

## NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

### SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Location: New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301.

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

Commissioners absent: E. Orff

Coastal Commissioner: vacant

Rockingham County Commissioner: James Ryan

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 by the chairman, may speak on any item on the agenda.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

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

Revisions –Page 4, Information Item #2, end last sentence after the word “requested”.

Page 6, Lakes Committee Report, name of survey mentioned is “Water Recreational Opportunity Survey”.

Page 8, Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Kalter, last word of last sentence should read presentation ~~hearing~~.

2a-2f.) Commissioner Costa moved to approve the following donations and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) \$250.00 donation from Mrs. Margaret Goodwin, in memory of Chesley Goodwin, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account. (T. Acerno)

2b.) \$100.00 donation from James McKenna, for services provided to he and his hiking partner while hiking the Webster Scout Trail in the Mount Madison area, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account. (T. Acerno)

2c.) 12 Sylvania micro-mini energy saver light bulbs from Phil Rioux, 2008 moose hunter, valued at approximately \$120.00, to be utilized by the Barry Conservation Camp. (J. Stokes)

2d.) \$75.00 donation from the Ragged Mountain Fish and Game Club, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account. (S. Weber)

2e.) \$2,059.00 donation from the Claremont Rod and Gun Club, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account. (G. Normandeau)

2f.) \$7,000 donation from the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire, to assist with the costs of producing *Discover Wild Times* for kids. (C. Miner/J. Stokes)

3.) Commissioner Kalter moved to approve the modifications to rules for taking scallops, rules for persons using pots, traps, and gillnets; and to readopt a variety of marine rules that are about to expire and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

4.) Commissioner Costa moved to go forward with the rulemaking process to increase the minimum length for haddock to 19 inches for commercial harvesters and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**LATE ACTION ITEM:**

1.) Commissioner Hubert moved to approve 2 donations as follows and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Donation of \$50.00 from KRES – NL PTO, to be utilized by the Aquatic Education Program.

Donation of \$25.00 from J.L. Richards, to be utilized by the Hunter Education Program.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1.) The Financial Statement was not read aloud this month. (See attached statement)

2.) Charlie Bridges, Habitat & Diversity Coordinator, introduced Matt Tarr, Extension Wildlife Specialist, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. Matt provided an overview of the Cooperative Extension Wildlife Program. He reported that the Fish and Game Department has co-sponsored and funded the UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife Program continuously since 1985. Among the projects of the program, he discussed the NH Coverts program, technical training for professional foresters and other natural resource managers, assisting communities with habitat conservation planning, and educating landowners on the management of wildlife habitats. These professionals from the program tour landowner's property and make recommendations to enhance particular types of habitat.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Phillipson thanked Matt for an informative presentation and the good work they do at the Cooperative Extension.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**POLICY COMMITTEE:** Commissioner T. Hubert, Chair; Commissioners; Kalter, Orff, and Costa. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee did meet the morning of the

Commission meeting to discuss 2 topics. Those topics being: Getting existing policies reviewed. He stated that he would like to meet with Handbook Committee to have a joint meeting of the two committees in the near future. The other topic discussed was the Policy Recommendation Regarding NH Guides in Marine Waters.

Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the following policy recommendation and Commissioner Rowan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

The Policy Committee recommends that under RSA 215:1, those guiding in the state's marine waters require a NH Guide License, and the Chapter Fis 1300 rules pertaining to Guides shall apply.

The Policy Committee further recommends that a marine specific guide test be developed and implemented for those persons engaged in guiding in marine waters.

In addition, the Policy Committee recommends that enforcement of licensing for those guiding in the state's marine waters begin January 1, 2010.

Much discussion ensued. Director Normandeau stated, "The intent was to work this in as we move forward with development of the saltwater license".

Commissioner Kalter moved to amend the implementation of enforcement date to "January, 2011 at the latest" and Commissioner Rowan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Rowan and Morse. Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the committee did meet the morning of the Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to add text to RSA 214-A:2, regarding an Internet transaction fee and Commissioner Rowan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to authorize department personnel to develop language to combine two biennial reports and to correct language and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to support RSA Section 214:18-b, regarding suspension or revocation in another jurisdiction, and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to support moving forward with housekeeping corrections regarding driving while intoxicated, pertaining to OHRV, and Commissioner Morse seconded.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to approve the concept of enabling the Executive Director of the NH Fish and Game Department to donate permits to the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of

New Hampshire and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote carried with 6 in favor and 1 opposed. (R. Rowan)

In closing, she announced that the next committee meeting would take place on October 15, 2008, at 9:00 a.m.

**RIVERS COMMITTEE**: Commissioner Morse; Commissioner Morse reported that the committee met and voted to put Cocheco and Upper Ammonoosuc Rivers in a higher class of protection and the Rivers Council endorsed it as well. He further reported that the Abijah Bridge Project in Weare was approved to install a small dam to help with drainage problems. He stated that once the dam is in place it should help restore a more natural water level and better the ecology for fish and wildlife.

**LAKES COMMITTEE**: Commissioner Kalter; Commissioner Kalter reported that the Committee did not meet in August, however, stated that the next meeting was scheduled for September 26, 2008.

**HANDBOOK COMMITTEE**: Commissioner Rowan, Chair; Commissioner Kalter. Commissioner Rowan reported that the committee did not meet prior to the Commission Meeting. He further reported that policy revisions were complete and that he was anxious to have a joint meeting with the Policy Committee.

**OLD BUSINESS**: n/a

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:**

**COMMISSIONER GUARALDI**: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she had a busy month. She reported that she attended the Becoming an Outdoor Woman Program with approximately 125 women in attendance. She reported that there would be a fly-fishing weekend offered at the end of September, more information available on the website: [www.nhbow.com](http://www.nhbow.com). She reported that she received some complaints regarding the paper quality of the licenses and that tags are falling off.

**COMMISSIONER ROWAN**: Commissioner Rowan reported that he has been out of state. He reported that he received calls from moose hunters looking for potential hunting areas. In addition, he reported that he spoke with some fisherman who made comments that the fish weren't big enough for their liking.

**COMMISSIONER MORSE**: Commissioner Morse reported that he received an e-mail questioning Karner Blue Butterfly expenses. He further reported that he is working to expand the pheasant volunteer program to the Hillsboro area. In closing, he reported that he met with the Wildlife Federation to discuss the audit, etc.

**COMMISSIONER HUBERT**: Commissioner Hubert reported that he attended a Pheasant stocking meeting in Cheshire County, held at the Region 4 Office in Keene. He further reported that there has been a potential 400-acre pheasant-stocking site identified in the Claremont area.

In closing, Commissioner Hubert reported that he was an instructor at the “Women on Target” event with approximately 60 women in attendance using pistols, shotguns, and rifles.

**COMMISSIONER KALTER:** Commissioner Kalter reported that he attended the Great Bay/Coastal initiative meetings put together by Representative Spang and Bordon regarding the health of Great Bay. He reported that after the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting an action was in the process of being developed to help spread the word to those people living in the Great Bay Watershed. He further reported that he attended one of the Gundalow Companies informational lectures. One subject discussed was the changes seen in the last few years regarding the bluegrass die off, which is quite alarming in certain areas. He reported that he received a letter of support for the Winnicut Dam removal from the Great Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and further reported that the group would be making a small donation toward the dam removal. In addition, he stated that the Coastal Conservation Association would be writing a letter of support and making a donation as well. The general consensus seems to be favorable regarding the Cocheco nomination for a designated river.

**COMMISSIONER TICHY:** Commissioner Tichy reported that he received calls from farmers regarding pheasant stocking sites.

**COMMISSIONER ORFF:** Commissioner Orff was absent.

**COMMISSIONER COSTA:** Commissioner Costa reported that she attended the “Women on Target” event and had a great day. She reported on a great deal of clean-up operations taking place in the Barnstead/Alton area from the recent storm/flood damage. She received a call from a constituent who had concerns whether deer would return to the once washed out areas or not. In closing, she reported that she would be attending the Trappers Rendezvous being held at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center.

At this time, Chairman Phillipson introduced and welcomed the newly appointed Rockingham County Commissioner, James Ryan of Northwood. Chairman Phillipson reported that Jim would be officially on-board and voting next month.

**COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON:** Commissioner Phillipson reported that Cheshire County has sponsored 4 “Women on Target” courses to date with approximately 60 women in attendance for each course. He stated that 30 additional women have already identified an interest in attending the next course offered. He further reported that there would be an “Advanced Women on Target “ course offered sometime in the near future.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director Normandeau reported that the department has hired Richard Fink, PE, as the Division Chief for the Lands Bureau. He reported that Rick has worked in the private and public sector. He stated that Rick has been getting familiar with the department facilities since his arrival.

He further reported that the Assistant Director position was reclassified to the title of Environmental Coordinator. He reported that Carol Henderson has accepted the position and would be starting on October 1, 2008.

He reported that he serves on the Site Evaluation Committee, which review proposed energy resource projects. He stated that Carol would be involved and provide input on these types of projects as well.

In addition, he reported that approximately 20 acres near the Powdermill Fish Hatchery were affected by the storm and that a timber sale would take place in the near future.

Director Normandeau reported that he attended the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Meeting in New York. He stated that it was nice to meet his counterparts from around the country and discuss topics of mutual interest. He reported that discussion revolved around how to preserve land and open space for fish and wildlife going into the future.

He reported he would be attending the Trapper's Rendezvous event at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center.

In closing, Director Normandeau reported that the department has been focusing on budget preparations.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments.

At this time, 2:40 p.m., Commissioner Hubert moved to adjourn and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Costa, Secretary

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

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