

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

MAY 20, 2009 COMMISSION MEETING

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

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

Commissioners absent: all present

Coastal Commissioner: vacant

Executive Director Normandeau - present

Chairman Phillipson called the meeting to order at 1:06 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 May 20, 2009 Commission minutes with the following revisions and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was carried with 8 in favor and 2 abstentions. (M. Kalter & S. Guaraldi)

Page 5 - **COMMISSIONER GUARALDI**: Commissioner Guaraldi was absent, therefore, no report. ~~Banquet~~

Page 6 - **COMMISSIONER ROWAN**: Commissioner Rowan reported that he attended the Hunter Education Volunteer Recognition Banquet and the Let's Go Fishing Volunteer Banquet. He stated that he was amazed at the number of volunteers and their dedication. He further reported that he attended the Winnepesaukee Sportsmen's Meeting. **In addition, a group of fishermen** ~~where they~~ informed him that a petition was underway to put access on the KONA Wildlife Management Area. In closing, he reported that he attended the Legislative Audit Meeting and has been circulating Wild Goose petitions.

2. Chairman Phillipson and Director Normandeau presented Michael Morrison of Swanzey, New Hampshire, with the 2009 Volunteer Commission Award of Excellence. Chairman Phillipson announced that Michael serves in the Department's Hunter Education and Trapper Education Programs as a volunteer instructor and has assisted in many other capacities at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness and here in Concord during Discover Wild New Hampshire Day.

He further reported that Michael supports the Fish and Game mission and willingly and enthusiastically expends the time and energy as a volunteer to fulfill that mission.

The Commission and audience applauded Micheal for his accomplishments.

3a- 3d. Commissioner Guaraldi moved to accept items 3a-3d as presented below and Commissioner Costa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

3a. Payment in the amount of \$46.47 towards a search and rescue bill totaling \$557.75 from Ms. Nicola Taylor, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account. Ms. Taylor has signed a promissory note to make monthly payments until the bill is paid in full.

3b. Donation in the amount of \$1,000 from the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire in support of Discover Wild New Hampshire Day.

3c. Donation in the amount of \$500.00 from the New Hampshire Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, to be utilized by the Landowner Relations Program.

3d. Donation of a full flying turkey mount from Dave & Dorinda Priebe, valued at approximately \$2,000, to be displayed at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness.

4. Commissioner Orff moved to accept a 54.59- acre Conservation Easement from the Town of Loudon and Commissioner Kalter seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Ed Robinson, Wildlife Biologist, reported that in response to wetland permit mitigation, the New Hampshire Motor Speedway is required to place 54.59 acres into conservation. The Town of Loudon will own the parcel in fee and has asked that the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department accept a Conservation Easement.

5. Colonel Garabedian presented Conservation Officer Michael G. Eastman with the Shikar Safari Wildlife Office of the Year Award. He reported that Officer Eastman resides in Gilford and has been employed by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for a period of six years. He stated that Officer Eastman has consistently exhibited a strong work ethic and the professionalism that exemplifies what today's wildlife officer should strive be.

Colonel Garabedian presented Conservation Officer William J. Boudreau with the Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Association Office of the Year Award. He reported that Officer Boudreau resides in Portsmouth and has been employed with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for approximately five years. He stated that Officer Boudreau has shown a tremendous tenacity in the performance of his duties, consistently producing a high volume of activity and demonstrating the attributes of a reliable and thorough professional.

The Commission and audience applauded the above individuals for their accomplishments.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

In addition, Kathy reported that Discover Wild New Hampshire Day was a success for merchandise and license sales. She reported on the following:

Outside merchandise sales: \$3,119.20.

HQ Front Desk sales: 83 licenses sold and \$208.50 in merchandise.

Concession Stand: \$1,058.28

She announced that due to the Fiscal Year closing, all travel expenses should be submitted as soon as possible.

2. Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, provided a handout relative to the operational budget for the pheasant dedicated account, wildlife habitat dedicated account, and the game management dedicated account. He reported that he would be requesting to expend the following at the June 17, 2009 Commission Meeting:

Pheasant Dedicated Account:	\$124, 470
Wildlife Habitat Dedicated Account:	\$168, 348
Game Management Dedicated Account:	\$454,058

3. Patrick Tate, Furbearer Project Leader, provided an update on the bobcat carcass collection program. He reported that in 2007 a total of 14 bobcats were collected, consisting of 7 females and 7 males. In 2008, a total of 34 bobcats were collected, consisting of 14 females and 20 males. This year (2009) has yielded 1 female bobcat and 2 male bobcats to date. He stated that by combining 2007, 2008 and 2009, a total of 53 animals were collected by Conservation Officers and Regional Biologists and submitted for necropsy to the furbearer project. He further reported that although 53 animals were collected, it was not enough for a population estimate.

