

National Rifle Association

State Political / Education Affiliate

Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

County Affiliate

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

MERCER COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS, Inc.

Harthegig Conservation Club Hadley Rod & Gun Club
Mercer Co. Coonhunters Association Sandy Lake Sportsmen's Club
Hidden Valley Sportsmen's Club Pardoe Sportsmen's Association

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Meeting Date: March 24, 2010

Held at: Harthegig Conservation Club

Time Meeting Called to Order: 19:01 hrs

Time Meeting Adjourn: 20:05 hrs

Chaired By: Pres. Fordcye

Number In Attendance: 19

Officers Present:

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

Affiliated Clubs with Delegates Present:

Harthegig, Hadley, Coonhunter, Sandy Lake, Hidden Valley and Pardoe

Resource Agency Represented:

Pa. Fish & Boat Commission and Pa Game Commission

Life, Associate, & Club Members and Visitors Present:

Bo Preston, Wes Osborne, Dane Mitchell, and Cheryl Pearce

Guest Speakers: No report

Last Month's Minutes:

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

Northwest Division Minutes:

Northwest meeting was held on March 14th, 2010 at PGC NW REGIONAL OFFICE. The 2nd Annual "What's your Beef" raffle tickets were distributed.

Minutes from the meeting were incomplete and will be distributed soon.

Vote/Action on Present and State Resolutions:

Introduced by Lehigh County

Whereas: Title 34, Chapter 27 Subchapter (B) Section 2722 (a),(b) to read that the PGC issue Doe License through Point-of-Sale instead of County Treasurers.

Whereas: The PGC now has Point-of-Sale and can issue licenses on a first come first serve bases on a timely manner.

Whereas: To eliminate the problems that the hunters have with County Treasures issuing Doe Licenses.

Therefore Be It Resolved: Therefore Be It Resolved that the PFSC endorse and support the change of Title 34 Chapter 27 Subchapter (B) Section 2722 (a),(b) and that the PGC issues doe licenses by the Point-of-Sale on a first serve bases without a lottery system.

At the State convention, the vote ended in a tie at 17-17 with 5 abstentions.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Tidd reporting:

Current balance was provided. Two checks were written otherwise little activity.

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

Alternate Delegate Report:

PFSC Spring 2010 Convention Report

1. PFSC Finances are being studied closely by the Board.
2. The Office building in Harrisburg is to be sold ASAP. The Endowment Board has agreed to rent the PFSC Office space for 90 days or until building is sold at a very good rate matching what we could rent office space locally.
3. PF&BC NEW Executive Director John Arway was present and introduced himself to the membership. He discussed some of his thoughts and plans for the future.
4. PGC Executive Director Carl Roe gave an overview of the agency and updated us on many of the proposed changes before the Board of Commissioners this next meeting.
5. The PFSC Delegates during the Delegate Session on Sunday Vote as a Straw Poll on several of these proposals: A. Saturday Bear opener – Favored at 20 to 8, B. Bobcat Season proposed changes of 3 weeks with over counter tags vs current lottery – Favored 21-3, C. Expanded Archery Bear season – Favored 12-3.
6. The Resolution was a dead tie at 17-17 with 5 abstentions. The PFSC will remain neutral on this issue at present. The Major item not liked by delegates was the 1st come 1st served vs. Lottery.
7. Two presentations were given about Marcellus Drilling. One from Penn Future. Their and PFSCs desire is a slow down and do it correctly approach along with stopping any more leasing of State Forest Lands. They already have over 300,000 acres of State Forest lands slated for drilling. The other was Range Resources, a drilling advocacy group heaping the praises and whitewashing the problems with poor management practices in the industry.
8. NW Division only had 7 posters entered this year and none placed 1, 2, or 3 at the State judging this year. Next years theme is "Summer Time in Pennsylvania".
9. There will be a 2nd Amendment Rally in Harrisburg on April 27th and we are strongly encouraged to attend.
10. This year 2 Laudadio Awards were presented to VERY deserving young ladies. Adrienne Lombaerde and Samantha Pedder.
11. There is one Hall of Fame Nomination from the NW Division this year
12. Our State Organization Members gave brief overviews of their organizations programs and valuable input in many of our discussions.
13. A new membership category has been created and it is an E Member. This is a \$15 membership and On Target and all other information will be presented only in electronic form. We encourage everyone to try and solicit these members.
14. The restructuring of the Board of Directors is ongoing and at the Next Board meeting this will change with the adoption of an updated set of By Laws.
15. The dues restructuring is on going with the committee evaluating 2 sets of proposals and the effect and fairness of each. This dues restructuring WILL be in place for January 2011.

