

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

JANUARY 18, 2012 COMMISSION MEETING

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

Commissioners Present: R. Phillipson, R. Blake, T. Hubert, T. Tichy, E. Orff, J. Ryan, J. McGonagle, W. Morse, and S. Guaraldi.

Commissioners absent/excused: All present

Executive Director Normandeau - Present

Vacant Commissioner's Positions - Coastal Commissioner & Carroll County Commissioner

Chairman Guaraldi called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., and asked the audience to join in the pledge of allegiance and to pause for a moment of silence. She informed the audience that the public is entitled to attend all Commission meetings and when recognized by the chairman, the public may speak on any item on the agenda. The Chair reserves the right to limit comment to the extent necessary for the orderly conduct of the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

1.) Commissioner Orff moved to approve the December 21, 2011 Commission Minutes as written and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2.) Consent Agenda - The following items were grouped together and noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, which may not require public discussion. The Commission was asked to vote to approve these matters as presented. Commission members have the option to remove certain items if further public input or discussion is deemed necessary.

Commissioner Orff moved to approve items 2a & 2g as identified below and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) Commission accepted the donation of 4 Contour Roam 1080p cameras valued at \$799.00, 4 car chargers valued at \$79.96, and SD cards valued at approximately \$400.00, for use on District 1 snowmobiles.

2b.) Commission accepted a \$1,000 grant from the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire, to be utilized to support Discover Wild New Hampshire Day.

2c.) Commission accepted a \$2,500 grant from the Plum Creek Foundation, to be utilized at the Barry Conservation Camp shooting facility.

2d.) Commission accepted \$11,000 from Project Learning Tree, to be utilized toward the publication of Discover Wild Times.

2e.) Commission accepted a \$10,000 donation, to be deposited into the State's Land Conservation Endowment Fund to endow permanent conservation easement monitoring on the Brett Easement in Madbury, NH.

2f.) Commission accepted the donation of an executory interest in a conservation easement on 97.65 acres of land owned by the Town of Hooksett.

2g.) Commission accepted a \$25.00 donation from Ms. Helen Scribner in memory of Ms. Pauline DeBlois.

3.) Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, came before the Commission requesting to expend funds from the Pheasant Dedicated Account to purchase 13,500 pheasants for the 2012 hunting season.

Steve reported that there was only one pheasant vendor left in the Northeast United States. He reported that due to last fall's snowstorm the pens collapsed and the birds died. He revised his request to expend \$135,000 for 12,772 pheasant, which reflects the \$1.00 increase in birds. He stated that the Department and Commission would need to think long-term as far as the pheasant program was concerned.

After much discussion, Commissioner Phillipson moved to approve the above expenditure and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Director Normandeau stated, "This is a big concern for all of us."

4.) Steve Perry, Chief, Inland Fisheries Division, came before the Commission requesting to expend \$9,775 from the Fisheries Habitat Account, to cover the cost of the 2012 dam registration fees assessed by the Department of Environmental Services.

Commissioner Morse moved to approve the above expenditure and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) Commissioner Orff moved to go forward with the final proposal for rulemaking on various marine rules as presented and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Office, reviewed the monthly financial statement with the Fish and Game Commission. (See Attached)

2.) Steve Weber and The Wildlife Project Leaders came before the Commission to provide an overview of preliminary recommendations for changes to hunting and trapping seasons for 2012 & 2013. (See Attached) Steve reported that the package would come back before the Commission at the February 15, 2012 Commission Meeting for a vote to go forward with rulemaking.

3.) Steve Weber provided the Commission with an overview of Dedicated Account Financial Reports. (See Attached)

STANDING COMMITTEES:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner Orff, Chair; Commissioner Ryan. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee did not meet.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Morse, Chair; Commissioners Tichy and McGonagle. Commissioner Morse reported on the following legislation:

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1185, relative to the police standards and training council, and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1212, relative to resisting arrest, and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1230-FN, requiring a listing of state real property, and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1265, relative to criteria for the government regulation of occupations and professions, and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1289, relative to agreements between government units, and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1327, relative to official oppression, and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1449, requiring a search warrant for searches of privately owned property, and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1468, relative to seizure of personal property, and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1531, relative to prosecution of victimless crimes, and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1532-FN, relative to trespass on land which is not posted, and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1540-FN, relative to conservation easements on public land, and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to monitor HB-1555, relative to the penalty for firearm use in a State area for propagation of game controlled by the Fish & Game Department, and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to support HB-1646-FN, relative to prohibiting the taking of deer from baited areas, and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote carried with 6 in favor and 2 abstentions. (E. Orff, J. Ryan).

