

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER 19, 2007 COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Location: Fish and Game HQ, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301

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

Commissioners Absent: none

Acting Executive Director Clarke - 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.

Chairman Phillipson asked that the audience join him for a moment of silence honoring the passing of avid sportsmen and supporter of the department, Roger Bellerose. He reported that Roger attended many department meetings and hearings and would be missed by all.

ACTION ITEMS

1.) Commissioner Carney moved to approve the November 28, 2007 Commission Minutes with the following revisions and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Page 2 - Second paragraph - Commissioner Kalter stated that he sits on the Great Bay ~~Chapter of Trout Unlimited~~ *Board of Director's*, therefore recused from voting, however, encouraged Commission support on the project.

Page 5 - Third paragraph- He reported that the ~~game summary~~ *deer hunter survey* was completed, however, due to a mailing delay the survey reached hunters after the return deadline and few have been returned to the department.

Page 6 - LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Kalter reported that the committee met on November 16th to discuss the HB 710 Commission, which he represents the Lakes Management Advisory Committee on and serves as Clerk. He reported that the committee has 10 items they plan to investigate *at a minimum*. He reported that the next meeting *of the 710 Commission* would take place on January ~~23~~ 22, 2007.

Page 6- COMMISSIONER KALTER- Commissioner Kalter reported that he received a request to extend the Merrymeeting River Season another month and to *re-examine the extended season on trout ponds*. He further reported that he received a request to re-evaluate the current stocking

policy on ~~Barry's~~ *Berry's* Brook. Steve Weber updated Commissioner Kalter on the status of the creation of additional turkey habitat position discussed at a previous meeting.

Page 7 - COMMISSIONER NOTTONSON - Commissioner Nottonson reported that ~~a farm~~ *development rights* to a farm in Rockingham County are close to being sold. He stated that he believed the property would be open to activities with the exception of development. He reported that he received a letter from Fred Allen, sportsmen, expressing some concerns he had and believed that Director Clarke would be handling the issue.

2. Commissioner Carney moved to approve the expenditure of \$9,050.00, from the Fisheries Habitat Account to cover the cost of the annual dam registration fees assessed by the Department of Environmental Services and Commissioner Normandeau seconded. Acting Director Clarke stated that he felt Representative Abbott was very appreciative of the invitation to come to Concord and sit down to discuss the issue.

At this time, Commissioner Normandeau moved to approve dam registration fees for the years 2005, 2006, and 2007, Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, inquired as to other necessary fees and whether they should be re-addressed as well. Director Clarke asked that Steve Weber and Steve Perry, Chief, Fisheries Division, work together to provide a brief presentation before the Commission at it's January 23, 2008 Meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Support Services, provided the monthly financial statement dated November 30, 2007.

2.) Information Item #2 was postponed until the January 2008 Meeting.

3.) Rob Calvert, Wildlife Specialist, provided a presentation regarding the department's deprecation permit program. Rob reported that it has been a cooperative effort since 1986 with the Federal Government. He stated that a work plan is derived every year that consists of bear, deer, and moose. He reported that there were approximately 1,700 complaints this fiscal year alone. He provided a slide show that indicated bears seem to be the most troublesome with skunks coming in second. Although bears are the most troublesome, he reported that only 2 deprecation permits per year are usually issued. Deer was identified as a contributor as well.

Rob further reported that approximately \$6,000 is spent annually for bear damage, which comes out of the Department of Agriculture's Fund. Commissioner Philipson thanked Rob for the presentation and asked him to come back to provide a presentation specifically on bear as the Commission seemed to have many questions regarding that particular species.

4.) Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, reported that the deer kill to date was estimated to be around 13,416. He stated, "We had a great year".

He further provided an overview of the results of the Game Management Survey. He stated that he mailed each Commissioner a copy of the results and hoped they received them. He reported that approximately 20,000 hunters were selected for the survey, with 19,913 actually mailed out due to address issues, and 1,550 returned as undeliverable. He went through questions and answers on the survey. Steve reported that one question on the survey was asking what the biggest reason why people were not getting out to hunt. The most popular response was "Lack of free time". The survey identified that the most common species people hunt in New Hampshire are deer, turkey, and grouse. Commissioner Carney stated, "Good strong data". It was suggested that this type of survey be done again in a few years, as it brings valuable information to the department.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SEARCH COMMITTEE Commissioner Phillipson, Chair; Commissioners Carney, Costa, Hubert, and Nottonson. Commissioner Phillipson reported that the deadline for submitting an application for the Executive Director position was December 31, 2007. He further reported that the search committee would be meeting to review the applications on January 2, 2008, then would have a meeting with the full Commission on January 7, 2008 to discuss those applications.

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner T. Hubert, Chair; Commissioners; Nottonson, Kalter, Rowan, and Costa. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee did not meet, however, has the potential to meet on January 2, 2008 to discuss legal teleconferencing and the correspondence received from Peter Roth of the Attorney General's Office on that subject.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Morse; Commissioner Morse reported that the next meeting would take place on December 21, 2007, at the Department of Environmental Services, at 9:00 a.m., and distributed the agenda to the Commission.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Kalter; Commissioner Kalter reported that the next meeting would be a combined meeting with the Rivers Management Advisory Committee and stated that they would be reviewing the sustainability initiative.

