

# Northwest CT Sportsman's Council

NWCSC  
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**Council Report: November 23, 2004**

Meeting called to order at 8:15PM by the Council President. All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Roll of Clubs, Delegates and Officers.**

|                        |                 |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| New Preston R&G        | Craig Nelson    | NWCSA                  | Jason Marshall    |
| NWCSA                  | Peter Gray      | Woodbury/Southbury R&G | Phillip Mauriello |
| Olde Newgate Coon Club | Elise Mauriello | Ousatonic F&G          | Ric Buckley       |
| CT Classic Bucks       | Dean Fraley     | Harwinton R&G          | Mike Fusco        |
| Sharon F&G             | Jim Fedorich    | Waterbury F&G          | Jerry Ciarcia     |
| Torrington F&G         | Joseph Renaldi  | Bell City & Chase      | Dominic Basile    |
| NVBC                   | Chris Marino    |                        |                   |

Officers present: President; Chris Marino and Vice President; Jason Marshall.

**Council Report** for October distributed and reviewed. Accepted as received. Post to web site.

## **Financial Report:**

The treasurer could not attend. Chris reported on general financial status. Accounting is up to date and all receipts for the ATV raffle have been deposited. Considering the many contributions our organization has made this past year, we are in good shape as we approach our banquet season. Report accepted as delivered.

## **Correspondence:**

A letter was received from Senator Roraback indicating that the new CT State Police Commissioner (Leonard Boyle) is making arrangements to re-open Troop L Barracks in Litchfield on a, "once a month" basis, for the processing of pistol permits and renewals. The letter indicates that if the Troop L schedule works out, this program will be expanded to other areas of the state.

Senator Roraback deserves our thanks for hearing our concerns on this matter and working with both the former and the present Commissioner to devise a reasonable solution to this issue.

Inquiry sent to Paul Kazmarcyck of RGS for source of Appalachian Cooperative Research Project. We now have that report.

## **Committees:**

## **Rapid Response:**

The Litchfield County Times published a commentary piece written by Chris Marino. The piece was in response to an LCT lead editorial of the previous week which carried the usual anti-hunting bias.

## **ATV Raffle:**

Final report. All winners of the October 31<sup>st</sup> drawing have been notified and the list is posted to our web site. Our financial report for the raffle indicates that the Council realized a profit of \$3132.53. Thanks to all members who participated in this raffle.

In particular, we must acknowledge the efforts of Buddy Milo and the members who manned our displays at the Northeast Expo and the Goshen Fair. Special thanks to Jason Marshall who arranged for the machine to be displayed at these locations and others. Jason devoted much free time to see that this raffle was a success.

We are in the process of filing a raffle completion report with the town and state. A 1099 will be forwarded to the ATV winner during the tax season.

## **Banquet:**

Ticket samples have been drawn up and e-mailed to the printer. Flyers to all clubs are to be drafted and sent offering early table reservations. Mike suggested that the flyer contain a message to each club suggesting some level of support for the banquet through donations of merchandise or funds. Our Council "Statement of Purpose" has been updated. We discussed allowing some sponsors an opportunity to set up displays on the outside walls of the hall and have representatives on hand.

We are still working on gathering goods and making contacts. Delegates need to be very active in looking for merchandise and donations.

We also need to get complimentary invitations out early this year.

## **CAC:**

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Report to be posted to web site. Two items of significance were discussed.

We brought up the statewide closure of cottontail rabbit hunting in Maine and the partial closures in New Hampshire. We also reported on our discussion with a Maine Game Warden regarding the closure, which he felt was due to the likelihood of the New England cottontail being listed as a threatened species by the federal government. Our question to BNR Chief Parker; who was unaware of these closures, was if the current cottontail study, now in its third year in Connecticut, would protect us from the same type of closures. Mr. Parker reported that our survey indicates good populations of New England cottontails in this state, where habitat is suitable. Mr. Parker reported that a letter from our agency has been sent to the Feds stating the findings and suggesting that more thorough population surveys be conducted in other states before any threatened or endangered listing is contemplated.

The other issue discussed was the status of Black Bear in CT. Fur-bearer biologist Paul Rego will make a major presentation on the subject at our December meeting. The agency will be looking for recommendations for management options thereafter. Mr. Parker feels that any decision the agency makes regarding bears will be challenged by animal rights groups. The DEP is being very careful in considering management plans and making a proposal because they simply do not want to waste valuable agency resources defending a plan against actions brought by the large national animal rights groups as we have seen in New Jersey and Maryland.

#### **Old Business:**

**Ruffed Grouse:** Chris reported on an ongoing study by the Wisconsin DNA, the preliminary results of which were published in the October issue of RGS "Drumming Log". The results to date show a higher density of males to females and adult birds to juveniles suggesting that predation is taking a significant toll of female and juvenile birds in the study area.

