

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Central Region Office
Robbinsville, New Jersey
May 9, 2017**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairman David Burke.

The flag salute and pledge of allegiance were completed.

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 on April 27, 2017 and delivered to the designated newspapers for the Division, the Newark Star Ledger and the Atlantic City Press; published on May 4, 2017.

Roll call was taken in attendance:

Councilwoman Cathy Blumig
Councilman Phillip Brodhecker (late arrival at 10:18 a.m.)
Chairman David Burke
Councilman Joseph DeMartino
Councilman James DeStephano
Councilman Agust Gudmundsson
Councilman Jeffery Link
Councilman Rick Lathrop
Councilman Robert Pollock

Absent:

Councilman Frank Virgilio

Division employees included: L. Herrighty, P. Nelson, D. Golden, A. Ivany, F. Panico, L. DiPiano, B. Stoff, George Miragliuolo, L. Barno, C. Stanko, A. Quirk and S. Coltrain.

There were numerous members of the public in attendance.

Chairman Burke welcomed Rick Lathrop from the Endangered and Non-game Advisory Committee (ENSAC). He has replaced Dr. Barbara Brummer as ENSAC Chair, and Fish and Game Council representative. Councilman Lathrop is from Rutgers University and is faculty member/professor in the Department of Ecology Evolution and Natural Resources at the New Brunswick Campus.

Chairman Burke asked if everyone received the revised draft minutes. Since not everyone read the revised draft, staff member Shelley Coltrain read edits as given by Councilman Virgilio by email. Assistant Director Nelson and Councilwoman Blumig gave additional edits.

Chairman Burke asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

A Motion was made by Councilman Gudmundsson to approve the April 11, 2017 minutes as amended and seconded by Councilman DeMartino. Vote taken, seven (7) were in favor; two (2) abstained, Councilman Lathrop and Councilwoman Blumig; motion carried.

Chairman Burke commented that former Director Dave Chanda took a job as Vice President of the State Agency Engagement with The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation in Alexandria, VA. He has been tasked with increasing participation in fishing and boating with that organization. He will work with industry and state agencies to accomplish his tasks. This agency has been represented in the “Take me fishing” television ads. Chairman Burke said he believe the Federation Sportsmen Clubs and NJOA might be planning a retirement dinner for Dave in the near future. Chairman Burke wished him well.

Chairman Burke stated he had been to the Florida Keys, noting he has always been interested in the Key Deer. As reported in a previous meeting there was a recent problem with screwworm outbreak. Screwworm was found on 13 Florida Keys islands. USDA has deemed their control efforts successful. They released millions of sterile male flies several times, and treated deer bait sites with roller type applicators that the deer rub against. Chairman Burke stated he did get to see a couple of stations as the program was wrapping up. There were 135 deer deaths out of a population of 875. This was the first outbreak in three decades. It could have been devastating for the endangered Key Deer and would have been very devastating if it got into Florida and points north for the cattle industry and deer population. The deer population in the south did not take off until the screwworms were controlled several decades ago.

Chairman Burke noted he was supposed to attend the upcoming focus group on May 11th, but he has two other conflicts. Acting Assistant Director Dave Golden stated that a seat was open to one person on the Council and Chairman Burke could designate someone else. Councilman Gudmundsson is already attending representing Trout Unlimited and will represent the Council since no one else is available to attend.

Acting Director Larry Herrighty reported that he has still not been appointed as Director by the Governor and all the rumors saying that he has been are inaccurate. There has been a lot of time spent on phase 9 hiring. Permission has been granted to backfill ten vacancies that have opened in the last six months. Next month there will be a report on the finances going into the fiscal year and an update given on the process and what positions the Division is looking to fill.

Acting Director Herrighty reported he attended the convention of the Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs in Ocean City and it was a good meeting. On May 10th the Division will work with Delaware to sink the Coast Guard vessel named the Tamaroa. This vessel was used in the actual rescue and movie called The Perfect Storm. The sinking has been previously delayed by three months due to weather conditions. The vessel will be sunk on the Cape May Reef, a shared reef between Delaware and New Jersey. A permit renewal has been recently received for all of New Jersey’s reefs including the two new reefs the Division will create. One will be a mile off the Manasquan River inlet and the first reef to be place in the Delaware Bay.

