



Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

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Providing leadership and advocacy for the enhancement of our fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of all hunters, trappers, anglers and conservationists. Protecting our 2nd Amendment Rights.

GENERAL DELEGATE SESSION

Spring Convention

Holiday Inn

Clarion, PA

March 24, 2013

The General Session of Delegates for the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc. at the Spring Convention opened at 8:32 a.m. with the invocation given by Lowell Graybill, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Conservation Pledge.

The roll call by the secretary indicated 37 voting members. Delegates present were from the following counties: Adams, Armstrong, Beaver, Berks, Bucks, Butler, Cambria, Centre, Clarion, Columbia, Crawford, Cumberland, Elk, Indiana, Jefferson, Lackawanna Lancaster, Lawrence, Lehigh, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Perry, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Washington, Westmoreland, Wyoming, and York. Other delegates: Member at Large, PA NWTF, PA Trappers, and Pheasants Forever.

MINUTES: The minutes of the Fall Convention were approved as written. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: All reports are enclosed in the delegate's packet. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION REPORT: Denny reported that there is another potential party interested in purchasing the building. Last year's sale fell through. There will be a work day scheduled for May 18, 2013 starting at 9:00AM. Bring yard tools. Any and all volunteers will be appreciated.

PWF REPORT: PWF President Mike Zenzel reported that PWF received another grant from the Jordan Foundation. 2012 - \$26,500 2013 - \$28,000 He discussed some of their recent and proposed projects: Aluminum Can Recycling for Youth, Clarion Co. Acid Mine Project, 13 Acre Riparian Area Purchase in Columbia Co. Also considering paying for a glossy cover for OT.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Awards Committee: Chairman Bill Leonard stated there was no Hall of Fame or Land Manager applications submitted. There was some discussion about the Legislator of the Year award, but no decision made.

Poster Contest: Chairman John Ord stated the posters and photographs were judged and the winners would be posted on the PFSC website and On Target. Next year's theme: Pennsylvania Wildlife's Natural Camouflage.

Fish and Boat: Gary Moore reported that Commissioner Rocco Ali, Executive Director John Arway and Director of Policy and Planning Tim Schaeffer represented the PFBC during the Fish and Boat Committee meeting. Topics of discussion included the PFBC's "Fiscal Slope" (including the need to reallocate spending to accommodate rising health care and retirement costs and an explanation of revenue-generating options being pursued by the agency) a proposed fee for water withdrawals, Asian carp – Ohio River and Great Lakes, mentored angler program, trout opening dates – 18 southeast counties on March 30th and the remainder of the state on April 13th, high-hazard dams – rehabilitations and drawdowns, the shad program on the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers, next class of Waterways Conservation Officers on hold due to funding issues, Bellefonte and Oswayo State Fish Hatchery announced closure on hold, and the state of the Susquehanna River smallmouth bass fishery and the need to have the river declared as "impaired." Congressman Mike Kelley, 3rd District of Pennsylvania spoke about general matters, the 2nd Amendment and Asian carp.

ACTION ITEM: The Delaware Shad Fisherman's Assn. Resolution:

Part 1: Creation of American Shad stamp. **Failed** - 22 nays/9 yeas/1 Abstention.

Part 2: Elimination of walleye/musky fry and fingerlings in Lehigh River until 2017. **Failed** - 27 nays/4 yeas/2 Abstentions.

Part 3: Request Gov. Corbett/Legislature to enact a 7.5% "Public Protection Premium" on natural gas revenue to insure our priceless resources. **Failed** - 22 nays/11 yeas/3 Abstentions.

Part 4: Imposition of a "no fracking zone" for the entire Delaware River. **Failed** - 24 nays/9 yeas/2 Abstentions.

CONSERVATION: Lowell Graybill provided a rundown of issues discussed during Saturday's committee meeting. Topics of discussion were on: Invasive species issues; Controversial US Sect. of the Interior nomination (Sally Jewel). There was also discussion on county conservation schools needing to be

MEMBERSHIP: Gary Moore discussed the need for more active help from the Divisions and Counties in order to grow membership. He will be contacting them personally to work on this. Club membership is down again this year.

GAME AND TRAPPING: Gary Moore reported that PGC Executive Director Carl Roe and PGC Commissioner Ralph Martone spoke at Saturday's committee meeting. Some of their topics were on the WMU split (2G will be split into an additional WMU); 1,058 Bobcats taken; Proposed larger elk allocation for next fall; Issues with who will be responsible for feral swine; Discussion of a ban on deer-based urine lures; Discussion of no Antler Restrictions for Senior hunters.

ACTION ITEM: Resolution to allow year-round dog training on DCNR State Park lands. **Passed** - 22 yeas/10 nays/ 4 abstentions.

FIREARMS: Chairman Denny Fillmore provided a review of Saturday's committee meeting. Former PGC Commissioner and firearms dealer, Greg Isabella, presented an overview of the problems currently facing firearm dealers with the availability of firearms and ammunition; status of background checks (PICS) and other issues currently of interest. NRA Director Maria Heil (New Freedom, PA), spoke at length about current firearms issues that the NRA is dealing with, specifically the proposed firearms bans, magazine capacities and background checks. She also promoted the NRA Foundation and Friends of the NRA fundraising banquets, which return half of the funds raised in each state to further youth and other programs in each state. An extensive Q&A session wound up the meeting.

OFFICERS AND OTHER REPORTS:

President: No Report

First Vice President: Lowell Graybill discussed Facebook and other social media for PFSC growth; PFSC e mail lists; and the fall 2013 four number raffle tickets; Member survey and changes to the bylaws. No resolution was reached on the bylaws changes again, during this session. It needs to be resolved and will be brought back up for a vote at the next board meeting.

Second Vice President: No Report

Treasurer: Ted Onufrak reported the Life Member Gun Raffle was won by Terry Hivner.

Secretary: No Report

PA NWTF: Jerry Nelson reported on the NWTF convention and discussed NWTF's Warbler initiative that will help private landowners manage their land for wildlife. There was also discussion of Howard Myers' efforts on changes to handicapped hunters' permits.

Pheasants Forever: Chet Krcil, sitting in for Bob Rittenhouse, reiterated opposition to the PGC being placed under IRRC.

PA Trappers: Joel spoke about the positive efforts they are providing with trapper training schools - Over 36 schools reaching over 866 students. He also spoke about furs sales and that the prices for fur are very promising. This year's Trappers Rendezvous will be held in Gilbert, PA, June 6-9.

STAFF: No Report

OLD BUSINESS: None was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion on CWD being found in wild deer and pending Disease Management Area additions; Merger issue; List of current legislation. Positions were taken to oppose: HR 129 (Merger), SB 597 and HB 450 (IRRC), SB 644 and HB 723 (Regulating Hogs), SB 547 (Antler Restrictions), HB 870 (DMAP Permits) and SB 647 (Trespass Enforcement)

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Question about why DCNR wasn't represented at this convention; John Ord noted that posters need to be returned.

Motion for adjournment by Joel Whitehead at 11:02 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Denny Fillmore