



Plymouth County League of Sportsmen

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Upland Sportsman Club

May 16th, 2018

At 7:00 pm we began our monthly business meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all our family and friends who have died and for Service Men and Women in our Armed Forces that have died or have been injured to protect our Country and for President Johnson's speedy recovery.

Opening Statement: President Emeritus John Fabroski welcomed all in attendance at the Plymouth County League of Sportsmen May meeting and thanked the Upland Sportsman Club for a wonderful meal. USC delegate Dave Swanson spoke on behalf of the USC welcoming all in attendance and thanked the PCLS for all they do for the sportsmen and hoped that everyone enjoyed their meal. President Emeritus Fabroski also thanked the USC chef for a wonderful meal and thanked USC for all the work that they do in support of sportsmen and sportswomen. President Emeritus Fabroski then informed us of our two guests from MDMF, John Boardman and Tiffany Cunningham.

Roll Call: There were 40 delegates representing 13 clubs and organizations in attendance along with 13 guest.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bonney gave a complete report on our finances. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the report.

Bills to be paid: There was no bills presented for payment.

Secretary's Report: The April meeting minutes were accepted as published by a motion that was seconded and passed.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report: Jason Zimmer spoke on some high lights from his District report which can be found as a supplement at the end of the meeting minute report and also reported that work on the parking area at Burrage Pond will begin as soon as the inclement weather ends so they can move equipment to the location. President Emeritus Fabroski added comments concerning an event that now is being organized by some sportsmen s organizations of Massachusetts that will mirror the Big MOE event. This event will be held in the Southeast District in late summer 2019.

Guest Speakers: First to speak was John Boardman, MDMF Biologist. He began by informing those in attendance that he brought some hand outs that were free. He also informed us that the free saltwater fishing weekend will be Fathers Day weekend. The River Herring ban is still in effect for this year. The Middleboro Run will remain closed this year. He also informed us that it has been 100 years since Herring has been observed at the base of Forge Pond Dam. MDMF are in communications with the town of Brockton, where the dam is located in, in an attempt to procure flowing water at certain times of the year to promote species propagation. Also for the first time in 200 years fish are going into Sabbatia Lake due to the removal of a dam at Mill River. Other runs are doing very well such as the Pembroke Run, Monument Run and the Namasket Run. Smelt sampling has now concluded in Southeast region. Sampling has been very good this year. The Jones River was the only one that did not do so well. The Weweantic River numbers were up this year compared to previous years. Eels have also been doing very well this year that were surveyed. Monitoring of Shad has now begun in selected rivers showing good signs of population. Concerning the property on route 6, Marion Rd. in Wareham that has been drawing the attention of MDMF possible purchase. The owners now has a clean 21E on the property and is still interested in selling to MDMF. The issues with the town have now been resolved. The issue appears to be less contentious. The Marine Recreational Informational Program has begun for year. Please cooperate with survey takers by answering their questions when asked. Our second speaker Tiffany Cunningham, MDMF Biologist, began her report by informing those in attendance her responsibilities with the MDMF and why the changes to regulations. She gave a complete report on the bag and size regulations for this year by species. Please refer to the latest Saltwater Recreational Fishing Guide for 2018 for your species information or go to www.mass.gov/marine-fisheries-regulations on the internet. At the end of their report President Emeritus Fabroski thank both John and Tiffany for their comprehensive reporting.

Communications: President Emeritus Fabroski informed us that a communication received from GOAL, which most of us should also have received, concerning ERPO, which is a mental health bill. Goal is not in support of this bill and has requested and submitted suggested changes to the legislators. He also gave an update on the Sportsmen's National Land Trust license plate application saying that once the state has accepted the initial batch of applications, plates will then begin the manufacturing process and distribution taking approximately six months. Anyone that would like to check on the status of their order, updates and information can be found on their web site which is www.SNLTMassachusetts.org.

Seven Man Board Report: For a review of the complete latest published report go to our web site.

Legislative Report: Now is the time to contact your local representatives and support the Crossbow bill S.2249.

