

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL AND THE
ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Central Region Office
Robbinsville, NJ
September 10, 2013

A joint meeting of the Fish and Game Council and the Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee was held on the above date.

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Acting Chairman Burke of the Fish and Game Council.

The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

Acting Chairman Burke read aloud the following notice: In accordance with P.L. 1975, c. 231 notice of this meeting was filed with and posted at the Office of the Secretary of State and delivered to the designated newspapers of the Division, the Newark Star Ledger and the Atlantic City Press on August 23, 2013.

Roll call was taken. In attendance for the Fish and Game Council were:

Acting Chairman Burke
Councilwoman Blumig
Councilman Brodhecker (arrived at 10:10 a.m.)
Councilwoman Brummer
Councilman DeMartino
Councilman Link
Councilman Van Mater

Absent: Councilman Gudmundsson
Councilman Puskas

In attendance for the Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee were:

Chairwoman Brummer
Committeeman Applegate
Committeewoman Burger
Committeeman DeVito
Committeewoman Miller
Committeeman Mizrahi
Committeewoman Morton-Galetto
Committeeman Shissias
Committeeman Schweitzer

Absent: Committeeman Geduldig
Committeeman Lathrop

The meeting was well attended, and members of the audience were asked to sign in.

(Councilman Brodhecker arrived at 10:10 a.m.)

Minutes of the August 13, 2013 Fish and Game Council Meeting were reviewed. Two minor changes were noted and **a motion was made by Councilman Van Mater, seconded by Councilman DeMartino to accept the minutes as corrected. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.**

Minutes of the March 20, 2013 Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee were reviewed. **A motion was made by Committeewoman Burger, seconded by Committeewoman Miller to accept the minutes as presented. A vote was taken with all in favor, and one abstention from Committeewoman Morton-Galetto who was not present at that meeting.**

Acting Chairman Burke commented that it was good to get both groups together on occasion such as this. He also advised that there would be slight change in order of the agenda for presentations to be given today.

Correspondence was left for Director Chanda, but it was noted he was not present today.

Chief Barno from the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries distributed information on the Fall Trout Stocking Program to the members of the Fish and Game Council.

Chairwoman Brummer noted that she attends meetings of both groups, and there is much overlap of interest of both groups, and agreed it was good to have the opportunity to be together.

Chairwoman Brummer also asked to recognize Committeeman Dale Schweitzer, who has been a long standing member of the Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee (ENSAC), for his 23 years of service. This was the last meeting where he would be serving as a committeeman, and she expressed that he would be missed for his knowledge as well as his service.

The Nominating Committee for the ENSAC, which headed by Committeeman Lathrop, has been working on the selection process to replace Committeeman Schweitzer, and have recommended Dr. Howard Reinert to fill his seat. Commissioner has not taken action on DFW and ENSAC recommendations regarding appointments and re-appointments.

There was discussion regarding the Atlantic Electric's Holly Farm property in Millville. Committeewoman Morton-Galetto noted that since the last ENSAC meeting, the Appellate Division of New Jersey Superior court had reversed the approval of the sale of the property to developer by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU). The case was remanded to the BPU to determine whether the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) remains interested in purchasing the property. Offers to purchase this property from Atlantic Electric were originally received from the developer as well as the DEP. Chief Petrongolo from the Bureau of Land Management advised that the Green Acres Program has been involved with both the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner and are aware that this would be labeled as a high priority parcel for the Division to acquire, and that he thought that the Green Acres Program still had monies set aside for this purchase. Discussion continued, and there was some concern on the footprint of how this land would be utilized between the developed and preserved portions that were proposed. After some additional concerns were expressed and discussed, Committeeman DeVito asked that a letter be sent to the Commissioner that the preservation set aside that has been offered is not

good enough in comparison to other preservation that has been done with other properties that have been acquired in the past. **A motion was made by Committeewoman Morton-Galetto, seconded by Committeeman DeVito for Committeeman DeVito to draft a letter to the Commissioner on behalf of the ENSAC.** There was some minor additional discussion, after which **a vote was taken of the ENSAC members with all in favor, none opposed.**

Committeewoman Morton-Galetto, noting that as past ENSAC Chairwoman she also sat on the Fish and Game Council (Council), and asked that they also join in this effort to write to the Commissioner. Acting Chairman Burke requested that a copy of their letter be forwarded to him to review with the Council at their October meeting.

Chief Petrongolo was sitting in today for Director Chanda but had no information to report. He noted the upcoming WILD Outdoor Expo scheduled for September 14 and 15.

Acting Chairman Burke noted to those in attendance that there would be no presentation of Council reports or Division reports, and no agenda items to be voted on, so the public comment period would be at the end of the meeting. Chief Petrongolo also shared comments on the agenda today.

A minor change in the order of the presentations for today was noted. Presentations were given on the following topics:

Infectious Diseases at the Wildlife/Agricultural Interface
Presented by Dr. Jan Lovy and Dr. Laura Coffee,
with additional comments by Dr. Erica Miller

Young Forest Habitat Management: Establishing the premise / need.
Portions presented by:
Don Donnelly, NJAS
Kristin Munafo, NJAS
Sharon Petzinger, ENSP
Andrew Burnett, BWM

(Lunch break began at 12:57 p.m. and the presentations resumed at 1:25 p.m.)

Young Forest Habitat Management: Responding to the need – Ongoing and proposed habitat management projects.
Portions presented by:
Don Donnelly, NJAS
Rob Somes, ENSP
Kristin Munafo, NJAS
Kim Korth, ENSP and Bill Zipse, NJFS
Sharon Petzinger, ENSP

With much review and discussion of each of the topics given today, some programs were not covered in full, and it was suggested that both groups reconvene at another time to review this information again. There was also discussion on obtaining further information on what was presented today.

Acting Chairman Burke opened the public comment period to anyone wishing to address the Council and ENSAC members.

Barbara Sauchau addressed both groups, commenting that: information given at meetings should be made public, that employees were hidden from the public and were not able to be questioned, passed around an article on guns and the shooting of wildlife, mentioned a list of animals that are dying and that there should be concern, pipelines and electrical segments going through wildlife management areas, that the public comment period earlier in the meeting was lost, mature forests, toxic chemicals, lead and lead shot, and fine particulates from burning. (Ms. Sauchau expired her three minutes to speak).

Acting Chairman Burke asked to clarify that there were no agenda items today, and advised that is why there was no public comment period earlier in the meeting.

There were no other requests to make public comment.

A motion was made by Councilman Van Mater, seconded by Councilman DeMartino for the Fish and Game Council to adjourn. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.

A motion was made by Committeewoman Burger, seconded by Committeewoman Morton-Galetto for the Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee to adjourn. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.