Northwest CT Sportsman's Council

Council Report: July 26, 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM by Council President, Craig Nelson. All rise for Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll of Clubs, Delegates and Officers:

Bob Kosak, Bristol F&G; Mike Fusco, Harwinton R&G; Tom Accuosti, Goshen Sportsmen; Seamus Muzzulin, Rocky River Coon Club; Jim Fedorich, Sharon R&G; Jerry Ciarcia, Waterbury F&G; Phillip Mauriello, Woodbury/Southbury R&G; Peter Gray, NWCSA; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington F&G; Jim Bower, NW CT Trout Unlimited; Dominic Basile, Chase Bell City, Metacon; Andrew Cote, NW CT R&G; Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Elise Mauriello, O Newgate Coon Club; Clyde Breakell, Foothills Sportsmen; Craig Nelson, New Preston F&G; Chris Marino, NVBC; Dean Fraley, CT Classic Bucks, Ousatonic F&G. All Officers were present.

Guests included Burlington Hatchery Manager, David Zadrosny; and representatives of Woodbury-Litchfield Hills Foxhounds Inc., Steven Stirbl and Joel Serota.

Minutes of June meeting accepted as written.

Financial Report:

No change. Signature cards for all accounts need to be changed to reflect the new slate of officers. Report accepted as delivered.

Burlington Hatchery manager David Zadrosny, was introduced to the delegates and gave a short presentation on the status of the hatchery after his first three years as manager. He spoke about ongoing efforts at the hatchery to identify, and correct major infrastructure problems at this facility. Some problems have been addressed with the help of sportsman volunteers and contributions; such as the netting that has been established over many of the ponds and raceways to control avian predation. This work has resulted in nearly doubling the number of adult trout raised at the hatchery, from 120,000 adults four years ago to 212,000 adults this year. The success of this effort provides a benefit to every trout fisherman in the state.

Dave is now embarked on a project to increase the amount of well water available from the 22 wells at the hatchery. The wells were engineered to provide a unique gravity feed system of very cold, 40-50 degree water to the trout rearing ponds and raceways. There has been no renovation to the wells since the 1940's. Re-pointing the wells and upgrading the piping and collection system can enhance the flow of water.

It was explained that increasing the flow of cold water to the rearing ponds, especially during the warm, dry summer months, would help alleviate parasite infestations and warm water stress which both cause low growth and high mortality in the trout. Hatchery personnel fight an ongoing battle with parasite infestations during the summer months and cannot address other needs at the hatchery because of the time spent treating this problem.

Dave reported that he has a quote of \$16,000 to renovate 16 wells. The well driller is also willing to renovate two wells at \$2700.- each as samples to get some idea of what can be gained from total renovation. The Farmington River Anglers have already committed to fund one well and Dave asked the Council Delegates if they would be willing to fund the other well.

It was agreed that we would take the well funding issue up later in the meeting and Dave was thanked for his informative presentation. Dave left the meeting at the conclusion of his presentation.

Membership:

A membership application was accepted from the Woodbury Litchfield Hills Foxhounds Inc. This application will not be acted on until the organization votes to become a NWCSC member and delegates are chosen. Steve and Joel were present to make a presentation about their organization and to learn about our Council.

Mr. Seamus Muzzolin was introduced as a new delegate representing the Rocky River Coon Club along with Ray Frost.

Correspondence:

Ruffed Grouse Society Banquet flyers for September 16th banquet received.

The Waterbury Republican-American published a list of DEP Green Circle Awards recipients, including our Council and members.

The CT section of National Trappers Magazine carried an item regarding the recent passage of the DEP'S Wildlife Regulations and the allowance for enhanced Coyote trapping and the opening of a trapping season for Fisher. In the announcement, much credit was given to our Council in convincing legislators to approve the regs package.

Committees:

By-law Committee:

A revised set of by-laws was distributed to each delegate for consideration at this meeting. The delegates offered several changes. The subject of multiple club representation was discussed and seems to be an important issue in and of its self. It was decided to defer this issue to a later time due the complexity of this matter, and the fact that it did not bear directly on what we were trying to accomplish with the current set of changes.

A motion to, "accept the revised by-laws as presented and amended" was made by Mike Fusco with a second by Jason Marshall. Discussion followed.

A **motion** to, "table the original motion to the August meeting" was made by Andrew Cote and seconded by Jim Fedorich. The President called for a vote on the motion to table. **Motion passes.**

The by-law revisions will be discussed again in August. Andrew Cote has offered to review and make changes before the meeting to put the by-laws on a solid legal footing.

Old Business:

In-House Raffle: Mike Fusco reported on ideas for an in-house raffle. Mike suggests a group of prizes to include a one halfday pheasant hunt, barbecue grill, rod & reel, and gift certificates. Dean offered to donate a \$100.- gift certificate from his store.

Goshen Fair: We have a space reserved for the fair. Volunteers were not as forthcoming as at previous meetings. There was some discussion on what we plan to do at the fair. Suggestions ran from selling candy to hats, decals and giving away gunlocks. It remains to be seen what we will actually do.

Fair Volunteers to date: Mike Fusco Sunday or Monday; Jason Marshall Saturday: Phil and Elise Saturday. Dean and Craig possible; Clyde and Chris Friday.

Insurance:

NYSCC: Jason has the application and is proceeding with application using our current by-laws. Jason reported that the Council must formally join the NYSCC in order to proceed, at a cost of \$25.- per year. **Motion** by Mike Fusco and seconded by Chris Marino to, "Join the NYSCC at \$25.- per year". **Passed.** Jason to see to our joining.

New Business:

A **motion** was made by Chris Marino to "allocate up to \$2700.- to re-point one well at the Burlington Fish Hatchery." Motion received a second and was discussed. Clyde Breakell moved the question. The President called for a vote by a show of hands: 9 votes in favor; 10 opposed. **Motion fails.**

A **motion** was made by Dominic Basile and seconded by Jason Marshall to, "pay one half of the monthly electric bill at 3 Bare Hill Road." The owner stated during discussion that this Council offer was not necessary or desired on his part. The general feeling of the delegates was that paying part of the electric bill was only fair for their use of the offices. **Motion passed**.

Good of the Organization:

CT River Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society is having its fourth annual RGS banquet on September 16th, at the Clarion Inn in Bristol. Tickets are available at Autumn Gun Works in Goshen. This is rather short notice, but the RGS banquet is a worthwhile event and all sportsmen and women should try to attend. All funds raised go to support habitat projects of the RGS. A membership to RGS is included in the ticket cost.

Adjourn: 10:20PM

Chris Marino Secretary, NWCSC