

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Central Region Office
Robbinsville, NJ
October 9, 2007

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Fish and Game Council was held on the above date. In attendance were:

Acting Chairwoman Jeanette Vreeland
Councilman Dave Burke
Councilman Ed Kertz
Councilwoman Jane Morton-Galetto
Councilman John Messeroll
Councilman Robert Puskas
Councilman Dan Van Mater
Councilman Len Wolgast

Absent: Councilman Richard Culp
Councilman Fred Hough

Division employees included: Director Dave Chanda, Assistant Director Larry Herrighty, Paulette Nelson, Lisa Barno, Jim Sciascia, Mark Dobelbower, Tony Petrongolo, Ray Porutski, Patrick Carr, Carole Kandoth, Mandy Dey and Barbara Stoff.

Members of the public included representatives from the Department of Agriculture, the Federation of Sportsmen, residents of Millburn and others.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am.

In accordance with P.L. 1975, notice of this meeting was filed with and posted at the Office of the Secretary of State and sent to the designated newspapers of the Division, the Newark Star Ledger and The Press (Atlantic City) on September 20, 2007.

The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

Roll call was taken.

Minutes of the September 11, 2007 minutes were reviewed. **A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll, seconded by Councilman Burke to approve the minutes. A vote was taken with all in favor, and one abstention from Councilwoman Galetto.**

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland gave summary of her recent trip to Louisville, Kentucky to attend the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference. She noted that she asked the

members present for input or suggestions on the bear situation in New Jersey. They had nothing new to add, noting they felt we were on the right trail with what efforts that have been made.

Councilwoman Galetto noted something she had heard on the radio this morning regarding a poll taken in the State on bear hunting, and that the opinion was split. Councilman Wolgast and Messeroll were aware of this poll, and Councilman Messeroll noted that the survey was done through Farleigh Dickinson University. There was a 41% approval rate for the hunt, and a 44% disapproval rate against the hunt, with 701 people being polled. It was noted that the split seemed to be between men vs. women as to who was in favor or opposed. There was some additional discussion among the members regarding this matter.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland made note to the members that the meeting was being videotaped by a member of the audience, asking if anyone was opposed to this. There were no oppositions.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland added that the issue of global warming was also discussed in Louisville, and there was concern that additional species may be affected in the future.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reported that she had also attended the Estuary Enhancement Program sponsored by Public Service Electric and Gas and noted the work being done in the salt marshes in Salem County.

The decision of the Court regarding the lawsuit on bears was reviewed. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that the 2005 policy was thrown out by the judges of this court case. She added that the Game Committee had met last Tuesday, and prepared a letter to Commission Jackson which was sent last Thursday. The letter noted that they felt they had followed the steps required to formulate the 2005 policy as required by the Attorney General's office.

A letter from a sportsperson was received by Acting Chairwoman Vreeland stating their concerns on the recent increase in fees for permit sales. She briefly reviewed the letter, noting that the person felt the increase was only to "stuff the pockets" of the Council. She added that a response would be prepared to the person noting that the members of Council are volunteers and do not receive compensation for their work. Director Chanda has offered to respond to this person.

Director Chanda noted that this past month has been very busy.

Director Chanda and Assistant Director Herrighty attended the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in Kentucky, serving on several committees. He gave a brief review of some of the meetings they attended and work that was done.

Director Chanda briefly recapped some of the Division activities that had taken place this month, including the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, the Heritage Festival and work on the proposed archery park.

He also noted the PSE&G tour, adding that it was great to see so much Division and Council representation present.

Director Chanda noted a recent meeting of the Division biologists, where they spent the day reviewing projects that are being done within the agency.

Councilman Kertz reported for the Agriculture Committee. He noted that things have been dry because there has been no rain in South Jersey since the last meeting. Councilwoman Galetto noted that there had been no measurable amount of rain at all in her area. Councilman Kertz also noted that the blueberry farmers have been running their irrigation pumps 24 hours a day preparing for next year's crop. The Vineland area farmers have been receiving low prices for their vegetable crops.

