

Fish & Wildlife Board
APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Due to inclement weather, the Fish & Wildlife Board convened a meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, via conference call. Staff from the Fish & Wildlife Department were present in the Department's headquarters at the State Office Complex in Waterbury, Vermont.

Attendees:

Board Members (via telephone): Brian Ames, Chair; Ed Gallo, Vice Chair; R. Keith Armstrong, Jeremy Baker, Wayne Barrows, Craig O. Lantagne, Claude Rainville, Jeffrey Salvador, John Roy, and Bob Shannon.

Absent: Cyndy Jones, Grant Spates, and Walt Driscoll.

Department Employees: Major David LeCours, David Englander, Cedric Alexander (via telephone), John Austin, and Cathy Merrill.

Chair Ames called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of January 21, 2009 Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Gallo, and seconded by Mr. Armstrong to accept the January 21, 2009 minutes as written. Mr. Roy asked for clarification from Chair Ames regarding the statement that Board members should refer questions from the public to the wardens. Chair Ames explained that by referring questions from the public to the wardens, it should avoid incorrect information being relayed. The minutes were unanimously approved as written. Mr. Roy voted in the affirmative, noting that he was not present at the January meeting.

First vote: Moose Rule

It was decided by Chair Ames and Department staff to conduct a first vote on the moose rule via conference call rather than postpone the vote until the March meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Roy and seconded by Mr. Barrows to accept the proposed rule.

Mr. Shannon asked if anyone from the public was present at the Waterbury site – no one from the public was in attendance.

Cedric Alexander, Department wildlife biologist, gave an overview of the rule. A more formal presentation, including the results of the 2008 moose hunt, will be given at the March meeting. The second vote is anticipated to be held at the Board's April meeting.

A Board member asked whether a public meeting should be held. It was determined that in order to have the public process completed prior to a second vote in April, that there was not enough time to hold a public hearing. The Department fully expects to hold a public hearing on this subject in early 2010.

Although the proposed rule is currently structured as a two-year rule, the Department anticipates revisiting the moose rule next year based on the final ten-year big game management plan, so functionally, the 2009 rule will be a one-year rule.

Chair Ames requested that it be noted in the minutes that, in the future, the previous year's moose harvest information be presented in February regardless of when consideration of the rule occurs.

A vote was then taken; the rule passed with eight members voting in the affirmative, and Mr. Shannon against.

Chair Ames said he would send an email requesting the Board members to indicate which retrieval and utilization public hearings they would be attending.

At this point Mr. Baker excused himself from the meeting.

Mr. Gallo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Armstrong.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/cpm

Catherine Pirie Merrill