

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Central Region Office
Robbinsville, New Jersey
November 13, 2007

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 Fred Hough
Councilwoman Jane Morton-Galetto
Councilman Robert Puskas
Councilman Len Wolgast

Absent: Councilman Richard Culp
Councilman Ed Kertz
Councilman John Messeroll
Councilman Dan Van Mater

Division employees included: Director Dave Chanda, AD Larry Herrighty, Paulette Nelson, Mark Dobelbower, Tim Cussen, Lisa Barno, Jim Sciascia, Tony Petrongolo and Sue Predl.

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:17 a.m.

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 October 18, 2007.

The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

Roll call was taken.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland gave a review of her activities this past month, including work on the Fish Code.

Director Chanda reminded members of the upcoming Marine Outdoor Writer's Workshop that is scheduled at the Central Region Office on November 15.

The Agriculture Committee reported. Councilman Puskas noted that the Fall harvest was winding down in some areas, but was still ongoing in others. He reported the harvest numbers of deer in his area seemed to be down, but noted that this is the area that the deer had been affected by the Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) outbreak.

Councilman Hough noted that they had a very good crop year, with all the crops now in. He added that the number of bears was on the increase, and there was a very large amount of turkeys in his area. He noted the deer population seemed to be down compared to past years.

Councilman Messeroll was not present to give the Legislative Committee report. Legislative Liaison Paulette Nelson noted that the Legislature was back in session on Thursday after the election. Some titles she is watching include:

S2945 – Would authorize special recreational fishing license plates.

A4479 – Which revises statutory law concerning shellfisheries.

There was also an assembly joint resolution that would designate June 20 of each year as American Bald Eagle Day.

These items will be watched and reported on as activity occurs.

Councilwoman Galetto reported that the Endangered and Non-Game Species Committee had not met this past month and there was no information to report.

Councilman Wolgast noted that he had attended the meeting of the New Jersey Chapter of the Wildlife Society where the Chief of Non-Game and the Conservation Director of the Audubon Society gave a presentation on feral cat issues. There will be cooperation to help to develop a model cat colony. He noted that black bears were now reported in all 21 counties in the State, and he was concerned as to whether or not they would consider bears and their feeding habits when developing this plan for feral cats. He also noted it could have conflicts with laws regarding the feeding of bears. Councilwoman Galetto pointed out that there is no uniformity between municipalities regarding cats, and feels that the Legislature should develop uniform laws for the State. She noted that she felt the Council should also be involved because of the impact on wildlife. There was some additional discussion on this matter.

There was no representative available to report for the Federation Committee.

AD Herrighty reported for the Bureau of Wildlife. He distributed results of the Fall turkey season noting that the harvest was down slightly.

AD Herrighty pointed out that the monthly report shows that the bear staff personnel had finished their research trapping for the Fall. They caught 56 bears in all, with 12 trapped in Bear Management Zone (BMZ) One, 27 in BMZ Two, and 17 in BMZ 4. He noted that there was some difficulty in locating bears in BMZ One due to the acorn crop failure in the areas where they were trapping.

AD Herrighty reported that Research Scientist Paul Castelli hosted the Black Duck Joint Venture last week.

AD Herrighty reported on an e-mail he had received from Principal Biologist Carole Kandoth of the Deer Project with the preliminary Fall bow harvest estimates based on information reported by 13 check stations. The season numbers were down, and as of yesterday with 25% reporting, the harvest was 10,517 compared to 14,090 last year. He added that last year's numbers were higher due to the bank-a-doe program. There was no breakdown available yet by sex ratio, but the Northern region was down by 37%, Central was down by 14%, and the Southern region was up slightly. They would be watching to see if these changes were due to the weather, the EHD outbreak, or the bank-a-doe program changes. Councilman Wolgast added that many people were saying it was just too hot to hunt.

