

Northwest CT Sportsman's Council

NWCSC
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Council Report: November 25, 2003

The November meeting was held at Borgeson Universal Co., in Torrington, Ct. The Council Council President called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll of Clubs, Delegates and Officers attending:

Foothill's Sportsmen	Clyde Breakell
NWCSA	Jason Marshall
Woodbury/Southbury R&G	Phil Mauriello
Old Newgate Coon Club	Elise Mauriello
Waterbury F&G Protective	Jerry Ciarcia
Torrington Gun Club	Gerry Zordan: also reporting to Torrington F & G
Sharon R & G	Jim Fedorich
CT Classic Bucks	Dean Fraley: also reporting to Ousatonic F & G
New Preston R & G	Craig Nelson: also reporting to Ousatonic F& G
Harwinton R & G	Mike Fusco
NVBC	Chris Marino
NW R & G	Andrew Cote
	Paul Bartomioli
CT Trapper's Assoc.	Bob Andryzeck

All Council officers in attendance.

We welcomed a new delegate for the **CT Trapper's Association** this evening. Bob Andryzeck attended our meeting and gave us a short introduction to his association and some of the issues they face.

Council Report for October: Chris Marino reporting. Reviewed and accepted.

Financial Report: Clyde Breakell reporting. Financial balance sheet for the period June through November distributed to delegates. Report reviewed by Clyde. Clyde reports making changes to Council bank account including, change of address and changeover to new Council EIN identification for account reporting. Motion to accept the financial report approved.

Correspondence:

Letter received from DEP Chief Forester, Donald Smith thanking the NWCSC for participating in the CT State Forest Centennial Celebration, held in September at People's State Forest.

Report of e-mail message sent to UBC Web Master regarding the New Milford Park & Rec public meeting. The topic of the meeting was to discuss the feasibility of bow hunting on municipal property. Details including date, time and place were included.

Committees:

Rapid Response Committee:

Reference the e-mail to UBC regarding the New Milford Park & Recreation meeting concerning bow hunting. Although the info was delivered in a timely manner, it does not appear that it was posted on the UBC web site. We were informed that the web master for UBC suffered a medical condition around the time of our e-mail and has only recently returned to his duties. With not much more than local support and the expert advice of DEP deer biologist, Howard Kilpatrick, the Park & Rec Commission approved the bow-hunting plan as proposed by Dean Fraley. Dean reports that the city council may have to review and act on the proposal before it can be implemented. We will again try to get word out if a public meeting is scheduled.

Citizen's Advisory Council to DEP/BNR:

Reports for past two months have been posted to the web site for member review and comment.

Membership & Web Site: It was suggested that we include our club info report form on the web site so delegates can download and fill it out more conveniently. We will try to do this under our secure member section once that section is up and running. It was also suggested that we include our statement of purpose and a membership application on the web site for any interested clubs. Our statement is posted. However, it would seem more appropriate to have prospective clubs e-mail for membership information. This would give our leadership an opportunity to visit the club and discuss membership in NWCSC and what is involved. We will add an invitation for interested clubs to contact us for membership info.

Dave Coons continues to work on our new site regarding security issues and access. We should be hearing from him soon with instructions for using the calendar and other features on the site. A new page has been added to the site entitled Conservation and Volunteers. We will use this page to announce projects and volunteer needs. A list of willing volunteers will be developed from the info submitted to this page.

Banquet:

We need to get letters out to potential donors. Jason is working on tickets with directions to Grand Oak Villa. Delegates should be getting table commitments from their clubs. We want the clubs to have an early opportunity to reserve tables. We need to get a banquet announcement on the web site.

Old Business:**Hunting Season 2003:**

Pheasant season: We discussed the delegate perceptions of the current pheasant-stocking season. We are trying to develop an accurate account of how well the program was received by hunters in NW CT this year.

1; We do know that the DEP proposed effort to use volunteers to stock Friday nights was not executed well. One Council member was contacted to do one stocking during the first week. No effort was made to contact our organization prior to the season to arrange a stocking schedule. Calls from our delegate to the program administrator went unanswered. This proposal was poorly implemented and not followed through on.