Massachusetts Conversation Alliance: President Emeritus Fabroski reported on behalf of President Johnson that the Mass. Conservation Alliance selected the Crossbow bill S.2249 as the legislation most likely to succeed in the present atmosphere on Beacon Hill. The Bill has already passed the Senate and now is in the House Ways and Means Committee. The group decided to shoot for early to mid May for a barrage of calls, letters and emails to the legislature to push this bill over the top. President Johnson read a letter to each member of the House Ways and Means Committee on behalf of the membership which was approved in April. . He worked with Joe Afonso, Vice President of Worcester County League, to create an excel file for use with Microsoft word program which will facilitate clubs to contact Ways and Means Members throughout the state. Thus far 14 organizations have sent letters to each of the Ways and Means Committee using this program. This mail merge will be the basis of creating individual letters for clubs. Clubs are requested to forward to Paul Johnson an electronic copy of their club letterhead and either a drafted letter, preferably in word format or give him the ok to create a drafted letter for your approval. Clubs will receive in return a pdf file of their letters individually addressed on their clubs letterhead and a pdf of mailing labels to be printed on Avery 5160 labels which are available at Staples. All the clubs will need to do is sign and stuff the envelopes and affix the mailing labels and stamps.

Old Business: President Emeritus Fabroski asked the 2018/2019 nominating committee

for their report of nominees for officers and 5 delegates for the executive board as required by the by-law Article VII Section 1. A motion was made, seconded and passed to open nominations. For president – Paul Johnson, Vice President – James Smith, Treasurer – Dee Bonney, Secretary – open and the 5 delegates for the Executive Board – President Emeritus John Fabroski, Ed Sousa, Ernie Foster, Jason Zimmer and Bob Verzone. A motion for each position except Secretary was made, seconded and passed to close nominations. Elections are to be held at the June meeting and term starts at the September meeting Ref. Article IX Section 6. The meeting with the Executive Board of Fin, Fur and Feather took place as scheduled on May 1st, 2018 at 7:00 pm. President Johnson represented the PCLS. The main concern centered around the lack of annual corporate reporting with the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. President Johnson reported that there was a charter on file with the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that was abandoned in 1963. We are not aware of the existence of any copies of this charter. Fin, Fur and Feather was assured that the PCLS intends to rectify the filings as quickly as we can but first we will seek competent advice as to how to proceed. After issues of finding or creating a valid charter, our by-law committee can act. President Johnson explained that the Fin, Fur and Feather open issues regarding annual club dues paid to the PCLS were going to the Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council and are now going to the PCLS general fund. The Fin, Fur and Feathers Executive Board did not take exception to this practice. President Johnson thanked Sue Fernandez and Ed Birch for attending the meeting and keeping notes.

New Business: President Emeritus Fabroski presented a proposal from Attorney Edward George to investigate our charter and Secretary of State annual filings and to bring the PCLS current. After a comprehensive discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed to appropriate necessary funds to support this action. A guest present, Debra Holt, offered help in the endeavor.

Good of the Order: Nothing offered.

Adjournment: The meeting came to a close at 8:36 pm. Our next meeting will be at the Carver Sportsman Club, June 20th, 2018 located 127 Main St. Carver, Ma. Comradery at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm

PCLS Secretary

Mike Armburg

Southwest District Activities – May 2018

Wildlife – District staff coordinated with the MA. Army National Guard to organize and run controlled youth and regular spring turkey hunts on Joint Base Cape Cod/Camp Edwards. The youth hunt was held on Saturday April 28th, 2018 with a total of 15 participants (including youth hunters and their adult mentors) harvesting two birds. The 5-day regular spring turkey hunt had a total of 86 participants harvesting 17 birds. As part of an ongoing effort to dis-conflict the controlled hunting programs and military training at Camp Edwards, the District Supervisor provided a list of all known hunting dates for the next two calendar years to range control (youth hunt days and paraplegic hunt days, which are set by regulation and have no flexibility). This should help ensure that the maximum amount of area is open to hunting during these programs. Staff from the District, along with staff from our Westborough HQ, DCR and the National Park Service, along with several trained volunteers, participated in the coast wide survey of colonial waterbird nesting sites in Boston Harbor. The surveys consist of a combination of ground and boat based surveys of nests of a variety of colonial waterbirds including gulls, cormorants, herons and egrets. During the surveys, staff also documented common eider nests and attempted to capture and leg band female eiders, successfully banding over 30 eiders in the two-day effort. Additionally, District staff alone surveyed a number of colonial nesting sites on rocky islands from Hull to Scituate, counting over 800 nests. More surveys of this nature are planned in Plymouth and along the Elizabeth Islands in the coming weeks. District staff delivered wild turkey checking materials to check stations throughout the District prior to the youth turkey day and assisted a few stations in getting new computers up and running in the MassFishHunt online licensing and harvest reporting system. District staff completed a variety of wildlife surveys in the past month including indicated pair waterfowl surveys, grouse drumming route surveys and woodcock calling surveys. The District Wildlife Biologist and District Technicians continued to complete Wood Duck nesting box site visits to monitor use and nesting success by Wood Ducks and to repair/replace damaged boxes and, if desired, adding new boxes to sites. District Staff also visited several wildlife management areas where invasive mute Swans are known to nest and conducted nest searches and oiled eggs if nests were found to try and limit reproduction of this invasive species and reduce negative impacts on native waterfowl. District continued to respond to a wide variety of wildlife calls including both nuisance calls and reports of sick/injured wildlife. Notable calls this month included several reports of aggressive hawks in backyards near nest locations and the capture of two potentially injured Loons, one in Carver and one in Westport. The Carver bird was in good shape so it was released at Sampsons Pond and the Westport bird was indeed injured and was transported to Wild Care.

