

Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – 10/30/13 – Central Region Office

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.

Attendees: Phil Brodhecker, Giselle Chazotte-Smisko, Lisa DeLambert, Tracy Leaver, Dr. Erica Miller, Diane Nickerson, Dr. Jennifer Norton, Kelly Simonetti, Sue Predl*, Hardy Wiedemann*,

Not Present: Don Bonica, Paulette Nelson*

*Division of Fish and Wildlife

Motion to approve 7/24/13 meeting minutes – C. Nickerson, seconded T. Leaver

New Animal Groupings

- Discussion on categories of birds. Should sub-categories or separate categories be added?
- Bird Sub-categories should be added to the annual report / renewal application
- Should additional language be added for species that are “exceptions” (i.e. beaver, otter, bats)?
- Should a new category be added on Annual Reports for “limited permits”? Bold and underlined, located in between Potentially Dangerous and Additional Species. Additional discussion on wording of permit categories. Is “limited permits” an appropriate descriptor for species exceptions like beaver, otter, etc?
- Letter to rehabilitators will be drafted explaining the new groupings, and will be mailed to all rehabilitators along with renewal application and category descriptions.

Annual Report Changes

- In Species held over from previous year – age, sex, nature of injury categories will be deleted. “Disposition” of animal will be added.
- Transfers paragraph – “All transfer of non-releasable wildlife . . .” will be bolded. (second sentence).

Letter to Rehabilitators Regarding Accepting / Refusing Wildlife

- Discussion on changes to be made to the letter.
- Letter will be included in packet mailed to all rehabilitators, along with renewal application and description of animal groupings, as they pertain to rehab permit.
- D. Nickerson will make the suggested changes and send to S. Predl.

Update on Training Volunteers for Wildlife Transport

- Should volunteers who complete training receive a certificate? Or some other documentation? Signed by whom?
- WRAC makes recommendation that NJAWR consider offering class for wildlife transport.

Approval of Letter to Veterinarians Regarding Holding Wildlife and Treatment

- Discussion regarding changes to letter
- AVMA Wildlife Decision Tree and Humane Society Wildlife Care Basics to be included.
- Importance of Vets taking information and records for wildlife intakes.
- Changes will be made by J. Norton and submitted to S. Predl

Division Updates

- 3 Rehabilitators were recently inspected. One other inspection will be scheduled in November

Future WRAC Schedule

- November 2013 meeting will be cancelled.
- In 2014 WRAC will meet quarterly
- WRAC 2014 Schedule: February 26, May 28, August 27, November TBD

WRAC Annual Report

- K. Simonetti offered to write an annual report on behalf of WRAC

S. Predl will send out a copy of the most recent regulations.

Adjourned 12:45 PM.