

"MINUTES OF THE CAC MEETING 02/10/04

Secretary's Report:

The February meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. Minutes were accepted with a comment that we should include the names of the slate of officers recently elected. (Bill Campbell- Chairman, Chris Marino -Vice Chairman, Jon Puhalski - Secretary)

Correspondence to the Chair:

None received. Ed Parker informed us that 2 new representatives to the CT Audubon Society have been added to the roster

Law Enforcement Report:

No representative for Law Enforcement was present Ed Parker requested on behalf of the Law Enforcement Division that CAC give some thought as to what other information the Council would like to receive from Law Enforcement in addition to the monthly activity report.

DEP Report from Ed Parker:

Inland Fisheries: None

Forestry: None

Wildlife:

The Bluff Point hunt is complete and was a success.

Falconry update. There has been a Legislative inquiry to the Department resulting from concerns voiced by an individual who resides in CT but has a New Hampshire falconry license. Regulation Review Committee will vote on the package on February 24th. Notification letters, application and other forms are being prepared in anticipation of this package passing. USFWS must approve the regulations before falconry can be practiced in CT. Because falconers will need to obtain a hunting license, it is important to take a CE/FS course if needed. Also, individuals should talk to their local Planning and Zoning commissions to make sure possession of a falconry bird and the associated structures to house them comply with local zoning requirements.

Legislative Report:

No details yet on Department restructuring. The Commissioner will have a plan out soon.

The DEP will be submitting 3 Bills for consideration covering Commercial Fishing Licenses, Forest taxation, and Possession of dangerous animals. Municipalities may be left to enact their own noise ordinances.

Marine Fisheries:

A handout was passed around listing 12 options for the upcoming Scup fishing season. A motion was made to adopt the split season, May 22 -June 23 & Aug 17 ~ Oct 31 with an 11' minimum length and a daily creel of 50 fish.

Ed parker notified us that the Naugatuck River Watershed has resigned from the CAC. This brought about a question as to why the Ted Nugent group is not on the roster. The Secretary will research this issue. Another comment and question came up as to a report of a hunter being charged for several illegal-hunting acts. This individual has had numerous wildlife violations in the past. Main question was "Why does this person still have a Hunting License?"

There was also discussion regarding waterfowl hunting on a section of the Housatonic River. It seems that some residents made a complaint about people discharging their weapons to close to homes. The Hunter Safety Review team has investigated and found no safety issue with hunting in this area. A report is being prepared that will present all findings as well as conclusions and recommendations.

Legislative Committee Report:

Four Bills have been submitted to the Sportsmen's Caucus:

Sunday hunting on private land, all weapons, with a \$14 permit fee. Forestry Management Motor Boat Fuel tax

Mandatory Minimum Conservation Officer Staffing -minimum of 75 Officers

Bob further talked about working to get fines from the disposition of motor vehicle convictions, able to be donated to the TIP program, and a chance of eliminating the 14-day wait period for the purchase of a rifle or shotgun.

In SB 35 section 50, concerning the Motor Boat Fuel Tax, The first two million paid into the account shall go to the General Fund. This would leave the Department severely short changed. Another Bill was brought to discussion concerning the responsibility of the owner of any loss or stolen firearm, to report it is missing within 72 hours.

Bob also mentioned how the State Police now have a new book of all the Connecticut Firearm Laws.

It was mentioned also that, in Wal-Mart stores, ONLY the Sporting Goods Manager can sell a firearm.

Old Business:

Chris Marino discussed the potential for a change to the Spring Turkey Hunting season that would allow the use of .45 caliber round ball or lower flintlock, percussion, (black powder) firearms. The proposal was to get together with Wildlife Managers and black powder users and work out a potential program development. Chris had researched how three other states, GA, V A, and FL all have a spring muzzleloader season and zero safety incidents. By getting good involvement, good regulations may

be drafted pertaining to muzzle loading turkey hunting and, and create a different and unique opportunity. Currently, the Wild Turkey Federation would be opposed to this. After discussion, it was agreed that before involving wildlife management, a comprehensive proposal, backed by data, would be drafted. Ed Parker spoke of the potential drawbacks when the public is aware that a patched round ball travels approximately 700 yards. This issue must be addressed in light of the few individuals that would use this type of firearm. The Department has serious reservations about the proposal. A motion was made for the CAC to support the "idea" of pursuing this proposal. Motion passed.

New Business:

No new business was brought to the floor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43PM

Respectfully submitted, John Puhalski