

Minutes
Conservation Advisory council
January 18, 2005

Meeting called to order by Chairman William Campbell at 7:05PM.

In attendance were the following members: See **attendance list**.

Regulars: 18

At Large:

Emeritus:

There were no minutes submitted for the December 10th 2004 meeting.

Secretary was not in attendance for January meeting. **No Secretary's report**. Chris Marino volunteers to keep minutes of January meeting.

Tip Report:

Sgt. Thomas Lewoc distributed the annual TIP Report for the period 01/01/2004 through 12/31/04.

Sgt. Lewoc also distributed a report of Incidents, Arrests and Written Warnings for the period 01/01/04 through 12/31/04. This report was generated by the Division of State Environmental Conservation Police, and is inclusive of all incidents for the year 2004.

Conservation Environmental Police Report: Sgt Thomas Lewoc reporting.

- Tom answered questions regarding the two enforcement handouts.
- Upcoming schedule of events for the two TIP Trailers were presented. Events to include two boat shows and the Hunting/Fishing Expo.
- Tom reported on a division initiative to develop an Ice safety Campaign and Brochure for presentation at the shows and various recreational events. The campaign to include components of ice safety knowledge and training.
- Tom reported on agency efforts to hire two new officers. Bob Crook was given credit for his lobbying efforts during the past legislative session to make this possible. It is not known if the newly imposed state-hiring freeze will affect this effort. It is hoped that the public safety and homeland security aspects of law enforcement will justify pursuing this initiative.
- Proposals to request purchase of two patrol boats were reported. Division wants all weather capable patrol boat and a 40' boat primarily for lobster patrol in the sound.

BNR Report: Ed Parker

- **Forestry:** No report.
- **Marine Fisheries:** No report.
- **Inland Fisheries:**
Received AG certification of Inland Fisheries Regulation Package. Notice of intent to go out. Regulation review anticipated sometime in March.
- **Wildlife:**
- Howard Kilpatrick; Deer Management Leader for the Wildlife Division was on hand to give a presentation on the evolution, status and objectives of the deer management program in Connecticut. Current and future management strategies were discussed including zonal application of Sunday hunting to facilitate a greater deer harvest in those zones that require it; and methods to facilitate easy access and use of the Hunters for the Hungary Program processors and permits.
- Wildlife Regulation Package to be reviewed by the Legislative Review Committee on January 26th.
- Bluff Point Deer Management. Herd control activity will commence soon to remove excess deer from BP. A press release will be issued at the start of control activities and at the end. The use of bait and night shooting with suppressed firearms by agency personnel will greatly aid in this management effort, as well as reduce agency costs in time and labor.

Miscellaneous:

- DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy to attend February CAC meeting.

- Commissioner considering a quarterly meeting with representatives of all DEP advisory councils and significant environmental and conservation organizations.
- CAC Members list. New delegate for Housatonic Fly Fishermen to be Mike Piquette.
- An updated CAC membership list was distributed to those present.
- Memo to Ed Parker from Fred Frillici requesting that CAC defer discussion of a Fluorescent Orange Hat requirement during the regular hunting season, (issue tabled at December meeting) until the February meeting. Fred would like to take part in this discussion and could not make the January meeting. This request was approved.

CAC Committee Reports:

Legislative: Robert Crook.

- CCS web site has an updated list of legislator's e-mail addresses. Work continues on committee members listing.
- The January 19th scheduled Legislative Sportsman's Caucus meeting was cancelled.
- Bob reviewed introduced legislative bills to date.
- Two handgun bills: One to require Drivers License to indicate if driver is a pistol permit holder, (CCS Oppose). The other to facilitate issuance of Pistol Permit by making permits available through the DMV, (CCS Going nowhere, un-necessary).
- Act concerning Falconry License, (CCS Going nowhere).
- Four bills regarding Sunday hunting in various forms have been submitted.
- Bill to restore funds to fisheries account through the Motor Boat Fuel tax submitted by Rich Ferrari. Another bill to restore 3.5 million submitted by Catherine Cook. CAC letter asking for consideration of this matter thought to have had some impact.
- Several bills concerning ATVs and their use have been submitted. It was noted that the CAC should discuss this issue and take a position on ATV use.
- Municipal immunity for recreational use of land was introduced.
- Several restrictive bills regarding bow hunting have been introduced. One establishes a 500-foot minimum distance from a dwelling to bow hunt, and the other establishes 5-acre minimum area to bow hunt. (CCS opposed to both).

CCS Sponsored Bills:

- Bill to fully staff Environmental Conservation Police Division. Up to 75 officers.
- Forestry Bill: Add to Forestry Division.
- Request change to TIP Program to allow donations by conservation violators.

Nominating Committee: Nominations and election deferred to February meeting due to lack of time.

Others: None.

Old Business:

Dr. Vincent Ringrose reported on a seminar/lecture he attended at the Audubon Center in Essex, regarding the Eastern Mountain Lion and the possibility of this species being present in Connecticut. Many researchers believe the lion is following the expansion of the Whitetail Deer herds and is present throughout many eastern states including Connecticut. An interesting point made in the lecture is that the eastern lion would require no more than 8 to 10 square miles of home range due to the density of deer in the east as opposed to the western states which typically experience a much greater home range area for the lion.

New Business: None.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Ringrose and seconded. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 9:39PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Chris M. Marino