

## NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

### AUGUST 9, 2022 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: Appalachian Mountain Club, Highland Center, Route 302 Ctr., Bretton Woods, NH.

Commissioners Present: E. Stohl, M. Lachance, J. Caveney, M. Hodgson, S. Price, A.J. DeRosa, P. DeBow, R. Green, & B. Temple.

Commissioners absent/excused: C. Hodgdon, P. McInnis

Chairman Green announced that Commissioner Hodgson was participating virtually and was not physically present.

Executive Director Mason – Present

Chairman Green called the meeting to order at 1:02 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, 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.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Green thanked Chris Thayer for hosting the Commission Meeting at the Appalachian Mountain Club, Highland Center.

Chairman Green announced that **all votes** taken during the meeting would be by a roll call vote.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Stohl moved to approve the July 12, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes and Commissioner DeRosa seconded.

A roll call vote was taken of all Commissioners participating on the above motion; Commissioner Stohl, “Yes”, Commissioner Lachance, “Yes”, Commissioner Price, “Yes”, Commissioner Caveney, “Yes”, Commissioner Temple, “Yes”, Commissioner DeRosa, “Yes”, Commissioner Green, “Yes”, Commissioner DeBow, “Yes” & Commissioner Hodgson, “Yes”. The motion 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 voted to approve these matters as presented. Commission members may remove certain items if further public input or discussion is deemed necessary.

Commissioner DeRosa moved to approve consent agenda items 2a – 2f, as presented below, and Commissioner Temple seconded.

A roll call vote was taken of all Commissioners participating on the below consent agenda items; Commissioner Stohl, “Yes”, Commissioner Lachance, “Yes”, Commissioner

Price, “Yes”, Commissioner Caveney, “Yes”, Commissioner Temple, “Yes”, Commissioner DeRosa, “Yes”, Commissioner Green, “Yes”, Commissioner DeBow, “Yes” & Commissioner Hodgson, “Yes”. The motion was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$100.00 from Pennichuck Water Works, Inc., Nashua, NH, in memory of David Day, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account.

2b.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$1,000 from Tara Wise, in appreciation of the services provided to Dana Wise by the Law Enforcement Division’s Search & Rescue Team.

2c.) The Commission accepted the donation of equipment (coolers, scuba fin spring, helmet boxes, boot driers, dry gloves, hand-held microphone for diver speaker, Go Pro camera and battery), valued at \$3,900.00, from the Family of Jonathan Zukowski in appreciation for the services provided by the Law Enforcement Division’s Dive Team in recovering Jonathan, who drowned in the Connecticut River.

2d.) The Commission accepted the following monetary donations made to the Hunter Education Program totaling \$450.00 from the following individuals:

Donations made in memory of Mark D. Rapoza, Gilmanton, NH:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Scott Piper, Webster, NH -             | \$300.00 |
| 2. Keith Rapoza, Cromwell, CT -           | \$ 50.00 |
| 3. Kenneth & Gail Rapoza, Rocky Hill CT - | \$ 50.00 |
| 4.  |          |

Donations made in memory of Richard R. Racine, Bristol, VT:

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 5. Winchester Fire Department, Winchester, NH - | <u>\$ 50.00</u> |
|   | \$450.00        |

2e.) The Commission accepted the donation of two White Mountain Carbine 50 Caliber Muzzleloaders, valued at \$600.00 from Lillian Emerson.

2f.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$200.00 from Alyson McCann, in appreciation for the services provided by the Search and Rescue Team on June 4, 2022, assisting John Driscoll off the Kilkenny Ridge Trail after he slipped and sustained a knee injury.

3.) Commission Assignments: Chairman Green reported that he was going to make a few changes relative to Committee Assignments later in the meeting, after a report from each committee.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1.) No questions on the financial statement.

2.) Heidi Holman, Nongame Supervisor, provided an overview of the Rare Butterfly Conservation in the alpine zone of the White Mountains. (See Attached)

3.) Chris Thayer, Director, External Affairs & Contracts, Appalachian Mountain Club, provided a brief presentation to the Commission.

He reported that the AMC (Appalachian Mountain Club) believes that the outdoors needs a voice. He reported that AMC lead regional conservation and recreation initiatives, and advocate for science-based policies that advance clean energy, air and water quality, and land protection. AMC works with decision makers, federal and state agencies, and many recreation and conservation partners on landscape-scale conservation initiatives and policies and local solutions to promote the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters, and trails of America's Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

He further reported that addressing climate change would require significant changes in how our society produces, transports, and uses energy on a rapid timeframe. The AMC believe that well-designed policies that benefit both society and nature are a step in the right direction to help protect humanity and the natural world from the devastating effects of climate change. Clean air and the health of the forests and waters of the Northeast are at risk from air pollution and climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Public lands also face significant threats from the inappropriate development and siting of energy generation and transmission projects. AMC is working to reduce emissions from our own operations, raise public awareness about these issues, promote and support net zero emissions with appropriate public policies, and inspire others to reduce their carbon footprint.

In addition, he reported that creating a sustained source of funding for land and trails protection, as well as support for conservation research, is essential to our ability to grow and serve future communities. By protecting, restoring, and stewarding lands, trails, and forests, we are creating opportunities for sustainable outdoor experiences. Our science identifies climate trends and undergirds our climate policy advocacy, positioning us as strong leaders in the fight to protect the planet. We hope these efforts will inspire new enthusiasts who share our goals, broadening and diversifying our constituency.

In closing, he thanked the Commission for holding a meeting in the North Country and invited everyone to take tour of the facility if they had time after the meeting.

**COMMITTEE STRUCTURE:**

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Public policy development & recommendations, as well as Commission advocacy before legislature.

Commissioner Green, Chair; Commissioners: DeBow, Price & Hodgson  
Staff members: Kevin Jordan

Chairman Green reported that the committee has not met.

Marty Mobley, Legal Coordinator, provided the below report to the Commission:

**Legislation-**

She reported that the agency has started contemplating possible legislation for next Session. Folks are currently discussing, researching, and deciding. She stated that all proposals

would be brought before the Commission by the September meeting, to allow time for consultation and consideration. At the October meeting, we hope the Commission will have final decisions on what, if any, bills the Department will bring forward for 2023. After elections in November, I will contact Legislators to sponsor any bills we want to go forward and get them filed.

As noted in the e-mail of July 15<sup>th</sup>, all the bills the department was following have now completed the legislative process.

### **Rules**

She reported that updates to Rules Schedule reflect the two rules that have started into process (see Fis 403.07 and Fis 807 below) and the two rules, which were **Adopted** in July:

**Fis 303.02 & .03** (Small Fur-bearers) – Effective July 26<sup>th</sup>; no changes; Commission Consulted in April

**Fis 1400** (Non-game) – Effective July 26<sup>th</sup>; update scientific names for some amphibians; allows for scientific permits; prohibits disclosure of sensitive info on non-game species; Commission Consulted in April

In process:

**Fis 304.01 & .08-.12** (Bear Damage new rules) – Hearing was June 22<sup>nd</sup>; Final Proposal filed July 6<sup>th</sup>; at JLCAR August 18<sup>th</sup>; Info Only in April

**Fis 403.07 & 408.12** (American Shad) – Expire January 2023; Fiscal Impact **received from LBA; Hearing is September 7<sup>th</sup>**; no changes; Info Only rules: **Initial Proposal attached**

**Fis 807 and Fis 1110.09 & .10** (derelict gear clean-up new rules) – Mandated by [SB 146](#) from 2021; Hearing is September 6<sup>th</sup>; Commission Consulted in April

**Fis 1006** (disbursing T&E mitigation funds new rules) – Hearing is August 11<sup>th</sup>; mandated by [SB 129](#) from 2021; Info Only in July

**Fis 1106.07** (Hike Safe cards) – Hearing was August 2<sup>nd</sup>; [HB 1323 removed fees from statutes and mandates them for rules; Info Only in July; in front of JLCAR September 15<sup>th</sup>](#)

Next up:

**Fis 608.03** (shellfish reports) – Expire January 29<sup>th</sup>; Commission Approval for September

**Fis 803.03, et al** (wildlife importation) – Mandated by [HB 1299; Info Only for October](#)

[Fis 1102.01 \(special wildlife permit\) – Expire January 29<sup>th</sup>; Info Only for September](#)

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:** Commission professional development, education & policy recommendations related to Commission conduct & activities.

