

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road · Saint Paul, Minnesota · 55155-4037

Office of the Commissioner

651-259-5555



February 2, 2011

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen
Chair, Senate Environment & Natural
Resources Committee
303 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Senator Warren Limmer
Chair, Senate Judiciary & Public Safety
Committee
122 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Representative Denny McNamara
Chair, House Environment, Energy &
Natural Resources Policy & Finance
Committee
375 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Tony Cornish
Chair, House Public Safety & Crime Prevention
Policy and & Finance Committee
437 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Report on expenditure of funds appropriated from the game and fish fund for Conservation Officer training.

In accordance with 2010 Minnesota Legislative Session; Chapter 361, Article 4, Section 76 (b), attached is a report on the expenditure of these funds in providing peace officer training to Conservation Officers.

If you have questions or comments regarding the content of the report, please contact MAJ Roger Tietz, Operations Support Manager, Division of Enforcement at (320) 616-2516, or Roger.Tietz@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Landwehr".

Tom Landwehr
Commissioner

Enclosure

c: Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner
Denise Anderson, Chief Financial Officer



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Police Officer Training Report

2010 Minnesota Legislative Session; Chapter 361, Article 4, Section 76:

- (a) *\$145,000 in fiscal year 2011 is appropriated from the game and fish fund to the commissioner of natural resources for peace officer training for employees of the Department of Natural Resources who are licensed under Minnesota Statutes, sections 626.84 to 626.83 to enforce game and fish laws. The appropriation is from money credited to the game and fish fund under Minnesota Statutes, section 357.021, subdivision 7, paragraph (a), clause (1) from surcharges assessed to criminal and traffic offenders. This is a onetime appropriation.*
- (b) *By January 15, 2011, the commissioner of natural resources shall submit a report to the chairs of the committees and divisions with jurisdiction over natural resources and public safety on the expenditure of these funds, including the effectiveness of the activities funded in improving the enforcement of the game and fish laws and resulting outcomes for the state's natural resources.*



During the 2010 Legislative Session, The Minnesota DNR Enforcement Division was allocated \$145,000 in a Training Surcharge Appropriation. This appropriation was utilized to fund a portion of the Division's overall training obligation which will total \$312,000 for FY 11. This training improves the ability of our Conservation Officers to enforce the game and fish laws of the State of Minnesota and fulfills state mandated Peace Officer continuing education. The following training outcomes were achieved during the past year:



Minnesota POST Board Licensing Requirements:

Minnesota Conservation Officers are licensed peace officers and must successfully complete 48 hours of law enforcement related continuing education every three years. Officers must maintain documentation to prove successful completion of their required credits. The DNR Enforcement Division's Training Unit is an accredited training sponsor by the Minnesota POST Board and has received authority from the board to develop and provide approved courses for continuing education credit. All of the courses listed below have met MN-POST Board Continuing Education Guidelines and are on file with the DNR Enforcement Training Unit.



Fall Field Operations Training/Safety Management Training Outcomes:

In August/September 2010 the divisions training unit provided division staff with training to enhance fall field operations. The training was provided at four regional sites and consisted of four components that were certified for continuing peace officer education credit. All licensed peace officers (185) were required to attend.

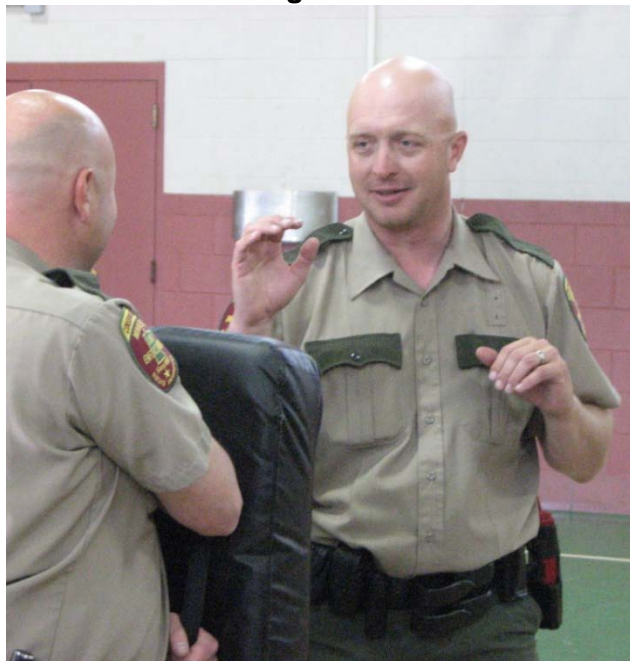
- **Waterfowl Identification Refresher:** *Learning Objective/Outcome-* to refresh and enhance Conservation Officer waterfowl identification skills,
- **2010 Legislative/Law Update:** *Learning Objective/Outcome-* provide legal/ law updates to division staff highlighting changes to game and fish laws, as well as impacts on enforcement practices during the 2010 Legislative Session.
- **Cold Water Boot Camp:** *Learning Objective/Outcome-* to educate/safety management/ and inform Conservation Officers about hazards with cold water immersion prior to the cold water seasons.
- **First Responder/Aircraft Scene/Vehicle Collision Response:** *Learning Objective/Outcome-* to educate Conservation Officers to recognized hazards at aircraft crashes and motor vehicle accidents.

Encumbrance to facilitate training from \$145,000.00 Training Surcharge Appropriation:

Total: \$34,430.23

Use of Force Training/Outcome:

Conservation officers/peace officers must complete use of force training every year. This training must be based on the employing agency's use of force policy and the learning objectives provided by the POST Board.



To be in licensing compliance, the division of Enforcement has scheduled a Use of Force Training Sessions. The classes will be held on April 25-29, 2011 and May 2-6, 2011 at the DNR Enforcement Training Center at Camp Ripley. The Division has 211 licensed staff positions. Due to employee turnover, the Division is presently employing approximately 185 licensed peace officers. All officers will be assigned to attend a three-day training session.

Encumbrance to facilitate training from \$145,000.00 Training Surcharge Appropriation:

Total: \$182,230.39

Emergency Vehicle Operations Course/Outcome:

Conservation Officers must complete an 8-hour course in emergency vehicle operations and in the conduct of police pursuits once each license renewal period. This training must be based on the employing agency's pursuit policy and the learning objectives provided by the POST Board. This training was held September 7-9, 2010 at the DNR Enforcement Training Center at Camp Ripley. 44 Conservation Officers were provided the required training by 12 certified DNR Enforcement Instructors:



Encumbrance to facilitate training from \$145,000.00 Training Surcharge Appropriation

Total: \$29,829.04



Conservation Officer Firearms Qualifications: Conservation Officers must qualify with all issued firearms on an annual basis. In August/September 2010 the Division held nine qualification shoots throughout the state. All licensed peace officers are required to attend.

Encumbrance to facilitate training from \$145,000.00 Training Surcharge Appropriation:

Total: \$65,478.00

DATE: December 23, 2010

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Cost of Preparation

NAME OF LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Game & Fish Fund Training Surcharge

Based on: 2010 Legislative Session Law

Minnesota Statute Reference: Chapter 361, Article 4, Section 76, Paragraph (b)

Prepared by: Major Roger Tietz, Department of Natural Resources

Phone: (320) 616-2501 (Ext 2516)

E-Mail: roger.tietz@state.mn.us

Description of Cost	Further explanation if necessary	Amount
Staff Time	5 hours	\$250.00
Duplication Cost (includes paper)		\$2.00
Other:		
TOTAL TO PREPARE REPORT <i>(Note: Right click on amount cell and choose update to complete)</i>		\$ 252.00