

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Central Region Office  
Robbinsville, NJ  
June 10, 2014

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Acting Chairman Burke.

The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

Acting Chairman Burke 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 and delivered to the designated newspapers of the Division, the Newark Star Ledger and the Atlantic City Press on May 23, 2014.

Acting Chairman Burke noted that the Secretary for the Council was not present today.

Roll call was taken. In attendance were:

Acting Chairman Dave Burke  
Councilwoman Blumig  
Councilman Brodhecker  
Councilman Gudmundsson  
Councilman Van Mater

Absent: Councilwoman Brummer  
Councilman DeMartino  
Councilman Link  
Councilman Puskas

Division employees included D. Chanda, L. Herrighty, P. Nelson, L. Barno, M. Chicketano, D. Golden, A. Ivany, T. Nichols and J. Sloan.

There were several members of the public in attendance.

Minutes of the April 8, 2014 meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Councilman Van Mater, seconded by Councilman Gudmundsson to approve the minutes as presented. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed and one abstention from Councilwoman Blumig who was not in attendance that day.**

Acting Chairman Burke commented the agenda would be slightly altered today to accommodate those who had to leave early.

Director Chanda addressed the Council. He noted the passing of former Assistant Director Pete McLain, and reflected briefly on some of the work he accomplished during life. Director Chanda also advised that he would be leaving early today to attend the funeral services for Mr. McLain.

Director Chanda commented on a recent ceremony at the Lenape Farms that was led by The Nature Conservancy to thank TD Bank for their donation to help with the purchase of the property.

Director Chanda noted some possible future partnership activities that are being discussed with the President of Stockton College.

The public comment period was opened for anyone wishing to comment on the agenda item to review and vote on the proposed waterfowl hunting season dates.

Barbara Sauchau noted her opposition to the waterfowl hunting seasons.

Janet Pizar questioned the proposal being presented, and was advised that this was done at the April meeting. She then noted her opposition to the waterfowl hunting seasons.

Bureau reports were presented. Acting Chief Chicketano reviewed some of the highlights from the Bureau of Law Enforcement's monthly report with the Council.

There was no report from the Bureau of Land Management.

Principal Zoologist Korth from the Endangered and Nongame Species Program gave an update of the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan and reviewed information from the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of staff and the Committee.

Principal Biologist Nichols addressed the Council to give a final review of the proposed waterfowl hunting season dates that were presented at the April meeting. He noted that the brant dates were still uncertain because the length of the season was still undetermined by the Federal government at this time as to whether it would be a 30 or 50 day season, but both scenarios were listed on the proposal that he had presented.

Councilwoman Blumig noted the amount of complaints being received from the Agriculture community regarding Canada geese. Principal Biologist Nichols advised that the dates for Canada geese were not all listed on the handout because the survey for Atlantic population resident geese has not been done. More information is expected later this Summer. Assistant Director Herrightly also noted information that he received from the Farm Bureau that will be presented to the Atlantic Flyway Technical Committee for review.

**With no other comments, a motion was made by Councilman Brodhecker, seconded by Councilman Gudmundsson to approve the waterfowl hunting season dates as presented. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.**

Chief Barno reported for the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. She shared information on a Furunculosis outbreak that has affected salmon that were received from Massachusetts. Massachusetts advised that the salmon that they have shown no sign of the disease and they have no history of Furunculosis. Other possible ways that this could have been spread was reviewed. A meeting is schedule with staff for next week. There was additional discussion on this matter.

Staff have sampled and tested trout from the South Branch after receiving photos of fish which possibly had Furunculosis. Updates of this were presented. Additional testing will be done at the Ken Lockwood Gorge and several other waterways as reviewed by Chief Barno.

There was additional discussion on the Furunculosis problem and additional research being done.

Electro-fishing at Lake Hopatcong was recently completed. Several different species of fish had lesions and appeared to be in an emaciated state. Chief Barno advised that this may not be from Furunculosis, but several

of these fish will be sent for testing. Councilwoman Blumig inquired on other conditions that may have affected the fish, and Chief Barno gave a brief review of other possible reasons that could affect fish health.

Chief Barno noted that the invasive water chestnut plant has been seen and reported to be in the Lucy's Island area of Lake Hopatcong. There was some further discussion on this.

Councilwoman Blumig shared concerns from several county Federation groups on the stocking of trout in rivers. They have indicated that they would rather have seen them in more contained waters. Chief Barno shared additional comments on this. Councilman Gudmundsson also shared comments he had received regarding the Spring trout stocking program.

Principal Biologist Ivany reported for the Information and Education Section. He gave a review of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, noting the success of the anglers in attendance and the increase of participants even with the date being moved to May from October.

The annual free fishing days will be June 14 and 15.

Staff is preparing for the State Fair and will be sharing space in the Sussex County Federation's tent.

The N.J. Wildlife and Conservation Conference was held this past weekend. Approximately 75 people were in attendance and he noted that the annual Outdoor Writer's Workshop was also tied in to this event. Principal Biologist Ivany felt that he would continue to hold the Outdoor Writer's Workshop as part of this event.

Principal Biologist Ivany reported that the Division is moving forward on the development of a Facebook page.

Chief Golden reported for the Bureau of Wildlife Management. He noted a summary assessment that is being done by Principal Biologist Burgess on bear management and briefly reviewed the content that will be included in this summary.

An increase in the number of orphan bear cubs was seen this past year, and Chief Golden commented that there was only one licensed bear rehabilitator facility that is available in New Jersey. Possible ways to increase this number in the future are being considered. There was some additional discussion on this matter.

