

Conservation Advisory Council
Minutes
May 8, 2007 Meeting

Chairman Chris Marino called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Attendance: See attendance list.

The chairman requested a motion to approve the April, 2007 minutes. Motion made by Tip Garrett, and seconded by Fred Frillici. The motion to accept the minutes was approved.

Secretary's Report:

None

Chairman's Report:

None

DEP:

Conservation Environmental Police Report:

*Sergeant Jim Wolfe handed out the T.I.P. report.

*Jim reported that there is a need to revisit the TIP program. Some DEP dispatchers seem uninformed of the program. A suggestion was made to inquire as to whether there are written procedures for the TIP program. If not, formal procedures should be developed. Also noted is a need to do a better job of informing the public that reporting wildlife violations may result in cash awards if their tips result in conviction of violators.

*Tip Garrett asked if Jim could get copies of the legislative Program Review regarding the state ECON officers. This review indicates that ECON Police activity related to fish and wildlife issues now stands at 18% or less of their total duties.

BNR Report: Ed Parker

Forestry:

- Proposed Forestry Conduct Regulations will be going to the Legislative Regulations Review Committee in June.
- Proposed Leash Regulation for Dogs on WMAs will be going to Legislative Regs Review in May. Ed noted that State Forests and Parks already have leash requirement. While implied, the WMAs are not specifically mentioned in those regulations. The current effort would ensure that the same regulations apply on all State lands.

*Ed talked about the importance of media getting the word out about wildlife programs in and around the state. When the media does get a wildlife related story out to the public, it is very well received.

Marine Fisheries:

*The DEP Marine Bill is moving forward in the Legislature. ALL fees will go into the Environmental Conservation Fund.

*Rep. Miner & Rep. Chapin have introduced three amendments: 1. Fees for residents: \$25, non-residents: \$85, for combination marine and firearms license. 2. No boater's license for Marine use except for commercial fishing & add a one-day \$5 marine license. 3. Requirement dropped regarding license fees for hunting, fishing and trapping on

those age 65 or older. Over 65 license holders will have to renew each year in order to capture demographics. Ed urged sportsmen to call their house representatives on this bill.

Inland Fisheries:

*Ed mentioned the article in The Courant about Family Fishing Day in CT.

*Over 500 people turned out for the Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference held in CT. Our Commissioner apparently made a good impression on those in attendance.

*On the issue of Bass Tournaments and the 50% parking rule. Ed informed the delegates that the 50% tournament parking occupancy is strictly observed from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Before and after these dates the tournament occupancy can be over the 50% capacity rule depending on the location and usage.

Wildlife:

*The contract for the automated licensing program has been signed and the design for the program is in progress.

*The Trailblazing Adventure Program will be held at the Hebron Fairgrounds. This program was funded through a grant from the U.S. Sportsman's Alliance.

CAC Committee Reports:

Legislative

*Bob Crook talked about SB#903 Lost & Stolen Firearms; Gun Trafficking Taskforce; HB#6859, Act Requiring Disclosure of the Presence of Gun Clubs & Hunting Preserves; and HB#5220, Bow Hunting on Sundays.

*Bob said that the Motor Boat Fuel Tax should be allotted \$500,000 in this year's budget.

*Seven more conservation officers have been proposed for this year in the budget.

*\$1.7 Million has been reinstated in the budget for maintenance and equipment on state lands.

Old Business.

None.

New Business:

- Mr. Parker discussed his thoughts and ideas for the CAC. A comparison to the FAC and the success of FAC's quarterly meetings was drawn. Ed suggested the members of CAC consider creating Wildlife Advisory Group along the same lines as the FAC, including attendance by senior DEP staff. In addition, Ed suggested we consider a reconstituted CAC to include members from both the FAC and the WLAG.
- Phil Mauriello asked about the accessibility of pheasant tags on the automated licensing system.

A motion to adjourn by Bob Crook was seconded by George Finch. Motion approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Marshall: Secretary C.A.C.