

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

**Central Region Office
Robbinsville, New Jersey
June 13, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Fish and Game Council was held on the above date.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chairman David Burke.

The flag salute and pledge of allegiance were completed.

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 on May 30, 2017 and delivered to the designated newspapers for the Division, the Newark Star Ledger and the Atlantic City Press; published on June 7, 2017.

Roll call was taken in attendance:

Councilman Phillip Brodhecker (late arrival at 10:18 a.m.)
Chairman David Burke
Councilman Joseph DeMartino
Councilman James DeStephano
Councilman Agust Gudmundsson
Councilman Rick Lathrop
Councilman Jeffery Link (late arrival at 10:06 a.m.)
Councilman Robert Pollock
Councilman Frank Virgilio

Absent:

Councilwoman Cathy Blumig

Division employees included: L. Herrighty, P. Nelson, D. Golden, A. Ivany, F. Panico, B. Stoff, L. Barno, C. Stanko, S. Tesar, J. Saintvil, A. Quirk and S. Coltrain.

There were numerous members of the public in attendance.

Chairman Burke asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. There were a couple of corrections. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

A Motion was made by Councilman Gudmundsson to approve the May 9, 2017 minutes as amended and seconded by Councilman DeMartino. Vote taken, seven (7) all were in favor; motion carried.

Chairman Burke asked Acting Director Herrighty for comments.

Acting Director Larry Herrightly reported the Pequest Open House was a few weeks ago. It was good weather and had a light turnout. A Division meeting was held on June 8th. There were 115 of 213 employees in attendance. A Finance Committee meeting will be held today after the Council meeting. We are in the middle of hiring for Phase 9. We are looking to get eleven new employees. As for promotions, it is unknown the total number we will get. It was sent to the Commissioner's office, we are waiting for approval.

Flounder is a hot issue. New Jersey was found out of compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) for the regulations adopted by New Jersey Fish and Wildlife (NJFW), which was 18-inch minimum fish as opposed to 19-inch. New Jersey's season was shortened to 104 days out of an allowable 128 days because the data shows that if we stay with an 18-inch fish and throw back the sub-legal fish, based on wounding mortality, we will actually kill less fish overall all with an 18-inch limit and take home slightly more than if we had the 19-inch. We think that from a biological standpoint, the goal is to reduce the overall mortality on the population to allow for better recruitment. NOAA will have a hearing on June 20th at 2:00 by conference call where New Jersey get to state their case to them. They will make their recommendation to the US Secretary of Commerce. We are confident we will be able to argue our cause successfully. It is usually posted on various webpages. If you would like to listen, Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission or NOAA may post the information on their website about the call.

Thursday, June 15th the Division will conduct interviews for the Marine Fisheries administrators' position. Brandon Muffley left six months ago to take a position with NOAA Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Council.

Chairman Burke also noted flounder is one of the biggest topic in the southern part of the state coastal areas and asked what could be the consequences.

Acting Director Herrightly stated, if New Jersey is found out of compliance by the Secretary of Commerce, they can shut down the recreational and commercial fisheries. The recommendation from the ASMFC is that we be ordered to adopt the 19-inch limit, 18-inch in the Bay and 17-inch from shore at Island Beach with a three fish limit. They may decide to cut some of the season off because we have been fishing for almost a month at 18 inches. The recommendation is a little bit better than draconian measures they could enforce.

Councilman DeMartino stated he knows a lot of fishermen, and noted from Great Bay up to Barnegat there are a lot of fishermen who are not catching keepers. He questioned whether the commercial fishermen had an effect. He stated there are a couple of hook and line commercial licenses in the state and wanted to know if anyone has looked into getting rid of them because they are allowed to keep the 14-inch and sell them. The recreational fishermen see this as an unfair practice as the commercial fishermen get to keep sub-legal fish.

Acting Director Herrightly stated Councilman DeMartino's experience illustrates the point. The flounder management plan uses a 10% management rate on throwback. NJDFW and NOAA

data shows in order to catch a 19-inch fish in New Jersey, you throw back and average of 12 sub-legal fish. This means for every one fish you keep 1.2 fish dies.

