

# Northwest CT Sportsman's Council

NWCSC  
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Council Report: May 23, 2006

Council President Craig Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM. All rise for the pledge of Allegiance.

## Role of Delegates:

Clyde Breakell, Foothills Sportsmen; Elise Mauriello, Newgate Coon Club & Bristol F&G; Phil Mauriello, Woodbury/ Southbury R&G & Thomaston R & G; Seamus Muzzulin, Rocky River Coon Club; Jake Parmalee, NW R&G; Dean Fraley, CT Classic Bucks & Ousatonic; Jerry Ciarcia, Waterbury F&G; Jerry Gourd, NW -TU; Dom Basile, Chase, Bell City, Metacon; Mike Fusco, Harwinton R&G; Tom Accuosti, Goshen Sportsmen; Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Craig Nelson, New Preston R&G; Tony Chianese, Bethlehem WL CC; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem WLC; Chris Marino, NVBC.

**Members:** Tom Farrell, NW R&G

**Officers:** All in attendance.

**Minutes** of the April meeting were distributed and reviewed. It was pointed out that Dom Basile was present at the April meeting. **Motion** to, "accept the minutes with the addition of Dom Basile to the list of delegates present" was seconded. Approved.

## Financial Report:

Tom Accusti gave the financial report.

The treasurer also reported that our 2005 Income Tax has been prepared and submitted by CPA Norm Lindroth, at no charge to the Council. It was noted that Mr. Lindroth has provided this free service for at least three years, and suggested that the Council do something in return.

A **motion** was made to, "accept the Treasurer's report" and seconded. Discussion. Motion approved.

A **motion** was made by Phil Mauriello to, "provide two tickets to our next council banquet to Norman Lindroth as thanks for his accounting work" motion received a second. Discussion. Approved.

## Cable TV Discussion:

We had a wide ranging discussion regarding establishing a Council TV program.

Tom Farrell attended this meeting to provide information and advice regarding setting up a Council, cable TV program. Tom works for Comcast Communications based in Canaan. He offered to provide guidelines and links to the Dept of Public Utility Control that lists all cable providers in the state, along with the rules and regulations they are governed by.

Tom reports that we would be eligible to use any public access studio in the state to make a program or series of programs, or do a live show. We can record events and project work with digital video recorders and use the clips for our program. Equipment can be borrowed from the studios and training is available. Programs can be taped and shown by other cable access networks throughout the state.

Tom offered to act as an adviser and to allow us the use of the Comcast Studio in Canaan. Marshall Miles is the studio director and will help with training and advice.

Tom suggested that we might consider sitting in on Representative Roberta Willis's weekly, live show to begin our effort.

A **motion** was made by Chris Marino to, "establish a committee to set up a cable access TV program and format for the Council, and plan to attempt a monthly program." Motion receives a second. Discussion. Approved.

**Committee volunteers** to include: Chris Marino, Jason Marshall, Seamus Muzzulin, Phil Mauriello, Dom Basile, and Elise Mauriello. Tom Farrell volunteered to act as our advisor.

Correspondence:

- Financial matters for the Treasurer.
- Request for donation from US Sportsman's Alliance. It was pointed out that we have contributed heavily to requests from the Alliance on specific issues in the past. It was felt that we will no doubt be called upon to do so again in the near future; therefore we decided not to make a donation at this time.
- A card of thanks from Phil and Elise was received for the flowers that were sent upon the passing of Phil's mother.

## Membership:

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- A letter of resignation as club delegate for NW-TU, was received from James Bower. Work schedules have made it increasingly difficult for Jim to actively participate. His resignation was accepted with regret by the members.
- A new delegate for NW-TU was introduced by President Jim Fedorich. Jerry Gourd of Goshen will be representing NW-TU.
- A new delegate was introduced for NW R&G. Jake Parmalee will be representing NW R&G. It has not yet been determined if Jake will be the primary delegate or alternate. We should know by next month.
- An **election nominating committee** was formed. Election of Council officers to be held at the June meeting. Committee to consist of Dom Basile and Clyde Breakell.

#### **Conservation Advisory Council to DEP:**

- Raising new revenues for the Bureau of Natural Resources. Ed Parker said that he will be introducing specific proposals in the coming months to raise revenue. It was noted that there has been little to no help from the legislature during the past few years in this regard, and it has come down to the agency to raise the additional revenue they need to maintain and continue programs.

Bob Crook cautioned Ed that sportsmen have been willing partners to agency funding in the past, but are already paying more than their fair share of agency expenses. It is time to look to the other user groups of our outdoor resources and state lands for additional funding.

- Orange hat requirement mentioned by Fred Frillici again. Bob Larzarski of RGS made a point in mentioning that if this requirement is going to be proposed by the agency, it should be applicable to anyone using state lands during the legal hunting seasons.
- Attrition of Conservation Officers will continue. The bill to fund hiring of new officers did not pass in the legislature.
- The Roadkill Bill did pass this year making it possible for someone to claim a road-killed moose or bear, in addition to deer.
- When asked if anything was mentioned about a bear season, Jason responded that a proposal is being developed by the agency. It is also possible that we may see some form of moose hunting in CT to control an increasing population of this species, now estimated at 90 animals statewide.
- Automated licensing is progressing. Various licensing and permits options will be introduced over time. The agency plans an initial start of this service with fishing licenses only. Because there are no additional applications, permits or reporting, this will be the easiest option for startup of this program.
- Sunday Hunting Management bill will be re-introduced next year. Ed feels the agency and advocates have learned from this past session many of the specific objections to this bill. Ed feels that the agency will be able to do a better job of addressing these concerns next year as a result of the knowledge gained.

