

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NEW JERSEY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Central Region Office
Robbinsville, NJ
September 14, 2010

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 John Messeroll
Councilman Robert Puskas
Councilman Dan Van Mater

Absent: Councilwoman Barbara Brummer
Councilman Fred Hough
Councilman Ed Kertz
Councilman Len Wolgast

Division employees included: Director Dave Chanda, Assistant Director Larry Herrighty, Legislative Liaison Paulette Nelson, Lisa Barno, Jim Sciascia, Tony Petrongolo, Tim Cussen, Mark Chicketano, Mark Canale, Christopher Petrucelli.

Members of the public included representatives of the Farm Bureau, the Federation of Sportsmens Clubs and others.

The meeting was called to order at 1:03pm.

The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

Roll call was taken.

In accordance with PL 1975, c. 231, notice of this meeting was filed with and posted at the Office of the Secretary of State on August 26, 2010.

Minutes of the August meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll, seconded by Councilman Burke to accept the minutes.** Councilman Messeroll noted one change to be made. **A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed to accept the minutes as corrected.**

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland read a letter to the Council that was sent by Councilman Wolgast dated August 29, 2010, where he officially resigned from the Fish and Game Council.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted some of her activities during this past month. She added that her cell phone number had somehow gotten out to the public, and she has been receiving numerous black bear related calls. She stated that she has only been answering calls of numbers that she recognizes.

Letters have also been sent to Acting Chairwoman Vreeland regarding attending the stakeholder's meeting scheduled for this evening. She noted that she has not responded to these, and has left this matter up to the Division as to who should be included.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted the amount of bears reported in the newspapers that have been hit along the roads. There was one incident where a motorcycle with two passengers hit a bear. While the bear was able to leave the area, the two people involved were not doing too well.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland also commented on the Knee Deep Fishing Club in Hopatcong, and the many awards they have received for their work on water chestnut removal endeavors.

Director Chanda addressed the Council. He reported that the Marine Fisheries Council had been struggling with examining funding opportunities, and have had their Executive Committee working on this. Director Chanda reviewed the three funding ideas that the reported at the last regular meeting of the Marine Fisheries Council, noting that:

1. The idea of having a saltwater license plate is acceptable, with corrections to the current legislation as to the monies taken in so that the funds would go to Marine Fisheries work.
2. Establishment of a conservation lottery which would need a constitutional amendment, approved by the voters, and the monies could go anywhere. There was support for the idea but not with the current language as written.
3. Establish a saltwater fishing license that would mirror a freshwater fishing license, and the monies would go to a dedicated account to manage marine fisheries. This idea received unanimous support to move forward.

He added that perhaps this would now set the wheels in motion for this Fall.

Councilman Messeroll asked if the Federal government would still charge us to implement their registry program if the Division showed that they were moving forward with a program. Director Chanda explained that if we showed that a program was in place, possibly not. It was also noted that legislation would be needed to have the license approved. There was additional discussion on this matter.

The public comment period was opened on the South Branch Wildlife Management Area (WMA) farm lease, as listed on the agenda.

Janet Pizar asked if she could make comment on past recorded and approved agendas, but was advised at this time only comments on the farm lease listed on the agenda were being taken. There was one other person who asked to speak about goose hunting, but he too was advised he could bring that to the Council at the end of the meeting.

Barbara Sauchau addressed the Council. She stated that she was opposed to the South Branch WMA lease and the farm lease program, and although approved by the Legislature, feels it is a scam to the concept of wildlife management areas. She feels that wildlife management areas are not for farmers, but for wildlife. She is also objects to growing deer so that they can be killed by hunters, and opposes any new leases. Ms. Sauchau also feels that the present leases should be cancelled when they are done. She feels the rates are too low and are a scam on New Jersey taxpayers. She asked that her comments be included in the minutes.

There were no other public commenters at this time.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reported for the Agriculture Committee. She noted that it is dry in the Northern Region, and water levels are down. Councilman Puskas added that in the Central Region, they have been hard hit with soybean and corn harvests due to the lack of rain, and noted this was worse than it was in 1999 in his part of the State. Some farmers have given up on Fall planting this year because of the conditions of the ground.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked Liz Thompson from the Farm Bureau if she had anything to report. She noted they have been receiving calls that because of the dry weather, irrigated crops are becoming deer damaged. Other calls are being received concerning restrictions on using depredation permits during bow and arrow season. Just this morning there was a call from a farmer who farms township property where no hunting is allowed, but he was restricted to no daytime use of his permit because it was bow and arrow season. She added that she would be happy to speak directly to the Bureau of Law Enforcement on this issue, but just wanted to bring this concern to the Council's attention. Councilman Puskas had also been contacted on this matter.

