

Northwest CT Sportsman's Council
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Council Minutes: August 28, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM by Council President Craig Nelson. All rise for Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll of Delegates, Clubs, Officers and Guests:

Phil Mauriello, Woodbury/ Southbury R&G; Elise Mauriello, Olde Newgate Coon Club & Bristol F&G; Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Chris Marino, NVBC; Tom Accuosti, Goshen Sportsmen; Jim Fedorich, Sharon F&G; Dominic Basile, Chase R&P; Seamus Muzzulin, Rocky River Coon Club; Clyde Breakell, Foothill's Sportsmen; Craig Nelson, New Preston R&G; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington F&G; Tom Small, Ratlum F&G; Edward Cormiel, Bell City Rifle Club; Jim Bower, NW TU; Jerry Ciarcia, Waterbury F&G; Dean Fraley, CT Classic Bucks; Jerry Gourd, NW TU; Mike Fusco, Harwinton R&G; Tony Chianese, Bethlehem F&G; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem F&G.

Guests include: Arthur Palmer, Senior Fishing Program, New Milford. Donald Mysling, DEP Inland Fisheries Division. Tim Barry, DEP Inland Fisheries Division.

Officers in attendance: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

DEP Inland Fisheries Presentation:

Council Fisheries advisor Tim Barry introduced Technical Assistant Biologist for Western Connecticut Donald Mysling to the delegates. Together, these two gentlemen gave a 45-minute presentation focused on DEP efforts to restore stream and river channels and habitat. Tim also addressed the latest non-native threat to North American waters; Didymo, commonly referred to as "rock snot." Rock snot is an invasive originating from New Zealand and/ or Australia. Our cold climate led experts to believe that it would not be sustainable here, but in fact it has flourished and is spreading, adversely affecting river habitat, as it tends to clog up the stream bottom reducing insect and aquatic life. It has been identified in the upper CT River and is working its way south. DEP is asking anglers that fish out of state; especially those who use felt bottom waders, to clean their waders with a weak bleach solution or see to it that the waders are dried over a period of several days in order to kill any algae that may have attached itself. Also, anyone seeing a formation of any strange composition of filamentous algae, (light brown in color) in a river or stream should inform the DEP.

Inland fisheries established a separate habitat improvement unit approximately 15 years ago. Don has been a member of this unit since inception. The unit has accomplished an amazing amount of work since it was formed. Part of this success can be attributed to a more cooperative work relationship between DEP and other agencies such as the State DOT, US Government and municipal public works.

Don Mysling gave a slide presentation of many completed waterway projects throughout the state dealing with habitat issues. Don reports that his unit came into being to assess municipal, state and federal projects that impact waterways and their influence on environmental conditions of aquatic resources. When reviewing permit applications, the unit looks for opportunities to incorporate enhancements to restore or enhance streamside and aquatic habitat. The primary goal of the habitat unit is to incorporate habitat enhancement as part of the many regulated, permit required activities they review. The unit also pursues independent projects that are identified by the unit itself. Most projects undertaken are enhancement projects to improve certain conditions in a waterway.

Don described too many enhancement and restoration projects completed throughout the state to detail within the minutes. It is obvious that this is an active and prolific unit within the DEP and worthy of sportsmen's support in the future. Don commented that one of the hardest parts of his job is in finding funding for DEP identified projects. There are sources for federal grant monies, but most require matching funds, (typically 25%) from the state. When matching funds cannot be raised, projects simply do not get funded. Quite often, another agency of the state or federal government is willing to incorporate habitat projects within a separate project that they are pursuing. This cooperation has made possible many of the successes of the habitat unit.

Our thanks to Tim and Don for attending this meeting and giving an enlightening and informative presentation.

Return to Regular Agenda:

Secretary's Report:

Minutes for the July 24, 2007 meeting were e-mailed to delegates. Copies were available at the meeting. Mike Fusco **motions** to, “accept the minutes as delivered” Motion receives a second. Discussion. **Motion approved.**

Agendas for the August meeting were also e-mailed and provided at the meeting.

Treasurer’s Report:

Tom reported all account balances.

Jason Marshall **motions** to, “accept the Treasurer’s Report.” Second by Joe Rinaldi. Discussion. **Motion approved.**

Correspondence:

Received report of CCS fund raiser in support of Sean Sullivan as candidate for the Congressional second district. Chris Marino **motions** to “authorize the Council President to look into the legality of a Council donation to the Sullivan campaign or CCS.” Jason Marshall seconds. Motion approved.

