

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

Council Minutes: March 25, 2008

Regular meeting called to order at 7:35 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; Chris Marino, NVBC; Tom Accuosti, Goshen Sportsmen; Jim Fedorich, Sharon F&G; Clyde Breakell, Foothill's Sportsmen; Tony Chianese, Bethlehem F&G; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem F&G; Jerry Ciarcia, Waterbury F&G; Dominic Basile, Chase R&P Assoc.; Tom Small, Ratlum Mtn. F&G; Mike Fusco, Harwinton R&G; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington F&G; Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Richard Pitch, NW CT R&G; Steven Bergenty, NW CT R&G; Jim Bower, NWTU; Jake Parmalee, NW CT R&G; Craig Nelson, New Preston R&G; Seamus Muzzulin, RRCC; Jen Zordan, NWCSA;

All Officers in attendance.

DEP Migratory Bird Biologist; Min Huang in attendance.

Guests: David Meharg, DU; Craig Ferris, DU; Hillary Kaweck; Marty Cassone.

The Council President suspended the regular order of business to recognize Biologist Min Huang and allow Min to have the floor to make a presentation to the assembly regarding his research in CT regarding the American Woodcock.

Min gave an excellent presentation highlighting the results of his five-year study of the woodcock, its habitat preferences and use. The information Min has developed will lead to changes in the management approach followed for this species. Min reports that the agency plans to create two, demonstration habitat management plots this year; one on the eastern side of the state, the other at the Roraback WMA in the west. He asked the Council for volunteer help to do a spring survey at Roraback WMA. The Council advised that they would be willing to help and our Secretary would contact Min with a list of volunteers asap. Min also wants to resurrect the CT Woodcock Council organization and asked if any of our members would be interested in helping with this effort. The issue of the CT Woodcock Council will be taken under advisement and discussed at future meetings.

Return to Regular Meeting:

Secretary's Report:

Minutes for the February 26, 2008 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 from Clyde Breakell. Discussion.

Motion approved.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Tom Accuosti reported all account balances.

Joe Rinaldi **motions** to, "Accept the Treasurer's Report as received." Second by Clyde Breakell.

Discussion. **Motion approved.**

Tom distributed a report on the 2008 banquet. All expenses and income were listed by category. Tom's count on dinner ticket stubs was 209. The caterer's count was 230. Three Council purchased guns were not sold at the banquet. Chris will try to sell the extra firearms at his shop for the Council. General discussion of banquet followed. Motion by Mike Fusco to, "Accept the Treasurer's 2008 Banquet Report." Motion receives a second. Discussion. Approved.

Correspondence:

- E-mail correspondence received from the American Sporting Dog Alliance, informing sportsmen and dog owners of a proposed, CT Task Force to study the supposed link between acts of cruelty to animals by children and subsequent violent acts as adults. This proposal is being sponsored and/ or supported by the Humane Society of the US. Part of their agenda is to get programs introduced into schools for education and intervention in regard to animal cruelty. However, HSUS views hunting, trapping and fishing as cruel acts and would no doubt try to influence children if allowed access to schools.

- Gerry Zordan dropped off a card from Republican Town Committee Chairman John Morris on behalf the CT Sportsman's Caucus thanking the Council for our efforts in support of the Caucus at the recent reception held at Cabela's.
 - Thank you from CCS for our annual donation, presented to Bob Crook at the banquet. Chris to fill out affiliation form and ask that copies of Hook & Bullet be sent to Council HQ.
 - Flyer received for NWCSA program, "Women Gone Wild" to be held on June 1-2008. Proceeds from this program will benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. NWCSA member Jennifer Zordan is heading up this program. Jen is looking for donations of raffle, auction and door prizes for the event. She also needs instructors to help with instruction in the various shooting disciplines, as well as fly fishing, cooking, orienteering etc.
- Jim Fedorich moves to, "Donate \$100.00 to the Women Gone Wild program." Chris Marino seconds. Discussion. Motion approved.

Committees:

Nomination committee:

Election of Council Officers will be held at the May meeting. The Council President appointed a Nomination Committee. Appointed to the Nominating Committee were Clyde Breakell, Mike Fusco and Tony Chianese.