Committee Reports:

***Membership Committee:**

- Clubs received so far: CoonHunter, Sandy Lake, Hidden Valley, Harthegeg, Hadley and Pardoe Sportsmen's.
- Secretary Myers collected a comprehensive list of clubs in Mercer County. The list was passed around for additions and/or corrections.
- Secretary Myers has created a packet to be delivered to all clubs of Mercer County. The packet includes a Welcome note that asks the clubs to communicate with the Federation so we know when events are occurring around the area. The packet also including the Old Timer's Dinner flyer.

***Youth Field Day Committee:**

- The 2010 Youth Field day for Mercer County will be held on June 12, 2010 at the Grove City Sportsmen's Club.
- Youth Field Day Chairman Jim Tidd is in need of volunteers. Contact Jim Tidd if you can help.
- If you have contacts with local business that may be able to provide supplies for the Youth day, let Jim Tidd know.

***Fund-Raiser Committee:**

- There is still 50/50 raffle tickets available. Contact Bob Fordyce at bfordyce1@hotmail.com or (724) 813 - 4560

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

***Old Timers Dinner Committee:**

- The date for the 2010 Old Timer's Banquet will be May 15th, 2010 at Hidden Valley Sportsmen's Club. Doors will open at 5pm and dinner will be served at 6pm. Cost will be \$12.00
- The dinner pamphlet was updated and passed around at the meeting. There were no noted changes. The pamphlet will provide a background for the awards that will be presented and who is receiving the award.

***Awards Committee:**

****Motion Made** To purchase quality frames for the awards that will be awarded at the Old Timer Banquet. Motion made by Dennis Anderson and Seconded by Ricky McDaniels All in Favor**

***Legislative Committee:** No Report

***Conservation Committee:** No Report

***Stoneboro Fair Committee:** No Report

***Poster Contest Committee:**

- There were 7 posters from the North West division at the state convention. None of the seven placed at the state level. The Northwest division did present each entry with a Certificate of Appreciation.
- Next poster contest theme will be "Summertime in Pennsylvania"

***Audit Committee:** No Report

***Sam Aubel Committee:** No Report

Resource Agency Reports:

US Army Corp of Engineers - Shenango Lake: No Report

Pa. Fish & Boat Commission:

- Approved Trout waters closed on March 1, 2010
- Walleye season closed on March 14, 2010
- PA Hatchery trout received a good report card. Read more on it at http://www.fish.state.pa.us/newsreleases/2010press/trout_test_results.htm
- 2010 Fish for Free days will be May 22nd and June 6th
- Linnesville Hatchery Open House planned for Saturday April 3rd, 2010
- Safe Boating Course set for may 8th at Conneaut Lake Sportsmen's Club 8am-4pm
- New Executive Director was appointed; John Arway has 30 years with the PFBC Chief of Division of Environmental Services
- Mahaney Recreation area is now open
- Fishing reports:
 - Pymatuning Lake** – With the gradual warm up the ice is deteriorating very fast. Anglers reported catching several nice crappies and walleye throughout the lake. Be careful with the little walleye's that you catch because they are the future of Pymatuning's walleye fishery.
 - Lake Wilhelm** – Ice anglers continue to be observed lake wide. Catches of bluegills, crappie, and perch are being reported with keepers being few and far between. Several local trout will be stocked soon including North Deer Creek on March 10th and Sandy Creek on March 18th.
 - Conneaut Lake** – The ice on the south end has been flooded with water due to the sagging ice. Use caution when venturing out and getting close to the open water and the thin ice near the Navigation Company. Anglers have been targeting the north end of the lake in recent weeks. Numerous northern pike caught through the ice ranged in size from 15 to 38 inches.

Recently three large muskies were caught through the ice with the largest being 51 inches. The bluegill bite has been slow, with few anglers reporting good catches of nice sized fish.

