

Citizen's Advisory Council to DEP  
NWCSC Report  
October 14, 2003

Chairman Bill Campbell presiding.

Minutes of September meeting reviewed and approved.

**Correspondence reviewed;**

Application for CAC membership received from Friends of CE-FS organization. Merits of application discussed. Application may present by-law issue. Consideration tabled to November meeting.

Chairman reports on meeting of all Advisory Chairmen and DEP Staff. Initiated a quarterly meeting of all advisory heads.

Issues discussed at this meeting included the levy of a "Day Use Fee for Ct State Parks." Funds raised to be used for maintenance of park facilities. The Bureau of Outdoor recreation is most interested in this funding mechanism. BOR is contrasting the cost of maintaining parks and facilities with revenue generated. The focus of this fee will be on the general public. Licensed sportsmen and boaters will be exempt from the fees. Sportsmen will be considered to have paid their fees through sport license purchases.

Connecticut Wildlife License Plate discussed. This plate should be available by mid 2004. A portion of each plate sold and each two-year renewal will be deposited to DEP wildlife funding accounts. DEP plans to use this income as matching funding to gain more federal dollars such as the CARA funding grants for wildlife and habitat programs.

**Law Enforcement:** Sgt. Lewoc report.

Thirteen incidents reported to the T.I.P. program in past month.

Sgt. Lewoc discussed use of the two TIP trailers and events they have been featured at; including the recent CT Forest Centennial Celebration. New themes are being developed for the trailer presentations and staffing may change to include biologists, along with the Conservation Officers.

Chris Torino, CAC TIP Committee Chairman reported he has been informed that the 1997 "Victim's Advocate Bill" did not provide for collection of TIP donations by the courts. Chris states that legislation will need to be drafted to include the TIP program in the Victim's Advocate law.

**Bureau of Natural Resources:** Edward Parker.

400 brood stock salmon stocked in October.

Proposal to license salt water anglers is being considered.

Lease of State Nursery should be concluded in November. Agreement now in the AG's office.

**Wildlife:**

Falconry Regs. Goal is to introduce regs package to regulation review committee in December.

17 caliber HRM: Regulation proposal to allow use of this cartridge on state land was not completed this year.

Mr. Parker stated that the use of this cartridge on state land is considered illegal.

Mr. Parker reports that agency restructuring is ongoing. This has been necessitated by the state budget cuts in DEP, and particularly those affecting the BNR & BOR. The Commissioner's proposals for restructuring will be presented to the CAC when released. The proposals will deal with loss of staff and creating better efficiencies within the department through internal reorganization.

On the legislative side, Mr. Parker reports that his agency is considering introducing an amendment to an existing bill regarding possession of dangerous animals.

Moratorium on issuing commercial fishing licenses is due to expire 12/31/03. New legislation is required. Bob Crook suggests the Governor issue an executive order until legislation is passed.

**DEP budget:** A recent audit revealed that the cost of the fringe benefit package for state employees has increased from the current 40% of base pay, to a new high of 45%. This will add about \$800,000 in costs that the agency will have to provide for. Mr. Parker is looking at further agency cost cuts in to do this. He is hoping that the legislature will restore the one million dollars in Motor Boat Fuel Tax money to alleviate this situation.

**Committee Reports:**

Nod Brook Field Trial Area: Still experiencing problems with citizens using the area to walk dogs. Nod Brook is a permit-required area, but signs indicating this fact are being ignored.

Bob Crook asked for data on license and permit sales for the current year. Mr. Parker wants to wait until December when his agency will have preliminary figures available.

Bob Crook reported on the formation of a CT State Sportsman's Legislative Caucus. The National Shooting Sports Foundation is sponsoring this effort. Meeting with legislators were Bob Crook, Ray Hanley, Bob Delfrey, and David Leff.

By-law committee to meet with Mr. Parker at November meeting to discuss changes.

\$44,000 Federal grant received by state to study Chronic Wasting Disease in deer.

Bob Crook asked about the ongoing three-year study of deer immuno-contraception by the Agricultural Experiment Station. This study has been funded by the state at \$250,000 per year. Sportsmen want to know what the results of this three-year study have been to date. Mr. Parker suggests contacting our area legislators to get answer and he will ask Deer biologists if they have anything.

Need to form an election Nominating Committee.

Adjourn meeting: 10PM