

Northwest CT Sportsman's Council

NWCSC
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Council Report: March 28, 2006

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

Role of Delegates, clubs, officers and guests:

Clyde Breakell, Foothill's Sportsmen; Elise Mauriello, Newgate Coon Club; Phillip Mauriello, Woodbury/Southbury R&G; Seamus Muzzulin, Rocky River Coon Club; Dominic Basile, Metacon, Bell City, Chase; Dean Fraley, Ousatonic F&G, CT Classic Bucks; Jerry Ciarcia, Wtby F&G; Jim Fedorich, Sharon R&G; Mike Fusco, Harwinton R&G; Tom Accusti, Goshen Sportsmen; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington F&G; Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Craig Nelson, New Preston R&G; Chris Marino, NVBC; Tony Chianese and Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem WCC.

Guests: Don Adams, Metacon and Peter Picone, CT DEP Wildlife Biologist.

All officers in attendance.

The meeting agenda for this evening was modified to allow Wildlife Biologist Peter Picone time to make a presentation on Wildlife Habitat and Conservation. Peter spoke to the delegates assembled for an hour, than responded to questions. Peter's presentation was excellent and we highly recommend that any club considering habitat or wildlife conservation projects contact Peter for advice and a possible presentation to the club. Peter can be reached at the Sessions Woods WMA.

Return to Regular Meeting.

Minutes of the February meeting were distributed and discussed. Motion to accept the minutes by Chris Marino, seconded, approved.

Financial Report:

Tom Accusti reported on financial matters. Investments remain the same. Tom reported on the final tabulation of banquet proceeds. Motion to accept financial report by Phil Mauriello, seconded, approved.

Correspondence:

Consists of bills and statements. Letter from Gerry Lynn of Metacon thanking Council for donating proceeds of shooting raffle back to the club.

Committees:

Web Site: Discussion about getting web site updated.

Banquet:

- Discussion of what makes our banquet unique, (high quality items and fine firearms.) Chris suggests that we start earlier to promote the banquet by doing a single page add high-lighting the best art and firearms. Mike suggests putting this add on our web sight for viewing as well.
- Need to make it clear that anyone reserving sponsor packs or tickets, will be liable in the future for the costs of the dinner.

Conservation Advisory Council:

- Comment on proposals for next year's Wildlife Division Regulation Package. The agency is reviewing our proposals that were brought to the CAC in January. Ed Parker mentioned that now would be a good time for any sportsman with ideas or suggestions to improve regulations to contact him or Wildlife Director Dale May with those suggestions for consideration.
 - The DEP is moving forward with plans to institute on-line services for license and permit purchases. Since most other states already offer these services, Ed Parker, Bureau of Natural Resources Chief, feels our state might be able to benefit from the experiences of other systems. He asks that any sportsmen who have used other state's
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on-line services, submit a note to him detailing which state systems they have used and observations, both good and bad, they have had in using these systems. Ed's address and phone are inside the front cover of the both the hunting and fishing regulation field guides.

- The retirement of Deputy Commissioner David Leff was announced at this meeting. This was unexpected and represents a loss to sportsmen and conservationists. We had worked with David Leff for several years and he understands the need for habitat management and regional planning. As an agency head, he will be missed, however, David has indicated to us that he plans to continue his advocacy of sportsman's issues and conservation as a private citizen. Health issues have forced him to slow down and accept retirement, but he is not leaving the field altogether. There are no plans for an immediate replacement for the Deputy Commissioner.
- Discussion of the recent Sunday Hunting Public Hearing. It is a bow-hunting bill only as passed out of the Environment Committee. It has passed in the Senate and now faces action in the House.

Legislative:

Range Disclosure Proposal: We probably cannot expect help in drafting this bill. If we want it, we will have to write it and find a legislator to introduce it. We should talk to Bob Crook about his views on the merit of proceeding.

Old Business:

M1-A, In-House-Raffle: Jason to print tickets by April meeting. 500 Tickets agreed to at \$10.00 per.

New Business:

- Burlington Hatchery Proposal: Jim Fedorich informed the Council that the NW Chapter of TU is willing to donate the proceeds from their annual banquet to help with funding the drilling of a new well at the hatchery. They have enough money to pay one half of the cost of a well. NWTU would like to ask that Council consider contributing the other 50% cost. Cost of well is approximately \$2700.00. NWCSC is being asked to contribute \$1300 to \$1500.

Two wells are needed to ensure a cold water supply during the warm weather months of summer. Farmington River Anglers is contributing to drill one well and we are being asked to work with our Council member NWTU to drill the other.

Chris Marino moves that, "the NWCSC contribute up to \$1500.00 to pay for one half the cost of one well at the Burlington Hatchery, in support of our member club NW Chapter Trout Unlimited, which has volunteered to pay the other half of the well cost, with the stipulation that both organizations are duly credited for the contribution." Clyde Breakell seconds. Discussion. Motion approved with two opposed.

Jason asks if we could request signage at the hatchery indicating the contributions of our groups.

- Tom reports that the Bantam Lake Boat Launch will be open until May 31st. There has been no agreement reached on the state effort to re-lease the launch. Status after May is in doubt. Car top boats can reportedly be launched from the state owned Camp Columbia property.
- Jim reported on progress for state bonding to fund the Shepaug River Water Flow Agreement. The bill, providing for three million dollars in bonding has passed out of the Environment Committee and awaits further action. Jim reports that passage of this bill will create a better cold-water trout fishery for the Shepaug and the state will stock beginning in 2007.
- Delegates are invited to attend a meeting with board members at the Metacon Gun Club on Sunday, April 30th at 10 AM. We want to review what is happening at this club in regard to the ongoing legal issues they face. We recognize the fact that the outcome of the lawsuits could affect all of our clubs in the future; therefore, it is in our best interest to know and understand all of the issues involved.

Good of the Organization:

- Phil would like to see advance notice of guest speakers.
- Western CT Friends of NRA June 1st, 2006 6 PM at the Fireside Inn, Newtown.

Adjourn: 9:45 PM
Chris Marino
Secretary, NWCSC

