

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Central Region Office
Robbinsville, NJ
October 14, 2008

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

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
Acting Chairwoman Jeanette Vreeland

Division employees included: Director Dave Chanda, Assistant Director Larry Herrighty, Tim Cussen, Ray Porutski, Sean Cianciulli and Sue Predl.

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 am by Councilman Messeroll, who was substituting for 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 September 25, 2008.

Roll call was taken.

A motion was made by Councilman Puskas, seconded by Councilman Burke, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2008 meeting. One minor change was made by Councilman Burke on page 3, paragraph one. He noted a farmer in Camden County, and this was corrected to read "Cape May County". There were no other changes, and **a vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed, to approve the September minutes with the noted change.**

Councilman Messeroll reviewed some his activities this past month, including the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, activities at Pequest, and the Tuckerton Decoy Show.

The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

Director Chanda reviewed some of his recent activities. He recently attended the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in Saratoga Springs, New York where he sits on the Angling and Boating Participation Committee. He noted that in 2009, the Sportfish Restoration Act will be up for reauthorization. Director Chanda briefed the Council on this matter, and noted he would keep them updated of when this reauthorization vote was closer to occurring.

Director Chanda also noted that the Finance Committee may want to meet at 9:00 a.m. before the November 12, 2008 Council meeting.

He also noted the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. The Governor was in attendance, and while there were over 1,000 people in attendance, only 27 fish were caught.

Director Chanda reported that Chief Sciascia from the Information and Education Unit would not be in attendance today. Chief Sciascia is in Atlantic County at a media event to promote the Fall trout stocking program. Director Chanda noted the marketing efforts being done by Chief Sciascia to promote the trout program.

Director Chanda gave a brief update on the dolphins that have been in the Navesink River, and the efforts of the National Marine Fisheries Service to try to move them back to the ocean. He added that our personnel will assist as needed.

Director Chanda reported that the Management Assistance Team from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies would be here on October 23, 2008. With the 25% loss of the Division's workforce over the past several years, they have been asked to come in to help guide the Division to realign our workforce and the services we provide. They will first meet with the Bureau Chiefs during the day, and then with chairpersons from selected Councils and representatives from conservation groups in the evening.

The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation quarterly meeting will be next week, and Director Chanda will be attending on Tuesday and Wednesday. He sits on their Board of Directors. He noted some of the work they are doing and how New Jersey benefits from their efforts. Additionally, they will be hosting a two-day marketing training workshop in November, and we will have staff attending.

At 10:30 am, it was announced that the meeting would adjourn to Executive Session. Members of the public were asked if they had any public comment before the meeting closed. Janet Pizar chose to wait until after the Executive Session. Rob Winkel noted that the Bureau of Wildlife Report showed that six bears were killed under depredation permits, but there was not a year to date total listed. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that it was eight. **A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Van Mater to go into Executive Session. Executive Session commenced at 10:31 am.**

The meeting reconvened at 10:41 am. Janet Pizar asked to make public comment. She reviewed photographs that she had brought today of bear resistant trash cans and how they are being used. She noted that she felt the study being done on the use of these cans would not be correct. There was some discussion with Ms. Pizar, and Assistant Director Herrightly noted that the survey study was being done by a professor from Rutgers. Councilman Messeroll also suggested that Ms. Pizar contact the DEP Commissioner to see if she can get the local government in these areas to help with enforcing trash disposal, noting that this Council does not have authority over this. Ms. Pizar continued with her photograph display and review of areas she was concerned with, but was reminded again that the enforcement of proper trash disposal should be referred to the local municipality. Ms. Pizar also reviewed a copy of a handout she said was distributed with the bear proof trash cans. Councilman Messeroll thanked her for the information shared today. Chief Cussen from the Bureau of Law Enforcement asked Ms. Pizar to forward the information she had on businesses and schools to him, but reinforced that the Division is not able to enforce local residential trash disposal. He also noted that bear enforcement sweeps had not been conducted in the West Milford area because of the bear resistant trash container study, but once the study was completed sweeps could possibly be done. Ms. Pizar again noted her concerns about the study and its results that may come from it, but Councilman Messeroll explained that the Council had worked to put together a Comprehensive Black Bear Management Study that comprised several elements which should work, but their hand were tied when it came to regulating residential trash disposal, and again suggested that she take her concerns to the local municipality. There was some additional discussion regarding Ms. Pizar's concerns.

