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FEAWM
Full Membership Meeting
July 26, 2007
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Hadley, MA

Present: Ron Grzelak, Patrick Defalco, Doug Loux, SSA, Linda Repasky, Marci Caplis USF&WS, Mary Dowling, VA, Steve Bussell, MEPS, David Mendoza, Barnes Air National Guard Base; Karen Regish, USDA-NRCS

The meeting opened at 8:20 with introductions.

Minutes: The minutes from the last full membership meeting on Thursday, May 24, 2007 were approved after minor corrections.

Treasurers Report: No treasurers report, but Jeff informed Ron that the statement would be same as last month less any credit card rental machine fees.

Executive Directors Report: No report as David Levin is on vacation.

Committee Updates:

Activities: Patrick commented that the picnic turnout was great. They will have the picnic again next year. The suggestion was to do it late June after school graduations and before summer vacations. Patrick also stated that the committee is planning another bowling night in the late fall.

Awards: 43 nominations were received. The committee meets on Monday, July 30 to judge the nominations. The awards banquet will be held on September 27th at the Log Cabin Restaurant.

Education: Doug received request to sponsor a program on PTSD. The committee will be looking into offering a program on this and working on another retirement seminar again next year with the possibility of hiring Steve Marder once again to speak.

Federal Relations: The committee will be looking at the economic impact that federal agencies have on the economy in Western Massachusetts.

Website/Public Relations: The committee is working on getting the new picnic pictures up on the web site and taking down the older pictures due to space constraints. They are also looking into purchasing a downing display for use at different events.

Pay and Benefits: Ron commented that the committee is still working on locality pay for Berkshire County. However, there may be an issue on what the number of federal employees in the county. The committee may have to simplify the proposal before submitting it to OPM.

Speaker Marci Caplis from US Fish and Wildlife Services gave a brief overview of what the agency does. She stated that one of the missions of her agency is the protection of all migratory water fowl in the U.S. They work very closely with the Nature Conservancy (TNC), USGS and the EPA. Their Northeast office located in Hadley, Region 5, covers 13 eastern states from Maine to Virginia.

She commented that the agency's biggest fund producing program is the Duck Stamp. Each year, wildlife artists from across the county compete to create a duck stamp for the agency that is in turn sold to duck hunters as a duck hunting license. The proceeds from this stamp are used to buy land for wildlife habit and open spaces.

The meeting ended at 9:50 followed by a tour of the Richard E. Cronin Salmon Station in Sunderland. Mickey Novak, manager of the hatchery, narrated the tour through the facility.

The next board meeting to be held on August 15, 2007 in the FSA conference room, 243 West St. Amherst, MA.

The next full membership meeting is to be held on September 27, 2007 at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Holyoke, MA.

Recorder: Karen M. Regish