

Citizen's Advisory Council to DEP
NW Council Report
December 9, 2003

The December meeting of the CAC was called to order at 7:10PM with the Vice-chairman presiding. Meeting held in the Holcomb room at DEP headquarters in Hartford. It was noted that the Chairman was unable to attend due to an injury. Also noted was the absence of the Council Secretary due to business commitments.

Minutes of the November meeting were e-mailed to members by the Secretary. The minutes were read by acting secretary for the evening, Jason Marshall. Corrections to the report included: correct meeting date from 11/ 14/ 03 to the actual 11/ 12/ 03 meeting date; DEP reporting officer for November was Col. Eric Nelson; and under the Legislative section, regarding problems at Nod Brook Field Trial Area, it was noted that the removal of one or more picnic tables was requested at the November meeting. The minutes were accepted with the corrections listed.

No correspondence.

Chair's Report: We welcomed Robert Lazarski, who will be acting as the primary delegate for the Ct River Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society. Bob also serves as the current President of his chapter of RGS. Also introduced at this meeting was David Proulx, alternate delegate to the CT Waterfowler's Association.

DEP Report:

No **TIP** report. Law enforcement representative not in attendance.

Fisheries:

Whittemore Salmon Station to be closed. The State & Federal technical committee of the CRAS Commission voted to allocate \$52,000 in federal salmon restoration funds, (new Funds) to facilitate closure of this facility. It was noted that operations at Whittemore cost over \$250,000 per year. Without additional federal funding, it was decided to close the station. All fish stock will be transferred to two federal salmon facilities located in Turners Falls and North Adams, Mass.

Tournament Restrictions on Smallmouth Bass: Mr. Parker will be looking for our recommendation and feedback on proposals at the January meeting. This will be an action item on the agenda.

Marine Fisheries:

Connecticut is looking at reductions in recreational take of **Scup and Fluke**. The reduction could amount to 58% for Scup and 8 to 35% for Fluke. The proposed reduction is based on the use of the Marine Recreational Survey to assess the recreational take. The results of this survey are reported to be limited and widely varying in result findings. This observation is supported by knowledgeable sport-fishermen on the Council, such as Fred Frellici. Recommendations will be proposed to the CAC in the coming months for Council action.

Forestry:

Problems with insurance issues have cropped up regarding the lease of the state nursery.

Wildlife:

Falconry Regulation proposal up for final approval from the Attorney General's office. Mr. Parker reports that the agency needs to have approval by the 18th in order to get them to the Regulation Review Committee by February.

Bluff Point: Wildlife Division conducting a spotlight survey of deer. They will submit recommendations to the Commissioner for control efforts. Approximately 36 deer will need to be removed to meet the population goal of 25 deer. Newly approved methods of removal; including baiting and night shooting will be used to make this effort as efficient and unobtrusive as possible

Special Conservation License Plates have been delayed because the color schemes need to be improved. Mr. Parker reported that he will have the **CAC schedule** of meetings for 2004 at the January meeting.

DEP Restructuring: Results of external work group has been made public for comment. CAC members on this committee include Ray Hanley, and Fred Frillici. Any comments from our Council members should be directed to these gentlemen. Comment time is short, as the committee desires to act on proposals in January. The report is available for download on DEP Internet site. Address for access to this report is available from the Commissioner's office. Requests should be directed to Carmen Cologne.

Preserve Status acreage reduction recommendations will be forthcoming soon. They will go to public hearing for comment.

Mr. Parker will have **license and permit sales information** by January or February. He hopes to have a comparative analysis from 1999 through 2003 to share with the Council.

Pheasant Hunting: Mr. Parker reports that program director, Mark Clavette is rewriting the daily bag regulation to allow for state daily bag of pheasant in addition to birds taken on private club grounds. Mark wants to have this change ready for the 2004 wildlife regulation package.

Any comments or issues regarding the past season and stocking program should be directed to the Program Coordinator, Mark Clavette. Information including dates, time, reporting person's name etc, should be included with any observations.

Committee Work: By-laws.

Copies of the draft CAC by-law change proposals were distributed to delegates in attendance. A discussion ensued as to the need for change and how proposals were arrived at. Fred Frillici gave some historical perspective as to the origin of the original by-laws and the most recent revision. Fred observed that no previous by-law committee had the benefit of advice and expertise of the Bureau Chief such as the current committee has. In these days of potential litigation and political correctness, it is proper that our Council take the time to review and update our by-laws to reflect our purposes and intent. Mr. Parker will have a mailing sent out to all delegates with of copies of the proposed changes.

Nominating Committee: Contact Bill Campbell to verify he is willing to run for Chairman's position.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Jason Marshall explained a proposal from the TIP Committee to purchase shirts for retired CO's who volunteer to work with the TIP Trailer program. It was not known if this was a true volunteer effort or if compensation was being offered for the service. Jason will enquire about this question. While the TIP program is operated independently of the CAC, the delegates were asked for opinion on the proposal and a sense of the Council as to the worthiness of this effort. Most delegates seemed to feel that if this is a volunteer effort, the expenditure is worthwhile. A suggestion was made to purchase a set of vests in various sizes to be retained with the trailers for anyone's use rather than buying individual shirts.

Robert Lazarski of the **CT River Chapter, RGS** enquired about the feasibility of setting up and conducting a statewide, **Spring Drumming Survey for Ruffed Grouse**. Bob informed the Council that the northeast regional biologists for RGS have just concluded a three-year program, successfully initiating a drumming survey in the state of Massachusetts. RGS Biologist, Paul Karczmarczyk has offered to help set up such a program in Connecticut. He offers his scientific and technical experience and possibly some financial support. It was noted that support would also be offered by several Council member organizations. Mr. Parker found the proposal interesting and stated he will discuss this with BNR wildlife leaders. Mr. Parker asked Bob to provide information on the Massachusetts effort, costs associated with that effort and the number of volunteers involved. It was noted that wildlife grant money may be available for such a project. This project would help the state develop population data, dispersal and habitat requirements for the Grouse.

Bob also stated that his chapter of RGS would be interested in conducting a habitat improvement projects on state land located in the Terryville area.

There was no legislative report as Mr. Crook was away on vacation.

Adjourn: 9:25PM