

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Central Region Office
Robbinsville, New Jersey
August 12, 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
Councilman Ed Kertz
Councilman John Messeroll
Councilman Robert Puskas
Councilman Dan Van Mater
Councilman Len Wolgast

Absent: Councilman Richard Culp
Councilman Fred Hough
Councilwoman Jane Morton-Galetto

Division employees included: Assistant Director Larry Herrighty, Paulette Nelson, Jim Sciascia, Tony Petrongolo, Lisa Barno, Brian Herrighty, Carole Kandoth, Barbara Stoff and Frank Virgilio.

Members of the public included: Representatives from the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, the United Bowhunters of New Jersey, the United Crossbow Hunters of New Jersey and others.

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am by Acting Chairwoman Vreeland.

The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

In accordance with P.L. 1975, notice of this meeting was field 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 July 11, 2008.

Roll call was taken.

A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll, seconded by Councilman Van Mater to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2008 meeting. A vote was taken with all in favor, and one abstention from Councilman Kertz who was not present at that meeting.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reviewed some of her activities for the last two months. She noted that she had been away, and when she returned she found quite a few newspaper articles that had

been reported concerning bears. She pointed out that Branchville, a one square mile town in Northern New Jersey, has a population of 16 bears. She shared a letter from the newspaper written by a resident of Branchville who has concerns about safety and the large amount of bears in the area.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland also reported that she had attended the farm and horse show last week, and noted that the Division's booth was superb. She heard many good comments from the people in attendance. The Division also had a bear on display at the fair, and she recognized that 60% of the people passing by the Division booth commented that that bear was like one that had passed through their yard or been seen in their area.

As discussed at the last Council meeting, a response was prepared and sent to Assistant Commissioner Cradic with regard to the Bear Management Policy and ideas presented by the Commissioner. This letter was read out loud by Acting Chairwoman Vreeland and copies were provided to each of the members.

Assistant Director Herrighty was sitting in for Director Chanda. He reported that the budget had 1.47 million dollars carried over in surplus Hunter and Angler funds from last year. The Department of Treasury will be notified on how these monies will be used. He also noted that \$50,000 in bear monies did not carry over. He added that Legislative Liaison Nelson would be reporting later on the effects of the Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) that was taken advantage of by some of the Division's employees and added that a planning meeting has been scheduled to decide how to go forward from here since these positions can not be filled as part of the ERI plan. Councilman Wolgast asked Assistant Director Herrighty to repeat how much money was carried over, and he noted it was 1.47 million above the \$600,000 that was previously predicted. He reviewed where some of these monies came from. He also noted that the contract with the Conservation Officers has still not been settled, and approximately \$500,000 will be used to cover pay and benefits when that is completed.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland read a letter that had just been received from Paul Wells, President of the United Crossbow Hunters of New Jersey requesting time to make a presentation to the Council at the next meeting.

The public comment period was opened to anyone who had comments regarding the United Bowhunters Presentation that was listed on the agenda for today. One person came forward, but chose to hold his comments until after the presentation.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted a minor change in order for today. Chief Petrongolo from the Bureau of Land Management asked to give his presentation early in the meeting due to other obligations that he had. He reported that the Green Acres Program had acquired an additional 182 acres during this reporting period, and the wildlife management area system now has 322,000 acres. He also pointed out that the Garden State Preservation Trust, whose monies fund the Green Acres Program, is in need of having their funding replenished. If this does not happen, the Green Acres Program could be out of funding soon.

He reported on a recent acquisition of 12 acres along the Musconetcong River in Holland Township. The Division has owned other properties along the river, as well as several hundred acres of hillside, but these have been hard to access until now. Permits were received to put in a parking area on this new acquisition, but the construction activities had the attention of some of the local citizens who contacted local politicians to stop the work being done. The Mayor of Holland Township asked the Division to come to their meeting on August 20, 2008 and meet with these residents to address their concerns. The meeting will be at 7 pm at the Holland Township Municipal Building, 61 Church Road, Milford. Chief Petrongolo explained that this parking area will eliminate the current on street parking, as well as making accessible 250 acres of hillside for deer hunting and other activities.