The Game Code Committee met earlier today and Chief Golden hopes to have a vote on the proposed amendment changes at next months' meeting. Councilman Gudmundsson shared some ideas on making this information more readily available to anyone who may be interested in reviewing it.

The growing deer population in certain zones was discussed in a Deer Project meeting earlier this month. Plans are in place to develop a strategy to have public lands opened in areas where there is an increased deer population. There was some additional discussion on access and how it is a problem in helping to control the deer population.

Chief Golden noted that staff from the Bureau of Wildlife Management may take over more responsibility on the bobcat program since the lead biologist from the Endangered and Nongame Species Program who has been working on this is due to retire.

Staff met with USDA biologists to discuss the feral swine problem in New Jersey, mostly noted in the area of the White Oak WMA. Chief Golden gave details of future plans that are being considered.

A wildlife management area use survey is being developed. Chief Golden briefed the Council on some of the details that will be included.

The pheasant production season is progressing. To date, approximately 35,000 birds have hatched, and the goal is to have 50,000 available for stocking this season.

Plans for the new indoor catch building at the Rockport Game Farm were previously reported to be suspended due to budget constraints, but Chief Golden advised that construction of the facility will now be moving forward.

The pheasant distribution model is also progressing. Future information will be provided as things move along.

Chief Golden reported that New Jersey will be hosting the National Wildlife Technical Committee Meeting in 2015, which is part of the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI). Today, Assistant Biologist Sloan was in attendance to give a presentation of the NBCI's collaborative program on habitat species conservation. Future habitat plans for New Jersey were also noted. There was additional discussion between staff and the Council on this program and the goals for the future.

Council reports were given. Councilman Brodhecker reported for the Agriculture Committee, noting there has been a late start on planting this season. Turkey nests have been seen in the fields, as well as young deer and bears.

Councilmen Van Mater and Gudmundsson had no new information to report for the Federation. Councilwoman Blumig noted that sportsmen have not heard any additional information on the reduction of permit fees for seniors that had been talked about prior to her being on Council and inquired about this. Assistant Director Nelson addressed this matter with Councilwoman Blumig, as well as her request regarding the Division's finance report and if there was going to be a Finance Committee meeting scheduled. Acting Chairman Burke inquired if the Finance Committee could schedule a meeting for later this year.

There was no additional information to report from the Finance Committee.

Acting Chairman Burke advised that his personal schedule did not allow for him to attend several meetings that he usually would have, but did note that the Federation has been very active and hosted a Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs (HOFNOD) event in Galloway Township and a kid's bluefish fishing tournament.

There was no new information to report for the Freshwater Fisheries Committee.

Acting Chairman Burke reported for the Game Committee. This morning they met as a follow up to the meeting they had last month on proposed changes to the Game Code. The proposed changes will be voted on next month during the regular Council meeting, and Assistant Director Herrightly advised that a stakeholder meeting will be scheduled as well and a report of information from that meeting will be given to the Council.

Assistant Director Nelson reported for the Legislative Committee. She reviewed several new proposals, including:

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| A 3133           | Requires DEP to establish "private wildlife habitat certification program"; creates affirmative defense against municipal nuisance ordinances for properties certified under the program. |
| A3320 and S 2115 | Authorizes counties to establish mosquito control reserve fund.   |
| A 3352           | Establishes "Milkweed for Monarchs" program.  |

A 3353	Establishes “Adopt a Monarch Butterfly Waystation” program.
AJR 70	Designates May of each year as “Milkweed for Monarchs Month.”
SCR 84	Amends Constitution to dedicate four percent of CBT revenues to open space, farmland, and historic preservation, water programs, public and private site remediation, and underground storage tank programs, ends current dedication of four percent of CBT revenues for various environmental programs, and increases dedication to six percent of CBT revenues in 2019; and dedicates revenue from leases and conveyances of State-owned open space for open space, farmland, and historic preservation.

There was no report from the Endangered and Nongame Species Committee.

Acting Chairman Burke reported for the Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee. He has been informed that there will be a need to have a meeting next month, which will be held on the same day as the regular Fish and Game Council meeting. Because of this, the July 8 Fish and Game Council meeting will start at 1 p.m.

Councilman Brodhecker reported for the Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee. He was not able to attend the meeting in person, but briefly reviewed several items from the minutes of the last meeting for the Council. Their next meeting is scheduled for August 27.

There was no old or new business to review, but members were advised to consider topics for the September Joint Councils Meeting.

The public comment period was opened. Those wishing to speak were advised that they would have three minutes to speak.

Barbara Sauchau addressed the Council. She commented on the distance bow hunters in New Jersey need to stay away from homes compared to that of New York State. Ms. Sauchau also spoke about information she had read regarding Chronic Wasting Disease. Also, she spoke about the Division approaching towns to “push” deer hunting, noting a letter that was received in her town from staff from the Deer Project that noted problems with deer / vehicle collisions as their reasoning. Lastly, she noted an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer about a collision shop in Philadelphia and illegal activity related to supposed deer / vehicle collisions.

Janet Pizar from Essex County also addressed the Council. She distributed a copy of a report from the US Fish and Wildlife National Service report survey of the most recent New Jersey statics of hunting and wildlife watching. She added that she believes the next report will not be published again until 2016. Councilwoman Blumig made a comment on a portion of the information in this report.

With no one else wishing to address the Council, **a motion was made by Councilman Van Mater, seconded by Councilman Brodhecker to adjourn. A vote was taken with all in favor.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.