

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

WWW.MCFSC.NET

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

Meeting Date: September 23, 2009

Held at: Sandy Lake Sportsmen's Club

Time Meeting Called to Order: 19:05 hrs

Time Meeting Adjourn: 20:41 hrs

Chaired By: Pres. Fordcye

Number In Attendance: 17

Officers Present:

Pres. Fordcye, V. Pres. Anderson, Secretary Myers, Treasurer Tidd, Delegate Preston, Alt Delegate Rhoades

Affiliated Clubs with Delegates Present:

Greenville, Coonhunters, Sandy Lake, Hidden Valley and Pardoe

Resource Agency Represented:

Pa. Game Commission and Pa. Fish & Boat Commission

Life, Associate, & Club Members and Visitors Present:

Ricky McDaniel (Grove City/Pardoe Member), Marcus Kohan (Pardoe Member), and Charley Sykes (PA Trappers)

Guest Speakers: No Report

Last Month's Minutes:

Motion made and seconded with a unanimous vote to accept the August minutes.

Northwest Division Minutes:

Meeting was held on September 13, 2009. Four of nine counties were present. Northwest Game Commissioner Ralph Martone was in attendance and discussed the Crossbow issue. Crossbow received a 4-4 vote at the recent commissioner meeting, which means crossbows will be allowed during the archery season.

Dr. Doug Austen will continue to be the Executive Director of PF&BC until 12-31-2009.

Norwest division minutes to be released soon by NW Division Secretary Rhoades.

Vote/Action on Present and State Resolutions:

PFSC Conservation Resolutions results from the Fall Convention

Resolution #1

Saucon Park Co-Op Nursery - **PASSED**

Origination club: Delaware Shad Fishermen's Association

Therefore be it resolved: That the PFSC endorse and support the re-activation of the Saucon Park Co-Op Nursery at its presently unutilized site in Saucon Park, Bethlehem, Pa.

Resolution #2

Turkey Blind - **PASSED**

Origination club: Heartbreak Hotel Rifle & Pistol Club

Therefore be it resolved: Language related to "blocking the detection of movement" be eliminated and Title 34, Section 2308 (b) (3) be revised to state, "Any artificial or manufactured turkey blind consisting of all manmade materials."

Resolution #3

Possible Effects of Climate Change - **FAILED**

Originating Club: Tobyhanna Conservation Association

Therefore Be It Resolved: Now be it resolved that the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen, recognizing the possible effects of climate change on the distribution and well-being of all biota, shall engage with the appropriate agencies, legislators and others so as to discuss and provide input on conservation issues related to climate change.

Vote/Action on Present County Resolutions: None

Presidents Report: None

Vice Presidents Report: No Report

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Myers reporting:

Small Game of Chance license application was completed and personally delivered to the County Treasurer office at the courthouse. Since the Federation meeting, we have received the license.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Tidd reporting:

Current balance was provided. Little activity. A profit was made from the Stoneboro Fair.

Motion was made and seconded with a unanimous vote to accept the Treasurer's report.

State Delegate Report:

Delegate Preston Reporting:

- Credential Sheets: The PFSC State Office is currently changing the Credential Sheets. Mercer Co. Only sheet has been modified to conform and abide by the changes in the State Form. The new requirement is to provide a list of 10 members with addresses and contact information to fulfill the By-Laws guidelines that an affiliated club must have a minimum of 10 members.
- Dues vs. Membership lists – along these same lines. The PFSC needs to strengthen its cash flow substantially. In order to do this we must either significantly increase dues or find other means of funding as raffles are not working any more. It has been suggested that a membership data base increase could bring in a lot of advertising dollars. This list will remain private to PFSC and not be sold, period. That would go against any privacy policy. We would ask that in addition to the 10 members needed to affiliate, you as member clubs submit your member roster along with the credentials so we may increase our verifiable member list from its current 2000 to well over 50,000. This will allow our office staff to potentially sell thousands more in advertising and stave off any talk of a dues increase. Please HELP!!
- Al Smith, Executive Director of PFSC, wants to start fundraising to supplement funds
- HB779 – Support for HB779 was 30 – 7 in favor. This would remove the Sunday Hunting Blue Law and give the PGC governance over setting of all hunting seasons.
- HB 262 – This bill has passed the legislature and will allow the use of prescribed burns in Pa to regenerate forests. This is stated to be a major victory in forest management practices.
- Clean Water Restoration Act – Vote to support was 32 -5 This proposed Federal Legislation will allow the federal government to step in if non navigable waters are threatened. Recent court cases have stripped that power from the USACE.
- Notes from the recent state budget that affect MCFSC:
 - Small game of chance will be taxed 20%
 - DEP spending will be cut by 25%
 - The removal of the Oil and Gas fund. Funds to be added to the General Fund
 - No severance tax on Marcellus Shell drilling

