



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

2B - 7/8/26

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Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.
Executive Director

June 9, 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
And the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 206:33-a, authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) to accept a donation of a 47 HP 4 WD Kioti tractor with cab, front-end loader, brush hog and accessories from Bob Lottero of Jefferson, NH valued at over \$50,000 for use in maintaining wildlife openings, fields, and access roads primarily on Department-managed Wildlife Management Areas in northern NH, effective upon Governor and Council approval.

EXPLANATION

NH Fish & Game's Wildlife Habitat Program manages habitat and infrastructure on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and other state lands to ensure that wildlife can thrive and the public can continue hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and pursuing other types of outdoor recreation for generations to come.

Northern NH contains roughly 31,000 acres of WMAs, representing nearly half of the Department's total acreage. Staff in this region currently have no dedicated equipment to support essential habitat and infrastructure management. Mr. Lottero wishes to donate his tractor and attachments to support ongoing habitat and infrastructure maintenance on northern NH WMAs. He has been a long-time supporter of NHFG including 20 years as a hunter education instructor and is an avid outdoorsman who wants to support the work that we do.

The NHFG Commission voted unanimously to accept this donation at their April 21, 2026 meeting (minutes attached).

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie L. Simek".

Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Ann LaBonte".

Kathy Ann LaBonte
Chief of the Business Division

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

APRIL 21, 2026 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: NH Fish & Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301

Commissioners Present: A.J. DeRosa, R. Green, J. Titone, D. Trahan G. Chandler, J. Caveney, C. Hodgdon, E. Stohl, P. McGonagle, B. Temple & D. Poole.

Commissioners absent/excused:

Executive Director Simek – Present

Tanya Haskell, Administrative Assistant – present (transcriber of minutes)

Chairman DeRosa called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and asked everyone to join in the pledge of allegiance. He informed the audience that the public is entitled to attend all Commission meetings and when recognized by the Chairman, the public may speak on any item on the agenda. The Chairman reserves the right to limit comment to the extent necessary for the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Commissioner DeRosa announced that the meeting was being captured on video.

ACTION ITEMS:

1.) Commissioner Green moved to approve the March 17, 2026, Commission Minutes, as written, and Commissioner Trahan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2.) Commissioner Green moved to approve consent agenda items 2a & 2b., as presented below, and Commissioner Trahan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) The Commission accepted the following donations totaling \$10.50 made to the Small Gifts & Donations Account:

- Rough Time Fisheries LLC, Fremont, NH - \$5.00
- Michael Sprague, Salisbury, MA - \$3.00
- Michael Hasty, Rochester, NH - \$2.50
- \$10.50

2b.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$50.00 from John & Teresas Cross, Meredith, NH, in memory of Rose Cross, Nokomis, FL, formerly of Concord, NH, for deposit into the Small Gifts & Donations Account.

3.) Commissioner Green moved to accept the donation of \$2,000 from the Great Rotary Fishing Derby, Meredith, NH, for use by the Inland Fisheries Division for the Large Lakes Program and Commissioner Trahan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

- 4.) Commissioner Green moved to accept the donation of \$2,000 from Tim Duval for use towards purchasing a law enforcement canine, for deposit into the Canine Account. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
- 5.) Commissioner Green moved to accept the donation of a Circa 1890's antique linen sign with Fish and Game License Prices from Dan Dockham, Jr., and Commissioner Poole seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
- * 6.) Commissioner Green moved to accept the donation of a 47 HP 4 WD Kioti Tractor with cab, front-end loader, brush hog and accessories, valued at over \$50,000 from Bob Lottero, Jefferson, NH, for use in maintaining wildlife openings, fields, and access roads on Wildlife Management Areas in the Region 1 area (Northern, NH), and Commissioner Trahan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
- 7.) Commissioner Green moved to approve the FY'27 budgets for the Wildlife Division's Dedicated Accounts (Wildlife Habitat Account & Game Management Account), and Commissioner McGonagle seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
- 8.) Commissioner Green moved to approve the FY'27 budget for the Fisheries Habitat Account and Commissioner Poole seconded. The motion carried with 10 in favor, 1 opposed (E. Stohl)
- 9.) Commissioner McGonagle moved to approve expending \$75,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account to support a project to permanently conserve 40.6 acres along the West Branch River to protect high value wild brook trout habitat, while advancing targeted riparian and instream restoration that strengthens cold-water resilience in the Warner River Watershed and Commissioner Hodgdon seconded.

After a brief discussion relative to easement details (see video for full discussion), Commissioner McGonagle rescinded his motion and Commissioner Hodgdon rescinded his second to the motion.

At this time, Commissioner Temple moved to approve expending \$75,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account to support a project to permanently conserve 40.6 acres along the West Branch River to protect high value wild brook trout habitat, while advancing targeted riparian and instream restoration that strengthens cold-water resilience in the Warner River Watershed, contingent upon a legal review of the easement language and confirmation of the \$40,000 commitment by the Town of Bradford, if not, the department would withhold its contribution of \$75,000, Commissioner Hodgdon seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 1.) Financial Statement – Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, key points of report:
- Nearly **\$2M federal reimbursement** received (incl. \$300K indirect).
 - New federal grant accounting system slowed submissions but is improving.
 - **1,400 newborn lifetime licenses** sold in 2025 (high participation).
 - Revenue streams tracking similarly to prior year.