

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

**Central Region Office  
Robbinsville, New Jersey  
May 8, 2018**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Acting Chairman Frank Virgilio.

The flag salute and pledge of allegiance were completed.

Acting Chairman Virgilio 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 2, 2018 and delivered to the designated newspapers for the Division, the Newark Star Ledger published on May 5, 2018 and the Atlantic City Press; published on May 4, 2018.

Roll call was taken in attendance:

Councilman Phillip Brodhecker (late arrival 10:10 a.m.)  
Councilman Joseph DeMartino (late arrival 10:05 a.m.)  
Councilman James DeStephano  
Councilman Agust Gudmundsson  
Councilman Rick Lathrop  
Councilman Jeffrey Link (late arrival 10:14 a.m.)  
Councilman Robert Pollock (late arrival 10:05 a.m.)  
Councilman Loren Robinson  
Councilman Ken Whildin  
Acting Chairman Frank Virgilio

Division employees included: L. Herrighty, D. Golden, P. Nelson, B. Stoff, C. Stanko, A. Ivany, S. Cianciulli, J. Heilferty, C. Smith, J. Bullock. A. Quirk and S. Coltrain. Also present was Assistant Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources, Ray Bukowski.

There were numerous members of the public in attendance.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes.

**A motion was made by Councilman Gudmundsson to approve the April 10, 2018 minutes, seconded by Councilman Lathrop. Vote taken, all were in favor; none opposed, motion carried.**

Acting Chairman Virgilio gave comments on the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen Clubs that took place the previous weekend. There was an open forum on Saturday and the outreach program the Division of Fish and Wildlife offers to its constituent

groups is outstanding. There were different topics throughout the entire day which were widely attended. That part of the convention is open to the public without charge. There was great participation and all the topics and presenters were professional. They engaged the federation groups and constituents' groups with questions and answers. Everyone not only enjoyed it, they carried on discussion after each topic. Which really imparted a lot of knowledge to them and us. He thanked Director Herrighty and his staff for a job well done.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked Director Herrighty for comments.

Director Larry Herrighty introduced the new Assistant Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources, Ray Bukowski. He is an outdoorsman and been with the Department for a long time. Director Herrighty stated he was glad to have him and gave Assistant Commissioner Bukowski the opportunity to speak to the Council.

Assistant Commissioner Bukowski gave a little history on himself and work within the Department. He stated he is very excited about being Assistant Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources and is looking forward to working with everyone to help provide access and to protect resources. He stated he will stay at the meeting until noon and will answer any questions and participate in discussion.

Director Herrighty asked the Council to introduce themselves to the Assistant Commissioner. He then introduced staff member John Heilferty, who will move into an Acting Chief position for the Endangered and Nongame Species Program as Dave Jenkins will retire as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Director Herrighty also reported attending the Federation Convention and presented the Director's Award for Conservation to the New Jersey Audubon Society for being a great partner on many issues. They are partners in the re-introduction of bobwhite quail in Southern New Jersey project, stood by the Division on the Sparta Mountain WMA Forest Stewardship Plan and have been very important in lobbying the federal and State Legislators on issues that are important to the Division. It was reported in the newspapers the State employees had a contract dealing with back pay. Money was put away in anticipation of it passing, so the Division is in good shape to make the back payments. There will need to be a Finance Committee meeting in June. Depending how the fringe rate is set over the next couple of years, we may move from the black into the red.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Agriculture Committee Report:

Councilman Brodhecker reported farmers are still a little behind schedule due to early season delays. They are working sun up to sun down. They see a lot of turkeys in the farm fields. Bears are seen all over the place, but currently there is no damage from them. There are a lot of poultry producers who have losses due to foxes and racoons.

Dr. Sebastian Reist from New Jersey Department of Agriculture reported the Asian Longhorned Tick has been found in another county in the State of New Jersey. The tick was found in Union County before the one found in Hunterdon County. This changed the scope and focus of the tick issue. USDA is taking more of a leadership role in looking for the tick. The other issue was a couple of deer that came from Sandy Hook that a Federal veterinarian was concerned had foot and

mouth disease. The deer had lesions around its mouth. The deer was tested for foot and mouth and was found not to be that. The jury is still out on what exactly the problem is, but they are working on it.

Assistant Director Nelson gave a report on the ticks and what the Division's role is in it. She reported it is a collaboration between the NJ Department of Agriculture, USDA, Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Protection. The Joint Base Dix McGuire is interested in doing surveillance on their property. The site where the tick was found in Hunterdon County has been treated at least twice. There was a minor treatment last Fall. The sheep was treated as well as the farm. The sheep has since died due to age. The farm was treated again two weeks ago with a very high dose of Sevin. The area was less than three acres. The barn was also treated since ticks were found in there too. When the ticks were coming out of the soil in the Spring, it was found that all three life stages of the tick had made it through the winter. What is being found out is this tick acts differently than ticks normally found in our area, in that they do not spread out. The findings are there is a real high concentration of ticks in a small area and when you go out of the area you don't find any which makes it harder to find.

Farmer/Sportsman Relations:

Councilman Brodhecker had nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Link reported things are very busy in agriculture areas.

State Federation Reports:

Councilman DeMartino reported attending the Ocean County Federation meeting. They were excited about the upcoming state meeting.

Councilman DeStephano reported attending the State Federation Convention and the Trappers meeting. At the trappers meeting there was a presentation regarding the upcoming renovation to Hyper Humus property.

Assistant Director Golden further explained Hyper Humus property is in the Paulinskill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and this restoration project is in its early stages of finding out what the interested parties want. There is a stakeholders meeting being scheduled for late May, early June. Once it is scheduled he would let the Council know in order to let those who are interested attend the meeting.

Councilman Gudmundsson reported he was away for the last four weeks and had nothing to report.

Councilman Robinson reported attending the Hunterdon and Somerset April meetings. The discussion was about the deer harvest presentation made by Chief Stanko. Everyone was happy and there were no complaints. Councilman Robinson also went to Union County where they discussed expanding archery hunting in the County. He also attended the Hunterdon and Middlesex Ducks Unlimited Dinner. It was his first time attending and he enjoyed it.

Councilman Whildin reported attending the Burlington County meeting, the State Deer Committee Meeting, the State Federation Convention Banquet and the Pheasants Forever Banquet. The Federation

event was very well organized and there was a ton of information. The Pheasants Forever Banquet was in its second year and they doubled their attendance.

Acting Chairman Virgilio reported attending a few meetings. Camden County had a discussion on the R3 Campaign (Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation). They want to get involved and are looking at special dates, like father son/daughter hunts. Next month they are going to have a kids' campout for Father's Day, but probably not on Father's Day. Camden County thinks this may be an area where they can increase members through recruitment. They are looking for more direction from the State once the campaign is up and running. Camden County elected new officers and Ron Wiggins is the new President. He has been an active member of the County Federation for a long time.

Acting Chairman Virgilio Salem County is still concerned about the removal of the traditional waterfowl hunting cabins on the WMAs and asked if there was an update.

Assistant Commissioner Bukowski gave history on how the waterfowl hunting cabins issue came about with someone asking for permits to build. He is working with the Commissioner for a plan on how to move forward and together they are working with legislators to come in agreement with some legislation.

Acting Chairman Virgilio reported attending the Cumberland County meeting. They discussed the Spring Turkey Permit and the Lottery System. They had a question on the process and how selection is made. Cumberland County had their 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Trash Hunt. They picked 9.2 tons of trash, 3.4 tons of tires and 11.6 tons of concrete. Breakfast and lunch is served. People use their own trucks and bring back to the site where dumpsters are located.

Acting Chairman Virgilio also attended the Gloucester County meeting. They would like to have the Division renegotiate the Pinelands proportional ratio. The reasoning is when the Pinelands was started, the Pinelands gave the Division approximately 25 acres to use without permits. Gloucester County is stating when this came about in the 1990s, the Division did not have as much property, so the number should be increased because there is more property to manage.

Assistant Director Golden responded there have been times when they tried to open the MOU to make changes and each time it has failed. Now there is a concern about opening up under the thought we might get less. We will continue to talk about the Pinelands agreement and changing it. Assistant Director Golden suggested the response should be, we have an existing exemption that allows us to create 25 acres of fields each year and 100 acres of forest management each year. Over the past several years, other things have limited us in doing the work and we have not reached these acreage exemptions. Once we start working on an annual basis at a scale where the acreage exemptions become a limiting factor, then maybe we need to consider expanding.

Gloucester County also discussed the R3 Program and is looking for youth hunt days and bringing in and reaching out to women and minorities.

Acting Chairman Virgilio attended the Middlesex County Meeting and they had a big discussion on the R3. They want to have different types of hunts, bringing in people and recruiting new people. The length of time was also discussed as the new person needs to have some level of success. He presented the finalized version of the Senior Citizen Advantage Program. They created a sub-committee which include

himself, Jeff Wren and John Messeroll to meet with the business office. One other thing that was discussed was the turkey check station in Toms River is gone and it is hard to find turkey check stations. Ms. Stoff stated Middlesex County lost a lot of license agents which could be the problem. Chief Stanko stated the Division is on the cusp of going electronic with turkey check. The language was put into the Game Code a couple of years ago. When the new contract comes up, turkey check in will be electronic like deer is now.

Finance Committee:

There was no report. Assistant Director Nelson asked for a meeting in June. The Committee agreed to meet after the Council meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Fish Committee:

Nothing to report.

Game Committee:

Nothing to Report.

Legislative Committee:

Assistant Director Nelson reviewed the legislative activity.

A-3784 & S-2468 are companion bills which prohibits intentional release of balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases. They have been around before. She will follow to see how it goes during the session.

S-1925 Designates Bog Turtle as the State Reptile. It has passed through the Assembly and will be heard, along with its companion A-1530, in the Senate Environment Committee on Thursday. The Division did not take a position on this but it is nice to have a state reptile.

S-2419 – Permits certain deer control activities; prohibits deer feeding and establishes check-off donation on hunting license applications to support venison donation program. This is coming up on Thursday in Senate Committee. There are a number of things contained in the bill. It puts a better definition for hunting and baited area. Creates an account within the Hunter and Anglers account for donations for Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) Program. There will be a check-off box for options to donate when licenses are purchased.

Director Herrightly added the Division started working with Senator Smith on this bill ten years ago as a result of foresters to have a method to control deer. It will allow the Division to issue a depredation permit to a farmer enrolled in forest management plan approved by the Division of Parks and Forestry with a Forest Stewardship plan and when a forester demonstrate deer browsing is a problem. It also gives the authority to the Fish and Game Council to control baiting. There were 809 deer donated this year, 12,000 pounds of meat.

HR-4647 to amend the Pittman-Roberson Wildlife Restoration Act to make funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies. This bill now has 51 sponsors. It is going through another markup and may be ready soon. There is also a Senate version to be introduced over the next couple of weeks.

Councilman Gudmundsson asked if/when the account Hunters Helping the Hungry is open, will donations be allowed to be directly deposited outside of purchasing a license? Assistant Director Nelson said she would look into this and get back to the Council.

Endangered & Non-Game Species Advisory Committee:

Councilman Lathrop reported on the meeting in April and one of the issues considered periodic review of New Jersey's threatened and endangered species. Birds were discussed and several hundred birds were reviewed through the Delphi Process. The Delphi Process is a group of experts go through a consensus process to assess the status. Species are either up-listed or down-listed depending on the trends. The good news is bald eagles have been increasing and is going from endangered to threaten. The osprey is being moved to special concern. The program has been responsible for bringing them back.

Assistant Director Golden mentioned at the meeting there were a couple of birds that were game species, through the Delphi Process, had a recommendation for an elevated status. It was suggested that at the Joint meeting the species be discussed. They were ruffed grouse, bobwhite and clapper rail. The concept was staff would give a presentation on the species and there would be a discussion on how to handle.

Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee:

No report

Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee:

Councilman Brodhecker reported having a meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The Code of Conduct was reviewed and some changes were made. There was discussion of veterinarian sign-off of non-releasable animals. The Department has forms, but they want to standardize them with some changes. The rehabilitators are required to use their lists of vets for sign off on the animals. There was more discussion on pest control regulations. They are in the process of designating a sub-committee. Dr. Nicole Lewis, from the Department of Agriculture, gave an update on the Asian Tick situation. The next meeting is on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Law Enforcement Committee:

Councilman Whildin reported having the second Law Enforcement Committee meeting this morning. They are still working on getting their full direction. He asked in the future that the Council members review the restoration package prior to the Council meeting in order to expedite the process. There will still be an opportunity for the applicant to be heard. Acting Chairman Virgilio added, the Revocation Process that will be heard today, will be the last time Law Enforcement will actually read the statement of facts.

Public Member:

Councilman Pollock had nothing to report.

## **DIVISION REPORTS**

Barbara Stoff, Licensing and Permits, reported the RFP opening bid date has been pushed back

once again. It is now scheduled to be June 1<sup>st</sup>, provided Treasury's Deputy Director signs off on the questions and answers completed many weeks ago. This will push back the award and everything is still up in the air.

Ms. Stoff gave an update on the licensing report for 2018. The Division is down approximately 4% with hunting licenses, down 8% with fishing licenses and spring turkey permits are up by ¼%. Turkey sales went off without a hitch and many of the zones sold out within the first five minutes.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked questions from the Cumberland County meeting he attended regarding the lottery. A hunter at the meeting said they applied for certain choices in both lotteries, did not get any but was able to purchase them over-the-counter.

Ms. Stoff explained each lottery have three choices and they run independently of each other. When the lotteries are run, they know how many people applied for each zone and period combination and how many people put it as their first choice, second choice and third choice. For the first lottery, it looks at everyone for the zone and period combination. If the number of people that applied as their first choice is fewer than the permit quota, they all get awarded. Whatever is left over will be awarded to people who put that zone and period as their second or third choice depending what may or may not have sold out throughout the process. The second lottery is run the exact same way, but it uses only what is left over from the first lottery and is completely independent. The only thing that matters is whether or not a zone sold out. This may mean that one zone and period combination had 250 people apply as their first choice and 300 was the permit quota, but it still sold out in the first lottery because maybe another zone had two or three times the amount of applicants. Depending how the application is completed, it may or may not win. If you select a zone that always sells out in the first lottery as your second or third choice you are throwing your chances away. There is a chart that is available online and is updated every year that shows the prior year's number of first choices that people put and we also highlight which zone and period combinations sold out in the first lottery. This chart used to be in the Turkey Permit Supplement, but is now online only. It's not in the August issue of the Hunting Digest due to space issues.

Biologist Chris Smith gave a report in the absence of Chief Lisa Barno, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. He reported there was an additional Fish Salvage in the Morris Canal. A large number of fish from Lake Musconetcong were flushed into a short section of the canal when a pipe was opened to divert water away from the dam to facilitate recent dam repairs. Bureau staff responded to reports of dead and distressed fish and initially seined and relocated over 4,000 fish back into the lake. A few weeks later, additional reports of more dead and distressed fish were received and on April 13, over 15,000 additional fish were removed. The majority of fish collected were Sunfish, Yellow Perch, and Black Crappie. Other species collected included White Perch, Largemouth Bass, Brown Bullhead, Chain Pickerel, and Golden Shiner. No further problems are anticipated.

Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries has revised the Skillful Angler Program in response to input from anglers at the two fisheries forums held in January and February. Changes include electronic submission of applications, three additional freshwater species (Tiger Muskie, Bowfin, and White

Perch) and award patches. Winners will also be displayed at the Garden State Outdoor Show in January 2019. The new program went live on Friday, April 13. The program is one of the focuses of the Bureau's Fishing Promotion Committee.

Biologist, Shawn Crouse conducted a site visit on May 2<sup>nd</sup> of the First Neshanic River to visually inspect downstream of Johanna Foods Inc. in Flemington, Hunterdon County. In November of last year, a discharge of organic matter was reported emanating from the Johanna Farm facility. Significantly less material was observed on the stream bed, as compared to when it was inspected on November 14 and December 5, 2017. Pockets of material were observed within the drainage ditch leaving the facility and for a short distance downstream in the First Neshanic River. Lower reaches of the stream appeared relatively free of material. Heavy accumulation of material that were observed last fall in the area under and around the Route 202/31 bridge were no longer present. Inspection of the next three bridge crossings downstream appeared to have little or no accumulated material. It was recommended to remove both sediment curtains, as no material was accumulated behind them. This will benefit the resident fish species that were densely congregated upstream of the uppermost curtain. Water Compliance & Enforcement will identify next steps in regard to necessary corrective and enforcement actions.

Mr. Smith reported the Columbia Lake Fish Salvage is a project that has been going on for a couple of years. Trap nets were set in Columbia Lake on April 30<sup>th</sup> to begin the fish salvage from the lake. Approximately 440 panfish were netted and relocated to the Delaware River over the course of the three days. The lake will be electro fished May 11<sup>th</sup> at full pool. The Paulins Kill has been too high for preliminary mussel work to be performed but the water level is dropping. It is hoped river conditions will allow the mussel salvage to begin sometime during the week of May 15<sup>th</sup>. Once the schedule for the mussel salvage is determined a plan for lowering the lake can be established.

At April's Council meeting there were questions concerning extensive weed growth in Rowands Pond. Biologist Eric Boehm performed a site inspection last week. He identified species present as being lowly water milfoil, a species common in South Jersey, particularly in lower pH waters. Herbicide application is a potential option (Lands Management decision) however considering the extent of the vegetation and that it is trout stocked would have to wait until late spring early summer to treat. Other options would be the introduction of grass carp or dredging. Rowands Pond is one of the most popular trout stocked locations in South Jersey and is a WMA lake. It has been included in the future community lakes program.

The Bureau is in week five of Spring Trout Stocking. To date, 520,350 trout have been stocked. Landlocked Salmon measuring approximately 12 - 14" were stocked at Lake Aeroflex (861), Lake Wawayanda (2,180) and Tilcon Lake (750).

Trap netting for Muskies has been completed and staff has collected brood stock smallmouth from Yards Creek Reservoir.

Chief Al Ivany, Information and Education reported the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament is coming up on May 20<sup>th</sup>. There are 325 registrants to date. Adding the high school team category would make the count approximately 400, which is on par for pre-registration. A news release is



being prepared to go out by the end of the week.

The rescheduled Pequest Open House will be held on June 2 & 3. Chief Ivany gave an update on the Pequest roof repair. Shingles have been ordered and work should start this week or next week.

Chief Ivany reported his staff is working on new branding for the National Archery in the Schools Program. A new logo has been developed, new banners will be produced, as will giveaways for the student participants and shirts and hats for the instructors.

Chief Ivany informed the Council that Michelle Smith is on leave and her out of office message leaves his contact information for anyone requesting bear education programs.

Chief Ivany gave an update on the R3 initiative. He stated staff member Ryan Risher is doing an excellent job. Hunter Education Coordinator, Nate Figley and Ryan will attend the National R3 Symposium in Nebraska later this month. They will also attend an RBFF training in mid-June at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. After the training an internal working committee will be set up to discuss the focus for the Division moving forward. Ryan did his first e-mail campaign for lapsed anglers, "When in Doubt, Fish for Trout." It was also on Facebook reaching nearly 25,000 people and 200 shares. He sent 32,965 emails; 13,701 went to anglers who were lapsed longer than five years and 19,264 when to anglers who were lapsed less than five years. The results were 1,351 people purchased some type of freshwater license and/or trout stamp. People also purchased additional items such as shellfish, crab pot, crab dredge, and hunting licenses with an overall total of nearly \$44,000 in sales from the e-mail campaign.

Chief Ivany stated the Division is at a crossroads as baby boomers are slowly aging out and millennials are taking over as the biggest generation. Our marketing efforts are going to have to shift toward the change.

The addresses used in the e-mail marketing campaign were pulled from the automated licensing system and sent out through the GovDelivery (Granicus) e-mail system. He will meet with the Commissioner's Office soon to brief them on the system's success and the future funding for it. Ms. Stoff stated one of the biggest benefits of Granicus is that it is white listed. To be white listed means e-mails have approval to get through and do not get blocked as spam.

The first WILD Outdoor Expo planning meeting for 2018 was held. The Expo will be held on September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>.

Assistant Director Golden reported on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management and gave an update on projects happening around the State. The Round Valley Boat Ramp renovation contractor has been selected and move forward by the end of June or the beginning of July. The downside is, during the most active time of the year, the ramp will be shut down for three weeks. On the Assunpink property, paving of the boat ramp parking lot at the lake will be done around May 17 & 18. The main building will start to have renovations done starting September 4. Portions of the building will be closed for about six months. Fifteen (15) office spaces will be added to the building. The conference room will be realigned. During that time, meetings will be held at the conservation center.

Assistant Director Golden gave a personnel update stating he has been serving a dual role as Assistant Director and Acting Bureau Chief for Land Management. A promotional announcement has gone out and closed for the Bureau Chief for Land Management. In an effort to help forestry move forward within WMAs, an existing staff member, Mary Evangelista of Mosquito Control, has been reassigned to serve in a part-time forester capacity for the Division. She will begin implementation of the Whiting WMA Forest Stewardship Plan two days per week.

Acting Chief Sean Cianciulli, Law Enforcement, stated skeletal remains were found on a WMA while forest fire staff was starting a prescribed burn on Colliers Mills. Someone noticed some bones that were under some branches. State Police, Parks Police and Conservation Police were all called. Conservation Police assisted by securing the area and State Police major crimes came to process the scene. A suspect has been identified and charged in the homicide and charges have been filed.

Acting Chief Cianciulli gave an update on Recruit Agnello. She is due to graduate on May 31<sup>st</sup> and is doing very well. She will then start in-house academy early June and then field training with experienced officer in the Fall.

The Bureau has taken advantage of technology to help capture people who dump on WMA.

Acting Chairman Virgilio, on behalf of the Southern Region, thanked Law Enforcement for their pro-active patrols on Cedar Lake WMA. People had been fearful to use it due to the partying activity that went on there.

Acting Chairman Virgilio allowed for public comment from a member of the public who had to leave and did not know public comment period was at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Joseph Francis asked about the state game land South Branch WMA on Rockefeller Mill and Lazy Brook Road. He asked if it was sold to a developer because he was out hunting and cutters cut him out of his stand.

Assistant Director Golden responded that hydro-axing work was being done throughout the state. Hydro-axing takes a field that is turning into forest and resets it to create intermediate stands between field and forest so they can go through the growth process and knock it back down. If this is not done, WMA will look like a mature forest. The purpose is to create habitat diversity through activities such as this, which leads to wildlife diversity.

Mr. Francis stated the problem with this is, people walk their dog through the WMA and it becomes un-huntable.

Assistant Director Golden explained this type of management has to be done throughout the year and unfortunately it is an inconvenience to some people. Hydro-axing cuts above ground biomass, but it will re-sprout from the roots. There will be rapid regrowth compared to planting seedlings and waiting for them to take root and grow.

**Lunch: 12:02 am– 12:49 pm**

Chief Carole Stanko, Bureau of Wildlife Management, reported she receives the Hunters Helping the Hungry newsletter and informed the Council if you use Amazon online service, you can donate through the Smiles donation program. She gave an update on last month's report about the translocation of kestrels from an airport to the State's WMA. The Port Authority had been working with the Endangered and Non-game Species Program to have permission to relocate the birds.

The Deer Project Leader position will be re-announced. An announcement for a candidate with as entry level with a master's degree was put out and 33 applicants applied, but none were qualified.

A Community Based Deer Management Permit application was received from the Borough of Saddle River in Bergen County. Ms. Stanko explained, before it comes to the Council, the Division reviews it for its completeness and its chance of success. Last year a proposal was submitted to do ovariectomies on does as a method of population reduction. They would work with a local vet who has taken the lead on this effort. The first application was received on October 16, 2017. There was technical information missing and the application was sent back for completion. A response was returned in April, still willfully incomplete and the biology was lacking among other incomplete information. Chief Stanko gave facts from other studies that did not prove sterilization of does would reduce deer vehicle collisions. A letter of denial was sent and a copy was given to the Council.

Director Herrighty explained to the two newest council members the process for Community Based Deer Management Permits is a two-step process. The applicant applies to the Division and once it is approved the design comes to the Council for their vote. This application did not make to the Council because after almost two years, a full application was not submitted. Once the Council approves an application, it goes back to the Division to issue a permit.

Acting Chief John Heilferty, Endangered and Non-Game Species Program, introduced himself to the Council. He has been with the Department for 29 years, mostly with Land Use Regulation working on Endangered Species connections to the rules. He has been with the Endangered and Nongame Species Program for the last four years and is looking forward to the new position as Acting Chief.

He gave an update on the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). As a result of the public comment period, a large amount of comments was received. They have been sorted and reviewed, and they resulted in some updates and revisions being made to the Plan. The final Plan was submitted to the USFWS in the beginning of April. Approval confirmation from the Federal Governments is anticipated to be received in early June. In addition to updating the plan with a brief synopsis of the public comment content, ENSP is hoping to do a user-friendly assessment of some of the topics brought up by the public comments. The SWAP webpage will be updated summarizing what some of the issues were during the public comment. The next step is implementation and further refinement and improvements.

Councilman DeStephano asked what will be final the results of all this work for SWAP. Acting

Chief Heilferty replied in 2000 Congress enacted legislation that required that States who get State Wildlife Grant Monies will have to put forth a ten-year planning document on what their wildlife species concerns are, what are the threats and what actions are required to address those threats in order to continue receiving the State Wildlife Grant monies.

New Business

### **Early License Restoration Appeal Hearing**

Captain Quirk explained to Mr. R. Willis the procedure for the hearing. She stated Mr. Willis had three convictions from two separate incidents. February 20, 2017 taking over limit during permit shotgun season, two antlerless deer and the other conviction date was October 18, 2017 swimming or bathing on a WMA and possession of an alcoholic beverage on a WMA. Mr. Willis stated in his petition that the violations were minor in nature and were extenuating circumstances. Captain Quirk read statement for revocation appeal from Mr. Willis and the Statement of Facts from the Conservation Police.

Mr. Willis was given an opportunity to explain to Council his appeal.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion.

**Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to open the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman Pollock. All were in favor, motion carried**

After the Council discussed Mr. Willis violations, Acting Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to close the floor for discussion **Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to close the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman DeMartino. All were in favor, none opposed motion carried.**

Acting Chairman Virgilio stated the Council has three options, reinstate, continue the revocation or delay for additional information.

**Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to continue the revocation, seconded by Councilman DeMartino. Vote taken, all were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.**

Captain Quirk called for Mr. J. R. Bill, Jr., who was not present. Mr. Bill had three convictions for two separate incidents. The first conviction was on January 5, 2017, taking migratory birds in a closed season and on January 3, 2018 failure to properly tag or register deer, unlawful possession of deer or deer parts. A third charge of hunting bow permit season without a valid permit which was dismissed in a plea agreement.

Acting Chairman Virgilio stated the Law Enforcement Committee agreed today would be the last day Captain Quirk would read the statements out loud. The Council will have to review the documents in advance of the meeting.

Captain Quirk read the statement for revocation appeal for Mr. J. R. Bill, Jr., a letter from Ms. B.

Stella Lange of Stella Farms, Inc. and Violation Statement for Revocation Appeal. Captain Quirk noted that depredation permits are not for bow and arrow. Bow and arrow, requires a special permit for depredation purposes.

**Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to open the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman Pollock. All were in favor, motion carried**

After the Council discussed Mr. Bill's violations, Acting Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to close the floor for discussion **Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to close the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman Brodhecker. All were in favor, none opposed motion carried.**

**Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to continue the revocation, seconded by Councilman Whildin. Vote taken, all were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.**

Captain Quirk read the Appeal for Restoration Order and Statement of Facts for Mr. R. Phillips who was not present. She noted Officer Soell is in the building if the Council had questions for him. Mr. Phillips has three convictions from two incidents. The first was from June 18, 2015 possess one fin fish (fluke) and the second conviction date was January 2, 2018 possession of five striped bass, over the limit.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion.

**Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to open the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman DeMartino. All were in favor, motion carried**

After the Council discussed Mr. Phillip's violations, Acting Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to close the floor for discussion **Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to close the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman DeMartino. All were in favor, none opposed motion carried.**

**Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to continue revocation, seconded by Councilman Link. All were in favor, none opposed, motion carried**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT (3 -5 MINUTES)**

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ stated she objects to the Conservation Officers offering deals and breaks. Every single law should be enforced. She objects to the fact that the committee wants to take the reading of the offences off the record. Ms. Sachau stated she objects to Mr. Pollack saying he represents the public. She stated he does not represent the general public of New Jersey, but represents the guys here and the fishermen. Ms. Sachau stated she wants to stop the bear killing and all species killing by this agency. They all deserve protection and preservation. Ms. Sachau stated there is a lot of effluent going into the water and asked how can you take fish out of it. Nothing is changing to reflect a changed society, a changed New Jersey a changed population in New Jersey. Japanese barberry is sold in nurseries all over New Jersey and changes the pH in the soil. There are massive number of invasives allowed into this country and

being sold in New Jersey nurseries.

**A motion was made by Councilman Gudmundsson and seconded by Councilman DeMartino to adjourn the meeting at 1:38 pm. Vote taken, all in favor, none-opposed; motion carried.**