Councilman Virgilio noted for the record the southern region Law Enforcement office has not had a dispatcher/public service representative. He stated calls are diverted to the central region where, while they are helpful, they may not know the history of the southern region. Acting Director Herrighty stated the position is in the plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agriculture Committee Report:

Councilman Link reported receiving inquiries from turkey hunters in the southern zones to have the season two weeks earlier as done in the deer hunting in order to take advantage of the breeding cycle. Chairman Burke stated it would have to be addressed during the next Game Code cycle.

Dr. Sebastian Reist from New Jersey Department of Agriculture reported there has been a rash of rabies recently affecting livestock. More livestock has been affected in the last four weeks than in the previous three years. The reports are from Sussex to Salem Counties. The challenge the Department is faced with is the Health Department does not have a rabies lab at this time. Samples are sent to New York. New York runs a different test than New Jersey used to run. The test is finding unsuitable samples for testing. Acting Director Herrighty asked if there are field tests. Dr. Reist explained the Health Department in New Jersey has a contract with New York State Health Department. New Jersey Health Department had three individuals, two are now retired and one is on maternity leave. Since the samples have to be shipped to New York State, there is an extra day in processing which can confuse the situation. Unfortunately, on one farm that had rabies in North Jersey, the farmer did not have health insurance. He has a family of six and they were all exposed which has the potential to put him out of business.

Dr. Sebastian stated the Northeast Animal Health Association meeting two weeks ago was talking very strongly about recommending to push rabies off the Atlantic coast using the baiting method. He stated Canada is “free of rabies” due to baiting.

Dr. Sebastian stated it is important to get the results as soon as possible and the extra day of transit may make a difference whether it is suitable and unsuitable sample. The sample then goes to CDC, which is another two days. They report negative or positive results.

Councilman Brodhecker report the weather has been good and there are farmers getting in last minute corn planting. He had nothing to report on wildlife.

Chairman Burke stated if there is a need for public comment on an agenda item, time will be allotted for it.

Acting Director Herrighty introduced Fish and Wildlife’s newest employee, Jeffery Saintvil who works in the accounting and finance section and will participate in the finance committee meeting this afternoon.

Farmer/Sportsman Relations:

Councilman Brodhecker reported the committee met and reviewed the bear policy regarding bear damage. The committee will communicate with the Bear Team to ensure they are responding to any valid concern or issues with bear damage. Last month it was reported that a bear had done damage to a chicken coop. The bear has repeatedly come back. The property owner was told to report the incident. She was reluctant to have a bear trap put on her property, but eventually agreed to report it. The committee also discussed depredation regarding coyote ammunition, size, and season. It was agreed that it is something the Game Committee needs to review on an annual basis to ensure the season is maximized. There is no meeting in the near future scheduled yet.

Acting Director Herrighty reported he that he reminded law enforcement that farmers who have multi-depredation permits for bear, deer, etc. should tried to be handled on one application. The staff should also be briefed on the use of archery equipment under special permit. This was bought up by the Farm Bureau a few months ago.

Councilman Virgilio reported attending the Cumberland County Federation meeting. The meeting was dominated by fluke and summer flounder. Reports from fishermen are consistent with what Councilman DeMartino reported earlier. Cumberland County has agreed to use volunteers to lime Lake Audrey in February or March when not much is going on.

Councilman Virgilio has been pushing the volunteer youth fishing license and it is starting to gain popularity. Assistant Director Nelson responded we would have to wait for the next contract and it will be for youth and the senior citizens.

As a follow up from a previous meeting, Snickerson Landing in Salem County may not be available. There is a boat ramp for sale in Salem City. Councilman Virgilio stated the only concern he would have for that ramp is the fuel tanks above the ground and there may be fuel tanks underground which would cost the Division if purchased.

Acting Assistant Director Golden responded, Green Aces is looking into it and as they do their due diligence, they will put it as the seller's responsibility. He stated will follow up with Green Acres to find out the status.