Commissioner Caveney, Chair; Commissioners: Green & Temple.  
Staff member: Cheri Patterson

Commissioner Caveney reported that the committee met on July 13, 2022 and continued to review the Commission Handbook, page by page. He reported that the committee would be meeting again on August 15, 2022 to continue with the review process.

**SUSTAINABILITY & STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Agency funding, development & oversight of strategic plan.

Commissioner Hodgdon, Chair; Commissioners: Caveney, Hodgson & DeRosa.  
Staff member: Scott Mason

In Commissioner Hodgdon's absence, Commissioner DeRosa provided a brief status report on the Strategic Planning process to the Commission. He reported that he & Commissioner Hodgdon revised the questions that will be going out to the public and added 12 additional questions. He reported that he believed it was Commissioner Hodgson's intention to bring them before the Commission at today's meeting asking for Commission input, as well as staff input. In closing, Commissioner DeRosa reported that the process was going well.

**RESOURCES & INFRASTRUCTURE:** Policy recommendations related to agency infrastructure; including facilities, public access, habitat & wildlife.

Commissioner Temple, Chair; Commissioners: McInnis, Lachance & Caveney.  
Staff member: Dianne Timmins

Commissioner Temple reported that the committee has not met.

He further reported that Director Mason has invited the Commission to tour the Powder Mill Fish Hatchery on August 16, 2022 @ 10:00 a.m., while the Engineering Firm, HDR is on site conducting research of different technologies to remove phosphorus from the hatchery discharge.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION:** Engagement, partnership, awards, public recognition & education strategies for the public & interest groups.

Commissioner DeBow, Chair; Commissioners: Hodgdon, Price & DeRosa.  
Staff members: Dan Bergeron, Kevin Jordan & Cheri Patterson

Commissioner DeBow reported that Tanya reached out to the award recipients, who expressed that a ceremony in Concord would be the most convenient for them. She is going to follow up to verify their preference as to it taking place in November or December. He reported that he would keep the Commission updated on that.

At this time, Chairman Green reviewed the Commission's committee structure & made changes to them, as follows:

**COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: Effective August 09, 2022**  
**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:**

Public policy development & recommendations, as well as Commission advocacy before legislature.

**Commissioner Price, Chair;** Commissioners: Caveney, DeBow, Hodgson & Stohl.  
**Staff members:** Kevin Jordan & Marty Mobley.

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:** Commission professional development, education & policy recommendations related to Commission conduct & activities.

**Commissioner Caveney, Chair;** Commissioners: Lachance & Temple.  
**Staff member:** Cheri Patterson.

**SUSTAINABILITY & STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Agency funding, development & oversight of strategic plan.

**Commissioner Hodgdon, Chair;** Commissioners: Caveney, DeRosa, Hodgson & Stohl.  
**Staff member:** Scott Mason.

**RESOURCES & INFRASTRUCTURE:** Policy recommendations related to agency infrastructure; including facilities, public access, habitat & wildlife.

**Commissioner Temple, Chair;** Commissioners: Caveney, DeRosa, McInnis & Lachance.  
**Staff member:** Dianne Timmins.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION:** Engagement, partnership, awards, public recognition & education strategies for the public & interest groups.

**Commissioner DeRosa Chair;** Commissioners: DeBow, Hodgdon & Price.  
**Staff members:** Dan Bergeron, Kevin Jordan & Cheri Patterson.

**The Commission updated their designees on the following committees:**

Commissioner DeRosa moved that Commissioner Price serve as the Commission's representative on the Lakes Management Advisory Committee and Commissioner Stohl seconded.

A roll call vote was taken of all Commissioners participating; Commissioner Stohl, "Yes", Commissioner Lachance, "Yes", Commissioner Price, "Abstained", Commissioner Caveney, "Yes", Commissioner Temple, "Yes", Commissioner DeRosa, "Yes", Commissioner Green, "Yes", Commissioner DeBow, "Yes" & Commissioner Hodgson, "Yes". The motion carried with 9 in favor, 1 abstention (S. Price).

**LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Stohl moved that Commissioner Hodgdon remain as the Commission's representative on the NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee and Commissioner Temple seconded.

A roll call vote was taken of all Commissioners participating; Commissioner Stohl, “Yes”, Commissioner Lachance, “Yes”, Commissioner Price, “Yes”, Commissioner Caveney, “Yes”, Commissioner Temple, “Yes”, Commissioner DeRosa, “Yes”, Commissioner Green, “Yes”, Commissioner DeBow, “Yes” & Commissioner Hodgson, “Yes”. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**NH RIVERS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Hodgson

**OLD BUSINESS:** Commissioner Temple inquired as to the status of the safe boat donated to the department.

Major Walsh reported that the department has taken possession of the boat and it is docked at the Port Authority.

Commissioner Caveney inquired as to the status of the Commission Identification Name Tags.

Director Mason reported that he would inquire with the Colonel as to the status.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairman Green inquired with the Commission as to whether anyone objected to changing the date of the Commission Meetings to accommodate a Commissioner’s work schedule.

Commissioner Stohl moved that the Fish & Game Commission Meetings take place on the seconded Wednesday of every month and Commissioner DeRosa seconded.

Commissioner Stohl withdrew his motion and Commissioner DeRosa withdrew his second to the motion.

Commissioner DeRosa moved that the Fish & Game Commission Meetings take place on the third Tuesday of every month, starting November 15, 2022, and Commissioner DeBow seconded.

A roll call vote was taken of all Commissioners participating; Commissioner Stohl, “Yes”, Commissioner Lachance, “Yes”, Commissioner Price, “Yes”, Commissioner Caveney, “Yes”, Commissioner Temple, “Yes”, Commissioner DeRosa, “Yes”, Commissioner Green, “Yes”, Commissioner DeBow, “Yes” & Commissioner Hodgson, “Yes”. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Hodgson thanked the Commission for accommodating her schedule.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:** Commissioners will report on their recent activities as it relates to Fish & Game Commission duties and responsibilities. This is an informational item only.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** The Director will report on recent department activities. This is an information item only.

He reported that he attended three outside meetings:

- 1.) On July 14, 2022, he attended the Grand Opening of the SIG SAUER Experience Center, in Epping, NH.
- 2.) He attended a meeting with the U.S. Forest Service, along with other partners, to discuss outdoor recreation and the new challenges we are facing. He reported that the University of New Hampshire would be moderating the program and the meetings will be once a month to discuss issues relative to outdoor recreation.
- 3.) He attended a meeting with DES (Department of Environmental Services) Drought Management Task Force, where discussion focused around the current weather conditions, as it is very close to the President declaring a Drought Emergency in certain counties in New Hampshire.

He reported that as far as internal meetings, the hatchery project is continuing to move forward at a slow pace. He further reported that the department is meeting with companies who are contending for the design contract.

He reported that the budget process is ongoing.

Director Mason introduced Deirdre Grimes, HR Administrator. He reported that she comes from a Non-Governmental Organization with lots of experience, and is now learning the state system.

In closing, Director Mason reported that the Facility & Lands Division Chief has left the agency and gone to the private sector. He reported that it is hard to compete, as state salaries are lagging behind. He reported that the job market is very competitive and we are getting less applicants for vacant positions.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Representative Timothy Egan, of Sugar Hill, NH, was present at the meeting and thanked the Commission for having a meeting in the North Country. He reported that he was very pleased to be selected to sit on the Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Foundation. He reported that he would be reaching out to Director Mason in the future to work with the Department & Commission, as Fish & Game is a key part of tourism.

At this time, 3:05 p.m., Commissioner Price moved to adjourn and Commissioner Lachance seconded.

A roll call vote was taken of all Commissioners participating; Commissioner Stohl, “Yes”, Commissioner Lachance, “Yes”, Commissioner Price, “Yes”, Commissioner Caveney, “Yes”, Commissioner Temple, “Yes”, Commissioner DeRosa, “Yes”, Commissioner Green, “Yes”, Commissioner DeBow, “Yes” & Commissioner Hodgson, “Yes”. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

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Ray Green, Chairman  
NH Fish & Game Commission