



*Rich Davenport, 2007 ECFSC Recording Secretary*

*Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs*

**June 2007 General Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting opened at 7:30 PM – 6/28/2007**  
**Location: Alden Rod & Gun, Alden, NY**

**Meeting called to order at 7:31 PM**

**Pledge to the Flag:** Completed

**Roll Call:**

Joe Fischer, Tony Scime, Steve Aldsadt excused

**Quorum of Clubs:** Yes

Reading of the minutes

Motion to approve

Frank Miskey

Bob Church 2<sup>nd</sup>

Minutes accepted.

**Secretary Report – Rich Davenport**

Down to 12 or under of bad email addresses. Most failures are over quota issues

Chuck is tracking down the clubs to get proper email addresses

**Membership Report – Mike Smith**

None

**Treasurer's Report**

None - Tony Excused

**Correspondence Report – Dave Barus**

3 Letters received

Rep Brian Higgins - Thank You letter for public servant of the year award.

Received - DEC Letter - response to a letter we sent out. Henry Hamilton (Asst. Commissioner) - DEC

Other funding sources used to fund Bucky Phillips matter, not the CF.

Notes of info from Francine DelMonte

Tried to write letter to Grannis on H/A Stamp. All came back, wrote following to Gerry Barnhart as an additional attempt.

BRIAN HIGGINS  
27TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
HIGHWAYS, TRANSIT AND PIPELINES  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
COAST GUARD AND MARITIME  
TRANSPORTATION

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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
REFORM  
ENERGY AND RESOURCES  
NATIONAL SECURITY, EMERGING THREATS,  
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3227

*RCVD*

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
431 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3306  
(202) 225-0347 (FAX)

WESTERN NEW YORK OFFICES:  
LARKIN BUILDING  
726 EXCHANGE STREET  
SUITE 601  
BUFFALO, NY 14210  
(716) 852-3501  
(716) 852-3625 (FAX)

FENTON BUILDING  
2 EAST 2ND STREET  
SUITE 300  
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701  
(716) 484-0720  
(716) 484-1049 (FAX)

Website: [www.house.gov/higgins](http://www.house.gov/higgins)

March 6, 2007

Mr. Chuck Godfrey  
President  
Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.  
PO Box 560  
East Aurora, New York 14052

Dear Mr. Godfrey,

Please accept and extend my deepest appreciation to the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs for its recognition as the 2007 Public Servant of the Year. I am honored by your recognition and grateful to be included in the same company as the other award winners recognized by your outstanding organization.

While disappointed I could not be with you to accept this honor in person at the Annual Awards banquet, I am aware of the hospitality shown to my representative and want to thank you for making Bonnie feel so welcome.

Now, more than ever, the efforts of your organization and its affiliated clubs to promote fish and wildlife conservation, education of participants and related outdoor recreation is critically vital to ensuring future generations will also be able to experience and benefit from this interaction with nature. I will remain a partner with you in the preservation and protection of our natural resources and am committed to working even harder to see that we receive a greater benefit from our proximity to these natural assets.

Thank you again for this award which I intend to proudly display in my office in Washington D.C. I know I can count on you and your membership to contact me with your interests and concerns and know that you can count on me to assist wherever and whenever possible.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

**Assistant Commissioner**

Office of Public Protection, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-1010

Phone: (518) 402-8552 • FAX: (518) 402-9016

Website: [www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us)



Alexander B. Grannis  
Commissioner

May 30, 2007

Mr. David Barus  
Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.  
PO Box 560  
East Aurora, NY 14052

Dear Mr. Barus:

This is in response to your letter to the Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) regarding the financing of the time spent by the Environmental Conservation Officers (ECOs) assisting the other law enforcement agencies in the capture of Bucky Phillips. We share your relief that this sad episode is over and we mourn the injury and loss of life suffered by members of the New York State Police.

As you are aware, the Conservation Fund does support some of the activities of our ECOs. This support is in the form of salaries for one hundred twenty-seven of the total three hundred twenty-six ECO positions in the Department, or thirty-nine percent. The other sixty-one percent of the Department's ECO payroll comes from other sources, including the General Fund. It is these other funding sources that were utilized in connection with the Phillips manhunt.

Regardless of the unplanned demands placed on our limited resources, we want to assure you that we never abandon our core mission, and certainly did not do so in the case of the Bucky Phillips matter. We would also like to thank you and your members for your interest in environmental enforcement in New York State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry L. Hamilton".

