

Wildlife Rehabilitator Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – 10/17/2012
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Northern Region Office, Hampton

WRAC Members Present: Diane Nickerson, Tracy Leaver, Dr. Erica Miller, Kelly Simonetti (Chair), Lisa DeLambert (New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture)

Division of Fish and Wildlife: Sue Predl, Hardy Wiedemann, Paulette Nelson

Bill 1864 Update

- DEP conveyed opposition to Bill 1864 to Senator Smith
- A motion was made during the August meeting to draft a letter to the NJ Senate about the formation and purpose of WRAC .A draft letter was distributed. WRAC members will review letter and submit edits to K. Simonetti before letter is sent.
- **Motion** to send finalized letter edited by WRAC members. K. Simonetti, seconded by T. Leaver, unanimously approved.

Relocation Policy

- Review and revisions of relocation policy are continuing by T. Leaver and D. Nickerson.
- Division has updated relocation policy re: foxes and beaver.
- Several items were brought to the WRAC's attention re: relocation policy and they are being addressed.

Clarification on Adding Species to Existing Rehabilitator Permits

- Some rehabilitators have questioned requirements for adding certain species to their permits and had questions regarding the required apprenticeships to do so. The WRAC will review the standard 200-hour apprenticeship requirement and make recommendations to facilitate adding additional, but similar species to an existing permit. Dr. E. Miller volunteers to put together the new groupings for birds. T. Leaver and D. Nickerson will review grouping animals within the mammal class.
- **Action Item:** Group will define exceptions to 200-hour rule when adding species within a class.

DFW Update on Submission of New Regulations

- DFW has begun the process of updating the Captive-Game and Exotic animal regulations.
- These efforts will continue and the WRAC will be updated on the progress.
- Clarification on test, letter of recommendation and other requirements prior to licensing of new rehabilitators.

Update on New Permittees and Inspections

- The DFW was notified by a rehabilitator that they have two apprentices ready for licensing, however no new applications have been submitted at this time.
- One new raccoon rehabilitator in Morris County has been added to the non-public list.
- Inspections by the Division of Fish and Wildlife are continuing. Two rehabilitators have been inspected recently and both had sufficient knowledge and well-kept facilities.

Questions for the WRAC Committee

- **Motion** – Questions/concerns from rehabilitators for WRAC committee consideration should be submitted to the Chair of the Committee – K. Simonetti. The questions will then be reviewed, discussed, and a response prepared within two scheduled meetings. Motion submitted by K. Simonetti, seconded by D Nickerson, unanimously approved.
- All questions and concerns should go to chairperson K. Simonetti at KCorless@aol.com
- An email from Melissa Jacobs was submitted to WRAC. It will be reviewed and answered within the next two scheduled meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Next Meeting: Central Region Office – 12/12/2012 10:00 AM