

State Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water & Related Resources

Quarterly Meeting
Massachusetts Division of Fish & Wildlife Headquarters
Room 110 in the Richard Cronin Building
Rabbit Hill Rd. Westborough

July 14, 2016 10:00 am

AGENDA

Introductions

Approval of April 14, 2016 Minutes; – **(voting item)**

State Commission

- Hampden, Hampshire Districts
 - Supervisor Appt. to the board - **(voting item)**
 - request to merge– **(voting item)**

Mass Envirothon Council & Committee - Envirothon report

Envirothon budget- **(voting item)**

Envirothon committee membership -**(voting item)**

2016 event report – Will Snyder

Next Year

Election of State Commission Officers– **(voting item)**

Partner Updates

NRCS, DAR, Grange, F&W, DEP, Divisions, others

Next Meeting

Adjourn

* Future Meeting Dates - October 13, 2016

I have been asked to advise attendees of our meeting that they should try to not engage in conversation in the atrium. Please wait until you get to the conference room because noise in the atrium is becoming a serious problem for the 40+ biologists working above it. The clerk at the front desk will direct you to the room.

From the Supervisor Handbook

4.02 CHANGING A DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Sometimes it is advantageous to change a district boundary to combine two or more existing districts or to separate a large district area into several smaller areas. This procedure is:

- (1)The board(s) of the district or districts affected or a majority of land occupiers who would be affected by the change petitions the State Commission to change the district boundaries.
- (2)The State Commission schedules and holds, as soon as possible, a public hearing within the affected area. All interested parties have the right to attend and be heard.
- (3)At least ten days before the hearing, the State Commission publishes a notice of the public hearing in a newspaper covering the proposed area.
- (4)After the hearing, the State Commission determines whether a majority of the land occupiers who would be affected by the boundary changes are in favor of the proposal and that this proposal is in the best interest of the district or in the public interest. If this determination is made and recorded in the minutes, the boundaries are changed. If this determination cannot be made, district boundaries are unchanged.

4.03 DISSOLVING A CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Sometimes it becomes necessary to dissolve an existing conservation district. When this occurs, the procedure is:

- (1)Persons who desire that the district be dissolved circulates a petition and obtains at least one hundred signatures of land owners, lessees or tenants in possession who reside within the district.
- (2)These persons submit the petition to the State Commission.

- (3)The State Commission schedules and holds, as soon as possible, a public hearing within the district. All interested parties have the right to attend and be heard.
- (4)At least ten days before the hearing, the State Commission publishes a notice of the public hearing in a newspaper covering the district area.
- (5)After the hearing, the State Commission determines whether a majority of the land occupiers who would be affected by the dissolving of the district are in favor of the proposal and that such proposal is in the best interest of the district or in the public interest. If this determination is made and recorded in the minutes, the district is dissolved. If this determination cannot be made, the district is not dissolved.
- (6)Immediately after a district is dissolved, the supervisors terminate the affairs of the district and dispose of any and all property belonging to the district. Any district funds remaining after payment of outstanding bills are paid to the state treasury. The state treasury will, for three years, use these funds to pay any just and valid claims against the district. Any remaining funds then revert to the State General Fund.

Election of Officers –

The state commission shall annually elect a chairman who is not an ex-officio member and a secretary from among the voting members of the commission. A majority of the voting members of the state commission shall constitute a quorum, and the concurrence of a majority in a matter within their duties shall be required for its determination.