

FINAL MINUTES

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Advisory Committee (NHESAC)

September 14, 2023

DFW Field Headquarters, Southwest Meeting Room #103

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

Meeting held remotely via Zoom

MEMBERS:

Present: Wayne Petersen, Tim Flanagan, Bill Brumback, Matthew Sisk, Kevin Powers, David Small, Mark Mello

Absent: None

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Present: Russ Hopping, Andy Finton

Absent: None

AGENCY STAFF:

Present: Eve Schlüter, Mike Nelson, Karro Frost, Jennifer Longsdorf, Bob Wernerehl, Chris Buelow

OTHERS:

Present: Thirty attendees

– The meeting was called to order at 1:33 P.M. –

1. Approval of the July Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting were adopted by motion and vote, after a minor spelling error was noted.

2. Chair's Comments – Mark Mello

No comments were made.

3. Board Member's Comments – Matthew Sisk

- Matt recognized Eve Schlüter's promotion to Deputy Director of MassWildlife, which has been well received.
- He noted the MassWildlife Board voted to extend bow season for deer early by two weeks.
- He noted a new dock on the Swift River has been created for fishing.

4. NHESP Report & Assistant Director's Report – Eve Schlüter

- Eve indicated she was excited about her new role and mentioned that she would continue to serve as Assistant Director until the position has been backfilled.

- A strategic plan for the Department of Fish and Game is in progress and will include biodiversity goals.
- The public listening session on the Climate-Oriented Forest Management Initiative was held on 9/12/23. It was a remote meeting open to the public and was well attended including members of the Advisory Committee. Written comments can be submitted.
- The Run for Wildlife 5K and 10K trail race, and kid's 1 mile fun run, will be held on 9/24/23 at the Wayne F. MacCallum WMA in Westborough to raise money for the NHESP to support endangered species conservation.

5. Member's and Associate Member's Comments

Wayne Petersen – No comment

Bill Brumback – No comment

Tim Flanagan – No comment

Dave Small – Dave noted that he observed a flight of New England Buck Moths (*Hemileuca lucina*) earlier this morning.

Kevin Powers – No comment

Andy Finton – No comment

Russ Hopping – No comment

6. Discussion and Member Vote on MESA List Proposals – Lead by Mark Mello, Mike Nelson, and Eve Schlüter

- The purpose of this meeting was stated to be a discussion and vote on the 2023 MESA listings as proposed by the NHESP staff.
- Mark Mello made a motion to identify and confirm all voting members (7) of the Advisory Committee (Mello, Brumback, Flanagan, Petersen, Powers, Sisk, Small). The motion was adopted by a confirmation from each voting member.
- Eve Schlüter reminded the committee of the process and steps of the MESA review.
- The review and discussion were decided to go in the order of plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates. Each species would be separately discussed followed by a vote.
- Given the length of the proposed species list any taxon not reviewed at this meeting would be done so at the next Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for 10/12/23 (also remote).
- List of plant species (19) discussed, and votes taken:
 - Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) – 7 votes to list as 'Special Concern'
 - Winged Loosestrife (*Lythrum alatum*) – 7 votes to list as 'Endangered'
 - Bog Sedge (*Carex exilis*) – 7 votes to list as 'Threatened'
 - Pine Barrens Flatsedge (*Cyperus retrorsus*) – 7 votes to list as 'Special Concern'
 - Frog Orchid (*Dactylorhiza viridis*) – 7 votes to list as 'Endangered'
 - Showy Orchid (*Galearis spectabilis*) – 7 votes to list as 'Threatened'
 - Loesel's Wide-lipped Orchid (*Liparis loeselii*) – 7 votes to list as 'Threatened'
 - Hooker's Orchid (*Platanthera hookerii*) – 7 votes to list as 'Endangered'

- Round-leaved Orchid (*Platanthera orbiculata*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Threatened’
- Large-leaved Orchid (*Platanthera macrophylla*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Threatened’
- Willdenow’s Sedge (*Carex willdenowii*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Endangered’
- Split-leaved Hawthorn (*Crataegus schizophylla*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Endangered’
- Velvet Rosette-grass (*Dichanthelium scoparium*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Endangered’
- Slender Clubmoss (*Pseudolycopodiella caroliniana*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Endangered’
- Slender Bladderwort (*Utricularia subulata*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Threatened’
- Appalachian Bristle-fern (*Crepidomanes intricatum*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Special Concern’
- Prickly-pear Cactus (*Opuntia cespitosa*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Endangered’ and split from *O. humifusa*)
- Prickly-pear Cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Endangered’
- Ogden’s Pondweed (*Potamogeton ogdenii*) – 7 votes to ‘Delist’
- Staff members and committee agreed to stop discussion and continue at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn to meeting was accepted at 3:29 P.M.

Drafted by: Kevin Powers
Submitted by: Kevin Powers