DCNR Forestry: No Report

Goddard State Park: report provided by WCOs of PFBC

- Last years' Concessionaire plans to return likely in May
- Friends of Goddard received grant for handicapped fishing pier. Park will redo decking and railing in composite and replace damaged steel poles.
- Lake Wilhelm water quality: DEP is doing preliminary macro-invertebrate studies on Lake Wilhelm tributaries to check for potential problems. If need be, water sampling will also be done on these tribs.
- May 1, 2020, Mercer County Bass masters and Hadley Boy Scout Troop will be working with PFBC and will be building and placing twenty (20) porcupine cribs off of launch four (4).
- Earth Day at Polk(April 22, 2010): Sustainable Energy: Park manager Wasser will be guest speaker for the evening program. Ernst donated 3 more bags of switch grass pellets.
- Dave Putnam (Wildlife Management Institute) has developed draft plan for American Woodcock Habitat. Park will need volunteers.
- Eagle Scout Projects: Dam Kiosk (Dave Bennett), Opening up last section of Goddard McKeever Trail, Kayak racks for public rental.
- Deer surveys (March or April); Goose away program still active; Bald Eagles across from marina (Ospreys not back yet).
- PSU to expand Acid Rain Monitoring at Park office: they will do the tests now.
- Warm season grass fields (planning Prescribed Burns)
- PPF awards banquet (May 4, 2010 at Country Club of Harrisburg); Friends of Goddard to be honored for Education Award.
- PA State Parks: 2009 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence --- American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and the National Recreation and Park Association.
- Half marathon(5k) will be held on April 3, 2010. (Mercer County Trails Association)
- Pedal the Lake will be on September 18, 2010 (MCTA)
- Sustainability Teacher Workshop with McKeever will be on June 22, 2010 at 3pm.
- Pioneer Frolic will be June 26and 27, 2010
- There will be a public meeting at McKeever Auditorium on May10, 2010 at 6pm. This will be a general information meeting.

Pa. Game Commission:

- Deer harvest estimates by WMU for 2009-10 (with 2008-09 figures in parentheses) have been released.
WMU 1A: 5,500 (5,400) antlered, 10,700 (12,600) antlerless
- The Pennsylvania Game Commission reported that hunters harvested an estimated 308,920 deer in the state's 2009-10 seasons, which is an eight percent decline from the previous seasons' harvest of 335,850.
- Plans for a junior HTE instructor program is being developed for juniors 14 years or older
- The contract for road kill deer in the district belongs to PENNDOT. PENNDOT picks up RKD on state highways if it is in the right of way. PGC is responsible for picking them up on township roads.
- DWCO cadets will be held at the Polk cutoff
- There were twenty eight (28) WCO cadets that showed up for training
- WCO Hribar is retiring as of July 30, 2010. This will leave Venango County without a WCO.
- Beaver complaints are starting to come in already. Private property owners are not allowing trappers on the land so WCO has to address the nuisance complaints. A nuisance trapper is the same as a licensed trapper and do not have the right to trap on private property without permission.
- Spring Gobbler season will open on May 1, 2010 and it is looking good. SPRING GOBBLER (Bearded bird only): May 1-31, 2010.
- Bear are up and moving and complaints are slowly coming in.

Miscellaneous:

Old Business: No report

New Business: No report

Good of the Order:

- Ricky McDaniel, affiliated and individual member, owns a new .50 cal muzzleloader firearm and would like to trade it for the bow left over from the 2009 Stoneboro Fair prizes.
****MOTION MADE** to allow for the equal trade of the muzzleloader for the box. motion made by Steven Preston and Seconded by Dennis Anderson All in favor.**
- Secretary Myers has available the organizational chart of the Mercer County Federation and the affiliated clubs. As stated in the By-laws, this chart will be made available to club delegates.
- At the February meeting, Ralph Martone requested feedback from our membership on the idea of moving the fall turkey season to two weeks before the fall rifle deer season. Comments from the members in attendance was provided to Mr. Martone via email on March 28, 2010.

Club Announcements:

- There will be a Concealed Carry and Firearms Safety Class on May 22-23, 2010 from 9am to 3pm at Hidden Valley Sportsmen's Club. The course will be taught by qualified law enforcement personnel with over 100 yrs combined experience. All proceeds benefit the Mercer County Critical Incident Response Team. Contact (724) 662 - 6135 for more information.
- The Harthegig Family Fun Days event will be held on August 1, 2010.

Next Meeting:

- Next Meeting: April 28, 2010 at 7 PM at Hidden Valley Sportsmen's Clubs

Jan 27 2010	Greenville	July 28 2010	Harthegig
Feb 24 2010	Coonhunters	Aug 25 2010	Fair Grounds
Mar 24 2010	Harthegig	Sep 22 2010	Sandy Lake
Apr 28 2010	Hidden Valley	Oct 27 2010	Pardoe
May 26 2010	Pardoe	Nov 17 2010	Coon Hunters
June 23 2010	Hadley	Dec 15 2010	Hidden Valley

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

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.

Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

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Providing leadership and advocacy for the enhancement of fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of all hunters, anglers and conservationists.

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone # _____

E-mail: _____

Check appropriate membership level

_____ \$20 Individual Member

_____ \$50 Contributing Member

_____ \$300 Life Member*

*One time payment or Installments

\$_____ Additional Donation

\$_____ **Total Enclosed**

Payment by Credit Card:

Credit Card Type (please check one) _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Name on Card: _____

Address: _____

(If different from above):

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please make all checks payable to PFSC

Send Payment and Application to:

PFSC State Office

2426 North 2nd. Street

Harrisburg, PA 17110