

## NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

### MARCH 8, 2022 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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

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

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

Executive Director Mason – Present

Chairman Stohl called the meeting to order at 1:00 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.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Green moved to approve the February 8, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes and Commissioner Derosa seconded.

Commissioner Hodgson moved to amend the minutes under “New Business”, to change “Senator Kahn” to “Representative Kahn”, Commissioner Green seconded.

The motion to amend the minutes, as stated above, 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 Green moved to accept consent agenda items 2a-2f, as presented below, and Commissioner Lachance seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) The Commission approved the following donations totaling \$2,500.00, made in memory of Marc J. Goudreau, Manchester, NH, who was an avid outdoorsman, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account & utilized for educational purposes. Mrs. Jody Goudreau was in attendance & when recognized by the Chairman she presented an additional \$285.00, bringing the total donation to \$2,500.00.

- Members of Martha’s Vineyard Hunting Crew - \$600.00  
Chris Whiting, Thad Hunter, Gordon Churchill, Dan Szumiesz,  
Jeff Demers & Frank Szumiesz
- Russell & Lori Pelletier, Hooksett, NH - \$500.00

▪ Richard Dryer, Manchester, NH -	\$250.00
▪ <u>Miller Family, Standish, ME</u> – Richard & Byrne Jake & Amanda Luke	\$150.00
▪ Ronald & Bonita Goudreau Family Trust, Manchester, NH -	\$100.00
▪ Michael & Judy Peterson, Litchfield, NH -	\$100.00
▪ The Hoebelheinrich –Favazza Family, Medford, MA -	\$100.00
▪ John Vaillancourt, Bedford, NH -	\$100.00
▪ Ty & Karyn Quinn, Hampton, NH -	\$100.00
▪ Gerard & Jeanie Boisvert, Bedford, NH -	\$ 50.00
▪ Edward & Dianne Kunelius, Chester, NH -	\$ 50.00
▪ William & Brandon Rainville, Manchester, NH -	\$ 40.00
▪ Joseph & Beverly Trisciani TTEE, Manchester, NH -	\$ 25.00
▪ Rosalind & Joseph Trisciani, Manchester, NH -	\$ 25.00
▪ Germaine Trisciani & Family, Manchester, NH -	\$ 25.00
▪ Mrs. Jody Goudreau	<u>\$285.00</u>
	Total: \$2,500.00

2b.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$5,000 from the NH Charitable Foundation, to be utilized by the Nongame Program.

2c.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$200.00 from Frank Dubisz, Jr., to be deposited into the Operation Game Thief Account.

2d.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$1,000 from Frank & Marion Hauck, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2e.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$20.00 from John and Ann Fortin, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account. (K. Jordan).

2f.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$100.00 from Pamela Smith & Nancy Merrill, in memory of Paul Hoffman, Amherst, NH, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account & utilized for educational purposes.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1.) There were no questions relative to the financial statement.

2.) Dianne Timmins, Chief, Inland Fisheries Division, provided an overview of a request to expend up to \$30,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account to hire four seasonal employees in FY'22 & FY'23, in order to conduct fish habitat surveys in the Saco River, Connecticut River, and other northern watersheds.

Commissioner Green questioned the dollar amounts and after brief discussion, Dianne located an error and corrected the amount. In addition, Dianne agreed to provide Commissioners with a copy of the Study.

Commissioner Hodgson inquired as to the money spent on the study and the value of the information they are receiving. Dianne fielded her questions, as well.

The Commission postponed the vote on this item, as Commissioner Green requested some additional information before voting. Dianne agreed to provide this information.

3.) Michael Dionne, Marine Biologist, came before the Commission and provided a presentation on Spring River Herring spawning runs to NH coastal rivers. (See attached presentation).

**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 & Marty Mobley

After much discussion, Commissioner Hodgson moved to reconsider the Commission's position on HB-1297, relative to taking lobster while engaged in recreational scuba diving from "opposed" to "oppose as written" and Commissioner Derosa seconded. Commissioner Hodgson stated she was looking for a possible amendment that would allow the Director more authority to set things similar to methods of take, the opening and closing of the diving season, with Commission approval. The motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 opposed (S. Price).

**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 the morning of the March 8, 2022 Commission Meeting. The committee tasked the Commissioners & staff to read pages 23-33 of the Commission handbook pertaining to policies & procedures & provide feedback, recommendations, updates, & edits on the subject matter to Commissioner Caveney by March 30, 2022. The next meeting to take place the first week in April, date to be determined.

**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 Hodgson provided a brief report. She reported that the committee met and that a letter will be sent to Senior Staff members & The

Executive Director, as a “kick off”, introducing & outlining the process and timeline. In closing, she reported that committee members each received action items for the next meeting.

**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 intends to visit the Twin Mountain and Berlin Fish Hatcheries the week of March 28, 2022 (date to be determined).

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

Commissioner DeBow, Chair; Commissioners: Hodgdon, Price & Derosa.  
Staff members: Dianne Timmins, Kevin Jordan & Cheri Patterson

In Commissioner DeBow’s absence, Commissioner Price reported that the Awards Committee would be meeting again in the near future (date to be determined).

**OLD BUSINESS:** Discussion took place relative to remote meeting locations. Commissioner Price reported that she has secured Camp Sentinel in Tuftonboro, NH, for the April 12, 2022 Commission Meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Commissioner Temple requested a presentation before the Commission relating to New Hampshire predators. Director Mason responded that the department would accommodate this request.

**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.

Commissioner Price thanked Nicola Whitely, Chief, Public Affairs Division & Laura Ryder, ARE/HE Supervisor, for all their efforts in the Becoming an Outdoor Woman Program. She reported that she, along with Commissioners DeBow & Caveney, joined the winter event at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness, NH, where there were a variety of outdoor activities offered.

Commissioner Caveney reported that he received a few calls, some relative to turkeys and others relative to upcoming fish stocking & schedules. He advised the individuals to check the department’s website for updates.

Chairman Stohl reported that he received a few letters and was asked to share with them Commission, which he did.

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

Director Mason reported that the following:

Director Mason reported that he met with the Appalachian Mountain Club, White Mountain National Forest & Society for the Protection of NH Forests, to discuss messaging & ways to reach more hikers, as it relates to the Hike Safe Card & ways to promote it.

He reported that the department recently had waterfowl test positive for Avian Influenza in Rockingham & Grafton counties. He further reported that the department has been working with U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal & Plant Inspection Service, NH Department of Agriculture, Health & Human Services, & Department of Environmental Services, to try to monitor the issue in New Hampshire.

He reported that he attended the Annual Trappers Banquet.

He further reported that he reached out to the Governor's Commission on Disabilities regarding several handicapped angler access points that are aging and need to be re-built. He reported that the goal is to obtain some partners to help fund & accomplish this.

In addition, he reported that he met with the Farm Bureau, NH Timberland Owner's Association and Commissioner Stewart, of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources, and discussed reaching out to private landowners regarding the increase in outdoor recreation. One idea discussed was to offer information to Selectmen & Police Chiefs on the pros & cons of opening up town roads to ATV traffic.

Further, he reported that the department has not been successful in hiring a Superintendent of Hatcheries, therefore, the process continues.

In closing, he reported that the budget building process was underway, which will take some time.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Bob LeVasseur, President, NH Trapper's Association, distributed a handout to all Commission members outlining what the trappers have done and continue to do to assist the Department with managing wildlife numbers and habitat.

Steve Angers, North Country Angler Shop, North Conway, NH. Steve discussed the idea of a trout management committee.

Kristina Snyder, Chester, NH, asked the Executive Director to respond to her question regarding the gray squirrel amendment currently being considered in the House of Representatives.

Weldon Bosworth, Gilford, NH, came to the podium to speak in support of New Hampshire lobster diving season. He also discussed his experiences diving and stated that he was making recoveries in the late sixties, early seventies, before New Hampshire Fish and Game had

a Search and Rescue Dive Team. Colonel Jordan pointed out to Mr. Bosworth that New Hampshire Fish and Game started the current Fish and Game Dive Team in the late fifties.

At this time, 2:54 p.m., Commissioner Green moved to adjourn and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

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Eric Stohl, Chairman  
NH Fish & Game Commission