

## NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

### OCTOBER 10, 2018 COMMISSION MEETING

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

Commissioners Present: R. Phillipson, T. Baldwin, E. Millette, C. Hodgdon, R. Green, B. Carr, D. Patch, C. Luppi, B. Temple & E. Stohl.

Commissioners absent/excused: P. McInnis

Executive Director Normandeau – Present

Chairman Phillipson 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.

Chairman Phillipson introduced and welcomed Christina Luppi, newly appointed Rockingham County Commissioner.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1.) Commissioner Stohl moved to approve the September 12, 2018 Commission Minutes, with the below clarification, and Commissioner Temple seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Baldwin wished to clarify his comments relative to a proposed project on Profile Lake to accommodate wheelchair fishing. He reported that he attended a public meeting held in Franconia, NH, relative to erecting a platform & a 10 foot walkway on Profile Lake to support this cause. He reported that Town Representatives, Selectmen, and The Conservation Commission spoke strongly against the project, however, the majority that spoke were in favor, as is the NH Fish & Game Department.

2.) 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 Carr moved to approve consent agenda items 2a & 2b as presented below and Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) Commission accepted the donation of \$500.00 from the Nash Stream Camp Owners Association to be utilized by the Inland Fisheries Division.

2b.) Commission accepted the donation of \$300.00 in memory of James Makris, Concord, NH, made to the Aquatic Education Program from the following donors:

Merrill Fay, Gilford, NH - \$200.00  
Merriland River Condo Campground LLC, Wells, ME - \$100.00

3.) Commissioner Patch moved to approve utilizing up to \$1,200 from the “Sale of Fish Food Account” to purchase a new sand filtration system and ultraviolet light for the New Hampton State Fish Hatchery and Commissioner Green seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

4.) Jim Oehler, Habitat Biologist, came before the Commission requesting to expend \$30,000 from the Game Management Account for the construction of a road that would provide direct access to approximately 2,000 acres of forestland, specifically managed for woodcock and grouse, however, also beneficial to hare, deer, bear, moose and an array of nongame species.

Chairman Phillipson reported that he and Commissioner Carr recently visited the property. He reported that he walked a lot of the area and felt it was a rocky piece of land for woodcock habitat, however, felt it would be great for other animals. He reported that the gate had a sign on it stating: “Gate closed from November – May 15<sup>th</sup>”. He further reported that he felt spending \$30,000 on the project and only getting a short time to small game hunt before the gate was closed, as well as the time limit of 10 years, as it relates to the grant, was not a great selling point.

Commissioner Carr reported that he agreed with Commission Phillipson and expressed his concern relative to the 10 year limit on the property.

Mark Ellingwood, Chief, Wildlife Division, complimented the Commissioners for taking the time to visit the property. He reassured the Commissioners that the 10 year language was just the minimum and that it was reasonable to assume it would be longer than that.

John Lanier, Consulting Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Management Institute, working with Wagner Woodland on behalf of Bayroot on this project, reported that after frost, they are concerned about road deterioration and want to protect their investment. He reported that they have agreed to leave the road open until weather conditions deteriorate.

John reported that the money being requested was to complete the road project. He assured the Commission that this Company’s intent was, in fact, long term.

Commissioner Hodgdon inquired as to whether or not the department would be reimbursed if the land were to be sold.

Jim responded that the department would be reimbursed for 120 months if the land was sold.

Commissioner Carr inquired as to where the other \$30,000 for the project came from.

John responded that the money came from a grant from NRCS and is about to run out.

Commissioner Stohl stated, "I have a hard time understanding whether they can be trusted. I would like to see a 20 year minimum on the property with the gate open, giving us some sort of guarantee the property will not be sold & will remain open to the public."

Commissioner Patch questioned, "Would they possibly compromise for a gate closure date of December 1<sup>st</sup>."

John responded that he would have to go back to Wagner and have that discussion. He further reported that Rumford Mill was on that property and he did not think they had any intention of selling.

Commissioner Green thanked Mark for answering a few questions about the project. He reported that he agrees with Commissioner Stohl regarding the need for at least a 20 year commitment on the property. In closing, he requested that the Commission be able to view the agreement as it stands with Wagner/Bayroot.

Commissioner Carr moved to table the item until the next Commission Meeting and until additional information is provided and Commissioner Green seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, reviewed the monthly financial statement dated September 30, 2018 with the Commission. She also provided the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY'19 Commission Expense to Budget Report.

Commissioner Hodgdon inquired as to whether the Commission could get Fiscal Year end balances for the last 5 years for comparison purposes.

Kathy responded that she would get that to the Commission at her earliest convenience.

**POLICY COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Carr, Chair: Commissioners Millette & Temple. Commissioner Carr reported that the committee did not meet this month.

Chairman Phillipson inquired as to whether Commissioner Luppi was interested in joining this committee. Commissioner Luppi agreed to serve on this committee.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Stohl, Chair; Commissioners Hodgdon, Patch, Green & Baldwin.

Commissioner Stohl reported that Paul Sanderson, Legal Coordinator, provided him with a list of LSR's (Legislative Service Requests) with just titles at this point, no descriptions as of yet. He reported that he did not feel calling a meeting was necessary at this point.

Paul further reported that the F&G Committee met yesterday, September 11, 2018, to address HB-1342 & 1343, and in both cases were voted not to be recommended for future legislation.

**RIVERS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Hodgdon reported that he attended his first meeting of this committee. He reported that The Department of Environmental Services reported that they would be seeking to add an additional biologist in their budget for the next 2 year biennium to examine the effects of the water management plan on the Lamprey & Souhegan Rivers. He reported that he felt it was interesting and that there could be some cross-over between F&G & DES on that type of work.

He reported that the second topic of discussion was the prioritization of river segments in order to develop a water development plan. He reported that the Committee ranked 8 rivers and that the budget would most likely allow 30 miles of stream to be looked at annually, which will take time to work through; however, the prioritization is done and has been approved by the Committee.

**LAKES COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Millette reported that the committee met. He reported that the committee seemed to be wrapping things up for years end. He reported that he would have an update for the next meeting.

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

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Hodgdon, Chair: Commissioners Temple, Baldwin & Stohl.

Commissioner Hodgdon reported that the committee met briefly to continue to discuss and identify any possible alternatives to the preferred boat access site on Lake Sunapee.

He further reported the committee briefly discussed the Strategic Plan.

**WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION:** Commissioner Hodgdon. Commissioner Hodgdon reported that there was no meeting. He reported that the Foundation recently had an excellent fundraising event at the Lake Sunapee home of Deb Coffin, Chair, Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH. He reported that it was a successful event. He further reported that the Governor presented the attached National Hunting & Fishing Day Proclamation. (See attached.)

He further reported that the Wildlife Heritage Foundation was starting their annual Firearms Raffle and provided the following details:

**RAFFLE DETAILS:**

- \*Tickets will be sold from: November 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018
- \*Tickets are \$40/each.
- \*Only 1,000 tickets will be sold.
- \*Total of 30 winners will be drawn.

\*Winners will be drawn on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, (15 winners drawn each day).

Commissioner Hodgdon encouraged everyone interested in purchasing tickets and/or willing to help sell tickets, to see himself, or Gail Huntting, of the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Baldwin, Chair; Commissioners Carr & Millette. Commissioner Baldwin reported that the Committee did not meet. Commissioner Baldwin thanked the Public Affairs Division for being proactive in getting a press release out relative to the Commission Awards of Excellence and encouraging folks to get their nominations in and postmarked by December 31, 2018 at the latest.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Nothing heard at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Commissioner Carr moved to cancel the November 14, 2018 Commission Meeting and Commissioner Stohl seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director Normandeau reported that he was unable to attend the last CORD (Commission on Resources & Development) meeting. He reported that the next meeting was scheduled for November 8, 2018, where members will have an opportunity to speak relative to the proposed Wild Goose Boat Access Site on Lake Sunapee.

He reported that the Barry Conservation Camp Dining Hall addition was coming along nicely.

He further reported that he may be spending some time in Boston over the next few weeks while his wife is there for medical purposes.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:**

**COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER BALDWIN:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER CARR:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER TEMPLE:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER PATCH:** Nothing to report.

**COMMISSIONER MILLETTE:** Commissioner Millette had nothing to report.

**COMMISSIONER MCINNIS:** Commissioner McInnis was absent.

**COMMISSIONER HODGDON:** Commissioner Hodgdon had nothing to report.

**COMMISSIONER STOHL:** Commissioner Stohl reported that he recently attended 2 meetings in Concord. He further reported that he visited the proposed Wild Goose Boat Access Site on Lake Sunapee and found himself questioning why the department does not have a site there. He stated, "I hope CORD affords us the space and time." He thanked Commissioner Hodgdon for his efforts relative to access on Lake Sunapee.

**COMMISSIONER LUPPI:** Nothing to report at this time.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Gail Hunting, Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH, clarified that the upcoming Firearm Raffle was a joint raffle with Operation Game Thief, and that both organizations would be benefiting.

Ruth, audience member, expressed her displeasure with the department supporting a non-native pheasant hunt. She felt the department should reconsider having the season at all. She was very upset over school children on WMUR television watching the release of the caged pheasants and felt it was a "canned" hunt, demonstrating poor ethics to children.

Director Normandeau responded that the school children on WMUR watching the pheasants be released was not solicited by the department. He reported that the hunt was highly popular, with thousands participating. He felt that absent of a press for change by the Commission or others, he did not see it changing in the near future.

Julia Sinclair, audience member, recommended reviewing department policies from the past and to revisit standards and such, which could merit change in many areas.

Bill Carney, audience member, reminded everyone that New Hampshire does not have a dove hunt like many other states.

At this time, 2:28 p.m., Commissioner Carr moved to adjourn and Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Carr, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Phillipson, Chairman