Henry L. Hamilton

SENT OUT

**Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.**

PO Box 560 , East Aurora, New York 14052

June 27, 2007

Gerry Barnhart, Director  
Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources  
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12233-4500

Subject: Habitat Access Stamp – Use of Appropriated Funding

Dear Mr. Barnhart:

At the request of the membership majority at the monthly meeting of the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, I am writing this letter of concern to you. One member brought our attention to the fact that some of the Habitat Stamp funding was provided for a worthwhile youth support group tour trip (Audubon Society harbor tour with NYC youth group, \$11K), but certainly not something that could be considered to promote habitat or access improvement. So on this note, we would like to ask for your response regarding the specific criteria required to qualify for use of the designated Habitat Access funds. Who authorizes the use of funding?

We consider the hunter and fishermen contributions to the Habitat Access Program a worthwhile venture of funding provided by dedicated, license paying sportsmen. We only send our best wishes that the totals received could be of a greater net value, but many potential contributors are financially burdened by other responsibilities in NYS. We must all understand that the funds collected must most assuredly be used with strict objective focus for Habitat Access and Improvements.

We would also request from you that you consider implementation of a responsible corrective action policy regarding the questionable and irresponsible appropriation of the Habitat Funds. Some of the sportsmen in our association (over 104,000 licenses sportsmen reside in Erie County, Region 9) have essentially lost their faith in the conservation management of NYS. That faith is not healed by the negative fuel of irresponsible, misappropriated, spending policy.

Sincerely,

David L. Barus  
Corresponding Secretary  
Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Hal Lawrence - can I receive letter copy in email?

Will be in the minutes

Bob Church - More to the process than indicated in the letter

Yes, but we have to keep letter short

Committees in region 9 WNYEF, and FWMB - had 5 proposals for H/A Grant, selected 2

Chuck - we went over this at the last meeting

Bob- I know. But, spoke with Russ Biss, and Region 9 didn't submit anything, even in the second go around

**Point of Clarification:**

***Chuck Godfrey has confirmed with Russ Biss that Region 9 submitted THREE (3) Habitat/ Access Projects in 2006 for grant consideration during the initial application period. These projects were:***

***Niagara County - Artpark Improved Fishing Access***

***Cattaraugus County - Zaepfel Nature Sanctuary and Research***

***Chautauqua County - Cleaning/Clearing of Marden Cobb***

***No additional projects were submitted during the second application period, however, these three projects remain as proposals for consideration of grant awards.***

Habitat Access Stamp

Gerry Barnhart - insisted National Audubon Society be involved, despite no contributions

Also said CF is 20-60-20 breakdown, 20% for sportsmen, 60% for all to benefit, 20% to benefit other outdoors concerns. Stated 14 years ago.

Trout unlimited also sent a letter to Mr. Barnhart, similar to ours, G. Maziarz contacted the sec of TU. Barnhart sent a letter in response, stating no programs have been awarded grant funding. Reason was a technicality.

Didn't see how we could be against a "worth while" program for kids.

Spence - who monitors the state registry for the Federation? No one  
Who monitors in general? Who knows...

NYSCC "periodically" reviews the registry.

**President's Report – Chuck Godfrey**

Have a flyer for Capt. Bobseine's retirement party, July 14, Ellicottville.

Will send 10 people to the party, kick in \$5/ man for a gift.

Environmental group in NYS - website address unknown - monitoring the goings on in NYS in great outdoors. Report called "muddying the waters". Claim pollution permits state issues, sometimes do not check on them for up to 10 years?

Chuck will forward the web address for the minutes

Should read this document. Include site address in the minutes

July 7, Catt. County Federation has fishing derby for handicapped people

Where is it? Written down. Chuck will send out to the clubs as a separate correspondence. Need some volunteers.

On road between Ellicottville and Cattaraugus.

Fishing clinics - Great job by Spence!! Outstanding  
Credit to DEC this year. Great effort from all involved. Went to public libraries with impact signage. Had 120 kids at the event at Tifft!!

Thank you DEC, and Thank You Crow's Nest (for the generous donation to the Kids Fishing Clinics....

Chestnut Ridge also very good. 142 kids in attendance. Had to cut off registration! Pre registered 102!!! ECO Chuck Lohr at Tifft, ECO Scott Marshall at Chestnut - held a class for some of the kids after the clinic, 20 kids very interested.

