

Conservation Advisory Council  
Minutes:  
January 8, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:09 PM by CAC Chairman Chris Marino.

**Attendance:** See attached list.

**Minutes:**

Minutes for the December 11, 2007 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Motion by George Finch to, "Approve the December Minutes." Second by Dr. Ringrose. Discussion. Motion approved.

**Secretary's Report:**

The Secretary discussed ongoing attendance and membership issues. Also discussed were application forms, which are being updated, for CAC membership.

**Chairman's Report:** None.

**DEP:**

**Environmental Conservation Police:** Sgt. Jim Wolf reporting.

**Tip Report:** Wildlife Hotline Activity report for the year 2007 was distributed.

- Sgt. Wolf reports the department is in process of hiring two new officers.
- Mike Ose suggests that ECOs leave Business, (or TIP) cards on the windshields of vehicles parked on State land or where known recreational activity is occurring. The cards will serve as a reminder that Law Enforcement personnel are in the area. A name and contact information will also encourage people to report illegal activity.

**BNR Report:** Bureau Chief Edward Parker reporting.

**Forestry.** No activities to report.

**Marine Fisheries:**

- Marine Fisheries Director Eric Smith presented a short presentation regarding the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; including: handouts to all present regarding the ASMFC; proposed recreational catch reductions; and, the process involved in conducting the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey.

The presentation provided the members with a better understanding the benefit of a Marine Fisheries License could play in obtaining additional and much more accurate recreational survey data in the future. The data will be used by the Department and ASMFC in assessing marine fisheries.

- Mr. Parker reminded everyone that if they intend to submit an endorsement letter in support of the proposed, DEP Marine Licensing Bill, that they should submit them by the third week of January for inclusion with the Department's informational brochure.

**Inland Fisheries:** No Activities to Report.

#### **Wildlife:**

- DEP is receiving a lot of communication regarding Lyme disease and its control. Ed discussed the science of this disease and the correlation with Deer as major hosts in completing the life cycle of the tick. Also discussed were different methods that have been used or are being contemplated in controlling the tick population.
- The Grasslands Initiative is moving forward. A 450-acre parcel of existing grassland is being purchased. 196 acres are located in Suffield on the CT/Mass border and 254 acres in Massachusetts. Both will be managed to benefit grassland species. The estimated cost of the entire parcel is \$4.5 million. This purchase has been facilitated by The Conservation Fund (TCF) (non-profit conservation organization) The site will be purchased with State bond money. Also, a 207-acre site in Andover is being reviewed for possible purchase.
- Mr. Parker responded to a rumor that future land acquisition for the State may become a function of the legislature in some form. Mr. Parker stated that so far as he is aware there are two agencies invested with land purchase authority for conservation; the Dept of Agriculture and the DEP. The role of the legislature is to allocate funding for the purchase of land. The State Bond Commission must authorize the use of bond funds.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

- Mr. Parker reported a delay in getting the Automated Licensing System online. The Fishing side of the system is ready to go; however hunting, with all permits etc has proven to be a bit more complicated. Ed is hoping the system will be ready to go by the end of January 08.

**Committee Reports:**

**Legislative:** Robert Crook reporting.

- Bob updated everyone on the recovery of his web site. New address is: [ccsct@comcast.net](mailto:ccsct@comcast.net)
- Bob intends to speak to Mike Lawler regarding legislative action to allow court funding for the TIP program.
- Other bills CCS will pursue include more Conservation Officers and Sunday Hunting.

**Nominating Committee:** Dr. Vincent Ringrose and Jason Marshall reporting.

The Committee nominated the existing slate of executive officers for re-election to their respective office. Dr. Ringrose motioned to, "Have the Secretary cast one ballot to re-elect the existing slate of CAC executive officers to their respective offices." Second by Fred Frillici. The Chairman called for nominations from the floor three times. There were no additional nominations. Motion approved. The Secretary cast one ballot to re-elect the nominees.

CAC Executive Officers for the year 2008 are: Chairman; Chris Marino, Vice-Chairman; Tip Garritt, and Secretary; Jason Marshall.

The Chairman dismissed the Nominating Committee with thanks for their work.

**Old Business:**

- The issue of CAC consensus regarding recommendation of adopting a mandatory "Orange Hat" requirement was discussed at length. All CAC members appear to agree that the wearing of a hunter orange hat during the firearms seasons enhances safety. The problem appears to be with the concept of including the orange hat as a mandatory regulation. Most opponents of such a regulation cite the CT Hunting Guide, which suggests the use of a florescent orange hat as part of the current regulation requiring 400 square inches of florescent orange and that CE-FS instructors recommend the wearing of an orange hat in their classes. Several delegates have polled their club members and find little support for regulations of this type. One delegate reports widespread support from his club members for a regulation requirement. It was also suggested that sportsmen would be more inclined to accept such a regulation, if it truly is a valid safety proposal for State Land hunting and, if the regulation applied to anyone using, or on State Land during the firearm's seasons: not just sportsmen. Note: A motion was offered, seconded and approved at the Dec. 11, 2007, CAC meeting to require hunters to wear an orange hat, while hunting.

- Jon D'Arpino motions to, "Recommend exemption of Falconers from the Orange Hat requirement approved at the December meeting during small game season on all lands." Second by Phil Mauriello. Discussion. Motion approved.
- Phil Mauriello motions to, "Recommend exemption from the orange hat requirement approved at the December meeting for pheasant hunters on all lands." Second by Jon D'Arpino. Discussion. Motion approved.

**New Business:**

- Discuss the practicality of compiling a list of all or most of the Sportsman's clubs in CT. Sources such as the Secretary of State, CCS, DEP Law Enforcement & BNR could provide some raw data.
- Chris Marino brought up the suspension of the permit required system for two pheasant hunting areas this past season. Sportsmen in Northwest CT have asked that BNR look into further suspension of permit required areas where possible. The reports received indicated no overcrowding at the sites. With fewer hunters visiting state lands elimination of additional permit required hunting areas would simplify the whole process of hunting.
- Chris Marino inquired of the Department's view regarding the stability of Connecticut's Deer herd in the Northern Zones. Mr. Parker responded that he believes deer population in Northern Zones 1, 2,3, &4a are stable in most areas and slightly declining in some. Deer in these areas seem to be in balance with the biological carrying capacity of the available habitat. With this in mind, Chris asked if the agency deer biologist could put together a report spanning the past ten years on hunter success, reported road kills, and agency surveys etc., and give a presentation to the CAC focusing on the Northern Zones. The CAC delegates want to discuss current harvest regulations for these zones with a view to recommending changes in order to sustain deer populations at healthy levels. Mr. Parker said that he would have Deer Program Leader Howard Kilpatrick attend the February or March CAC meeting to give a presentation.
- Inquiry was made regarding the Shepaug River Agreement and when actual upgrades to the system will begin. Mr. Parker said he would check on the status.

Bob Crook motioned to, "Adjourn." Second by Dr. Ringrose. Approved  
Meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jason Marshall  
Secretary: CAC