Councilman Puskas asked Ms. Thompson to remind farmers in the Farm Bureau newsletter that they need a customer identification number through the licensing system, even as a farmer. Assistant Director Herrighty further explained that not all farmers realize that their customer identification number is on their farmer deer permit. Ms. Thompson felt that they could publish something regarding this.

At this time Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted there would be a change in order of the meeting, and that the Bureau of Law Enforcement would be reporting next. Chief Cussen reported that Conservation Officer Jen Ciralo, who it was reported previously had been struck by lightning while on duty is recovered and has returned to work and doing well.

During this reporting period, officers recorded a total of 6,483.5 hours of duty. Hours reported included 1887.5 for marine resources patrols, 953 for freshwater fishing patrols and 591 for wildlife management area patrols.

A total of 4,985 field inspections were made, resulting in 474 summonses, 61 written warnings and six criminal arrests. The summonses issued included 165 for wildlife management area complaints, 114 for marine recreation complaints, 111 fishing complaints and 37 shellfish complaints.

Chief Cussen next presented the 2009 Conservation Officer of the year award to Officer Christopher Petruccelli. Chief Cussen explained that this award is usually presented to the officer at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, but Officer Petruccelli was not able to attend this year. Captain Chicketano and Lieutenant Canale were also in attendance for the presentation. CO Petruccelli has been working with the Division since 2005, and is assigned to the Marine Enforcement Region, covering Cape May County. Captain Chicketano gave a brief review of Officer Petruccelli's work, and that it was an honor to work with him. Chief Cussen added that Officer Petruccelli was also nominated in 2008, and that he was in a dead heat to the end with another officer for the award that year. He was also recognized today by Director Chanda and Lieutenant Canale for his good work.

Chief Cussen asked if there were any other questions regarding the Bureau's activity report. Councilman Puskas inquired if the criminal arrests that were reported might be increased due to police department cutbacks. Chief Cussen noted that a good percentage of them were due to officers getting involved in wildlife management area issues or fish and wildlife type issues, and find out that the individual has outstanding warrants. He added that in the next few weeks as the deer season gets closer, that could change from warrant type arrests to arrests for individuals not allowed to possess firearms.

Councilman Puskas also inquired about the illegal riding of ATVs on wildlife management areas. Chief Cussen noted that things have been good in the Central and Southern Regions, but have been on the back burner in the North. He reviewed that you need several officers to do ATV patrols, and explained that they have not been able to do so recently in that region because those officers are involved in so many other things right now.

Councilman Messeroll and Legislative Liaison Nelson reported for the Legislative Committee. He noted that the 150' law for bow and arrow hunting (S1181) has taken effect. Legislative Liaison Nelson added that the community based deer management bill (S1776) has also been signed. There has been no other activity, but things should be starting again in the Fall.

Legislative Liaison Nelson asked that the October Committee meeting date be changed, since she will not be able to attend. The Committee will meet on September 20, 2010 at 11am, at the Central Region Office, followed by a Game Committee meeting at 1pm on the same day.

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

Councilman Messeroll reported for the Federation. There was a State meeting this past Friday, and several other county and region meetings have just been completed or are scheduled. He added that at the Middlesex County meeting, which is held the first Wednesday of each month, Scott Sipprelle and Anna Little who are both candidates for the Federal Congress met with members. He added that the Federation does not endorse candidates. Also in attendance were the Sheriff, a candidate for Sheriff, and three Freeholders.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that Senator Orr spoke to the Sportsmen's Caucus and that the Legislature will be asking for information that they might work on.

Councilman Messeroll noted that he heard the Lieutenant Governor Guadagno on the radio talking about upcoming WILD Outdoor Expo, and the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament which she said she will be attending.

Councilman Van Mater noted the Burlington County Federation Meeting next Thursday night. Next month there will be a political representative attending that meeting.