Councilman Wolgast noted that the New Jersey Outdoor Women's League had a dinner last evening, and Principal Biologist Kelcey Burgess of the Bear Project had attended and gave a phenomenal presentation. He felt that Principal Biologist Burgess should be congratulated for his dedication to getting the message out and for giving such a fine program. AD Herrighty noted that he does an excellent job.

AD Herrighty reported that he had the October bear tally, but it would need to go to the Commissioner before it could be presented to Council. He noted that members may have heard Deputy Commissioner Watson on New Jersey 101.5 reporting the numbers of nuisance bears were up slightly. Chief Herrighty noted that the Category One numbers were slightly down, but the Category Two numbers were slightly up. To date, 18 bears have been euthanized compared to 19 at this time last year.

Councilman Burke noted that he had asked Chief Herrighty to check on the percentage of year-and-a-half old males in the deer harvest, because 85% percent as noted in the past may now be incorrect. He was advised that the number is now less than 60%. He added that the deer may now have a better opportunity to survive in suburban areas.

Councilwoman Galetto noted that the monthly report states that sampling was done for Avian influenza, but not results were listed. AD Herrighty gave a brief summary of the testing results, noting that low level pathogens were noted in some species. While the low pathogenic forms may be fatal to some individual bird, they will not affect humans.

Principal Biologist Sue Predl was in attendance to present Community Based Deer Permit applications. She noted that there were applications received at her office that were incomplete. One was from Princeton which needed to obtain approval from the County Prosecutor to use silencers on their rifles. Watchung Reservation in Union County and South Mountain Reservation in Essex County have also filed similar applications, where they are requesting to use volunteer agents on select dates. Additional information is needed on these applications as well.

Today she was presenting application from Millburn Township and Watchung Borough. Watchung Borough was submitting an application similar what they have in years past. Last week Principal Biologist Predl received two more written permission slips to utilize private property, and this would bring the total property acreage to 92 acres. This acreage is comprised of seven Borough owned and five private properties, with the largest Borough property being 10 acres. They will be utilizing the services of Deer Management Systems, a company the town has been using since 2003. Since that time, they have culled 517 deer. She reviewed additional information for Watchung Boro, including damage survey results, infrared survey information, distance surveys, and motor vehicle collision data. Based on the information presented in their application, Principal Biologist Predl recommended to Council that they approve the permit which would allow Watchung Borough to hire Deer Management Systems to cull the deer. They would be using unplugged guns, are not required to wear hunter orange, and they would be shooting deer outside of the standard dates. Councilman Wolgast asked who pays the cost of butchering the deer, and Principal Biologist Predl noted that the town does. This cost is added into the cost per deer that is charged by Deer Management Systems, and the butcher does provide her with receipts for the deer that are butchered so that their records can be verified. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked what the intended deer population was, and Principal Biologist Predl noted that we don't tell them what their goal should be. They are open to bow hunting, but the numbers of applicants for permits are low. Councilman Burke asked if a population count was done before the cull, and she reported it was done after the cull. Councilwoman Galetto asked who wrote the authorization letter that they use, noting she had concerns on the wording. Principal Biologist Predl reported Watchung Borough prepared this, and reviewed that Deer Management Systems is also required to obtain written permission from the property owners to be within 450 feet of their homes. **A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilwoman Galetto, to approve the application for Watchung Borough. A vote was taken with all in favor, and one abstention from Councilman Hough.**

A member of the public, Janet Pizar, requested to speak before the Council was presented with the application from Millburn. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland recommended that she speak to her town directly with her concerns, but Ms. Pizar felt her information was relative to the application to be heard. There was discussion with Ms. Pizar from Bureau Chief Sciascia, AD Herrighty and Director Chanda and she was advised that she would be allowed to make public comment at the end of the meeting. She still felt that she should be allowed to comment before a vote was taken, and expressed that she would be taking her concerns to Commissioner Jackson and Governor Corzine.

