



*Rich Davenport, 2008 ECFSC Recording Secretary*

*Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs*

**November 2008 General Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Time: 7:30 PM – 11/12/08**

**Location: Boston Valley Conservation Society, Boston, NY**

**Meeting opened at:** 7:32 PM

**Pledge to flag:** completed

**Excused:** Don Davis, Rich Davenport, Chuck Godfrey, Dave Barus  
In attendance: 4 officers, 7 directors, 15 delegates and 1 guests

**Quorum of member clubs:** Yes

**Reading of the minutes:**

Motion to approve Tom Fischer  
2<sup>nd</sup> George Rockey  
Motion carries

**Secretary's Report – Rich Davenport**

None - Excused

**Membership Report - Mike Smith**

New 2009 questionnaires now in process

**Treasurer's Report**

Still solvent! Submitted electronically

**Correspondence Report – Dave Barus**

No report

**President's Report – Steve Aldstadt**

Calendars are here. Pick up today.

Met with Dem reps in Assembly. Democrats will control the Senate and Dale Volker will most likely not chair codes committee any longer.

Budget will take up most time for first few months of legislative session. Assembly gun bill day – may see bills passed in Assembly, as usual, but rubber stamped by Senate soon afterwards.

**Next Meetings:**

<b>Date</b>		<b>BM Time</b>		<b>GM Time</b>		<b>Location</b>
11/13/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Boston Valley Cons. Soc, 9624 Zimmerman Rd, Boston
12/11/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Bison City Rod & Gun, Ohio Street Buffalo, NY
1/22/09	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Elma Conservation Society, Elma, NY (needs confirmation)
2/26/09	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	George Washington Club, Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY

**Special Guests**

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Law Enforcement – Dave Smzycynski**

None

**Archery – Dave Reed**

None

**Crossbow Committee - Frank Miskey, Jr**

None

**Fish Committee - Dave Barus**

Fish advisory board met. Good support from the ECFAB for the programs needed and desires relayed.

**Small Game – Dan Tone**

Reynolds Game Farm may be closed. Dan Tone sent letter to commissioner Grannis to oppose the closure of farm due to the problems this may cause, letter as follows:

1829 Davis Road  
West Falls, NY 14170  
October 27, 2008

NYSDEC  
Commissioner Peter Grannis  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-4754

Dear Commissioner Grannis:

You said it yourself at the NYSCC Fall Convention and now I have heard other people talking about it too; the possibility of looking at purchasing pheasants. This in my opinion and the federation's position would be a huge mistake and it would do away with NYS Pheasant Program as we know it. We originally had seven game farms in New York State and now we are jut down to one. Surprisingly it runs very well and effectively with much of the credit going to Mike Murphy and the game farm manager; especially since we are down to only one game farm.

The farm provides roughly 25,000 adult birds for fall stocking, 15,000 pheasants for the Young Pheasant Release Program and about 60,000 Day Old Chicks. Another 600 adult birds are provided for field trails and 1,600 for Youth and Women Hunts, etc. The chicks go to the 4-H, Sportsman's Clubs and the Prison System to be raised. Not to mention the advice given by the department to the raisers, such as a young 4-H Raisers with a problem raising the birds. A simple call to the game farm will tell them the problem with a disease, etc. and what to do to correct it.

Some people compare cost of buying birds verses raising them at our own NYSDEC Game Farm; however, they seem to forget the other benefits of our own game farm. These birds are delivered directly to county cooperative extension for 4-H and Clubs to picked up and that was coordinated by the department. We don't have the excuse we couldn't find birds to purchase this year. The Young Pheasant Release Program and the 4-H Program also provides a lot of access for hunting.

Every thing seems to be center around getting youths involved with our sport through youth pheasant's hunts, etc. The department provides birds for the youth hunts and they are delivered with other shipments if possible or picked up at the game farm. In most cases the hunts are held on a DEC site and are all coordinated in advance. A lot of kids got hooked on hunting for pheasants as their first experience. There is nothing like walking behind a good dog and flushing a pheasant. Not to mention pheasants provide a great meal.

The game farm is evidence the department is doing something with the license fee money and the sportsmen can see that. While other programs are great the average sportsmen doesn't notice that. However, they do notice the pheasants being stocked for them and the

stocking areas have a lot of hunters there. We have a many fish hatcheries in the state, but only one remaining game farm left for the hunters benefit.

I remembered back around 1994 the Conservation Fund provided about \$500,000.00 for the Pheasant Program and this year it is about \$750,000.00 or less. This is not much of an increase considering the rising cost of grain etc. When John White Game Farm closed we were told that things would remain the same including the amount of birds raised; basically it has. However, one thing did change with the closing, the department went from eight permanent employees down to four permanent employees. This was a big savings for the department considering fringe benefits, etc.

