

MINUTES TO THE CAC MEETING 01/13/04

Secretary's Report:

The January meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. Minutes were accepted though not received by all members. A copy of our latest roster was passed around so that members could update their information.

Correspondence to the Chair:

A letter was received from the Naugatuck River Watershed Association signifying their resignation from the Council. An application for membership to the council was received from the Connecticut Woodcock Council Inc.

Law Enforcement Report:

Conservation Officer, Tom Lewoc gave us a T.I.P. report that indicated 16 incidents with one arrest. The Trailer will be at the upcoming fishing show at the Expo center. George Babbey is looking for volunteer CARE instructors.

DEP Report from Ed Parker:

Inland Fisheries

The Whittemore Salmon Station is now closed. It has not been dismantled but mothballed for potential future use. The fish were moved to a Federal facility in MA. If funding and salmon returns increased, it may be possible to re open the facility.

A suggestion was made to the Department about creating a Salmon Stamp to help offset costs incurred with the Broodstock Salmon Program. After some discussion it was the opinion of the Council that this would not be a good idea.

Marine Fisheries

No Marine Report was available though Fred Frillici mentioned how he would be attending a meeting with the Atlantic States Marine Council where he will be promoting the idea of changing the Scup limit to 25 fish greater than 10 inches.

Forestry

Wildlife

The last two key milestones are coming up on the Falconry regulation package. On Feb 24 Regulation Review will decide on the package. They then go off to the Feds. Handouts of the Comprehensive State Wildlife Conservation Planning Effort were passed around. A draft plan should be done by Dec '04 and submitted to NFWS in July '05.

There may be an informational hearing for the Environmental Committee regarding trapping and other Wildlife Management issues.

Press releases have gone out in regards to the Bluff Point deer hunt. The hunt will take place over 4 nights at baited sites, with lights, and sound suppressed guns. 36 deer will be culled.

The Legislative Wildlife Package has not come back yet but possession of dangerous animals is included in the package.

The Forestry Bill has been rumored to not being accepted.

Ed hopes to get a preliminary package of new fish and wildlife regulation proposals to us for the February meeting.

'03 license and permit sales are being reviewed for expected accuracy and we should be getting these numbers soon.

We should receive an update on the internal reorganization of the Department in March.

A brief discussion was held concerning the review of our By Law change recommendations.

Another brief discussion was had on moving Opening Day of trout season up one week.

Legislative Report:

Bob Crook reported that the CT Sportsmen Legislative Caucus has been formed though there has been no meeting to date. Bob has been asked to submit Bills for consideration this year that would include, Sunday hunting on private land, Mandatory minimum Conservation Officer staffing, Forestry Management, and the Motor Boat Fuel tax.

We heard about a Federal Bill called the the Freedom to Fish Act. The purpose behind this would be to protect fishermen from being shut out of specific areas, based on unsound data that is indicating a fishery is in perilous danger of total collapse.

The T.I.P. program is looking to make some Judicial changes that would allow funds from convicted people to go towards TIP.

Old Business:

The issue at Nod Brook was brought up again. There has been no action on this.

New Business:

The Council heard a motion and accepted it, to endorse the idea of protection of smallmouth bass during the warmer summer months.

No summer (June-July-August) exemptions for smallmouth bass in Bass Management Lakes. Year round exemptions available for largemouth bass in all Bass Management Lakes.

A discussion on hunting turkey with primitive firearms was brought up for discussion. It was decided that Chris Marino would make this proposal available to all for their review prior to the next meeting.

A guest from the Ruffed Grouse Society was introduced and spoke about the Ruffed Grouse Drumming Survey currently working in MA for the last few years. He proposed some suggestions to do the same here in CT.

Ray Handley was asked to sit on a council for recreational land use (SCORP) A motion was made and accepted that the #1 priority be for land acquisition.

The Secretary cast one vote for the current slate of Officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Puhalski