

Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

26 Route 173 West

Hampton NJ

Meeting Minutes – 7/24/13

WRAC Purpose: The purpose of the WRAC is to establish a group of representatives which will provide advice and assistance to the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to improve the wildlife rehabilitation program and the care that is provided to injured and orphaned wildlife.

Committee Members Present: Lisa DeLambert, Giselle Chazotte-Smisko, Tracy Leaver, Diane Nickerson, Dr. Erica Miller, Kelly Simonetti and Diane Nickerson

Committee Members Absent: Don Bonica, Dr. Jennifer Norton, Phil Brodhecker

Division of Fish & Wildlife staff: Susan Predl, Hardy Wiedemann

Present from Public: Michael Melchionne (New Jersey Association of Certified Animal Control Officers)

Call to order 10:21 AM (Simonetti)

- Motion to approve previous meeting's (5/21/13) minutes by K. Simonetti, seconded by T. Leaver.

- Relocation Policy – Recommendation from WRAC to include date of latest revision. Also, re-wording of last paragraph to allow for relocation at alternate sites, on a case-by-case basis, with approval by the Division. Relocation policy with suggested amendments is approved by Dr. Miller and seconded by T. Leaver.
 - How does WRAC communicate Relocation Policy to ACOs, Pest Control Workers, etc..?
 - New Relocation Policy will be posted on njfishandwildlife.com
 - M. Melchionne offers to post policy on www.njcacoa.org to help with the effort to get this new information out to animal control officers.
 - WRAC makes recommendation for the Division to identify Pest Control organization in NJ and inquire about distributing new Relocation Policy to their membership.

- WRAC suggest providing Dr. Colin Campbell of NJ DHSS with Policy.
- New Relocation Policy will be mailed to NJ Rehabilitators this week.

- New Animal Groupings as they pertain to Rehabilitator licensing
 - Bird Categories still in progress and deferred till next meeting.
 - Review of Mammal, Amphibian, and Reptile Categories.
 - Suggestion that a definition of “potentially dangerous species” be included.
 - Suggestion that endangered and threatened species be highlighted in color, rather than asterisked.
 - Suggestion from T. Leaver that new categories be used on permits so that rehabilitators who are approved for one species in a category are automatically approved for all similar species in that category.

- Update on Inspections and New Rehabilitators
 - Jean Parker – new rehabilitator in Monmouth County for squirrels
 - Sonya Kaloyanides – renewed rehab permit. New location to be inspected.
 - Hannah Suthers will temporarily close.

- Rehabilitator Communications
 - Letter from WRAC to Veterinarians in New Jersey explaining basic guidelines when treating wildlife. Letter has been drafted and edits are in progress.
 - The WRAC is developing talking points to be used for rehabilitators on advising the public about health concerns related to temporarily caring for wildlife.

- Rehabilitators who allow their permits to lapse – What are the requirements for renewal?
 - Less than 3 years is letter from licensed rehabber and new application
 - More than 3 years is recommendation by two licensed NJ rehabilitators and reapplication with facility inspection.

- Meeting Adjourned: 12:41 PM