Committees:

Junior Hunting Day: October 7, 2007.

Birds have been ordered from Sharon Pheasant Farm. The Secretary reports that Tom Accuosti, Jim Fedorich, Joe Rinaldi and Jerry Ciarcia will be heading up our organization and volunteers for day. Tim Barry will be in charge of our hunter safety volunteers. If any of our members have well trained bird dogs, they would be welcome to work their dogs at this event.

Jason and Chris will get all equipment for the concession together and create a list of supplies and food to be procured, one week before the event. They will coordinate with Jim Fedorich.

Setup for volunteers will begin at 8 AM.

Membership:

Rapid Response:

The Secretary reported sending an e-mail to Senator Roraback requesting a meeting to discuss several issues of importance to sportsmen. Senator Roraback has replied with a meeting date scheduled at his office for October 7th. Chief among the items to be discussed is an issue many of our clubs face; the increasing cost of raw land and funding purchases of land.

Chris Marino will attend this meeting representing the Council. Chris has asked the Senator to investigate the State’s “Open Space Program” and determine whether the program will allow our club’s access to the funding available under this program. If this is not possible under current law, we will ask for legislation to include sportsman’s clubs in some funding program.

The Senator informs us the current State program is a fifty-fifty matching program available to non-profits (land trusts, etc) as it now stands. Since many of our clubs are set up as not for profit and as land preserves for the benefit of wildlife and habitat, we will be discussing the expansion of the current program to include sportsman’s clubs.

Banquet:

Our banquet is four months away. It is time for delegates to make a concerted effort to enquire about donations of any type. Please address your clubs and remind them that this organization is actively representing their interests. The only pro-sportsman bill to pass in the legislature this past session was our Real Estate Disclosure Bill. This is something that helps all of our clubs, so please don’t be reluctant to ask for a club donation to help with the banquet. Let your members know that we are looking at a long-term goal of establishing the Sportsman’s Trust Endowment for NW Connecticut, and that this fund will be financed by the successes of our banquets. There is plenty of justification to encourage the clubs to invest in the Council Banquet.

We have several donations at this point but need much more.

CAC: No meeting in July.

Old Business:

- Wamogo Fish Culture Program: Jim Fedorich reports that NW TU is working directly with the school and is to donate a chiller to the program. NW TU will keep the Council informed of needs and progress. Jim Bower reports that the Litchfield Lions Club has started a Leo’s Club at the High Schools, which involves projects of community service that might be of value to our river cleanup and habitat projects.

- Seamus Muzzlin has delivered a draft report on legislative activity affecting sportsmen's interests during this past session of the legislature. It is a good synthesis of what occurred and how our area legislators represented our interests. Chris to get this report on our web site. It is a good first step in creating a database of legislative activity.

New Business:

- Senior Fishing Day: Art Palmer reported that he has scheduled another Senior Fishing Day for September 8th. He thanked the Council for donations made over the past few years. Typically, the Council has donated \$500.00 to pay for busing the participants to and from the event. This year, Art reports that donations to the event have been up and he is asking the Council for a \$400.00 donation as a result. Chris Marino moves to, "authorize a four hundred dollar donation to the Senior Fishing Day." Motion receives a second. Discussion. Motion approved.
- Ct Sportsman's Caucus: The Council President offered a proposal to host the Caucus at one of our clubs next year. It was thought that we could combine this effort with CCS, NSSF and other organizations to make this a worthwhile event. Possible locations include Bristol F&G or Torrington F&G. Bristol is the larger facility with more shooting venues available and a more central location for all the legislators we would be hosting.
- Dom enquires about Hunter Safety training. It was noted that all courses must be registered with Sessions Woods and students must register with Sessions Woods in Burlington.
- **NW FNRA Dinner is scheduled for September 21st.**
Jason Marshall moves to, "authorize the Council to purchase a table of eight at \$280.00." Chris seconds. Discussion. It is determined that people taking tickets will reimburse the Council. Motion approved.
Extra tickets are available at Autumn Gun Works in Goshen.
- Jim Fedorich thanked everyone who attended the Tom Delekta benefit dinner. Jim noted that \$5300.00 was raised to help Tom with his medical bills.

Joe Rinaldi moves to, "adjourn." Motion receives a second. Approved.

Adjourn: 10:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Chris M. Marino
Secretary: NWCSC