

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Central Region Office
Robbinsville, New Jersey
June 10, 2008

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Fish and Game Council was held on the above date. In attendance were:

Acting Chairwoman Jeanette Vreeland
Councilman Dave Burke
Councilwoman Jane Morton-Galetto
Councilman John Messeroll
Councilman Dan Van Mater
Councilman Len Wolgast

Absent: Councilman Richard Culp
Councilman Fred Hough
Councilman Ed Kertz
Councilman Robert Puskas

Division employees included: Assistant Director Larry Herrighty, Paulette Nelson, Lisa Barno, Tim Cussen, Tony Petrongolo, Paul Castelli, Carole Kandoth, Jodi Powers and Seasonal Wildlife Biologist Bridget Collins.

Members of the public included representatives from the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, the Farm Bureau, residents of Millburn and others.

The meeting was called to order at 10:16 am by Acting Chairwoman Vreeland.

In accordance with P.L. 1975, notice of this meeting was filed with and posted at the Office of the Secretary of State and sent to the designated newspapers of the Division, the Newark Star Ledger and The Press (Atlantic City) on May 16, 2008.

Roll call was completed.

The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reported that the two letters that were presented at the last meeting have been responded to.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reported that she continues to assist with the chick count at the Rockport Game Farm and that over 6,000 chicks were counted yesterday. Percentages of chicks are up for the hatches, and they are ahead of schedule. She noted that the seasonal employee assistance at the Game Farm is helping.

She also noted that the Division will be at the Sussex County Fair, and work for the fair is underway. The Sussex County fishing derby was held this past Saturday, and was a success.

Assistant Director Herrighty reported next, noting that Director Chanda was in Washington, D.C. at the meeting of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Federation.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted that public service radio announcements that have been broadcast lately encouraging people to purchase a fishing license in New Jersey, and added they have been working quite well.

The Division is still waiting for finalization of the State budget and how it may affect the Division.

He also noted that a black bear was trapped in Ewing and released here on the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area yesterday.

A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll to approve the minutes of the May, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Van Mater. One correction was noted by Councilman Messeroll on page 4, where it notes he reported for the Federation. This should be the Legislative Committee. **A vote was taken to accept the minutes as corrected, with all in favor, none opposed.**

Councilman Burke noted that he had spoken with Council Kertz last evening, and Councilman Kertz had been contacted by Dave Bachinsky of the Quality Deer Management (QDM) Association regarding the April minutes. On page 6 of those minutes, it was transcribed that Assistant Director Herrighty received a proposal from the QDM Association to make zones 28, 30, 31, 34 and 47 Earn-A-Buck areas, however, this should have been Antler Point Restriction or Quality Deer Management Areas.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that there were no specific agenda items today, therefore the public comment period would be held at the end of the meeting.

Chief Cussen reported for the Bureau of Law Enforcement. He noted that 5,631.5 hours were recorded during this reporting period for law enforcement related activities. He also gave a summary of other reported activities.

Also, Chief Cussen reported that 5,149 field inspections were made, resulting in 403 summonses and 21 warnings being issued. There was also one criminal arrest made during this reporting period. He also reviewed where the summonses were issued.

Chief Cussen noted that seven officers would be graduating from the Cape May County Police Academy on June 24. They will then be off for a few weeks to reduce their XP hours, and return to begin working with their Field Training Officer. Additional training by the Division will be starting mid-September. He noted that packages have been sent to candidates to fill the last four positions that have been approved under the hiring exemptions package, and they would like to hold one in-house training class to include the seven graduates and four new candidates if possible.

Chief Cussen also reported on the passing of William Hight, who was a Deputy Conservation Officer from 1954 until 1983. His wife, Rosemarie, is a previous employee of the Division.

In the Northern Region, Conservation Officer Paul assisted the Bureau of Emergency Response and the Manville Police Department with a 900 gallon oil spill on the Raritan River in Manville, Somerset County. She was commended for her knowledge of the area and assistance with this matter.

