

**Northwest CT Sportsman's Council**  
**3 Bare Hill Road, Goshen, CT 06756**  
**nwcsc.org 860 491-3116**

**Council Minutes: June 27, 2006**

Meeting called to order by the Council President at 7:35 PM. All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll of delegates, clubs, officers and guests:

Clyde Breakell, Foothill's Sportsmen; Elise Mauriello, Olde Newgate Coon Club & Bristol F&G; Phillip Mauriello, Woodbury/ Southbury R&G & Bristol F&G; Jake Parmalee, NW R&G Club; Seamus Muzzulin, Rocky River Coon Club; Dean Fraley, CT Classic Bucks & Ousatonic F&G; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington F&G; Jerry Ciarcia, Waterbury F&G; Jim Fedorich, Sharon F&G; Gerry Zordan, Torrington Gun Club; Dom Basile, Bell City & Metacon & Chase; Mike O'Connell, UBC of CT; Mike Fusco, Harwinton R&G; Tom Accusti, Goshen Sportsman's Assoc.; Jason Marshall, NW CT Sportsman's Assoc.; Craig Nelson, New Preston R&G; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem WCC; Chris Marino, NVBC  
All Officers in attendance.

After observing that we have had changes to our delegate list over the past several months, Council President Craig Nelson asked each delegate to stand, state his/ her name and the club he/ she represents as a means of introducing delegates to each other.

**Minutes** of the May meeting were distributed and reviewed. There were no questions on the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. Motion approved.

**Financial Report:**

As agreed at our May meeting, Tom reports opening a one-year, Fusion CD with funds transferred from our regular savings account. Tom gave an accounting of all financial accounts and matters.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report made and seconded. Motion approved.

Chris Marino addressed the meeting to support the concept of creating an annual Council Budget for known, fixed expenses, such as recurring annual donations, office supplies, phone bill etc. Added to these could be best estimates of Banquet and Raffle expenses based on previous experience. Budgeting for these known expenses would help the Council meet obligations, review and adjust donations to worthy causes and help the Treasurer plan his financial decisions. Chris also suggested that the delegates think about creating a policy for non-budgeted expenditures.

These two proposals generated a good amount of discussion. The budget item is covered under our by-laws as a duty of the board, which is charged with developing an annual budget by the December meeting for the following year.

Several suggestions were made that have merit. Among them, Jim Fedorich suggests putting budget ideas in writing for presentation along with a proposed budget statement that could be reviewed by the delegates. Jim also suggests creating a budget policy that reflects the Council's stated purpose.

Jerry Zordan states that we should adhere to our stated purpose when considering financial allocations.

Phil Mauriello suggests creation of a budget for fixed, annual expenses. Phil suggests placing a cap, (suggest \$3,000-) on any projects outside of the budget.

Another suggestion was to set up a project fund that would receive all interest from investments and basically limit all project funding to what is available in this account. This would preserve the principle investments as an endowment and thereby assure a continuity of financial aid for projects into the future.

After a thorough discussion, President Nelson suggested that the Council officers look at the issues involved and come up with one or more proposals for a future meeting.

**Correspondence:**

Letter received from NWCSA member Fred Humphrey, informing sportsmen that several northern towns are closing some unimproved dirt roads to vehicles, due primarily to the cost of maintenance. It is inferred that ATV and four wheelers are causing a lot of damage to these dirt roads. Apparently, the towns in question do not want to continue maintaining these roads, so they are opting in some cases to close the roads entirely. Mr. Humphrey states that the closing of some roads will affect sportsman's access to areas such as the MDC lands and several state forests on the Mass boarder.

The secretary received this letter and informed the Council. Several of our delegates that live in the area have offered to look into this and we will make enquiries to DEP as to whether they are aware of any access being shut down by any town.

Letter received from the Coalition of CT Sportsmen thanking us for our annual donation. CCS also sent a form to be filled out for our organizational affiliation. The Council secretary will fill out and submit the form and request we be added to the mail list for Hook & Bullet publication.

Chris e-mailed and called the U.S. Sportsman's Alliance for help in addressing the federal lawsuit filed by animal rights groups against the U.S. F&W Service regarding the New England Cottontail. (See new business.)

#### **Committees:**

#### **Web Site:**

Phil wants Woodbury/ Southbury web link added to our web site. Jason moves to "find a web company that will host and update the website as we need instead of repeatedly asking our volunteers to do this. Funding for this service not to exceed \$500.00 per year." Phil seconds. Discussion: Motion carries. Craig states that Officers will look into finding someone to provide this service.

