fish and Game Department and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

6.) Commissioner Morse moved to approve the expenditure of an additional \$750.00 in dam registration fees for fiscal year 2009, \$375.00 from the Game Management Account, and \$375.00 from the Fisheries Habitat Account and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

7.) Commissioner Tichy moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$60,000 from the Game Management Account in support of moose research and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

8.) Commissioner Morse moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$200,000 from the Game Management Account in support of bobcat research and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Orff stated, "We need to do this to obtain a starting base and to protect wildlife corridors". He stated that this research was the most effective way to so. Commissioner Costa inquired as to what the trappers position was on the project. Dwight Pennell, NH Trapper's Association, was in the audience and responded that the Trapper's Association would be cooperating and working closely with the Fish and Game Department on the project.

**LATE ACTION ITEM:**

1.) Commissioner Costa moved to approve a total of \$550.00 in donations from the below donors in memory of Daniel Merriman, to be deposited into the Search and Rescue Account and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel C. Merriman -	\$200.00
Ms. Wendy Merrimam -	\$100.00
Mr. Duncan Merrimam -	\$100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Lundgren, Jr.	\$100.00
Ms. Katherine Humphrey -	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
	\$550.00

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1. Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Support Services, provided monthly financial statement dated June 30, 2008 and July 31, 2008. (See attached).

2. John Kanter, Nongame & Endangered Species Coordinator, provided an overview of the threatened and endangered species list revisions. John reported that 25 species would be affected with the proposed changes. He stated that 10 species would be down listed or deleted and 15 species would be added. (See attached list). Much discussion ensued. John reported that the comment period has ended with no substantial changes being requested and that the final proposed changed would go before the Commission for approval in the near future.

\* Subsequent to this meeting, the Executive Director removed Atlantic salmon and Round Whitefish from the lists.

At this time, Commissioner Orff moved to address the tabled item (Action Item #4) and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

John Magee reported that he did obtain some clarification and assured the Commission that the project would have no affect from ice-jams or flooding downstream. He further reported that 3 Public Hearings were held on the project, 2 in Lancaster and 1 in Colebrook.

Commissioner Morse moved to approve up to \$30,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account for stream restoration work on the Mohawk and Connecticut Rivers in Colebrook and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

3. Laura Ryder, Hunter Education & Aquatic Education Supervisor, provided an overview of the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness, NH. Laura reported on the different measures of funding that allowed for the construction of the center. Further, she discussed the many educational classes being offered at the Center, including hunter education courses, trapping, and archery classes, just to mention a few.

Tom Flynn, Owl Brook Hunter Education Facility Manager, reported on the opportunities offered at the Owl Brook Center as well. He reported on classes being offered this August to children ages 10-15 on Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursdays. Children have the opportunity to learn Shotgun skills, Archery Skills, and Outdoor Survival Skills, all at no cost. Tom reported to date that the classes have been very successful and that he and Josh MacKay, Program Assistant, are looking at ways to improve the classes for next year. He welcomed anyone in attendance today to take a tour of the facility after the meeting.

4. Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, provided an update on the end-of-year financial statements for the pheasant, wildlife habitat, and game management accounts. (See attached)

At 4:20 p.m., the Commission took a short recess.

The meeting reconvened at 4:35 p.m.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**POLICY COMMITTEE:** Commissioner T. Hubert, Chair; Commissioners; Kalter, Orff, and Costa. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee did not meet this month. He reported that the committee would be meeting in September, prior to the Commission meeting, to discuss updating Commission Policies and researching the saltwater license.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Rowan and Morse. Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the committee did not meet this month, however, stated that she wished to take action on 2 draft proposals.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to go forward with compiling text for RSA 212:24, relative Federal Aid and Commissioner Rowan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to go forward with developing language to implement Internet transaction fee and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Director Normandeau reported that Representative Abbott agreed to support legislation to allow for an Internet transaction fee between provider and client.

In closing, Commissioner Guaraldi reported that there would be a Legislative Committee Meeting at 9:00 a.m., prior to the September 17, 2008 Commission Meeting.

**RIVERS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Morse; Commissioner Morse reported that the committee would be meeting on September 3<sup>rd</sup> to vote on putting the Cocheco and Upper Ammonoosuc Rivers in a higher class.

**LAKES COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Kalter; Commissioner Kalter reported that the Committee met in July and voted to approve the document, “New Hampshire Guidelines for Coordinated Lake Management and Shoreland Protection Plans”. He further reported that the guidelines are on the Department of Environmental Services website at: [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov). In addition, he reported that the committee toured Mascoma Lake and conducted a recreational survey, which consists of looking at characteristics of the lake for suitable activities.

**REVENUE COMMITTEE:** This committee has been sunset.

**HANDBOOK COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Rowan, Chair; Commissioner Kalter. Commissioner Rowan reported that the committee met once since the last meeting to formulate a presentation for the House Fish and Game Committee.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** This committee has been sunset.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Chairman Phillipson reported that the Legislature is trying to reformulate the powers & duties of the Commission and requested guidance from the Commission.