****MOTION MADE**** A motion was made to visit our state representatives and Senator to discuss the issues listed above. Dennis Anderson will meet with them face to face to clear up the issues and get a clear understanding of what is happening. Motion carried.

Alt. State Delegate Report:

Alternate Delegate Carl Rhoades reporting:

- The Northwest Division elections were held at the last meeting
 - Chairman: Steven M Preston
 - Vice Chair: Peter Dalby
 - Secretary: Carl Rhoades
 - Treasurer: Harry Guy

Committee Reports:

***Membership Committee:**

- The Sharpsville Beagle club voted recently on the joining the MCFSC but VP Anderson has not heard the result of the vote. ****MOTION MADE** Motion to accept Sharpsville Beagle without fees for the remaining of the year. Motion Carried**
- President Fordyce requested that VP Anderson create a list of all Mercer County Sportsmen's Clubs and the contacts. We need to be more proactive in recruiting.

***Youth Field Day Committee:** No Report

***Fund-Raiser Committee:**

- Ideas to start a raffle prior to the Sam Aubel dinner. Prizes could include the Champion Bow (from the Fair), side of beef, or gift cards. Prices for the beef need to be researched to determine how much can be allotted for the prizes.

***Mercer County Booklet Committee:** No Report

***Old Timers Dinner Committee:** No Report

***Awards Committee:** No Report

***Legislative Committee:** No Report

***Conservation Committee:** No Report

***Stoneboro Fair Committee:**

- The fair was a success as we did show a profit after all the cost of prizes and supplies. The fair attendance was smaller than in past year and it was stated that attendance was down approximately 4,000 than last year.
- Dennis Anderson thanked all the people to assisted with making the fair a success.
- Thank you to the PA Trappers and the wonderful display. The display drew a large crowd.

***Poster Contest Committee:** No Report

***Audit Committee:** No Report

***Sam Aubel Committee:** No Report

***Election Committee:**

New committee formed the upcoming December elections

Club affiliated member Marcus Kohan (Pardoe) and Individual Member/Affiliated Club Member Ricky McDaniel (Pardoe) were nominated to run the committee.

Resource Agency Reports:

US Army Corps of Engineers - Shenango Lake: No Report

Pa. Fish & Boat Commission:

- Fishing is starting to slow down. Bass and Pan fish are still being caught at Lake Wilhelm.
- WCO Cadet class is going well at the Meadville PSP training center. If you are interested in a career as a WCO, a new cadet class will begin training soon. You must complete a civil service test by December 29, 2009. You can get more information at www.spsc.state.pa.us
- Draw down and inspection is underway at Lake Wilhelm. They will be inspecting the Dam's structure. This is a regularly scheduled inspection.
- Changes to the Lake Erie Permit can be viewed at the end of the minutes. (Appendix A)
- Fall trout stocking schedule:
 - Crawford County Woodcock Creek - October 1, 2009
 - Mercer County Cool Spring Creek - September 30, 2009
 - Mercer County Shenango River - September 30, 2009

DCNR - Forestry: No Report

Goddard State Park: No Report

Pa. Game Commission:

- Youth Pheasant hunt on October 10, 2009 Check your hunting digest for details and locations
- Bear complaints are still on the rise in the county
- Archery Season with crossbows will be legal October 03, 2009. You must have an archery license.
- Any volunteers to become a Hunter Trapper Education instructor must apply soon for the spring processing. Visit PGC site for more details
- HTE distant learning class to be held at Western Reserve Sportsmen's Club on November 16, 2009. You must register online and be 12 years of age or older.
- HTE class attendance is down from last year by approximately 10%. There is a need to get kids interested in hunting at a young age and they can complete the HTE course when eligible.
- Seedling order forms that were passed out at the last meeting need to be returned to WCO Chaybin or WCO Hergenroeder by October 24, 2009
- PGC Cadet class to start spring of 2010 and run through to 2011. Visit PGC site for more details.
- Dunham Sports of Hermitage has signed on to be an issuing agent for the PGC.

Old Business: No report

New Business: No Report

Good of the Order:

A special Thank you to the PA Game Commission for the time and efforts to help with the Stoneboro Fair.

Club Announcements:

Hidden Valley Sportsmen will be hosting a Gun & Sporting Goods Show on September 26th(9a-4p) & 27th(9a-2p) at the clubhouse, 268 Gilkey Road West Middlesex, PA 16159 724-528-2700

Pardoe Sportsmen's will be starting a Winchester/NRA Junior Rifle program. Classes will start October 13th and run for three weeks and students will attend Tuesday and Thursday. You must preregister by October 2nd by calling 724-748-3924. Go to Pardoe's website for more information, www.pardoesportsmens.com.

Mercer County Federation website is available. Please visit the site at WWW.MCFSC.NET Feel free to offer suggestions to add content to the site. Individual clubs should review their club page and supply content. Email suggestions to mercer.county.federation@gmail.com.

Next Meeting: August 26th, 2009 at 7 PM at Stoneboro Fairgrounds

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	Hidden Valley
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

*Secretary contact information: Shawn Myers/ 523 N Broad St / Grove City, PA 16127/ Cell 724-974-9886 /E-Mail mercer.county.federation@gmail.com www.mcfsc.net

Appendix A



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

For Immediate Release September 18, 2009

Contact: Eric Levis, Director of Communications
717.705.7806 or elevis@state.pa.us

Important Changes to Lake Erie Permit Program

Harrisburg, PA – Legislation sponsored by Sen. Jane Earll (R-49, Erie County) and signed into law last month implements a number of important changes to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's (PFBC) Lake Erie fishing permit program, including allowing the Commission to fund fish habitat projects with proceeds from the sale of these permits.

"Lake Erie is a unique and valuable fishery that provides tremendous economic benefits not only to the northwestern region but the entire state," said Sen. Earll. "The Lake Erie permit program has been vital to ensuring long-term public access to the lake and the watersheds of Lake Erie. I am very pleased that we were able to successfully pass this legislation."

The newly-signed law provides that proceeds from the sale of the permit will continue to be deposited into a restricted account until Dec. 31, 2014, and extends their use to projects that protect or improve fish habitat. In the past, funds were restricted to projects that provide public fishing access.

"With this legislation, the Lake Erie permit program will now play an additional important role by providing funding to sustain and improve the natural resources that support an excellent fishery," said PFBC Executive Director Douglas J. Austen. "Since the program was introduced, the Commission has secured public access to more than 10 miles of stream. Now we'll be able to use some of that money for equally important fish habitat projects in the Lake Erie watershed."

The new law, which takes effect Oct. 26, also extends the Lake Erie permit requirement to Conneaut Creek, Turkey Creek and their tributaries and allows the Commission to use proceeds for projects in and along those waters.

Anglers have been required since 2004 to purchase a Lake Erie permit to fish the lake, Presque Isle Bay and most tributaries. This permit is required in addition to a resident fishing license. Permits cost \$9.70 each or \$15.70 for a trout/salmon/Lake Erie combination permit. In 2008, the Commission sold approximately 19,000 Lake Erie permits and about 85,700 combination permits. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the sale of each Lake Erie permit and \$6 of the proceeds from the sale of each combination permit are deposited into a restricted account to be used only for the specified purposes.

The mission of the Fish and Boat Commission is to protect, conserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities. For more information about fishing and boating in Pennsylvania, please visit our website at www.fishandboat.com.