Councilman Messeroll noted that there have been many questions regarding Canada geese recently.

Councilman Burke reported that Atlantic and Cumberland Counties met last Thursday night, and gave a brief review. He noted that every weekend has an event planned for the Fall, adding that this is a busy time of year.

Chief Barno reported for the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. She noted the Statewide drought watch, adding that many small tributary areas have been drying up. Staff are hoping for a change in the next two weeks. They have been monitoring water temperatures, and in some areas they have been coming down to limits that will support trout.

A copy of the Fall trout distribution schedule was given to the Council. Chief Barno explained that the format presented to the Council today was different what was on the Division website, and explained that the website shows the streams as a whole, and this schedule today showed the truck schedule for servicing the different streams.

The fish pump for the Pequest Trout Hatchery has been ordered. Chief Barno noted that paperwork for this process has taken a long time, It is doubtful that it will be here before the October 5, 2010 Fall stocking program, but it should be here for the Winter stocking program.

Also at Pequest, staff have been busy with stripping eggs for the 2012 stocking season.

At the Hackettstown Hatchery, the waterline pipe replacement is well underway. Chief Barno noted that they are finding a lot of old pipe, and it takes some time to figure out what each of the pipes is for as they go. Channel catfish are being shipped out earlier so that the ponds can be drained and the intensive building emptied. The Gambusia will still be maintained in the ponds.

In the Research and Management area, there is a summary of the stream surveys being done and compiled for the Federal Aid Project, and this was reviewed by Chief Barno. This is also part of the Eastern Brook Joint Venture, which Chief Barno explained to the Council. There have been 180 out of 200 streams surveyed in the last 10 years, and all but 10% still have resident trout populations, and she further reviewed this for the Council.

The first draft of the Freshwater Fishing Digest is back and is being reviewed.

Staff have been busy working on displays for the WILD Expo.

Councilman Messeroll noted that the pike fishing has been excellent at Farrington Lake, and discussed brook trout fishing as well. There was also discussion on electro-fishing and the water chestnut problem at the Assunpink Lake. Chief Barno noted that the water chestnut problem has been added to the request for Federal Aid projects to ask for funding for a treatment program as invasive species management. Also added to this project was a request for funding for fish health.

Assistant Director Herrighty reported for the Bureau of Wildlife Management. He noted that staff have been busy delivering deer check materials and supplies to the many check stations.

The Division has been contacted by a British film company wanted to do a story for the Animal Planet Channel about the tigers in Jackson in 1999. They have reviewed video from that time, and Assistant Director Herrighty noted some staff will be played by actors on television. The program is scheduled to air sometime in December.

Supervising Biologist Kandoth, as well as Chief Jenkins from the Endangered and Non-Game Species Program will be attending the Northeast States Technical Committee Meeting.

Principal Biologist Predl has been busy continuing work on assessing deer damage and forest health with staff from the Bureau of Land Management at the Berkshire Valley WMA. She is also working with staff at the Duke Estate to monitor the forest regeneration after invasive exotics.

The Director has signed off on the study of doing dog tracking to recover harvested deer. Assistant Director Herrighty gave a brief review of this study. Dr. Wolgast will be assisting.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted that he is waiting for Principal Biologist Burgess to send the monthly black bear report. He added that Principal Biologist Burgess been working on the adoption documents for Black Bear Management Policy. They are hoping to have it published in the Register in late October. For

the year to date, the Category One black bear complaints are slightly down, and the Category Two are slightly up.

The Wildlife Control Section assisted with the capture of a deer in Union County that had a rat trap on its tongue. In Warren County, they assisted with a deer that was caught in a wire fence. Wildlife Control Technician Sliker also responded to a report of an alligator in a pipe next to an elementary school. Assistant Director Herrightly described how he was able to flush the four foot alligator out of the pipe with assistance from the fire department, and then capture it.

In the monthly report, it was noted that the New Jersey bobwhite research staff and the University of Delaware, will be featured in the Journal of Wildlife Management.

At the Rockport Game Farm, the new incubator equipment is working great. All hatches are over and the birds are in the brooder rooms or the field pens, which were reconstructed with assistance from the Bureau of Land Management after they suffered storm damage.