At 10:55 the Committee reports began. Councilman Puskas reported for the Agriculture Committee, noting that harvest activities have commenced in his area, but yields and prices are down. There have been many deer seen in his area. There are also many geese in the area, and he noted some of the problems they are causing. Councilman Kertz noted things are similar in his area, adding that supply costs are up but income is down. He was not sure if they were having as many geese problems, but added that they also are seeing a lot of deer.

Councilman Messeroll reported for the Legislative Committee. He noted that there was a Senate committee hearing last Monday on the 150 foot archery safety zone and Sunday bow hunting proposals. Both were passed out of Senate committee, but no more information had been received. Director Chanda distributed an update of the Senate and Assembly bills that had been prepared by Legislative Liaison Paulette Nelson. He also reviewed three new bills that were proposed, and distributed a hand out of those as well. Those bills were:

S-2194 and A-3252 which would require DEP to establish free recreational saltwater fishing registry.

A-3280 which would expand calibers of rim-fire rifles permitted on State wildlife management target ranges.

A-3272 which would authorize black bear hunting permits and permit fees, and clarifies Fish and Game Council authority over bear hunting.

These will be reviewed by the Committee, and a recommendation will be made to the Council. It was discussed that a Legislative Committee meeting would need to be scheduled.

Councilman Messeroll also noted Bill S-2080, which would establish a new recreational saltwater fishing license. Director Chanda reviewed some of the details of this bill for the Council, including that the funds from these licenses would go to a dedicated account to be used by the Bureau of Marine Fisheries.

The need for a Legislative Committee meeting was discussed again, and Director Chanda noted that it could be done after the November Council meeting if those members on that committee would like. Councilman Messeroll will be in contact with Legislative Liaison Nelson for updated information, and asked members to contact her or himself if they had any additional information requests.

There was no representative from the Endangered and Non-Game Species Committee.

Councilman Burke reported for the Federation Committee in the Southern Region. He noted that Cumberland County had a meeting last Thursday night, and some members discussed they would like to see the saw rail bag limit reduced from 25 to 15 in the future. He advised them to put their facts together and speak to Research Scientist Paul Castelli before approaching the Council with this proposal for change. There was additional discussion on this matter.

Councilman Messeroll noted that several central county meetings are scheduled, as well as the State meeting this Friday evening. Councilman Wolgast added that at the last State meeting, 11 counties voted in favor of crossbows for hunters of all ages, and three voted in favor for those hunters over the age of 55. The Federation's stand is now to support the use of crossbows for hunters of all ages in all seasons.

The Freshwater Fisheries Committee report was given by Councilman Messeroll. He noted that Fall stocking is occurring, and he's been hearing that anglers have been catching a lot of fish. Assistant Director Herrightly added that Chief Barno would not be in attendance today, but the Commissioner has indicated that she will work to try to get additional staff for the hatcheries. He noted the need for security staff at Hackettstown, which does not currently have a member of staff residing at the area, adding that some vandalism was discovered one morning that had occurred in the overnight hours.

Councilman Wolgast had no new information to report for the Game Committee.

Bureau reports then began. Principal Biologist Sue Predl from the Bureau of Wildlife presented a Community Based Deer Management Permit Application for Watchung Borough. They are requesting the same type of permit that they have since 2003, where they hire Deer Management Systems to cull deer on both borough and privately owned properties. There are 12 sites in all, with the largest Borough property being 20 acres in size, and Principal Biologist Predl noted that this is not large enough to support open public hunting. She added that bow hunting is allowed in the Borough, although last year only five deer were harvested by hunters in that program, due in part to the small amount of open land available. They would like to begin baiting as soon as

possible in preparation for culling in December. They have requested their permit to expire on April 15, 2009, but Principal Biologist Predl noted the Division recommends ending on March 31, 2009 because fawns have been seen on the ground in that area in early April over the past few years. In the past they have culled between 100 and 150 deer each year, shooting during daylight hours at pre-baited sites. Principal Biologist Predl has visited the area and seen large numbers of deer, noting that they are on front lawns in the middle of the afternoon. She added that Deer Management Systems has culled deer from in between houses, and have literally been shooting deer in front lawns with written permission. In April 2008, a survey was sent to approximately 1,900 households, with approximately 700 responding, and overall 40% of these felt that they had severe damage. Additionally, 344 households responded with a dollar amount of damage, and in all there was over \$1,000,000. in damage. Last year they had 15 deer/motor vehicle collisions reported, and this is down from the original 2003 application where they had 45, and Principal Biologist Predl felt that Deer Management Systems was making some headway on reducing the amount of deer/motor vehicle collisions in the Borough. The last infrared survey was done in 2006, and it showed 44 deer per square mile. The Borough would like to reduce this number to 20 deer per square mile. Principal Biologist Predl recommended that Council approve this application, which would include the use of unplugged guns, no requirement for hunter orange, and shooting through March 31, 2009. She added that the deer go to the Hunters Helping the Hungry program, and the Borough pays the butchering fees. **A motion was made by Councilman Wolgast, seconded by Councilman Burke to approve this application.** Councilman Kertz asked about the five deer that were shot by hunters during the bow season last year, inquiring if they regulate the amount of hunters allowed. Principal Biologist Predl noted that they have a limit of 50 permits, but last year only 15 hunters had applied and they have never had to turn anyone down for a permit. Councilman Kertz asked if the hunters paid a fee for these permits, and it was noted that they have a \$50.00 fee. He noted they may get more applicants if they did not charge for these permits, and Councilman Wolgast noted other areas that only charge a \$10.00 fee. Principal Biologist Predl added that she could recommend to them that they reduce their application fee, and she could cite these other areas where the fees were less. There were no additional questions, and **a vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed to approve the application from Watchung Borough for a Community Based Deer Management Permit.**

Assistant Director Herrighty noted an e-mail he had sent to the Council regarding a technical change to be put in to the language of the Game Code which would allow an alternative telephone check in system for the deer season. He noted that this was talked about at the Federation meeting where they would try to seek sponsorship for this alternative registration of harvested deer. One of the benefits of this type of program would be a decrease in monies spent, and it would allow staff to have more time for other projects. There was some discussion on this matter, including if check stations would still exist, and how someone would get a second tag after harvesting their first deer. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that the hunter would write down their registration number that was assigned after calling in the information from their previous deer, and that would serve their needs. Councilman Burke added that he had spoken to Assistant Director Herrighty earlier on this, and there may be something put either on line that the hunter could print out, or in the digest that they could use to record their information. Councilman Wolgast noted that he supports this in concept, but asked if this would delay the Game Code in any way. Assistant Director said that inquires have been made, and this should

not be a problem. Councilman Puskas added that he also supports this, but asked that it be kept simple and not be made to be too complicated. **A motion was made by Councilman Wolgast, seconded by Councilman Puskas to approve the addition of this change to Game Code proposal. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.**

Assistant Director Herrighty noted the Bureau's monthly report, where Principal Biologist Kandoth had spoken to David Felz from Deer Peace about the use of a four poster system. He explained how it is a feeding station that has rollers on it, and it applies an insecticide to the deer when they are feeding from this station to help keep ticks off deer. While it does work, Assistant Director Herrighty noted that it can not be used in suburban areas. Mr. Felz has convinced the water company in Millburn to use these, and Principal Biologist Kandoth has had discussions with the water company that even though they will help reduce the ticks on deer, they are counterproductive for use with the Community Based Deer Management Permits. Councilman Kertz asked if it wouldn't be better to use this system in the Spring and Summer, and end before September, and while that may be so Assistant Director Herrighty noted that the Division has no authority to regulate when they are used. Councilman Wolgast added that these are the same arguments that he's had before on baiting, and wondered why we are allowing this to occur. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that legislation was passed to allow baiting, however Councilman Wolgast felt this needed to be changed and that it should start now before Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) comes in to the State. There was extensive discussion on the issue of baiting between the members, with opinions on the many facets of baiting. Director Chanda noted that it would need to start with us and we would have to look at the best way to manage the resource and where CWD is, and then ask the Department to take the lead have this Legislation repealed. Assistant Director Herrighty added that he would have staff from the Deer Project prepare a paper for the Council on this. He also shared information from a recent meeting he attended in Massachusetts with representatives from other states and reviewed the CWD outbreaks they are experiencing.

The New Jersey Chapter of Pheasants Forever has been working on warm season grass plantings in Hunterdon County. They have requested a permit to import wild pheasants from Wyoming, but they were advised that certain tests would need to be done before these birds would be allowed to be brought into the state. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that the Division has concerns that they do not have enough established grasslands in the areas they would like to stock these birds, and while we have offered to assist them and the townships involved, they have not taken advantage of our offer.

Assistant Director Herrighty reported that Supervising Biologist Andy Burnett has just returned from a meeting Game Bird Technical Meeting, and one of the topics discussed was the use of the "Surrogator", which is an incubator which raises quail from day old chicks. He reviewed how this system works for the Council, but noted concerns that birds raised in a system such as this would not be able to adapt to living in the wild, based on the information received from other states that have tried this system. The New Jersey Quail Project indicated at the State Federation meeting last month that they would like to purchase this type of system and had asked about applying for the necessary permits for raising and banding birds, but Assistant Director Herrighty noted that we are trying to discourage them for now.

The most current black bear activity report was distributed, which covers January 1 through September 20, 2008. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that the Category One incidents are up by 133%, and the Category Two incidents are up by 95%. He also advised that the monthly report shows that 25 bears had been euthanized compared to 18 at the same time last year, but noted that two more were euthanized last week.

Assistant Director Herrighty reviewed bear permits that have been issued to farmers. Several permits have been issued in Sussex and Warren Counties to farmers who have been having damage done to their standing corn crops, and it was noted that one farmer in Sussex County has euthanized six bears that have been causing problems. Two other farmers have each euthanized one bear as well. He noted that questions have come up on restrictions on these permits. He has asked his staff to use common sense while reviewing each request and issue the permit based on each individual situation. If a farmer has multiple bears causing damage, staff will issue a permit allowing multiple bears to be shot. Additionally, permits will be issued for the length of time necessary to allow the farmer to harvest the corn. Councilman Puskas asked if these were being issued by the Conservation Officers, like the deer permits are now being issued but was advised that staff from the Bureau of Wildlife were still responsible for issuing these permits.

It was reported that effective October 1, 2008, all bear related calls were being relayed through the Trenton Dispatch Office. This will allow calls to be recorded and keyed in to the computer system as they come in, and should help reduce the amount of paperwork staff previously had to handle. This was done at the request of the Commissioner.

As of September 20, 2008, staff at the Rockport Game Farm reported that they have 65,000 pheasants on hand for the Fall stocking program.

Councilman Messeroll distributed a letter from Assistant Commissioner Cradic that was sent to Acting Chairperson Vreeland, responding to her July 31, 2008 letter regarding the Game Committee's June 9, 2008 meeting on the Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy. He read the text of this letter out loud, and then it was discussed. Councilman Wolgast noted that we are at an impasse and do not feel that it is a comprehensive policy without control methods being included. He felt that it did not protect the lives and property of the citizens, and as Chairman of the Game Committee, he can't sign a policy that is not comprehensive and does not protect the lives and property of New Jersey citizens. Additional discussion continued on this matter. Councilman Kertz asked if any of the bears shot on the depredation permits had been previously tagged by Division personnel, and Assistant Director Herrighty noted that most were untagged. Councilman Kertz also asked if a farmer was required to report to the Division if the bear has been tagged, and Assistant Director Herrighty noted yes, and for the most part, the Division tries to recover the bear. Councilman Burke asked about the 62 bear vehicle strikes, inquiring if most of these resulted in dead bears. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that yes, and Councilman Burke commented that these 62 bears, combined with those destroyed as problem bears, resulted in over 100 bears being killed. Councilman Puskas asked if any driver injuries resulted from these vehicle strikes, and Assistant Director Herrighty noted that most of the time it resulted in vehicle damage, and he was not aware of any serious injuries that have occurred.

Councilman Van Mater reported that he is being advised by hunters in the Burlington and Ocean County areas that they are not seeing many young deer around, and feels that this may be due to the large amount of coyotes in the area. The coyotes have been seen and heard, and it was suggested to him that there may be a need for an open season on coyotes. Councilman Messeroll advised that this can be addressed in the next Game Code, and suggested that these hunters write to the Council with their suggestions and concern on this matter. There was some additional discussion on coyotes.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:03 pm, and resumed again at 1 pm.

Chief Cussen gave the report for the Bureau of Law Enforcement. There were three new Conservation Officers who started work as provisional appointments on September 29, however, one has left for personal reasons. The two remaining are Jordan Holmes, who will be covering the South Warren County area, and Brian Tomlin, who will be covering the Northern Monmouth County area. These two new officers, along with the seven recent academy graduates, are now participating in the Bureau's Basic Conservation Officer Class being given at the Colliers Mills Training Facility.

During this reporting period, officers recorded 6,406 hours. These were further broken down as 1,728 for marine resources, 626 for fishing activities, 709.5 for deer hunting, 442.5 for wildlife management area activities, and 37 for bear investigations (does not include bear sweeps).

A total of 5,675 field inspections occurred during the past reporting period, resulting in 492 summonses, 21 warnings and no criminal arrests. Of the summonses issued, 146 were for marine recreation violations, 77 for freshwater fishing violations, 160 for wildlife management area violations and 18 for deer hunting violations.

In the Northern Region, CO Kuechler and CO Ziegler investigated a complaint from the Plainfield Animal Control Officer concerning an individual possessing an alligator. The individual claimed to have given the alligator to a friend, and they were able to recover the alligator from that person. The first individual also had several snakes, and received summonses for the illegal possession of an alligator and snakes. Chief Cussen noted that alligators are becoming more popular every year.

In the Central Region, a recent night patrol on the Greenwood WMA was done by Officers Mutone, Martiak and Mascio along with Lt.'s Lacroix and Sich. They encountered a number of individuals in violation of wildlife management area regulations. A total of nineteen WMA and one motor vehicle summons were issued.

In the Southern Region, CO Risher acted as Chairman for the South Jersey Youth Outdoor Day event. He has done this for the past nine years. There were 160 participants, ages 7 to 17, and they received instruction and demonstration on various outdoor activities.

In the Marine Region, COs Jones and Scott set up surveillance of illegal gill nets set in Thorn's Creek, which is tributary to the Raritan Bay. After observing an individual pull the net and proceed down the creek in the dark without using navigational lights, they continued their watch

of this suspect. After additional investigation of this matter, the individual was approached, and denied having a gill net. The net was uncovered from under a tarp on the individual's boat, and had several fish still attached. Various charges have been filed.

In the Training Unit, Basic Conservation Officer Training is underway. This will run for approximately eight weeks. Quarterly scoped rifle qualification were also completed recently.

Councilman Wolgast asked about a recent incident that occurred at the Colliers Mills WMA which involved a horseback rider, as noted in the monthly report. Chief Cussen gave a brief review of this incident.

Councilman Messeroll inquired as to whether or not local police department who had been trained for bear response had to requalify. Chief Cussen noted that while there is no requirement for them to do so, if they are called to respond to a bear incident, they are required to follow the Deputy Attorney General's guidelines for tactical shotgun requalification. He further explained this matter.

Regional Superintendent Ray Porutski reported for the Bureau of Land Management. He distributed the proposed schedule for this year's Pheasant and Quail Stocking Program. He noted that there are approximately 55,000 pheasants available at the Rockport Game Farm for stocking over 15 days, and this is following the historical percentages and numbers as used in the past for the amount of birds available. Quail stocking numbers will be the same as last year, and 11,000 birds will be purchased from the Feathered Prayer Game Farm. Councilman Wolgast asked if it may be more cost effective to purchase the pheasants, as is done with the quail, due to personnel shortages. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that an analysis is being done currently on this matter. Councilman Wolgast also inquired about the Pheasant and Quail Stamp sales, and Assistant Director Herrighty noted that it is stable. Councilman Messeroll asked Regional Superintendent Porutski if they would be looking to use volunteer help for the bird stocking, and he noted that they should be good for now, but that could be a possibility if there are additional decreases in the amount of staff. **A motion was made by Councilman Wolgast, seconded by Councilman Burke to approve the Pheasant and Quail Stocking Schedule as presented. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.**

Regional Superintendent Porutski reviewed some of the highlights in the monthly report. Crews are doing road improvements Statewide, and he reviewed some of the areas where work is occurring. Staff has also been mowing areas for safety zones, and assisting with trout stocking activities.

In the Northern Region at the Pequest WMA, they have been reclaiming 20 acres by hydro ax mowing. At the Round Valley WMA, crews have been working to prepare for a project at the Boat Ramp.