2; Problems developed due to wet conditions at some of the stocking areas, which made it difficult for the stock trucks to pass through an area to do a thorough stocking. The reports we received were of birds liberated at parking areas by attempts to fly them into the hunting areas. Reports indicate that 25% to 50% of birds liberated in this manner were lost from flight out of the hunting areas. A possible solution would be the use of ATV's, (either DEP purchased or provided by sportsmen) to transport birds into all areas and liberate on the ground. A question remains about the extra time it takes to stock birds properly and whether the DEP is willing to pay its stockers for this extra time.

3; Saturday stockings were well received by sportsmen who witnessed them and more success on Saturday's was generally reported.

4; One incident of discourteous treatment by Conservation Officers, while processing a hunting regulation infraction has been mentioned. We do not know if a complaint was made to DEP regarding this particular situation.

5; It has been mentioned and bears looking into that the costs relative to pheasant tag series purchase is excessive for adults who wish to take youth licensed hunters on state land. The youth license is available at a low cost of \$3.00. It would seem beneficial to extend a reduced cost to the tag series for youth licensed hunters, or possibly include a reduced number of four pheasant tags to any junior hunter who requests them for free. By doing so, we may encourage more fathers to take junior licensed hunters out on our state game lands.

Overall we are concerned by the lack of response and contact from DEP pheasant program administration regarding our letters and the volunteer efforts that should have been in place.

Deer Season: Number one cause of dissatisfaction is the legal sunset regulation for ending the hunting day. This regulation is not perceived as logical by the great majority of hunters because the requirement is to cease hunting at the most optimal time to see game, sunset to dusk. Further, the perception seems to be that the hunter should leave the hunting area at legal sunset, which would have the effect of spooking any deer in the area. The majority of other professional, state F&W agencies set the time to end hunting ½ hour after sunset, as was traditional in CT up until a few years ago. We know of no statistics showing increased danger or accident rates for Legal hunting activity up to ½ hour after sunset.

We also noted the use of senior biologists to man deer check stations to collect biological data. We wonder if this is the most cost effective way to get this job done. It did provide some of our members who recognized these people, an opportunity to talk to them; but it does indicate that manpower to accomplish fairly simple tasks is lacking.

Jim Fedorich reported on **NW Trout Unlimited** activity to look into signage for catch and release trout areas depicting the proper way in which to release hooked trout, and also on the viability of helping the Burlington Hatchery with its avian predation problem by donating net covers for some of the ponds.

New Business

Discussion of CT **State Sportsman's Caucus**. The Caucus is still being developed. We are keeping track of progress.

Gerry Zordan reported on the potential merger of the **Dept of Agriculture** with the Dept of Consumer Protection. This is Governor Rowland's, administration-sponsored change. Gerry reported on an effort by state legislators to petition the Governor to keep the Dept of Ag as a stand-alone entity. Gerry states that he has been informed that a majority of Senators and Representatives have now signed the petition. This is a non-partisan effort to retain the Dept. There is legislation proposed to finance the retention of the Dept of Ag. If passed, the Governor still has the option to veto; therefore it is important that we all encourage our legislators to support this bill when it is introduced.

Many sportsmen feel that the next logical step would be to combine the Dept of Agriculture with the Bureau of Natural Resources. This combination would create an agency in which all functions complement each other, and one in which the working philosophy is service oriented productivity, (multiple use of renewable resources) and customer friendly.

Discussion of Private Land Sunday Hunting. Discussed was the need to talk to our legislators and present the case for limited Sunday hunting on private property. This amounts to an education process involving private property rights and the use thereof.

Organizational Support:

Discussed was financial support for other conservation organizations with a presence in CT. Mentioned were Ducks Unlimited, NWTF, and CT Waterfowlers. General observations made included the fact that all of these organizations are very successful in the area of fund-raising. Dean pointed out that it is generally not a good idea for non-profit organizations to donate to other non-profits.

The principle we should generally adhere to in addressing support requests from any organization is to generally remain focused on the needs of Northwest CT: our area of origin, operations and focus. We will be receptive to any organization with ideas for projects or needs that impact our region, and will be found to be a willing partner in the case of projects that benefit sportsmen and women.

Good of the Council:

Trout Unlimited dinner is scheduled for the second Saturday in March.
CT Classic Bucks dinner to held last Saturday in February.

Next meeting: December 23, 2003 at Borgeson Universal. Time 7:30PM.

Adjourn: 10:30PM