Acting Director Herrighty stated he has been spending a lot of time working with the Commissioner and his staff and Bureau of Marine Fisheries biologists on the summer flounder issue. Today starts the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting. The Division will go down to have a formal appeal of their decision on the regulations of the flounder, currently at 19" fish, 3 fish for 128 days. The Division opposes that and biologists have been working on a lot of data to indicate that this is not appropriate for New Jersey. The Commissioner has had a lot of conversation with NOAA and hope to have it resolved in our favor with some kind of compromise by the end of the week. The Marine Digest publication has been delayed based on this uncertainty and due to the desire to get the appropriate regulation in the Digest.

Acting Director Herrighty pointed out in the back of the room there was a plaque given to New Jersey at the North American Conference for the \$500,000 contribution to Ducks Unlimited efforts in Canada. The credit goes to the New Jersey duck hunters who buy duck stamps and the Waterfowl Stamp Committee who voted to send the money to Canada. At the Convention, Acting Director Herrighty awarded the Director's Conservation Award to Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH). HHH have been in existence for 20 years. It was started by three sportsmen in Hunterdon County when the "earn a buck" program began and they realized they can help manage deer by providing a means to help the homeless by donating excess venison that they could not eat to charitable organizations. In that timeframe, hunters going through HHH have donated 215 tons of venison. Almost 12,000 deer were processed and over 1.7 million meals have been served to the needy. Most of the venison gets funneled through Northern New Jersey charitable organization known as NORWESCAP and gets distributed locally and to other food kitchens throughout the state that request it.

Chairman Burke noted there are no agenda items to vote on, but if one arises, there will be a public comment period.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agriculture Committee Report:

Councilman Brodhecker reported on feline cytauxzoonosis, which is a tick borne disease as reported to him from a friend in the veterinarian field. He would like to have this looked into and possibility brought up at the joint meeting with ENSAC in September. He stated cats don't get lymes disease like dogs, but they can transport and carry ticks. The feline cytauxzoonosis is a disease that ticks will transmit and affect blood hemorrhage in cats and is fatal to domesticated cats. It is carried by the bobcat population. It has not been documented in New Jersey, but there is a lot of documentation of this in southern states and moving our way. Because of the relationship to bobcats and our domestic cats, he feels a little more research and it may be a good topic for the joint meeting in September. Forecasters have predicted this to be a large year for lymes disease and heartworm in animals.

Councilman Brodhecker reported there has been a lot of activity with poultry injuries from wildlife. Councilman Brodhecker recently spoke with a customer who was buying a chicken coop. The customer reported to Councilman Brodhecker that back in November or December they had a fisher in their coop in Johnsonburg, New Jersey. The customer was from Maine and

is familiar with what a fisher looks like and was sure it was not a fox or bobcat. Councilman Brodhecker stated there was another customer two years ago with a video of a fisher in the coop in the Dingman's area which gives proof they are migrating down to New Jersey. Councilman Brodhecker received another report from a customer who had seven laying hens that were killed where the bodies were left and the heads were missing. In total, this customer has lost up to 19 birds. Another customer has had a bear attack on her chicken coop and lost 47 seven week old chicks. She has five portable coops and uses electric fencing on her farm. The bear raided one of the portable coops that was not a part of the electric fencing. She was given Fish and Game telephone number to call and was told they could not do anything because there was no electric fencing on the coop.

Councilman Brodhecker called a Farmers/Sportsmen's Committee meeting today after the Council meeting to discuss the bear policy specifically to review the language about bear incidents with hikers and poultry.

Councilman Link reported having warmer weather than in the north and farming has begun. He stated finding large trees will be difficult this year due to supply and demand. A few years ago demand was low and less trees were planted, now demand is high and fewer trees are available. Councilman Link attended a bear den check with Tony McBride and staff. He commended Tony McBride and staff on their work and stated he learned a lot on the visit. He also stated it is very important as a councilman to get a different view and ask questions.

Acting Director Herrighty reminded the Council they are welcomed to attend the bear den research in the spring and the bear research trapping work in the summer.

Dr. Sebastian Reist from New Jersey Department of Agriculture and Aaron Guikema from USDA were present, but did not have a report.

State Federation Reports:

Councilwoman Blumig reported the central region voted to support the Federation's efforts to reexamine the permit system. It has been referred to the Federation retention committee. They pointed out this concerns the permit price and making it more affordable for seniors. Research has been done and they realize it will take legislation, but for the fee for the pheasant stamps can be adjusted by the Fish and Game Council pursuant to section 12.