The application from Millburn was presented by Principal Biologist Predl. They are requesting to hire Deer Management Systems to cull deer on two Townships and one Water Company property, as well as hire White Buffalo to cull deer using a drop net and bolt gun, as they did last year. On Friday, they faxed a letter requesting that the Division hold in abeyance their request to be given consideration to allow White Buffalo to capture deer at one location and transfer them to another location to be euthanized. An explanation was provided from Principal Biologist Predl as to why they are changing their request. She also gave a review of the information provided in their application to support their request. While visiting the area last week, she noted a significant amount of damage to properties, noting this was an area of Essex County just

outside of Newark where there should not be any deer at all. Based on the information in their written application and her observations, she recommended to Council that they approve Millburn's application for a Community Based Deer Management Permit to use the net and bolt method, as well as shooting deer over bait. She advised Council that they would be approving exemptions to the New Jersey statute and regulations concerning weapons authorized for hunting deer, hunting daylight at designated times only since Deer Management Systems would be hunting outside of the prescribed hunting dates and the exemption for having to wear hunter orange. Councilman Wolgast asked if they might come back to Council at a later date to request the net, remove and euthanize portion of their application. Principal Biologist Predl noted that yes, they might, and AD Herrightly added this was something Council could amend to the permit. Councilwoman Galetto asked if Council could take a short break to asses this matter. Break began at 10:56 am, and the meeting resumed at 11:04 am.

A motion was made by Councilman Wolgast, seconded by Councilman Puskas to go into Executive Session. Council went to Executive Session at 11:05 am.

At 11:19 am, the meeting resumed. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that during Executive Session, members discussed allowing members of the public to speak on the Millburn application now rather than wait until the end of the meeting. She asked members of the audience to raise their hands if they wanted to be heard, and four people responded. They were advised that they would each have three minutes to speak, and this would be timed by Councilman Burke. Council members asked if these requests were individual requests, or would one person be speaking for them as a group. They each asked to be heard separately. They were asked to spell their name for the record.

The first to speak was Phil Kirsch. He noted that he had spoken to some of the Council members separately, and said he was opposed to this application because he felt the information provided was outdated. He wanted Council to know that the town had promised to send a survey to the property owners since June of this year, but they are still waiting for this to be sent. He reviewed portions of the application that he felt were incorrect, noting he felt it was only a partial survey. He also was felt the damage values were not calculated correctly, noting that if you had one million dollars worth of damage, and replacement values were one millions dollars, it should be one or the other, not the sum of both amounts to estimate damage. He shared additional views on how he felt Millburn's application should be put together to be presented to Council. He was asked by Councilwoman Galetto if he had gone to his town council, and he said he had but felt they had been pushed away. He gave a summary of things they had tried to do.

Next to speak was Arnold Selby. He noted that he is a witness to the deer coming into areas where they have never been before. He has lived in Millburn for 34 years, and for the first 25 of those years he says there were no deer in the portion of Millburn where he lives. He added that this Thursday there is a meeting of the Millburn Deer Management Task Force, noting that Mr. and Mrs. Kirsch have been invited to attend. He noted that the Deer Management Task Force has produced extensive documents leading to their recommendation as to why there is a need for the culling methods requested in the Millburn application. Documents are also posted on their website. He shared some additional information on the Task Force's work, noting the overabundance of deer in the area. He asked to make one last note that at every meeting of the

Township Committee the Committee has listened to concerns of those opposed to this application, and again noted that they are invited to the Deer Management Task Force meeting this Thursday.

Edward Rummel was the next to speak. He noted that he has been involved since 2000 in working with Millburn on their Deer Management Task Force, as well as being involved with the Essex County Deer Management Task Force in 2001. He noted that he did not want to repeat anything that was already said, but wanted to back up everything that Mr. Arnold Selby had said. He added that he has had a lot of communication with the Division of Fish and Wildlife. He has assisted White Buffalo in Millburn, and has worked with the application.