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1669, requiring the deposit of dedicated fund revenues into the general fund for the 2014 & 2015 fiscal years and requiring non-constitutionally established dedicated funds to be eliminated on June 30, 2015 unless reinstated by the legislature, and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1694-FN, relative to driving under the influence of drugs, and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to support HB-1707-FN, relative to penalties for operation after revocation or suspensions, and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to monitor SB-213-FN, relative to the authority of state agencies to assess fines and penalties, and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-514, relative to entry on private land, and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1499-FN, relative to criminal coercion, and Commissioner Blake seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-1581, relative to procedures for arrest, and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to support SB-250 with the monitoring of section 4, relative to operation of ATV's and trail bikes on state lands, and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Ryan; Chair; Commissioner Ryan reported that the committee met in January and that the next meeting would take place in March of 2012.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Orff; Commissioner Orff reported that the committee met and discussed legislative issues. He reported that staffing cuts have affected some of the programs.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Blake; Chair; Commissioners Orff and Tichy. Commissioner Blake reported that the committee met the morning of the Commission Meeting to review nominations submitted for the Commission Awards of Excellence. He distributed a nomination list to the Commission and stated that he would be calling them all within the next few days.

HANDBOOK & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE: Commissioner Hubert, Chair; Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee did not meet.

CHANGING TIMES: Commissioners McGonagle and Blake. Commissioner McGonagle reported that the committee did not meet this month as items were being worked on in sub-committee work groups.

WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION LIASON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that Nancy Berliner and Steve White, of the NH Wildlife Heritage Foundation, would be providing an overview of the Foundation and how it operates to the Commission at the February 15, 2012 Commission Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing heard at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Phillipson moved to send a letter on behalf of the Commission to Governor Lynch supporting the reappointment of Director Glenn Normandeau for another term as Executive Director of the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Guaraldi reminded everyone that the Department would be staffing a booth at the upcoming Farm & Forest Exposition in Manchester, NH, February 3-4, 2012, at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester.

Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the Winter Becoming an Outdoor Woman announcement was out and ready for folks to sign up.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert reported that he held a liaison meeting in conjunction with the Sullivan County Sportsmen's Club Meeting this month.

COMMISSIONER BLAKE: Commissioner Blake stated that he had nothing to report this month.

COMMISSIONER ORFF: Commissioner Orff reported that he attended the recent Fish & Game hearing, attended the Lakes Management Advisory Committee Meeting, attended the Rockingham Sportsmen's Show, attended Chuck Miner's retirement gathering, attended the Legislative breakfast, and attended the Concord Green Group Event.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that since the last meeting he has discovered that Caldwell Pond does have access and people are able to walk in.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy reported that there has been much discussion regarding Umbagog and he has been made aware that there was a petition being circulated to limit the refuge.

COMMISSIONER MCGONAGLE: Commissioner McGonagle stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Commissioner Ryan reported that he has been attending the Water Sustainability Meetings.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse reported that he received the usual seasonal calls.

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi stated that she had nothing to report at this time.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS: Director Normandeau reported that the Department had overcome some hurdles and has secured the Shoreland & Wetlands permits required to move forward with the boat access project on Lake Sunapee. He reported that the Department still needs to resolve some issues with the Alteration of Terrain Permit prior to construction being initiated.

He further reported that all interested parties (engineers) would be meeting on January 25, 2012 at Fish & Game HQ to discuss the Jones Pond Project. He reported that the interview process would be the next step.

Director Normandeau thanked the Fish & Game Commission and staff for their support.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Buck Mercier, Licensed Guide, stated that he felt that guides should be able to donate their

extra permits & be distributed to others to use.

He stated that he was disappointed to see that the Commission rushed to vote on the deer baiting bill. He stated, "The Commission will be solely responsible for land being posted in this State."

Dave Poole, Guide's Association, reported that he heard a rumor that the NH Wildlife Heritage Foundation was taking a percentage of Barry Conservation Camp monies.

Director Normandeau responded that the NH Wildlife Heritage Foundation does not take any monies from Barry Conservation Camp as they are strictly earmarked.

Dave suggested that we try to correct the misinformation to make it known to the public.

Director Normandeau reported that Steve White of the NH Wildlife Heritage Foundation would be attending the February Commission Meeting and could address this.

Larry Guaraldi, audience member, spoke to the issue of deer baiting and stated that he felt baiting hasn't had a big impact on the take of wildlife. He stated, "I wish you would consider it as there are severe penalties on feeding deer."

At this time, 5:14 p.m., Commissioner Ryan moved to adjourn and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

James Ryan, Secretary

Approved: _____
Sharon Guaraldi, Chairman