Councilman Gudmundsson attended Morris County and they are planning to have a booth at the Sussex Fair again. They would like to have the Division staff talk about black bear. They will ask other group as well such as the Audubon and Nature Conservancy. Councilman Gudmundsson stated he was approached by walleye fisherman complaining about the closure in the winter. The Lake Hopatcong issue with the State Park Police had reached an agreement this season. The anglers were compliant, but there were quite a few incidences where the gates were locked and people could not get into fish at night. Officers have confronted anglers on the beach asking them to leave, not knowing that an agreement had been reached. Acting Director Herrighty asked for the incidences to be documented in writing. He asked if the fisherman followed up on their part of the agreement to roll the beach to insure there were no hooks on the beach. Councilman Gudmundsson responded he knows there were no hooks found and he

knows they did a cleanup. Deputy Chief Panico offered to follow up with Chief Terri Gernardi of Park Police and asked for dates and times as that would be helpful with the investigation.

State Federation Reports:

Councilman DeMartino reported the fluke was being talked about at his meeting and had a question on coyote shot size, as there is some confusion regarding the issue. Councilman Virgilio reported charts are being developed and will be given out when completed.

Chairman Burke reported attending two meeting since the last Council meeting. Fluke is a big discussion at the meetings. He also stated there is a candidate for to replace him on the Council. The President from the Cumberland Federation attended one of the meetings. In September the region will vote and October the State will vote.

Chairman Burke also reported Atlantic County supports three youth fishing tournaments with one being held on May 13th which had to be canceled due to rain. The next day was Mother's Day and there was no rain date in the plan. Next year will be planned with a rain date. There was a youth blue fish tournament which worked out well with the winning fish all over 10 pounds. In Atlantic City there is a youth fishing tournament with police department involvement. Some of the youth had never fished prior to the event and this event gets them interested in fishing. Chairman Burke reported hunters complained about not having enough turkey check stations. Cumberland complained about not having anyone available at the Southern Region Office to take coyote reports.

Councilman Virgilio asked if there could be one phone number for the state dedicated to take coyote calls directed to the Northern Region Office. Chief Stanko responded the individual working with coyote is in the field and that may not be practical.

Finance Committee:

The Committee will meet right after the Council meeting today.

Fish Committee:

Councilman Gudmundsson reported the fish code meetings were very productive. Chief Barno will give a report later in the meeting.

Game Committee:

Chairman Burke reported there was no committee meeting. The Game Code will be presented later in the meeting.

Legislative Committee:

The legislative activity report was distributed. Assistant Director Nelson stated there are about ten new bills introduced since the last meeting.

S-323 requires liability insurance for permit to possess certain dangerous animals. The owner must show Fish and Wildlife proof of insurance when they get their permit.

S-3145 designates Bog Turtle as state reptile, however, A-4963 designates Eastern Milk Snake as NJ State reptile.

A-4964 designates Pine Barrens Treefrog as New Jersey State Amphibian.

A-4785 Directs DEP to designate areas in each State park and forest for construction of bat houses. Since it will be on park land, Fish and Wildlife will only advise Parks and Forestry.

A-4844 & S3291 Authorizes temporary member to fill certain vacancies on Fish and Game council. It would be only on the farmer side to fill a temporary vacancy when a term is left vacant for one reason or another. The temporary fill would be someone with past Council experience. When the term expires, the position would be filled via the Ag Convention.

AR-242 urges President and Congress to enact “Transparent Summer Flounder Quotas Act.”

AJR-144 established “Healthy Pollinators Task Force.” This will affect the mosquito commission.

A-4974 appropriates \$5 million from General Fund to Department of Agriculture for financial assistance to fishermen affected by 2017 reduction in summer flounder and black sea bass harvest quotas. Assistant Director Nelson stated there was something similar to this 10 or 12 years ago.

S-2400 authorizes use of tracking dog to search and recover wild deer during prescribed hunting season. This bill passed the full senate at the end of May and has Fish and Wildlife support.

A-1069 requires DEP to establish “private wildlife habitat certification program” creates affirmative defense against municipal nuisance ordinances for properties certified under the program. Fish and Wildlife did not take a position either way.

ACR-229 Commemorates New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife for 125 years of fish and wildlife conservation. This bill passed through the assembly.

AJR-83 Designates first full week of June each year as “New Jersey Fishing and Boating Week.” this has passed the assembly and is moving on to the senate.

AJR-148 Designates fourth Saturday of September each year as “New Jersey Hunting and Fishing Day.” This resolution has passed through the Ag and Natural Resource Committee.

Endangered & Non-Game Species Advisory Committee:

Councilman Lathrop reported the ENSAC did not meet in May, but a meeting is scheduled for June 21st. May and June is important period for the shorebird migration coming through the Delaware Bay. There has been a lot of activity down at the Delaware Bay. Unfortunately, there were very limited horseshoe crabs spawning which negatively affected the shorebird weight gain.

Councilman Lathrop announced that he is working on planning a two day meeting on oyster agriculture and horseshoe crabs to be held in September.

Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee:

Chairman Burke reported a Committee will not meet again until September.

Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee:

Councilman Brodhecker could not attend but Assistant Director Nelson took his place. There is a new member, Heather Freeman. She works at Woodlands Wildlife Refuge and she is the reptile/amphibian expert. The Committee is looking to add a state representative who is a veterinarian. The captive game and exotic animal regulations is being updated. It is almost complete. The plan is to get the regulations submitted to the lawyers under this administration and in a year they will be updated.

The Committee will work on regulating pest control operators. This was started over ten years ago. The Pest Control Operators Association will be involved. They will decide if this will move forward or leave as is.

Public Member:

Councilman Pollock reported he will be in a Washington, D.C. meeting with the Deputy of the Secretary of the Department of Interior and with the Director of Mitigation for the Conservation Fund. Councilman Pollock asked if there is any property the Council is interested in, please let him know so he may bring it up at the meeting. He also stated he is involved with a new Senate bill called the Fast Act. The Fast Act is a Federal Act that requires a federal agency, that has more than one permitting action, inform the Ombudsman office to move infrastructure projects through the system quickly.

DIVISION REPORTS

Barbara Stoff, Licensing and Permits reported she is reviewing dates and is preparing to input into the system. In light of the problems the trappers are having claiming the beaver and otter permits, she will extend the award pickup by one week, before inputting the dates into the system. Councilman Gudmundsson asked Ms. Stoff about the children's licenses mentioned earlier. Ms. Stoff replied the RPF is in the hands of Treasury and they would have to review it to see if it is covered under some other language already in the proposal. Ms. Stoff mentioned the proposal has provision for a hard card to be purchased for a child. The picture on the hard card changes each year and can become a collectible item.

Chief Lisa Barno, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries passed around pictures of a shad caught in the Musconetcong River last week which is evidence of shad returning as a result of dam removal from the Lower Muskie. Acting Director Herrighty noted there was an article in today's Star Ledger regarding the return of the shad.

Chief Al Ivany, Information and Education, reported on May 21st the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament was held. It was an excellent turnout with more than 600 individuals attending. Commissioner Martin and Acting Director Herrighty were present to give out the awards. The

winner was a 16 year old from Nutley who caught a 34-inch bluefish. There were 13 Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs participants. Also in the new high school category, there were 49 participants. Lacey High School's Toad Master Team won the first place cup with a 22 6/8 inch bluefish. They received an engraved cup and plaque for winning.

Pequest held its Open House on June 3rd and 4th. Attendance was down and a meeting will be held to discuss possible reasons and whether or not Open House will continue to be held in June or back prior to the opening day of Trout Season.

The Bureau is working on getting the word out on reducing summer flounder (Fluke)mortality through Facebook posts, Press Releases, brochures and the DEP Press Office. The DEP Press Office and Communication's Office are discussing public service announcements for the same. Chief Ivany stated there is a giant fluke icon on the Fish and Wildlife webpage with fluke information and DEP posted the same icon on their page.