The next speaker was Barbara Sachau, who noted she was very glad the meeting was opened to public comment. (at this point, the recording tape failed, report is from notes). She noted she has attended meetings in Millburn. She feels there is a stacked Committee and it does not have enough of a variety of people. She has also seen Principal Biologist Sue Predl's photos (tape resumes at this point) and does not see any damage. She pointed out that she felt the surveys done by the town should be done by a professional.

A fifth person came forward to speak. Janet Pizar asked the Council to review information she had passed out. She felt that information was presented by Millburn that was outdated and obsolete. She further reviewed information that was sent out by Millburn, and at this time, Councilwoman Galetto asked her to please slow down her presentation and added that she would be given an extra minute. She reviewed information from the North Jersey Deer Crash Coalition that gives recommendations on methods to help prevent deer related problems, noting that Millburn had not spent any monies on these methods. Ms. Pizar continued to review the information that she had handed out to Council. At this point, someone from the audience questioned the time allowed to Ms. Pizar, and Councilman Burked noted she was now at 5 minutes. Councilwoman Galetto asked that we hear from our biologists who have been to Millburn for their response to these concerns. Principal Biologist Predl gave an explanation of the damage estimates, noting that the initial cost of the vegetation, plus the replacement costs were added to calculate the total monetary estimate. The survey that was done in 2003 was done to the residents in the special management area. In the continuing discussion among Council and those present, she also pointed out that the 2001 application did not provide an adequate cost estimate of deer damage, and that is why the Division asked for the survey that was done in 2003. She clarified that the 2007 survey was the infrared survey done by Hotshot Infrared. Members continued to review the application with Principal Biologist Predl in order to address the concerns Ms. Pizar presented. After a review and discussion, Acting **Chairwoman Vreeland called for a poll on the approval of the application for Millburn. A vote was taken with all in favor, and one abstention from Councilman Hough. The application was approved with an abeyance on the net-remove-bolt request.**

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked for a vote on the minutes of the October 2007 meeting. **A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Wolgast to approve the minutes.** Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that there was a repeat of paragraphs on page 13. **A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed, to approve the minutes.**

AD Herrightly proceeded to finish his report for the Bureau of Wildlife. He noted that staff has been working on ideas for the next Game Code. He added that Council may want to change the date for the formal proposal because it may interfere with the Fish Code hearing. He reviewed the Fish Code dates with Chief Barno, and they are the public hearing on January 8, the public comment period closing on February 1, 2008 and the vote on February 19, 2008. This matter would be discussed during lunch.

The Bureau of Law Enforcement report was given next. Director Chanda announced the appointment of Tim Cussen to the position of Chief, due to the retirement of Acting Chief Mark Dobelbower on January 1, 2008.

Chief Cussen noted that the Bureau was going through many changes. Most of these were personnel related, with several retirements, but he pointed that Mark Dobelbower had been on top of things with hiring and promotional opportunities. He reviewed some of the recent appointments that had occurred, noting that interviews would be held this week for the Conservation Officer II Lieutenant positions, and the Conservation Officer III position interviews would conclude on November 20, 2007.

Officers patrolled a total of 4,689 hours during this reporting period. From this, 3,301 inspections were made, with 296 summonses and 14 warnings being issued. There were no criminal arrests during this reporting period. Marine recreational violations were the highest, followed by fishing, and wildlife management area violations.

In the Northern Region, Officer Williamson received information on an individual in Sussex County hunting from an out of service box truck in a junk yard. The individual was sitting on a lawn chair with a .22 rifle in possession, and was subsequently charged.

In the Central Region, Officers Tonneson and Mutone had a case where individuals were illegally collecting endangered and non-game species in the wild. They were charged.

In the Southern Region, officers from District Six assisted the New Jersey State Police in a round up of people drag racing on the Bevans WMA. Approximately 30 vehicles with 60 individuals were stopped. Of these, 8 vehicles were impounded. Most were cited for drag racing and WMA violations. Councilwoman Galetto noted that Officer Honachefsky was at this round up until the early hours of the morning, and the next day he was out assisting with putting up an osprey platform.

