

MERCER COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS, Inc.
Harthegig Conservation Club Greenville Sportsmen's Club Hadley Rod & Gun Club
Mercer Co. Coonhunters Association Sandy Lake Sportsmen's Club
Hidden Valley Sportsmen's Club Pardoe Sportsmen's Association

* Dedicated to Promoting Better Outdoor Recreation and Cooperation Between the Farmers and Sportsmen since 1935 *

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 22, 2009

Held at: CoonHunters

Time Meeting Called to Order: 1905 hrs

Chaired By: V Pres. Anderson

Officers Present: V.P Anderson, Secretary Myers, Treasurer Tidd, State Delegate Preston, Alt Delegate Rhoades

Affiliated Clubs with Delegates Present: Harthegig, Greenville, Hadley, Coonhunters, Sandy Lake, Hidden Valley and Pardoe

Affiliated Clubs Not Represented:

Resource Agency Represented: Pa. Game Commission, Pa. Fish & Boat Commission, DCNR Forestry

Life, Associate, & Club Members and Visitors Present: DA Robert Kochem, John Miller (Seeking office for District Judge) and Joseph Gula (Seeking office for District Judge)

Guest Speakers:

- Robert Kochem provided the following firearms legislation information

FIREARMS LEGISLATION

FEDERAL:

- House Bill 45: Federal licensing of all firearms with a detachable magazine. Licensing requirements include fingerprinting, photographing, government test and release of mental health records. Report of address change to government in 60 days.

COMMONWEALTH:

Senate:

- Senate Bill 27 Limit handgun purchases to one per 30 days

House of Representatives:

- House Bill 332: No sales tax on gun safes – finance committee
- House Bill 375: Register all firearms similar to federal bill HB 45
- House Bill 357: License all dealers more restrictions than presently
- House Bill 1293: Firearm registration with state police – judiciary committee

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:

- 4/22 PA House passes unanimously HB281 on changes in hunting and fur taking licenses;
- HB 1325 introduced to “further prohibit hunting on Sundays”;

CONTACT INFORMATION:

STATE:

Honorable Robert D. Robbins
259 Main Street
Greenville, PA 16125
Honorable Richard Stevenson
234 West Pine Street
Grove City, Pennsylvania

Honorable Michele Brooks
3 Greenville Plaza West
Greenville, PA 16125
Honorable Mark Longietti
213 Valley Professional Building Unit 2-E
Hermitage, PA 16148

FEDERAL: UNITED STATES SENATE:

Honorable Arlen Specter
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
B-40 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Honorable Kathleen Dahlkemper
Cannon House Office Building
Room 516
Washington, D.C. 20003

- John Miller said a few quick words on running for district judge
Patrolman for the Pymatuning Township police department in 1971 and was promoted to chief in 1983.
Graduate of Greenville High School
- Joseph Gula said a few quick words on running for district judge
Has more than 30 years of legal experience
General law practice with Peterson & Gula in Greenville, PA since 1977
Court appointed arbiter in civil cases since 1977
Visit his website at www.gulafordistrictjudge.com

Last Month's Minutes: Motion made and seconded with a unanimous vote to accept the March minutes.

Northwest Division Minutes:

- Next meeting will be June 14th, 2009 at PGC NW REGIONAL OFFICE, 1509 Pittsburgh Road, and Franklin Pa at 1pm.
- Carl Rhoades is working on the minutes and will have them out shortly from the last meeting.
- There was mention on Melody Zullinger moving onto a new chapter in her life and this leaves an open for executive director of the PFSC. See the PFSC website for more details on the position (www.pfsc.org).
- There are currently more than 200 gun bills introduced in the new session. We need to keep our attention on these bills.
- The Northwest commissioner position was discussed. This position replaces Dan Hill. There were more than 6 candidates interviewed but no mention on who they are or their credentials.
- Topic was brought about drilling on Allegheny National Forest. At Mercer Co. meeting on 4/22/09, attention was brought to a article in the Vindicator on Saturday April 11th, 2009. This was the article in the Saturday Vindicator:

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The U.S. Forest Service will review and allow public comment on gas and oil drilling projects in the Allegheny National Forest under a settlement reached with environmental groups.

The groups claimed in a federal lawsuit that the Forest Service was not conducting required federal environmental reviews on several dozen drilling projects, thus potentially jeopardizing the environment and wildlife in Pennsylvania's only national forest.

The 800-square-mile forest lies in Elk, Forest, McKean and Warren counties. While the federal government owns the surface, more than 90 percent of the mineral rights that lie underground are privately owned. The government did not buy the mineral rights when the forest was created nearly 90 years ago.

Disputes over whether the Forest Service can regulate drilling have led to several other lawsuits recently as demand for oil has spurred drilling in the Allegheny.

Pending suits brought by gas and oil interests claim the Forest Service cannot regulate drillers.

The Forest Service estimates some 11,000 to 12,000 oil and gas wells are in production in the Allegheny.

Vote/Action on Present and State Resolutions: None

Vote/Action on Present County Resolutions: None

Presidents Report: None

Vice Presidents Report:

V. President Anderson reporting:

- V. President Anderson traveled to Harrisburg to meet with Senator Bob Robbins. There were concerns around former State Senator Vince Fumo. Fumo was a supporter of the second amendment and with Fumo out of office, this reduces support in Harrisburg for gun rights.

- There was a lot of talk about the Pa Game Commissioner openings in the state. There is several positions open but not word on who the candidates are for the position.

Secretary's Report:

Sec. Myers reporting:

- Credential sheet was passed around that listed individual clubs, northwest division and Mercer Co. FSC officers and delegates. Corrections were asked to be made and this list will be available at the next meeting.
- Request for a individual club description was requested. The new MCFSC website will have affiliated club page. This will be free to the club. This will allow clubs to be exposed on the internet. Please provide a short description about your club, 100-300 words, and include pictures. This is similar to PFSC Club Profile found on the last page of the PFSC On Target magazine.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Tidd reporting:

Current balance was provided. There has been little activity to the account. Motion was made and seconded with a unanimous vote to accept the Treasurer's report. A copy of the report can be made available upon request.

State Delegate Report:

County Delegate Preston presented. Delegate Preston will provide more details on the Spring Convention but covered a few key points.

- Spring convention report for PFSC will be available online at www.PFSC.org
- Delegate Preston emailed a article on the Pennsylvania State Forest Conservation Funds transferred to Pennsylvania's General Fund. If you would like a copy of this article, please see the secretary at the next meeting to receive a copy.

Alt. State Delegate Report: No Report

Committee Reports:

***Membership Committee:**

Fur Fin & Feather and Transfer have shown interest in joining MCFSC. If anyone has contact information, please provide to Dennis Anderson at dca364@verizon.net or call 724 662-4153.

***Youth Field Day Committee:**

- 17 stations have been confirmed. Jim Tidd can provide list if needed
- Registration will begin at 7am and end at 9am
- There will be an ambulance on site
- Clintonville Fire Dept. will be in attendance
- There will be a 50/50 raffle, PGC provided a print that will be raffled, and there will be a throw raffled.
- If anyone can supply two way radios for use on the day of the event, please contact Jim Tidd.

***Fund-Raiser Committee:** None

***Mercer County Booklet Committee:** Carl Rhoades will contact the printers from last year's booklet to see if there is a digital copy available. May look into throwing together a small booklet without advertisements to hand out. County Treasurer Ginny Richardson may be able to help subsidize the cost.

***Old Timers Dinner Committee:** Event will be held on May 16th at the Hidden Valley Sportsmen's Club. Caterer has been confirmed for this date. Tickets will be sold and price is \$12. The event will be held at 6pm. Contact Alt. Delegate Rhoades.

***Awards Committee:**

- Green Tie Award: Nomination of Frank Parise
- Old timers award: Nomination of Bernie Gladys and Hidden Valley has two other – Martin Gassner & Dave Garrett
- Howard Patton Award: One nomination of Terry L. McClelland
- Land owner of the Year: One nomination of Geniveve Wittenauer
- Seth Myers Award: No nominations so far

***Legislative Committee:** We need to keep our eyes open and take action on the increasing amount of bills being introduced. Please stayed informed by reviewing updates on the PFSC Legislative Updates webpage (<http://www.pfsc.org/alerts.html>).

***Conservation Committee:** PA General fund covered under State Delegate section.

***Stoneboro Fair Committee:**

V.P. Anderson reporting.

There has been no contact from the secretary of the Stoneboro fair. No further updates on the money for the new Federation building.

***Poster Contest Committee:** No new updates

***Audit Committee:** No Report

***Bylaws Committee:** No Report

Need to have communication with these organizations regarding banquets:

***Friends of the NRA:** NRA Banquet will be May 1st, 2009 at the Hermitage VFW. Contact is Jim Houston at jnjfarms@verizon.net

***Whitetails Unlimited:** PGC Don Chaybin attended and stated there were approx. 200 in attendance. It was mention that proceeds benefited youth activities.

***National Wild Turkey Federation:** No report

Resource Agency Reports:

US Army Corps of Engineers - Shenango Lake: Invitation was sent by Secretary Myers and Resource Manager John Kolodziejwski was unable to attend.

Pa. Fish & Boat Commission:

- The first day of trout season was on April 18th and it was a great day for fishing.
- Through March 2009, License sales were up 18.25% and stamp sales were up 16%
- The number of registered boats have also increased from 248,308 in 2007 to 258,761 so far in 2009.
- There has been marketing advertisement in the Ohio Outdoor News for out of state license sales.
- Hatchery upgrades on the way at Bellefonte, Huntsdale, Benner Springs and Reynoldsdale.
- Fish stocking will continue in Mercer Co. until the end of May.

DCNR - Forestry:

- Fire Season has been quiet so far. There is still potential as the temperature rises and dries out the area.
- Ash Bore Study is being conducted. There will be two traps setup at Hidden Valley. Study will run from Mid May thru start of September.
- A big concern is mineral extractions (Gas, oil, etc..) Forestry was asked to release 39,000 acres. Acres will sell for a minimum of \$2,000 per acre. Money will go to the PA general fund.
- There are 50 new wells drilled in our district.
- Districts 13 & 50 have hundreds of new wells.
- With the economic downturn, forestry is hoping to get the money needed to do their projects.

Goddard State Park: None

Pa. Game Commission:

- Hunting and Trapping Education classes are underway. Upcoming Mercer Co. classes. Continue to check the website for more classes.

FUR FIN AND FEATHER SPORTSMENS	5/7 & 5/9	HT Ed.
WESTERN RESERVE SPORTSMANS	27-Jun	Bowhunting
MERCER CO. COONHUNTERS CLUB	7/16 & 7/18	HT Ed.
HADLEY ROD & GUN CLUB	7/24 & 7/25	HT Ed.
HIDDEN VALLEY SPORTSMANS CLUB	9-Aug	Cable Restraint

- Youth Turkey season started on April 18th. Adult Turkey season starts April 25th
- Due to the new Pennsylvania Automated Licensing System (PALS), Doe license sales will begin July 13th.
- Seedlings are being delivered if individual clubs ordered any.

- There is a surplus of seedlings available. Contact WCO Larry Hergenroeder or WCO Don Chaybin. First come first serve basis
- There was a bear complaint north of Greenville that was eating bee hives. WCO Chaybin successfully trapped the male bear and found that he tagged this bear the year before. The bear weighed approx. 150lbs last year and was released near Cook Forest. There bear made its way back and gained 150 lbs in the one year time. The bear was released again but a little further east this time.
- There has been a lot of beaver complaints lately.
- WCO Chaybin received a call on a sick deer (mature buck). He found the deer and it was walking in circles. The deer's ears were down and it had lost most of its muscle mass. The deer had to be put down. Biologists were contacted and they took tissue samples. No word on the results.

Old Business:

- A bid for prizes for the Stoneboro Fair Raffle was discussed. Pres. Fordyce received a bid from Maurer's in Franklin for the following:
 - Marlin 925 .22 cal
 - New England 20 Gauge
 - Marlin 30-06
 - Tradition .50 cal
 - Champion Bow Package
 Total cost was approx \$1500. There was discussion of having a cash option. If the cash option was selected, the prizes could be used for other functions such as dinner raffles. Tickets will be sold all summer long and will be selected after the Stoneboro Fair. Bids will continue to be accepted so please continue to search for raffle prizes.

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

- Per the By-laws, individual club delegates can received USPS mailed copy of the MCFSC minutes. Because of cost, we ask if you can receive it electronically via email. If you do not have access to email, you may request to have it mailed to the delegate. Please contact the MCFSC Secretary.

Club Announcements:

- Youth Field Day posters are available through Jim Tidd.
- Pioneer Frolic at MK Goddard State Park will be June 27 & 28. Free Parking and admission. There will be entertainment, demonstrations, food, and art & craft vendors.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made and second

Next Meeting: May 27th, 2009 at 7 PM at Pardoe Sportsmen's Association

Jan 28 2009	Greenville	July 22 2009	Harthegig
Feb 25 2009	Hidden	Aug 26 2009	Fair Grounds
Mar 25 2009	Harthegig	Sep 23 2009	Sandy Lake
Apr 22 2009	Coonhunters	Oct 28 2009	Hadley
May 27 2009	Pardoe	Nov 18 2009	
June 24 2009	Greenville	Dec 16 2009	Pardoe

Disclaimer: Reports contained in these minutes are as given by the reporter and don't necessarily reflect the stand or opinion of the Mercer Co. Federation or any of its affiliates. *Any wording found within these minutes in italic form is a Secretary note or comment only and not directly related to the report or reporter.* Any questions regarding information contained in these minutes should be addressed immediately to the Co. Secretary listed below. ***Please ask rather than Assume!***

Minutes taken and entered by Secretary Myers with editing and distribution help by Co. Delegate Preston

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*Co. Delegate contact information: Steven M. Preston / 21 McEwen Rd. / Mercer, PA 16137 / Cell 724-813-5641 / E Mail sgbc@zoominternet.net