

Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

May 9th, 2006

Meeting called to order by: Chris Marino, Chairman. 7:04 pm @D.E.P. Headquarters, Hartford, CT

Present :(regular delegates;

Bob Crook-Coalition of CT Sportsmen
Raymond Szajkowski- CT National Wild Turkey Fed.
Vinnie Ringrose- CT Fly Fisherman's Assoc.
Robert Lazarski- Ct Ruffed Grouse Society
Pat Lafemine- United Bow hunters of CT
Mike Ose- Rockville Fish & Game Club
Fred Frillici- Fairfield League Sportsman
Chris Gillette- Ct Ruffed Grouse Society
Bruce Tolhurst- American Hunting Dog Club
Bill Collins- New London/ Windam County League
George Finch- New London/ Windam County League
Jon D'Arpino- CT Falconers Assoc.

(Vice –Chairman)Tip Garret- CT Trappers Association
(Acting Secretary) Jason Marshall-NW CT Sportsman's Council

Also in attendance were: Edward Parker- Chief, BNR

The Chairman summarized the official minutes for the month of April. The Chairman requested a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was made by George Finch and seconded by Tip Garret. Approved.

I. Correspondence:

Warren Speh submitted a letter criticizing & questioning why the state failed to apply for the grant funds for Junior Pheasant Hunting Day from the N.S.S.F.
Ed Parker didn't know why they were not applied for and said he would find out and get back to the C.A.C.

II. Chairman's Report:

Chris discussed the recent report on native brook trout issued by Trout Unlimited. The chairman noted that the CT report and data could have been presented in a more positive manner. Unfortunately, the initial press releases on this subject are taking a negative posture regarding the status of native brook trout in CT, and our efforts to improve water and habitat conditions throughout the state.

III. T.I.P. Report:

None.

IV. B.N.R. Report:

*Ed Parker reported on the issue of unleashed non-hunting dogs on state land. His office is finalizing a report to the D.E.P. Commissioner. Possible regulatory proposals are forthcoming.

*He also reported that the D.E.P. will be doing a much better job in informing the legislators about the Sunday Hunting Management Bill for the legislative session next year. Proponents of the bill learned that many of the issues that were brought up in opposition can be addressed.

*There was a question posed to Ed Parker by the Chairman at the last meeting as to what is the definition of a "char", (as mentioned in the Fisheries Regs Proposal) and if they exist in CT. Ed

asked the fisheries experts and found that char and brook trout are related and fall under the genus "Salvinus. Our other trout species fall under the genus Salmo and are more closely related to salmon.

*Bob Crook asked Ed about the status of the use of lead sinkers in CT waters. Ed replied that it was a non-issue as of present.

*Ed discussed the status of the On-Line Licensing System and what stage the D.E.P. is at right now. Ed reported that they are reviewing the top two contractors that they want to use to develop the system.

*Ed reported that we lost two pheasant vendors and the agency is looking to find replacements.

V. Legislative:

*Bob Crook reported on how the votes on the Sunday Hunting bill went down.

*Bob asked Ed Parker to prepare for an informational hearing for Trapping and Sunday Hunting next year.

*Wildlife Killed by Motor vehicle Bill has passed.

*Bob reported on the Motorboat Fuel Tax funding for this year is at the same level as last year.

*The Gun Traffickers bill has been killed for this year. Bob described how the Coalition of CT Sportsmen stacked up amendments on this bill to effectively kill it.

*Legislators had committed to funding \$500,000 for ten maintainer positions at state parks only.

VI. Committee Reports:

none

VII. Old Business:

*Fred Frillici brought up the issue of the mandatory use of fluorescent orange hats while hunting in CT. He wanted to point out that the state of Rhode Island requires the use of fluorescent orange hats while hunting. It was duly noted by the membership.

VIII. New Business:

*Bob Crook brought up the issue of user's fees as a way to fund the B.N.R. Ed Parker mentioned that he was going to meet with the D.E.P. commissioner about ways of raising more General Fund fees. He will report to the C.A.C. in a couple of months as to what transpires.

*Tip Garrett brought up the issue of "The Milan Bull Award". The C.A.C. in the past had regularly given this award on an annual basis but has not in several years. It was recommended that the delegates think about who or what organization might be worthy of being presented this award and to start coming up with some names in the near future.

A motion was made by Fred Frillici to adjourn and was seconded by Bob Crook. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectably submitted by Jason Marshall (Acting Secretary)