REVENUE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Nottonson, Chair; Commissioners Morse and Guaraldi. Commissioner Nottonson reported that due to simultaneous meetings of the legislative and revenue committees, there was minimal attendance at the morning revenue committee meeting. He reported that the conflict is that Commissioners who serve on the legislative committee also serve on the revenue committee. He reported that he had a great meeting with Colonel Gray and reviewed the items to be passed along to the revenue committee. He stated that he felt it was appropriate to wait for the results of the performance audit to be made public, as he is confident that some of the issue may be addressed in that. He thanked Colonel Gray for attending the meeting.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert reported that things seemed to be fairly quiet, possibly due to the holiday season. He reported that he recently attended a Christmas

Party and was able to speak with a few hunters who had positive comments and were pleased with the deer season this year.

COMMISSIONER KALTER: Commissioner Kalter reported that things were quiet for him as well. He reported that he received a comment from the Great Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited, who would like to work with the department to assist with stocking and possibly implementing more fall fishery type work, similar to the Landowner Relations Program coordinated by Chuck Miner.

COMMISSIONER NORMANDEAU: Commissioner Normandeau reported that people were happy with the deer season and are reporting that they are seeing many deer. He reported that a gentleman in Rye took a 15- point buck, weighing 215 lbs.

COMMISSIONER CARNEY: Commissioner Carney reported that he had a few calls, but for the most part things were quiet.

COMMISSIONER COSTA: Commissioner Costa reported that she had a tough November losing her Mother and Grandmother. She reported that she did get a few calls. One caller had a snake in her basement and the other had a coyote howling outside her window. She reported that she encouraged the woman not to call a Conservation Officer during the middle of the night to report the coyote.

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that things were relatively quiet for her too. She reported that there was much publicity in the local newspaper, with the writer speaking against a 6 year old being in the woods hunting. She further reported that she has heard concerns regarding reciprocity for youth hunting.

At this time, 3:01 p.m., Commissioner Tichy moved to go into a non-public session to confer with legal counsel and Commissioner Kalter seconded. A roll call vote as take of all Commissioners present, Commissioner Hubert, "Yes", Commissioner Kalter, "Yes", Commissioner Normandeau, "Yes", Commissioner Carney, "Yes", Commissioner Costa, "Yes", Commissioner Tichy, "Yes, Commissioner Nottonson, "Yes", Commissioner Morse, "Yes", Commissioner Rowan, "Yes", Commissioner Guaraldi, "Yes", and Chairman Phillipson, "Yes".

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the record and Commissioner Kalter seconded. A roll call vote as take of all Commissioners present, Commissioner Hubert, "Yes", Commissioner Kalter, "Yes", Commissioner Normandeau, "Yes", Commissioner Carney, "Yes", Commissioner Costa, "Yes", Commissioner Tichy, "Yes, Commissioner Nottonson, "Yes", Commissioner Morse, "Yes", Commissioner Rowan, "Yes", Commissioner Guaraldi, "Yes", and Chairman Phillipson, "Yes".

COMMISSIONER ROWAN: Commissioner Rowan reported that he spent some time at check stations and spoke to some people who participated in the game management survey. He reported that their comments were positive and stated that the department should consider conducting the survey again in the future.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse reported that he attended the department Christmas Party and was very impressed.

COMMISSIONER NOTTONSON: Commissioner Nottonson reported that in one of the publications he received it mentioned that the shooting industry executives have formed a new organization called “Youth Shooting Sports Alliance”. It was agreed that Commissioner Nottonson would write a letter to Steve Miller, Executive Director, and inquire how the department might participate. He stated that he would report back to the Commission.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy reported that he received a few comments regarding snowshoe hare. He inquired if anyone has requested to trap snowshoe hares in the North Country for a particular club. Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, responded that he suspects requests have been made, however, would have to get back to him with that information. Commissioner Tichy thanked the Law Enforcement Division for handling an incident up north where two moose were shot and left off Success Pond Road. He stated that the incident got much publicity and felt the conservation officers handled the situation very well and solved the case.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that he scheduled a follow-up meeting on January 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., with the pheasant volunteers, at Fish and Game Headquarters in Concord.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner S. Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Carney, and Morse. Commissioner Guaraldi distributed a package containing 56 bills that Fish and Game is currently tracking. Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the committee met the morning of the Commission Meeting to discuss the following legislation:

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to oppose HB-1264, relative to prohibiting ATV and trail bike use on state-owned rails acquired using federal funds, and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to support HB-1266, relative to allowing 50 caliber pistols to take game animals in the state, and Commissioner Carney seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to oppose HB-1411, relative to information concerning the presence or range of threatened species, and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote carried with 9 in favor and 1 opposed. (T. Tichy)

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to support HB-1422, relative to establishing a commission on the prevention of childhood obesity, with an amendment to include Fish and Game as a member of the Commission and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote carried with 8 in favor and 2 opposed. (T. Tichy, B. Carney)

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to oppose HB-1468, relative to mosquito control policy for lands managed by the fish and game department, and Commissioner Carney seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to support the concept of HB-1474, relative to the construction and operation of shooting ranges, and encourage department staff to work with the sponsor on the wording and Commissioner Tichy seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to support HB-1476, relative to shooting ranges, with an amendment to clarify recognized safety standards, and Commissioner Normandeau seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to oppose HB-1539, relative to the political representation of members of the fish and game commission, and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

In closing, Commissioner Guaraldi announced that there could possibly be a Legislative Meeting on January 7, 2008, following the Commission Meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Acting Director Clarke stated that due to snow starting to fall and time constraints, he would provide a report at the January 2008 Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

At this time, 4:45 p.m., Commissioner Costa moved to adjourn and Commissioner Normandeau seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Costa, Secretary

Approved: _____
Robert Phillipson, Chairman

Date: _____