Fire Dept spoke on also bringing some fire safety, and lend help in advertising.

Will need more volunteers - growing fast!

Had 23 or 24 volunteers, but need more!

Sahlen's should get a thank you note, for providing the hot dogs, grills, propane, etc.

Ran out of rolls. Went through 450 hot dogs between two events.

Dave Barus - program is catching on. Friends are telling friends, word is spreading.

The word is out on these programs. Becoming more important. Almost ran out of line. Ran out of bobbers. Need more volunteers.

Committee forming now to help handle these events. Spence would like someone else to chair this committee, a little too stretched.

Ray Gworek - suggestion, have two chairman, one to take care of each event, quite an undertaking, just out for thought.

Lot of donations and co-sponsors. Nice brochure from DEC for each event.

Kids All American fishing website - good results

Chuck G and Mike Wilkinson will meet and go over suggestions and such to improve the programs next year.

Don Davis - Would be happy to work with Spence as Co-Chairman.... Spence not taking a chair, we will find another co-chair to work with Don Davis

Again, ECOs Lohr and Marshall did a fantastic job with the kids! Great Job

**Next Meetings:**

7/26/07	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Glenn Co Conservation – Colden
9/13/2007	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Springville Rod & Gun
10/11/07	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Hawkeye Bowmen, Clinton Street
11/8/07	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Boston Valley Conservation Society
12/13/2007	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Bison City Rod & Gun (Drawing for DEC Youth Camps!)

All 5 kids we sent did get into the DEC camps!

Elections also happen at December meeting.

**Guests**

None slated

**Law Enforcement - Lt. Tom Scott in attendance from DEC**

Filled 6th ECO spot for Erie County, Arthur "Charles" Chuck Wilson  
Should arrive in August

**11 Guides violating migratory bird laws**

Eleven Buffalo, N.Y., area fishing guides pleaded guilty to violating nearly a dozen federal and state laws protecting migratory birds. The violations ranged from failing to tag a carcass, to taking more than the daily limit of birds, to transporting live wounded game birds. The 11 men paid a total of \$14,450 in fines between April and June.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agents documented hundreds of migratory bird hunting violations during the three-year investigation concluded in 2006 of the independent guide services. The "cast and blast" hunts combined fishing with sea duck hunting on the Niagara River and Lake Ontario.

Most of the birds killed were long-tailed ducks and white-winged scoters. One attempt was made to kill a common loon, for which there is no hunting season.

"The guides were operating like the Wild West, as if hunting was unregulated," according to Special Agent in Charge Thomas J. Healy of the Service's Northeast Region. "They showed complete disregard for laws protecting migratory birds. When confronted, some individuals said they knew it was just a matter of time before an investigation caught

them."

Some guides instructed Service agents to sit on the bow of the boat and shoot at ducks while the boat chased them.

The men paid fines starting at a low of \$125. Two men were fined \$3,225 each for violations including shooting from a motorized vehicle, exceeding the daily bag limit, wanton waste, transporting live wounded game birds, transporting illegally taken migratory birds and carcass tagging violations.

The fined guides were:

Matthew Cipollitti, Niagara Cataract Guide Service -- \$3,225

Mark McGranahan, Sparky's Charters -- \$3,225

Eric Elenfeldt, Fish Hooks Charter Service -- \$2,800

Ernest Calandrelli of Ernie's Guide Service -- \$2,000

Phillip Rowan, Phil's Guide Service -- \$925

Roy Larson, Prospector Charters -- \$875

Joseph Fonzi, Thumbs Up Guide Service -- \$475

John DeLorenzo, Niagara River Guide Service -- \$350

Joseph Cinelli, Cinelli's Niagara River Guide Service -- \$225

Barry Schultz, Schultz's Guide Service -- \$225

Anthony LaRosa, Chopper's Guide Service -- \$125

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and citizen complaints prompted the Service to investigate the guiding services.

The fines have gone to the North American Wetland Conservation Fund where they will be used to benefit wetlands, which provide habitat for birds like those illegally killed.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species

Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

Mike Phelps received his orders, heading to the Persian Gulf end of month. Although gaining 6th, going back to 5.