#### **Raffle Committee:**

Raffle tickets and flyers were distributed to the club delegates. Drawing is September 17<sup>th</sup>. We need to get the tickets out to club members as soon as possible. Stubs can be returned to Chris or Jason.

#### **Old Business:**

- Dom reported on the defeat of the Lost and Stolen Gun Bill. It will surely be back next year. We need to work with our legislators, particularly Senator Roraback who voted for this bill.
- Dom thanked the Council members who attended the meet & Greet Session held at Metacon on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Chris went on to report that Council Delegates Mike Fusco, Jim Fedorich and Chris Marino, along with two Harwinton R&G members attended this meeting. Gary Lang, President of Metacon, acted as our host. Dom assisted in the review and presentation of Metacon's situation. We toured the club and noted the many improvements that have been made, and the strict adherence to range safety this club practices. The status of the lawsuits against the club were reviewed, with limited information on specifics due to the ongoing litigation.
- Dean Fraley **motions** to "donate \$5,000 to Metacon." Dom seconds. Discussion. Jason mentions previous months discussion centered on the Council matching club donations as a means of getting all clubs involved. Dean Fraley and Phil Mauriello spoke in favor of the motion and direct donation. Mike Fusco, Chris Marino and Jason Marshall spoke in opposition to the motion, and the concept of a direct donation. Seamus Muzzulin asked the Metacon delegate about any public programs the club sponsors to enhance public opinion. Dom gave a run down of the many events and outreach efforts of the club.

There was approximately 10 to 15 minutes of discussion on this motion. A call to move the question resulted in a vote on the motion. A voice vote did not result in a clear majority. The President called for a vote by show of hands. The final tally was: 9 votes in favor of the motion and 10 votes opposed. **The motion fails.**

Chris Marino offered a **motion** that; "the Northwest Council match dollar for dollar, any donation from any of our member clubs, to the Metacon Legal Defense Fund up to a maximum Council contribution of \$1500.00 per club throughout the 2006 calendar year." Motion receives a second, (Mike Fusco?) Discussion centered on timing of matching payments from Council and whether we should reveal amount of funds raised to the general public through the media. Some members feel we should not reveal totals of donations to the public. Mike Fusco thinks a letter should be drafted to inform

the Council clubs of what we are doing and why this issue is important to them. Jason suggests urging the clubs to host an event dedicated to raising funds for this effort. A voice vote was taken and the **motion was approved** with no dissenting votes.

#### **New Business::**

- Shepaug River Bonding. Jim Fedorich reported to Chris that the 3 million dollar bonding package was approved and announced by Governor Rell. This funding should provide restoration of a cold water trout fishery to the Shepaug.
- Elise Mauriello brought up an issue of herself and Phil being singled out as delegates of multiple clubs for needing documentation from the additional clubs they represent designating them as delegates of those clubs. It was pointed out that the Council provides forms for clubs to designate their contacts and provide club info. The Secretary will look through the Council files and see if we have such forms for Phil and Elise, and report back at the next meeting. The Secretary will also check the status of all current delegates and to see if we have contact forms for each club. This issue may provide a good opportunity to update our club information files.
- Jason Marshall made a **motion** to, “make a donation to Robert Crook (CCS) in the amount of \$500.00.) Motion receives a second. Discussion centered on when to issue the check and if we should hold it for presentation at an event. It was decided not to delay in getting this check to Bob. From past experience, it would seem reasonable to assume that after devoting so much time to the recent legislative session, Bob could probably use the donation now. Motion approved with one dissenting vote from Dean Fraley.
- Mike Fusco asked if the Council was going to set up a display at the Harwinton and Goshen Fairs this fall. Chris pointed out that manning the booth is always a problem and asked who would volunteer to run the booth. Mike Fusco volunteered to do both fairs. Phil and Elise volunteer to do Goshen. Jerry Gourd volunteers for Goshen. Volunteers to try to get club members to assist at the booths. Chris offers to contact Goshen Fair officials to see what it will cost and sign us up if possible.  
Mike suggests making up bumper stickers for the fairs. “NW CT Sportsmen: Helping to preserve our outdoor heritage.”  
Tom Accuosti suggests embroidered Council patches for sale at the fairs.  
Mike Fusco: Applications and info for our member clubs if available.  
Phil wants to sell something.

#### **Good of the Council:**

- Metacon will be holding its Women On Target Program on July 22, 2006.
- NWCSA will host a Ladies Day Shoot on June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Western CT FNRA on June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Fireside Inn.
- NW R&G Outing on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Clyde Breakell has tickets.

**Motion to Adjourn 9:55 PM Approved.**

Respectfully  
Chris Marino  
Secretary, NWCSC