Commissioner Rowan moved that the Fish and Game Commission is not in favor of becoming an Advisory Committee and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. (Commissioner Orff departed meeting prior to vote)

Commissioner Rowan moved that the following 8 objectives is a list of duties that the Fish and Game Commission felt were most important, in addition to their other duties as outlined in the current statute and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

1. Nominate the Executive Director.
2. Review the performance of the Executive Director (Is he following policy)
3. Set general policy to provide direction to the F&G Department.
4. Approve all game rules (including non-game species).
5. Approve all fisheries rules (Inland & Saltwater).
6. Approve all expenditures from all dedicated accounts.
7. Approval of F&G budget before it goes to the Governor.
8. Ability to request public hearings.

In addition, Commissioner Rowan requested an update from the Department of Environmental Services regarding the status of the Ellis Hatch Wildlife Management Area project and where it is on the list.

Director Normandeau reported that a revised draft of the Commission's Dam Resolution Policy would be provided for Commission approval in the near future. He reported that the current resolution contains language that is being used against the Department, thus reasoning for denial of permits.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:**

**COMMISSIONER GUARALDI:** Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she attended the moose meeting in Pittsburg and was pleased to see the great attendance. She reported that a few bears have been causing some excitement in her area. She further reported that she was informed that other States alternate producing their hunting and fishing digest, one year they produce an updated fisheries digest and the next the hunting digest. She suggested that the Department look into this.

**COMMISSIONER ROWAN:** Commissioner Rowan reported that he participated in the joint sub-committee meeting, attended the endangered species and saltwater hearings, and attended the moose meeting in Pittsburg. He reported that he conducted a successful fishing derby during Sandwich Old Home Week. He further reported that he attended the Winnisquam Access Dedication Ceremony on July 30, 2008 and the Special Commission Meeting.

In closing, Commissioner Rowan stated, "I take exception to a comment made relative to Commissioners only meeting once a month". He stated that Commissioners are very active and attend a variety of events and meetings and respond to numerous requests.

**COMMISSIONER MORSE:** Commissioner Morse reported that he recently attended the saltwater hearing in Portsmouth, the Winnisquam Access Dedication Ceremony on Lake Winnisquam, and the Pittsburg moose meeting as well.

**COMMISSIONER TICHY:** Commissioner Tichy reported that things have been fairly quiet. He reported that he had a discussion with Andy Schafermeyer, Fisheries Biologist, Lancaster Office, regarding the Mohawk River Project and stated that he was trying to meet with Dianne Timmins, Fisheries Supervisor, as well. He reported that he recently attended the moose meeting in Pittsburg. In closing, he reported that his daughter hit a moose and he was concerned with the method and manner the moose was put down by a local police officer. He inquired whether the Department's Law Enforcement Division provides any training to police officers on how to humanely put an animal down. Tim Acerno, Acting Chief, Law Enforcement Division, responded that the Department does not provide that type of training to police officers.

**COMMISSIONER HUBERT:** Commissioner Hubert reported that he has been busy with the growth of his personal business. He reported that he received a few nuisance woodchuck calls. He reported that he met with members of the department and sportsmen from Cheshire and Sullivan Counties in regards to developing a Youth Pheasant Stocking Program. In closing, he stated that he received correspondence from a constituent that had concerns regarding the closure of a checking station in Sullivan County.

**COMMISSIONER KALTER:** Commissioner Kalter reported that he participated as an Instructor at the Great Bay Trout Unlimited Youth Camp in Pittsburg. He thanked Judy Tumosa and Dianne Timmins of the department, who greatly contributed to that camp. The planning has already started for next year, including the size and scope of the program. Further, he reported that the “Celebrate the Bay” dinner was held on Saturday, August 16, 2008, with several department employees in attendance. He reported that unfortunately the days’ events had to be cancelled due to lack of participation. In addition, he reported that he attended the Saltwater License hearing.

**COMMISSIONER ORFF:** Commissioner Orff departed meeting prior to Commissioner’s Reports.

**COMMISSIONER COSTA:** Commissioner Costa reported that she attended the Volunteer Appreciation Event held at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Facility in Holderness and the Threatened & Endangered Species public hearing. She further reported that she met with some property owners on Governor’s Island regarding the potential for having a limited hunt on the island. She stated that the majority of property owners are in favor of an archery hunt only. In closing, she reported that she attended the Winnisquam Access Dedication Ceremony on Lake Winnisquam.

**COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON:** Commissioner Phillipson reported that Director Normandeau attended the liaison meeting on August 19, 2008. The constituents were very pleased to see the Director in attendance. A variety of issues were heard. He reported that there would be another “Women on Target” Program held on September 13, 2008 with only 12 slots open.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director Normandeau reported that the former Access & Engineering Division was in the process of being resurrected and that the division was currently searching for an individual that possesses a PE to head the division. He further reported that the Assistant Director position has been reclassified to a biologist position.

In addition to the positive comments received in regards to the newly constructed boat access site on Lake Winnisquam, a few comments regarding the desire for more parking were heard as well. He reported that the Department would be moving forward with obtaining access to Lake Sunapee from the Wild Goose site.

Further, he reported that he recently attended the “Celebrate the Bay” dinner at the Great Bay Discover Center in Stratham, where all had a good time.

In closing, Director Normandeau reported that the Department would be starting the budget cycle in the near future.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments.

At this time, 6:11 p.m., Commissioner Costa moved to adjourn and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Costa, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Phillipson, Chairman

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