This spring, DEC has done diverse jobs

- Boating and fishing compliance checks
- Working with pesticide unit
- ECOs rode with the specialists as added training
- Worked on petroleum bulk storage facility
- Seasonal stream pollution enforcement
- Turkey season
- Construction site inspection
- Seasonal intern from Bryant & Stratton
- Some firearms training squeezed in
- Attended BOCES criminal justice career days
- Spring sportsmen education schedules
- Boy Scout functions, one on one career mentoring,
- Erie coastal erosions

Compliance to lead sinker ban, will be inspecting retailers soon.

Moving into more VHS enforcement

Attended 3 fishing derbies

ECOs shifting around

USF&W Action info provided by Special Agent Randy Cottrell. Authorized to report that only 1/2 of the available charges were addressed!

Bob Church - Is there a 2nd boat in S. Tier now? Yes - manpower, not equip, is issue. Peregrine Falcon rescue in the news lately - ECOs, yes, the falcon fell, they boxed it up and gave to SPCA. Nothing new. Gets a lot of news.

Paul Stoos - Discharge at GI, near Beaver Island - News claimed raw sewage. ECOs not directly involved with that.

VHS tickets - Only one ticket issued in region 9 thus far.

Dan Tone - Last winter - 2 labs killed by coyotes - have you heard of that? Doesn't surprise, but defer that Q to wildlife, Mark Kandell. Dan Tone says that may not have happened after all.

Discharge off GI not sewage, but algae.

Alligator story, Mike Phelps case, had many exotics/ threatened species, seized the eastern timber rattler, threatened

Alligator, couldn't do much, as not listed in Federal Threatened list

Voluntarily returned to FL

Buffalo News report not entirely accurate.

Working to get control of the dangerous animals and practices. What do you do with them once possession is taken? Looking to revamp the regs.

Bacteria counts along Hamburg, who monitors - Health Dept.

### **Archery Committee Report**

None

### **Crossbow Committee Report**

Ray G - If anyone received the outdoor news. Nice article on crossbow, a veteran who lost two limbs.

We should push this issue - to get folks back to the field with friends and family. Crossbow Bill didn't go real far, but more interest is being generated.

Dave Barus - Quad neighbor - swimming accident, he has taken two deer uses a special device to shoot firearm. He doesn't qualify for mod crossbow.

Crossbow Bill (Tom Scott) way it was written very difficult, but could get a non-ambulatory permit, but not crossbow.

### **Fish Committee Report – Dave Barus**

Fishing in Lake Erie has been nothing short of spectacular for yellow perch, walleye and smallmouth black bass. If you haven't been out this year yet, you are missing one great world class opportunity that is right here in our own back yard. Get out there soon!! If you fish alone, call a friend! Spread the word.

### **NY VHS temporary Reg's now Law**

Current temporary NYS regulations on baitfish regarding VHS disease have just been accepted as permanent law. Watch your bait! In a nutshell: buy your bait from a certified bait dealer, use only certified bait, make sure you have your receipt, your receipt is good for only 7 days of bait use, do not trap your own bait and carry it to another body of water (that is one of the biggest issues).

#### *VHS found in Skaneateles Lake*

DEC announced that a recent fish kill at Skaneateles Lake has been confirmed to be from VHS disease. The only other inland lake with VHS is Conesus Lake.

#### *Red Shrimp Captured at Olcott*

Today, we received an email that the latest exotic species (*Hemimysis anomala*) known to be introduced to the Great Lakes waterway was trapped in a bottle trap at the west pier at Olcott (6/27/07). DEC reported that the trap was deployed at the base of the pier (on the creek side) over rocky substrate on 6/26 (2:45 pm) and retrieved at 11:32am on 6/27. Trap was positioned approximately 1 meter down over 1.75 meters of water depth. The trap was baited with fish food (Tetra ColorFin Sinking Granules). See the attached picture. The body is approximately 6mm in length. DEC technician note that the specimen was completely pink in color when first collected. DEC is continuing with periodic bottle trap surveys at other NY ports on both NYS Great Lakes.



#### *Sunset Bay Launch Boat Open*

NYS DEC reported that repairs to the DEC sponsored boat access (launch) site at Sunset Bay s site were completed by DEC Operations. The site will be open for the 2007 season for day launching and a limited number of slips available for seasonal leasing. Cost to launch will be \$6.

