

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL
October 12, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairman Bill Campbell.

The Chairman asked if members had received the Minutes of the last meeting. Many had not received them so, Bill had a copy and read it aloud to the committee. Chris Torino noted that his name was confused with Chris Marino and Bill changed it. A motion was made, seconded to accept the Minutes with correction.

Bill then read a letter from Chris Torino, Recording Secretary at Bristol Fish and Game introducing Kevin Estela as the new CAC rep. From Bristol Fish. Chris is resigning from the CAC due to new club responsibilities and family matters. Chris will remain an alternate along with Ray Hanley.

Chairman's Report: None

DEP TIP report

Sgt. Tom Lewoc provided the latest TIP report. He then mentioned the funding problems that the TIP program headed by Chris Torino is having due to a law change in 1997. Chris added that due to no response to a letter written to Judiciary Co-Chairman Rep. Lawlor, he is now writing the other co-chair Sen. McDonald with a cc: to every member of the Judiciary Committee. Bob Crook asked for a copy to show the Sportsmen's Caucus.

Tom mentioned that 2 new CO positions have been approved but, due to DAS regulations, it will be as long as 4 and as few as 2 years from Spring of 2005 before they will come on board and then only as a park officer. We are in a crisis situation because 23 CO's are eligible to retire in the next 5 years. Currently the force is 19% down and this won't help much. It was asked why the training is so long and it's due to DAS regulation, which Tom thinks is a good idea in the long run because CO's will be well trained. Bob Crook suggested DEP Law Enforcement testify before the Sportsmen's Caucus and this may occur.

BNR Report:

Eric Smith, Director of the Marine Fisheries Division gave a detailed presentation about the lobster die off in Long Island sound. The committee was pleased with this presentation.

Ed Parker reported on the following matters:

Inland Fisheries:

- ☐ 500 Atlantic Salmon brood stock will be released this week (250 Naugatuck R. and 250 Shetucket R). Additional salmon will be released after spawning takes place.
- ☐ The hearing report on the Inland Fisheries regulations is under preparation.

Wildlife:

- ☐ The Apprentice exam for falconry will be held on Oct. 18th. USFWS still has to put out a notice for public comment before Federal approval can be granted. We are uncertain of the date the notice will be published in the Federal register.
- ☐ The Hearing Report for the wildlife regulations is complete and has been forwarded to the Acting Commissioner. Next stop is AG's office.
- ☐ No comment in opposition to the proposed regulations was received except for the leash law proposal at wildlife management areas.
- ☐ The Hearing officers report includes all proposals except the "leash law". This component will be addressed as a stand-alone.
- ☐ Work continues on the preparation of the State's comprehensive wildlife conservation plan. All habitats and species in state are under review. A draft will be available in early 05'. There will be one or more at public presentations.
- ☐ We may see legislation dealing with trapping in response to the proposed regulation, which expand trapping for Coyote and Fisher.
- ☐ Ed suggested that the committee consider adding the CT Woodcock Council to fill a vacancy on the council.

Member Questions and Comments Addressed to Ed

One member mentioned that neighbors have complained about dogs and noise at the Mansfield Hollow training area. We need to watch this situation.

What is the status of on-line licensing? The Department is unable to proceed because the IT agency of the State is not interested. The Department is continuing its efforts to gain IT approval.

Bob Crook's Report:

Harkness has opened up some new land to bow hunting for this year.

The Assault Weapons Ban will have no effect on CT except the magazine portion.

Sunday Hunting is looking better, especially in Fairfield County.

Bears: Watch and read about the problems other states around us are having. We'll have the same. Support Maine sportsmen on the bear referendum if you can.

OLR reports. Sign up to read them.

Candidate ratings: Print them off Bob's site and distribute them at your clubs.

Come to the CCS banquet to honor politicians and friends who help us. This is a great place to meet people in important places in state government.

Bob suggested the CAC look into Immuno Sterilization research being undertaken by the Agricultural Experiment Station. The General Assembly has approved \$200,000 /yr for several years. It is Bob's understanding that the research demonstrates that immuno is not effective.

Old Business:

- ☐ Vin Ringrose wrote a letter to the Sportsmen's Caucus to make sure that the Motor Boat Fuel Tax funds (\$1 million) are restored in the States FY 05-06 budget. A motion was made, seconded and passed to send this letter.
- ☐ A motion was made, seconded and passed to add the CT Woodcock Council to the CAC. Ed Parker will prepare a letter to be signed by the acting commissioner to finalize this.
- ☐ Junior Pheasant hunting day: The two days were successful despite poor weather on the first day.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned: 9:25 PM.