

Approved 8/13/08

Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2008  
Central Region Office

**ATTENDEES**

COMMITTEE: Jane Morton Galetto (Chair), James Applegate, Barbara Brummer, Rick Lathrop, Erica Miller, James Shissias, Jessica Wilkinson.

STAFF: Dave Jenkins, Dave Chanda, Dave Golden, Kim Korth, Amy Wells

GUESTS: Rick Dutko (NJDEP-ONLM), Lee Rosenson

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am. Notice of this meeting was filed with and posted at the Office of the Secretary of State on March 19, 2008.

Minutes

**A motion was made by J. Applegate, seconded by J. Shissias, and approved by the Committee to approve the minutes for March 19, 2008.**

Status of Action Items

J. Galetto and D. Jenkins provided the following updates:

Champagne Island - Due to a major nor'easter, the island has been reduced in size and the birds may not nest there this year; however, protective measures will continue. The proposed management plan has been reviewed and approved by the Tidelands Council. The next step is the assignment of management rights for uplands and tidelands, by signature of both the DEP Commissioner and the Governor, before becoming effective. The area will then be administered as the Cape May Wetlands WMA. Areas utilized by the birds will be closed to public access, posted and protected accordingly.

Diamondback Terrapin Season - DFW continues to discuss a strategy to address the issue.

Horseshoe Crab Legislation - Discussions noted the need to maintain a deterrent system through adequate fines.

Marine Fisheries Permitting System - D. Jenkins noted the Marine Fisheries program already has a permitting system for purposes of collection and/or possession of marine wildlife.

Nominating Committee - Barbara Brummer has agreed to join J. Shissias and R. Lathrop on the nominating committee. The next step will be to develop a time table, development of a slate for

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the November meeting, and conduct an election at the November meeting. Officers will begin in January 2009.

Reappointments - Resumes and recommendations have been submitted to the Commissioners office and are currently under review by Janice Hoagland with the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA).

Vests - Vests for ENSAC members have been ordered.

#### ORV Park Updates

J. Galetto reported Deputy Commissioner Jay Watson has stated DEP will pursue leasing the Sahara Sands site to an ORV group for the purpose of creating an ORV park. Discussions continued noting the placement of an ORV park at this site will violate the ENSCA and the ENSAC's prior recommendations. ENSAC members requested information regarding these actions, this site, the history and background of the issue, ENSAC's prior recommendations and the Fred Akers report be compiled and provided to ENSAC members

Members expressed the need to determine what e/t issues are on site and to ensure that the surveys are included for the eventual Pinelands Commission evaluation.

#### State Wildlife Grants (SWG)

D. Jenkins noted SWGs account for approximately \$1.2 million (with required 50% match, approximately 80% of the funding for the ENSP budget). SWG projects must be compatible with actions identified in the Wildlife Action Plan (WAP). The Program is currently able to implement a small proportion of the high priority actions defined in the WAP. Discussions continued around the greater need for grant matches, as matching funds dictate what projects will be pursued, and other accounting/staffing challenges.

ENSAC members suggest investigating the possibility of utilizing funds allocated for mitigation settlements and/or revenue acquired by CWF for use on DEP projects as SWG matches. Members also discussed how ENSP might use the work of other organizations (that are consistent with the WAP) as a match.

#### Conserve Wildlife Matching Grants

Kim Korth reported the Conserve Wildlife license plate renewal fee is currently \$10. The revenue generated from the sale of the license plate is distributed as follows: ENSP - \$5, Marine Mammal Stranding Center - \$3 and the remaining \$2 is utilized to fund a matching grant program. Ms. Korth noted a Request for Proposals (RFP) had been advertised in the NJ Register and on the Listserve. Grant requirements included a 50% match of the total cost of the project, completion of the project within 1 year, maximum limit of \$3500/project, non-profit status, and support actions defined in the Wildlife Action Plan. The RFP resulted in 18 projects submitted for review of which 17 projects met the requirements. Grants were approved for 8 projects totaling approximately \$25,000. A list of all the projects and a brief description for each were provided to ENSAC members.

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**A motion was made by E. Miller, seconded by B. Brummer and approved by the Committee to approve ENSP's review and selection process for the Conserve Wildlife Matching Grant monies.**

Note: A quorum of the ENSAC members were not present for the vote, but were present at the beginning of the meeting. As Chair, J. Galetto does not have to vote and she had to leave for a meeting on Scenic Byways. J. Galetto asked that in her absence, her vote conform with the majority opinion.

Impact of Roads on Wildlife - Mitigating Impacts

Dave Golden provided a presentation developed by Jesse Feinberg, Defenders of Wildlife, titled *Impact of Roads on Wildlife - Mitigating Impacts*. The presentation noted how roads contribute to the destruction, degradation and fragmentation of wildlife habitat and possible actions to mitigate the situations. The presentation also provided an overview of statewide planning efforts, completed by other US states, focused on determining where ecological activity is threatened or fragmented by roads. New Jersey has yet to engage in any sort of statewide planning involving roads and wildlife, but ENSP is considering making this a SWG project in the next few years.

**A motion was made by J. Shissias, seconded by B. Brummer and approved by the Committee to adjourn the meeting at 3:10pm**