

NJ Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2016
Northern Region Office –
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

WRAC Purpose: The purpose of the WRAC is to provide advice and assistance to the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to improve the wildlife rehabilitation program and the care that is provided to injured and orphaned wildlife.

Committee Members Present: Kelly Simonetti, Dr. Erica Miller, Tracy Leaver, Diane Nickerson, Giselle Chazotte-Smisko, Phil Brodhecker

Committee Members Absent: Don Bonica, Dr. Jennifer Norton, Lisa DeLambert

Division Employees: Paulette Nelson, Krista Moser

One member of the public present: Heather Freeman

Meeting called to order by K. Simonetti at 10:20AM

- A motion was made by D. Nickerson, and seconded by G. Smisko, to approve the amended January 27, 2016 minutes. A vote was taken with all in favor.
- K. Moser gave an update on WRAC terms. No opposing nominations were received and all representatives will be renewing their positions. H. Freeman expressed interest in the vacant reptile position and will be sending her resume to P. Nelson.
- A motion was made by Dr. E. Miller, seconded by T. Leaver, to nominate D. Nickerson as the committee chair to be effective July 27, 2016. A vote was taken with most in favor, and abstention from D. Nickerson.
- K. Moser gave an update on the proposed regulations to combine captive game and exotic and nongame species. It is generally an 18-month process. Division personnel have begun having meetings with lawyers, and stakeholder meetings are expected to begin soon. An email will be sent out regarding stakeholder meetings.
- Concerns were discussed regarding ethics and conduct for rehabilitators. Suggestion was made by D. Nickerson to write a Code of Conduct into the WRAC bylaws. Dr. E. Miller offered to send ENSAC's Code of Conduct as a template.
- Discussion ensued on bear rehabilitation.
- A motion to adjourn was made by K. Simonetti, seconded by Dr. E. Miller. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15PM.