#### *Fishing Tournaments*

- 1) **Southtowns Walleye Tournament June 9-17**, very successful for area, now complete. Over 1000 registered. Biggest walleye was 11.88 lbs taken off 18 Mile creek by Tom Nelson trolling a old style solid watermelon Renosky with all hooks attached (un-modified) and whole nightcrawler off a Jet 20 on the last day of the contest. Tenth place was a whopping 10.39 lbs, 20<sup>th</sup> place was 10.03 lbs, while the cutoff at 200<sup>th</sup> place was 8.35 lbs. Congratulations to SWA for promoting and running such a well-founded contest for over 20 years now.
- 2) **Niagara Bass-Eye July 11-12** at NFTA Buffalo Small Boat Harbor, sponsored by Bob and Mindy Rich for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of WNY. 40 charter captains and 200 local celebrity fishing guests contribute to this great annual event. Tickets are \$50 for the July 11 dinner/auction event.
- 3) **Erie Canal Fishing Derby, July 11-22**, Niagara River to the Main Street Bridge, Albion. For more info go to [www.eriecanalderby.com](http://www.eriecanalderby.com).
- 4) **Summer LOC Derby, Lake Ontario, July 15-Aug**. See [www.loc.org](http://www.loc.org).
- 5) **Masters Walleye Circuit, July 21-22**: East Division Qualifier, Lower Niagara River, Youngstown. Call 877-893-7947 or see [www.masterswalleyecircuit.com](http://www.masterswalleyecircuit.com).
- 6) **Bassmaster Elite Series July 19-22** with ESPN National TV coverage to be held in Buffalo. \$100,000 first prize. Pro entry fee is \$5,000 and amateur entry fee is \$750. The **presenting Sponsor is Mahindra Tractors. Take Off Location will be NFTA Boat Harbor, 1111 Fuhrman Blvd., Buffalo, New York 14203. Take Off Time is 5:30 am eastern. Weigh-In Start Time is 3:00 pm eastern.** Weigh-

In Location will be right at the harbor. There will be Sat/Sun Pre Show Entertainment from **12:00 - 3:00 pm**. The Pre-Show Location is right at the NFTA harbor . Bassmaster Elite Series sponsors include: Toyota Tundra, Purolator, Triton, Mercury, Berkley, Advance Auto Parts, Lowrance, Motorguide, Costa Del Mar and Ramada Worldwide. Local Event Sponsors include our own Buffalo CVB. The Fishery is Lake Erie and Niagara River. This is a catch and release tournament. CVB projects between 2,000 and 5,000 spectators. A special "Christmas in July" event is schedules around the competition at the Small Boat Harbor. There is also a special meet the pro opportunity at Hamburg High School the day before competition.

- 7) **Can-AM Fishing Tournament, July 27-29**, Sugarloaf Harbor marina,3 Marina Rd., Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada. Call 905-835-6644 for info.
- 8) **Niagara River Anglers Association, July 28**. Open, Smallmouth Bass Classic, Lower Niagara River/Lake Ontario. Call John Hess, 716-791-8147 or see [www.niagarariveranglers.com](http://www.niagarariveranglers.com)
- 9) **Northern Chautauqua Conservation Club Walleye Derby, Aug. 3-5**, Lake Erie. For more info call Jules, 716-363-0345 or club at 716-366-8836
- 10) **444 Walleye Tournament, Aug 10-12**, The "444 International Walleye Tournament" is a two day tournament which allows 4 fish to be weighed per day, 4 (maximum) anglers per team, and 4 pairs of poles. It takes place on Lake Erie. Sugarloaf Harbor marina,3 Marina Rd., Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada. Call 905-835-6644 for info.
- 11) **Orleans County Rotary Fishing Derby, Aug. 4-19**, Lake Ontario, salmon & trout competition. For more info call 585-589-9881

From NYS-DEC Region 9 May-June news:

*Niagara River Muskellunge Surveys-DEC Partners with SUNY ESF*

The Region 9 Fisheries Unit worked with SUNY College Environmental Science and Forestry to initiate a major field effort to collect adult muskellunge from the Buffalo Harbor and Upper Niagara River, starting in mid May. DEC staff set four large trap nets in the Buffalo Harbor, and approximately six hoop nets were set by ESF and DEC staff in the Upper Niagara River. Several hoop net locations were adjusted during the approximately one-month netting effort. The purpose of the collections was to gather samples for genetic analysis to enable a comparison of adult fish with planned future collections of young muskellunge. Only about four adult muskellunge were caught in the net gear, and a supplementary electrofishing effort was initiated during the reporting period to collect additional adults for genetic analysis. Trapnets had limited success in collection adult muskellunge but netting efficiency may have been reduced by an abundance of filamentous algae that collected on the nets. In comparison, a single day's effort with the electrofishing boat collected 11 adult muskellunge. Finclips were taken from all muskellunge for subsequent DNA analysis. Over three weeks of effort was expended in the effort and the data will be processed and included in the statewide database.



