

**Conservation Advisory Council**  
**Minutes**  
**September 11, 2007 Meeting**

Chairman Chris Marino called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

**Attendance:** See attached attendance list.

\*Fred Frillici requested a moment of silence in memorial for Bruce Stern who passed away recently.

**Secretary's Report:**

\*The chairman requested a motion to approve the June, 2007 minutes. Motion made by George Finch, and seconded by Tip Garrett. The motion to accept the minutes was approved.

\*Ed asked the Secretary to get the minutes to him for review at least two weeks prior to the meeting in order to get the minutes to the delegates so they have time to review them before the next meeting. Jason said that he would do his best to get them out in time.

**Chairman's Report:**

\*Chris Marino brought up the topic of the Aldo Leopold W.M.A. He asked if anybody knew any information on this new W.M.A. Ed Parker thought it was opened up about three years ago.

**DEP:**

**Conservation Environmental Police Report:**

\*Sergeant Jim Wolfe was not present to hand out the T.I.P. report.

**BNR Report: Ed Parker**

\*Chris Marino gave Ed Parker an information package on John Minetto State Park in Torrington. The package included photos and information on the park and possible uses for the park. The park is in serious disrepair. Outbuildings are damaged and parking areas are overgrown with weeds. This area is heavily used by a.t.v.s and off-road vehicles. Open fields are in need of brush hogging. Ed was unaware of the park's condition.

After reviewing the current status of the park, delegates discussed possible alternative uses that might be more beneficial to the outdoors community. Some delegates suggested that the area is now more suitable as a W.M.A. or hunting dog field trial area. Chris suggested that a dialog be initiated between the DEP and CAC to discuss alternative uses that would serve the public and protect this natural asset. Ed thanked Chris for the information and said he would look in to the matter.

**Forestry:**

\*Ed mentioned that Don Smith, (Director of Forestry) will be retiring in March of 2008.

**Marine Fisheries:**

\*Quotas of sea bass, scup, fluke and tautog will be reduced next year. Possible shorter seasons will also be an option that will be looked at. We can expect a public hearing in October to review options.

**Inland Fisheries:**

\*Ed reported that trout will be stocked in CT town ponds to support the Urban Fishing Program. Fish will be stocked in Kenny Park, Bunnell, Beardsley and Mohegan Ponds. The Urban Fishing Program is being well received by the public in the participatory areas. There is a small problem regarding creel limits in the urban areas and understanding that state regulations apply. DEP is concerned about educating new urban anglers regarding creel limits. This will be a relatively slow process by design, as the agency does not want to discourage new participants.

\*The fisheries division is having some issues with fall season stocking of trout and salmon in state rivers due to the low water levels. Only streams and rivers with adequate water flow will be stocked until water levels rise.

**Wildlife:**

\*The BNR will probably resubmit the Dog Regulations Package in October. BNR plans to split up the package with the less controversial part of the regulations to be offered first in order to get them approved in October. The more controversial Field Trial Areas will be dealt with separately.

\*Work is continuing on the automated licensing program. The system is planned to be on-line in 2008. Hunters will be able to print their own turkey and deer tags on this type of system with the only exception being pheasant tags, which will still have to be purchased through vendors.

### **CAC Committee Reports:**

#### **Legislative**

\*Update to Legislative Session: Range Disclosure law goes into effect Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Gun Trafficking Task Force funded at \$400,000 per year for two years. No new provision for additional ECON Police. MBFT stays at \$3.5 million: no increase. A funding increase of \$1.7 million for Conservation operations & equipment was approved. (Ed: No enhancement-maintains status quo.)

\*Bob Crook said he had some updated revisions to what was reported in the last set of C.A.C. minutes. There is a short legislative session this year; the Marine License is back on the table again. The federal government wants to work with the states to come up with some minimum requirements for them to follow. If the bill does not pass in 2008, the federal marine license system will automatically start in January of 2009.

\*On Sunday Hunting; the BNR has not made a decision yet on whether or not to submit an agency sponsored bill in the next legislative session. If they do it will only be bow hunting on private lands in zones 11 and 12 with no provision for expansion to other zones. This will be a very specific proposal to address a very specific deer problem. Bob Crook suggested that sportsmen would offer the bill if needed. It was felt that the legislative leaders would find a bill of this type; that is focused on a current management problem, more acceptable than what has been offered in the past.

\*Bob reported on a Federal Audit of Sports licensing monies. He said there will be some regulation changes that will have more stringent language to control diversion of Robertson/ Pittman and Dingell/ Johnson funds.

\*The United Sportsman Alliance is proposing a "one time only" novice hunter license that would allow first time novices the chance of hunting along with a licensed hunter and have a chance to hunt game without going through the mandatory state fifteen hour hunter safety course. This is looked at as a way to increase hunter participation by removing the barriers to first time hunters. Ed needs feedback from the delegates regarding the pros and cons of this type of program in CT.

\*Bob also talked about a new Angler Retention Program that is being promoted by the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation. Objectives are to help state's recruit and retain anglers.

\*Ed Parker gave out some informational sheets on the state's pheasant hunting program. (See attached) The program is undergoing review by the Wildlife Division at this time, and positive changes are possible. Ed would like to see the changes driven by sportsman's input with the agency. The Wildlife Division staff wants feedback from sportsmen as to how they want this program to evolve.

\*Bear management regulation are still in the works but prospects for a 2008 submission have been dimmed by early intervention from the HSUS.

\*Bob mention that with the passing of Bruce Stern there is a big void left at the Sportsman's Coalition. He is looking for some help with running the operation. He asked that if anyone want to get involved to please call him. There is now also an opening for NRA Director in this state due to Bruce's passing.

### **Old Business.**

\*CAC attendance issues were discussed. Ed said he would have his assistant get the name and address list for delegate clubs.

### **New Business:** None

A motion to adjourn was made by Fred Frillici and seconded by Tip Garret. Approved.

### **Meeting was adjourned at 9:53 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Marshall, Secretary C.A.C.