Chief Petrongolo reported on the significant progress made at several boat ramp areas. One was in Ocean Township, Ocean County on the Oyster Creek. This land was purchased in 1990, and there have been several problems along the way in having this area developed. Plans are in place to start the project this Fall, and it should be completed by the first of the year. The Tidelands Council has also approved a permit to put in a floating dock on the downstream side of the Absecon Ramp. Currently there is a floating dock on the upstream side of the ramp, and this is a very popular area. He noted that this year was the first year that permits were sold to access this ramp, and after speaking with the Township Administrator, was advised that quite a number of permits have been purchased. Total numbers of permits sold will be available later this year. Construction permits have been approved by the Tideland Council, and the floating dock should be in place by the end of September. At the Tuckahoe Boat Ramp, the access road has been oiled and chipped with monies provided through the Corporate Business Tax (CBT) funds. He noted that John Piccolo and Al Payne, who have been overseeing the use of the CBT monies for the Department, have done an excellent job.

Land Management crews have been active doing habitat management work. Chief Petrongolo noted the reduced numbers of personnel in the Bureau, but recognized the good work being done by the existing staff.

Chief Petrongolo reported that the farmer lease program will be changed for next year. He noted that the Division of Parks and Forestry has leases with their farmers, unlike the special use permits that this Division currently uses. The Division of Fish and Wildlife will begin using leases in 2009, and the properties will be bid out and a long-term lease will be issued to the highest bidder. This program must be approved by the State House Commission. Informational meetings are being set up with the farmers on a regional basis for sometime in September to advise them of the changes for next season. He noted that many of the existing farmers are aware that these changes are coming. These leases will cover approximately 8,000 acres on 60 different pieces in the WMA system. The Department of Agriculture has been active in developing the lease program. Later in the Fall, the properties will be bid out, and after approval of the State House Commission, will be in place for next year. There was additional discussion on the farming program.

Chief Petrongolo had no additional items to report. Councilman Wolgast asked him about the changes in the Federal Farm Bill and how it would impact his program. Chief Petrongolo noted that he did not have much information on this, but felt that the Wildlife Habitat Improvement

Project (WHIP) funds may be affected, and reviewed how these funds have been used for habitat management in the past.

There was additional discussion regarding the Absecon ramp, including plans for additional parking on the town owned property. Chief Petrongolo advised that this would take some time before anything was completed.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that the order of the meeting would have one more change with the review of the recommended Migratory Bird Season Regulations by Assistant Director Herrighty. He noted the season changes that were proposed at the recent Atlantic Flyway Council Meeting, and distributed copies to each of the members. After discussing the items today, **a motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Wolgast to approve the recommended dates as presented. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.**

The Agricultural Committee report was given next. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reported for Councilman Hough, who recently had the biggest bear he's ever seen doing damage to his corn fields. He will be applying for a bear depredation permit. He also noted that the bears have been in his yard, and the children are longer allowed to play outside for safety reasons. The corn crops have been doing well, and he has seen quite a few deer and turkey.

Councilman Puskas reported on activity in the Central Region. He noted that there have been both good crops and bad crops this summer. There have been quite a few deer in the area, as well as turkey poults. Many of the wheat farmers are reporting a 25 to 50% yield loss, due to the weather and problems with Canada geese. Councilman Puskas noted that since he has taken his wheat off, there are many geese in the area. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland added that she has been experiencing problems with geese on her patio.

In the Southern Region, Councilman Kertz noted things are much the same. If there has been rain, the crops are good. He added that running irrigation is expensive but necessary. He had ½ inch of rain in his area on July 4, and did not have rain again until July 28. He also noted that the vegetable prices are similar to those of ten years ago, and he didn't feel there would be much profit coming in compared to expenses.

Councilman Van Mater noted that last week he saw many buzzards picking at a hay field after the second cutting came off, and was wondering what would cause them to be attracted to this area. Councilman Puskas noticed a population increase in his area too. There was some discussion as to what type of buzzards these may be and what might be attracting them to the area.

Legislative Liaison Nelson reported for the Legislative Committee. She distributed updated copies of the current bills that were being followed, and noted that things have been quiet over the summer. She referred to two new bills, A3105 and its companion S2081, which would establish a new Department of Agriculture and Conservation, and reviewed same. Also reviewed for the Council was bill S2080 which would establish a recreational saltwater fishing license.

Councilman Kertz referred to something that he had seen previously which would increase mileage reimbursements and asked if this was an actual bill. Legislative Liaison Nelson noted it was a bill, which would make the reimbursement comparable to the Internal Revenue Service rates, but she was not aware of any new information on this bill.

Legislative Liaison Nelson reported that 17 people were eligible to retire under the Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) package that was offered, and of these, nine people chose to take advantage of the offer. She reviewed what positions these were, and noted that the Division would need to re-group and do some planning. She added that both the Accountant and Buyer positions are now vacant in the Trenton Office, and personnel have been filling in when possible to track the spending and get the bills paid. Also, all positions that are vacant due to the ERI can not be backfilled as part of the ERI agreement, and the Division is now down to 156 positions paid through Hunter and Angler funds. Councilman Messeroll asked if anyone was going to be placed in employee housing at the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery for extra security, but was advised that there are currently no employees available due to the lack of staffing. Councilman Kertz asked if both the Accountant and Buyer positions were prohibited from being backfilled because of the ERI, and it was explained that the Buyer position was since that employee left as a result of the ERI, but the Accountant left prior to the ERI program and that position will eventually be allowed to be backfilled when the hiring restrictions are lifted. Assistant Director Herrightly added that titles for existing positions can be converted to cover other positions, but those positions where the employee took advantage of the ERI are lost. There was additional discussion on this matter.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that Councilwoman Galetto was not present and there would not be a report for the Endangered and Non-Game Species Committee, but added that they would be having a meeting tomorrow, and that the Bureau report was included in the packets that had been sent to the Council members.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked Councilman Messeroll to report for the Federation, but first wanted to congratulate him on being selected "Sportsman of the Year" by the Federation of Sportsmen.

Councilman Messeroll reported that things have been quiet. The Federation attended the Bowhunter Jamboree at the Sportsmen's Center, as well as a pig roast in Sussex County. He also noted some of the upcoming shooting events, including the United Bow Hunters and Appalachian Bowman events.

Councilman Burke noted that the chair calls on former council members to report on agricultural activities and asked why not let the sportsmen's representatives report on meetings. He noted several recent events that had occurred in the Cumberland County region, including that at their June meeting they did not support the early rabbit season. Also, by a close margin, they did vote to continue to support the Deputy Conservation Officer program. He noted that the saltwater license issue was discussed, and while they don't support a saltwater license, they would like to see the State get the funds from these licenses if they are developed. Doug Vicari from the

United Bowhunters of New Jersey also gave a presentation at their meeting. Councilman Kertz reported that there had not been much activity in Atlantic County this summer.

Chief Barno reported for the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, noting that the staffing at the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery was now down to three people, with Technician Jim Oross being out due to medical issues. Bob Papson took advantage of the ERI program, and there are now four people in the Research and Management Unit. At the Pequest Hatchery, staff has been reduced to 12, and Chief Barno noted that they will no longer be able to provide 24 hour staffing if they lose any additional personnel. The summer sampling will be impacted by this shortage of staff. They would like to be able to bring Bob Papson back as a seasonal employee, the ERI package has a clause that would allow this at this time.

Chief Barno also reported that there is no one from staff on site at the Hackettstown Hatchery after 3:30 pm, and this has created a critical situation. In the interim, Amy Switzer has been temporarily reassigned back to the Hackettstown Hatchery from the Wildlife Control Unit for two months. Additionally, the seasonal employees will be leaving in two weeks to return back to school. In-house meetings are being scheduled to discuss restructuring the units within the Bureau since they are designed for a staff of 35 and are now down to 21 employees. Further program cuts will most likely be made.

An update was given on the swamp eel problem that has occurred in South Jersey. Fisheries Biologist Chris Smith has done a total of 11 electro-fishing surveys, and while the eels have been documented both upstream and downstream of the lake where they were first reported, they have only been found in close proximity of the lake. It does not appear that they have reached any nearby impoundments. Plans are to meet with the lake owners, or their representative, to discuss possible options to eliminate the eels. Samples have been sent to the USGS in Florida to do genetic testing to see if they can target the origin of these eels. Chief Barno noted that there is a Superfund Site in the area but it is located downstream of the lake. The use of rotenone was one option discussed. Assistance from Pennsylvania and New York fishery colleagues may also be sought. Originally, it was hoped that a plan would be in place this Fall but the timeframe now looks like sometime in the late Spring of 2009. She also explained that in the interim, Seasonals have been doing some backpack electro-fishing on the shoreline to provide some interim control, and they have caught several hundred eels. Chief Barno also noted that public notification is an important component to any plan developed. There was further discussion on this matter.

Copies of the Fall and Winter trout stocking schedules were distributed and the programs were reviewed. Chief Barno explained that it would be necessary to run more trucks for these programs due to the large size of the fish.

Chief Barno reviewed work activities that have occurred at the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery.

It was also reported that Lake Audrey was closed.

Chief Barno reviewed the work being done to remove the Groendyke Dam on the Musconectong River. She noted that a tremendous job was done by the volunteers who were able to assist with

removing old tires and debris from the area. Two other dams, the Finesville and Warren Glen dams are also being looked at for future projects.

At the Pequest Trout Hatchery, work on Well 7 is in its final stages. The well has been working properly during testing. It will take about one year to get all the permits in place that are required to run this well on a day to day service.

Shawn Crouse is currently working at pond on the South Branch of the Raritan River at Mount Olive. The dam has been deemed a high hazard structure by Dam Safety, and will be breeched throughout the week, with personnel keeping a close watch for any sediment run off.

Assistant Director Herrighty reported for the Bureau of Wildlife Management. He distributed the most recent Bear Activity Report, and reviewed it for the Council. He noted that there has been a lot of activity, but the Bear Unit is intact.

Assistant Director Herrighty referred to the monthly report which showed that 15 bears had been euthanized, compared to 13 last year at this time. He noted that this number was now at 16.

As previously reported, several bears have been fitted with radio collars that allow personnel to follow them by satellite tracking. Cameras have also been put at some dumpsters that have been having bear problems. There is a graduate student following their activity to see if aversion conditioning is working.

A document received from the Wild Turkey Federation of New Jersey was distributed to the Council. They are asking to have the Cape May Wildlife Refuge open to turkey hunting, and they are asking for Council's support. He asked the members to please review the document.

Staff from the Waterfowl Project continue to monitor for Avian Influenza. Monies were received from the United States Department of Agriculture, and with supplemental funding from the Division, they were able to purchase equipment and hire seasonal personnel who were sent to Colorado for training. They are unsure how long the Federal funding will continue.

Assistant Director Herrighty reported that due to a reduction in funding, the Wildlife Control Unit is no longer issuing the deer depredation permits, and that responsibility has been turned over to the Bureau of Law Enforcement. The Farm Bureau had requested a meeting on this matter, and last week met with Director Chanda and Assistant Director Herrighty to discuss the process and provide contact information. The Farm Bureau has put out a notice on this matter in their newsletter.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland commented that she had gone to her local police department in Hopatcong to see if there had been any reports of bear sightings in town. There had been one treed several weeks ago at an area near a lake, but there had been another one just that morning at a small park in the middle of town. She added that they are all around. Assistant Director Herrighty also added that they have noticed an increase in farmer bear complaints in the last week, and there are currently 13 depredation permits out.

Councilman Messeroll asked if there was any news on when the Game Code might come out. Assistant Director Herrighty said that he had received a draft copy today, and anticipates getting it to the attorney's by next week. There was additional discussion on this matter, and Assistant Director Herrighty noted that it may be January before it is available for public review.

Assistant Director Herrighty acknowledged that the Division is currently engaged in two lawsuits. He noted one case filed by an organic farmer whose orchard property is next to a new addition to the White Oak Branch WMA property. The farmer is concerned that an animal may be shot on Fish and Wildlife property but wander on to his property before it dies, and he is concerned about lead contamination and how it may affect his organic status. The farmer is suing for no lead shot use in New Jersey in the Federal Court. The other lawsuit involves a commercial preserve permit that the Division issued in Sussex County. The neighbors to this property are objecting to the permit because of noise issues, and are asking for the Division to rescind the permit.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:55 am, and resumed at 1 pm.

The Council was addressed by Joe Mills, President of the United Bowhunters of New Jersey (UBNJ) with a review of their concerns about the use of crossbows in New Jersey. After his information was read to the Council, there was a lengthy discussion between President Mills and the Council regarding the information he spoke on today.

At this time, the public comment period was opened. Paul Wells from the United Crossbow Hunters of New Jersey asked for time to speak to the Council at the next meeting, noting that he had left information for each of the members to review, and briefly commented on the information presented by the UBNJ.

Rob Winkle spoke on behalf of the State Federation Board of Directors. He noted that they are in support of the use of crossbows for hunters 55 and over, and for the record, noted that they should be taking a position on the Council's full crossbow proposal at their September meeting.

Last to comment was Kathleen Meyer, who stated that she is a non-hunter, but was pro-hunting and pro-crossbow. She felt that the Council (Division) survey that was done on crossbows was very thorough. She pointed out that she is from a family of hunters, and supports the Council's crossbow season proposal.

At this point, bureau reports continued. Captain Herrighty, from the Central Region presented for the Bureau of Law Enforcement. He referenced the June through July highlights, where the June 24 graduation of the seven officer recruits attending the Cape May Police Academy was listed. Those officers will now be in the Field Training Program until September.

Captain Herrighty also noted that three Conservation Officer III vacancies were filled this past Friday. These officers will be assigned to Warren County, Northern Morris County and Northern Monmouth County. Their employment will begin in September, and they will attend an in-house training program with the seven recent academy graduates, and should be going to the County Police Academy early next year.

Captain Herrighty reported that there were 6,090 hours of duty recorded during this reporting period. Of those hours, 1,028 were for freshwater fishing activities, 1,381 for marine resources and 618 were for wildlife management area patrols. A total of 521 summonses and 29 warnings were issued, and 15 criminal arrests were made. Of the summonses issued, 138 were for freshwater fishing violations, 188 for wildlife management area violations and 93 were for marine resource violations. There were a total of 6,008 inspections made during this time period.

It was reported that Connie String, dispatcher in the Marine Region had retired after 18 years of service with the Bureau.

In the Northern Region, Warren County Conservation Sutton, who is one of the newer officers, was working at the Columbia Lake WMA recently. He noticed a vehicle on the other side of the lake, and saw a person tie a rope to their neck and throw the rope over a tree limb. Officer Sutton quickly made his way to the scene, and was able to keep the individual alive.

Captain Herrighty noted that many of the reported hours for patrol on WMAs dealt with all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off road vehicles (ORVs). In the Central Region, Officer Mutone stopped ten individuals within a two hour period on the Greenwood Forest WMA. There were an additional number of individuals who fled the area during her patrol, but those that were stopped were issued appropriate summonses.

In the Southern Region, Conservation Officer Toppin, also a newer officer, was on patrol at the Penbryn WMA in Camden County inspecting fishermen when he saw motorcycles approaching. He tried to stop them, but they sped away. Later, while still on patrol at the WMA, he heard the motorcycle approaching him again and told the individual riding it to stop. The individual revved the engine and came at Officer Toppin, and he was struck by the handlebars. The motorcycle rider struck a tree and received a broken arm. Despite his injuries, Officer Toppin was able to handcuff the individual and call for help. Officer Toppin was kept overnight in the hospital as a result of his injuries. The individual on the motorcycle was arrested and bail was set at \$55,000. Charges are pending.

Lieutenant Fresco and Conservation Officer Soell from the Marine Region worked a case in the Raritan Bay area after receiving a complaint that depuration permit clammers had hired day laborers who were not legal to work on their permits. After observing the activities of these individuals for a month, and recording video of their activities, personnel from both vessels were issued appropriate summonses for their violations. Officer Szulecki assisted with this case, and it was reported that after working surveillance one day, he and Lieutenant Fresco were in line at the Keyport Marina waiting to put the boat back on the trailer when they were cut off by another vessel. The officers made an inspection of this boat, and found that the fisherman had 26 fish, and of those 21 were undersized. They were issued summonses for being both over the limit and having undersized fish.

There was some additional discussion with Captain Herrighty, including information on the deer depredation permits and the boater safety course.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked for Chief Sciascia to present the Information and Education Report, but first wanted to congratulate him and his staff for their work at the Sussex County Fair.

Chief Sciascia reported that there has been a lot of time spent at various fairs this summer. He talked about some of the displays that were taken to these fairs, including a trout tank to promote the Trout in the Classroom program. They have received many inquiries about the program due to the display.

On September 3, staff will be attending the Somerset Patriots baseball game on Wildlife Conservation Night. They will try to have both the Division display and the Trout in the Classroom display at that event, and Chief Sciascia commented that all these events that allow interaction with the public provides an opportunity to inform the public about all aspects of what the Division does.

Chief Sciascia reported that the Hunter Education numbers are about the same as they were this time last year for course graduates. All courses that are currently posted for August are full.