Dave Woodworth - counted 50-70 boats out of Silver Creek during SWT. After - saw only 2.

Buffalo CVB has been an active participant, thanks to EC Fisheries Advisory Board.

Scott Gault has now gotten the CVB to realize we do make money. News projected, \$1 Mil economic impact. Way LOW in our estimations!

They are also signed up for next year  
Crappie USA is coming back May 2008.

Great crappie resource, untapped. Last time here, they caught large crappie, and even some walleye in Buffalo River.

Gabby - Is STW banquet this Saturday? Nope, Last Week

Bob Church, Tiff Farm pond - Is the whole lake C&R now? For the kids clinic, yes, but no in general.

July 28, Kids clinic through SWA.

14lb 11 oz Largemouth documented as being present in Tiff. Documented, caught early June.

Springville Dam - feasibility study set to move forward. Not enough money for study \$80,000 ready, need \$600K

Bob Church - who is the contact person on that?

### **Small Game Committee Report - Dan Tone**

Bison City R&G \$250.0 donation to pheasant program

All youths lined up for Pheasant Forever Hunt.

4-H pheasants ready for release w/o July 24. Will contact committee members for help

Pretty significant loss early of pheasant chicks. Usually 80% hatched are released.

One raiser lost 100, and another 25 from another bird raiser. Manchurian strain.

DEC provided more birds to raisers, replacing lost birds

July 8th Meeting 1PM, WNYEF, Mark Kandell will explain what DEC wants with youth hunt in September. This is unknown, but will be known. All small game committee members should attend. Get to Hoak's at 12PM, have a nice lunch, then attend the meeting

### **Big Game Committee Report – Paul Stoos**

Spoke with Jack Quinn; youth mentoring bills not gonna happen.

Bob Church, check out progress, heard the mentoring bill passed

Will verify tomorrow

### **Trapping Committee Report – Patti Wattengel**

**Presented by Frank Miskey Jr.**

Trapper workshop at beginning of month for instructors. State is working on revising trapping class to meet standards of all 50 states, consistent classes nationwide. Discussed proposed changes to 220 and 160 conabear regs. Opposition to these. Please help - write letters opposing this!!

Dan Tone - didn't this come from the trappers? Not from Erie County. State trappers said yes, Erie County said no. Losing too many tools. Problem is the other end of the state. Adirondacks can use a 320 without modified trigger set due to open otter season up there!

6 otters caught in this region last year, incidental

Frank Miskey motion to oppose 160 and 220 regulations as proposed. Still within the comment period - Period ends mid-July (16th)

2nd - Dave S.

Dan Tone - Only thing is, legislators always say we cannot agree on anything amongst ourselves. This was their bill (trappers), and now we are opposing it?

We should speak with Rick and Patti to get guidance.

Frank Miskey has spoken with both, they have written their own letters.

EC Trappers are members of us, should support them,

Motion carriers unanimously

### **Waterfowl Committee Report**

New seasons are out will post

### **NYSCC**

Nothing

### **Environment & Pollution**

Lake Erie watershed plan meeting - everyone else there were professionals (47 total there) in watershed planning. Chuck was the only sportsman rep. Volunteered to be on a committee

Buffalo River area of concern summit. EPA rep from Chicago came in, as well as DEC head of water resources, Albany. Army Corps has begun sampling to see what is on bottom to know how to clean up.

Bob Church - What was the meat of this meeting? Chuck - 1st meeting, overview of programs current, and desire of future desires. Addressed, water, Lake Erie, plants, wetlands, wildlife habitat. Would check if Upper Niagara falls into this.

Same thing going on for NE, SE and NW Lake Ontario watersheds

### **Legislation Report**

State legislative session is over. None of the lower age of hunting age bills barring last minute moves, passed this session.

Recommend focus on one bill next session!!!

Check into this! TOMORROW

### **Resolutions**

Ballots are available now, vote is next meeting. Will be sent out one more time.

Would like more participation on the Resolutions.

2 yrs ago - 19 clubs voted, out of over 50

Last year - 17 ballots came back.

