

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

Central Region Office
Robbinsville, NJ
August 10, 2010

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

Acting Chairwoman Jeannette Vreeland
Councilwoman Barbara Brummer
Councilman Dave Burke
Councilman Ed Kertz
Councilman John Messeroll
Councilman Dan Van Mater

Absent: Councilman Fred Hough
Councilman Robert Puskas
Councilman Len Wolgast

Division employees included: Assistant Director Larry Herrighty, Paulette Nelson, Tim Cussen, Jim Sciascia, Lisa Barno, Tony Petrongolo, Sean Cianciulli, Carole Kandoth and Joe Leskie.

Members of the public included Representatives from the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, the Farm Bureau, the N.J. Trappers Association and others.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

In accordance with P.L. 1975, c. 231, notice of this meeting was filed with and recorded 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 July 26, 2010.

Roll call was completed.

Minutes of the July 13, 2010 meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll, seconded by Councilman Kertz to approve the minutes.** Acting Chairwoman Vreeland ask for one minor correction to be made. There were no other changes. **A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed to accept the minutes as corrected.**

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reported that she has been busy assisting with the chick count at the Rockport Game Farm, noting the last two hatches that have been done using the new equipment. She also noted the work done to repair the outside pens at the game farm.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reported that she had attended the Trappers Association meeting. Members of the Association were happy with the Game Code recommendations, but did have concerns

regarding bobcats. She noted that the Association will be assisting with trapper education classes in September, and they will also be present at the WILD Expo on September 25 and 26, 2010.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reported that she has been at the State Fair for the past few days. The Sussex County Federation borrowed a black bear for their exhibit, and she added that numerous people have stopped and commented on the bear, comparing its size to bears they have seen in their area. Their display also included a number of informational and educational items.

It was noted that the Council would be going into Executive Session at 11:40am, which would be followed by the lunch break.

Assistant Director Herrighty reported for the Director, who was attending a program at the Pequest Education Center being given by Deputy Commissioner Kropp. He noted a presentation on the Antler Point Restriction (APR) Survey would be given this afternoon.

Assistant Director Herrighty reported that the Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy was filed with the attorney for the Department and is under review. It is expected that this will be published in the Register sometime in September or October.

The public comment period on the APR Survey results was opened.

First to speak was David Bachinsky, from the South Jersey branch of the Quality Deer Management Association. He noted that for the past six years, they have been petitioning the Council and the Division asking that five zones be designated as APR zones. He noted the surveys sent and seminars conducted for hunters in that area, noting that the results will be given this afternoon. He did comment that he saw an article written by the Division showing hunter response to APR in the Southern Region. He asked the Council to consider approving all four proposed zones in South Jersey to be designated as APR zones. He added that he understands not all hunters will be in favor of this this, but feel that given four or five years time it will be proven to work.

Barbara Sauchau was the next commenter. She felt that the public needs more time to investigate the APR matter, and asked for an extension of time for the public to do research. She asked the Council not to vote on the APR program today, and added that the public needs more time to comment.

At this time, Assistant Director Herrighty pointed out that there would be no vote on the APR program today, just a presentation of the survey results, and if this matter was to be considered as regulation changes in the future, it would go through the proper Game Code procedures.

There were no other public commenters.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reported for the Agriculture Committee, advising that conditions were too dry in the Northern Region. Councilman Kertz added that the heat and lack of rain were very frustrating, and the heat was putting stress on the vegetable crops.

County fair attendance at various locations throughout the state was discussed. Liz Thompson from the Farm Bureau added that they have had displays at the different fairs.

Liz Thompson from the Farm Bureau also noted that they will be meeting with members of the State and Federal legislatures while they are home on break, and offered to bring any issues that this Council

would like to see addressed to their attention. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked her to inquire about the appointments of the farmer representatives to this Council.

The Legislative Committee report was given by Legislative Liaison Nelson. She distributed copies of the tracking sheets, noting that they were the same as last month.

Legislative Liaison Nelson reported that two bills were on the Governor's desk awaiting signatures. They are:

S 1181 Changes perimeter for bow and arrow hunting around an occupied building.

S 1776 Authorizes counties to develop community based deer management plans and apply for special deer management permits for county-owned lands.

The Legislative Committee will meet on October 12, 2010 at 11:00am, before the start of the regular Council meeting.