Assistant Director Herrightly noted the stakeholder meeting scheduled for this evening at 6:30pm, where they will discuss proposed amendments to the Game Code. He added that this is not a public meeting, but a workshop.

Councilman Messeroll inquired about the breakdown of complaints by species in the monthly report, asking if it these were just calls received through the Trenton or were Statewide. Assistant Director Herrightly explained how the phone reporting system works, and there was a brief discussion on this matter.

Chief Sciascia reported for the Bureau of Information and Education. He distributed a draft copy of the fall trout promotional brochure that will be mailed to 25,000 anglers who bought a fishing license and trout stamp in 2009 but had not yet purchased a 2010 fishing license. The brochure contains a map of stocked waters and the fall and winter stocking dates, locations and numbers of trout being stocked. information. This promotion is in response to information from the 2009 NJ angler survey indicating 67% of trout anglers were not aware that all the trout stocked in the fall and winter are 14 inches or greater.

Chief Sciascia noted that a control group of 5,000 was selected from the same group of lapsed trout anglers so the license buying of the control group can be compared to the license buying of the treatment group.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland commented on the interest in the Where to Fish in Central New Jersey brochure. Chief Sciascia noted that his son, who is a graphic design student, did pro bono design of the Central New Jersey brochure and will also be doing designs of brochures for the Northern and Southern areas as well as part of his college course requirement. These new brochures should be done in time for the Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show.

Over the Winter, staff will be working on an overall trout publication. Chief Sciascia still needs to speak with staff from the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries for their input on this. Plans are to have this ready to be sent out late prior to the Spring fishing season.

Chief Sciascia also noted a recent Whitetail Journal magazine article on deer hunting, where New Jersey was listed as one of America's top five states for crossbow hunting. He added that results were based on the number of deer, deer hunting opportunities, amount of public land available and the ability to hunt on

Sunday. He also noted that at the time the article was written, the 150' law had not yet been passed. Staff will be working on a deer hunting publication for next year. Assistant Director Herrightly also commented on the article, noting that the writers had not listed all the available seasons for bow hunting, and New Jersey still ranked high.

Hunter Education numbers are coming back up. Chief Sciascia reported that there are 400 students signed up to complete their course during the WILD Expo.

There have been 1,600 students signed up for the bear training course so far, and Chief Sciascia noted that staff can take over 4,000 if necessary. A location for a final course the day before the season is being secured so that staff can accommodate any out of state hunters who may need the course. It was also noted that during the past two bear hunting seasons 7,000 to 8,000 students were trained. The number of lottery winners will determine the number of classes that will be needed near the end of the period prior to the opening of the season. Councilman Messeroll inquired if there would be an over the counter sale of any leftover permits after the lottery, and Assistant Director Herrightly responded that yes, there would.

In the Education Section, Pequest staff have been busy with fishing education programs. They have been receiving good numbers of participants, and Chief Sciascia noted they would have had record breaking numbers if there had not been so many cancellations this year.

The Trout in the Classroom program is approaching the busy season. Trout eggs will be available soon for distribution to TIC classrooms. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked for a list of schools that might be interested but do not have available funding, noting that the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs is willing to help. Chief Sciascia will have Resource Interpretive Specialist Griglak contact Acting Chairwoman Vreeland or John Regallo regarding this. He also explained that funding opportunities have to be coordinated with the schools at the end of their school year in order for them to make the required equipment purchases at the beginning of the following school year.

The WILD Outdoor Expo is ready to go. Chief Sciascia added that this is a big job for Assistant Biologist Michelle Smith, and also noted the extensive support and assistance provided by Regional Superintendent Porutski and his staff from the Bureau of Land Management in the Central Region. He also noted the participation from the Bureau of Parks and Forestry and Conserve Wildlife as well. Chief Sciascia has met with the new Director of Communications for the Department, Angelene Taccini to inform her of the event. The Expo has gotten good exposure, and information has been sent to the 80,000 e-mail addresses that the Division has in its license database. The National Shooting Sports Foundation has also sent a postcard to a demographic group of 18 to 35 years olds informing them of the shooting sports opportunities at the Expo. Placards have been placed at the toll plazas along the New Jersey Turnpike. Chief Sciascia added that this program has had more exposure than anything the Division has ever held before.

Councilman Burke commented on the black bear seminar, noting that the online sign-up worked quite well and that staff did a good job with the presentation and in answering questions.