**Fairs:** Mike Fusco and Chris Marino report that they have made contact with both Fair Committees, and those arrangements are being made for our display at both fairs. DEP will have the TIP trailer at the Goshen Fair. We have asked for a space near their trailer.

We plan on having our displays and Council info available. Any clubs wishing to promote their clubs with brochures or handouts are welcome to provide material. We also discussed having embroidered, Council Logo Patches and Council Bumper Stickers made up. Craig had prices on each.

Patches: 4" colored: Artwork @\$75.00 100 pieces @\$3.40

Bumper Stickers: 3"x11.5": 125 piece minimum @\$1.22, 250 @ \$.72, 500 @ \$.50, 1,000 pieces @ \$.306 for one color and a background. NWCSC hats were also discussed.

Clyde Breakell **moves** to "purchase 1,000 bumper stickers with, "I support the Northwest CT Sportsman's Council"." Phil Mauriello seconds: discussion, motion approved. Craig to arrange and order.

Jason Marshall **moves** to, "Purchase 150 multi-colored, embroidered logo patches at \$3.30 plus \$75.00 setup fee. Same facsimile as our wall logo." Second by Phil Mauriello, discussion, motion approved. Craig to arrange and order.

Volunteers: Mike to work Harwinton & Goshen. Phil and Elise Goshen. Jerry Gourd, Goshen, Jim Fedorich, Goshen, Craig and Dean Goshen, Mike O'Connell, Goshen, Clyde Goshen. Setup on Friday to be determined. Tent, displays, tables chairs and goods.

#### **PA Cable TV:**

No progress reported as yet.

#### **Rapid Response:**

We are working on an updated list of delegates, clubs and contact info. Most recent data is available to any delegate.

#### **Membership:**

Jason passed around a list for update of delegate info. He also offered to provide copies to any delegate who wants it. Council files have been moved to the office and need re-organization. Jason has offered to help with this project.

#### **Issue of Multiple Club Representation:**

**Background:** The NWCSC by-laws state that "The rules of order and conduct for all NWCSC meetings shall be those of Robert's, Rules of Order, Newly revised." Our membership basis is on a club or organizational level, with each member club or organization entitled to appoint one voting delegate from among its membership to represent the club at NWCSC meetings. Our by-laws also allow each member club to appoint one or two alternates. One alternate may act with full voting authority for the club in the absence of the primary delegate.

NWCSC by-laws state clearly, in several sections: (Art. I Section IV, Art. V, Section 2. & Section 3) that votes and quorums are based on majorities of voting delegates present.

#### **Issue:**

Beginning in February, 2004 we had the experience of having one primary delegate appointed to represent two additional clubs throughout the course of that year, culminating in January, 2005 with a total of three club representations. This delegate claimed three votes on the Council; one for each club represented. Several members took issue with multiple representation and voting privileges for various reasons and stated their objections at the time. The Council President in office at that time did not pursue an immediate decision regarding the single case of multiple representations for various reasons. His opinion was that we needed factual guidance from Robert's Rules if we were to rule on the issue, and that a current by-laws revision was in process, which might help resolve the issue. There was also the hope that the member would seek additional representation from the clubs he represented.

Reference to the ongoing concern regarding the multiple representation issue can be read under “Committee Reports” in the July 26, 2005 Council Minutes. This issue has lingered since that time, through an administrative change in the Council, and the process of incorporating the Council. In that approximate time period and extending to 2006, we also experienced three additional delegates claim the right to represent more than one club and have voting rights on the Council for each club represented.

**Resolution:**

Former Council President and current Secretary Chris Marino requested that this issue be placed on the agenda for the current meeting. Copies of the agenda were sent before the meeting, to all delegates who have provided e-mail addresses.

Gerry Zordan provided a copy of Robert’s Rules for referral during this discussion and led off by relating that this issue has been addressed among several organizations he is affiliated with during the past year, that subscribe to Robert’s Rules of Order, with a determination that although a member may be representing more than one entity, they are entitled to only one vote. Gerry further stated that Robert’s Rules backs this finding up with the statement that majorities are limited to a simple majority of the number of voting members present, not the number of organizations they represent.

The debate that followed basically broke down to those delegates who claim multiple representations and voting privilege in support of this form of representation. The balance of the membership supported the concept of one man, one vote, and favor seeing individual representation from each club without multiple representations. It was agreed that multiple representation could occur so long as the delegate claiming such, was allowed no more than one vote on any Council matter. This leaves the issue of voting privilege in the hands of the member club, which if it so desires, can appoint a club member to act as its voting delegate so long as that individual does not claim multiple voting rights for other clubs. Joe Rinaldi suggested that we notify all affected clubs if we determine that the Council supports one man, one vote. Joe suggests notification to the clubs, with time allowed for them to find primary delegates.

