

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

**Central Region Office
Robbinsville, New Jersey
June 12, 2018**

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 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 31, 2018 and delivered to the designated newspapers for the Division, the Newark Star Ledger and the Atlantic City Press; published on June 6, 2018.

Roll call was taken in attendance:

Councilman Phillip Brodhecker (late arrival 10:08 a.m.)
Councilman Joseph DeMartino
Councilman James DeStephano
Councilman Agust Gudmundsson
Councilman Rick Lathrop
Councilman Jeffery Link
Councilman Loren Robinson
Councilman Ken Whildin
Acting Chairman Frank Virgilio

Absent:
Councilman Robert Pollock

Division employees included: L. Herrighty, D. Golden, P. Nelson, B. Stoff, L. Barno, A. Ivany, S. Cianciulli, J. Heilferty, J. Heron, J. Sloan, J. Powers, J. Saintvil, S. Tesar, J. Bullock 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 Robinson to approve the May 8, 2018 minutes, seconded by Councilman Gudmundsson. Vote taken, all were in favor; none opposed, motion carried.

Acting Chairman Virgilio gave comments on recognizing Marine Pfc. Hector A. Cafferata, Jr. a Medal of Honor recipient in the Korean War. He also worked with the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Hector is a good example of the caliber of people that Fish and Wildlife hire.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked Director Herrighty for comments.

Director Larry Herrighty added that Mr. Cafferata worked in the I & E section and was a go-to guy - if you needed anything he would get it for you just as he did when he was a Marine.

Director Herrighty stated the Division is in the middle of a hiring and spending freeze. The hunter and angler accounts are okay, it mainly affects the Marine Fisheries account. We are working with the accountants to clear up funds. We have a temporary pause on hiring that was talked about in the past, but hopefully it will be resolved once the budget is adopted.

Director Herrighty stated Chief Carole Stanko is not here today, but her staff is now in the middle of bear research trapping and offered the Council members the opportunity to partake in the research. They have caught 65 bears so far with a goal of 150 through research trapping and nuisance activity. This year 4 bears have been removed from urban settings. Chief Lisa Barno will show a video created by I&E staff on Columbia Lake Dam Project.

Director Herrighty congratulated staff member Shelley Coltrain who will retire July 30th and stated she has done a great job taking the minutes.

Acting Chairman Virgilio read the public comment statement and asked those who would like to make a public comment to be civil and keep comments to the topic items. He asked that individual members or members of the Division not be attacked.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agriculture Committee Report:

Councilman Brodhecker reported farmers are still a little behind based on the weather. Hay has been mowed over the last week. Farmers are still planting corn. Bears are being seen out and about. One visited his farm a few days ago near his sheep and lambs, but his coon hound chased it up the tree. The bear stayed in the tree all day. Through conversation with a neighbor he found out the bear had been in their garbage several times. He has spoken to a few poultry farmers who are having fox issues. Deer are being seen all over standing in the middle of the road, nursing their fawn.

Dr. Sebastian Reist from New Jersey Department of Agriculture reported on the Asian Longhorned Tick. There was a state wide "tick blitz" around the state trapping ticks from almost every county. This was done to characterize what ticks we have in New Jersey. Currently the Asian Longhorned Tick has been confirmed found in Mercer, Hunterdon, Middlesex and Union counties. Ticks are being collected every day from the public. There is a tick hotline: 1-833-NEW-TICK. In calling the hotline you will be told how to store the tick and where to drop it off.

So far, all the ticks tested did not have any diseases of concern. The tick has also been found in West Virginia, Virginia and Arkansas. The Department of Agriculture goal is to wipe out the tick in the area in where it was found. Dr. Reist stated the tick that was identified in West Virginia was collected last year in an outbreak on cattle of a disease we don't see in cattle. The question is, is it the tick's fault or is it something else?

Farmer/Sportsman Relations:

Councilman Brodhecker reported he had nothing from the Committee but that he went to a Farm Bureau meeting regarding deer. There was a discussion on a person who is gathering sportsmen names who would be reputable for working with farmers in depredation permits and helping assist in problems area. He stated he would try to get more information.

Councilman Link reported he has the same report as Councilman Brodhecker for hay, planting and weather. He stated he encounters ticks every day. They are also seeing foxes, but they see a lot more coyotes. He saw a coyote at 10:30 am which is unusual for New Jersey.

State Federation Reports:

Councilman DeMartino reported attending the Ocean County Federation meeting. They have a fund with \$3,000 to be used for planting. They also suggested they would like to see a Council meeting at night so more sportsmen could get there. They wanted to know about permits for snapping turtles. He told them there was a moratorium on them. They would like to see permits go back to 2014.

He and a couple of councilmen (Gudmundsson and Brodhecker) attended a public meeting for Hyper Humus. There were people from the general public, various organizations, people who were involved with the actual project and a good representation of sportsmen. The sportsmen said they did not need roads or trails and the birders said they wanted blinds, roads, dikes and boardwalks. The sportsmen suggested deep-water fishery at one of the ponds they used to take the peat out of.

Councilman DeStephano reported not attending any meetings due to being away. He did attend the Pequest Open House on Sunday. He was disappointed with the number of people he saw and hoped the Division would chose a date and keep to it.

Councilman Gudmundsson reported attending the Hyper Humus project. Morris County cancelled their meeting in order to allow representatives to attend. He was not able to attend the Warren County meeting.

Councilman Robinson reported attending the Somerset County Federation meeting. They would like to see coyote hunting 24/7/365 days. He attended the Hunterdon meeting where they discussed the excellent seminars at the State Federation Convention. They also mentioned the friends of NRA Dinner to be held on September 28 at the Hunterdon Mill Playhouse. The hunter education instructor that was there said their numbers in the northern region are down and a couple of the classes they want to have a 33% show rate of those who registered for the class. He went to the central region meeting, they discussed the New Jersey State convention for sportsman next year at Port of Call in Ocean City, April 26, 27 & 28. He attended the State Federation meeting and the Union County meeting where they discussed an upcoming bow hunt

being discussed with the county. Currently there is a five-day gun hunt on five Mondays. In January they are looking to go from September through the end of December with archery. They also mentioned that Union County was going to hand in an application for a community Based Deer Management Plan. They are not in favor of it. He thanked acting chairman Virgilio for attend the Middlesex County meeting.

Councilman Whildin reported attending the Cumberland County meeting, acting chair Virgilio gave a PowerPoint presentation on Hunter Recruitment Retention and was very well received by the attendees. He also cleared up the confusion on the turkey permit.

Acting Chairman Virgilio reported attending the Gloucester County meeting. Gloucester sponsored an introduction to firearms day. It was hosted by Grace Community Church and Hutton Hill Rifle Club. They were able to bring in a range of shooters from 10 – 80 years old. They were shooting .22 pistols, .22 rifles, 9mm and .45 long Colts. Gloucester continues to have discussion on recruitment. He told them the Division is working on it and hopefully by the Fall will be able to bring something to their attention regarding programs they will be able to participate in or implement. They also have concern about the East Asian Tick. He told them it is being monitored.

Acting Chairman Virgilio also reported attending the Middlesex meeting at the request of Councilman Whildin. They reported on a Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs (HOFNOD) fishing derby at Spring Lake and Old Bridge. They supplied the participants with fishing rods and tackle boxes. There was a lot of fun and good photo opportunities. They also review information provided to the county by the business office on senior hunter advantage program. He stated Ms. Stoff did a sensational job on presenting the information. It was very well received by the committee and they wanted to know what more can they do. Acting Chairman Virgilio stated he will take that information to other counties as well.

Finance Committee:

There was no report. Assistant Director Nelson stated there will be a committee meeting this afternoon. Staff member Steve Tesar will be present in the afternoon for the meeting.

Fish Committee:

Nothing to report.

Game Committee:

Nothing to Report.

Legislative Committee:

Assistant Director Nelson reviewed the legislative activity.

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 bill has passed out of the Senate Committee with amendments and is now in the Senate Budget Committee.

Director Herrighty stated this bill had a lot of discussion at the last State Federation meeting. Some farmers bait when they have a deer depredation permit and a high valued crop. They are trying to shoot the deer next to the crop which is a take. This bill will give the Fish and Game Council the authority to control so farmers will not be affected.

A-1530 & S-1925 Designates Bog Turtle as the State Reptile. This bill is now on the Governor's desk for signature.

A-1923 & S-1093 "Nosey's Law"; prohibits use of elephants and other wild or exotic animals in traveling animal acts.

AR-45 Urges President and Congress to enact "Transparent Summer Flounder Quotas Act." This has passed the Assembly.

S-2511 & A-4020 – Changes title of DEP "Conservation Officer" to "Conservation Police Officer." The Division supports.

A-4069 – Directs DEP to designate areas in each State park and forest for construction of bat houses.

A-4106 – Establishes program to allow certain motorcycle events to be held in state parks, forest and wildlife management areas. The concern if passed is an enduro can be run on deed restricted land.

Assistant Director Golden stated another problem would be federal aid funding for managing a WMA would not be allowed to be used if motorized events are taking place. Acting Chairman Virgilio stated he would download the bill and send to the Council and put it on the agenda for the July meeting for discussion and take a position.

A legislation committee meeting will be held on July 10th before the Council meeting.

AJR-133 – Designates last full weekend in August each year as "New Jersey Bat Night Out."

A-1703 & A-3798 & S-2534 – Prohibits/Revises smoking at public parks and beaches. Now on the Governor's desk.

ACR-175 – urges DEP to replace current lethal population control methods for foxes on Brigantine Island with non-lethal deterrence methods.

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. The senate bill is pending introduction. There are now 61 co-sponsors on that bill.

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 and get back to the Council.

Endangered & Non-Game Species Advisory Committee:

Councilman Lathrop reported have a meeting in on June 6th and received an update on the recent migratory bird stopover on Delaware Bay. The weather had not been good but there was a decent window of weather in May. There was good horseshoe crab spawning. One issue the Committee has been facing, for a number of years, is depleting horseshoe crabs for lysate's. They have been trying to get additional information from

the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on the use and mortality rates of Delaware Bay origin crabs. On May 10th there was an announcement of the adoption of a synthetic lysate by Eli Lily.

Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee:

No meeting, nothing to report.

Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee:

No meeting, nothing to report.

Law Enforcement Committee:

Councilman Whildin reported there will be a meeting on August 14th before the Council meeting for review of license restoration. Acting Chairman Virgilio stated he will talk with the director and two Assistant Director about eliminating some of the Bureau Reports. This will provide an opportunity to have Revocation Hearings in the morning and afternoon.

Public Member:

No report

DIVISION REPORTS

Barbara Stoff, Licensing and Permits, reported there has been a PHP programming language update on the licensing system. There was full regression testing in-house and did not find anything. Unfortunately, when it was moved to production, there was a problem with the mobile transactions. Aspira has since corrected the problem as well as a problem with iCloud and comcast accounts. A link was added to inform customers where to go in case they do not receive their PDF license.

Ms. Stoff stated the final turkey numbers were down 1.3%. Hunting licenses are still down (4%) and fishing licenses are down by 5.4%. Next week rifle permits go on sale. As of July 1st the waterfowl stamps and HIP certifications for 2018-19 will go on sale. The RFP was released and then was delayed, bids are due on June 15th. By the middle of next week, she will know how many vendors put in bids.

Chief Lisa Barno, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries reported trout stocking finished on May 25th. The hatchery distributed an extra 30,000 in surplus bringing the count to over 600,000 trout distributed. There were a lot of compliments from the anglers this year on the size and overall distribution of fish throughout the Spring. She could not thank the Land Management Staff enough for their help with the distribution of trout over the ten weeks of stocking. There was a little delay in the hatchery operations due to the cold weather earlier in the year. After the raceways are emptied and loaded, they need to be sterilized before re-distribution of the fish occurs. The weather resulted in higher densities in the raceways. As a result, there was an outbreak of Flavobacterium (bacterial coldwater disease) in the C-line which held yearling rainbow trout. The fish were treated for three days with Chloramine-T.

Chief Barno also reported spending quite a bit of time at Columbia Lake. On June 4th the lowering of the Lake was initiated. She and Ross Shramko spent time the week before familiarizing

themselves with adjustment of the outlet gates and trash rack operations to get the lake lowered. The lake is currently down about 3 – 3 1/2 feet. The mussel salvage has also started. They arrived on Sunday and will conclude this afternoon with relocating mussels from the area below the dam and below the remnant dam. The mussels will be relocated further up in to the Paulinskill River and also into the Delaware River. There has been a re-adjustment to the schedule with the removal of the dam. Due to DOT concerns with scour protections on the bridges, they don't want the main dam removed until the scour protection is completed at Route 80, Warrington and Brugler Road bridges.

That means the remnant dam is scheduled to be removed around June 18th, then the main dam will be notched towards the end of June to early July. It will be notched twice to further lower the lake. They will then begin the bridge scour protection which will take anywhere from mid-July to October on the three bridges. They will then do the fish passage on the Route 80 culvert and then the main dam removal. This should occur sometime around December or January of 2019. Chief Barno stated she has a three-minute video to show of an aerial view of what the lake looks like now after lunch.

Chief Barno reported northern pike (5 ½) were stocked last week. Staff also worked at the open house and assisted at some of the fishing derbies on the free fishing days.

She also noted that there is a potential state record landlocked salmon out of Lake Aeroflex that was weighed in at Hackettstown and identified at Open House weighing 8 lbs. 5ozs. The existing record is also from Lake Aeroflex from 1951. She is still waiting for the paperwork to come in to make it official.

Chief Al Ivany, Information and Education reported there has been a lot of press interest in the new state record landlocked salmon that was caught in Lake Aeroflex. He reported the Pequest Trout Hatchery Open House attendance was estimated to be 4,000 people this year. This is a little below the end of March - early April dates, but it was up over last year's count. Sunday was better than Saturday. There was good weather both days. There were 569 children fishing in the pond. This was up by 100 over last year. Overall it was a good weekend. The new Hunter Education firearm training system was set up in the auditorium along with the National Archery in the Schools program and they were very popular.

June 9th was Free Fishing Day, as well as the statewide Youth Fishing Challenge run through the Hooked-on Fishing – Not on Drugs program. There were 13 counties and 27 host sites. Many sites reported an increase in attendance of more than 5%. A joint news release on the free fishing day and youth fishing challenge was done and picked up by a considerable number of papers.

The marine regulation card issued each year is currently on hold in the Treasury Print Shop. The day it was approved for printing, was the day of the state spending freeze. Chief Ivany has submitted an appeal and request for exemption to get the cards printed

Chief Ivany gave an update on the Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation Program (R3). Nate Figley and Ryan Risher are in West Virginia at the National Conservation Training Center getting additional schooling in R3. They recently returned from a training in Nebraska. On June 28th, we

will hold our first Division wide meeting including representatives from all bureaus, along with Barbara Stoff and Bob Longcor. We will discuss what we want to do on a broad scale moving forward on behalf of the Division.

Chief Ivany reported Matt Hencheck and Jon Carlucci have been teaming up to make high quality videos for the Division. The video program is starting to grow and we are getting nice footage.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked if I & E has coordinated with Law Enforcement in using the drone with Law Enforcement actions. Chief Ivany stated there has been some discussion and he would follow up with it.

Assistant Director Golden reported on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management. The Bureau has been spearheading the Division facilities project which includes a facility evaluation. The evaluation looked at 12 facilities where staff has offices. We contracted with an architectural engineer to do a full evaluation on all those buildings. After an eight-month process, they reported with \$5.1million in upgrades at the 12 facilities. From that project we were able to develop a facility plan which includes doing work on certain facilities to improve the conditions and maybe reorganizing staff to move out of some facilities that will ultimately be demolished. We are moving forward with some of those actions now, most notably, we have gathered about \$2 million to do upgrades on our facilities. Half will come from a Federal Aid grant and the other half will be matched from our Office of Resource Development. As part of the work, we have put in an application to do energy audits on all of the facilities we will be working on. The NJ Board of Public Utilities has a program and local and state governments are eligible for funding.

Assistant Director Golden gave an update on the Millville range. He pointed out that Jason Hearon was in the audience today. Mr. Hearon is spearheading work at the range and the shooting stations will be installed beginning next week. Mr. Hearon has developed a plan where the ranges can remain open at all times during the installation of the shooting stations. Assistant Director Golden stated in the southern region, Heislerville WMA, the Eastpoint Lighthouse, there is a beach stabilization program that has been long talked about. The design contract for interim project that we are hoping to implement this year before hurricane season is out to bid. Hopefully it will come back in adequate time where we can design it and bid its construction before the fall.

Assistant Director Golden gave an update on where the Division stands with the pheasant contract. We have been working with Treasury to put together a contract for adult birds for next year's stocking (2019). He spoke with Treasury last week and they are hoping the contract will be out to bid by the end of June. He and Chief Stanko have been working with the Assistant Director at Treasury and he has been a great help. Assistant Director Golden suggest when a contract has been developed, that the Council send a letter of thanks. Once the contract goes out to bid, there is a 10-day notice period and the bids should be back by mid-July. We should know by the end of July whether or not we will be able to purchase all of our adult birds for 2019. It is a three-year contract with two one-year extensions.

For this year, we will be receiving 6-week old birds at the farm to be raised to adulthood. Those birds are going to be received on July 9th. The farm will receive 42,000 birds in addition to the 15,000 birds we are purchasing.

Assistant Director Golden presented the schedule for pheasant distribution for this year. He highlighted the number of birds are greater than last year and the Division is proposing to stock 50,300 over the course of the year. For the pheasant stocking, everything is the same in terms of percentages as last year. On opening day, each stocked area will receive the same percentage of its total allocation of birds. Nothing has changed in the percentage of total birds that go to each WMA all based on the formula as last year.

Quail has a subtle but important change. The total number of quail will remain the same but there will be a small stocking on December 1st, just before the Six-day Firearm Deer Season and a larger stocking will go out on the last stocking day of the season. After answering a few questions, **Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to accept the number for the stocking schedule for pheasants and quail with an asterisk that the Delaware Water Gap may change due to farming practices, seconded by Councilman Brodhecker, vote taken, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

Assistant Director Golden made note that the schedule for dog training areas and the youth hunt was attached to be discussed later. He stated there is a need to discuss in the future the dog training areas and which species will be stocked there. In the past, quail were stocked but stopped because of concern of sending out mixed message while trying to restore quail and there had been a surplus of pheasants at the farm multiple years in a row. As we transition to purchasing pheasants, that will not happen as they are too expensive to purchase. Chuckars seem to be the bird of choice.

Lunch: 11:50 am– 12:45 pm

Chief Barno showed a short video as mentioned in her report before lunch. Acting Chairman Virgilio asked if the video could be voiced over with narration and put on the website. Assistant Director Golden stated the plan is to build on the footage through the construction and put it out as one video unless there is a value to put it out earlier. Acting Chairman Virgilio stated there are counties and people of the public that would be interested in seeing it.

Acting Chief Sean Cianciulli, Bureau of Law Enforcement, gave highlights that were not in the monthly reports. CO Recruit Agnello graduated Morris County Academy on May 31st. She finished with top academic honors in a class of 50. She has started in-house academy learning about the Division, various programs and Title 23 Rules and Regulations. Acting Chief Cianciulli stated a second announcement for CO recruits is opened and scheduled to close June 21st.

In response to earlier questions, Acting Chief Cianciulli stated Law Enforcement have used the drone with Mr. Carlucci in the past. One of note was a large solid waste dumping case on the Cohansey WMA in South Jersey. It involved a lot solid waste and destruction of vegetation. The legislation to change officer's title does not change the mission of law enforcement. The Bureau is still working hard to keep the current level of Federal funding to support the Marine Unit.

Turkey season is over and the majority of trout season is starting to wind down. In the upcoming highlights you will see more management area resource work being done. During this time of the season, the weather is getting nice, there is an increase in the of the number of people out on the

WMA. Most are not the traditional type of constituents, they are a lot more people who are violating the WMA regulations. Please let people know for all the WMAs or fish and wildlife violations they see, they are encouraged to call 877-WARN-DEP. The call center assists us in managing our calls.

Acting Chief John Heilferty, Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP), acknowledged Councilman Lathrop's report from the last Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee (ENSAC) meeting and gave further details. He stated diamond back terrapin have been in the news lately due to potential issues with crab trap mortalities. That may be something the Committee will look into in the future. In association with the shorebird season, it was mentioned that Southern Region Superintendent Jason Hearon and Lands Management were very much appreciated in their coordination of lowering one of the impoundments area in the Heislerville WMA. This was done in coordination with NJ Audubon and was a good example of how we work together.

A potential agenda item to be discussed for the joint meeting is status assessment for game species. Right now, it affects ruffed grouse and bobwhite quail. It was also noted that ENSP staff made a presentation to the Green Acres Program last week on the "Changing Habitat Across New Jersey Project" (CHANJ) project. CHANJ is a GIS-based mapping effort to identify core habitat areas that remain in the state for terrestrial wildlife species and the corridors that help connect those core areas, particularly across roadways. ENSP is interested in further developing the project and making it available to the public. ENSP is also interested in keeping common game species common. A good way to do that is to keep their population connected and genetically viable. It also helps manage and provide resiliency in regards to climate change and the need for species to move around in response to climate change. Acting Chief Heilferty expressed interest in having ENSP staff come to a Council meeting and give an update on that effort.

Acting Chief Heilferty also reported staff members Patrick Woerner and Melissa Woerner have been co-leading a project doing habitat mapping on WMA, employing GIS models to identify what habits exist on the WMA and key in on how they can be managed for both game and non-game species.

ENSAC and ENSP is as interested as the Council on the bill in opening up state land for enduro events. Sometimes an entire area might be considered threaten or endangered species habitat. A bigger concern is once an event is allowed to use a trail, enforcement of the trails, including illegal subsequent by off road vehicles is very difficult.

Old Business

Acting Chairman Virgilio started the discussion on the date for the joint Fish and Game Council and ENSAC meeting. It was decided the joint meeting will be could be held on Wednesday, October 17th. **Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to have the joint Fish and Game Council and ENSAC meeting on October 17th, seconded by Councilman DeMartino, vote taken, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.** The location will be determined at a later time.

New Business

Ruffed Grouse will be postponed until the October meeting.

Acting Chairman Virgilio stated the Commissioner's office asked the Council to have a discussion regarding the bear hunt that is scheduled for this year. He invited the Assistant Commissioner Ray Bukowski to be present in case the Council had questions. Acting Chairman Virgilio stated the Division has always followed the science as it related to wildlife populations. The other thing looked at is politics. The Council supports the position that science is involved in managing a healthy bear population. We also understand the position of the Governor's office and would like the support of the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. He opened the discussion asking the Council to examine the possibility of this coming bear season, not to eliminate the bear hunt or postpone, but, if the harvest is achieved, that the December hunt be closed.

After the discussion it was resolved that the Division already has in place a plan to close the season once the targeted number of tagged bears has been harvested. The Game Committee will schedule a meeting and have further discussion on this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Janet Pizar, Millburn, NJ, stated true and genuine science has no bias. It is not invested in a particular outcome. The same body, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, that is collecting all the data, compiling and reporting on it, has a very vested interest in adding new species to the Game Code and not reducing species from the Game Code. The next one will probably be the bobcat, even though it's on the Game Code as a closed season. Truly real science with no bias and no investment with a particular outcome.

Bears are going to gravitate to the agricultural lands and the crops in seasons when their natural food supply is very, very stark. Especially in the Fall, especially with the hard mass food. If it is not there, they have to supplement it and substitute for it. It is not just a question of the bear number.

She reminded the Council the bear hunt, three or four consecutive years, before there was the incident in West Milford, about Mr. Patel, a hiker, having been killed by a bear. Not when there was no bear hunt. That is proof you cannot prevent a very aberrant bear from killing someone. As it has been said, it's like taking a gun, firing it into a crowd of people, to try to remove the criminal that lays within. Most bears are docile, they are not dangerous, they are very easy to manage with some quick aversive conditioning. Hunting cannot offer any valid science for saying we are going to reduce the bear population.

The season in New Jersey ran from 1956 to 1971 at which time bears were severely over-hunted. It took 17 years, until 1988, for the state to decide they would start looking at the population to determine if a bear hunt should be re-instituted.

Bear fees, since the beginning of the hunt \$2 and initially it was said they did not want the public to think it was a money-making proposition. However, having the bear hunt increases the number

of hunters who are going to buy the general license, which adds to the number of annual hunters that then will qualify the State for greater portion of the Pittman-Robinson dollars that flow down from the Department of Interior. There is always incentive to keep the hunters coming out, it is about money.

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ stated she wanted to comment on the science and slanted bias employed at the Division of Fish and Wildlife. You do not hire people who like animals and want to keep them alive. You purposely hire people who love guns and killing of wildlife. You have a perverted employment policy, which is not diverse at all. It is not a diverse employment policy, you have a slanted, biased, employment policy so that the science you are getting is biased. We are getting lies and propaganda. The fact is black bears are not a particularly aggressive animal. We see pictures of them up in trees trying to get away from house cats.

You are perverting the nature of the animals in every single case. For example, with fish, we get more and more research on fish that shows their intelligence and yet you continue to promote catching them and killing them. You are not presenting a true picture to the public at all because you want this old system to continue. You don't want anything to change and yet the public is changing around you. We have members on the Council who really don't like animals. We have Council members calling animals "stinking animals." We can see the hatred towards this poor ... animals do not have any voice and what we have here is a collection of people who want to murder them. The majority of people in New Jersey want wildlife watching. You can see that in your own Fish and Wildlife Survey. 80% of Americans want wildlife watching. You can see by your numbers, the people who hunt are going down every year; particularly in the lower ages. Yet you keep on with the same old crap that is going on here. Pushing 1860 agenda in 2018. I've had enough of it and I have to speak out for it as long as I can speak out for it because it's wrong. It has no compassion in it at all or honesty.

A motion was made by Councilman Gudmundsson and seconded by Councilman DeMartino to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 pm. Vote taken, all in favor, none-opposed; motion carried.