



MASSWILDLIFE

## DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Dr. Joseph Larson/Chair, Michael Roche/Vice Chair, Bonnie Booth/Secretary, Ernest W. Foster IV, Stephen Sears, Dr. Brandi Van Roo, Ron Amidon/Commissioner/DFG, Mary-Lee King/Deputy Commissioner/DFG, Mark Tisa/Director, Jon Regosin/Deputy Director, Kris McCarthy/Associate Director/Finance and Administration, Michael Huguenin/Assistant Director/Wildlife, Trina Moruzzi/Assistant Director/Operations, Todd Richards/Assistant Director/Fisheries, Marion Larson/Assistant Director/Information and Education, Elizabeth Wroblicka/Chief/Wildlife Lands, Major David Loos/OLE;  
PUBLIC: Dave Morin, Elizabeth Manger, John Simpson, Stan Andriski, Josh Round, Ken Bushey II

DATE: April 18, 2019

LOCATION: Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Field Headquarters  
Westborough, Massachusetts

Chair Larson opened the April meeting of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board at 10:00 a.m.

### Acceptance of Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chair Roche to table the minutes from the March meeting until the May meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Van Roo. The motion passed unanimously.

### Chair's Comments

Chair Larson stated that he had no comments.

### Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Amidon reported an event on Apr 22, Earth Day, at the Holmes Dam removal event. He also reported the opening of a new fish ladder up to Silver Lake at Forge Pond Dam in Kingston. The Commissioner reported that he had also attended a celebration the Town of Orleans had held for a new fish ladder during Earth Week, and that he had been invited to a meeting that includes the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at the Cape Cod National Seashore for habitat restoration.

Commissioner Amidon reported that the Department had signed a new license agreement with the USACE and MassWildlife to remove wood products from the core forest at the Birch Hill WMA. Vice Roche reported that he thought this was a very significant accomplishment, given the difficulty of even starting a conversation. Secretary Booth stated that she appreciated the Commissioner's ongoing work in the matter.

The Commissioner reminded the Board that the DFG's Statehouse Day will take place on May 22, the week after the May meeting.

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Director's Comments

Director Tisa had an early personal appointment that made him a few minutes late to the meeting.

In the Director's stead, Deputy Director Regosin reported that the NEAFWA annual conference had been held the previous week with many staff participating as usual, both attending the many sessions and also presenting their own research and activities. He reported that the following Monday after the board meeting there would be a presentation on carbon sequestration at the Field Headquarters by Habitat Project Leader John Scanlon and a carbon researcher that is of great interest in the context of MassWildlife's management areas and the agency's habitat work on them.

The Deputy Director reported on the staff's progress on access issues with USFWS. He reported that the Service will start by reviewing our hunting and fishing regulations, and look at implementing them as fully as possible. Then Service Refuge staff will come back with specific comments or examples if there are instances where it can't implement them. Oxbow, Assabet, and Great Meadows are first three properties. The Service will then submit a written response for our comments, before putting something in writing that will go out for public comment, etc. Chair Larson asked that management of state-listed species be the next topic of discussion.

Deputy Director Regosin reported that planning for additional coyote hunting-related listening sessions is progressing.

Law Enforcement Comments

Major David Loos read from the first quarter of calls for service for the MEP. He also reported that MEP is boosting patrols for opening day of the Wild Turkey hunting season, and also the height of the shad and herring runs. The Major also reported on a Lowell State Park mobile event for registering boats and ATVs more easily. Major Loos stated that he had also attended the NEAFWA conference, and that he always finds it very informative and worthwhile.

He also reported on recent investigations of cases, including a conviction on a deer hunting violation, and a collaboration with other agencies on an arrest of elver poachers.

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee Report

Dr. Larson reported that the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee's April meeting had been given the MassDOT presentation on Linking Landscapes.

Chair Larson also reported that the latest issue of the Franklin Land Trust newsletter is almost entirely devoted to their work on the forests they own. He found the stories a very good articulation of why they do this work, for diversity of species.

Set Meeting Date

Members confirmed the meeting date for the May Fisheries and Wildlife Board meeting. Members confirmed 2:30 p.m., at the Field Headquarters, with the public hearing on the proposed Turkey Hunting regulations on the same day, at 6:30 p.m. Secretary Booth moved acceptance, Mr. Foster seconded the motion, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

The members also confirmed that the June meeting will be held on June 18, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Buzzards Bay.

Member's Comments

Mr. Foster reported that he had attended recent banquets and was impressed by the statewide community of sportsmen, people like Mike Moss, Paul Johnson, and Mike Veloza, who all work hard to support and benefit sportsmen.

Secretary Booth reported on recent events for BOW, including the large turnout at the turkey workshop at Fort Devens every year. She reported that there is a new Natural Resource Officer and it remains a great relationship, with the officer allowing the program two separate turkey hunting days, on successive Mondays. Ms. Booth described the relationships and some of the people the program is working with, with great success. She also reported that she had attended the Worcester County League dinner with Diane Davis as the speaker, who spoke about her historic work to cooperatively reestablish eagles in Massachusetts. She reported that she had also attended the Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council banquet, and the Whitetail banquet in Auburn, noting that the club brought in more money than any other in the country.

Vice Chair Roche reported that he was happy to see a Basic Hunter Education course being given in the Cronin Building during school vacation week. He also reported that everyone has to be aware of and in tune with the fact that changes in attitudes toward wildlife management are happening very quickly.

Dr. Van Roo reported that she had attended the Northeast Natural History conference in Springfield and given a presentation about the effects on wildlife of solar panel installations. Attendees are people from all walks and many different interests. A lot of them wanted the results of her research and she'll be working to share it with different groups.

Mr. Sears reported that the annual Berkshire County Conte Dinner would be honoring Jane Winn, founder and executive director of BEAT [the Berkshire Environmental Action Team], which has been a great partner. He thanked Andrew Madden and his staff for their work managing a bear incident. Also thanked OLE Sgt. Tara Carlow for attending the last monthly meeting of the Berkshire County League.

[11:00 a.m.: Break for Public Hearing and Vote: 2019-2020 Migratory Game Bird Season Proposed Regulations]

After the hearing closed and the meeting resumed in open session, a motion was made by Mr. Sears to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing certain land acquisitions and to not return to open session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Van Roo. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Executive Session

Chief of Wildlife Lands Wroblicka presented seven proposed acquisitions, which were each reviewed and all unanimously approved by the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Booth  
Secretary

#### List of documents presented to the Board in its April meeting packets

April Agenda

Copies of the hearing notice and the proposed regulations for the public hearings

Spreadsheet of Natural Heritage Fund Taxpayer Donations (1992 to 2018)

Documentation for the executive session