Chris Marino read a proposed statement of Council Policy, drafted by Chris Marino to address the current issue and reinforce the clearly stated intent of our by-laws and Robert’s Rules of order.

The proposed policy to read as follows:

**“NWCSC membership is based on official club representation. Each NWCSC member club is entitled to designate through its Governing Body or Board of Directors, one primary voting delegate to the NWCSC, and up to two alternates, either of whom may represent that club as a voting member in the absence of the primary delegate.**

**It shall be NWCSC policy to require each member club to complete and submit an informational form, provided by the NWCSC, to the NWCSC Secretary. This form to be signed by the member club’s acting Secretary.**

**All NWCSC primary delegates; or in the absence of the primary delegate, one acting alternate, are entitled to one vote on any NWCSC matter, regardless of the number of clubs they represent. As in all Democratic institutions, the concept of one man, one vote will be adhered to.**

**Member clubs, which cannot find willing club members to act as their primary delegate or alternates to NWCSC and attend at least four regular NWCSC meetings per year, will be notified their membership to the Council may be terminated without prejudice. If terminated, the club may reapply for NWCSC membership at such time as they can actively participate in NWCSC matters.”**

This proposal was discussed in depth.

Secretary Chris Marino makes a motion, “That the NWCSC adopt as Council Policy the policy proposal cited above, and restated within this motion as follows:

**NWCSC membership is based on official club representation. Each NWCSC member club is entitled to designate through its Governing Body or Board of Directors, one primary voting delegate to the NWCSC, and up to two alternates, either of whom may represent that club as a voting member in the absence of the primary delegate.**

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This motion received a second, and the President opened the proceedings to discussion. Discussion ensued with debate regarding whether this motion should actually be a by-law change. Chris points out that he has offered this motion as a policy statement in support of the by-laws, which are already clear regarding the principle issue of voting rights. Joe restates his observation that the affected clubs should be informed of the policy change; if approved, and given several months to arrange for voting representation. Through notification and given time to act, the member clubs will be empowered to decide for themselves the importance to the club of having a voting or non-voting delegate to

represent the club. Craig recounted two recent examples of state organizations dealing with this issue; in both cases the principle of one man, one vote was affirmed.

A call was made to move the question. The president asked all in favor of the motion to stand and took a count. He then asked all opposed to stand and took a count. The President did count the current multiple votes in tallying the result.

Those in favor numbered 11. Those opposed numbered 9. Abstentions: 1. The motion passes.

Dominic raised the question of when this policy takes effect. The President responds that, "the way the motion is worded, it takes effect immediately."

The Secretary is tasked with informing all affected clubs of this policy, in writing. The letters to go out as soon as the Secretary has all addresses and time to draft the letter. The Secretary will review Council files to identify those member clubs for which we have no current delegate and contact information. A letter of explanation and an informational questionnaire will be sent.

#### **Conservation Advisory Council:**

Chris and Jason reported on the June meeting. The CAC will now be in recess until September.

- When asked about efforts to find a replacement for retired Deputy Commissioner Leff, Ed Parker responded by stating that the bureau chiefs were handling the duties of this position currently. It appears that filling this position is not a high priority at this time.
- Ed Parker mentioned that a new "State Grasslands Acquisition Program" would be announced in the near future. This will be an effort to preserve large tracts grasslands in the CT River Valley from Hartford north to Mass border.
- Sgt. Tom Lewoc, formally the TIP coordinator has been transferred to the DEP training unit. Jason Marshall is acting as our CAC Secretary until our regular Secretary can re-assume his duties.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **Metacon Legal Defense:**

Jim Fairchild submitted a check from the Bethlehem Wildlife & Conservation Club for \$100.00 as a club donation to the Metacon Gun Club legal defense fund.

Jake Parmalee submitted a check from the Northwest Rod & Gun Club for \$200.00 as a club donation to the Metacon Gun Club legal defense fund.

Both of these clubs received the thanks of the Council, as well as thanks from Metacon's delegate.

As previously agreed to, the NWCSC will match these donations and all others from our member clubs that are to benefit Metacon's legal defense. Treasurer Tom Accusti observed that a substantial number of donations have been made to date, and asked that an accounting of the total, with a breakdown by club be provided in order that he can draft a check for the matching fund amount to this point. Metacon's delegate stated that he will provide this information through his club treasurer, who is keeping track of all donations.

To all other delegates, we would remind them that donations can be made throughout the 2006 year and receive the matching funding from the Council, up to \$1500.00 per club.