Any delegate interested in seeking office on the Council should contact one of the Committee members in order that his nomination be brought up for consideration at the earliest opportunity.

Membership:

Northwest Rod & Gun has appointed a new delegate and alternate to the Council. Jake Parmalee is stepping down from the delegate's position due to other club responsibilities that demand his time. We thank Jake for his service with the Council and hope he will attend a meeting now and then, as his time allows.

The new delegates are Richard Pitch and Steven Bergenty. No decision has been made as to who will act as the primary delegate yet. Both gentlemen were on hand at this meeting and we welcome their future participation.

NWCSA has appointed Jen Zordan as their alternate to the Council. Jen was also present at this meeting.

Rapid Response:

A report and discussion on this year's legislative session relative to gun bills was given. Noted was a distinct lack of information on these bills and their supporters. We need to determine where our Legislators stood on these issues, and whether they actively supported sportsmen during the proceedings.

Proceedings at the US Supreme Court involving the Heller Case were also discussed. To date; written and oral arguments in this case have been submitted. It is expected that the Court will render its decision sometime in June. Observers of this case feel that the 2nd amendment position has been well represented and that the members of the Court seem to understand the far-reaching effect this case will have on our Society.

Conservation Advisory Council:

- State Deer Biologist Howard Kilpatrick gave a presentation and answered questions relating to the status of the Northern Zonal Deer Herd. Howard specifically addressed Zones 1, 2, 3, 4a and 4b where some concern has been expressed about a possible decline in deer numbers. Howard explained how the agency derives population figures through multiple resources including, hunter surveys, harvest reports, road-kill statistics, landowner surveys and aerial surveys. All of this information is compiled, analyzed and plotted on graphs. Although, a totally accurate count of any species is admittedly impossible, Howard believes that the compiled data is accurate in

demonstrating population trends over time. The charts Howard provided at this meeting did show a significant reduction in deer numbers in Northern CT during the year 1992. Thereafter; to the present, the charts show a basically stable population ranging from as many as 20 plus deer per square mile in Zone 1, to a low of 7 to 13 psm, right next door in Zone 2. Howard thinks that the type and quality of habitat available to deer in these respective zones explains the difference in deer density.

Howard also pointed out that the number of deer hunters has been on a gradual decline over many years. This too could influence the number of deer seen. Harvest figures indicate that the overall success rate of hunters has remained stable throughout the past ten years. DEP reports no plans to change the deer tag allotments in Northern CT in the immediate future.

- DEP is still looking for endorsement letters from our organizations in support of the Marine Fishing License. There is a bill before the current Legislature to provide new sport licensing.
- Proposals for changes in trout management on the Farmington River were discussed. Three management options were presented and option two seems to be preferred by sportsmen. Option two does reduce the number of separate management units along the river from six to three, thus simplifying regulations a bit. A proposal will now be written and reviewed within the agency. If accepted by the agency divisions, the proposal will go to a public hearing. This will take time and we will probably not see any changes before 2009-10.
- Representative George Wilbur has introduced a Forestry Bill in this session that would reverse timber revenues from the first million dollars in sales going to the General Fund, and instead having these funds rolled back to the Forestry Division for enhanced forestry work. This is a good idea and should be supported.

Old Business:

- Tom Accuosti; responding to a delegate's previous request, gave a report on the earnings status of our investment funds. Van Guard earnings for the past year reported at 6.6% and Fidelity earnings at 7.8%.
- Tom Accuosti and Chris to determine phone bill for the current year.

New Business:

Jason to develop tickets for our organizational raffle of two custom muzzle loading, flintlock rifles. Clyde Breakell moves to, "Have Jason print raffle tickets at \$10.00 each." Phill seconds. Discussion. Motion approved. Drawing for the Raffle to be set for the first part of November before Deer Season.

Upcoming Sportsman's Banquets:

- Friday March 28, FNRA at the Aqua-Turf.
- April 25th, Litchfield Chapter NWTf Dinner at the Painted Pony in Bethlehem.
- May 2nd, Litchfield Chapter Duck's Unlimited Banquet at the Litchfield Inn.

Chris Marino moves to adjourn. Approved.

Adjourn 9:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Chris Marino

Secretary: NWCSC