He further reported that based on the sample population percentage of males (56.9%) and females (43.1%), the population is similar in composition to that of a population described in Michigan. In 2005, Michigan reported a sample population of 139 males and 100 females, or 58% males and 42% females harvested in a management zone. He stated that this data constitutes an important baseline measurement for future comparison. (For more information see attached handout.)

4. Charlie Bridges, Habitat & Diversity Coordinator, provided an overview on boundary marking activities on Fish and Game Wildlife Management Areas. Charlie distributed a handout consisting of property boundaries marked and witnessed with signs as of April 12, 2009. He further reported that much information was available on the departments website at: <http://wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/WMAindex.htm> (See attached handout)

5. Doug Grout, Chief, Marine Division, presented the adoption of marine rules pertaining to compliance with addendums to ASMFC fisheries management plans for lobster and sea herring.

6. Peter Wellenberger, Research Reserve Manager, introduced Dea Brickner-Wood, Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership Coordinator, who provided an overview of the new website that the Great Bay Resource Partnership has developed. Dea reviewed the numerous options and information that the website offers. She further reported that there was a separate section with maps to assist sportsmen.

Dea stated that the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership was a group of organizations committed to protecting the important habitats of the Great Bay region. She reported that the following were 9 principal partners:

Ducks Unlimited	Great Bay Nat'l Estuarine Research Reserve
NH Audubon	NH Fish & Game Dept
Society for the Prot of NH Forests	The Nature Conservancy, NH Chapter
US Env. Protection Agency	US Fish & Wildlife Service
USDA Natural Res. Conservation Agency	

In addition, she reported that since 1995 the Partnership has protected 87 properties, totaling over 5,200 acres of significant habitat. Conserved lands not only protect valuable forests, open fields, wetlands and shorelines, but also ensure continued public access and recreational opportunities.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Phillipson thanked her for the informative presentation.

7. Judy Stokes, Chief, Public Affairs Division, introduced Jeff Davidson, Chip Franklin, and Nick Gaubinger, all students from the Dartmouth Tuck School of Business, who's first year project consisted of acting as business consultants for the Fish and Game Department. The presentation provided information about the cooperative project between the department and the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. Under the first year program, MBA candidates apply classroom learning to complex real-world business challenges for clients, in this case, the Fish and Game Department. The group took an in-depth look at our business and outlined findings in the areas of revenue, sponsorship, and potential areas for growth to sustain department operations.

The students contacted numerous fish and wildlife agencies in many different states, conducting a great deal of research. To no surprise, many agencies are experiencing similar shortfalls with funding and are having to explore other avenues of revenue.

The Commission thanked the students for their hard work and for sharing the preliminary results of the project.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: At this time, Chairman Phillipson appointed Commissioners Tichy, Orff, and Hubert to the Nominating Committee with a charge to bring forward a slate of

officers to serve as Commission Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Treasurer/Secretary for a vote at the June 17, 2009 Commission Meeting.

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner T. Hubert, Chair; Commissioners; Kalter, Orff, Costa, and Ryan. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee met the morning of the Commission Meeting. He reported that the group continued to work on getting policies ready for insertion into the handbook and have reviewed 35 of the 44 policies to date. He further reported that approximately 6 policies were not in the file. In closing, he announced that the Policy Committee would be meeting at 10:00 a.m., prior to the June 17, 2009 Commission Meeting at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Rowan and Morse. Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the committee did not meet this month. She reported that SB-132 was voted Inexpedient To Legislate. She further reported that Vermont had passed HB-64, eliminating all residency requirements required for youth hunting. She stated that this is not the same opportunity New Hampshire offers, however, thanked everyone for their support. In closing, she announced that the committee would be meeting in August and requested that any staff person or Commissioner with legislative ideas for next session to please see Sandy or herself in the near future.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Morse; Commissioner Morse stated that he had nothing to report this month.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Kalter; Commissioner Kalter reported that the committee has been meeting every two months. He further reported that the Chairman of the Lakes Committee brought up the discussion of the Wild Goose site at Sunapee and the committee decided wisely to take no position. Another topic discussed at the meeting was surplus land review and the transaction of 100 acres of donated land to the Fish and Game Department in exchange for providing easements for water withdrawal and conveyance of the Danbury Bog Dam to Ragged Mountain Ski Area. In closing, he reported that the next meeting would take place on Friday, May 29, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Commissioner Rowan, Chair; Commissioner's Kalter and Orff. Commissioner Rowan reported that the committee did not meet this month, however, would be meeting prior to the June 17, 2009 Commission Meeting, time to be announced.