Councilman Kertz also has been receiving calls about the Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) outbreak from sportsmen and farmers since it is widespread. They are also concerned about whether or not they can consume the meat and if the hunting season will be shut down. He has been answering the questions that he can, and referring others to the biologists. Director Chanda noted they can also refer to the Division's website for updated information. There was additional discussion regarding this matter.

Councilman Kertz noted a poll done last year by the Farm Bureau on bear hunting, and that poll showed more people in favor of a hunt. Liz Thompson from the Department of Agriculture was in attendance at the meeting, and while she did not have the information with her, she offered to provide it to the Council if they wanted. There was some additional discussion among the members and Ms. Thompson on this poll.

Councilman Puskas added on the matter of EHD, asking if it was something that could affect cattle. He noted that his veterinarian was concerned about a lack of concern from the State veterinarian on this. Assistant Director Herrighty added that certain strains of EHD can affect cattle and reduce milk production, and that Dr. Halpern had sent a lengthy e-mail to all the veterinarians in the State regarding what to look for and who to contact should the cattle appear to be infected.

Councilman Puskas has also been receiving calls on the early goose season. It started out slow, but seemed to pick up with the planting of wheat. He also reported that the hot temperatures have been having an affect on the crops as well as milk production.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted that Dr. Anthony DiNicola from White Buffalo was in attendance today, and would be giving a report on the use of GonaCon in his research in New Jersey.

Dr. DiNicola thanked the Council for the opportunity to do research in New Jersey. He noted that there were three projects in the State. The first was in Princeton Township, and he gave a summary of the studies there, noting the use of both SpayVac and GonaCon on the deer in that area. Studies are still being done to determine the length of time the vaccine and booster shots will last. He added that all the treated females are marked with radio collars and ear tags, and shared information on these deer. Studies are continuing on this project.

The second project was the study at the Duke Farm estate which was initiated in 1995, where the intent was to target a residual population of deer. He gave a summary of the studies being done there, as well as population controls that were done, which included vaccines as well as culling methods. This study results should be available in June. He also shared additional information from the study where they recorded interesting data on the deer and their social orientation in the field.

The last study being done is at Giralda Farms in Madison. He summarized the study, noting that the data is being compiled, and reports from the first two years of the study will be forthcoming.

Dr. DiNicola answered additional questions that the Council had regarding these studies. He noted he will provide reports to Assistant Director Herrighty when they are available.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted that the EHD outbreak was now reported in eight counties. He added that Dr. Roscoe, Division Pathologist had reported the two areas he had surveyed, Hillsborough and Mullica Township had a total of 400 to 500 infected deer. Hunters are advised to call Dr. Roscoe if infected deer are found.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted that the fall bow and arrow season has begun. There seems to be a light turn out so far, probably due to the heat.

He added that calls have been received regarding the changes to the deer permits, noting that most people understood the reason for the changes. They expect to know by December the amount of revenue it generated.

Assistant Director Herrighty also noted the monthly report where Principal Biologist Sue Predl has been working on evaluating deer exclosure areas. Most of the areas she has visited are in a state of disrepair. She is also working with Duke Farms to look at the effect of deer herbivory there.

He again referred to the monthly report, noting the work being done by the University of Delaware on quail. They are studying the broods and habitat. He gave a brief summary of their study.

The waterfowl project has been busy banding birds.

Assistant Director Herrighty passed out the latest bear activity report. He noted that there was a slight increase in the Category One bears for the year to date. As of last week, eighteen bears have been euthanized so far this year, and this is the same amount as this time last year. He also noted that the monthly report has a summary of the hot topics issues.

The Bear Project personnel are out now doing field work. He gave a summary of their activities. Councilman Messeroll noted the report of 51 vehicle strikes to bears, and asked if these bears were all killed by the vehicle? Assistant Director Herrighty noted that these were just reported vehicle strike cases, and in some instances the bear did get up and move on. He added that the

local police departments are instructed to leave the bear alone should it get up and move on after it is struck by a vehicle.

He also reported that the Wildlife Control Unit has issued sixty-nine deer depredation permits this month.

One last item he wanted to report on was that they received good press this past month when the Wildlife Control Unit tranquilized and removed a deer that had fallen in to a basin at the Middlesex County College.

Councilman Messeroll had a question on field sampling deer for EHD, asking if deer harvested from these outbreak areas could be tested. Assistant Director Herrightly noted that spleens taken from deceased deer in the outbreak areas were what was being tested, and added that if a hunter harvests a deer that is infected; it will be evident when it is opened up.

Principal Biologist Sue Predl presented an application from Summit for a Community Based Deer Management Permit. For those members present in the audience, she noted that the application from Millburn was not going to be reviewed today because they were waiting for additional information from Millburn.

The application from Summit was reviewed for the Council. They would be utilizing the services of Deer Management Systems, who use shotguns and shoot from treestands. They still have significant damage in their area, and one of the things Principal Biologist Predl noted the Council needs to consider, if they continue to issue permits to Summit if the methods proposed in their application are not working to control the growing deer population there? Principal Biologist Predl has asked Summit to consider both opening additional areas and adding other methods of control, such as net and bolt. They say they have been asking residents with larger properties to allow culling on their properties and up until this time have not considered net and bolt methods. Based on the significant amount of damage occurring caused by the over abundant deer, Principal Biologist Predl recommended to Council that they approve the application to shoot deer out of season and above the bag limit, with unplugged guns, and exempt them from the hunter orange requirement. She noted this is basically the same application they have submitted in the past. Councilman Wolgast noted that shooting on only a few properties during the day will not work. Principal Biologist Predl added that she agreed, but noted the question was do they deny the permit or require them to use other methods such as net and bolt? Councilman Puskas asked about suggesting that they open hunting to the town's hunters in addition to this application. Principal Biologist noted that there permit was for three County owned properties, and even if hunters were allowed access, she still does not know if they would take more than fifty deer per year. Councilman Messeroll added that some areas only allocate so much money to cull deer each year, and once those monies are gone the program ends. Principal Biologist Predl added that the budget is not the issue here, but the amount of available open space is the problem. Councilman Burke asked if any efforts were being made to do another population survey. She noted she has offered her assistance to them to do distance sampling since a survey can be quite costly, and Councilman Burke felt some type of survey should be done. Additional questions and discussion were had among the members and Principal Biologist Predl on this application and other possible alternatives for the future. A

motion was made by Councilman Burke to approve the application but encourage them to look at other options such as net and bolt, as well as conduct an updated population survey in the coming year. This was seconded by Councilman Wolgast. Councilman Messeroll shared some additional information on methods used in other areas. **A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.**

Principal Biologist Predl gave a brief summary of other permits that were expected to be received. She noted that Princeton will be submitting an application this week, noting they had been asked to survey residents for the amount of damage they had, and this had created a slight delay in their filing. She did not expect an application from Hanover Township this year. Millburn's application is to use Deer Management Systems, and she briefly reviewed the details of their application. Watchung's application is still pending. She added that all these past applicants have been advised that they have to meet the application deadlines this year. South Mountain is expected to request use of agents to cull deer. Councilman Burke asked if a summary sheet of past year's activities could be provided. Principal Biologist Predl noted this could be provided. Councilman Messeroll asked that she also include hunter harvest information as well. This information will be provided with future applications.

Councilman Messeroll noted that persons are having trouble printing beaver permits online. Barb Stoff from the Permit Section was in attendance and noted she was not aware of any problems, and would speak with the applicant in question who was present at the meeting.

Legislative Liaison Paulette Nelson noted that there has been no Legislative activity during this reporting period. Director Chanda noted the Senate committee had set up some time to hear the bill on the use of commercial gear on artificial reefs. This had been postponed, and he asked if that had been rescheduled, with Legislative Liaison Nelson saying not to her knowledge. There was some additional discussion on what this bill would cover.

Councilman Messeroll reported for the Federation. He noted that he had missed the State meeting, but was in attendance at the Central Region meeting last night. They went over the Take a Kid Hunting Program scheduled for November 3, and gave a review of the plans for that day. He also noted a duck hunting outing on October 13, 2007 in Ocean County for youth hunters. A sporting clays shoot is being worked on for June, as well as fall shoots at the Central Jersey Rifle and Pistol Club. Gerald Bracht, nominee to the Fish and Game Council will replace the position currently held by Councilman Messeroll who was also in attendance at the meeting last evening with his resume, as well as in attendance at the meeting today. He is expected to be at the next State Federation meeting as well.

Councilman Van Mater reported on the last State Federation meeting. He noted the improved turn around time in applying for membership, where applicants are receiving their card in four days. He reported that their display has been getting a lot of use. It was noted that the United States Department of Agriculture would be handling the feral hog issue in South Jersey due to disease problems that may occur. There was discussion on the bear court case at the meeting. He also noted that the Northern region has been having a problem holding raffles due to the need to have a permit to conduct same. The Youth Waterfowl Hunt was also discussed, as well as the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. Councilman Van Mater reported on the lead shot problem

at certain wildlife management area shotgun ranges. He noted that the meeting concluded fairly early.

Chief Tony Petrongolo reported for the Bureau of Land Management. He noted that the wildlife management area system had added 95 acres, bringing the total amount of acreage up to 319,000 acres. He added that the Green Acres program continues to be active, but they are starting to run out of money. There is a question on the ballot in November to provide funding to keep them going for another year. He noted that there are a lot of nice offerings out there, and gave a review of some of the areas where properties may be available if there are funds available.

Chief Petrongolo noted several water access projects are being worked on this winter, including a boat ramp at Oyster Creek that will allow for marine access. Also, another major project should be constructed on the Salem River which is part of a natural resource management settlement with the DuPont Company. This will provide safe access to an area where access is currently limited and very dangerous to get in and out of.

Many projects are planned with the use of the Corporate Business Tax (CBT) monies that were received, including additional paving of roads at the Assunpink WMA which are occurring presently. The road from the old office to the boat ramp and several others are being paved with the oil and chips treatment that was previously put on the road which goes from Interstate 195 to the main lake.

Another major project is being proposed for the Hay Road section of Stafford Forge WMA with the Bureau of Forest Fire Management. This is a 1400 acre project which will improve habitat for the pine snake, red-headed woodpecker and a variety of rare plants while also providing build a fire safety buffer. The applications are at the Pinelands Commission.

The Fall pheasant stocking program distribution schedule was presented by Regional Superintendent Ray Porutski for the Council's approval. He noted that the baseline amount of birds was 55,000, and there are 60,000 birds available for distribution Statewide. This is identical to the 2004 stocking season when 60,000 birds were also available. The amount of stocking days are the same as the 2004 season, with the only change in the numbers of birds released being in the Central Region, where adjustments were made to allow for pheasants to be stocked at Fort Dix. This is now the second year in a row that the stocking program at Fort Dix has been allowed since the program was stopped due to security reasons after the attacks on 9/11/01. They are only stocking on weekdays, not weekends, and receiving 40% of what they did prior to 2001. Regional Superintendent Porutski noted that things could change with the Fort Dix stocking program if security were to become a concern.

The other change to this year's stocking program was the quail stocking at the Greenwood and Peaslee WMA's. Regional Superintendent Porutski noted that the State Federation had petitioned for a full season of quail stocking, instead of a split season with quail and pheasant being stocked, and their request was approved. Each area will receive a total of 5,500 quail for the season, and the numbers are again based on the 2004 stocking format.

Councilman Wolgast asked about the return on the amount of birds harvested. Regional Superintendent Porutski noted the last survey was done about 15 years ago in North Jersey. Assistant Director Herrightly noted that there was an approximate 55% return rate from the results of that survey.

A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll, seconded by Councilman Puskas to approve the pheasant and quail distribution schedule for the upcoming season. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.

Chief Petrongolo added he felt it was worthy of note that there were 5,000 additional birds of each type available for stocking this year.

Councilwoman Galetto noted a recent meeting she attended at Eagle Manor that included Deputy Commissioner Watson, Assistant Commissioner Cradic, Regional Superintendent Widjeskog and Principal Biologist Laurie Pettigrew and representatives from the South Jersey Bayshore Coalition, where they discussed the possibility of the State holding onto the historic structures at that area with an outside group using them. She noted that there was a tribal community who wanted the structures and possibly the entire 800 acres of property. The Coalition had some concerns, including the tribal group not being able to come up with the needed funds for the site within a certain time period and, the coalition of organizations active in the Bayshore area wanting to be able to put together a suggested program of use for the site. If the property does go to auction, there were concerns that deed restrictions be put in place to maintain the historic structures. Chief Petrongolo noted that this matter was being looked at in the Governor's Office, and gave a brief summary of the structures and the area, adding that this property would be an addition to the Dix WMA. Director Chanda added that we would be responding to both groups when a decision was received from the Governor's Office on the ultimate disposition of this property.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:15 p.m., and resumed again at 1:05 p.m.

Bureau Chief Lisa Barno reported for the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. She noted that the second week of the Fall trout stocking program was postponed due to the unseasonably warm water temperatures. She noted that the warm air at night does affect water temperatures and the water can hold the warmth for two weeks. The temperatures will be checked again next week to see if the program can continue.

The raceways at the Hatchery are now filled, and some of the fish so large that there is a need to get them out.

Anglers at the Big Flat, Lamington and Rockaway River did report some dead fish. There was an issue loading the brook trout because due to their large size, they didn't go thru the fish pump too well. These fish were stocked in these streams, and out of the 4,000 stocked, there were approximately 30 to 40 reported dead.

Chief Barno commented that personnel from the Bureau of Land Management did a great job with stocking; however, they still receive complaints about stocking from bridges, with those

anglers feeling that the bridge stocking may be what is killing the fish. Chief Barno explained further the affect of the warm temperatures on the stocked fish, and felt that was the cause of the problem. Overall, anglers are very pleased with the fish they are catching.

Chief Barno gave an update on the Fish Code. The Flood Hazard Rules have been cleared through the Office of Legal Affairs. However, the tentative date of December 11 for the public hearing will be too soon, because of the tentative publication date of December 3 and the need for a fifteen day period between the publication date and the hearing. There was additional discussion to choose a new date that would not conflict with the holiday season. The hearing has been tentatively scheduled for January 8, 2008 in the evening after the regularly scheduled Council meeting. There was discussion that the January meeting start at 1 pm, followed by the Fish Code hearing at 7:00pm.

Chief Barno also reported on a new stream classification system that was being worked on with staff from Water Monitoring for surface water quality standards. She noted that the work done by Senior Biologist Sean Crouse in the southern portion of the State was being used to asses these waters. This work is being incorporated into rewriting the regulations for protection of these waters.

Biologists have been busy doing sampling, and staff at Hackettstown have been very busy draining ponds.

Councilman Wolgast asked a question about the monthly report, where there was a reference to native brown trout. These are actually naturally reproducing trout, and Chief Barno noted that they usually simplify the process by referring to them as wild.

Councilman Messeroll had a question on landlocked salmon, and Chief Barno noted that there were reports of fish about 12 inches in size being caught this summer. They will be able to have better information next year on the return rate.

Councilwoman Galetto gave a brief review of the last meeting of the Endangered and Non-Game Species Committee. She noted they spoke about the wildlife action plans, off road vehicle park concerns, and safe snake passages for roadways. She introduced Principal Biologist Mandy Dey from the Endangered and Non-Game Species Program who spoke about shorebirds and the horseshoe crab harvest. Principal Biologist Dey gave a review of the program, noting that the Delaware Bay is one of the critical stopovers for shorebirds because it is the only it has the only horseshoe crab population in the Western hemisphere. She noted that the horseshoe crab eggs are easy for the birds to consume, since there are no shells to obstruct their feeding. This allows them to easily put on much needed weight since this is their last stop before going to the Artic where they need to survive for one to three weeks in a frozen area. She added that feeding at the Delaware Bay affects their survival, specifically the Red Knot and five additional species where the birds are not reproducing and not surviving and populations are declining. She gave a detailed explanation of the decline process. She also noted that the two-year moratorium on horseshoe crab harvest would expire in 2007, saying that the Division is firmly behind the continued closure of the horseshoe crab harvest, as are the Endangered and Nongame Species Program as well as the Department. She further reviewed the efforts made to receive support

from the Marine Fisheries Council to continue the closure. As of this time, they are not supporting the continued closure, but efforts are still continuing by Division staff. There was additional discussion among the members and staff regarding the horseshoe crab harvest program, with Director Chanda providing additional information to the Council. He also noted the hard work and efforts of both the ENSP staff and the Marine Fisheries Council for their specific concerns. Councilwoman Galetto noted that this presentation today was just a brief portion of information, and the data on this topic is very detailed.

Chief Dobelbower gave the report for the Bureau of Law Enforcement. He reported that officers made 4,824 field inspections last month resulting in 50 warnings and 383 summonses being issued, and 14 criminal arrests being made. Wildlife management area violations, followed by fishing violations were the most written cases, and the criminal arrests generally resulted from the use of a stolen ATVs or motorcycles being used on Fish and Wildlife property. He noted as we enter the Fall season, more firearms violations will be seen due to the upcoming hunting seasons.

He noted one case in Allamuchy Township, Warren County where an individual was spotlighting and shooting deer with a .17 caliber rifle from his vehicle.

Chief Dobelbower also noted a case in Wildwood, Cape May County where alligators were being sold by a store at the Seaport Aquarium on the boardwalk. This was not the first offense for this source, and they paid \$12,000 in fines.

The Marine Unit has had a number of cases involving shellfish. Recently, a group took about a quarter of a million dollars worth of shellfish over their quota. More information will be forthcoming on this matter.

The hiring and promotion of personnel continues. Monday, October 15, 2007 applicants for the Conservation Officer 3 positions are scheduled to come to the Central Region Office, followed by extensive background checks, and interviews and job offers being scheduled for late November. This will allow for the newly hired candidates to begin the various police academies in January. Councilman Wolgast questioned when they would know their assignment area, and asked about the possibility of someone being offered a position in an area where they chose not to live. Chief Dobelbower noted they would know at the time of their job offer what area they would be assigned to, and also explained that the areas were realigned to allow for expanded areas for affordable residency. He explained that Deputy Russ Sprague has developed a GIS program of the coverage zones that helps with this process, and explained the detailed amount of information available by using this program, including species location and season data within a coverage area.

Chief Dobelbower reported that the job announcement for the position of Chief of the Bureau had been posted. He will not be applying for the position due to his planned retirement at the end of this year, and will remain in the Civil Service title of Deputy Chief. He also reported that Joe Meyer of the Marine Unit recently was appointed to the position of Deputy Chief. Chief Dobelbower is hopeful that a candidate will be appointed to the position as Chief soon so that he has some transitional time to work with the appointee. He has been working with the Captains

for the past year in order to prepare them for these upcoming transitions. Councilwoman Galetto asked how long he had been in the position, and he noted that this is his third year as Acting Chief.

Councilman Burke asked for any available update on the electronic ignition issue for muzzleloaders, specifically when they were considered to be unloaded. He noted that he had questioned the manufacturer on this topic, but had not yet received a response. He asked that Chief Dobelbower also reach out to the manufacturer as well for a reply. Councilman Wolgast also noted the use of crossbows and discharge issues. Chief Dobelbower noted that these were both issues to look at for the next Game Code.

Councilwoman Galetto thanked the Bureau of Law Enforcement for their recent work on September 29 where they broke up a group of individuals who were racing on WMA property at night.

Chief Jim Sciascia reported for the Bureau of Information and Education. He reported that tomorrow a media event was being planned with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to bring attention to the Wildlife Action Plan and the need for more Federal funding to support those plans. He gave a brief explanation of the scheduled activities, which included shorebird banding and a hawk watch.

Chief Sciascia reported that they had a successful Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament with over 1,000 people participating. Even though there were only 50 fish measured, they had a good day with many prizes being issued, and many kids participating.

He also reported that the Wildlife Heritage Festival brought several thousand people to Pequest. They had good participation in the shotgun and archery instruction events, as well as many kids utilizing the fish pond. Many vendors and conservation groups were also present.

Assistant Biologist Michelle Ruggiero, who was recently hired to work on the Black Bear project has begun doing programs and is working on developing an extensive information update for the website. She is also working with Parks and Forestry to develop a program to train their personnel, and that should take place late this Winter or in the early Spring.

Chief Sciascia added that he has also asked Assistant Biologist Ruggiero to speak with the trash haulers on the future of bear resistant trash cans. They need to design a can that is bear resistant and can work with the mechanical arm that is now utilized on many of the trash trucks. He noted that we may be able to receive grant monies for this type of research.

Assistant Biologist Ruggiero has been revising the bear literature and that is now in the final phases of review.

Chief Sciascia reported that the numbers of students completing the Hunter Education program is still up by 30% from last year. The October courses are all full, and the courses for November are almost full. They have seen a real increase this past year, and have had the need to schedule more classes.

Registration for the Take a Kid Pheasant Hunt is almost full. There are seven wildlife management areas scheduled to have mentors available to assist the 60 participants scheduled at each area. The deadline for registration is October 19, 2007. Two additional WMAs will be stocked with pheasants for those youth hunters who are not able to get in to the registered program where they can hunt on their own with proper supervision.

He also noted that the Governor has signed off on the donation from the Archery Trade Association and Department has cleared the way for the proposed archery park. He has been receiving cooperation from Al Payne who is the coordinator for Capital projects. A meeting is scheduled with the Archery Trade Association at Black River for the 12th. The ultimate goal is to have a five acre archery park, with a state of the art hunter education facility and a 30 yard indoor range, and be a facility that is open to the public. They are looking into obtaining additional funding to hire seasonal staff to man the park. They have also received a commitment on CBT monies from the Department to upgrade the road and bridge leading into the property. Councilman Wolgast asked if this was being fully funded by the ATA, and Chief Sciascia noted the Division would be putting in \$180,000 of hunter education federal funds (\$90,000 from last year and \$90,000 from this year) and possibly another \$90,000 in next year's budget. They are also looking for \$100,000 to \$125,000 in Capital monies for road improvements, and the rest will have to come from industry through the ATA unless they can receive additional capital monies in the future to support the different phases of this project.

Chief Sciascia reported that he has been working with Principal Biologist Ted Nichols from the Waterfowl Project on using available Federal monies for education on Avian influenza. This is a three phase program, with the first phase being the creation of a webpage with Avian influenza information, the second being an informational postcard to all waterfowl stamp and HIP number buyers from last year, and the third phase being a brochure that will be available through the license agents who will also be provided with an informational poster to display at their stores.

Staff has been working on many web page postings for the upcoming hunting seasons. Information should be coming out in a week or so.

The promotion for deer hunting to out of state hunters will be done again this year, with an additional 9,000 names and addresses are purchased from four different hunting magazines. Last year showed a positive increase in out of state license purchasers, and a survey has been sent to 5,000 brochure recipients from last year to see this campaign had an affect on their decision to hunt in New Jersey. They are hoping for a 10% return rate on the survey.

Councilman Messeroll asked about the distribution of the new Waterfowl Stamp Program brochure. Director Chanda noted that Sylvia Golas has been taking the lead on this.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked when they planned to be doing the bear training for Parks and Forestry personnel because she would like to attend. He anticipated this to happen in late February or March. She also inquired about the bear CD, and Assistant Director Herryghty noted that he and Chief Sciascia had not had a chance to discuss this matter.

Councilman Messeroll thanked Chief Sciascia for a good job done on the surf tournament, and Chief Sciascia credited Karen Leskie for doing all the detailed work involved to make this event a success.

The public was asked if they had any comments for the meeting. Rodney Shinnors from Millburn Township asked to speak. He presented a handout as a follow up to the last meeting with deer/vehicle collision facts from the police department. He noted that he felt there was very little change in the deer/auto collisions even with the culling of deer. He expressed his concerns, and noted that he felt there was no public consensus put forward in the application from Millburn. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked who he was representing, and he stated that he was a private citizen representing a group of other private citizen's who also had concerns about this application. She reaffirmed to him that Janet Pizar was advised at last month's meeting to discuss this matter with the Department of Transportation since it was a concern involving the roadways. There was additional discussion from the members of the Council to Mr. Shinnors, including Councilman Wolgast who pointed out at last month's meeting he asked what the deer/vehicle collisions would be if there were no deer culling taking place. Councilman Messeroll also suggested that they contact South Mountain Reservation since many of the deer seemed to come from that area. Additional discussion occurred, and Assistant Director Herrighty gave an explanation that this Council's decision would be to allow for the taking of deer outside of the regulated hunting season, allowing them different ways to reduce the deer herd. He further explained that municipal issues do not apply. There was additional discussion between Assistant Director Herrighty and Mr. Shinnors, including a survey that Mr. Shinnors said was formulated by Millburn but never sent out. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that the law requires to town to pass a resolution for any type of culling activity and this is done at public meetings. When asked, Mr. Shinnors said he represented the group known as Citizen's for Effective Deer Management, and was not sure of the amount of people he was representing. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked if he was for deer culling, and he says he was if there was a demonstrated problem. He shared some information about his own property and measures he takes to keep the deer from his landscaping. Additional discussion continued, with Mr. Shinnors sharing his thoughts on ticks and Lyme disease and ways he felt it may be spread other than by deer. Councilman Kertz asked if their group meets regularly, and he noted that they do. Councilman Kertz also asked if they had approached the town council with their concerns, and he said they have and they just say "thank you". Councilman Kertz also asked if they had presented their ideas of what a proper deer management plan would be to their town council. He noted that they have stated their concerns, but have not presented any such documents. Councilwoman Galetto thanked him for coming to the meeting and asking questions of the Council. Some additional discussion was had between Mr. Shinnors and the Council regarding his concerns today.

A second member of the public, Mark Lanzam from Toms River asked that a boat ramp permit be added as an option to the hunting and fishing licenses when they are generated. This will allow the license purchaser something to display when they are utilizing a launch area that requires a boat ramp maintenance permit. This is something that will be looked into.

A third member of the public, (Jim Soden) shared his thoughts on the vehicle vs. animal collisions.

The November 13th, 2007 Council meeting will begin at 10:00am, and members are reminded to call Deb Zook of the Director's Office if they will not be in attendance. Councilman Burke asked if the December meeting would be changed back to 10:00am since the Fish Code hearing was now scheduled for January 8th, 2008. It was decided to change the start time of the December 11, 2007 meeting to 10:00am.

Councilman Messeroll had questions for Bear Biologist Patrick Carr on the rate of reproduction of bears if they are not harvested. Supervising Biologist Carr noted that in North Jersey they were seeing the birth of three cubs on average, with two of those cubs surviving. They are breeding every other year. They will stay at this number for while in the Southern portion of the State, but in North Jersey the numbers have taken a leap due to the fact the there are so many related sows who are breeding. This leap occurred in 1995. He also noted that bear can be as reproductive as deer if there is no mortality.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted recent activity that occurred where a bear was removed from Riverdale. She received several comments from acquaintances of hers in that area who were very pleased with our personnel and their handling of the situation. She wanted to compliment those involved.

A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Kertz to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.