Chief Petrongolo reported for the Bureau of Land Management. He noted that there were no new properties added to the wildlife management area system this month.

Crews are working on Fall mowing, road grading and maintenance of bow and arrow ranges. With the approval of the use of crossbows, there was a request to have archery butts that could handle crossbows.

The water access project at the Oyster Creek Boat Ramp in Ocean Township is done. Chief Petrongolo noted that this is a first class facility, and was done in conjunction with Ocean Township who provided a 25% match to Federal Aid funding. This project was first opposed by the Township when it was presented in 1990. Chief Petrongolo noted that there are restrooms, a boat ramp, dock and fish cleaning facilities available, and is now open for use. This will allow good access to the Oyster Creek and Barnegat Bay areas.

Chief Petrongolo noted the Absecon boat ramp is also a first class facility, and staff are working with the Township to increase parking availability. There is Township land nearby, and they have applied for FEMA funding for improvements and DEP Coastal for matching funds. This will be decided on in November by Coastal Engineering.

In Cape May County, the Spicer's Creek Ramp is a very popular spot, but it too needs more parking access.

Chief Petrongolo recently visited the cooperative project being done with the State Forest Fire Service on the Stafford Forge WMA for pinelands habitat restoration. He briefly reviewed the work being done, noting that this is a precursor of the projects we would like to extend on. Pinelands Commission approvals were received rather quickly and he noted this was due in part to the large fires that had occurred in that area that burned 17,000 acres and some buildings. The project is about half-way completed. The Bureau of Endangered and Non-Game Species is also participating in this project, and they support the work that is being done.

Chief Petrongolo presented a copy of a farm lease for the South Branch WMA which is part of the ongoing package from last year's farm lease auction. This parcel was not bid upon, and after the other leases were presented to the Council, someone came forward and asked to take this lease at the minimum required bid. This package had previously been approved by the State House Commission. Chief Petrongolo briefly described the process for the Council, and noted that they expect more new leases for the 2011 season, but that this one had been a hold over from last year. There was some further discussion on this property. When asked about the in-kind portion of the lease, Chief Petrongolo noted that the values of service performed won't change, but the type service required could change. He added that the rates are based on the United States Department of Agriculture and Penn State values, and that leases are in place for five years with the option to sign on for an additional five years. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked if there was any action required by the Council today, and Chief Petrongolo noted that it was Council's option to vote on this or not, or add any input on this lease before it went to the Commissioner's Office for signatures. There was additional discussion concerning this lease, and it was noted that this farmer is the same one who was farming the property under the old lease program. Councilman Messeroll asked if there were any other leases to come, and Chief Petrongolo noted that yes, but new leases would have to go through the auction process and be approved by the State House Commission. This lease was different since it has already been approved. Councilman Messeroll suggested that this matter be tabled until the next meeting so that Councilman Kertz could also have a chance to review the lease. **A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll, seconded by Councilman Puskas to table this matter until the next meeting. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.**

Old and new business was discussed. Councilman Burke noted the September issue of Field and Stream Magazine, which did a piece on the Heroes of Conservation. They recognized Les Murray from Atlantic County in their story. Mr. Murray worked on the program to recycle old fishing line, and is also involved with the Friends of Forsythe Refuge.

Councilman Puskas noted that he was bothered by Councilman Wolgast's resignation from the Council. He asked that it be noted that they had lost one of the best, knowledgeable people. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland added that she was sure that all members agreed.

Councilman Puskas also noted one of the sports shops that was also a deer check station needed a Statewide check station grid map. Assistant Director Herrightly noted they should know to reach out to their regional biologist.

The public comment period began at 2:50pm.

First to speak was Bill Bresley. Mr. Bresley stated that he was 69 years old, and that it was becoming too much work for him to carry his waterfowl decoys across the field for hunting. He asked the Council to consider letting hunters who were 65 and older drive across the fields to drop off their decoys when hunting on wildlife management areas.

Mr. Bresley also feels that there are less deer on the Assunpink WMA than in the past, and that too many does are being killed. He felt that the bedding areas for deer are being cut down, and noted an area off of Route 571 near the small lake. He felt that in the last two year it had been cut down completely, and that seemed useless to him.