Councilwoman Brummer reported for the Endangered and Non-Game Species Committee. She noted that the Committee would be having an outing at Sedge Island next week, and suggested that this Council consider doing the same.

On September 21, there will be a Landscape Mapping Program meeting, and outside stakeholders are encouraged to attend. A number of people are being brought in to get input on how they feel about the using the landscape maps.

A similar stakeholder meeting will be scheduled with regard to the feral cat issue, but they are awaiting the return of Dr. Erika Miller from the Gulf Coast clean-up before a date is chosen. Councilwoman Brummer noted that there is a strong level of interest in what to do about this issue, and a working group within the ENSAC Committee will work with the stakeholders. Some have stated concerns about to implement various programs without funding. Councilwoman Brummer will provide more information after the meeting is held. It was discussed who be replacing Councilman Wolgast as the Fish and Game Council representative to this working group, and Councilman Messeroll will fill this position. Councilwoman Brummer noted that all parties involved are in agreement that reducing the number of feral cats is a good thing and should be done. Councilman Messeroll added that the effect feral cats have on wildlife is not the only concern, that there are public health concerns as well that are connected to feeding these cats.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland inquired as to when a presentation on bobcats might be given to this Council, but no date has been chosen yet.

Councilman Messeroll reported for the Federation. Currently, there are some fishing, trap shooting and sporting clay shooting events occurring.

Members are gearing up for the Fall bow and early Canada goose seasons.

Councilman Burke noted things have been quiet in his area. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reported that the Appalachian Bowmen 3-D shoot will take place soon.

Chief Barno reported for the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. She reported that the streams are low and conditions are dry. Fish kills are starting to be reported, with three reported yesterday. Chief Barno briefly reviewed the areas where the fish kills were reported.

At the Hackettstown Hatchery, staff have been draining the walleye pond, and the fish should go out this week.

Staff are looking to acquire Federal Aid funding for pipeline work to be done this Winter. Chief Barno described that a supplemental well for water supply would have to be dug while the pipes were being replaced, noting that the pipes are the original ones from when the Hatchery was built in 1912 and are almost 100 years old.

In the Research and Management area, thirty stream surveys have been completed. Classification of waters, historic presence of native fish and brook trout information are being recorded.

Principal Biologist Boriek coordinated the Teen Anglers fishing day again this year at the Pequest Trout Hatchery. There were 56 participants in attendance. Chief Barno noted that many of the fish caught that day were over 20 inches in length, and due to the large amount of fish in the pond, participants were allowed to keep two fish each.

Also at the Pequest Trout Hatchery, the nursery building has been cleaned and reassembled. Staff are ready for the Fall egg stripping. The Fall stocking program is also being planned.

There was some discussion on snakehead fish in South Jersey, and some of the areas where they are being reported. Councilman Messeroll asked if a Rotenone application now may help to control any further expansion, and Chief Barno explained that if they are in stream waters, you would have to continually repeat the application to have any effect, but in a contained water area such as a pond you would have more success.

Councilman Burke inquired about Lake Audrey and whether or not the Bureau would consider a closure during the spawning season. Chief Barno noted that the data taken so far is too sporadic, but if they felt the need to do so in the future they would bring this matter to the Council for consideration. It was noted that this area is very popular right now due to the article on Lake Audrey in the Fish and Wildlife Digest.

Councilman Messeroll inquired if there was going to be treatment on the Assunpink Lake for water chestnuts. Chief Barno noted that the Bureau of Land Management would be handling this and believes they are looking for funding.

Chief Barno also updated the Council on the control of snake head eels. The Environmental Protection Agency drafted a proposal for the use of pesticides by individual states, but some of the restrictions could impact New Jersey because they require two years worth of assessment before they will consider issuing permits for use. Chief Barno noted that this could cause problems for us in the future.

Chief Petrongolo reported for the Bureau of Land Management. Seventy acres were added to the wildlife management area system during this past reporting period, bringing the total amount of acreage to over 327,000. He added that old files are being reviewed for any errors on acreage amounts from past property acquisitions. The Green Acres program is active in adding new land all the time.

Staff are busy with summer mowing which on hold was on until August 1 due to restrictions.

