

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

Council Minutes: April 22, 2008

Regular meeting called to order at 7:37 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; Clyde Breakell, Foothill's Sportsmen; Tony Chianese, Bethlehem F&G; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem F&G; Jerry Ciarcia, Waterbury F&G; Mike Fusco, Harwinton R&G; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington F&G; Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Richard Pitch, NW CT R&G; Craig Nelson, New Preston R&G; Seamus Muzzulin, RRCC; Jerry Gourd, NWTU.
All Officers in attendance.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes for the March 25, 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 Joe Rinaldi. Discussion. **Motion approved.**

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

Treasurer's Report:

Tom Accuosti reported all account balances.

Chris Marino **motions** to, "Accept the Treasurer's Report as received." Second by Jason Marshall. Discussion. **Motion approved.**

Correspondence:

- Tom Accuosti reported receipt of a contract from Grand Oak Villa for the 2009 Banquet. Jason Marshall motions to "Have the treasurer call Grand Oak Villa and add a fish entrée to the 2009 banquet." Gerry Ciarcia seconds. Discussion. This addition adds \$3.00 per plate for the banquet. Chris points out that it will impact our ticket profits if we follow the usual procedure of offering complementary tickets that are normally subsidized through ticket profit. **Motion is called and approved.**
- Letter received from the Working Lands Alliance with annual update of land issues and bills.

Committees:

Membership:

- Richard Pitch has been appointed as the new delegate for NW Rod & Gun Club. Steven Bergenty will serve as alternate.

Rapid Response:

Activity covered under CAC Report.

Banquet:

Previously discussed. Deposit made for next year. Add fish to menu.

In-House Raffle:

- Jason and Chris to take pictures of two custom flintlock rifles that have been donated for the 2008 raffle. Jason will create a poster for distribution to club delegates with pictures and description of each gun. Jason will also develop the tickets and have them printed.
- Ticket price was agreed at \$10.00 per. We will begin selling tickets to our Club members as soon as they are available and will draw the two winning tickets during the first part of November. (Date to be determined.)

Conservation Advisory Council:

- Jason reported on the April meeting of the CAC. Copies of the meeting minutes will be available on our NWCSC web site.
- The Coalition of CT Sportsmen web site is up and running again. Web address is: ctsportsmen.com

- Jason reported on a meeting held on Thursday, April 10th at Sessions Woods. This meeting was between members of the CAC Pheasant Committee and Wildlife Division Staff. Chris Marino will prepare a report of this meeting by the next NWCSC meeting in May.
- Chris Marino reported on a meeting held at Council Headquarters on April 17th between Wildlife Division State Land Management Program Leader Paul Rothbart and Council members Chris Marino and Jason Marshall.

Biologist Paul Rothbart requested this meeting as a result of feedback he has received from our CAC meeting activity. He wanted our group to understand the limitations State Land Managers are working under; what they have accomplished and what they have planned for future management projects on State Wildlife Management areas.

Paul's team basically consists of one biologist for the Eastern side of the state and one for the West, with Paul overseeing all activity. Our biologist in the West is Peter Picone, who is fortunate to have one maintainer assigned to aid him in his work. The biologist in the East has no maintainers assigned. Most, if not all management work over the past dozen years on the 80,000 acres of State WMA has been conducted through grant appropriations. The Whip program has provided most of this grant money. No State General Fund revenue has been allocated to this management in the past dozen years.

Paul wanted us to understand that although his division may be aware of projects that should be addressed, and that these projects regularly go out as applications for funding requests through the various grant programs; they are in competition with all other grant project requests and therefore may not be funded for various reasons. This could include low priority in the eyes of the grant administrators and lack of overall funding available through the grant process. Our State does fairly well in competing with all other states for federal grant funds, but we cannot hope to win approval for every identified project.

The bottom line is that our Wildlife professionals have accomplished an amazing amount of work with very little in the way of resources and little or no help from the State General Fund. They do the best they can with what they have. This is another issue that our Council should bring before our Legislators for action.

Old Business:

- Treasurer Tom Accuosti asked if a decision had been made regarding paying for the Council phone line and internet service. Phil Mauriello motions to, "Authorize the Treasurer to make payment to Chris Marino of \$50.00 per month for phone and internet service for the year 2008." Jerry Ciarica seconds the motion. Discussion. Motion approved.
- Our Council sponsored habitat project at the Housatonic WMA has been completed with between 10 and 12 acres of old-field reclaimed. We can expect a report from biologist Pete Picone in the near future. Several members plan to visit the site and take pictures of the completed work.

New Business:

- In our discussion with Paul Rothbart, we did learn that the process of purchasing a tracked skidsteer with fecon head and bush hog is proceeding. Bids for this machinery will be opened within the next few months and a machine will be purchased. We also learned that this machine will be assigned to the Wetlands Management and Mosquito Control group in the Eastern part of the State. The Wetlands Group has the qualified people needed to operate, transport and maintain this equipment and will make it available for use upon request statewide.

Another interesting bit of information learned at our meeting with Paul Rothbart is that calculations indicate a cost recovery for this machinery purchase of two years, if used on a regular basis. With proper maintenance, the life expectancy of this type of equipment should be 10 to 12 years minimum. This appears to be an efficient use of State Funds.

- Seamus Muzzlin brought up the idea of a State Lottery Ticket dedicated to benefit Natural Resource Management. Chris and Jason will bring this idea to the CAC. A lottery ticket may prove to be more successful than the Conservation license Plate. We are told such a lottery ticket has been very successful in Maine.
- Litchfield Chapter of NWTf is holding its annual banquet at the Painted Pony Restaurant in Bethlehem April 25th.
- Litchfield's Miles Davis Chapter of DU will be holding its annual banquet at the Litchfield Inn May 2nd.
- Western CT FNRA will hold its annual banquet in Danbury at the Italian American Club on May 22nd.
- It was reported that work on Shepaug River Dam is scheduled to begin within the next month. This should result in a great improvement to the river environment.

Motion to adjourn by Jason Marshall.

Adjourn at 8:48 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Chris Marino
Secretary: NWCSC