Mr. Bresley also had inquired about lands that were in Farmland Preservation and if tax monies were used to buy this land. He wondered if bow hunters could get permission to use these lands if they were bought with taxpayer dollars. Councilman Puskas explained that the monies only purchase the development rights, not the property, and that the landowner still controls the property. He also suggested to Mr. Bresley to speak to the farmer to see if they would allow access for hunting.

Barbara Sauchau was next to address the Council. She felt that there was a matter of taking the weak against the strong. Ms. Sauchau asked why Council took questions from Mr. Bresley and not Ms. Pizar. She asked why five Conservation Officers could not be hired in the Northern Region, but there was money for a Communications Director as mentioned today. Also, she inquired why the dog tracking permit being done with Dr. Wolgast, asked if there should not have been full public notice to comment on this matter before being signed by the Director. She asked that her comment be noted in the record.

Ms. Sauchau also noted the meeting scheduled for this evening, and felt that it was a secret meeting of 12 people and asked why the public does not know what they are doing and who is being invited.

She also inquired if the Legislature set the \$2.00 permit fee to murder bears. She felt it was a small amount to pay to shoot a \$50,000.00 bear, and Ms. Sauchau felt the taxpayers of New Jersey were being cheated.

She asked why the "Farm Bureau Lady" was allowed to speak during the meeting while others have to sit there "dumb and mute".

Ms. Sauchau also noted an editorial in the New York Times this week about lead shot. She said the article said that the problem with lead shot poisoning started in 1842, and was called the bullet that keeps on killing. She said that at the end of August the Environmental Protection Agency turned down a petition to ban lead from a manufacturer of hunting ammunition, and said the EPA said they lacked the legal authority to regulate lead in that forum. Ms. Sauchau said they had received pressure by the National Rifle Association, a very wealth lobby. She also it was a sudden and premature about face for the Agency who had planned a two-month public comment period on the subject, and the turnaround came after the

NRA asked the EPA to reject the petition since they felt it was a backhanded attempt to impose gun control. She felt the NRA should consult the hunters among their members since getting lead out of the environment is essential. She felt that lead was as toxic in nature as in was in the form of lead paint in houses, and noted scientists have established a clear link between the lead from ammunition and the poisoning of 75 species of birds. She also noted safe, effective substitutes for lead ammunition, and some states have experimented with having hunters trade in lead ammunition for non-toxic shells and urges the EPA to reconsider this hasty decision, stating that the EPA has the authority it needs to regulate lead in ammunition as a toxic substance, even though they are not authorized to regulate the manufacture of ammunition itself. She noted that they should also consider banning the use of lead fishing sinkers, but that is not enough, and that a bullet fired from a hunters gun should kill only once, not go on killing again and again.. (Ms. Sauchau left copies of her notes for the file.)

Next to speak was Janet Pizar from Essex County. Ms. Pizar said that she had copies of the minutes from all meeting back to 2007. She noted the minutes of the July 13, 2010 meeting, page 13, last sentence which states “Ms. Pizar also noted her concerns on other aspects of the bear management program with regard to the black bear feeding law to the Council”. Ms. Pizar disagrees with the way her way her comments were recorded, and felt it does not carry what she was speaking on. She felt that in July she had referenced the compilation of money for five years of the non-lethal black bear management program appropriation to the Bureau of Law Enforcement totaling \$625,000.00, that 21,463 violations were written at that time and that only 9 violations had been written on the black bear feeding ban law, noting that three of those were written on June 11, 2006. She noted that 5,002 complaints were compiled about people complaining about bears in bird feeders and garbage, how the Division of Fish and Wildlife will rack up the complaints and not address the core value of the complaints which is illegal human behavior that draws bears into human environment. She felt that it was unethical for those comments to be omitted from the minutes of the meeting, and asked for the minutes to be corrected.

Ms. Pizar next asked to comment on another topic, but was not able to locate her information and declined any further comment.

Last to speak was Agust Gudmundsson, who noted he has been nominated by the Governor for a position on the Fish and Game Council, which he hopes to be joining soon.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reminded those in attendance of the Stakeholder’s Meeting tonight at 6:30 pm. She added that this meeting would be for listening only, and that no notes would be taken.

There was no other business to discuss.

A motion was made by Councilman Van Mater, seconded by Councilman Puskas to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm.