

Conservation Advisory Council  
Minutes  
June 12, 2007 Meeting

Chairman Chris Marino called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Attendance:** See attached attendance list.

The chairman requested a motion to approve the May, 2007 minutes. Motion made by George Finch, and seconded by Dave Proulx. The motion to accept the minutes was approved.

**Secretary's Report:**

Gary Sylvester was in attendance as the new Alternate Delegate for New London/ Windam County League of Sportsmen's Clubs.

**Chairman's Report:**

None

**DEP:**

**Conservation Environmental Police Report:**

\*Sergeant Jim Wolfe handed out the T.I.P. report.

\*Jim handed out copies of the state ECON Legislative Review Book to delegates.

**BNR Report: Ed Parker**

**Forestry:**

None

**Marine Fisheries:**

\*D.E.P. Fisheries Bill: Ed still has hope that this bill will be passed this year. Senator Gaffey was opposed to passage of this bill. Senator Chapin & Representative Miner were important proponents for this bill from the house floor. A motion was made from the Chairman to send a letter to thank these two politicians for their efforts.

**Inland Fisheries:**

\*Ed reported that 15,000 White Catfish were stocked in support of the Urban Fishing Program. Fish were stocked in Kenny Park, Bunnel, Beardsley and Mohegan Ponds. DEP will continue stocking these four locations on a regular basis, and monitor public usage. Check DEP web site for reports.

\*Ed informed the delegates that a New Jersey Bass fishing Club had violated their tournament permit for Candlewood Lake. The club was cited for violating the start time and for being over their capacity limit by 10 boats. Ed said that law enforcement would be keeping a close eye on future tournaments.

**Wildlife:**

\*A moose/ vehicle incident occurred on the Merritt Parkway in the first week of June. That brings the total number to date, of reported moose/ vehicle collisions on CT roads to four in 2007. There was a second sighting of a moose in the same area within the same week.

\*There have been many bear sightings around the state. A man was charged recently with shooting a bear. The bear was hit in the foot. The injured bear was captured, treated and released by DEP personnel. Ed said that progress was being made on the bear management plan.

\*The Regulations Review Committee rejected the Dog Regulations Package without prejudice. Chairman Rep. O'Neal did not have enough time to review the package. This package may come up again.

\*Details of the contract for the automated licensing program are still being ironed out by the DEP. The system will eventually be used to organize ALL permits, for example: bass tournaments and dog hunting trials.

\*Ed stated that the BNR is looking at innovative new concepts to enhance the pheasant program, such as a multi-tiered pheasant tag sales program whereby the per tag price would increase in relation to the number of tags a hunter chooses to purchase. This system would provide low cost for initial, basic tag series purchases and an escalating per tag price for tag purchases beyond the basic series that would more closely correspond to the actual cost of pheasants. Ed asked the delegates to think about new options for the program. He said he would get back to the delegates when he has more information.

\*Chris Marino asked Ed if the BNR would be getting involved with the NSSF grants for junior hunting events this year. Ed said he would check into it and get back to the CAC.

### **Miscellaneous:**

\*Ed thanked those who helped out at the Trailblazing Adventure Program held at the Hebron Fairgrounds. Over 8000 people attended this event. Ed mentioned that organizers would have to do more advance planning for next year's event.

### **CAC Committee Reports:**

#### **Legislative**

\*Bob Crook reported that the "Lost & Stolen Firearms" bill got passed.

\*"Sunday Hunting" bill was not passed.

\*The "Real Estate Disclosure of Shooting Clubs & Hunting Preserve Act" (HB 6992) was passed.

\*The T.I.P. Program" bill was killed in committee.

\*The Gun Trafficking Task Force was funded in the budget up to \$1 million.

\*Eleven new E.C.O.N. police were funded in the budget.

\*The Motorboat Fuel Tax will return an additional \$500,000 next year.

\*1.7 million dollars reinstated for conservation operations & equipment.

### **Old Business.**

\*The issue of creating a "Wildlife Advisory Council" in lieu of the current CAC structure. Ed Parker talked about the possibility of "reorganizing" the council to better address wildlife issues. The F.A.C. & W.A.C. would nominate a smaller group of individuals to deal with details of both Councils. The feeling of the delegates was that the current configuration should remain the same. Chris Marino felt that it was important to keep the CAC the way it is because of its broader purview regarding conservation, recreation and BNR operations issues; but thought it might be a good idea to host smaller "focus groups" to deal with specific details. Ed suggested that we think about it over the summer break and have a discussion about it at the September meeting.

\*CAC attendance issues were discussed. BNR to work with officers during summer break to compile attendance report.

### **New Business:**

Jim Wolf noted that he felt that the T.I.P. Program is not working well in its present form. He said that he would like to have better communication between law enforcement and sportsmen, and would like to hear more from sportsmen as to what issues law enforcement needs to focus as far as problems concerning fish & wildlife violations.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Crook and seconded by George Finch. Approved.

### **Meeting was Adjourn at 9:48 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Marshall, Secretary C.A.C.