



MASSWILDLIFE

DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

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

MASS.GOV/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, Dr. Brandi Van Roo, Ernest W. Foster IV, Steve Sears, Bob Durand, Ron Amidon/Commissioner/DFG, Mark Tisa/Director, Jon Regosin/Deputy Director, Kris McCarthy/Associate Director/Finance and Administration, Eve Schlüter/Assistant Director/NHESP, Michael Huguenin/Assistant Director/Wildlife, Trina Moruzzi/Assistant Director/Operations, Todd Richards/Assistant Director/Fisheries, Nicole McSweeney/Chief/Information and Education/Acting, Pat Huckery/Northeast Wildlife District Manager, Todd Olanyk/Central Wildlife District Manager, Jason Zimmer/Southeast Wildlife District Manager, Andrew Madden/Western Wildlife District Manager, Joe Rogers/Conn. Valley Wildlife District Manager, Captain Scott Amati/OLE

DATE: April 19, 2022

LOCATION: Zoom

Chair Larson opened the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Acceptance of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Foster to accept the minutes from the March meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Van Roo.

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.

Chair's Comments

Chair Larson reported no comments at that time.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Amidon reported many Earth Day events in the coming week, including MassWildlife public trout stocking events that he would be participating in.

Director's Comments

The Director reported no comments at that time.

MASSWILDLIFE

Law Enforcement Comments

Captain Scott Amati reported that the MEP is focusing its work largely on spring recreational activities, including off-road vehicle use and other enforcement issues for the sister agencies. He provided the Board with an overview of actions connected to the current hunting and other recreational seasons and activities; a detailed report on recent OLE activities, including numerous fish-and-wildlife-related examples of calls for service that Environmental Police officers had responded to in the previous month, both inland and marine; and the outlines of ongoing and recently completed investigations of suspected violations and infractions.

The Chair thanked Captain Amati for his report.

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee (NHESAC) Report

Chair Larson briefly touched on recent activities of Heritage staff and reported that he would provide the minutes to the last NHESAC meeting in January for more detail.

Set May Meeting Date

Director Tisa stated that he would like to plan an in-person meeting at the Field Headquarters in May and asked the Board members to consider scheduling the May monthly meeting during the week of May 23. He also asked that the members who are on the wildlife-damage subcommittee be prepared to meet with him on the same day. After some discussion, members set the date and time for the May Fisheries and Wildlife Board meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., with the subcommittee meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Member's Comments

Secretary Booth, Mr. Foster, and Dr. Van Roo reported no comments.

Mr. Durand noted that the new *Massachusetts Wildlife* issue was all fisheries- and aquatics-related and had a very good write-up for the proposed Swift River trout study.

Vice Chair Roche reported that he had been in Orange for the boat washing for the Quabbin. He asked whether the zebra mussel is a real scientific threat in Massachusetts, and particularly in the Quabbin. Director Tisa commented that he and the Chair were on the Governor's task force for zebra mussels, which included many stakeholders over more than a year of meetings, and he reported that MassWildlife has very little control over what is possible in the way of changes to the existing protocols and requirements.

Mr. Sears reported that the Berkshire County League's annual Silvio O. Conti Award dinner would be held the following Saturday and that Secretary Booth and her husband were planning to attend. He also reported that during its May meeting the Berkshire County League planned to host a presentation about the Swift River trout-tagging project. Mr. Sears also asked the other Board members to consider whether there is anything more they can do as a board to help the staff accomplish the agency's goals. He noted that he has been thinking about it and wanted to share the thought.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Roche to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing certain land acquisitions whose negotiations would be affected by discussion in open session and to return to open session afterward. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foster.

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 at 9:30 a.m.

Executive Session

Deputy Director Jon Regosin presented one parcel for review and potential approval by the Board. The parcel was discussed, voted on, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Dr. Van Roo moved to adjourn the executive session and return to open session; Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

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 was unanimous and the session was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

At the close of the executive session, the Board returned to open session.

Chair Larson moved to go to the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. Secretary Booth seconded the motion.

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 was unanimous.

Director Tisa opened the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. After the close of the public hearing at 10:48, the Board reconvened in open session.

Vice Chair Roche moved that the regulations be approved as presented for the purpose of opening a discussion. Mr. Durand seconded the motion.

There was an extended discussion, during which the Board members put forth a number of amendments to the regulations as proposed. At the end of the discussion, Director Tisa recommended that Assistant Director Huguenin take some time to compile the amendments as proposed by the Board members and confirm that each was allowed under the federal frameworks, given that the Board had to vote the final seasons. After a brief interval, Assistant Director Huguenin reported that he had compiled the amendments to the proposed regulations and he presented them to the meeting.

The first amendment was to set the Youth and Veteran/Active Duty Waterfowl hunt days on October 8, 2022, and February 4, 2023. Mr. Durand moved the amendment; Dr. Van Roo seconded the motion.

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 was unanimous.

The second amendment was to move the Early Goose season, to include Saturday, September 24, to September 2—24. Vice Chair Roche moved the amendment; Dr. Van Roo seconded the motion.

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 was unanimous.

The third amendment was to set the second split of the Coastal Zone seasons for duck and goose for December 1, 2022—January 31, 2023. Mr. Durand moved the amendment; Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

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 was unanimous.

The fourth amendment was to set the second split for the Berkshire zone for December 19, 2022—January 7, 2023, and for the Central zone for December 27, 2022—January 16, 2023. Mr. Sears moved the amendment; Mr. Durand seconded the motion.

After a brief discussion, Dr. Van Roo moved the vote.

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 was unanimous.

There being no further discussion, the Chair called the vote on the 2022-2023 Migratory Bird Hunting seasons as proposed and incorporating the approved amendments.

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 was unanimous.

There being no further business, Mr. Durand moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Van Roo seconded the motion.

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 was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Booth
Secretary

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

Agenda

Draft March minutes

Spreadsheet of Natural Heritage Fund Taxpayer Donations (1992 to 2021)

Executive Session packet

Proposed regulation packet for the 2022-2023 Migratory Bird Hunting seasons

PDF of copies of the written public comments received before the 2022-2023 Migratory Bird Hunting seasons hearing