There was question on the status on Millpond in Milltown as it related to the spill. Wants to know what is going on with it. They voted to oppose Game Code proposals 34 and 35 in regard to Regulation Set 0. They were opposing that in support of other county federation chapters. Even though they don't hunt down in south Jersey they wanted it to be more restrictive. They wanted fewer deer hunting opportunities not more. They were also wondering what the status was of having a new Deer Project Leader.

Acting Director Herrighty responded the Deer Project Leader is one of the position the Division is seeking to fill in Phase 9. In reference to the pheasant stamp being able to be raised one time, that language is found in many of the license section, it is a one-time cost of living increase and

the Council already did that around 2003. He also stated he is happy to sit down with the Retention Committee to discuss the issue.

Councilwoman Blumig expressed to Assistant Director Nelson how the Federation was very pleased with her response letter regarding licenses.

Councilman DeMartino reported Ocean and Monmouth Counties are opposed to proposals 34 and 35 in the Game Code.

Councilman DeStephano attended the State Federation Convention. He complimented them as it was very well run and the speakers were interesting. Acting Director Herrighty also commented, during that Convention, he had the opportunity to talk to the person who is in charge of the new predator organization that was formed. There were a lot of question regarding why the Division allows certain firearms in the day versus night and deer poaching issues. They are interested in talking with the Division and the Council to discuss their future.

Chairman Burke stated the Federation will chose a candidate to replace him at their September meeting. Councilman Gudmundsson noted he should be up for replacement as well. Atlantic County is involved with several different fish tournaments; one will be the weekend of May 13th in conjunction with HOFNOD, Friends of Forsythes Refugee, the Federation and some local clubs. There is a tournament every week around the State. Chairman Burke noted it is weather dependent. If it rains, it could be a washout. In Atlantic County, turkey hunting is doing well. The fluke regulation is a hot topic in the south.

Finance Committee:

No Report. Assistant Director Nelson suggested a Committee meeting be held in June immediately after the Council meeting. Chairman Burke asked Councilman Lathrop if he would like to be on the Finance Committee. He noted Dr. Brummer volunteered to be on the committee. Councilman Lathrop agreed to serve as an alternate.

Fish Committee:

Councilman Gudmundsson reported the committee will meet on May 31st. Chairman Burke noted he received topics from Chief Lisa Barno to add to the June agenda regarding the Fish Code.

Game Committee:

Chairman Burke reported there have not been any committee meetings due to all that is going on with the Game Code comment period which Chief Carole Stanko will give details later in the meeting.

Legislative Committee:

The legislative activity report was distributed. Assistant Director Nelson stated this month most of the legislators have been in budget hearings so there has not been a lot going on. Two bills that have had activities are:

S-3092 – authorizes active duty military to fish in freshwaters without license or trout stamp. The Division is not in support of this unless they will be reimbursed.

S-2400 – authorizes use of tracking dog to search and recover wild deer during prescribed hunting season. This has passed the Economic Growth Committee.

Councilman Lathrop reported the ENSAC meeting held on April 19th. Division Biologist Mandy Dey gave an update on the Red Knot. He stated he serves as a Stakeholder Committee as aquaculture working group. Several meetings have been held with the federal and state biologists as well as individually, to get the process organized. The group is currently in the process of selecting a scientific advisory group to advise the Stakeholder Committee. A conference is starting on May 10th “25 years of Delaware Bay Stopovers.” Biologist involved are from the Northeast and Canada. There is a Sea Grant funded workshop that is being planned for this summer or fall. The title will be “Aquaculture: Interaction with Horseshoe Crabs and Red Knots.”

Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee:

Chairman Burke reported a Committee will not meet again until the fall.

Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee:

Councilman Brodhecker reported the committee was supposed to meet in April but has been rescheduled to May 24th. He will not be able to attend and asked Cathy if she could, but she is not able to meet on that date either.

Public Member Comments:

Councilman Pollock did not have a report.

DIVISION REPORTS

Barbara Stoff, Licensing and Permits, reported she is in the process of catching up on work since she was out for two months. She stated while she was out a lot happened one being she finally got an assistant. Ms. Stoff introduced George Miragliuolo, who is retired from the Army. He has a certificate in computer networking and bachelor’s degree in business. He is currently doing a little of everything. Ben Trotter in the Assistant Commissioner’s office has been the liaison with OIT working with field offices, George will take those responsibilities over now. Ms. Stoff thanked the division staff for working on her behalf while she was absent.