In the Northern Region, staff have been spending quite a bit of time assisting at the Rockport Game Farm, and one Worker has been assisting at the Hackettstown Hatchery.

Chief Petrongolo reported that the water chestnut problem and Baldwin and Amwell Lakes has been treated. He was not previously aware of a problem at the Assunpink Lake, adding there is money available for treatment, but this type of project would have to go through an internal review by the Department.

There was also a follow up to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline proposed lease that was discussed at last month's meeting. The State House Commission did meet on this matter, and verbal concerns were conveyed to them. The lease has been approved, but the value of the lease compensation was quadrupled after the assessed values and the methods to determine same were questioned.

Chief Petrongolo reported that the Governor's Office has established a new Commission to look at all right-of-way leases on State lands to review their values. Land Management staff have begun reviewing this matter, and a list will be developed of all wildlife management areas with these types of leases. There was some additional discussion on this topic.

Councilman Burke inquired as to the status of the Oyster Creek boat ramp in Waretown. Chief Petrongolo reported that some final permit matters were being addressed, and that it should be open soon. The ramp will be operated by Ocean Township under a lease agreement. Councilman Burke also inquired about the Salem Canal ramp, and Chief Petrongolo noted that plans are underway.

Councilman Van Mater commented that he was seeing a lot of work being done under powerlines, and was told that companies are now required to keep them open and clear. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that this could be due to Homeland Security issues. Councilwoman Brummer felt that there continues to be an opportunity for an ecological benefit and that there should be some uniform way to have a management guideline in place. Assistant Director Herrighty added that certain companies have contacted the Endangered Species Section for guidance, and the idea of a uniform plan could help get the message across. Chief Petrongolo noted that Connecticut and Maryland have good work being done, and Assistant Director Herrighty asked him to look into what these other states are doing. Chief Petrongolo added that this is something the new Commission should also consider. There was additional discussion on other management plans that have been recognized in the New Jersey area. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked if letters could be sent to the new Commission from the Fish and Game and Endangered and Non-Game Species Councils supporting having set guidelines, and Chief Petrongolo noted that yes they could. After some additional discussion, it was decided that a joint letter would be done representing both Councils. Assistant Director Herrighty asked that Chief Petrongolo investigate the programs in Maryland and Connecticut and report back to the Council.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked about the status of the farm leases through the new farm lease program. Chief Petrongolo felt things were going along fine, with a few exceptions, noting some problems with in-kind services being performed. These matters will be documented and a letter will be sent to the farmers in question. Discussion continued. Assistant Director Herrighty noted to Chief Petrongolo that at the Antler Point Restriction (APR) seminars, some members of the Quality Deer Management (QDM) program asked if they would allowed to do wildlife planting on our areas. Chief Petrongolo noted that yes that could be approved, provided they were signed up as members of the

Wildlife Conservation Corp program and also had insurance for their group. Interested persons should contact the Regional Superintendent in their area.

Councilman Kertz asked about the status of Ponder Lodge. Chief Petrongolo reported that Stockton State College had previously presented a proposal for use of the area to the Assistant Commissioner's Office, but he did not have further information at this time. He also noted that Stockton has recently purchased the Seaview Country Club property. Assistant Director Herrightly noted it was unknown if they have abandoned the idea of using Ponder Lodge. Chief Petrongolo added it had been previously suggested to Stockton that they take the proposal they had for Ponder Lodge and move to the Higbee Beach area, which would be more beneficial since there are plans for a future interpretive center to be developed at that location.

Chief Sciascia reported for the Bureau of Information and Education. He reported that the Fall issue of the Fish and Wildlife Digest is completed, and the electronic version will be available on the Division's website today. Printed copies should be available at license agent locations next week. The waterfowl supplement is close to being finalized, and will be going to the printer this week. It too will be posted on the Division's website.

There has been a good response of applicants to attend the bear education training seminar. There is a combined seating capacity of 1,300 to 1,400 for the seminars currently scheduled, and most of those seats have been filled. Staff will continue to schedule as many seminars as needed up until November, and are anticipating an additional 3,000 students. Assistant Director Herrightly added that many calls are being received as to who may or may not have taken the necessary course previously, and that information is now available to individuals on the Division's website where they can look up their record through their CID number. Chief Sciascia added that if there are any questions regarding individuals who took the class previously, the Hunter Education Office has the original course rosters and can verify their information.

Chief Sciascia reported that the demand for hunter education courses is still down by 20% for students and certificates. There is a full schedule of for classes this Fall, and if the attendance rate stays high, these numbers should go back up.

Staff are preparing for the Fall trout fishing promotion. Past license sales comparisons show that 42,000 anglers did not purchase a trout stamp this year, and 37,000 past anglers did not purchase a license this year. They will be trying to get these anglers interested in fishing this Fall. Plans are underway to send do a direct mail and e-mail campaign, and more information on this will be available at the next meeting. There was some additional discussion, with Councilwoman Brummer suggesting an incentive for repeat license purchasers. Chief Sciascia noted that they are looking into license packaging options for the future.

Chief Sciascia noted that the development of the black bear CD is back on track. There is a new agreement to have the work completed, and things are moving forward toward having it finalized.

Plans for the WILD Expo are being finalized. The event will take place on September 25th and 26th , 2010 at the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland requested that more Hunter Education materials and bear activity books be delivered to the Sussex County Fair.

Councilman Messeroll noted a Predator Hunting Seminar being given at the VFW Hall on Route 571 in Jackson on August 26, 2010. This event is being sponsored by the Ocean County Federation of Sportsmen.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted the Sussex County Harvest Festival will be held on October 23, 2010 and extended an offer to Chief Sciascia for the Division to attend this event.

Chief Cussen reported for the Bureau of Law Enforcement. He wanted to address three noteworthy situations that had occurred. Conservation Officer Ciralo was struck by lightning while on patrol three weeks ago at the Menantico WMA. She was out of her vehicle, and the lightning hit a tree, went through her vehicle, travelled through the root system of a tree, then through her boots to the top of her head. She is currently out on sick leave.

Conservation Officer Hutchinson, who most recently patrolled the Northern Morris County area, has left the Division to take a position with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a Special Agent. He will be assigned to the Newark Office.

Chief Cussen also reviewed an issue that occurred in Rockaway Township at the Split Rock Reservoir. There is an easement for access to the area, which is a popular spot for fishing, boating and hiking, and the Mayor closed parking access to the area due to public safety concerns that included people swimming and cliff diving. The area has been reopened, and our officers have been assisting Rockaway Township with enforcement on this area.

During this reporting period, officers reported a total of 6,204 hours of duty. Officers also conducted 5,534 field inspections, resulting in 505 summonses, 45 written warnings and 8 criminal arrests. The types of violations included 128 summonses for freshwater fishing violations, 238 for wildlife management area violations and 82 for recreational marine violations.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland commented that she had spoken to with someone who had a bear trying to enter their home. She also noted that four bears were euthanized this past weekend.

Councilwoman Brummer questioned the vacant positions as listed on the monthly report summary. Chief Cussen reviewed their current staffing structure, and Assistant Director Herrighty noted that the Assistant Commissioner's office has been made aware of the age structure of the current staff and the need to backfill these and other positions in the Division. He added that surplus Federal funds that can't be spent now are available to cover these positions, and noted that if people retire in mass the Division would be saving money by promoting people from within and hiring new people to fill those vacancies. The funding is available, but the Division would need to have permission to fill these vacancies.

There was no additional report from the Bureau of Law Enforcement. **A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll, seconded by Councilman Burke to go into Executive Session. A vote was taken, and the meeting was stopped at 11:41 am.** Acting Chairwoman Vreeland commented to those in attendance that the regular meeting would resume at 1 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 1:00pm.

Assistant Director Herrighty reported for the Bureau of Wildlife Management. He distributed a letter from the New Jersey Waterfowlers, the most recent bear report summary and a letter of endorsement for the Council to consider.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted newspaper information from last week relative to a court decision in Hudson County regarding the Hudson Farm commercial shooting preserve and the permits issued to them to operate. It was claimed that Hudson Farm was opening a shooting school, which would be tied in to their commercial shooting preserve permit. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that it is not, and he reviewed details of the case. The court ruled that the permit is valid however it was indicated that the permit application procedures be adopted in rule during the Game Code process to help define commercial shooting preserves and spell out the reasons why the Division will or will not issue permits. He further explained these details to the Council.

The bear activity report was reviewed. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that they are currently working with a reduced staff, and things are hectic, adding that over 100 calls were received just yesterday that were referred through the Trenton dispatch office in addition to the calls that came in directly to their office. He also noted several Category One bears were euthanized over the weekend, as mentioned earlier. The bear activity report was also reviewed.

Assistant Director Herrighty requested that the Game Committee schedule a meeting. He noted that it is now a part of the Department's rules to hold stakeholder's meetings for groups with an interest in amendments to any existing rules or the promulgation of new rules. Proposed amendments to the Game Code will be addressed, and he asked the Council to schedule the Game Committee after this meeting so that they have time to review any suggestions before proposed changes are finalized. The stakeholders meeting will be held on September 14, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Region Office to discuss proposed changes to the Game Code. The regular council meeting is also scheduled on that day, and the start time has been changed to 1 p.m.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted in the monthly report the survey of the quail population shows that low numbers of birds are surviving because of the bad winter storms. He reviewed the draft letter that he had distributed earlier. It was suggested by Research Scientist Castelli that a letter be sent to Dr. Christopher Williams from the Council thanking him for his assistance on quail research, noting that this would be good for him to add to his portfolio since he will be coming up for tenure this year. Assistant Director Herrighty also noted that Dr. Williams has been involved in working with the Division on brant and black ducks, adding it is very convenient to have the University of Delaware available to the Division since Rutgers does not have many wildlife department anymore. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland also noted the activity she attended at the University of Delaware presented by Dr. Williams and how well presented it was. **A motion was made by Councilman Kertz, seconded by Councilman Van Mater to send this letter to Dr. Williams. A vote was taken with all in favor.**

Councilman Burke asked about the Bureau of Wildlife Management's monthly report and the matter of bear related phone calls and Federal Aid funding. Assistant Director Herrighty stated that the subsidy for wildlife control was cut, but Federal Aid funding can be used for informational and technical services provided. This fiscal year's budget includes federal aid funding for bear advice given over the phone and in the field.

Councilman Burke also asked that the mortality rate at the hatchery (Rockport) discussed on page 16 of the Bureau's monthly report be re-phrased because it seemed confusing.

It was reported that at the Atlantic Flyway Council meeting last month members voted to request increasing the bag limit from 15 to 25 light geese. The recommendation was sent to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and has been accepted.

The letter distributed earlier from the New Jersey Waterfowlers was addressed. Assistant Director Herrighty noted they were asking to change some of the season dates, but their letter was received too late to be taken into consideration.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted that the Atlantic Flyway Council has jurisdiction over all migratory birds, and in the past few years established a Non-Game bird technical group. There was discussion this year on the Peregrine falcon take by falconers and the permit issuance program. Assistant Director Herrighty briefly reviewed other topics discussed at this meeting.

The dedication of the new brooder house at the Rockport Game Farm will be held on Friday, November 5, 2010.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted some recent staff changes in the Bureau of Parks and Forestry. Assistant Director of Parks, Lynn Fleming, has taken over the position of Assistant Director for the State Forest Service. She will be replaced by John Trontis, who was previously with the Hunterdon County Parks System, starting in September.

Assistant Director Herrighty turned the meeting over to Supervising Biologist Kandoth to present the results of the Antler Point Restriction (APR) Survey that was conducted. He also acknowledged and thanked Senior Wildlife Biologist Leskie for his work in completing the survey project.

Supervising Biologist Kandoth first reviewed what Quality Deer Management (QDM) was. It was noted that the Division considers APR to be a social issue. She gave a power point presentation to the Council, reviewing data on current southern NJ APR zones and on the proposed APR zones. The proposed deer management zones being reviewed today and under consideration for inclusion in the APR program are 28, 30, 31, 34 and 47, which are all in the Southern Region. Current harvest totals were compared to projected harvest totals if the zone were included in the APR program. It was noted that it would be more difficult to determine antler point amounts during deer drives. Supervising Biologist Kandoth noted that there are positives and negatives attached to the APR program. The Division does support quality deer management but recommends it be done on private land, with a consortium of local private landowners working together to institute their own APR restrictions. Supervising Biologist Kandoth noted that this works well in areas that don't have high hunter pressure and where human populations are not negatively impacted. There was additional discussion on the information presented today, including forest health issues, whether or not comparing APR and QDM would be confusing, and if there had been a loss of hunters in these areas.

Next, the survey responses were reviewed. Permit holders from the 2008-2009 season were contacted, but survey data was collected for the 2009-2010 season. Three seminars were also conducted. For the seminars, 3,220 postcard notifications were mailed advising of the event dates and times, and there were a total of 125 attendees. The same number of surveys were mailed, and there was a 44% return rate. Survey results were reviewed by zone. The majority of hunters, 54%, did not harvest antlerless deer, and 69% were willing to give up the chance to harvest a small deer now for the chance to be able to try for a larger deer later. Responses were overwhelmingly in favor of the 3-antler point rule in all zones. There was further review and discussion on the information presented today. Supervising Biologist Kandoth noted that biologically, she was comfortable recommending zones 28 and 47 for

inclusion in the APR program, since they have the best habitat. The three other zones do not have good deer habitat. She added that a written report will be prepared of the survey data and that report will be posted on the Division's website in the future.

Councilman Burke commented that the Game Committee supports all but zone 34 as APR zones. He also feels that APR is social, but added that if it is what the hunters are requesting, it should be tried for a period of three or so years. There was some additional discussion on this program.

Councilman Kertz had some questions regarding the deer tooth aging program, and this too was discussed.

Old and new business was addressed. The Game Committee will have a meeting on September 20, at 9:30am.

Councilman Messeroll noted he had information on the seminar being given at the Jackson VFW for anyone who wanted it.

The public comment period was opened. Barbara Sauchau felt it was a horror for Acting Chairwoman Vreeland to comment on the chick count at the start of the meeting. She commented that she felt that it did not connect that "you're growing them to murder them".

Ms. Sauchau also commented on the Agriculture personnel meeting with the Legislature. She felt the public was being taken out of the process when paid employees were advocating the Legislature, and felt the public had no say.

Ms. Sauchau also noted that she saw no agenda item for animal protection. She stated that the Council's charter says that animal protection is part of "what they supposed to be doing".

Next, Ms. Sauchau questioned the procedures for the property leases. She wanted to know why "Tony" (Chief Petrongolo) had not put information in to the leases regarding ecology when previously writing leases, since he knows how Maryland and Connecticut write their leases. She also wanted to know who "Tony" did not question the 24 year lease that was proposed by Tennessee Gas, when he knew that the pipe that was already in place had been there for 60 years, and asked why he wanted to cut the public out on a 24 year lease.

Additionally, Ms. Sauchau commented that she wanted to know why Pat Carr was being named to the Great Swamp plan because she feels he is presenting an unbalanced representation for New Jersey. She also stated the 563 bear complaint calls verified that they were all complaints, and not sightings.

Next, Ms. Sauchau asked why the Executive Session was not scheduled at the end of the meeting, rather than hold up the public during the day.

She next commented on forest health. She felt that there were 150 thousand deer in New Jersey, and 9 million people. She felt that the 9 million people had an impact on forest health. She also questioned Supervising Biologist Kandoth's presentation, asking why 1,200 people's comments were taken, and not the 9 million people of the general public, only those of hunters.

Lastly, she commented on lead and a lawsuit filed in Superior Court. Ms. Sauchau also noted that she was leaving a list of her comments today for the record.

Councilman Kertz responded to Ms. Sauchau. He asked that she please have her facts straight before accusing people in this room of being or doing something. He noted that Liz Thompson is not a State government employee, that she is a lobbyist. Assistant Director Herrighty also responded to her comment on the leases, advising Ms. Sauchau that Chief Petrongolo does not write those leases.

Ken Weldon from the Quality Deer Management Association of New Jersey was next to speak. He noted concerns of doing deer drives in zones with antler point restrictions, comparing two lengths, one under three inches and the other over three inches, noting that it could be hard to tell if an antler met the minimum size requirement and diameter size.

Mr. Weldon also noted that they had asked two years ago to have DMZ 34 split. He felt that there were two different habitats in the zone, and that the comparison of the area with good habitat compared to the other brought down the harvest averages, and splitting the zone might be beneficial.

Janet Pizar was next to address the Council. Ms. Pizar asked to remind the Council that at the July 2009 meeting those wishing to make public comment were advised that they could only make comment, not ask questions. She added that since that time, she has submitted nine letters and only received a response to one, and asked when she might expect answers. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland advised Ms. Pizar that she had received answers through her Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests. Ms. Pizar stated that her questions were different in her letters and her OPRA requests, and asked if she was not considered to be a constituent, and not entitled to answers.

Ms. Pizar also commented that at last month's meeting, Councilman Wolgast commented that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has submitted over 3,000 unsigned form letters regarding the Comprehensive Bear Management Policy. She noted that she had spoken to the HSUS, and they assured Ms. Pizar that their electronic letters all have names and addresses, but they don't have signatures but are identifiable to the author.

Ms. Pizar felt that the numbers of people for and against the bear hunt should have been reported while the media was present. She also noted that the Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy plan says that it may remove 450 bears, but questioned what the impact of that would be if there are 750 cubs born annually. She also felt that the plan contains information on garbage containment, but it was continually stated that the Council does not control garbage, and asked how can this be and why it is part of the plan now, but has not been for the last four years.

Ms. Pizar also noted the recent attack of a dog at Jungle Park in West Milford, and stated she had reports that dog was off leash and charged the bear, and felt the attack was typical bear response. She also commented on the bear activity report for July 6, and felt that euthanizing a bear for bluff charges was only done to inflate Category One statistics. Ms. Pizar also commented on a bear that had charged a horse that was also categorized as a Category One bear. Ms. Pizar also commented on a bear education presentation she had attended that was given by Dr. Jane Huffman in Pennsylvania. Ms. Pizar said she had given Dr. Huffman a copy of a report from the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources, pointing out to Dr. Huffman that the report showed despite bear harvest, complaints continued to escalate. She stated that Dr. Huffman said, on tape, that she did not know about bear complaints or the effect of hunting on bear complaints, and Ms. Pizar felt Dr. Huffman had no idea on what hunting will and will not do as justification to reduce the bear complaints.

Ms. Pizar asked if the Council had anything they'd like to say to her regarding her comments today on the non response to her letters or Dr. Huffman. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland felt that some of the

things Ms. Pizar said that Acting Chairwoman Vreeland said were not true, but she had no further comment.

Ms. Pizar felt that wildlife is held in trust for everyone in the State, and all should be considered as stakeholders.

David Bachinsky asked to comment on the APR program. He noted that when they go to fairs, seminars and banquets, and overall hunters are happy with the APR program. He also noted that two Conservation Officers are members of their organization, and the biggest questions they are receiving in the field is when are we getting APR in our area, and in areas where it already exists, they are asked if it going to be taken away. He commented on past seasons deer data, and added that the Division has done a tremendous job in deer being harvested. Mr. Bachinsky also commented on the deer current deer populations in these proposed APR zones. He noted the amount of hunters in those zones who would like to see an APR program in place, and asked the Council to consider all five zones for APR when they vote.

Mr. Bachinsky also noted an article he read in a publication from Maryland that said don't change the Fish and Game Council structure in New Jersey, because you have the best system.

Supervising Biologist Kandoth responded to Mr. Bachinsky regarding his comments on deer and the reduction of the antlerless harvest.

Jay Mounier from Franklinville spoke on behalf of the New Jersey Fur Harvesters. He noted that this year was the 25th anniversary of the steel trap ban in New Jersey, and there have been a number of intended and un-intended consequences. He felt that there was far less trappers than there used to be, and far less fur creatures are being harvested. He noted that this may have an unintended consequence in having more predators. He also felt that in the last 25 years there have been a number of advances in the technology of trapping devices. He shared some additional information regarding best management policies, and asked that the Council be aware that there are improved traps readily available on the market, and asked that the Council possibly investigate authorizing advanced trapping devices if only to reduce raccoon complaints. He asked to thank everyone for the work they do not only for the sportsmen but for the wildlife of New Jersey.

Assistant Director Herrighty commented to Mr. Mounier that a best management practices strategy had been produced by Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. He added the that Principal Biologist Burnett has prepared a paper as a first step to evaluate whether or not they would be legal in New Jersey, which is currently being edited. He added that some of these newer traps have been purchased and are being investigated to see if their design is considered legal. There was some additional discussion on this matter.

There were no additional public comments.

A motion was made by Councilman Burke. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland adjourned the meeting at 3:15pm.