Resolutions - 1 back tag

Mentioned Eco Mark M correspondence on this one - trespass prevention tool

Res -2 Oppose AR

Res 3 - ML - in early season

Over-harvest if bucks could be taken in early ML, bad.

Why do the ML go after early and not an extension of the existing season?

Res 4 - change reg season back to Monday after 15th.

Res 5 - Youth hunts under several conditions - knocks out minimum age

Res 6 - Families Afield - same as 5 with less restrictions

Res 7 - mandate reporting for all regardless of success, have survey on website. Loss of big game license for failure to rpt -

Res 8 - Separate special tags, for use only during those seasons

Res 9 - Open pheasant season to open Oct 1. - only for Region 7, a few WMUs, not statewide

Res 10 - Ballast water treatment – (aside - red mycian shrimp found off Olcott)

Res 11 - do not apply VHS regs on Hudson

Res 12 - Amend the Pistol Permit Laws to stop issuing agents from using their own discretions. Shall issue, unless well defined good cause to deny exists.

Res 13 - Non trail snowmobile registration for ice fishing., etc.

Question - would that be a headache for DEC to enforce registration if two-tiered? Tom Scott - always simple is better! Would need to study the details before taking a position

### **Membership Outreach**

Chuck went to Crow's Nest meeting a couple weeks ago

### **Education**

Frank Sr

Got 7 more gun classes (new) set up!!

### **Nominations**

None - All officers, and 5 board members up for election/ re-election

### **Awards**

Nothing right now

### **Banquet**

None

Chuck's wife is hitting the garage sales every Saturday., wil have women's raffle again next year!!!

### **Educational Opportunities**

All 5 kids accepted at the camp.

### **CFAB**

None

### **Fund Raising**

Calendar information - same price again. \$3.00 per for each calendar - Place orders by Sept meeting, have money then, but Oct would also work

### **FWMB – Bob Church**

New Bi-laws by FWMA (National) changes and updates. Term limit everyone overlooks (8 years), supposed to serve then get out, but can come back.

Re-examining the term limit, tough getting new blood in to positions.

Wildlife - wetland biologist, freshwater wetlands program assigned to Region 9. 2

Parcels adjacent to Connelly's on Chautauqua Lake - trying to get access

Spicer Creek - Grand Island - construct handicap access trail and waterfowl hunting blind H/A Stamp - Region 9 got nada on 1st AND 2nd go around. Why not? Seems like its political more than anything else.

FWMB - spoke with Russ Biss on future of board and self-evaluation.

County representation, land owner, legislator and sportsmen. Very little communication from board to county. No hands on projects going on. 18-mile creek project - we know nothing.

Coming up, self-evaluation, what does this do for region 9?

### **Shows**

US Corps of Engineers not in Conservation Bldg this year

Contact Frank or Dan for interested replacements.

Got to get our booth manned for the Fair. - mentioned club days. LY 5 clubs took whole days at the fair. 32 or 33 shifts need to be covered.

Fair Runs August 8 – 19, 2007

### **National Hunting & Fishing Day – Al Stanton**

Apologizes for not being here last couple meetings.

15 exhibits happening thus far. Boy Scouts already signing up. Flyer is drafted, etc  
Got it on disk. Get it posted on website.

Need to have Federation - printing,  
9/22, 9a-4p. Will Federation set up a table at this? Shows chairman needs to decide.  
Also will get volunteers.

Has info been sent on this yet to the other clubs? Not yet. Next meeting W&B will be  
handling this.

Move forward with ad circulation by 3rd week of July  
Send flyer info out tomorrow!!!!!!!!!!!!

### **WNY Environmental Federation**

July 8 at 1PM at Hoak's  
Small Game plans! Important!!!

### **Budget and Finance**

Any Bills? None known

### **Website – Paul Stoos**

Nothing new

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Newsletter from Safari Club - what's happening in Washington

Polar Bear Protection Act! Proposal to prevent USF&W issuing permits for importing  
polar bears into USA. Dead in the water Polar bear population is at peak right now!

USF&W removed bald eagle from endangered species list

### **Good & Welfare**

Dave S

Last month Lower Niagara - filming In-Fisherman  
4 days of filming. Best area to fish in the world! Show airs in fall...

**50/50**

Winner is Crow's Nest Fishing Club

Motion to adjourned - Bob Church

2nd Paul Stoos

Motion carries meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM