

Fish & Wildlife Board
APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 15, 2009

The Fish & Wildlife Board held a meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2009, via conference call. Fish & Wildlife Department staff were present in the Air Division conference room of the State Office Complex at 103 South Main Street in Waterbury, Vermont.

Attendees via phone:

Board Members: Brian Ames, Chair; Ed Gallo, Vice Chair; Pete Allard, R. Keith Armstrong, Wayne Barrows, Walt Driscoll, Cyndy Jones, Craig O. Lantagne, Claude Rainville, and Grant Spates.

Absent: Jeremy Baker, John Roy, Jeffrey Salvador, and Bob Shannon.

Department Employees: Director of Law Enforcement Col. David LeCours, General Counsel David Englander, Chief of Operations Tom Decker, Wildlife Biologist Shawn Haskell (via phone re: deer rule), Wildlife Biologist Bill Crenshaw (via phone re: waterfowl regulation), Wildlife Biologist IV Scott Darling (via phone), and Executive Staff Assistant Cathy Merrill.

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

Approval of June 18, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Rainville made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2009 Board meeting. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Cathy Merrill noted an error in the minutes as they indicate Craig Lantagne was present when he was not. The minutes will be corrected to reflect that change. The minutes were unanimously accepted as amended.

Third Vote: 2009 Antlerless Deer and Youth Weekend Hunting Proposals

David Englander said that he and Dr. Shawn Haskell, deer team leader for the Department, attended the Legislative Committee of Administrative Rules (LCAR) hearing on the above-mentioned rule on July 14. No substantive questions were raised by the Committee and the rule passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Driscoll to accept the rule; Mr. Lantagne seconded the motion.

The rule passed (7-2). Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Barrows opposed, all others voted in favor.

Vote: Youth Waterfowl Season and Resident Goose Season

Bill Crenshaw reviewed the proposed regulation to establish the annual September Canada Goose and Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days for 2009. The proposed seasons are the same as 2008, except for date changes due to the 2009 calendar. Two public waterfowl meetings have been scheduled; one at the Skenesburgh Rescue Building in Whitehall, New York (August 5), and one at UVM's Billings Center in Burlington, Vermont (August 6).

There were no questions on Mr. Crenshaw's presentation. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to accept the proposal as presented, which was seconded by Ms. Jones. The vote was unanimous to accept the proposal.

Mr. Crenshaw said the timing would be tight for printing the syllabus if the Board did not adopt the late migratory bird seasons until its August 19 meeting (those seasons are combined with the September Canada Goose and Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days), and suggested moving the Board's meeting one week earlier to August 12.

Chair Ames suggested holding the Board's August meeting via conference call due to the light agenda. There were no objections to conducting the meeting by phone or to moving the meeting to August 12. Mr. Crenshaw will email Chair Ames the syllabus information as soon as possible after the August 5 public meeting.

Mr. Decker gave a brief update on the draft ten-year big game management plan. Mr. Driscoll said he had heard concerns stating the length of the comment period was too short.

Mr. Darling suggested the Board members attend the public meetings on the management plan, as well as the waterfowl meetings. *Department policy does not allow reimbursement for charges incurred by Board members who attend Department meetings; however, reimbursement will be allowed for attendance at the Department's public meetings regarding the draft big game management plan.*

Chair Ames reminded Board members to send him items of interest for future agendas.

Vice Chair Gallo suggested the Department begin rulemaking on the fishing regulations earlier due to concerns regarding their complexity. Mr. Decker said the Fisheries Division is expecting to bring the regulations before the Board in January, which should allow time for publication in the September 2010 digest. Mr. Decker offered to speak with Eric Palmer, Director of the Fisheries Division, regarding Mr. Gallo's suggestion.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Jones and seconded by Mr. Allard.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/cpm

Catherine Pirie Merrill
Executive Staff Assistant
Fish & Wildlife Department