In the Marine Region, Officers Petruccelli and James investigated a sea scallop vessel that was carrying 190 pounds of scallops over the legal limit of 400 pounds. The scallops were seized and sold a fair market value. Charges were issued.

Councilman Wolgast asked if the staff would be at full capacity with the hiring of the new officers. Chief Cussen noted that they would be slightly below full staffing, but the nature of their Bureau is that staffing issues come in spurts, and they will be short staffed again if there are more retirements.

Councilman Wolgast also noted that he had been asked by people who do residential wildlife control for a clarification of what they can and can not do. He hopes that while they are fully staffed, they can work with personnel from the Bureau of Wildlife to help establish some guidelines for this matter.

Councilwoman Vreeland thanked all those members of the public who spoke on the Millburn application, and asked that they continue to work with their hometown regarding their concerns.

Lunch break began at 12:05 pm.

The meeting resumed at 12:57 pm. Chief Barno gave the report for the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. She reported that this did make the December 3 Register for the Fish Code. The public hearing will be held on January 8, 2008 the public comment period will close on February 1, 2008 and the Council would vote on the proposals at the February 9, 2008 meeting. The final adoption will be done on March 17, 2008 just before the trout season.

Information will be posted on the Division's website, and public notices will be sent to the newspapers.

As of November 1, 2007 fall trout stocking had been completed. There was a two week delay due to the warm weather.

Winter stocking occurs next week. Five-thousand two year old fish will be put in 23 lakes across 17 counties. Chief Barno noted two changes that would occur. Lake Aquatunk was due to be lowered, and the fish for that area were going to Stoney Lake. Mill Pond in Bergen County would not be stocked due to them having a dam reconstruction project, and those fish will be reallocated to other areas.

Results of the Fishing Derby program were reviewed. Staff attended 79 derbies, 11 were pre-stocked, and 10 additional derbies were done by one of the prisons, for a total of 90 derbies reaching out to 18,400 children. Unfortunately, the 2008 program will have to be cancelled due to the staffing shortage at the Hatchery. Letters will be going out within two weeks to past derby sponsors. Hopefully the program will be back in place for 2009.

The Well #7 project at the Pequest Hatchery will start construction within the next two weeks. This project had been on board since the late 1990's, but was put on hold because of funding. Monies from the Capital funding will be used to finance this project. The well should be on line for the Spring trout season.

In the Ringwood State Park, an 11 acre pond known as Sally's Pond will be lowered this week. They were using a coffer dam during a reconstruction project, and the coffer dam has failed. The fish salvaged will go to Shepard's Pond.

All members were reminded of the Freshwater Fish Forum on December 1, 2007 at Hackettstown.

Councilman Wolgast asked about Kelly Davis, former Fisheries employee who was the Division representative to Somerset County. Chief Barno will check with him on whether or not he will continue to serve as the Division Representative.

Chief Sciascia reported for the Bureau of Information and Education. He noted that an electronic list serve message was sent out to inform people of the availability of the Bear Education Program. This went out this summer, and again recently, to about 35,000 people on the e-mail list. They have received a good response with about 60 inquires being received, and Assistant Biologist Michelle Ruggiero has approximately 50 programs scheduled.

Work continues on the bear training manual for Division of Parks and Forestry personnel. They will be meeting with Parks next week to review this. Training should take place in the late Winter or early Spring.

Many of the Bureau's have been posting information on the Division's website.

Chief Sciascia noted that he is working with a skeleton crew at the Pequest Hatchery, since he has two employees out on sick leave. Fortunately, they have two seasonal employees to assist them.

