

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: March 25, 2009

Held at: Harthegig

Time Meeting Called to Order: 1900 hrs

Chaired By: Pres. Fordyce

Officers Present: Pres. Fordyce, 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: Lakeland Longbeards

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

Life, Associate, & Club Members and Visitors Present: Justin Leventry (Senator Bob Robbins Legislative Assistant), County Treasurer Ginny Richard Stevenson, Brian Arthur (Seeking office for District Judge, Greenville)

Guest Speakers:

- Brian Arthur (Seeking office for District Judge, Greenville) said a few quick words:
 - 12 years Police Chief Hempfield Township and 25 years as a police officer
 - Elected to Board of Directors of Hempfield Vol. Fire Dept.
 - Former President and 21 year member of the Lakeland Lodge #88
 - Former President and current member of Mercer Co. Chiefs of Police
 - St. Michael's Church religious education teacher for 5 years
 - Visit website for more details <http://brianarthur4judge.com/>
- Ginny Richardson said a few quick words:
 - Thanked MCFSC for the endorsement
 - She will be attending a seminar on April 22nd for Doe license. She will be able to provide more details after the seminar on changes.
 - Ginny is running for re-election. She does not have a opponent in the primary but does have one in the election.
 - As always, contact Ginny if you need assistance.
- Justin Leventry (Senator Bob Robbins Legislative Assistant said a few quick words:
 - The bill for 70 cents per hunting license is with the senate. The senator does support the bill
 - There is no word on the PGC Commissioner openings. If the Senator does hear anything, he will pass along the information
 - There some concern around [Senate Bill 490](#). We need to keep our eyes open and take action on the increasing amount of bills being introduced. This bill diverts funds to the general fund. NW Federation opposes the bill.

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

Northwest Division Minutes: The March 8th meeting dealt a lot with the State Spring Convention. The "What's your Beef Raffle" was a success and almost funded the entire spring convention. The new structure of dues was discussed and seems to be going well.

Vote/Action on Present and State Resolutions:

All three Resolutions were voted down at the Spring 2009 Convention

Resolution # 1: Antler restriction and the combined (Buck) and (Doe) seasons

Resolution # 2: Reduce Bag Limits and Length of Doe Season

Resolution # 3: Potential ramifications of legislating crossbows in statewide archery seasons for use by the general public.

Resolution	Yea	Nay	Abstain
#1	10	21	3
#2	9	20	5
#3	5	27	2

The current method to introduce a State Resolution needs to be reviewed. Delegate Preston brought the topic up at the delegate meeting at the Spring Convention. The amount of time between the deadline for filing a resolution and actually voting on it can be up to 6 months. This creates an issue that needs addressed. The idea of using computers for communication was discussed. Each club would have a contact that would receive the resolutions by email and take them to the next club meeting to vote to discuss and vote. Further discussion will be ongoing.

Vote/Action on Present County Resolutions: None Presented

Presidents Report: none

Secretary's Report: none

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tidd gave his report. Current balance was provided. 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.

- The Spring Convention was held in Meadville on March 20-22. Many thanks for all that attending and made the convention a success.
- This year's Laudadio award did not receive any nominations. Mercer County is strong in providing past winners of the Laudadio award. Several past winners of the Laudadio award were present at Saturday night banquet. The past winners continued on the path of being conservationists in their role as an adult. We need to step up and get nominations from Mercer County.
- There was a Fish and Boat meeting in Meadville on March 24th. Topics covered at the meeting were as followed:
 - Upgrades to the local fish hatchery is on its way.
 - Endangered and Invasive (Rocksnot) species
 - Allegheny River Mussels
 - The increase of license fees. The idea is to increase in small increments each year instead of one large increment every 7-10 years.
- The Point of Sale system for the PGC is still ongoing. The house approved the charge of 70 cents per license (not to exceed one dollar) but the bill is now with the senate.
- Yates insurance was at the spring convention and offers insurance for clubs and individuals. Delegate Preston has more information or visit their website at <http://www.yates-usa.com/>.
- Individual membership to PFSC will be changed to \$20. There will be money saving coupons included with memberships. Gander Mountain is offering \$10 off of \$50 or more. PFSC is looking into getting more offers to include in memberships.
- There will be a Firearms Rally on April 21st in Harrisburg, PA. Please visit site for more details. <http://www.2arally.com/>
- The National Instant Check System (NICS) has been experiencing a significant increase. There were 1.2 million checks completed in the month of January, normally a slow month.
- As we all know, it is important to protect and support the second amendment. However, firearms are covered under the second amendment but reloading materials is not covered. There surely will be several bills created to tighten up the reloading materials. People are already purchasing more materials than stores can stock.
- The new format of the "On Target" magazine offers clubs an opportunity to shine. The last page of the magazine is a club from Pennsylvania. The club is responsible to review the requirements and submit an article to PFSC.
- Consol Energy donated \$10,000 to PFSC. There is a need for more corporate sponsors. Since memberships is dwindled down, we need to get more corporate sponsors, more local clubs, or sell more raffle tickets.
- The Fall Convention will be held at Altoona Ramada Inn on September 18-20, 2009.
- The Executive Director, Melody Zullinger, of PFSC has resigned. The position is currently posted on the [state website](#).
- Keep your eyes open! So far, there are 200+ bills been introduced involving 2nd amendment, conservation, sportsmen and recreation.
- Make sure your Small Game of Chance license is up to date. There is a officer going around attempting to catch any violators and shut them down. Please be prepared.
- Each club will need to designate a person to get state information. It is important that all information is reviewed and brought to the attention of your fellow club members. County secretary will gathering this information shortly.
- There is still no news on the PGC commissioner openings. Senator Robbins has not heard anything on candidates.

Alt. State Delegate Report: No Report

Committee Reports:

***Membership Committee:** It is important that we reach out to non-affiliated clubs and get their membership. The Federation is the sportsmen's voice in Harrisburg. Anyone with contact information on non affiliated clubs please contacts one of the officers so we can

try to arrange a visit.

***Youth Field Day Committee:**

- Anyone wanting to be on the committee, there will be a meeting at Pizza Joes in Mercer on April 8th at 6:30pm.
- Treasurer Tidd reporting. Youth field day will be held at the Grove City Sportsmen's Club on June 13th.
- The cutoff will be 150 people and walk-ins are discouraged.
- There will no longer be three events held on the same day.
- There has been 11 confirmed stations and 7 unconfirmed stations.
- Letters were drafted and sent out to the sponsors. Received 30 back. Great results as expected.
- Treasurer Tidd is still looking for participation signup. If you would like to assist with the event, contact Treasurer Tidd.
- The event registration will begin at 7:30am and the events will start at 8am and end around 3pm.
- There will be a meeting for Northwest Sportsmen's for Youths held at PGC NW REGIONAL OFFICE, 1509 Pittsburgh Road, and Franklin Pa on April 4th. Contact Treasurer Tidd jat180@zoominternet.net

***Fund-Raiser Committee:** Since there is no booklet this year, we need to start thinking of ways to bring in money. Think about ideas and bring to future meetings.

***Mercer County Booklet Committee:** No report.

***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
- Howard Patton Award: One nomination so far
- Land owner of the Year: One nomination so far
- 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 stay informed by reviewing updates on the [PFSC Legislative Updates webpage](#).

***Conservation Committee:** No Report.

***Stoneboro Fair Committee:** V.P. Anderson reporting. The Fair Secretary has made contact and said they have an outline of the new building for us to review. The building will be placed in the same location. The Secretary of the Stoneboro Fair also said we have ten shares in the Fair. The value is around \$100 and Cheryl Pearce has possession of the shares. Current budget cuts and freezes has prevented the \$36,000 from being paid out. Decision was made that the prizes will be a crossbow, .22 caliber rifle, muzzleloader, and a shotgun. Suggestion was made to get the prizes now and start selling the tickets now. Since there is no booklet, we are not restricted to where purchase the prizes.

***Poster Contest Committee:** At the Spring Convention, a Mercer County girl took second place. We should consider giving Mercer County prize to the Mercer County winner and a honorable mention to all participants. First place was a pencil drawing of a Oil Well in Pennsylvania. (Topic was invasive species in PA)

2009 poster theme is "Springtime in Pennsylvania."

****Motion made by Delegate Preston and accepted by Dennis Anderson** to offer prize winnings Mercer County entries. \$50 (1st place), \$25 (2nd place) and \$10 (third place) and honorable mention for all participants.

***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:** Event will be held on April 10th at Hickory VFW

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

Resource Agency Reports:

US Army Corps of Engineers - Shenango Lake: Secretary will extend a letter of invitation to Resource Manager John Kolodziejski

Pa. Fish & Boat Commission:

- Linnesville Open House will be April 4th, 2009 at Linnesville SFH
- There will be a Safe Boating Course at the Conneaut Lake Sportsmen's Club on May 9th, 2009.
- Fish for Free Days have been announced. **Fish for Free Days** allow anyone (resident or non-resident) to legally fish for Pennsylvania's most popular fish without a fishing license. Each year the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Executive Director designates 2 Fish for Free Days. No fishing license is required to fish on Pennsylvania's waterways on these days. All other fishing regulations still apply. The days are May 23rd and June 7th.
- There is an extension to apply for PFBC NW Commissioner position. Deadline will be April 10th, 2009. [See site for Details](#)
- Local fish report: Large Crappie are being caught in the area
- PFBC held a public meeting on March 24th at the Vernon Central Fire Dept Social Hall. There were 64 individuals from the public that attended, making it the second highest for PFBC meetings. Thank everyone for attending.

DCNR - Forestry: No Report

Goddard State Park:

- Friends of Goddard completed a water survey on the lake and found that it was eutrophic. There was too much phosphorus in the lake and its alkaline level was high. It was also discovered that the lake has never stratified.
- The lake will need to be monitored for five more years but FROGS need help getting funds together for equipment and testing materials. In order to improve the water quality, testing needs to be completed to determine what is the cause.
- Delegate Preston discussed as a Federation, we should look into helping FROGS with subsidizing or contributing to cost of materials and equipment. Delegate Preston is going to follow up with local universities and colleges to see if their biology labs would be interested in testing.
- The test equipment will cost approx. \$3,000 and lab costs will be \$2,500.
- Money for gas well timber is coming in but it is low due to the economy.
- Drilling has begun on the 5th well and they are looking into possibly 7 more wells
- Still working to get a new concession at the park.

Pa. Game Commission:

- Hunting and Trapping Education classes are underway and we still need more classes
- There will be more HTE distance learning classes despite objections. There will be no classroom instructions provided and candidate must score at least 80%
- Upcoming distance learning (HTE) class will be held at Western Reserve on 4/23/2009 from 6-8pm
- On 3/19/2008, there was a black bear caught near the KOA getting in to bee hives. The bear weighed 284lbs and was relocated to Forest County. By the fall, the bear could weigh up to 400lbs. This was the 11th bear that WCO Hergenroeder has relocated in the last 11 months. Bear population is rising in Mercer County and suggestions are to bring in bird feeders at night and protect your bee hives.
- Spring Gobbler season is coming up (Bearded bird only): April 25-May 25, 2009. Daily limit 1 Reminder that orange is no longer required but it is suggested when moving.
- Regulations on limiting magnification on crossbows is being revisited at the April meeting. Large opposition from crossbows hunters caused the issue to be revisited.
- PGC release [deer harvest report](#). The Pennsylvania Game Commission today reported that hunters harvested an estimated 335,850 deer in the state's 2008-09 seasons. That's up four percent from the previous seasons' harvest of 323,070. Hunters took 122,410 antlered deer in the 2008-09 seasons, up from the previous license year's harvest of 109,200. Also, hunters harvested 213,440 antlerless deer in 2008-09, which is almost the same as the 213,870 antlerless deer taken in 2007-08.
- New way to report your harvest card will be online. Will be interesting to see if this increases reporting of harvest.
- There has been a new legislature introduced on the Mentor Youth Program. The objective behind the Mentored Youth Hunting Program is simple and clear: create expanded youth hunting opportunities while maintaining safety afield. There has been little movement on the legislation but we need to keep aware.
- Citizen Deer Advisory reporting (Dennis Andersen and Todd Shipton) that hunters would like to see between 35-45% more deer. Where farmers would like 95% more deer. Farmers say they have more damages from raccoons, crows and groundhogs than from deer. 188 surveys were collected from Mercer, Butler, Venango, Lawrence and Crawford counties. The information was summarized and will be provided for the April PGC Commissioner meeting.

Old Business:

- MCFSC website was discussed. Secretary Myers explained the benefits of a website. This creates exposure for the Federation.

Motion was made (Ed Steckler) and accepted (Dennis Anderson) to allow a new Mercer Co. Federation Sportsmen's Clubs website to be created at a cost of no more than \$100 per year.

New Business:

- Former Secretary Cheryl Pearce will gather all files and bring to the next meeting. Secretary Myers will work with Cheryl to get the MCFSC copier.

Good of the Order: None

Club Announcements:

- Hidden Valley Sportsmen's Club will be hosting a "Gun & Sporting Goods Show" on March 28th (9am-4pm) and March 29th (9am -2pm). Admission will be \$4.00. Vendors can reserve a table for \$15 (8 foot) by calling 724-528-2700. MCFSC will have a table at this event and Delegate Preston is looking for volunteers to maintain the table.
- There will be a Cleanup day for the Shenango River Trails. There will be a meeting on April 25th at 9am in Jamestown. The contact is Dane Mitchell belgians@alltel.net

Motion to adjourn made by Anderson 9:12pm

Next Meeting: April 22, 2009 at 7 PM at Coonhunters

There are several openings available for monthly meetings. If your club would be interested in hosting the MCFSC meeting, please mention what month. Months available: May, June, July and November

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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