Ms. Stoff reported turkey permit sales are down a little bit, but may go up by the end of the season. Hunting and trapping license sales are down, but it is the beginning of the year. Fifty-five apprentice licenses have been sold since they went on sale in February. Ms. Stoff stated she would like to streamline the apprentice license program. Currently there are there 10 types of apprentice licenses due to residency, age, and disabled veteran status. This is a huge burden to try to explain to license agents. Fishing license are down, but it is still early. Ms. Stoff stated she will be keeping an eye on the buddy fishing license, now going into the second year and that they are down a little bit. Director Herrighty asked the status of the RFP. Ms. Stoff responded it has to be printed out and reviewed one final time. She also stated just before she went out on

leave, a new buyer from Treasury was assigned to her. After his review, Ms. Stoff is updating and will use a RFP similar to what was sent three years prior.

Assistant Director Nelson updated the Council on the S-3092 bill which allows active duty military to fish in freshwaters for free. She stated a license is not required, there is no fee, so there is nothing to be reimbursed.

Chief Lisa Barno, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries reported the temperatures in the streams were not good and trout season was going to be short, but temperatures have dropped to normal for this time of the year. Hatcheries are into week five of stocking and nearing the end. By the end of week three all of the brood stock was used up. Hatcheries are now using production fish and clearing out the raceways. Once emptied the raceways get steamed cleaned and sterilized. The headways are also being replaced after having 30 years of use. Well one had problems with low water and it capitated. Well three lost half its volume midway through the season. Both have been replaced. There is concern because the well had just been replaced in 2011 which is a short turnaround on a well. The cost was \$37,000.

Chief Barno addressed the question on Millpond asked earlier by Councilwoman Blumig. There was a hydraulic fluid spill last fall. The company responsible was supposed to do fish tissue analysis for contaminants for PCBs. The Division found out in the beginning of February they had not followed through. DEP had to get involved in the clean-up and has taken over. Staff member Jon Lovy spent six weeks bidding for the tissue analysis work. NRD has given money to do the testing. Samples will be collected next week or the week after. It will take about a month to get the results of the testing.

At the suggestion of Law Enforcement, a permanent sign will be posted for trout stocked water. Blue will be for closed waters and white is for no in-season closed water. Chief Barno passed around the signs for review. This should dramatically cut down on the signs Law Enforcement had to post with the annual regulation changes.

Staff member Ross Shramko is working on the Big Flatbrook telemetry program. He is currently tracking 18 of 20 trout stocked. One has been held up in the same area and may be a dropped transmitter. The biggest movement has been a mile from Police Barracks down to Worners Hole. None has gone below the riffle range. There are plans to implant another 20 trout next week, to be stocked on May 17th. The transmitters last 260 days. They were checked daily for the first three weeks, now it is every other day. The next segment of the study is expected to see greater movement due to increase in temperature. Anglers have reported catching fish with transmitter as well having seen them.

Hackettstown has concluded the last of their brood stock collection. They started with the northern pike, moved to the walleyes and now the muskies. The first batch of muskies that hatched has moved to the brine shrimp. This is a critical time at the hatchery as workers have to come in every two hours around the clock to tend to the fish. There are a couple of ponds that need to be drained. This will result in have some bass that are 10 to 12 inches size going out along with some 5lb hybrid striped bass. The locations are unknown at this time.

Chief Barno passed around a picture of Muskie pure strain from Greenwood Lake. It is the largest Muskie handled by the Division. It was collected in the trap net. It is 38 lbs, 49 inches. Individual spaghetti tags are put on the fish and data is recorded at the hatchery. This is the same fish collected in 2010 which was 28 lbs at that time. It was release back into Greenwood Lake. Chief Barno passed around another picture from staff member Eric Boehm who was working in Perrineville Lake sampling of a Largemouth Bass weighing 7lbs.

There is an upcoming internal Fish Code meeting with Law Enforcement to come up with recommendations for the Council. The Fish Committee will meet on May 31st to review the recommendations and will be on the Council's agenda in June to present what the Committee approves to move forward for the 2018 Code cycle. Measuring from the same time period as last year, sales are down 4% in fishing licenses and trout stamp sales are 2.4% lower than last year. For the first time, we have flattened out on the non-resident trout stamp sales.

