

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL  
CONSERVATION CENTER  
ROBBINSVILLE, NJ  
MAY 14, 2019**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Acting Chairman Virgilio.

The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

Acting Chairman Virgilio read aloud the following notice: In accordance with P.L.1975, C.231 notice of this meeting was filed with and posted at the Secretary of State on May 6, 2019 and delivered to the designated newspapers for the Division, The Newark Star Ledger and The Atlantic City Press, published on May 10, 2019.

Roll call was taken in attendance:

Councilman Phil Brodhecker

Councilman Joe DeMartino

Councilman Jim DeStephano

Councilman Agust Gudmundsson

Councilman Dr. Rick Lathrop (absent)

Councilman Jeff Link (absent)

Councilman Bob Pollock

Councilman Loren Robinson

Councilman Ken Whildin

Acting Chairman Frank Virgilio

Division employees included: D. Golden, P. Nelson, C. Stanko, L. Barno, M. Monteschio, S. Cianciulli, and D. Bajek.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to approve the April 9, 2019 minutes, seconded by Councilman Gudmundsson. Vote taken, one abstention (Councilman Whildin), motion carried.

Acting Chairman Virgilio started by recognizing two women. First, Assistant Director Nelson who has been involved with wildlife management since 1985. She is representative of all women in Fish and Wildlife, because all the women with this Division are hard workers and dedicated to wildlife and wildlife management. The other is Janet Pizar, a wildlife activist, who cares for wildlife in a different way and is at meeting after meeting. They are important and are representative of another group of people. In addition, he spoke about Environmental Justice and how it can work within the Division of Fish and Wildlife. When you look at the plans that the Governor and Commissioner have, there is probably a place for us. He focuses on the inner city, where Fish and Wildlife have programs, but do they provide an opportunity? We may stock trout all over the State, but how is access brought to the inner city like Camden or Newark and how do we get those opportunities in the hands of the less fortunate. People that don't have cars, they get around on foot or bicycle or a bus. These are pretty big challenges and he thinks we should be able to reach all people in the State of NJ.

Acting Director Golden gave a few updates; first related to personnel. Last month he mentioned that we have a few new hires, one being Danielle Bajek and the other was Wendy Barbuck. Since last meeting we hired three more people who work at the Hatchery. We've recently taken a deep look into our budget, some things that have happened and include the recent ratifying of our employee contracts, CWA contracts, which represents a majority of our employees and there is a large back payment due to working out of contract for so long, so that puts a strain on our budget. As we project out over future increases we do have some concerns about our Hunter & Angler budget over the next several years. We are working on some possible revenue-generating and cost-saving opportunities. Acting Director Golden had sent the Council an e-mail regarding an upcoming off-shore wind meeting held on May 28 between the Board of Public Utilities, Marine Fisheries Council, Endangered & Nongame Species Advisory Committee, and the Fish and Game Council to bring everyone together to better understand what's going on with off-shore wind in NJ. There had been some concerns expressed by Marine Fisheries Council about how these projects were being reviewed and evaluated. We are bringing in members from The Office of Science and Research, the Board of Public Utilities, and we will have DEP Land Use Regulation program to give information about the science behind off-shore wind and what effects it may have on wildlife.

A number of our staff had attended the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting, held in Mystic, Connecticut. It was a good meeting and one of the reasons we

attended it was NJ will be hosting it next year in 2020 in Long Branch. We sent a lot of staff, so we can familiarize ourselves with how things run and what makes a good meeting.

Also, Acting Director Golden handed out a relevancy road map fact sheet which was discussed at the meetings the Division attended. The relevancy road map establishes a guide for fish and wildlife agencies on how they can maintain relevancy in this changing society and the tag line they assign to this initiative is Enhance Conservation Through Broader Engagement. The idea is to widen the tent a little bit and accommodate larger interests than we have traditionally. The handout has websites where you can go to get more information on this effort. There was a brochure for farmers in your handouts as well, which our staff worked on with the Farm Bureau and the Department of Agriculture. This is an extension of the discussion we have been having with both groups about how we help manage deer and help farmers to manage deer populations where they may be experiencing some damage.

Our position in this discussion for a long time has been there are a number of tools for farmers to use to take care of deer problems and this brochure summarizes those tools in one place to help farmers understand what they can do if they are having issues.

#### **Council Report:**

##### Farmer/Sportsman Relations:

Councilman Brodhecker reported that up north it is wet, and they are delayed in planting crops. We are still seeing a lot of wildlife, bear have been out and about but haven't heard too much with damage issue. A lot of poultry producers are replacing their chickens due to predators. A lot of electric fencing going up and even some cameras. He attended the Farm Bureau's Game Committee and they had some suggestions for helping the division by adding Saturdays and Sundays and more Youth Days, and anything to liberalize the depredation permits to make them easier or simplify them.

Acting Director Golden mentioned that in the brochure there is a link to the on-line application.

Acting Chairman Virgilio made an announcement that starting on next month's agenda under the NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs there will be a name change.

##### NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs:

Councilman DeMartino reported that he got a few phone calls from Ocean County with guys complaining about people interrupting turkey hunts. There were guys with dogs on the WMAs without leashes running around. They are supposed to be leashed on the WMAs. Manchester area had a lot of complaints about this. Maybe we could put up some signage.

Councilman DeStephano reported that he did not make any meetings, but he did attend the convention two weeks ago. The Division did a great job, the presentations that they did were very well presented.

Councilman Gudmundsson reported he did not make any Federation meetings, but did make the hearing of the surface water quality standards with the new stream proposals going in. He spoke specifically for Trout Unlimited. This is something that will affect a sportsman that fishes because they are adding many more miles of categories of waters. It was well attended, with some kids from one of the Trenton school districts that have been monitoring their local stream and their stream was being included in this. He mentioned it was really nice to see local kids coming to testify at a hearing.

Councilman Robinson reported he went to Union County and the guys wanted to thank Chief Barno for the trout fishing at Mohegan Park. Somerset County is now meeting with Hunterdon County due to the president of Somerset having some health issues. He went to Central Region last night and at all the meetings he attended they discussed the convention and how happy they are with the Division's presentations and they had their elections last night.

Councilman Whildin reported that he attended the Cumberland County Federation meeting and the topic was possibly moving some deer management zones into different regulation sets with the possibility to increase the doe harvest. He attended the Pheasants Forever banquet in Vineland, NJ, it had a good turnout. Also, he attended a forestry seminar put on by Bob Williams in Cumberland County.

Councilman Brodhecker wanted to add that he had two calls from different land owners in zone 2, one gentleman that he spoke with several times in the past 2-3 months and he's saying that there are no deer up there or he is only seeing the same five deer on his property. He owns a piece of property that he does not live on but is managing it for wildlife and his friend up the road is saying the same thing that they're just not seeing deer, we got to make some changes.

Councilman Brodhecker went and looked at our harvest report while he was on the phone with him and told him the numbers are showing that we are pretty stable, and the hunt has been consistent with what we anticipate.

Acting Chairman Virgilio reported that he attended the Gloucester County meeting and they are still looking for the division to put together a chainsaw class for the Southern Region.

Chief Hearon responded that we have that and are waiting for Gloucester County to get back to us and depending on how many people they have we will have to use different companies, one does up to 10 people, one does up to 15, and the other one does 20 participants.

Acting Chairman Virgilio mentioned that there is also some concern where we have two good groups, Pineland Retrievers and Swamp Dogs and they like to train their dogs. They always look at Piney Hollow, is there any way that we can turn the fields off of Jackson road at Cedar Lake into a WMA training for dogs with field and water?

Chief Hearon has looked into this and has been in touch with the dog clubs. What they want to do is for now they want to use Piney Hollow because it is the most efficient spot ready to go, so down the road he offered them to develop a plan and he would work with them but they both came back to him and said that they want Piney Hollow road. He has not received those plans yet.