The National Archery in Schools (NAS) training will begin soon. The loaner kits that are going to be made available in each county will be in place before the school year starts. There will be another promotional announcement on this program done in late August or early September to announce the availability of these kits, and he is hoping to be able to schedule training sessions during the in-service training days that the schools have for their teachers.

The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation partnership marketing campaign has been completed. Chief Sciascia reviewed the details of this program for the Council, and noted that the final results of this campaign would be available at a later date.

With the retirement of Carole Skwarek, the Information and Education section is down one additional person. She had been out for some time previous due to health reasons, and staff had made previous adjustments to cover her duties. Chief Sciascia reviewed plans to cover this position and increase educational opportunities at Pequest.

Chief Sciascia noted that have been working with the Department to find funding sources for another year-long contract with the New Jersey Broadcasters Assoc. The contract, which costs \$180,000, provides radio ad time on 40 NJ radio stations. There will be \$90,000 from recycling monies, \$60,000 from Bear Education monies and \$30,000 of Hunter and Anglers monies used and the air time will be shared proportionately by the various funding sources. He reviewed some of the different public service announcements that will be done.

Chief Sciascia noted that Bear Education Biologist Michelle Ruggerio has been doing a great job. She is still holding public programs, and has revised, printed and distributed all of the bear literature.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked about the status of the Bear CD, and Chief Sciascia advised that the existing footage for the main video shared by all states is being reviewed and the draft

script for the New Jersey portion of the program will be reviewed by the DEP communications office when a revised video is completed and can accompany the NJ portion script.

Councilman Messeroll asked how the bear activity book was being distributed, and Chief Sciascia explained. Councilman Messeroll noted that the Federation may be able to help with distribution.

Principal Biologist Barbara Stoff provided a review of the permit sales and current application periods. There will be posters sent to the agents to display announcing the lottery application period, information has been posted on the Division's website, and e-mail notifications are being sent to those who have an address listed on their customer profile. On October 6, permit sales and the leftover lottery zone permit sales will begin, and farmer permits will also be available on that date.

Changes in report development from the license sales site were discussed. She and Damian Holynski recently met with personnel from Automated Licensing Systems, the on-line sales site vendor, as well as the State's Office of Information Resource Management to discuss the different types of reports that can now be generated. Commercial Marine permits will also be incorporated into the point of sales system, and Principal Biologist Stoff will be completing the work started by former employee Damian Holynski to incorporate these into the system.

There was additional discussion on permits, stamps and the electric license system.

Old and new business was discussed. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted the request from the United Crossbow Hunters of New Jersey to speak at the next meeting. **A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Puskas to allow the United Crossbow Hunters of New Jersey equal time, equivalent to that given to the United Bow Hunters, to speak at the next meeting. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.** They will be on the agenda for the September 9 meeting at 1 pm.

Councilman Wolgast advised members of the upcoming Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program in September. There are still openings available.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked Assistant Director Herrighty if there had been any progress on the pending appointments to Council. He noted that Director Chanda has brought this matter up, but there has been no answer yet. There was discussion on pending appointments and the candidates for those positions.

Councilman Kertz asked if there was any progress on the survey for the bear proof trash cans. Assistant Director Herrighty discussed the study that is in place, and offered that Pat Carr or Kelcey Burgess could be asked to attend the next meeting to show satellite tracking program of bears through the use radio collars.

Councilman Messeroll noted that some members of the Federation discussed having a territorial license instead of a saltwater license. Assistant Directory Herrighty reviewed this for the Council.

The meeting was opened once again to public comment. Janet Pizar had several questions regarding information in the monthly reports. She asked about the June report from the Bureau of Wildlife Management, noting that there was no information listed on Page 17 regarding coyotes in the Bureau of Wildlife Control Unit report. Assistant Director Herrighty noted it may be zero since there was nothing noted on the report, but advised that he would check into this matter.

Also, she asked for clarification on the amount of summonses reported by Captain Herrighty from the Bureau of Law Enforcement for wildlife violations. She thought she heard him report four, but Assistant Director Herrighty advised that he did not have that number listed on the report he had. Ms. Pizar was directed to the hard copies of the monthly reports that were available for clarification.

Lastly, she noted that she did not see anything in the June report from the Bureau of Land Management on controlled burning, and was asked if there was a specific season for this to be done. She was advised of that usually runs in the Winter into Spring, or December through March.

There were no additional comments.

A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Kertz to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 pm.