Chief Al Ivany, Information and Education, reported that on May 21st the Governors Surf Fishing Tournament will be held. There are 341 people registered for the event so far. A DEP news release is being developed and will go out soon. The event is on the Commissioner's schedule and he is waiting to hear back from the Lieutenant Governor's office. Fluke may be available for the tournament depending on the outcome of the fluke issue. Everyone will be notified at the gate if it is available. The rescheduled Pequest Open House is coming up on June 3 and 4. All vendors previously scheduled, are still able to attend. A news release will be put out about the open house. The Pequest grounds are being cleaned up in preparation of the Open House.

Chief Ivany briefed the Council on updates to the Bear Education Program. Most of the work has been done and he is waiting on a new brochure. He gave each member a copy of the new "bear aware" sign that will be put up on trees and trailheads. The signs will also be made available to non-profit organizations and governmental agencies.

I&E Supervising Biologist Linda DiPiano updated the Council on the three-year outreach grant. The Bureau is one year into the grant. The Division is celebrating its 125th Anniversary and part of the grant was used to purchase giveaways that will be distributed to the public. The Bureau has had its first meeting with Art Guild, who is the vendor designing the Mobile Conservation Outreach Trailer (MCOT). I&E Senior Biologist Jessica Griglak from Pequest is the point person for the information going into the trailer. She has put together a working group with staff from every Bureau in the Division. It is the hope to have MCOT available for the Expo.

Ms. DiPiano also reported the Bureau has been in contact with radio station WNNJ in Sussex County who works with I-Heart Radio. They have many different radio stations across New Jersey. The Bureau is working on an outreach campaign to get the word out on who we are, what we do, and to promote the sale of licenses. The grant will be used to conduct a survey to see what constituents and the general public know about the Division, how we are funded and what they know about the wildlife and sport fish restoration program. The survey was started at the Deer Classic. The surveys will continue at the Pequest Open House and WILD Outdoor Expo. Email addresses will be collected on the survey so at the end of three years, the bureau will be able to survey again to see if the outreach campaign was effective or needs to be altered.

There will be a Free Fishing Day on June 10th which is the same day as the 2nd Annual Youth HOFNOD Fishing Challenge at 22 sites in 15 counties.

Councilman DeMartino asked Chief Ivany on the status of contact with the Food Truck Association in the hopes of upgrading the food offered and possibly get more people to the Expo with the advertisement of the various food trucks. Chief Ivany responded staff member Matt Hencheck is planning the Expo and is reaching out to food trucks. He also stated the purpose is to draw attention to the wildlife management areas and parks and outdoor recreation. Changing the theme may detract from the purpose.

Chairman Burke mentioned to Chief Ivany a public comment was made at the last meeting that draft minutes should be posted on the website when a meeting is cancelled.

Acting Assistant Director Golden reported on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management. He reported the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area Forest Stewardship Plan Public Information Session is tonight at 6:00 pm at the Sussex County Vo-Tech Center. A draft presentation was given to Council. The format will be a 20-minute presentation followed by question/answer/comment session. Individual's will sign up ahead of the meeting and will be given 3 minutes to ask questions or provide comments. A brief response will be given to relevant question. A panel will be on stage consisting of himself, Dave Jenkins, Endangered Species, Don Donnelly from the Audubon Society and John Sacco, the State Forester. The plan is final and has been signed off by the State Forester and other Department representatives. Final approval was given by the Commissioner to have the public meeting.

Acting Chief Matthew Brown was not present and Deputy Chief Frank T. Panico made a report on his behalf. There was no major report to be made. There have been a lot of turkey violations, especially in the southern part of the state. The violations have been, taking turkeys with bait, and not registering birds. In the Northern Region summons issued to fishermen taking too small fish, over the limit stripers, closed season. The Ocean County Prosecutors Office did not have enough evidence to charge the hunter criminally in the Berkley Township deer hunting incident from deer season. The Bureau has now filed charges of negligent use of a firearm, causing death while hunting. There was a fish kill in the Upper Navesink, Monmouth County. Water samples and fish were taken for pathology. Conservation Officers will be present at the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area Forest Stewardship Plan Public Information meeting tonight.

Acting Director asked for the status of the new marine boat. Deputy Chief Panico responded they are scheduled to go for the final inspection and accept delivery.

