



NJ Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes

8/27/2014

Northern Region Office

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

Committee members: Phil Brodhecker, Lisa DeLambert, Don Bonica, Kelly Simonetti, Tracy Leaver, Diane Nickerson, Dr. Erica Miller, Giselle Chazotte-Smisko

Absent: Dr. Jennifer Norton

Division Employees: Krista Moser, Sue Predl, Hardy Wiedemann, Brian Zarate # #

Meeting called to order at 10:14 A.M.

- Review and approval of previous meeting minutes: Motion to approve Nickerson, seconded Bonica.
- WRAC 2013 Accomplishments Review –Motion to approve Simonetti, seconded by Nickerson.
- Animal Categories – Were utilized in 2014 permit renewal forms and will continue to be used, unchanged, in initial application, and permit renewal and annual report forms.
- Wildlife Rehabilitator Definitions and Requirements document – New definitions and category for off-site caregiver and on-site sub-permittee
 - Off-site caregivers –Some discussion regarding whether apprentices may also be off-site caregivers. Clarification on returning wildlife to rehabilitator prior to release.
 - On-site sub-permittees – Discussion on how long the rehabilitator may leave a sub-permittee in charge of their facility.
- For Rehabilitators who are in violation of regulations: should permit be “revoked” or “not renewed”.
- Discussion about veterinarians and animal shelters euthanizing wild animals without contacting rehabilitators.

- Discussion of animal shelters handling wildlife. A letter will be drafted and sent to animal shelters informing them of the role of rehabilitators.
- NJAWR Wildlife Transport Course - Survey conducted by Krista Moser to determine rehabilitators use of transport volunteers. WRAC encourages those who have taken the course to reach out to rehabilitators for additional opportunities.
- Rehabilitators have expressed concerns about cooperative release of tagged animals and liability.
- Brian Zarate – ENSP.
 - Wildlife Relocation Policy update for reptiles and amphibians.
 - Disinfection protocol.
 - Brian Z would like to get records from rehabilitators that contain specific information about listed species that are rehabilitated. Will work with WRAC to streamline forms, information etc. so the process can be effective and convenient for both parties.
 - If there are certain areas with a high density of endangered, threatened, special concern species, all rehabilitators should know this so they do not release wildlife which could upset this balance.

Next meeting date changed to: 12/3/14