

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER 16, 2009 COMMISSION MEETING

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

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

Commissioner's absent: None

Vacant Commissioner's Positions

Belknap County Commissioner

Coastal Commissioner

Strafford County Commissioner (M. Kalter – holdover until filled)

Executive Director Normandeau – present

Chairman Rowan 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 Orff moved to approve the November 18, 2009 Commission Minutes with the following revisions and/or additions and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Additions:

Page 3, Commissioner Reports, Commissioner Kalter – “Commissioner Kalter reported that a constituent inquired about hunting on Great Bay lands and that the Director clarified and the constituent was notified”.

Page 1, Add Belknap County Commissioner to vacant Commissioner's list.

Page 3, Legislative Committee – Should read: “Commissioner Morse reported that the committee did *not* meet in November”.

2. Commissioner Morse moved to approve the expenditure of an additional \$750.00, for a total of \$14,025 from the Game Management Account for dam registration fees and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

3. Commissioner Hubert moved to accept the donation of \$3,500.00 from the New Hampshire Wildlife Heritage Foundation for assistance in printing "Discover Wild Times" and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

3a. Commissioner Orff moved to accept the donation of \$1,000 from the New Hampshire Wildlife Heritage Foundation to support the 2010 Discover Wild New Hampshire Day and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

4. Commissioner Kalter moved to approve the new rules pertaining to newly authorized lobster and crab landing license and modifications to rules pertaining to license information collected on a variety of marine licenses and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Orff suggested adding a line requesting e-mail addresses on the application.

5. Commissioner Kalter moved to go forward with modifications to rules for lobster helpers and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

6. Commissioner Morse moved to approve the expenditure of \$10,175.00 from the Fisheries Habitat Fund to cover the cost of the 2010 dam registration fees assessed by the Department of Environmental Services and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

6a. Commissioner Phillipson moved to utilize up to \$2,500.00 from the "Sale of Fish Food Account" to purchase fencing for the New Hampton Fish Hatchery from Louis E. Page Fence Co. and Shipping and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

7. Commissioner Ryan moved to hold the March 17, 2010 Commission Meeting at the Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Support Services, provided the monthly Financial Statement dated November 30, 2009. (See attached statement)

2. Doug Grout, Chief, Marine Division, provided an overview of the adoption of marine rules pertaining to compliance with ASMFC fisheries management plans for winter flounder and large coastal sharks. Doug reported that there was an extreme need of conservation for these species.

3. Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, solicited possible rulemaking changes to the hunting seasons from the Commission.

Commissioner Hubert reported that he had a constituent from Unity, NH contact him with a suggestion to possibly alternate seasons between houndsmen and bait hunters so seasons

do not overlap, thus giving everyone a fair chance. There were concerns as to how many sows taken.

Commissioner Orff reported that he received a call from a constituent proposing that the trapping and woodcock season not coincide.

Commissioner Rowan suggested that the process for obtaining bear guide tags not be on a 1st come 1st serve basis.

4. Steve Perry, Chief, Inland Fisheries Division, came before the Commission to verify what avenue the department is to follow regarding “Adapting to Changing Times”.

Commissioner Rowan stated, “The Commission needs to organize its’ base”, to include watching legislative action and to get Commissioners out and involved and until that is achieved I do not want to set the agenda for anything else”.

Steve questioned whether the internal team should continue to discuss some of the issues?

Commissioner Rowan responded that the Commission was thinking about it, however, had a pretty full plate right now. He reiterated that he finds that the Commission has neglected its’ base and are going to improve that, which includes sacrifice. He stated that our base was very important and that we need to get it back.

Steve replied, “A year ago it seemed to be a high priority?”

Commissioner Rowan responded, “It still is a high priority.”

Commissioner Kalter stated that he was concerned about the message the Commission was sending.

Commissioner Rowan reported that he had received numerous complaints regarding the lack of communication on the Commission’s part. He stated that he was asking the Commission to do more, get out more to clubs to re-establish our base again. He stated that Commissioners could contact many clubs through e-mail.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner Hubert, Chair; Commissioners; Kalter, Phillipson, Orff, Costa, and Ryan. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee did meet the morning of the Commission Meeting and covered a fair bit of ground. He reported that the committee organized all current policies and identified 7 that did not have full language for. He suggested putting the Fish & Game logo on all policies. He further reported that the Herbicide/Algaecide policy was adopted on December 21, 2005.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Morse, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Rowan and Guaraldi. Commissioner Morse reported that the committee did meet in November.

Commissioner Morse moved to support HB-1129, relative to saltwater fishing licenses for persons holding a lifetime license and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1317-FN, establishing an exotic game license for hunting in a game preserve and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1331, relative to extending the days of recreational taking of clams following an emergency closing and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1507-FN, relative to hunting and fishing licenses for disabled veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, and residents returning from active duty and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1514-FN, relative to prohibiting the sale of raw skins or unskinned carcasses of fur-bearing animals and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to support HB-1561-FN, relative to highway recreational vehicle registrations and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to monitor HB-1422, relative to establishing a committee to study the establishment of a department of natural resources, with notification to the Chairman, Sandra Falicon is authorized to take the necessary action prior to next Commission Meeting and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Ryan; Chair; Commissioner Ryan reported that the committee did not meet this month.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Orff; Commissioner Orff reported that the committee did meet and reviewed pending legislation.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Commissioner Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the committee did not meet this month.

Chairman Rowan reported that the 1st update to the Commission Manual seemed to work very well.

OLD BUSINESS:

1.) Director Normandeau reported that the department had received bids back for vehicles. He clarified that the funding would not come from the Habitat Fund and further reported that the department was waiting for authorization to purchase.

2.) Director Normandeau reported that the Saltwater License was a work in progress and stated that Colonel Garabedian would be conducting an internal review of the guide's rules.

3.) Chairman Rowan announced that the Commission would be working to improve communications with the public. He reported that the Commission tends to concentrate on the clubs they are familiar with and that's it. He reiterated the importance of getting out and making new contacts. He stated that he hears comments from constituents outside of Carroll County that they have not seen much of the Commission. He asked the Commission for some ideas on how they could improve that and felt it wouldn't take much to do a little better.

4.) Chairman Rowan reported that there was a great deal of interest from many individuals and clubs willing to assist with funding and manpower regarding the Barry Conservation Camp and getting it back up and running.

Director Normandeau reported that there was a whole host of issues regarding Barry Conservation Camp. He reported that the camp itself was slowly going down hill and open only 4 weeks per year. He further reported that there were significant water issues, particularly meeting the Department of Environmental Services requirements for water quality standards. He reported that there was detection of cyanobacteria in York Pond, which the department was accused of this causing an illness by letting children swim in.

Judy Stokes, Chief, Public Affairs Division, stated, "We don't want kids sick". She reported that the department only owns the building and that the Forest Service owns the property.

Director Normandeau reported that that 4H had a camp near Bear Brook called, "Bear Hill", which the department could utilize and could transport participants to the Owl Brook Hunter Education Facility. He further reported that he would like to work with the Department of Environmental Services to possibly obtain grant funding. In addition, he reported that Tom Wagner of the Forest Service was very supportive.

Judy Stokes announced that on January 21, 2010, there would be a meeting held at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center with everyone involved to try and look to the future and develop an idea and plan.

Director Normandeau stated, "The department appreciates what everyone wants to happen with Barry Camp". He suggested getting as many interested parties as possible for the meeting. He stated that it was an unfortunate situation of issues that represent a huge liability for Fish and Game.

Commissioner Phillipson questioned whether participation was an issue.

Commissioner Hubert stated that the Sullivan County Sportsmen's Club had offered to help out.

Judy Stokes responded that participation was very good over the 4 weeks. She report that the upcoming meeting would allow for a great opportunity to collectively get together and get behind the issue and make it a great camp, "The best it can be".

5.) Todd Baldwin, former Pemigewasset Chapter President, provided an overview of the recently completed river restoration project. He reported that it was the largest and most involved project the chapter had undertaken to date. He stated that the restoration project consisted of approximately 2200 feet of the Pemigewasset River in Woodstock, NH, west of Exit 31 off I-93. He reported that the long-term process of raising funds, working with engineers for design and permitting, and all the intricacies of things that have to happen to make a project of this size possible had been over six years in the making.

Todd thanked the Commission for donating \$52,000 to the project. He stated that the total cost of the project was over \$700,000. He further stated that he was disappointed that the only person that had been onsite was Conservation Officer Jeremy Hawks. He did raise the issue of not receiving the department's payment in a timely manner, however, it was clarified by Steve Perry that the department was waiting for the final report to submit the final check. Steve stated that he would make contact with Todd and take care of the matter and assured the Commission that it was just an internal misunderstanding.

Director Normandeau responded that John Magee, Fisheries Biologist, was involved in the restoration project, however, was involved at the time in a large project at Nash Stream and that circumstances did not allow him to attend the ceremony.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she attended the biennial hearings and received the usual calls this month. She reported that the winter Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop would be held on February 20, 2010 being held at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness. She reported that she had been working on the Commission Awards and encouraged everyone to submit their nominations as soon as possible, which are to be postmarked by December 31, 2009.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse reported that he attended the biennial hearings, spoke with club members, and received the usual calls.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Commissioner Ryan thanked Emily Brunkhurst, Wildlife Biologist, Nongame Program, for assisting him with a few requests.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy reported that there was not much activity this month. He reported that he attended the Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Club who has approximately 400 members and 25 or 30 Directors. He further reported that the club had a legislative person that volunteered to write letters of support and such.

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert reported that he attended the biennial hearings and attended the Sullivan County Sportsmen's Club Meeting where Barry Conservation

Camp was a hot topic of conversation. He further reported that the club would like to hold a fishing event where they teach fishing techniques, etc.

At this time, Commissioner Hubert thanked Commissioner Kalter for his considerable efforts and his perspective on issues. He stated that he appreciated the expertise Commissioner Kalter brought to the Commission and further stated that he would be missed.

COMMISSIONER KALTER: Commissioner Kalter thanked Commissioner Hubert for the kind words and stated, "It's been fun". Commissioner Kalter reported that he attended the Climate Changing Seminar at the Great Bay Discovery Center where Commissioner Orff did an excellent job with his presentation. He inquired as to whether the donations for the repair of the Jones Pond Dam had been returned to the respective donors yet? Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Support Services, responded that she believed that most of the donations had been returned, however, there were a few that we need addresses for. Commissioner Kalter stated that he would get a list to Kathy with the addresses.

In closing, he reported that it was fun working with the Commission and stated that the current nominee for Strafford County was in attendance today. He stated that he felt the Commission would be very happy to have him onboard.

COMMISSIONER ORFF: Commissioner Orff reported that he attended the Guide's Association Banquet, visited some license agents, deer check stations, met with a constituent for clarification on a few things, and gave a talk at the Sandy Point Discovery Center.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that he received a call from a goose hunter with some questions about the bands and obtaining pertinent information regarding the date tagged, location, etc. Steve Weber responded that Ed Robinson, Waterfowl Biologist, kept excellent records and that he would relay the concern to Ed and get back to him with the answers.

COMMISSIONER ROWAN : Commissioner Rowan reported that he attended many club meetings and made contact with other organizations to see about attending their meetings.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Normandeau reported that he had a one on one meeting with Governor Lynch regarding allowing the department to hire for budgeted positions.

He reported that a pre-hearing conference regarding Lake Sunapee access was scheduled for January 18, 2010, however, it was determined that it was a holiday, therefore, would have to be rescheduled.

He reported that the department took over the property that the Department of Resources and Economic Development owns, which provides access to Ossipee Lake.

He further reported that the department took over the boat ramp on the Ossipee River. He reported that the town asked that the department take over the ramp, which provides an excellent site for kayaks and canoes.

In addition, he reported that he was at a meeting with the Department of Transportation where Commissioner Campbell instructed his employees to complete the boat access project at Harilla's Landing.

In closing, Director Normandeau reported that the Department of Transportation plans to solicit for bids soon for the Dover Point project, which is expected to be the largest public works project ever in New Hampshire.

At this time, Commissioner Kalter introduced Rob Blake from New Durham, who is the current nominee for Strafford County Commissioner.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

At this time, 4:36 p.m., Commissioner Orff moved to adjourn and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

James Ryan, Secretary

Approved: _____
Robert Rowan, Chairman

Date: _____