The economics to New York State is great from the Pheasant Program and hunters do stop and have breakfast and lunch at many small towns in the state. They also purchase all kinds of sporting goods at stores in the state. They buy dog food and supplies and visit vets regularly and it also a contributing factor to the economy. Many hunters purchase a license just to hunt pheasants and again just look at the number of hunters at stocking sites and this will prove it.

If we ever would change the program to buying pheasants instead of raising them at our own game farm we feel the program would be gone forever. The cost for a private concern coordinating all of the efforts the department is know doing would be very substantial too. The NYS Game Farm produces a very healthy magnificent pheasant and lets keep it that way. Sportsman's organizations have supported the program for years and still do including the Erie County Federation of Sportsman's Clubs Inc.

Yours truly,

Dan Tone, Chairman Small game Committee

Cc: Patricia Reixinger  
Harold Palmer  
Charles Hancock  
Mike Zeh  
Stephen Aldstadt

**Big Game - Paul Stoos**

14 & 15 YO can now hunt big game with a firearm in NYS, starting this season. Regular season opens Nov 15. Bear season in our range opens on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, one week after deer season opens.

**Trapping – Patti Wattengel**

None

**Waterfowl**

Seasons are underway

**NYSCC**

License fee increases are expected. Saltwater fishing license is also coming. Legislative meeting will be held in Ilion for one day upcoming.

**Pollution – Tom Marks**

No report

**Legislation – John Susz**

No report

**Resolutions – Bob Fuller**

Call has gone out for resolutions. Must be submitted in December to get to clubs and get vote back by January.

**Nominations - Mike Smith**

2009 Officers

President – Steve Aldstadt (from October meeting)

1st VP – Open, Joe Declined the nomination

2nd VP – Paul Stoos (from Oct)

Treasurer – Tony Scime (from Oct)

Recording Sec – Rich Davenport (from Oct)

Correspondence Sec – Dave Barus (from Oct)

Membership Sec – Mike Smith (from Oct)

NYSCC Council Reps – Joe Fischer, alt. Bob Fuller (from Oct)

Board of Director Nominations – Dan Tone, Dave Wharton, Al Bauer, Dave Smzycynski, Tom Fischer (from Oct)

We need 5 more directors

No other nominations made in November.

Nominations closed for this meeting.

**Educational Opportunities**

Scholarship application is out, in the back of the minutes - Due December 15

DEC Camp Drawing will be happening at December meeting!

**CFAB – Fred Langdon**

We will invite CFAB rep to next Fed meeting.

**Fund-Raising - WE NEE A CHAIR**

Calendars are here.

**FWMB**

Term limits for board members will be enforced at the State Level. Will support resolution for mandatory habitat stamp.

Motion made by Dan Tone to write a letter to oppose the mandatory term limits for FWMB

2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Stoos

Motion carries

Dan Tone will write the letter & forward copy to Steve A.

**Shows and Expos**

March Expo is coming up.

**Banquet – Dan Tone**

Bison City R&G donated 3 baskets. Elma would like to donate a gun vs. a basket.

March 7, 2009 is date for banquet. 6PM, K of C on Union.

**National Hunting and Fishing Day**

Elma is willing to hold program at their club. Federation would have to run the program.

Club would do range and cooking. Ray Gwarek volunteers to chair the effort.

**WNYEF - Dan Tone**

Next meeting is Jan 11 at 2PM at Hoak's

**Pay the Bills**

Motion by Paul Stoos

2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Fischer

Motion carries

**Website – Paul Stoos**

Updated website should be ready for review soon

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Tony Gonnello spoke to other states using part of sales tax revenue/ new sales tax revenue to support game departments. Dave Smyczynski will send copy of article to directors and officers.

Also, only 7 states do not allow Sunday hunting.

**Good & Welfare**

Cards to Abbey Wharton and 2 other service members graduating from military training in Marine Corps were well appreciated.

**50/ 50**

???

Motion to adjourn Paul Stoos

2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Fischer

Meeting adjourned

Thank you host club Boston Valley Cons. Society!!

**ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION  
OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS INC.**

***COLLEGE  
SCHOLARSHIPS***

As part of the Erie county Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs efforts to enhance our environment and wildlife appreciation, we award up to five \$200 college scholarships yearly.

To qualify for a scholarship you must be a high school senior enrolled in an accredited college, or attending an accredited college with your major in any one of these areas: environmental conservation, law enforcement, or environmental pollution **and must be a resident of Erie County.**

Scholarships are awarded based upon need and the area of study. To be considered for one of these scholarships complete the form below and return with a short essay telling of need, any projects you have **engineered or participated in**, your future goals, and proof of enrollment (i.e., course enrollment, course schedule, report card, etc.) to the address below prior to **December 15.**

**SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN  
29 YVETTE DRIVE  
CHEEKTOWAGA, NY 14227**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ NY ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE LEVEL: \_\_\_\_\_

MAJOR: \_\_\_\_\_