We also have a copy of the final draft of the six-year "Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project". We will be reviewing this document to share information with our delegates at upcoming meetings.

We engaged in a general discussion on the role of both wild and feral predators on small game and non-game species. This is a topic that is not often discussed by environmental groups or DEP.

#### **Pistol Permits and renewals:**

As mentioned above Senator Roraback has been successful in conveying to the new DPS Commissioner our concern with the travel and inconvenience involved with the two current locations for permits and renewals. (Middletown and Bridgeport) The Litchfield Barracks will be open once a month for permit activity sometime in the near future. The Commissioner also stated that if the program works well in Litchfield, it would be expanded to other areas of the state.

**Access** to the small section of the Goshen WMA was discussed. Currently, there is no easy access to this-140 acre piece. The frontage along East Street, North is inaccessible due to drainage ditching along the road making it necessary to park away from the property or take a chance on getting mired along the drainage at the front. Jason is working on a plan to create a parking area just off East Street up to the old stonewall. From this point it is still a long, potentially wet walk through the lowland field uphill to the forested land. We will suggest breaching the stonewall for a walkway, cutting a direct passage through the brush and creating a raised walkway of timbers over the wet section. When complete, we will submit this plan to the responsible party within DEP.

**Habitat** in this section of the WMA shows great potential for management work. The fields need to be bush hogged in some areas if it is desired to maintain the open space area. The leading edge of the woodlands has many old apple trees and hawthorn shrubs that are being shaded out as the woodland matures. This area looks good for grouse and other native wildlife species.

#### **Burlington Trout Hatchery Project:**

Jim Fedorich reported on the completion of the construction project we began late this summer to provide protective fence and netting over two ponds and a 325-foot raceway at the hatchery. This project included an NWCSC donation of approximately \$3,000- to purchase materials and approximately 300 man-hours of labor to construct. The project was completed in late November with volunteers from the Council and Northwest Trout Unlimited in attendance. Hatchery manager Dave Zadrosny was on hand for the final work and pictures were taken of the entire process. A good effort for all involved. The benefit derived from increased trout production will enhance trout fishing for sportsmen throughout the state.

#### **New business:**

Governor Rell has selected a **new DEP Commissioner**. The recent press release indicates that Gina McCarthy is currently the deputy secretary for operations for the Massachusetts Governor's Office, involving commonwealth development, directing policies for Agencies responsible for the environment, transportation, housing and energy. How this appointment will affect sportsmen and our issues is yet to be determined.

#### **Web Site:**

We discussed the work being done to maintain the site and ideas we have for expansion. It was felt that we are in a position to begin paying Conquest Consulting for some of time and effort they devote to the site. Jason Marshal **moved that we "offer to pay up to \$300- for site work in 2005 to Conquest Consulting"** Motion received a second and was approved.

Subsequent discussion with Dave at conquest indicated reluctance on their part to take any payment for their work. It was agreed that we would meet sometime after the holiday's to discuss additional work and compensation.

Chris brought up the subject of **legal hunting hours for deer hunting**. The legal hunting hours for firearm deer hunting is from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. The closing time of legal sunset is not an easy subject to discuss with DEP or with the non-hunting

public. The fact remains that asking dedicated hunters to cease hunting at sunset denies hunters the most productive 20 to 30 minutes of the day. We will look into the history of this regulation and also, how other states deal with legal closing for deer. We are told this rule goes back to the beginning of deer hunting in CT. We also know that waterfowl hunting ends at sunset by federal law. In spite of that, it may be worth asking for some consideration of the matter.

#### **Good of the Organization:**

Jason suggested we purchase a large cork bulletin board to display noteworthy correspondence and literature. This would be set up at our office, but would be available for display at any events we attend as well. This is a worthwhile idea and will be acted upon.

Mike Fusco suggested we hold some in-house Council raffles of firearms as a fund-raiser.

A short discussion began on future projects we may want to fund and how we would like to proceed. This subject expanded into a discussion of **volunteer work** on state lands. Some delegates feel we may be relieving the state of some of its management responsibility. Most delegates realize through our years of interaction with the DEP, through service on the CAC and contact with agency field service personnel that the agency simply does not have the people and funding required to adequately manage all state lands and programs. We, as a Council decided long ago that state lands management was an area we could be of service; and by doing so, create a benefit to our fellow sportsmen. The doctrine we need to embrace as sportsmen is one that recognizes whatever project or volunteer effort we undertake as that which will improve or benefit wildlife, habitat, recreational opportunity and the environment and by so doing, be of benefit to all sportsmen and our sporting heritage.

**Adjourn: 9:40PM**