

Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee  
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Central Region Office – Conservation Center

Meeting Minutes  
July 22, 2015

**WRAC Purpose:** The purpose of the WRAC is to 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: Don Bonica, Phil Brodhecker (arrived at 10:35AM), Giselle Chazotte-Smisko (arrived at 10:22AM), Lisa DeLambert, Tracy Leaver, Dr. Erica Miller, Diane Nickerson, Kelly Simonetti (chair)

Committee Members Absent: Dr. Jennifer Norton

Division Employees: Linda DiPiano, Krista Moser, Paulette Nelson

Three members of the public were present.

Meeting called to order by Kelly Simonetti at 10:18 A.M.

- A motion was made by D. Nickerson, and seconded by T. Leaver, to approve the April 22, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was passed. Dr. E. Miller abstained from voting.
- L. DiPiano gave update on proposed regulations. Captive game and exotic regulations are being combined. Indigenous species regulations will prohibit the possession of indigenous species as pets. L. DiPiano attended a meeting with the DEP Commissioner to discuss the proposed regulations. Stakeholder meetings that are required prior to the adoption of the new regulations will be starting soon.
- Discussion was held on proposed pest control regulations. A bill would need to be drafted and approved for the licensing or permitting of pest control operators. A previous draft of the proposed statute was distributed for review.
- The WRAC was notified that S. Predl transferred to a position in the Bureau of Land Management and will no longer handle Wildlife Rehabilitation issues. The Division will notify rehabilitators when a replacement is selected.
- Discussion was held on how long rehabilitated deer, that have been treated with off-label medications, should be held prior to release or whether to release treated deer with ear tags notifying the public of the treatment. Due to consumption concerns, deer will not be released until medicine has worn off. No tagging of mammals will be permitted, unless under a scientific collecting permit.
- Further discussion on medication and collaboration between rehabilitators and veterinarians ensued. Dr. E. Miller volunteered to draft a letter to rehabilitators reminding them that no

tagging of mammals is permitted and to inform them of resources available such as [farad.org](http://farad.org). This letter will be approved through email and will also be emailed to veterinarians.

- The Division confirmed that the letter to veterinarians approved at the April meeting was mailed to veterinarians in the state.
- Discussion ensued on situations in which ACOs are handling injured and orphaned wildlife and improving communication with them on wildlife issues, i.e. contacting counties and/or municipalities.
- A suggestion was made to post copies of letters sent to rehabilitators and veterinarians on the Division wildlife rehabilitation web page.
- Agenda items for the next meeting were discussed.

The next meeting will be held on October 28, 2015 at the Northern Region Office. T. Leaver will not be present.

A motion to adjourn was made by D. Nickerson, seconded by D. Bonica. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 A.M.