



MASSWILDLIFE

DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

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

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

PRESENT: Steve Sears/Chair, Bob Durand/Vice Chair, Sasha Dyer, Emma Ellsworth, John Organ, Matthew Sisk, Mark S. Tisa/Director, Eve Schlüter/Assistant Director/NHESP, Trina Moruzzi/Assistant Director/Operations, Nicole McSweeney/Assistant Director/Outreach and Education, Michael Huguenin/Assistant Director/Wildlife, Pat Huckery/Northeast Wildlife District Manager, Todd Olanyk/Central Wildlife District Manager, James Pollock/Facilities Specialist

DATE: June 8, 2023

LOCATION: MassWildlife Field Headquarters, Westborough

Chair Sears opened the discussion meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Acceptance of Minutes

Dr. Organ moved acceptance of the May minutes as submitted; Ms. Dyer seconded the motion; the vote in favor was unanimous.

Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Sears stated that the meeting was intended to be a public discussion among the Board members so that they could get to know each other.

He reported that he has consolidated and started to make comparisons between the members' statements. He reported that he would report back to the Board at a later time. He also reported that he would ask Director Tisa and Commissioner O'Shea to present to the Board at their convenience and in this meeting their respective goals, etc. He intends to collate the responses from everyone and share the overlaps, special skills, etc., that come out of it. He intends that the analysis, combined with the Director's and Commissioner's goals, will provide a road map that will reveal either opportunities or needs for additional resources to accomplish those objectives.

Chair Sears reported to the Board on the Forests as Climate Solutions meeting he attended that was held at the Field Headquarters on June 8. He reported that the EEA Undersecretary and Assistant Secretary reviewed the Governor's climate goals, announced a 6-month moratorium on new forest cutting on state-owned lands; talked about the importance of habitat and biodiversity, as well as of supporting the existing forest products industry. The clear message was that landscape-level planning will be required to meet the objectives. A brief discussion ensued. Chair Sears said that a positive that came out of it was the aggressive stance they will take to acquire more land in the meantime and going forward. He will be looking for ways to advocate for whatever's needed.

Board Members' Goals, Skills, and Likes, and Dislikes

Chair Sears brought up the subject of training in areas where members lack specific skills and may want training to fill those gaps. He's looking forward to hearing former MassWildlife historian Cardoza and Dr. Organ talk about history of MassWildlife. A general discussion ensued about training possibilities, knowledge gaps, and members' curiosities.

Director Tisa suggested that trainings start with 1) BioMap, as a foundation of knowledge about the process and available resources for the conservation of biodiversity, and 2) biodiversity itself. Ho noted that Board members have limited time to devote to training and limited bandwidth given their own careers. He advised keeping their priorities few, focusing on getting free license reimbursements in statute and advocating for hatchery infrastructure funding.

Set Next Meeting Date and Time

The Board members discussed its discussion meeting. They decided that the next discussion meeting would be determined at a later date.

Mr. Sisk made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Durand seconded; the vote in favor was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Foster
Secretary

List of documents presented to the Board in its June governance meeting packets

June governance meeting notice with agenda
Draft minutes from the May governance meeting