

## NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

### OCTOBER 21, 2009 COMMISSION MEETING

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

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

Commissioner's not in attendance: R. Phillipson

Coastal Commissioner: vacant

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

Executive Director Normandeau – Attended G&C Meeting/present for end of meeting.

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:**

Commissioner Rowan requested 1 correction to the September 16, 2009 minutes. He requested that the minutes reflect Commissioner Costa having an excused absence under Commission attendance.

Commissioner Orff moved to approve the September minutes with the above correction and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a-2e.) Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the below donations and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) Donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Mr. Lawrence Jasper, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2b.) Donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Y. Tsumura, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2c.) Donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Pinnacle Mountain Fish & Game Club, Inc., to be utilized by the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness, NH.

2d.) Donation in the amount of \$730.45 from Lakeview Neurorehabilitation Center, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2e). Donation in the amount of \$200.00 from the Cheshire County Fish & Game Club, to be utilized by the Landowner Relations Program.

3.) Commissioner Orff moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$20,000 from the Wildlife Habitat Account for the acquisition of 146± acres abutting Knight's Meadow March and Leonard Wildlife Management Area in Webster, NH, and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

4.) Commissioner Tichy moved to go forward with rulemaking regarding rules pertaining to newly authorized lobster and crab landing licenses and modifications to rules pertaining to license information collected on a variety of marine licenses and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

At this time, Chairman Rowan announced the resignation of Commissioner Costa, who served as Belknap County Commissioner and Secretary/Treasurer to the Commission. Commissioner Morse moved that Commissioner Ryan replace Commissioner Costa in the role of Secretary/Treasurer to the Commission and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**LATE ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Orff moved to accept the restitution payment of \$4,776.50 for the rescue bill for Mr. Gary Dodds, to be deposited in the Search & Rescue Account and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

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

2. Sandy Falicon, Legislative/Rules Coordinator, provided an update on rulemaking relative to winter flounder and large coastal sharks. She reported that the department is initiating rulemaking to come into compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's management plans for winter flounder and large coastal sharks. The rules proposed for winter flounder include a trip limit for commercial fishermen and either reduction in the bag limit or a closed season for recreational anglers. The rules pertaining to large coastal sharks include a prohibition on finning, prohibiting the possession of certain species of federally protected sharks, a requirement that persons purchasing sharks have a federal dealer permit, and prohibiting the take of Porbeagle sharks by commercial fishermen in state waters.

3. Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, provided an update on Dedicated Accounts per attached. (See attached)

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**POLICY COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Hubert, Chair; Commissioners; Kalter, Phillipson, Orff, Costa, and Ryan. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee did not meet this month. He stated that the committee would be working on doing some housekeeping to policies and anticipated the committee meeting prior to the November 18, 2009 Commission Meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Morse, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Rowan and Guaraldi. Commissioner Morse reported that the committee did meet prior the Commission Meeting and discussed the following legislation.

Commissioner Morse moved to go forward with legislation to establish a lobster tail permit pursuant to RSA 211:49-38-a and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to go forward with a legislative proposal relative to “right-to know”, to allow a fee to be charged and to protect personal information and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Tichy moved to support legislation relative to authorizing the use firearms in the compact part of town and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Tichy reported that this has been an ongoing issue. He reported that he had discussion with a resident of Hebron, NH, relative to a firing range in his backyard and being unable to use it.

**RIVERS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Ryan; Chair; Commissioner Ryan reported that had not been confirmed by the Governor & Council to officially vote as of yet. He reported that he would be attending the Lamprey River Watershed Expansion Meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2009.

**LAKES COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Orff; Commissioner Orff reported that he had been confirmed and attended his first meeting at the Squam Lakes Science Center. He reported that he found it to be a very enjoyable field day as the group conducted some chemistry testing on the Lake.

**HANDBOOK COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the committee did meet this month. She commended everyone involved for his or her participation in getting the handbook up to date. She reported that the next step would be to derive solid procedures to keep the handbook updated. Further, she announced that the policy section of the handbook was printed on green paper in order to reference it quickly.

In addition, she reported that page 4 of Policies – RMP1, was rescinded in December of 2005. She stated that the next update of several pages, including the title page, would be distributed at the next Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Tichy suggested including dates on policies so everyone knows when certain policies should be updated and it would also identify when resolutions were enacted. Commissioner Guaraldi agreed and suggested each Commissioner spend time reading the handbook.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Herbicide Policy – Rescinded. It was suggested that all rescinded policies be kept in a separate notebook.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

**COMMISSIONER HUBERT:** Commissioner Hubert reported that most of his activities have revolved around the volunteer pheasant-stocking program. He reported that he received reports that the birds appeared to be very healthy this year. He further reported that he received a few calls relative to the Wild Goose Boat Access Site.

**COMMISSIONER ORFF:** Commissioner Orff reported that he attended the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great Bay Discovery Center. He further reported that he attended the National Hunting & Fishing Day Expo held at Fish and Game Headquarters, the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation Meeting, New Hampshire Trapper’s Association Meeting, Senate Wild Goose Meeting, Lakes Management Meeting, and visited various sporting good shops.

**COMMISSIONER TICHY:** Commissioner Tichy reported that he spent some time with North Country Representatives. He reported that as part of a pilot project, on November 7, 2009 the City of Berlin would be opening a connector trail through downtown, connecting Jericho State Park with the trail system in Success. He further reported that a constituent had problems with Wal-Mart issuing them a license. The constituent was unable to get a license and had to go to a Sporting Goods Store. In closing, he reported that he had been checking out some local pheasant sites and has not heard any negative comments regarding the pheasant season as in the past.

**COMMISSIONER RYAN:** Commissioner Ryan reported that he attended the National Hunting & Fish Day Expo, the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great Bay Discover Center, and visited various clubs in the area. He reported that he received a call from a concerned constituent regarding the Youth hunt day and whether there was a rain date.

**COMMISSIONER MORSE:** Commissioner Morse reported that the Deering Fish & Game Club held an event for new shooters, teaching them proper handling methods of weapons. He reported that he was able to participate in the moose hunt and commended all involved in that program. He stated that employees at the check station were very friendly and did a great job. In closing, he commended the employees in license for being so accommodating in assisting folks with purchasing licenses.

**COMMISSIONER KALTER:** Not in attendance.

**COMMISSIONER GUARALDI:** Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she attended the Fis 200 rule hearing. She further reported that she attended the Wildlife Federation Meeting and the Wild Goose Meeting.

**COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON:** Not in attendance.

**COMMISSIONER ROWAN :** Commissioner Rowan reported that he attended the Expo Day held at Fish and Game Headquarters and the events held at the Owl Brook Hunter Education

Center on the same day. He thought that the activities at both locations were well presented. In addition, he reported that he visited the Bear Camp Valley Sports Association. Lastly, he reported that he attended a committee meeting relative to Non-Regulatory Boards and Commissions. He stated that the next meeting would take place on November 3, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director Normandeau apologized for being late to the meeting, however, reported that he was attending the Governor & Council Meeting in Walpole, NH. He reported that he attended a Legislative Informational Meeting relative to the proposed boat access site on Lake Sunapee and spent approximately 2 hours answering questions with the assistance from engineers and consultants.

He further reported that there were no lay-offs for Fish and Game employees and no elimination of positions. He announced that Bob Fawcett, Hatchery Supervisor, recently retired and Jason Smith was offered and has accepted the position. Prior to Jason taking the Hatchery Supervisor position he served as Superintendent of the Powdermill Fish Hatchery.

In closing, he reported that renovations at the Twin Mountain Fish Hatchery were almost complete with the Warren Fish Hatchery being next for renovations and repairs. He reported that Region 3 has some much needed building repairs as well as other department owned facilities around the State.

At this time, Chairman Rowan reminded the Commission that the Biennial Hearing would take place on November 17, 2009, at Fish and Game Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH, at 6:30 p.m., and that the November 18, 2009 Commission Meeting would take place at the Region 1 Office, 629B Main Street, Lancaster, NH at 1:00 p.m., with the Biennial Hearing taking place at 6:30 p.m., at the Region 1 Office as well.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comments were heard at this time.

At this time, 2:35 p.m., Commissioner Guaraldi moved to adjourn and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

James Ryan, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Rowan, Chairman

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