Officers in the Northern Region continue to conduct black bear feeding enforcement sweeps. Four have been completed so far, with approximately 1,200 households visited to date.

In the Central Region, Conservation Officers Mutone and McManus worked the Forked River Mountain WMA one recent Sunday morning, and issued 31 summonses for illegal ATV operations. Lt. Sich was also on the scene, and when he tried to stop another group of five riders, they ignored his instructions and fled. One rider who attempted to escape drove through some brush and became wedged between some trees. The rider was apprehended, and after a lengthy interview, the subject identified the other riders. Conservation Officer Tonnesen was able to apprehend them at the transport vehicle that was being used by these other riders.

In the Southern Region, a complaint was received from an anonymous caller about two hunters who had killed multiple turkeys in Gloucester County and had failed to tag them. After some surveillance work by Lt. Honachefsky and CO Kille, those officers, along with CO Toppin, made a field inspection of the hunters. They initially denied killing and failing to tag any turkeys, but eventually admitted that they had. Of these two hunters, only one was named by the anonymous caller. They were asked about the third person, who was not present, and soon admitted that that hunter had also failed to tag a bird. In the end, all three hunters admitted to killing three turkeys in the wrong zone and failing to tag the birds. Appropriate summonses were issued and the hunters forfeited the parts of the illegally killed birds.

In the Marine Region, CO Jones received information from the New York Conservation Officers regarding four New Jersey Depuration clammers working in New York State waters. Chief Cussen explained the depuration permit and its regulations to Council. Summonses were issued to these clammers by both New Jersey and New York officers.

The Spring training course for the Bureau of Law Enforcement and the Wildlife Control Unit have been completed.

Councilman Messeroll asked if any warnings had been issued during the bear sweeps, and Chief Cussen noted that written warnings are issued if the problem is serious enough, but so far this season, we have not issued a written warning in conjunction with a sweep. There was some additional discussion on the feeding of bears and bear intrusions into areas where trash is stored.

Assistant Directory Herrighty noted an article in the Star Ledger about a gentleman who was trying to run over geese with his boat, and asked if we had been contacted by the SPCA on this matter. Chief Cussen was not sure, but noted he would check.

Councilwoman Galetto asked about the case involving the eagle nest that was pending. Chief Cussen noted that there had been a settlement meeting, and he had spoken to the representatives from Criminal Justice and the Deputy Attorney General's Office, but they are not done with reviewing the file yet, and as of this point Chief Cussen was not aware of any offers for settlement that had been made.

There were no representatives from the Agriculture Committee present. Councilman Messeroll noted that the sweet potatoes have been planted in Swedesboro. Acting Chairwomen Vreeland noted that the

corn plants are growing. Councilman Burke noted that there was a lot of rain earlier in the month, and that combined with the hot weather conditions causes strawberries to rot.

Councilman Messeroll reported for the Legislative Committee. He noted Bill A-1448 which addresses Troy Meadows. He was not sure of the language of the bill, but noted it was a fairly large watershed area that can be utilized for passive recreation. Chief Petrongolo was able to provide additional information on this area, noting that the owner of the property had talked to the Army Corps of Engineers about offering the sale of the property to the Department with restrictions. He added that Parks and Forestry already owns quite a bit of property in that area.

Councilwoman Galetto reported for the Endangered and Non-Game Species Program. She noted that they had an Advisory Committee meeting on May 21st, and the main topics of that meeting were the budget and their project priorities. Also discussed at that meeting were the best ways to use matching Federal funds that are available. Staff submitted eight grant proposals to the Committee and they were approved.

Councilwoman Galetto gave an update on the shorebirds. She noted that the Horseshoe crabs came in late but were not the population numbers they were looking for. It was anticipated that the birds would be seven to ten days late in taking off. They are not sure of the effect this will have on the breeding success of the birds in the Arctic.