##### **NWCSC Election of Officers:**

- The nominating committee gave their report and nominated the current slate of officers for each of their current positions. The committee head then called for nominations from the floor for each officer's position. The call was made three times for each position. There were no nominations from the floor for any officer's position. After nominations were closed for each position, the chairman moved to have the Secretary cast one ballot for the incumbent, with the exception of the Secretary's position, in which the motion was for the President to cast one ballot for the incumbent. All motions received a second and were approved. One ballot was cast per the motions to re-elect each incumbent.
- The position of Board members Clyde Breakell and Phil Mauriello to serve a two-year term were up for election. Nominating committee member Dominic Basile nominated Clyde and Phil to for re-election to two-year terms on the Board. Dominic called for nominations from the floor. Phil nominated Gerry Zordan for a Board position. There was no second, and since Gerry was not on hand to accept the nomination in any case, the President ruled the nomination invalid. Elise Mauriello nominated Dominic Basile for a Board position. Dominic thanked her, but passed on the nomination. After a final call for nominations from the floor received no answer, Dominic closed nominations and moved that the Secretary cast one ballot for each of the incumbents. This motion received a second and was approved. One ballot was cast to re-elect each incumbent.
- Elections for Officers 2006-07 completed. Nominating Committee thanked and released from this duty.
- **Statewide Junior Hunting Day:**  
Chris has been contacted by Warren Speh regarding our Council once again hosting the JHD for the western side of the state. Joe Rinaldi will check with Torrington F&G; which has been generous in allowing the use of its facilities over the past several years, for permission and a date that would be agreeable to the club.

It was noted that the DEP did not apply for a National Shooting Sports Foundation Grant for 2006; therefore we cannot expect any help with funding this project. It is the feeling of most Council members that this program is vital to new hunter recruitment, hunter safety training and the good of all sportsmen in general.

We have funded and helped with operating this program since the western division was instituted, and can be proud of the fact that we have provided an exciting and educational experience to hundreds of young graduates of our state's hunter safety courses. All agreed that we should continue this tradition.

Chris Marino **motions** to, "agree that the NWCSC will host and fund the western division of the CT Statewide Junior Hunting Day. Funding not to exceed \$1200.00." Motion seconded by Mike Fusco. Discussion: Motion approved.

We will work with Warren Speh in seeking direct funding from NSSF for this program. We will also look into FNRA grant money to help for next year. Jason Marshall to head this effort.

#### **New Business:**

- Chris reported on a lawsuit brought against the U.S. F&W Service by a coalition of animal rights groups, in an attempt to force the agency to list the New England Cottontail Rabbit as an endangered species.

Status of this rabbit has been undergoing review since 1999-2000, when F&W first received petitions to list it as endangered. Since that time, several New England States, including CT have conducted research into the status of state populations. Our Wildlife Division's research indicates that the NEC is not threatened or endangered in CT.

This latest lawsuit, if successful could result in the elimination of all cottontail hunting in New England, wherever NEC's are deemed to exist. This appears to be the motive behind the suit. As stated above, we have contacted the U.S. Sportsman's Alliance with our information, and they have responded to us with news that they are looking into various strategies about how best to address this issue.

- Tom Accusti reported on a fawn kill he discovered and photographed near Black Rock Dam. Tom sent pics to DEP, which responded that this was the first time they had seen something like this. The fawn had been killed, its cranium opened and brain eaten, as well as some internal organs. Mike O'Connell commented that a mule deer he shot with bow had been taken by a mountain lion, which also opened the cranium and ate the brain. Who knows?

#### **Good of the Organization:**

- Jason Marshall announced that **NW CT Sportsman's Association** will be hosting a Metacon Legal Defense Benefit Shoot Day on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006. This will consist of trap, cast bullet & rimfire rifle silhouette, and bullseye handgun competition at the NWCSA facility on Rt 44, in Colebrook. Refreshments will be available. All proceeds from the shoots will be donated to the Metacon legal defense fund and matched by the Council.
- **Northwest Friends of NRA.** Congratulations to Mike Fusco, who has agreed to chair the committee this year. Chairing these functions is not an easy job and the volunteers from our community who step forward to do it deserve our thanks.  
**Date:** September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Cornucopia. Tickets available at Sporting Goods Stores and from Mike.
- **Northwest Rod & Gun Outing: Clambake,** pig roast, steamers, venison, sausage and just about anything that can be imagined. This one is always a sellout. **Date:** August 20<sup>th</sup>. Tickets from Jake Parmalee in Canaan or Clyde Breakell in Goshen.
- **Ruffed Grouse Society Banquet:** Will be announced shortly on our website. They will be raffling a custom Parker Double 28gauge on a national level. Tickets will be available at Autumn Gun works.

**Adjourn: 10:10 PM**

Chris Marino  
Secretary, NWCSC