OLD BUSINESS: The Commission questioned what the status was on the Saltwater License for Guides. Director Normandeau responded that he was focusing on getting the Saltwater License approved prior to addressing the Guides issue.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert reported that most of his activities have revolved around the Wild Goose Boat Access Project, involving many meetings. He further reported that he attended the Department of Environmental Services public hearing. He announced that considerable efforts were still being put forth regarding the need for access. In closing, he reported that he assisted with the Women-On-Target event and commented on how well run the program was.

COMMISSIONER KALTER: Commissioner Kalter reported that he had been doing a great deal of traveling over the past few months. He stated that he did receive the routine calls regarding fish stocking, etc. In closing, he reported that he had been attending the Department's Agency Change Meetings.

COMMISSIONER ORFF: Commissioner Orff reported that he attended the SB-132 Hearing, the Annual Pointer Fish & Game Meeting. Further, he stated that he received calls regarding a sick moose, rattlesnake and fishing issues.

COMMISSIONER COSTA: Commissioner Costa reported that she attended the Pointer Fish & Game Annual Dinner, Discover Wild New Hampshire Day, Mastering Agency Change Meetings, the hearing on SB-132, Women-On-Target event, Winter Becoming and Outdoor Woman Workshop, and the hunter education class held at T.L. Storer Scout Camp in Barnstead. She further stated that the scout camp had a very nice facility with a dining hall and overnight accommodations. In closing, she reported that she received a few nuisance bear calls, stocking calls, and a call from Stories Sports Shop inquiring as to why they were not allowed to become a check station.

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she attended the Wild Goose Boat Access Hearing, Discover Wild New Hampshire Day, New Hampshire Wildlife Federation Meeting, and the Enfield Outing Club Meeting. She announced that the Enfield Outing Club would be sponsoring a child to attend Barry Conservation Camp this summer. She further reported that she had an opportunity to take her granddaughter smelt fishing and had an excellent time. She reported that the Becoming An Outdoor Woman Workshop would be held on September 11 – 13, 2009, with registrations being accepted the first week of June. In addition, she reported that the Becoming An Outdoor Woman Program would be hosting a "Wild Cooking" event on August 22 & 23, 2009, at the Barry Conservation Camp. Details will be made available in the near future at www.nhbow.com. In closing, she inquired whether the hunting & fishing digest phone numbers could be brought before the Commission for review prior to print.

COMMISSIONER ROWAN: Commissioner Rowan reported that he attended Discover Wild New Hampshire Day, NH Guides Division Meeting, the SB-132 hearing and audit meeting, NH Trapper's Association Meeting, and the Sunapee Boat Access Hearing. In closing, he reported that he visited the KONA Wildlife Management Area.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse reported that he attended the Deering Fish & Game Youth Day, SB-132 Hearing, Sunapee Boat Access Hearing, and the Pointer Fish and Game Annual Dinner. He further reported that he assisted with shooting activities at the Women-On-Target Event held at the Cheshire County Fish and Game Club.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Commissioner Ryan reported that he received the routine calls relative to stocking, etc. He reported that he attended the Wild Goose Boat Access Project Public Hearing and the Mastering Agency Change Meeting. In closing, he reported that

Conservation Officer Michael Matson was able to assist in answering some questions from constituents.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy reported that he attended the Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Banquet with Director Normandeau and attended the SB-132 hearing. He reported that he had a great opportunity to conduct a Northern Pike Survey on Jericho Lake in Berlin with Andrew Schafermeyer, Fisheries Biologist I. He and Andy discussed the issue of no horsepower allowed on the lake and both felt that it was limiting angling opportunities. He further reported that he had a discussion with Gene Chase of Hebron, NH, informing him that HB-398, relative to shooting in a compact area, was tabled, therefore, no progress has been made regarding the issue.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that he attended Discover Wild New Hampshire Day with his daughter and reported that approximately 6,400 people attended. He reported that he attended many hearings and the Women-On-Target Event. He thanked those Commissioners that assisted with that event, along with their spouses.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Normandeau reported that he attended the hearing on SB-132 and thanked Commissioner Costa for her testimony as it was well received. He reported that he had a discussion with Commissioner Burack and Renee Pelletier of the Department of Environmental Services, who felt the hearing went as well as it could have. He further reported that he met with Tom Thomson and dignitaries to get a policy in place for employees to go on private property with advanced notice. In addition, he reported that Ames Farm in Gilford has shut down access for boaters. Apparently, a neighbor complained and through the planning and zoning board process Ames Farm was made to stop providing access. In closing, he reported that the water heater at Barry Conservation Camp has died and stated that the department was in the process of searching for funds to replace the heater prior to the summer season and the opening of camp.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Director Normandeau recognized Jane Vachon, Information Representative, Public Affairs Division, for the well-written letter regarding SB-132.

At this time, 4:03 p.m., Commissioner Costa moved to adjourn and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Costa, Secretary

Approved: _____
Robert Phillipson, Chairman

Date: _____