The application period for a new biologist trainee for Information and Education has closed. The trainee will work out of the Central Region Office in Assunpink and will start the Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation "R3 Campaign" as well as working on other projects such as bringing back the veterans and military outreach programs.

Chief Ivany met with representatives from Assistant Commissioner Boornazian's office regarding the Bureaus proposal to start Instagram and YouTube accounts for the Division. They are in support of the proposal and it has now gone to the Commissioner's office. If they approve it, the Division will be the first in the state to have both Instagram and YouTube accounts. The Bureau already has videos ready to be shared on YouTube as well as the equipment to make new ones. The Hunter Education Program videos will be updated, biologist work will be video documented and a host of other projects will take place. Councilman Gudmundsson asked who will edit the content. The Assistant Directors, Chief Ivany and the DEP Communications Office will be involved in approving the content to be put out. Councilman Gudmundsson asked that hunters and anglers be allowed to submit content to be reviewed.

Chief Ivany along with the DEP Press Office is working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on a joint news release regarding the return of shad in the Musconetcong River.

Chairman Burke stated there was a wounded warrior fishing event on Saturday in Tuckerton similar to the pheasant hunt run by the Division. Councilman Gudmundsson stated a similar event was held on the Musconetcong River this weekend as well and noted these type of events are starting to become popular for sportsmen giving back.

Acting Assistant Director Golden reported on behalf of the Bureau of Lands Management. Land Management is in the early stages of removing the Warren Glen Dam. This dam is co-owned with a private company. The company does not have the money to contribute toward the removal but they do own a lot of land along the riparian in this area. The direction Land Management is taking for the removal of the dam is for DEP to be financially responsible in exchange for some land which will provide access.

The Millville Shooting Range site preparation has been completed to realign the range. Trees and stumps have been removed. The next phase is construction/realignment of the berm in a 200-yard range. A meeting between Hunter Education and Lands Management staff will take place on June 16th. Councilman Virgilio suggested a posting be put up to inform users the area is not open to high-powered firearms.

Chairman Burke asked about the status of the WMA User Survey. Councilman Gudmundsson reported attending the meeting where NGOs gave their input on what Division of Fish and Wildlife should be doing. Acting Assistant Director Golden stated the survey was completed in April and Stockton now has a year to write the final report. He plans to have Stockton come to the joint meeting and present a preliminary report. Acting Assistant Director Golden asked if any one has any topics they would like discussed at the joint meeting, please start giving them to him now.

Acting Chief Matthew Brown was not present and Deputy Chief Frank Panico made a report on his behalf. Deputy Chief Panico reported that five new recruits will graduate from Gloucester County Police Academy on July 12th. The next step will be an in-house Conservation Officer School and then have them in the field by early September with their coaches. He stated with the support of the Director's office the Marine Unit has appointed a Marine Conservation Officer to be the primary operator of the new offshore 36-foot vessel which is in sea trials right now. It is hoped to be in the Bureau's possession by the end of the month.

Also, with the support of the Director's office, the northern region appointed a Conservation Officer as a detective. He has been active making contacts with detectives from other Police Agencies in the northern counties and is investigating some pollution cases.

In the southern region there were over 50 violations issued, and one arrest on White Oak WMA for 21 bags of cocaine packed for distribution over the weekend. In Split Rock Reservoir during the Memorial Day weekend there were 31 violations issued for littering, alcohol, swimming and motor vehicle. Central region is preparing to get ahead of illegal reptile collecting that goes on each year. On the Greenwood WMA an automotive repair shop dumped quite a bit of solid waste including pallets, plywood, and containers and was charged heavily for it. Conservation Officers have been assisting with HOFNODs programs whenever they could.

Chief Carole Stanko, Bureau of Wildlife Management reported the Rockport Farm is producing 39,000 birds, and purchasing 15,000 adult birds and 9,000 day old chicks. The farm is on track to meet its obligation to stock 50,000 birds, stock dog training on WMA's, Take-A-Kid hunting program, and the veterans' hunting day.

Acting Director Herrightly reported Chief David Jenkins, Bureau of Endangered Non-Game Species Program, had to attend another meeting. Chief Jenkins is in the process of finalizing the SWAP that has to be sent in to the USFWS by the end of the month.

Chairman Burke stated Forsythe National Refuge has done some repairs to their access road and is having a problem with their water system and the wildlife viewing dike will be closed for a couple of weeks sometime during the summer to repair.

Acting Assistant Director Golden gave out a letter and map he received from Woolwich Township in their petition to cease firearm hunting and trapping at Raccoon Creek WMA. Woolwich Township has previously proposed to take over the responsibility of managing the property and, in return the area would be closed to trapping and firearm hunting. They also would like to build a multiuse path on the southern side of the road. This was presented to the Council back in January of this year. At that time the Council did not want to move forward because of the prohibition of trapping and firearm hunting. The township was invited to come to the Council meeting and make their request.

The township did not want to come, but have re-grouped and sent a new proposal without a management agreement and request that firearm hunting and trapping not be allowed on this property and that the Division allow the bike path to be constructed. Acting Assistant Director Golden stated, the reason the township wants control of the property is because they own properties on both side of the Division's property. During the original acquisition process through Green Acres, the township also wanted to acquire the property. Land swap discussions were also held between the Division and the Township, but an agreement could not be reached.

Acting Assistant Director Golden's recommendation is to deny the request of prohibiting firearm hunting and trapping on the property, make an agreement to allow the multiuse path. If this is not acceptable to the township the Division will ask them to produce property suitable for a land swap.

After a brief discussion Chairman Burke opened the floor for public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP PETITION (3 MINUTES)

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ stated she is speaking for 95% of New Jerseyans and thinks that Green Acres money comes from everybody and we don't see that hunters should have the right to use all this land they already have so much. She stated she thinks safety of the people of Woolwich Township is important. She thinks every place you can shut down, is a good thing.

Councilman Link made a motion to deny the request from Woolwich Township to the cessation of firearm hunting and trapping at Raccoon Creek, allow the multi-use trail and be amenable to the land swap, seconded by Councilman Brodhecker. (Councilman Virgilio would also like for an opportunity to be extended once again for the Woolwich Township representative to speak to the Council). A vote was taken, all were in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Lunch: 11:53 am – 12:49 pm

Captain Anne Quirk read the statement for revocation appeal for Mr. William E. Baker, Jr. convicted of a violation on September 7, 2013 of operating an off-road vehicle on a WMA and

on December 5, 2016 of failing to wear florescent orange visible on all sides while firearm hunting and the statements of the issuing officers.

Mr. Baker was represented by Mr. Chris Midura, Esq., a partner of Goldberg Segalla. Mr. Midura and Mr. Baker testified as to why the Council should restore Mr. Baker's license. Mr. Baker was questioned by Council members.

Chairman Burke asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion.

Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to open the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman DeStephano, all were in favor, motion carried.

After the Council discussed Mr. Baker's violations, **Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to close the discussion, seconded by Councilman DeStephano.** Chairman Burke moved the hearing to restore or not restore.

Councilman Brodhecker made a motion restore Mr. Baker's license, seconded by Councilman Gudmundsson, 6 in favor 3 opposed, motion carried.

Chairman Burke informed Mr. Baker that he would have to take a remedial training course and he would be notified by the Director's office with further information.

Captain Anne Quirk read the statement for revocation appeal for Mr. Maxwell Couch convicted of two violations on November 26, 2015 failure to display hunting license on outer clothing and failure to exhibit hunting license upon request and on December 24, 2016 failure to display hunting license on outer clothing. Mr. Couch gave his statement to the Council as to why they should restore his license. Mr. Couch was questioned by Council members.

Chairman Burke asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion.

Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to open the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman DeStephano, all were in favor, motion carried.

After the Council discussed Mr. Couch's violations, **Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to close the discussion, seconded by Councilman Brodhecker.** Chairman Burke moved the hearing to restore or not restore.

Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion restore Mr. Couch's license with appropriate remedial training, seconded by Councilman DeMartino, A vote was taken, all were in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Captain Quirk asked if the Councilmembers if they needed the 2017 pocket portion for Title 23 and gave to all who said they needed it.

Chief Barno made a presentation of the 2018-19 Fish Code Recommendations. Chief Barno stated the full presentation had been sent to the Council in advance of this meeting, but she has

taken some slides out in light of the tight agenda. She also noted the recommendations are from the Fish Committee.

After the presentation Chairman Burke opened the floor for public comment on the 2018-19 Fish Code Recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON 2018-19 FISH CODE RECOMMENDATIONS (3 MINUTES)

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ stated that it is a sheer fakery of the pretend fishing. She does not understand why we have the fish hatcheries and putting them out as if they got there on their own. It is a ridiculously expensive program and she does not see the sense of it. If it does not grow their naturally, it shouldn't be there.

Chairman Burke asked for a motion from the Council

Councilman DeStephano made a motion to release the 2018-19 Fish Code Recommendations seconded by Councilman Lathrop, A vote was taken, all were in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Burke stated in the absence of critical business he would like to cancel the July meeting. Acting Director Herrighty and Acting Assistant Director Golden confirmed there was nothing critical to meet on.

Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to cancel the July meeting, seconded by Councilman Brodhecker. A vote was taken, all were in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Director Nelson stated any Councilmember who had mileage to submit must do so as soon as possible as it is the end of the fiscal year and the deadline for submission is June 16th.

Chief Stanko made a presentation of the 2017-18 Game Code Amendment. She stated the all Councilmembers present had an opportunity to review the actual comments during the lunch break. She stated each Game Code along with the comments will be reviewed at the same time. Chief Stanko confirmed with the Chairman that a vote will be taken at the end of the presentation.

After the presentation Chairman Burke opened the floor for public comment noting that any public comment received at this time will not be a part of the 60-day comment period that is now closed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON 2017-18 GAME CODE AMENDMENT (3 MINUTES)

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ stated the strange way of counting people who write in. If someone writes in and says they oppose all elements of what you are trying to change also specifically makes comments about each separate proposal, that should be counted as an

opposition. There were a lot of times there was a zero. She stated she voted against almost everything in the Game Code. Her vote against should be there, opposing.

Chairman Burke asked if there was anything Council wanted to vote on separately or would they like to vote on the amendment as a whole. Councilman Virgilio stated Game Code 34 and 35 was voted unanimously by all counties except Atlantic, who remained neutral, to oppose. The Southern Region, the State Federation and the Central Region support opposition to those codes and should be voted on separately. He also stated he agreed with Ms. Sachau's point of counting an individual's comment.

Councilman Virgilio made a motion to delete proposal 34 and 35 from the 2017-18 Game Code, seconded by Councilman DeStephano, A vote was taken, 2 were in favor, 7 opposed, motion failed.

Chairman Burke moved the meeting to vote on the balance of the Game Code in its entirety

Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to accept the amendments to the Game Code and the Game Code in its entirety, seconded by Councilman Link, A vote was taken, all were in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Burke stated this will now be published in the New Jersey Register.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Janet Pizar, Millburn, NJ addressed the two hearings for early license restoration. Ms. Pizar question the ability of a person who has been declared totally disabled being able to hunt without retesting or recertifying his skills. Ms. Pizar stated if the Council feels the suspension period is too long for certain violations, there should be a move to change the law, not disregard it. It is an insult and disrespectful to the Conservation Officers.

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ commented she has an issue with fishermen being allowed to go into Lake Hopatcong all hours of the night. Everyone should follow the same laws. Ms. Sachau also commented on the meeting Mr. Golden had with Stockton on usage of the WMA. She feels it secretive and keeps the general public out so they do not realize their money is being utilized in these areas. Ms. Sachau stated fish are very intelligent animals and they feel pain. Once the fish hook is taken out, most of them die. The system that is set up with the unnatural hatchery for growing fish and having people put them out; you can sell the fish from the hatchery.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gudmundsson and seconded by Councilman Link to adjourn the meeting at 3:11 pm. Vote taken, all in favor, none-opposed; motion carried.