Fisheries – Trout stocking is now complete. Thankfully, we made it through the entire Spring stocking season without any significant vehicle issues. Anglers throughout the district have been reporting back positively on the size and abundance of fish, which is a testament to both our hatchery program and our dedicated staff that work long hours getting the fish distributed to many ponds and streams throughout the district. A list and map of Trout stocked waters will remain available on the mass.gov/trout page with the date and species of Trout stocked. The District Fisheries Biologist and a technician completed a fish stocking demonstration at both Little and Long Ponds in Plymouth to celebrate Earth Day. Dozens of people, young and old, attended both events and were able to view and assist with stocking of Trout into both water bodies. District staff continue to monitor the Red Brook channel and Herring run. Herring numbers were sporadic at first, with the crazy weather swings we were having in the early Spring, but they picked up and ran strong once the weather warmed. The District Fisheries Biologist deserves special recognition for his efforts to maintain the channel and make several modifications to ensure fish passage. Wild Brook Trout PIT (passive integrated transponder) tagging has begun in the District at Red Brook, Childs River, Mashpee River and Coonamesset River. Fish are captured through electrofishing and PIT tagged which enables us to monitor their movements within the streams and document the timing of migrations out into the brackish and saltwater environments. This furthers our understanding of Salter Brook Trout populations and allows us to better manage their habitats. District staff continued to monitor the ongoing restoration project at the Coonamesset River.

Natural Heritage – The District Supervisor was part of a grant obtained by the Gates Intermediate School in Scituate, which was focused on a vernal pool on the school grounds that was being developed as a living laboratory. The Supervisor attended two field days at the school and demonstrated the techniques to survey vernal pool species and evaluate the habitat with all of the students. He helped them identify various species of plants, measure water depth and temperature and identified Fairy Shrimp, Wood Frogs, Spring Peepers and a variety of invertebrates. This information will be used by the class to submit a formal certification application for the vernal pool with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Bald Eagle banding has commenced. District staff visited the Pocksha Pond nest and banded two healthy chicks. The Anuxanon Island nest unfortunately failed, likely due to a scuffle in the nest between one of the local adults and an intruding adult eagle, which knocked a young chick and an unhatched egg from the nest, which were recovered and brought to Tufts Wildlife Lab for analysis. Staff also visited the North Watuppa nest, which also failed this year and has several other nests visits scheduled in the coming weeks, all which have documented chicks in the nests. We have also just learned of a potential nest on Cape Cod that we will be looking into within the next few days. District staff are coordinating with biologists in our Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue

population surveys and monitoring of Spotted and Blandings Turtles at several locations. We are also working with a seasonal contract biologist on the project as well. Baited hoop traps are placed out in known or suspected habitats and checked daily. Any Spotted Turtles are documented, measured, marked and released. Blandings turtles are being measured, PIT tagged and are having radio transmitters attached so that we can monitor their movement and habitat use patterns. The District Wildlife Biologist has once again started monitoring our known Piping Plover, Tern and Oyster Catcher nesting sites and, where needed, protecting the nesting areas with signage and symbolic fencing in accordance with established guidelines. This project continues throughout June and most of July. Further, we have assisted our Tern project by conducting habitat management activities (primarily mowing and raking) on Ram Island, as well as assisting with boat transport, maintenance and the installation of a mooring system for Seasonal Tern staff. We have also prepared the house on our Red Brook WMA to serve as a base camp for the Tern project seasonal staff.

Land Management/Stewardship – Good news. The new tractor that was purchased for the district to replace our inoperable 1980's tractor was delivered this month. District staff were trained by the dealer in operation and maintenance of the tractor and we have already been out putting the machine to good use. Along similar lines, repairs to our other 1980's Ford tractor are nearly complete, being done completely in house by our very talented technician, Jeff Breton. Jeff's mechanical skills have undoubtedly saved the agency tens of thousands of dollars in maintenance costs over the course of his career. We are lucky to have several technicians in the district that are very capable of conducting more than just routine maintenance on our vehicles and equipment! A site visit was conducted to the Old Sullivan Fish Hatchery property in Sandwich to assess the condition of several buildings on the grounds and work towards renewing a use agreement with the Division of Marine Fisheries for storage of equipment and supplies on the site. Further, that same day, the District Supervisor also met with officials from the Town of Sandwich, a representative from the Nye Family Museum and our contracted dam safety engineer at the Nye Pond water control structure to begin to evaluate repairs and maintenance needed. Our engineer will be conducting a Phase 1 inspection of the dam that will include a report with suggested maintenance items that will need to be addressed. The Draft Dog regulation is moving along in the process towards being an official regulation. It has been signed off on by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and has now gone up to the Executive Office of Administration and Finance for final approval prior to be officially promulgated. District staff continue to work with the Massachusetts Environmental Police and town officials to address a major Off Highway Vehicle issue at the Taunton River WMA. We have installed a series of remote, cellular based cameras in the WMA that upload directly and immediately to a secure website that we have provided OLE access to. This effort is allowing us to continue to pattern use on the site and we may even have photos that will

allow law enforcement to identify and charge individuals involved. An in Lieu of Fee Program Restoration Project application has been submitted for the Burrage Pond WMA to add more rough grading (pit and mound style grading) within the former cranberry bog units to continue to restore them into functional wetland and wildlife habitat. District staff have been working hard at our Frances A. Crane WMA in Falmouth to continue to clear up damage from the winter's Nor'easter storms that blew down over a couple thousand trees. Staff have been clearing roadways, chipping tops of trees and clearing out fire breaks. They have also surveyed nearly 800 acres of the WMA and have marked and inventoried well over a thousand trees to be included in a RFR to be removed from the site. Some of these trees will be transported whole with their bole and root balls attached to the Coonamesset River Restoration Project to be used within the restored stream channel and adjacent wetlands. District staff have completed several prescribed fires in the past month or so including a 116 acre burn in the Frances A. Crane WMA grassland, 65 acres on our Penikese Island Sanctuary and burns in other districts at our Leyden and Southwich WMAs. Two of my staff participated in the annual Wildland Firefighter Safety refresher at the Cape Cod National Seashore and the remainder of the district fire crew will be attending the joint MassWildlife/DCR safety refresher later in May. The District Stewardship Biologist continues to work on monitoring Wildlife Conservation Easements, marking property boundaries and overseeing contracted boundary marking and writing up summary reports. He also continues to work, along with the office of Fishing and Boating Access, to remove trees down in the Tispaquin Pond Access and locate and mark the boundary corners there in anticipation of roadway and parking maintenance and improvements. District staff have continued to mow/prepare fire breaks at our Southeast Pine Barrens WMA and Camp Cachalot WCE with MassWildlife's Terex machine. This work will allow for future prescribed fires on the properties. The Burrage Pond WMA Halifax parking area restoration project started on May 15th, 2018 with the contractors marking trees to be cut and beginning to deliver silt sock to the site. Machinery was expected to be moved to the site on May 16th, 2018 and the roadway and parking area will remain closed until the project is completed (expected within 2-3 weeks). Also, with regards to Burrage Pond WMA, the proposed sale of 17 acres abutting this parking area was overwhelmingly approved at the Halifax Town Meeting in May.

Outreach/Notable Meetings – The Fisheries and Wildlife Board met on May 16th, 2018 in the Western District and voted to approve the proposed two week extension to the archery deer season in zones 10 thru 14. The extension is anticipated to go into effect for the 2018 season. They also voted to approve new hires for the vacant Central District Manager, the soon to be vacant Connecticut Valley District Manager, vacant Northeast District Wildlife Biologist and vacant Chief of Wildlife Lands positions. The District Manager, along with Commissioner Amidon and Gary Zima and Marion Larson from our Westborough HQ, has continued to attend partnership meetings with the leadership

at Joint Base Cape Cod to attempt to plan/organize an event similar to the Big MOE, but held at JBCC. The local county leagues will be expected to play a major role in the organization and operation of the event, that has been coined at this point as the Big COD (Cape Outdoors Day). The District Supervisor gave an American Bald Eagle presentation to a senior group at the Sandwich Hollows Golf Course in May and the Fisheries Biologist gave a fisheries presentation to a local Cub Scout troop in April. The National Archery in the Schools Program loaner kit was delivered to the Old Colony Regional School in Rochester so that their PE program could teach the archery curriculum this Spring. District staff participated in ongoing Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation meetings in Westborough.