

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER 11, 2017 COMMISSION MEETING

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

Commissioners Present: T. Tichy, R. Phillipson, T. Baldwin, J. McGonagle, V. Greco T. Hubert, B. Carr & F. Clews, D. Patch & W. Morse.

Commissioners absent/excused: J. Ryan
Executive Director Normandeau – Present

Chairman Tichy 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.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1.) Commissioner McGonagle moved to approve the September 20, 2017 Commission Minutes as written, and Commissioner Carr seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
- 2.) On behalf of the Fish & Game Commission, Chairman Tichy presented Steve White, former Chair, Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH, with a resolution that read as follows:

Honoring Steven R. White

Whereas, Steve White has served the citizens of New Hampshire through his volunteer work at the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire for more than 7 years, first appointed to the Board of Directors in February 2010 and holding the Chairman position since September 2010, and;

Whereas, under his leadership the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH has grown to provide the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department with private donations and over 84 grants for projects that support education, conservation, wildlife, fisheries, and law enforcement programs, and;

Whereas, he continued to grow a lasting relationship between the Department and the Foundation that will carry on into the future, so that generations to come may continue to benefit from the outdoor quality of life in New Hampshire, and;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission hereby honors and congratulates Steve White on his retirement from the Chairman position at the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Fish and Game Department and Commission hereby expresses its sincere gratitude to Steve White for his numerous contributions to fish and wildlife

conservation in the Granite State and offer their good wishes for many years of enjoyment in New Hampshire's great outdoors.

*Glenn Normandeau, Executive Director
NH Fish & Game Department*

*Theodore Tichy, Chairman
NH Fish & Game Commission*

Steve thanked everyone for the recognition. He stated, "I feel it's important to recognize the hundreds of volunteers that contribute to the department in many different ways, monetary, volunteering their time in many areas of the department, search & rescue personnel, etc. This organization is very fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers."

3.) Consent Agenda - The following items were grouped together and were 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 Hubert moved to approve the below items and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

3a.) Commission accepted \$200.00 in donations, to be utilized by Barry Conservation Camp, as indicated below:

Margaret Lynch, Westmoreland, NH -	\$100.00
Spencer & Tracey Clason, Westmoreland, NH -	\$ 50.00
Kelly Lynch, Irvington, NY -	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
	\$200.00

3b.) Commission accepted the donation of \$200.00 from Brendon & Christine Jackson, Hooksett, NH, to be utilized for waterfowl management.

4.) John Magee, Fisheries Biologist, came before the Commission seeking approval to expend up to \$30,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account to conserve 40 acres in Lyndeborough, NH.

After brief discussion, Commissioner Morse moved to approve the above expenditure as presented and Commissioner McGonagle seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) Jim Oehler, Habitat Biologist, came before the Commission seeking approval to add \$10,000 to the Wildlife Division's FY'18 authorized budget of \$20,000, for exclusive use in the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Small Grants Program.

Fish & Game's Small Grants Program helps fund wildlife habitat management projects

on private land by providing individual grants to private landowners, as approved and overseen by the Fish & Game Regional biologists. The maximum grant amount is \$4,000 per landowner, per year, with a maximum of \$10,000 per landowner over a 10 year period. Grant issuance requires that managed lands be kept open for hunting for 5 years.

Jim explained that the approved FY'18 Small Grants Program budget is \$20,000, with \$18,642 committed to date for projects and additional projects pending.

Commissioner Phillipson moved to approve adding \$10,000 to the Wildlife Division's current FY'18 authorized budget and Commissioner Baldwin seconded.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Hubert moved to amend the above motion & waive the 30 day Commission Policy relative to voting on items over \$7,500 and Commissioner McGonagle seconded.

The amendment to waive the 30 Commission Policy on voting on items over \$7,500 was unanimous in the affirmative.

The original motion to approve adding \$10,000 to the Wildlife Division's current FY'18 authorized budget was unanimous in the affirmative.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, reviewed the monthly financial statement dated September 30, 2017.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner McGonagle, Chair: Commissioners Clews, Phillipson & Carr. Commissioner McGonagle reported that the committee met the morning of the Commission Meeting and discussed many items; however, one in particular was the Policy for Commissioners when encountering staff. He suggested that the Commission review that policy and try to adhere to it as much as possible.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Morse, Chair; Commissioners Hubert, Greco, Patch, and Baldwin. Commissioner Morse reported that the committee met the morning of the Commission Meeting. He reported that Paul Sanderson, Legal Coordinator, reported that there was still no language out yet to address, however, Paul provided highlights of the LSR list as of October 10, 2017.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Ryan was absent.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Clews reported that there was no meeting.

HANDBOOK & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE: Commissioner Patch, Chair; Commissioner Carr. Commissioner Patch reported that there was no meeting.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: Committee is sunset at this point.

WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION: Commissioner Greco reported that he was not able to attend the last meeting, as the Commission Meeting was taking place simultaneously.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Commissioners Hubert, Chair; Commissioners Baldwin, Phillipson and McGonagle. Commissioner Hubert reported that there was no meeting, however, encouraged everyone to submit their nominations for the 2017 Commission Awards of Excellence, postmarked by December 31, 2017, Attn: Tanya Haskell.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Tichy provided an update relative to recent work done at Barry Conservation Camp. He reported that he, along with Commissioner's Carr, McGonagle & Phillipson, put a roof on the archery building & made some structural improvements. He reported that they did not have enough time to erect the shooting tower or set the piers. He reported that the pressure treated lumber was still there, however, he anticipates that project not happening until next summer.

Chairman Tichy reported that the Commission has completed their project and thanked Commissioner McGonagle for getting close to \$10,000 of the materials donated from Gilford Home Center.

Commissioner Phillipson pointed out that there were 3 Commissioners that put in a great deal of time & effort in the Barry Conservation Camp projects and those Commissioners are not being considered for reappointment. He stated, "A lot of time and effort was made by those 3 Commissioners regardless of them not being reappointed. I would like to personally thank them." The audience applauded.

Chairman Tichy reported that this could be his last meeting if the new Coos County Commissioner is appointed at the next Governor & Council Meeting. He reported that Commissioner Phillipson has agreed to be Acting Chairman until the election of officers takes place. Chairman Tichy inquired as to whether there was anyone interested in stepping up as interim Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Patch agreed to be the Interim Vice Chairman until the election of officers takes place.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Hubert stated, "I was hoping to get the Commission and the Department to look at helping to create some small game opportunities in the southern part of the state. I regularly get criticism from sportsmen looking to hunt small game, hare, etc." He reported that the opportunity exists in the northern part of the state, however, it has been suggested in the past that it is typically habitat based. He stated, "I think it would be a great opportunity to bring kids into the sport, however, it's a challenge to have to travel to the northern part of state."

Jim Oehler responded, "I believe the department has been trying to create young stand initiatives, opening up big areas with terrific habitat that many nongame species use."

Jim reported that he would be happy to provide a presentation to the policy committee.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER BALDWIN: Commissioner Baldwin had nothing to report at this time.

COMMISSIONER CARR: Commissioner Carr had nothing to report at this time.

COMMISSIONER GRECO: Commissioner Greco reported that he would be assisting with pheasant stocking and encouraged other Commissioners to join in.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson stated, "Commissioner Tichy has put in 18 years of dedicated service on the Fish & Game Commission. He's traveled millions of miles to do so and many of those years were as Chairman. I feel he deserves much credit! Thank you Ted!" The audience & Commission applauded.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse had nothing to report at this time.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Commissioner Ryan was absent.

COMMISSIONER PATCH: Commissioner Patch had nothing to report at this time.

COMMISSIONER MCGONAGLE: Commissioner McGonagle had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER CLEWS: Commissioner Clews had nothing to report at this time.

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert had nothing to report at this time.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy had nothing to report at this time.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Normandeau reported that he would be going to Missouri in November to attend the Meeting of The Joint Task Force on federal grants. He further reported that he would be going to Michigan to speak to the Association of Sportsmen's Caucuses. He reported that 30 or 40 states would be represented with legislators & such, including NH.

He reported that things were fairly quiet and that the legislative year was progressing.

He reported that the search & rescue team has been very busy!

In addition, he further reported that he recently swore in 2 Conservation Officer Trainees. He reported that he was looking to potentially use some of the funding from the gifted monies to refund a few other positions.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Linda Dionne, audience member, thanked the department for keeping a record of the coyote comments.

Christina Snyder, audience member, inquired as to whether hounding of coyotes was legal in New Hampshire.

Commissioner Tichy confirmed that the hounding of coyotes is legal in New Hampshire.

Colonel Jordan stated, "The problems are usually not with the licensed trappers, it's usually people trying to assist without the proper training or knowledge. I don't believe this is a frequent thing that happens to be honest. Law Enforcement is supposed to be contacted immediately if a non-target animal is captured."

An audience member stated, "In the interest of fair chase, the pheasant hunt is nothing more than a canned hunt. Your department brings in birds that are not native to New Hampshire and those that are not shot just end up dying. I think it should be reconsidered."

At this time, 2:11 p.m., Commissioner Greco moved to adjourn and Commissioner McGonagle seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

James Ryan, Secretary

Approved: _____
Ted Tichy, Chairman