Chief Carole Stanko, Bureau of Wildlife Management reported the Rockport Farm is into its second hatch. To date, there have been really good hatch rates of over 80%. There have been 14,447 chicks so far. There is a hatch once a week. Staffing levels are still critical. The Bureau has been given permission to hire another wildlife worker, but the process is slow. Ms. Stanko stated the Game Code comment period closes on June 1st. There was a public hearing at the conservation center on April 18th. There were five people in attendance and they all gave comments.

Acting Assistant Director reported the Wildlife Action Plan is due in June. In conversations with Chief David Jenkins, everything is on track for getting it in.

Lunch: 11:35 pm – 12:35 pm

Captain Anne Quirk read the statement for revocation appeal for Mr. Richard Tedesco convicted of a violation of possessing a loaded firearm within 450 ft. of an occupied structure and did 2 for failing to complete harvest report card immediately upon killing a deer. The summons was issued by Conservation Officer Driscoll. Captain Quirk read the officer's statement and a statement from Mr. Tedesco.

Mr. Tedesco was not present during the hearing.

Chairman Burke asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion.

Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to open the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman Link, all were in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Gudmundsson started the discussion stating he does not believe all the cases are minor in his view. Councilman Pollock stated he lied every time and how many more times in five years he has done it and was not caught. Driving around with a loaded gun is unacceptable.

Captain Quirk stated the depredation permit allows the hunters to circumvent some rules so that you can get close enough to the deer to control the crop damage, but you are not allowed to shoot from a vehicle under any circumstances. Also when you violate the terms of the deer depredation permit, the permit becomes invalid.

Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to close the discussion, second by Councilman Link. Chairman Burke moved the hearing to restore or not restore.

Councilwoman Blumig made a motion reject Mr. Tedesco's Petition for early license restoration, second by Councilman DeStephano, all were in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Chief Stanko gave a presentation (attached to the record) on the Final Results of the 2016-17 Deer Hunting Season.

Chief Stanko made a presentation on the plan to outsource Wildlife Control. She stated one employee has retired as of December 2016, one may retire by the end of August and one may retire at the end of this year. There is another staff that is in the National Guard and is expected to be called to active duty for one year soon. All of these technicians are highly trained in firearms and chemical immobilization techniques. The techs serve on wildlife control and the black bear project, working interchangeably. New Jersey is one of the few, possibly the only, state where the wildlife agency handles wildlife control response.

Several different options have been reviewed. The wildlife control unit cannot be fully staffed due to challenges within the State hiring system. If getting new employees was an option, it still would take a year of training to get them trained in the field correctly and safely.

Options reviewed were: not replacing Wildlife Control, which is unacceptable. Using USDA Wildlife Services was considered, as many other states utilize them for response to wildlife control calls. USDA Wildlife Services in turn would bill consumers for their services. This option was not acceptable because people would complain to the Governor and Commissioner because the service that DFW's wildlife control unit provided had always been free. The last option would be to outsource wildlife activity to USDA Wildlife Services, with the exception of black bear, and pay them to hire two technicians to handle wildlife control response.

The Division would still maintain authority, issue permits, and respond to high profile incidents. USDA Wildlife Services are trained professional wildlife biologists and technicians. They work for a government agency, know how to represent themselves, and how to educate the public. It is the best possible solution. This option actually saves the DFW money, an average of \$82,000 per year. In the beginning there will be the cost of equipment purchase, but will level off after five years. A contract needs to be developed and worked on with USDA Wildlife Services to work out the finer points and details. A vote is not needed by the Council, but wanted to keep them in the loop. There was a question and answer period after the presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ commented that she speak for the wildlife and their lives and their preservation and protection, no one in this room is doing it at all. She also pointed out the group called Hunters Helping the Hungry is known as the lead shot health hazard to the poor. When they donate animals that have been shot to death with lead shells, give people lead to eat. She protests the forensic department who puts pending results and never put the results in later reports. The Game Council represent a horrible assault on wildlife in New Jersey. It prepares slanted, bias, stuff that black balls anything other than what you all think. You hire people who think the way you do. Your sense is bias because you don't hire people who may have another way of understanding what you are doing. It is dishonest. As far of the Sparta Mountain logging plan being heard tonight, money was taken from everyone in New Jersey to save Open Space. There are no golden warblers out there so many other warblers out there. This is a logging plan for money. It is aggravating to see this type of corruption in New Jersey.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumig and seconded by Councilman Gudmundsson to adjourn the meeting at 1:33 pm. Vote taken, all in favor, none-opposed; motion carried.