A meeting was held with the Archery Trade Association (ATA) on the potential look for the archery park. They talked about expanding the scope of the park to make it suitable for use as an Olympic training center. The Easton Foundation is interested in funding this type of facility, and staff from the ATA felt we had a good chance of receiving funding from Easton. Al Payne from the Bureau of Design and Construction and the engineers are working to give a ballpark figure of what this type of facility might cost.

Supervising Biologist Paul Ritter will be going to the Archery Trade Summit Meeting in Columbus, Ohio in December. Chief Sciascia gave a review of some of the program areas covered at this meeting.

Councilman Wolgast asked if they will have a crossbow area at the Archery Park, noting that he began hunting with a crossbow this year, and his regular targets will not stop a crossbow shot. Chief Sciascia noted that while they have the room for this type of area, they would have to see if the industry would be able to provide the necessary equipment.

Chief Sciascia reported that the Take a Kid pheasant hunt had been completed. They had 350 participants at 7 locations, and had received a lot of positive feedback.

Hunter Education classes should be finishing up next week. They estimate a total of 5,200 graduates for the year, compared to 4,500 last year.

The Freshwater Fishing Digest will not be out until late February. They are trying to be proactive in letting people know of the delay. A poster will be sent to the license agents for them to display notifying customers of the delay. Proposed changes will be posted on the Division's

website when they are received. There will also be a list service notice sent, and it will be copied to the outdoor writers to notify them of the delay.

Chief Sciascia reminded members of the Marine Outdoor Writers Workshop this Thursday. Councilman Wolgast asked if they would be talking about the salt water fishing license. Director Chanda noted that a representative from the Marine Fisheries Services would be in attendance to review where they are at regarding Federal registration.

Councilman Burke asked if an announcement was being made about the cancellation of the Fishing Derby Program. Director Chanda noted that a letter would be going out.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked about the progress of the Bear CD. AD Herrightly and Chief Sciascia have not gotten together on it yet, but Chief Sciascia noted that Assistant Biologist Michelle Ruggiero is aware of it.

Councilman Burke noted that he has heard the Public Service Announcement on bears. Chief Sciascia noted that the New Jersey Broadcasters Association has extended it for four months.

Chief Petrongolo reported for the Bureau of Land Management. He reported that another 235 acres have been added to the Wildlife Management Area System. Green Acres continues to be active, and the Green Acres Bond Act did pass on Election Day. There was discussion on how the vote went in different areas throughout the State.

Chief Petrongolo reported that there had been a break-in at Eagle Manor on the Dix WMA this weekend. They are still working on putting someone in there, noting that the facility is worth over one million dollars. The plan now is to put this up at auction to be sold.

The City of Absecon is asking for a boat ramp permit approval for the 2008 season. They are making the same request as last year. Chief Petrongolo feels we should approve their request for 2008 and re-evaluate it at the end of the season. The town is adding a floating dock and additional parking.

He noted that Public Service Electric and Gas had purchased an informal mud ramp on the Maurice River Causeway as part of their Estuary Enhancement Program. The former owner had retained rights of refusal on the property. The former owner has since passed away, and plans are now being developed to donate this property to the State so that an improved boat ramp and parking can be constructed. He noted it is also an outstanding birding area. There has been some thought that a bird observation tower may be constructed as part of the project. Councilwoman Galetto explained that it is a popular site for Purple Martins in August.

Councilman Hough asked what the total acreage of the WMA system was now, and Chief Petrongolo reported that it was 319,633.23 acres. There was some additional discussion on the acquisition of lands.

This concluded the bureau reports.

The tentative meeting schedule for 2008 was reviewed. It was noted that June 20, 2008 may be wrong, and it was checked and corrected to Tuesday, June 10, 2008. The November 1, 2008 meeting was actually a State holiday, so the meeting date was changed to Wednesday, November 12, 2008. The Fish Code Hearing will be held on January 8, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Central Region Office, following the Council Meeting at 1:00 p.m., and the Finance Committee Meeting that would be held at the conclusion of the Council Meeting.

