

From:

Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 12:49 PM

Subject: RE: Fish and wildlife board members

-jg

Best,

Jessica Gingras

Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
Governor's Office

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From: Gjessing, Catherine

Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 4:43 PM

To: Walter Medwid <wmedwid@gmail.com>

Cc: Gingras, Jessica <Jessica.Gingras@vermont.gov>; Porter, Louis <Louis.Porter@vermont.gov>

Subject: RE: Fish and wildlife board members

Hi Walter,

I have only been General Counsel for this Department since 2013 so I am not personally aware of any specifics regarding past members of the Board. I vaguely recall some news coverage regarding former board members, prior to becoming an employee of the Department.

Under 10 V.S.A. § 4041, Fish and Wildlife Board members are appointed by the Governor's office. Here is the language.

(b) There is hereby established a Fish and Wildlife Board. The Board shall consist of 14 members, one from each county, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The members of the Board shall be appointed for a term of six years, or unexpired portion thereof, and during their terms shall reside in the county from which they are appointed. In the event a member no longer resides in the county from which he or she was appointed, the Governor shall appoint a member from that county for the unexpired portion of the term. Appointments shall be made in such manner that either two or three terms shall expire each year. A member serving a full six-year term shall not be eligible for reappointment. The Governor shall biennially designate a chair.

The statute does not address your questions and there is no set procedure.

It is my understanding that the Governor's office sometimes consults with the Fish and Wildlife Department regarding Board appointments.

I think it would make sense to wait until Jessica Gingras comes back from vacation so that you can have the benefit of her experience.

Sincerely,

Catherine Gjessing
General Counsel
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From: Walter Medwid [<mailto:wmedwid@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2016 7:18 PM
To: Gjessing, Catherine <Catherine.Gjessing@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Fish and wildlife board members

Hello Catherine. I received an email that Jessica is out of the office....can you tell me who might have information on fish and wildlife board member wildlife violations say over the past two decades and whether any standing members have been charged/convicted?

I have received information that a number of past members have been charged. Were those members vetted by your office or others in your office before they were appointed? Is that SOP or is DFW not involved in vetted/researching/recommending members to the FWB to the governor's office?

What actions do you take when a member is charged and or convicted of fish and wildlife violations of state law?

Or is this all handled through the governor's office. If so who in the governor's office manages these types of malfeasance?

Finally if a member of the board violates public policy that they have jurisdiction over, who if anyone have jurisdiction over that member?

Many thank. Walter

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Walter Medwid** <wmedwid@gmail.com>
Date: Sunday, September 11, 2016
Subject: Fish and wildlife board members

To: "Gingras, Jessica" <Jessica.Gingras@state.vt.us>

Hi Jessica....I have recently heard that past members of the fish and wildlife board members have had fish and wildlife violations...i.e. they broke state wildlife laws while determining state fish and wildlife laws.

Can you tell me in your official capacity whether any of the current members have any fish and wildlife violations?

Also do you have information on whether past appointees coming out of your office have in fact committed such violations and what steps were taken when your office found out about those violations?

Thanks. Walter