In the Central Region and Southern Regions, crews have been busy with boat ramp maintenance, road maintenance, trash removal, dam mowing and preparing for the Take A Kid Hunting Program.

Also in the Southern Region, Regional Superintendent Widjeskog has been busy at Ponder Lodge after the recent fire that destroyed the mansion there. Regional Superintendent Porutski gave a review of the area and previous vandalism that has occurred. Councilman Kertz asked about the banquet hall that still remains, and it was noted that it is still standing but it too has been vandalized. Director Chanda added that the Commissioner's Office had been approached by several groups who were interested in saving the facilities, and those groups have been advised of what would be required to bring the facilities up to code standards. If these groups can raise sufficient funds, they may receive consideration to allow them to utilize the facility, but they have been advised that our plan is to bring the structure down. Regional Superintendent Porutski noted that vandalism is a problem all over, noting that the old Central Region Office was recently broken into again.

Councilman Burke inquired to Assistant Director Herrighty on the status of the handicapped hunter crossbow permits, asking if there was a time restriction on filing applications. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that they are processed all throughout the year.

There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business was discussed. Councilman Wolgast reported that biologists from the Bureau of Marine Fisheries have been assisting with bear trapping activities, and felt it was positive interaction to have Division personnel work on other projects outside of their usual activities to see what the other bureaus are doing.

The public comment period opened again. Paul Wells from the United Crossbowhunters of New Jersey (UXBNJ) said they were approached after the last meeting about the possibility getting the public involved and making them aware of the use of crossbows. Since the acceptance of crossbows by the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, the UXBNJ will be approaching them to see if they would help with setting up a public participation event where they can come in and try and see the use of crossbows. They are hoping to have this in place for the late Spring, and would call the event "Crossbows in New Jersey-Getting to Know Them". If the Federation chooses to participate, they will then begin promoting the event.

One other item Mr. Wells commented on concerned black bears. He noted that he recently received an e-mail about a bow hunter who was in his treestand, and had a bear begin to climb up in to the tree. The only thing the hunter had with him beside his bow was a bottle that the hunter used to relieve himself. The hunter poured the contents of the bottle on the bear, and threw the empty bottle at the bear which discouraged the bear enough so that it would leave. The hunter also left, and has not been back to the area since this incident occurred.

Councilman Wolgast complimented Mr. Wells and the UBXNJ for their efforts set up the event to help people learn about crossbows and crossbow use.

Janet Pizar inquired about the bear activity reports. She asked if bears that entered fenced area where people kept chickens and rabbits, but did not have additional protective wiring around the cages, were these considered Category Two or Category One bears. Assistant Director Herrighty advised that if they are living in coops they are considered livestock and would be Category One

incidents, but also noted that free range chickens are another category. Ms. Pizar then asked about bears in garages, inquiring if a bear who breaks in to a closed garage is considered a Category One bear, and was advised yes it was. She then asked about bears who enter an open garage door where trash is stored, and asked if that too would be a Category One bear. She was advised not it would not. She noted an incident reported in Vernon Township that occurred on August 26, where a bear had been shot, asking specifically if this occurred at the McKinnon property. Assistant Director Herrightly advised that he did not have the name available, and was not familiar with all the names of all the homeowners who had reported bear problems. She asked that this be checked on by the Assistant Director, noting the report showed the bear had broken in to a closed garage, but she said she had photo documentation from this home on that day showing the garage door open and noted she felt the garage was filthy with trash cans that were not locked and trash that was strewn about. Councilman Messeroll asked if her photos were possibly taken after the bear broke in to the garage, and she commented that the garage was always kept this way. She then asked if a bear was determined as Category One if it caused property damage after getting in to a closed garage, and Assistant Director Herrightly clarified that there would have to be over \$500.00 in damage done, or where a bear was trying to break in to a garage that was attached to a home. Ms. Pizar added when people are advised to store trash in a attached garage bears will be attracted to that area, and they should be advised that they should use a bear resistant can that can be used outside which would keep the bear from accessing the trash. Councilman Messeroll noted that this has been brought up in the past that this could create indoor problems, and advised Ms. Pizar that she should put her comments in writing to the Commissioner's and Governor's Offices.

There were no additional public comments.

A motion was made by Councilman Puskas, seconded by Councilman Van Mater to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.