There was discussion about the amount of people who would be attending the meeting on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at Pequest. It was noted that they could have the public meeting in the morning at 10:00 am, followed by the Council meeting at 1 pm. With the amount of travel time needed to get to Pequest by representatives from South Jersey, it was noted that the regular Council meeting could be held on a different day. It was decided to have the meeting on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 because the second Tuesday of the month is a State holiday. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am, and AD Herrightly added they might be able to vote on the Fish Code in the morning, and still have time to hear the Game Code Proposals during the meeting.

There will be a Game Committee Meeting on January 29, 2008 at 10:00am at the Central Region Office.

Pending appointments to the Council will be asked about again since things were supposed to happen after the election. Councilman Wolgast noted that he was at a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Watson and asked about Kathy Surlak's appointment. He has not received any feedback yet.

Chief Cussen gave a report on the clarification of the CVA Muzzleloader that was in question at last month's meeting. He distributed a copy of the information researched by Lt. Brown on this firearm. It is called an Electra Arc Ignition Magnum Series, and Chief Cussen explained that our code says flintlock or percussion muzzleloaders are to be used. This firearm has neither of those since it works off of a battery. He noted that Council could make a determination to allow it. Councilman Wolgast asked what he recommended, and Councilwoman Galetto asked about the chance of having a misfire. He felt the chance of a misfire was probably no greater than a regular muzzleloader, but in order to make it safe they would ask that it be completely discharged. He reviewed what other States require for discharge. He recommends not allowing it to be used if you want to maintain a primitive season, but allow it if you want more accuracy. AD Herrightly asked if any states did not allow its use, and Chief Cussen noted that there were three. There was some additional discussion on this matter. Former Chief and Federation of Sportsmen representative Rob Winkel was asked for his opinion, and he added that Council adopts code, and code becomes law, but they no longer interpret law and gave an explanation. It was noted that it should be put on the Division's website and notice sent to the license agents that this weapon is not legal for hunting in New Jersey.

Federation of Sportsmen Representative Rob Winkel noted that the Federation is very disappointed in the cancellation of the Fishing Derby Program. He felt that is year the sportsmen were politically organized, and reviewed matters that they would be discussing this Friday evening at their meeting. Councilman Wolgast agreed that the timing couldn't be worse; noting that these derbies led to future fishermen, and felt there should be another way to economize.

Director Chanda noted that this decision wasn't taken lightly, and it wasn't a matter of economizing, it's a matter of staffing. He explained that he currently has only three people at the Hatchery and no backfills. He noted staffing is also a problem in other Bureaus, pointing out that there are only two wildlife workers in the Central Region, and the Regional Superintendent has been pheasant stocking three times a week because of the shortage of personnel. Federation of Sportsmen Representative George Howard had concerns regarding the wording of the letter that would be going out notifying groups of the derby cancellation. There was additional discussion on this matter. Rob Winkel felt we should contact the Legislators and ask what they can do to help. Director Chanda noted that we still do not have a stable source of funding, and noted that the only Bureau that is close to being fully staffed is Law Enforcement. Rob Winkel asked if the problem was the failure to backfill positions, and Director Chanda noted it was that combined with a lack of funding. George Howard felt that other types of representation at derbies should be looked at.

George Howard also had questions regard the Garden State Preservation Trust funds. He noted that their was a big division among groups regarding where that money is spent, adding that it seems more is being used in recreation areas such as ball fields.

AD Herrighty gave a brief review of the new bonus buck permits. He reported that it seems as if 77% of the people who bought bow permits also bought he bonus buck permit. He gave a brief comparison of the numbers, and feels as if the program is working. There was additional discussion on this matter.

Councilman Wolgast noted the draft crossbow survey that was passed out by AD Herrighty, who asked members to look it over and get back to him.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted a binder left for Council's review from a member of the public, Barbara Sachau on climate change.

There was no other business to discuss. **A motion was made by Councilman Hough, seconded by Councilman Wolgast to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm.**