



Plymouth County League of Sportsmen

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Marshfield Rod and Gun Club

February 21st, 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.

Opening Statement: President Paul Johnson welcomed all in attendance at the Plymouth County League of Sportsmen February meeting and thanked the Marshfield Rod & Gun Club for a wonderful meal. MR&GC member Jason Zimmer spoke on behalf of the MR&GC welcoming all in attendance and thanked the PCLS for all they due for the sportsmen and hoped that everyone enjoyed their meal. President Johnson also thanked the MR&GC kitchen crew for a wonderful meal and thanked MR&GC for all the work that they do in support of sportsmen and sportswomen. President Johnson then informed us of a guest speaker, Ross Kessler, the MDMF Recreational Fisheries Program and Public Access Coordinator.

Roll Call: There were 35 delegates representing 14 clubs and organizations in attendance along with 7 guest.

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

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

Bills to be paid: There were two bills presented to be paid. One for secretarial expenses and one for coping expenses. A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay. Treasurer Bonney also notified us of our annual donations which are for NRA-ILA, GOA, USSA, COMM 2A, and our GOAL affiliation dues. President Johnson then informed us of a raffle being conducted by GOAL. After a brief discussion it was decided to purchase 20 tickets to support this cause. A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay donations, affiliation and purchase tickets.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report: Jason Zimmers began by informing those in attendance that the MDF&W has developed a new system to track division's activities, by the month. The SE division has finished up their annual winter Black Duck banding with all of our goals being met even with bad weather. The Fed's has requested that we continue this program for the next two years to see if the increase in bag limits has effected the total population. Our Wood Duck box maintenance, replacement and monitoring has been completed. Our five year water foul survey by species has been completed. The division is restarting our Cotton Tail trapping on Camp Edwards to apply collars with GPS monitoring. The division is currently reviewing Wild Turkeys hunting opportunities requested by the National Wild Turkey Federation to see possible expansion of Wild Turkey hunting. We are continuing to monitor fresh water Brook Trout in selected rivers and also restoration projects. We have completed all bi-annual mowing at management areas. We are still in the middle of boundary marking and monitoring. The division is now gearing up for its annual controlled burns on selected areas. Fire break mowing is being conducted at Crane. The public hearing on dog regulations was held with a very well attended showing. The board will discuss and decide its out come at their next meeting. There will be a public hearing on the proposed two week extension of Archery Deer hunting season for zones 10 thru 14 at 7:00 pm, on March 7th, 2018 at MDF&W HQ. Still receiving calls for nuisance Turkey's in area. The division is now gearing up for Spring Trout stoking. A new Deer checking station will be at Trader Jans Archery Shop in Fall River, Ma. coming soon.

Special Guest: Ross Kessler gave his usual in depth report. To review his complete report please refer to the supplement at the end of the minute report.

Communications: President Johnson informed us that Jim Wallace has requested the County League Leadership group meet after the GOAL Annual Meeting to discuss petitioning the MDF&W to close Wildlife Management Areas on Sunday in response to a lack of progress on Sunday hunting. As voted at our January meeting President Johnson reported to the group the opposition of our delegates to this proposal. The proposal failed to gather any support at the meeting and has been shelved. The main

item that was decided at this meeting was to establish an online forum that the leagues can use to organize the leagues into a more effective advocacy organization. The forum is open to League Presidents and is closed to all others. The forum is up and running. During the week ending February 9th, 2018 President Johnson received an invitation to attend a meeting with Governor Baker on Sportsmens issues. Others who were invited were Jim Wallace, Executive Director of Gun Owners Action League, Ron Amidon, MDF&W Commissioner, Matt Beaton Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Joseph Alphonso, Vice President Worcester County League of Sportsmen Clubs and Tom Brule, President of Berkshire County League of Sportsmen. Prior to the meeting President Johnson met with the representatives of sportsmen at the GOAL offices on Saturday Feb 10th, 2018 at 9:00 am to plan strategy and prepare for the meeting. The group decided to push for improved communication with the Baker Administration as well as specific items. The meeting went for an hour was constructive and secured a commitment to improve communications with Secretary Beaton as the administration contact person. The Sunday Bow Hunting Bill came up and Secretary Beaton indicated that polling of likely voters indicated this should be a second term item. We were assured the administration has not abandoned the proposal. The League has received RSVP's from State Rep. Susan Gifford and her husband Mark, Jim Wallace, Executive Director of GOAL and his wife, State Rep. Keiko Orrall and her husband, MDF&W Director Jack Buckley and Worcester County has reserved an entire table for our annual banquet. President Johnson requested a motion for a motion to purchase a table at the Worcester County league banquet.

MSC Report: There was nothing presented.

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

Legislative Report: There is a proposed bill dealing with an increase in penalties for poaching. This bill would be reciprocal of poaching in any other state with loss of hunting license. Any one with more information please bring it forward at our next meeting.

Old Business: President Johnson thanked the volunteers at the Standish Sportsmen Show that manned the PCLS booth and sold raffle tickets for the guns and Bass Pro gift cards. Joe Gilmartin, Jim Smith, Bob Perrault, Bruce Westgate, Jim Augenti and John Fabroski did his usual for Standish as well as setting up and transporting the booth we used. We had good ticket sales between the show and the Carver Sportsman Club. We

need delegates selling tickets at their clubs to make this raffle a success. I'd like to thank Ernie Foster for producing the tri-fold PCLS accomplishments flier that we came up with at our last meeting. I suggest delegates bring some back to their respective clubs.

New Business: There was a public hearing on leash and animal waste regulations on February 6th, 2018 at 7:00 pm at MDF&W Headquarters in Westborough. President Johnson spoke on behalf of the PCLS, Jim Smith represented Cedar Gun, Art Cabral on behalf of Trout Unlimited and Dick Thorne and Kevin Sullivan represented Carver Sportsman Club. President Johnson thanked the those people for their participation. Many sportsmens organizations were represented and spoke on behalf of the regulatory changes including but not limited to Plymouth County, Barnstable County, Bristol County, Worcester County, Mass Sportsmens Counsel and Mass Bow Hunters. We were well represented by the people who chose to speak on behalf of the proposal. There will be a public Hearing at the MDF&W Headquarters in Westborough on March 7th, 2018 at 7:00 pm. The subject of the hearing is the expansion of archery deer season in zones 10-14 to include 10/8/2018 thru 12/1/2018. The existing season is 10/15-11/24 for this year. President Johnson read his drafted response that he will be delivering at this hearing. A comprehensive discussion of the content and message followed. It was the consensus of attending delegates to change our position in the drafts message. President Johnson would like to attend this hearing with at least 6 people. Anyone interested please contact him. A motion to purchase a table at the Worcester County League of Sportsmen Annual Banquet was made, seconded and passed.

Good of the Order: . Call Mike Dunn at 781-858-8586 for Hunter Safety Class, at Hanson Rod & Gun Club, February 5th, 8th, 12th, & 15th, 2018 at 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm. Carver Sportsman Club is conducting a Youth Turkey hunt for youth ages 12-17 who have taken a hunter ed class are eligible. Please contact Paul Johnson at 508-241-2333. Please check our website for up coming Trout Unlimited events. For our annual banquet Bruce Westgate, of WR&GC, has donated a Lyman reloading instructional book and Mike Dunn, of HR&GC, has donated a cupola.

Adjournment: The meeting came to a close at 8:45 pm. Our next meeting will be at the Old Colony Sportsman Club, March 21st, 2018. Comradery at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm located at 159 Forest St. Pembroke, Ma.

PCLS Secretary
Mike Armburg

MDMF Winter 2018 Report for Clubs

Marine Fisheries Report by Ross.kessler

PUBLIC ACCESS

Deer Island-The Governor signed the supplemental budget for \$1Million dollars allowing DMF to access Public Access Funds. All original required Engineering tasks have been completed. Once the Supplemental Budget was signed The WWTP mandated a few changes including lighting on the pathway between the parking lot and terminus of the pier, safety call boxes, wiring for and web cams on the pier, and parking lots.

Salem Willows Park Pier-At a crossroads. Borings showed that pilings need to be 'socketed' in. This will add \$500K to the cost of the project. Exploring options. Initial budget was about \$1million. We are now approaching \$2million. We had a meeting with the mayor's Office in Salem last December. Currently, we need to meet with our Rec Panel and find a way to complete this project.

Fishing Permits-Everyone who wants to see Ma take advantage of the most Wallop Breaux money that we can should get a fishing permit. This includes the 60 year old plus crowd who get free licenses.

Small Grant: In addition to the two projects that were funded for FY18 in FY17, the

- Pamet Harbor Boat Ramp upgrades will take place this spring. Additional tie up space, a washdown for the ramp surface
- Fall River, Bicentennial Park boat ramp upgrades including more tie up space.
- Sandwich Marina was awarded \$6,000 to fix the existing ramp and add overhead lighting.
- Marblehead was awarded \$10,800 in order to install fillet stations, running water, and kiosks to six shore side access locations.

FISHERIES

ASMFC SPECIES- Please note all of the below ASMFC Species are proposed at this point

- **Tautog Project**- Sampling is complete we made 45 directed trips that covered 228 stations, and sampled 1,970 tautog. It looks like our regs for Tog and RI will be meshed so that both are consistent. The season may look something like this:
 - **April 1- May 31 - 3 fish**
 - **June 1 – July 31 - 1 fish**
 - **Aug 1 – Oct 14 – 3 fish**
 - **Oct 15 – Dec 31 – 5 Fish**
- **And there will be a limit of 10 fish total on a private vessels regardless of the number of anglers. For hire vessels (Charter or headboats) will not be subject to the 10 fish total.**
- **Fluke**-There should be a 17% liberalization meaning that the limit could be raised from 4 fish to 5 fish and the season should extend from Memorial Day to Columbus Day.
- **Scup** Could be liberalized 34% and the size limit lowered from 10" to 9". The smaller size will benefit shore anglers who typically catch smaller fish.
- **Black Sea Bass** - Draft amendment XXX is currently in the public comment phase. The short answer is that the season will open on the same approx date as the past few years, the third Saturday in May and we should get an extra month at the end of the season. The last few years the fishery closed around Aug 26. If the current recommendations go through it should close somewhere around the end of September.
- **Bluefish, striped bass & weakfish**– No change
- **Jonah Crab Tagging Project**- So far DMF has placed 30,000 tags on Jonah crabs this year. Submit yours to advance the science and maybe you'll win some reward money! The next drawing is scheduled to take place this July.
- **Whelk (conch)**-DMF produced and published a YouTube video on proper methods for measuring conch.
- **Resource Assessment** –Last fall's resource data has been successfully audited and submitted to the data base
- **romous**-
 - Brad Chase has taken the lead in making a concrete form to build reef material for the artificial reefs in Harwich and Yarmouth. DMF will be making and deploying around a dozen of these this spring. This run of reef mat will go to the tire reef in Yarmouth
 - Three Mile River- A fish ladder will be installed on this tributary to the Taunton R system. This will open up passage to river herring and other species.
 - A new eel ramp will be installed on Town Brook in Plymouth at the Jenny Grist Mill site.

- **Protected Species Project-**

- **Right Whales:** If anyone followed the news last year they are well aware that the northern right whale had an abysmal year. Steps are being taken to further protect this species. We are currently working with NGOs and the Feds to save this species.
 - **Sea Turtles-** This is the last year that the REMUS AUV will be tracking and mapping sea turtle movement in Cape Cod Bay.

- **Codfish-**

- **GOM COD** Recreational anglers exceeded the allocation of Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod in 2017 by 179%. The allocation was 157 metric tons (mt) and 281mt were caught. The recreational catch was greater than the ground fish fishing fleet. In 2017 the recreational allocation has already been exceeded. Currently there is a 0 codfish allowance for GOM cod in federal waters and a 1 fish @ 19" retention in state waters. The feds are pushing to have the retention in state waters removed to 0.
- On Georges Bank (GB) and Southern New England (SNE) there was no recreational allocation set. There was a minimum size set at 19". Recreational catch was much higher than expected totaling 42% of all GB cod catch. Some steps will likely be taken by NMFS in order to get a handle on the GB recreational cod fishery. Currently private vessels can retain 10 fish @22", For Hire vessels can take unlimited numbers at 22". These regs were set to last for three years but, **management is pushing for an emergency regulation to increase the minimum size to 24" and institute a bag of 10 fish for all user groups.**

The S Shore DMF office will be moving to the South End at the end of January.
DMF will be attending or attended the following shows:

- Standish Sportsmen's Show
- Boxboro Fishing Show,
- New England Boat Show
- RISSA
- MassBass
- The Springfield Show

I have a new address and phone number:

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