



## DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

p: (508) 389-6300 | f: (508) 389-7890

[MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE](http://MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE)

MASSWILDLIFE

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, Bob Durand, 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/Chief/Information and Education, Nicole McSweeney/Marketing and Outreach Manager, Lt. Col. David Loos/OLE; PUBLIC: Dave Morin, Gene Chague

DATE: April 23, 2020

LOCATION: Via conference call

Director Tisa reported that the agenda was short and that because of the conference-call format, the Board would be voting by roll call for all votes. Chair Larson opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

### Acceptance of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Durand to accept the minutes from the March meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Roche.

Chair Larson: yes

Vice Chair Roche: yes

Secretary Booth: yes

Dr. Van Roo: yes

Mr. Foster: yes

Mr. Sears: yes

Mr. Durand: yes

The vote in favor was unanimous.

### Chair's Comments

Chair Larson announced that he had no comments.

### Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Amidon reported that the Department's in lieu of fee program has been active and secured four grants for work at four different sites. He also announced that the DER has secured an NRCS grant of \$10,000,000 to fund permanent protection and restoration for retired cranberry bogs and important wetlands in the Southeast.

### Director's Comments

Director Tisa reported that agency operations are stable, his staff is adapting to operating remotely, and work is going smoothly in these challenging times.

Chair Larson asked the Director if he would take over the running of the meeting, given the format.

### Law Enforcement Comments

Lt. Col. David Loos reported on the OLE's statistics for its activities based on its Calls for Service log. He noted that some types of activity are going down because officers are spending the majority of their field time on monitoring social-distancing during activities of patrons of the state parks. Noting that Wachusett and Quabbin will shortly have shore fishing, the Lieutenant Colonel reported that officers will increase their presence at those locations, as well as attending to the opening of turkey hunting season. He also reported that, in cooperation with MassWildlife staff, the OLE has been notifying hunters and the non-traditional outdoor users who are enjoying the WMAs and state forests that both are in the field at this time of year and they should all exercises greater caution in their activities.

Turning to ongoing cases of interest to the Board, Lt. Col. Loos reported on an incident near Crane Hill in Groveland, where officers received a complaint from an abutter about hunting near the abutter's home. Officers looked at harvest records and determined that the hunter was hunting too close to a residence. He reported that this investigation was an example of great collaboration with MassWildlife staff. He also described a case where parachute cord had been strung to illegally obstruct an unauthorized trail, and that an unauthorized ATV rider came in contact with it; that investigation was ongoing, he reported. The Lieutenant Colonel ended his report by noting that OLE had acquired and was training a new police dog that will be focused on fish and game investigations; the dog's training is ongoing and it is not yet in the field.

Director Tisa thanked the Lieutenant Colonel for attending and for his report.

### 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 cancelled, so he had no report.

### Set Meeting Date

Members discussed dates for the May Fisheries and Wildlife Board meeting. After a brief discussion, members selected May 19, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., most likely via conference call. Members also discussed dates for the June Fisheries and Wildlife Board meeting. After an initial discussion during the meeting, a conflict was discovered, and members later agreed upon June 16, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., with the location to be announced by the MassWildlife Director at a later time.

### Members' Comments

Dr. Van Roo, Secretary Booth, and Mr. Durand reported no comment.

Mr. Sears reported that, likely because a lot of people are home, in the Western Wildlife District there is an incredible increase in abuse by motorized vehicles on WMAs, which are really being torn up. He stated that he knew that MassWildlife Western Wildlife District staff and the OLE were doing what they could, but that it is a real problem in many places.

Vice Chair Roche asked about the recent webinar on turkey hunting and how it went. Marketing and Outreach Manager Nicole McSweeney reported that she had participated on the Director's behalf, that there was lots of engagement among the participants, and that it went on for about an hour.

Mr. Foster asked about people being able to secure green safety stickers for turkey hunting. Assistant Director Huguenin reported that people can still write to the agency or call the Field Headquarters and staff will send them their stickers as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Secretary Booth 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 Vice Chair Roche.

Chair Larson: yes

Vice Chair Roche: yes

Secretary Booth: yes

Dr. Van Roo: yes

Mr. Foster: yes

Mr. Sears: yes

Mr. Durand: yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Director Tisa reported that the Board would now call in for the executive session on another conference call that was confidential, that they would all return to the present call for the public hearing scheduled for 11:00 a.m., and that staff and interested members of the public should call back in at that time.

#### Executive Session

Director Mark Tisa presented 6 proposed acquisitions, which were each reviewed and all unanimously approved by the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Booth  
Secretary

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

April Agenda

Draft March meeting minutes for review

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

PDF copy of presentation on proposed 2020-2021 Migratory Game Bird hunting season regulations

Documentation for the executive session