Councilwoman Galetto noted the participants who worked on the shorebirds, and gave a brief review of the countries they came from. She also noted that the Citizen's United to Protect the Maurice River group provided meals and hosted recreational activities for these participants while they were here, and reviewed some of the highlights they provided.

The Osprey egg count has been excellent on the Maurice River. She was not sure how the Northeaster and the weather in the Spring has affected other nest areas. She did note that beach nesters were severely affected by the Northeaster.

Councilwoman Galetto reported on Champagne Island in the Hereford Inlet. She gave a description of the islands, noting that they can change with the shifting sands. This area hosts one of the largest colonies of Skimmers, but the area has become popular for recreational use and those activities have been disturbing the birds. The island will be closed if necessary, and that decision would be made by the Division since we have taken over the responsibility for enforcement of the area from the Tidelands Commission.

It was reported by Councilwoman Galetto that the Department continues work on creating an ATV park at the Sahara Sands property over the objections of the Endangered and Non-Game Species Advisory Committee. Staff has been asked to document to their Committee information that they had given to the Commissioner's Office on why they felt this was an inappropriate site. Staff felt a site at Winslow would have been a better location, but the community at Sahara Sands was in favor of having ATV park pursued, where the community at Winslow may not have been.

Also given at the Advisory Committee meeting was a presentation by Dave Golden on herpetiles and roadways, and ways to try to prevent roadway construction and redevelopment from having a severe impact on the habitat of reptiles and amphibians, as well as other species of wildlife.

Councilman Messeroll commented that he understood the Red knot population was stable from the year before, but Councilwoman Galetto noted that she wouldn't say so and explained why. She added that they would wait until that statistics were in from the work that has just been completed to make a determination on the population estimates.

Councilman Messeroll reported for the Federation. He noted that the fishing derbies held this past weekend went well. The Federation Convention will be held this coming weekend. He also gave a brief review of their upcoming events.

Chief Barno gave the report for the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. She noted that the sudden weather change and severe heat has slowed down fishing activities across the State.

She distributed a summary of the Spring trout stocking and gave a brief review of the information. She noted that the numbers produced are above what the Pequest Hatchery is designed to raise, and that the Hatchery has succeeded in producing more fish than they are designed for every year but one since it opened. She added that all the anglers seemed pleased with the fish produced, and that minimal complaints were received.

Councilman Messeroll asked if extra trucks had to be run to accommodate the sizes of some of the fish, and Chief Barno noted that the schedule was modified early in the season based on the problems they had last year.

Chief Barno distributed a handout on the Asian swamp eel. She noted that they were able to meet with the individual who reported that there was a population of these eels in the southern part of the state. They were located in Silver Lake near Gibbsboro, and there is a healthy population present. Additionally, they were spotted both upstream and downstream of the lake. Staff is still doing work on this situation, and are hoping to get access to additional areas for survey information. Once this is complete, they will decide how to best handle this situation.

Councilwoman Galetto asked if they would be removed and Chief Barno noted that yes they would be. She also asked if people were putting them there, and Chief Barno noted they have no indication of this, and that they may have been put here years ago. Councilwoman Galetto asked what size they are, and Chief Barno reported that they can grow up to four feet in length. Chief Barno further described these eels for the Council, noting that they have been found in three other states, and can survive ice conditions even though they are a tropical species. Treatment methods have been researched, including the use of Rotenone. Silver Lake had previously been closed to fishing because of concerns of contaminants, but Chief Barno noted that there has been recorded documentation regarding this. The bass fish will be sampled for contaminants, and if possible, they would like to remove the bass fish before treatment begins for the Swamp eels. Chief Barno addressed additional questions asked by the Council concerning this matter.

Chief Barno reported that they had received a telephone call this morning about a Snakehead at the White City Pond in Trenton. They are still waiting to see the specimen. She noted that calls of this nature have been received in the past, and they have not been Snakeheads, but rather Bowfins.

The warm weather has caused concerns about water temperatures on the Delaware River. Chief Barno noted that she feels no needs for concern at this time, noting that the fish will move to find cooler water if necessary.

Chief Barno also reported on Lake Audrey in Cumberland County. She noted that several years ago, Fisheries personnel with the assistance of personnel from the Bureau of Land Management worked to bring the Ph level up in the lake to establish a fishery. She noted species of fish that are in the lake, but added that in the last few weeks anglers have discovered this lake and population numbers are down. There is no regulation in the Fish Code to close Lake Audrey to fishing, however, but Chief Barno noted that there is a clause for an emergency closure notice. She still has to check on the legal process for using this clause, but asked the Council to consider moving forward with an emergency closure for Lake Audrey for approximately two years to allow the fishery to establish itself. She added that the next Fish Code cycle would not be able to put regulations in place until 2010 and had concerns on waiting that long. **A motion was made by Councilwoman Galetto to put legal work in motion to do an emergency closure at Lake Audrey for two years to allow the fishery to establish itself. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messeroll.** Chief Barno noted that they could rescind the closure with a public notice if conditions were to improve. Councilman Messeroll asked that the details of the reason for the closure be posted, and Chief Barno felt that was an excellent idea. **A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.** Councilwoman Galetto suggested that in the meantime a posting be done to note that a fishery is trying to be established and asking anglers not to fish the lake. Chief Barno added that having the Millville WMA Office right there at the lake should also be helpful with this effort.

Chief Petrongolo reported for the Bureau of Land Management. He noted that Lake Audrey is a success story in the making, adding that much of the credit goes to the Cumberland County Federation of Sportsmen. Chief Petrongolo gave a summary of the Lake Audrey Project for the Council.

During this reporting period, there were 616 acres added to the wildlife management area system. The largest acquisition was at the Abbott's Meadows WMA, where 450 acres were added. Chief Petrongolo noted that the land swap between Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Forestry was not reflected in the monthly report, but added that we acquired approximately 8,000 acres from Parks and Forestry in exchange for the approximately 4,000 acres we gave to them.

Councilwoman Galetto mentioned that there was a 60 acre piece for sale on Buckshutem Road. She has left a message for Curt Gellerman regarding this parcel.

One other addition that was acquired but in not listed on the monthly report was an old marina and boat ramp on the Great Bay Boulevard WMA. This sits on a creek that has access to both Great Bay and Little Egg Harbor Bay. Chief Petrongolo noted that the property needs some work, but he there are plans in place for some improvements.

Chief Petrongolo noted that crews are done with trout stocking activities. They are now planting warm season grasses and putting in food plots on WMAs throughout the state.

One other concern that has come up over the past months relates to the previous closure of shooting ranges on several WMAs. Replacement areas have been looked at for these ranges, but at this time, the Winslow, Tuckahoe and Assunpink ranges will not be replaced due to cost and the lack of personnel. An application has been filed with the Pinelands Commission to move the range at Colliers Mills, and they are hoping to be able to expand the range at the Makepeace WMA.

Chief Petrongolo reported that the motorcycle enduro clubs that held events on the Peaslee and Millville WMAs purchased and planted approximately 5,000 pitch pine trees on the Menantico and Winslow WMAs. This is part of their permit requirement to be allowed to utilize those properties for

enduro events, and it is part of the gravel pit restoration project on those areas. The project is now in its third or fourth year. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked if a photo history was being kept of these plantings, and Chief Petrongolo noted that was something that should be considered.

Chief Petrongolo noted the Thompson’s Beach Project which Councilwoman Galetto inquired about at the last Council meeting. They are now in permitting with Land Use Regulation Program (LURP) and the Army Corps of Engineers. There was small delay because the Township where the beach restoration is taking place asked for a boat ramp to be put in, but that was not in the original plans and will not be done. The project is now moving forward, and construction should start in October or November. Councilwoman Galetto noted that she had heard that funds were falling short for this project, and Chief Petrongolo noted that was true for the amount of work that could be done at that area, but a significant amount of work will still be done with the funds available. She also noted two ramps that had been installed by PSE&G that were filling in, and that the Township wants them dredged and maintained so that crafts can be launched. She noted that PSE&G’s intent was that they would be car top launches, and she suggested at a recent meeting she attend that they be maintained as such. Chief Petrongolo gave a brief history of these launches, noting PSE&G’s current plans for improvement. There was further discussion on these ramps and possible plans for future maintenance requirements.

Chief Petrongolo noted to Councilwoman Galetto that he had talked to Don Wilkinson about the Vineland Chemical Project on the Blackwater Branch. He advised that they were done with their dredging activities. Councilwoman Galetto noted that excavating was still going on today, and she asked that meeting be held to be sure they were done, adding that there was still a large amount of excavated dirt there. Chief Petrongolo gave a summary of the project for Council. There was further discussion between Chief Petrongolo and Councilwoman Galetto on this matter. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked that Chief Petrongolo keep the Council updated on this project.

Councilman Messeroll asked about having something posted that Waterfowl Stamp monies were utilized to purchase the Tide Marsh property.

Legislative Liaison Paulette Nelson gave a report on Legislative matters. She reported that things have been fairly quiet. She did note the Senate Environment Committee had met on Monday regarding penalties for possession of horseshoe crabs. They feel that the fine of \$10,000. for the first offense was too high, and they were going to review the language of the bill. There is no companion bill on the Assembly side for this bill S-1575.

Other bills that should be heard at the Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee on Thursday are:

| <u>BILL</u> | <u>BRIEF DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>DIVISION POSITION</u> |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| A-283 | Hooked on Fishing, Not On Drugs | Support |
| A-595 | Changes perimeter for bow and arrow hunting | Support |
| Assembly Joint Resolution-77 | Creates a Salt Water Task Force | Feels Not Necessary |

She also noted bill A-1519, which prohibits use of certain fishing gear on artificial reefs. This is not yet posted on the hearing agenda for Thursday, but the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs is trying to get it added.

Councilman Messeroll asked about A-1448, which addresses Troy Meadows, seeing it was not on the list provided today. Legislative Liaison Nelson noted that she will look and add it to this for future tracking.

Councilwoman Galetto asked about A-823 which regulates the operation of certain off-road vehicles, but Legislative Liaison Nelson noted that there had been no activity on this bill.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted that Chief Sciascia from the Bureau of Information and Education would not be in attendance today, so he would be giving a brief summary of the Bureau's activities.

He noted the two campaigns that were presently underway to promote freshwater fishing in New Jersey. The first one was the public service announcements to promote trout fishing, and after two weeks into the season, they did note an 11% increase in license sales. They had tracked the sales throughout the season, and at the end of the trout stocking season sales were still up by 5%. The second campaign is being done with assistance from the RBFF, and they are running public service announcements during commuter hours, as well as sending out postcards to previous license holders who have not renewed their licenses within the last one, two or three years. With the new electronic licensing system, they can track who did respond by purchasing a license, and those who did not will be notified again through a second postcard mailing.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted that after lunch, a power point presentation would be given by Bridgette Collins from the University of Delaware along with Research Biologist Paul Castelli on the Bobwhite research project they have done.

Lunch break began at 11:57 am. The meeting resumed at 1:03 pm.

Councilman Messeroll noted an additional comment for the Information and Education report. The Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs donated 18 in-line muzzleloaders to the Division for the Hunter Education Program.

Councilwoman Galetto noted the previous information she had shared regarding the Red knot population, and asked that her number estimates be struck from the record. She then asked Mandy Dey, Principal Biologist and project leader for the Red knot research for the Endangered and Non-Game Species Bureau to address the Council on this matter. She gave a review of the project and the research activities they have done. She noted their research from Tierra del Fuego in South America, where they saw a reduction in birds from 17,000 down to 14,800. There was also a die off at one stop due to red tides, and that loss may have been as many as 1,000 birds. She also noted the Delaware Bay, where research has just been completed. Many different species of birds were monitored at the Delaware Bay, and she noted that peak counts of shorebirds in this area are usually between May 20 through to May 26. This year, they counted 99,000 birds on May 21, 150,000 birds on May 28, and 91,000 birds on June 3, noting that usually most of the birds would have left by this time. She added that the spawning occurred late this year, and the Northeaster also had an effect on spawning activities. She reviewed different areas and the activity that occurred at each area. For the Red knots, they estimated that 15% of the 15,000 birds counted made adequate weights to support them in the Arctic.

There was some additional discussion on the Red knot research. Research Scientist Paul Castelli also noted the recent Northeaster, and noted that there was a fair amount of mortality on Clapper rails, but he was sure that all of the early nesting birds on any tidal waters were wiped out during that event. He felt that any nesting that occurred would occur later, and noted that later nesting usually results in lower production for the species that he monitors.

Councilwoman Galetto also asked Principal Biologist Dey if she wanted to speak on the pending legislation for penalty reductions for the illegal harvesting of Horseshoe crabs since she had to testify on this matter. Principal Biologist Dey explained the initial violation package and Senator Van Drew's proposed changes. She reviewed the penalties are now \$10,000. For the first offense, and \$25,000 for the second offense. The proposed changes would allow the fines to be levied according to the offense, and also allows for the accidental take of Horseshoe crabs.

Assistant Director Herrightly reported for the Bureau of Wildlife Management. He distributed preliminary harvest information for the Spring gobbler season, noting that the preliminary harvest was up by 12.4% compared to last years harvest information.

The bear activity report was also distributed to members of the Council for the period up to May 20. Assistant Director Herrightly noted that the numbers are up substantially from the same time period last year. The Category One bear complaints are up 156%, and the Category Two complaints are up 88.4%. Additionally, five bears have been euthanized so far this year, compared to two or three at this time last year. He noted that staff have been busy with urban bears during the past few weeks, and they have moved three or four bears, with one of those having been moved twice. He noted that this is time of year that 1 ½ year old bears are being chased out of their home range to other areas.

Assistant Director Herrightly also reported that bear cubs that were orphaned last year have been released onto an old golf course property that we now own in Sussex County. All had good weights when they were released. Three of the females were fitted with radio collars so that they can be watched. He reported that they have had good success with Woodland Wildlife, noting that prior to this release they had raised 26 cubs for the Division since the mid 1990's, and none of these have ever become a reported nuisance bear. He briefly reviewed the history on some of these cubs.

Councilman Wolgast noted that the Game Committee had met with Assistant Commissioner Cradic this morning. The Committee reported to her that the number of bear complaints being received was unacceptable, however, the Commissioner wants to continue with all non-lethal means until such time that she determines a need to reduce the population. Councilman Wolgast noted that they are at an impasse. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland added that the Assistant Commissioner asked if the Council would send a reply on what they would like to do after reviewing the Commissioner's six-points of concern. The Acting Chairwoman asked Assistant Director Herrightly to review those six-points for the Council. There were:

1. Look at the number and severity of Category One bear incidents.
2. Consider environmental factors that may effect the availability of natural food sources.
3. How research on trash management is progressing.
4. Effectiveness of bear education materials to change the behavior of people who were living in bear country.
5. Effect of the enforcement of the bear feeding ban.
6. Consider whether new fertility and research have emerged.

The Assistant Director reviewed these points with the Council. Councilman Wolgast added that Game Committee's position was that population control means may be useful to some degree, but it would not be a comprehensive policy if it does not include a population reduction, and that the Chairman of the Game Committee would not sign a policy if it does not include population reduction. There was additional discussion the six-points listed above and the policy that the Council previously presented to Commissioner. **A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll, seconded by Councilman Van Mater to back the Game Committee and bear policy that was previously submitted to the Commissioner.** Councilman Van Mater asked about who may be "come after" should a bear attack someone. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that this question was asked by the Council to the Deputy Attorney General's Office a year or so ago, and Council is covered under the Tort Claims Act. Council continued discussion on the response that would be prepared for the Commissioner regarding her six-points of concern. Assistant Director Herrighty reviewed that the Superior Court of New Jersey asked that the Council and the Department work together on the Bear Policy, and if no agreement could be met the Court would bring both parties in to discuss the situation. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland also noted that she had told Assistant Commissioner Cradic that the Council's charge is to set season dates and bag limits, and these six points are not part what they are in charge of. Council further reviewed what points they would address in their response to the Commissioner, and after a lengthy discussion, **a vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed, to stand by the policy previously submitted.**

A presentation was given to the Council on Bobwhite Ecology in Southern New Jersey. This was prepared by Bridget Collins, a student at the University of Delaware and Seasonal Wildlife Biologist for the Division, with assistance from Research Scientist Paul Castelli and Dr. Chris Williams from the University of Delaware for Ms. Collins' thesis. Research Scientist Castelli gave a brief introduction of the study to the Council before introducing Ms. Collins'. Ms. Collins provided the Council with a hand out of the information from this study, and the information contained was described at length through a power point presentation. She also answered questions about her study for the Council. Ms. Collins' paper was selected as the Best Student Presentation at the recent Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, and she was presented with her award today.

Research Biologist Paul Castelli distributed a copy of the draft of the Migratory Bird Season Regulations to the Council, which was also distributed at the last Council meeting. He reviewed the changes for the Council, and it was noted that some of the changes were calendar adjustments only. He advised Council that the Brant season would be determined at a later day, after the July meeting of the Atlantic Flyway Council, so that the dates could coincide with the duck seasons as much as possible. Also, the Canada goose season recommendations will be presented at a later date. Research Biologist Castelli advised the Council that it was the recommendation of the Canada Goose Committee for the Atlantic Flyway Council that the season be amended to a 50 day, 4 goose per day limit for the Mid-Atlantic States. This recommendation had not been approved yet by the Atlantic Flyway Council or the US Fish and Wildlife Service, but will be voted on at the July meeting. These two seasons will be presented to Council again in August, and can be voted on at that time. **A motion was made by Councilwoman Galetto to approved the Migratory Bird Season Dates and Regulations presented today, with the exception of Brant and Canada geese, and consider any modification recommendations as made by the Division Biologists, at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wolgast. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.**

Council discussed the July, 2008 meeting to see who would be in attendance and consider if they would be able to achieve a quorum. After some discussion, **a motion was made by Councilman Van**

Mater, seconded by Councilman Wolgast, to cancel the July meeting unless there was a need for an emergency session. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.

Assistant Director Herrighty advised the Council that he had just received a report that a Category One bear had been shot by the local police department in Parsippany. The bear had been swimming in a kiddie pool, which it then began to chew apart. The bear eventually wandered off into a local park, and the decision was made to shoot the bear because of its proximity to the park and the people who were there.

Old business was discussed. Councilman Wolgast noted that he had received a letter from the United Bow Hunters requesting a meeting where a power point presentation could be given to the Council. It was suggested that they be invited to the August meeting and be given a time period for the presentation. Assistant Director Herrighty advised Council that he had also been sent the power point presentation, and noted that he would print it and send it to the members of the Council to review before the August meeting. Their representative will be advised that they will be given a 30-minute time allowance for their presentation at the August meeting.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland introduced Ed Cuneo, the newly elected President of the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs to the Council. Mr. Cuneo distributed a summary of his background to the members.

It was noted that Ben Gazan was representing the Farm Bureau today, sitting in for Liz Thompson.

The public comment period was opened. Jim Soden asked to congratulate Bridget Collins on her excellent presentation today.

There was no additional business to discuss. **A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Van Mater to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm.**