Acting Chairman Virgilio also attended Cumberland County meeting where they had some concerns about firearm hunting on private properties; it's one of the bill the Farm Bureau is putting through and he let them know that when we looked at this bill and meet with the Farm Bureau that this is basically geared towards farmers and those types of private properties that the Fish and Game Council will develop all of this hunting under the game code. One concern was that it could expand into areas that we want to maintain a harvest, so they are really concerned about wildlife management reducing the harvest or deer herd too low. Chairman Virgilio told them the Council with the input of the biologists and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, there is a good bill that will give some relief to farmers, they trust the Council and are willing to abide by what the Council decides.

Chairman Virgilio also mentioned that there are some things on our website that the division has made available tools that are really great. There is a deer hunter viewer where you can pick your zone, you can zoom and expand it to see the roads and the boundaries, and the GIS mapping is perfect so maybe we can expand this for turkey or waterfowl hunting, but then if we do that lets not hid it. In order to find that viewer you have to go through a lot of pages to get to it.

Acting Director Golden mentioned that we are moving toward developing an office of GIS within the division, so we are bringing our GIS resources out of individual bureaus and putting them together, so they will work for all bureaus within the division. We are trying to make the tools we currently have more useful and accurate.

Acting Chairman Virgilio was at Salem County and discussed rail bird hunting and how not many people get to hunt them. In 2017-2018 season 1,400 birds were harvested and the 2018-2019 season 400 birds were harvested, a significant drop. Salem County is wondering if there is anything going on with the rail bird populations, and if so, is it something we should be looking at. Acting Chairman Virgilio mentioned that there is always food, weather, and different conditions that surround that.

Acting Director Golden reported that at the next Game Committee meeting they will be talking about some of those rail bird's species in terms of potential season adjustments.

Finance Committee: No report

Fish Committee:

Councilman Pollock reported that they haven't meet recently, but he still gets a lot of good compliments from random people.

Game Committee: meeting was postponed, will meet next month.

Dr. Sebastian Reist, NJ Department of Agriculture, reported that it was announced today that some feral swine in Vermont, that they tested, had Pseudorabies Virus, which is a controlled disease in the United States. The USDA is working on the TB control program and modifying what they have done in the past by pulling back the regulations that they have been working on for the last 5 years and reworking them. At the moment they are trying to figure out the deer side of it as well, where in some states they are with the USDA, other states they are wildlife and some states are with both. It is going to be a challenge handling that side of it moving forward.

Exotic Newcastle Disease, they found 5 new cases in California the last week. The New Jersey USDA people have gone out there to work on that program. We spoke to a few of them and it looks like no end in sight with this problem and the whole issue is becoming combative there.

There are two groups that have their birds or chickens, one for getting eggs and food and the other would be for fighting the birds illegally. What the USDA is now finding is the ones with the fighting birds are not that big of a deal because they feel they have bigger issues. They don't care if the USDA goes in and tests their birds or euthanizes them but the ones using them for eggs and food, the USDA is having a lot of trouble because they are communicating through social media and are becoming combative. There have been some cases where weapons were threatened so now they are serving warrants to anyone who does not allow access onto their property to test the birds.

Legislative Committee:

Assistant Director Nelson reported that the Legislative Committee met this morning. We have bills that were discussed this morning.

A-2167 and S-3291 authorizes temporary members to fill certain vacancies on Fish and Game Council. This is a process for when a farmer representative leaves the council for any reason and the replacement would need to be approved by the President and Vice President of the Board of Agriculture, being from the same area that the previous person represented as well as a past member of the Fish and Game Council or past member of the State Board of Agriculture. The committee is recommending that we support that bill.

**Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to support bill A-2167 along with its companion bill S-3291, seconded by Chairman Virgilio. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried.**

A-3120 and S-2023 Authorizes deer hunting with firearm on Sundays on private property. The committee is recommending supporting the bill.

**Councilman DeStephano made a motion to support bill A-3120 along with its companion bill S-2023, seconded by Councilman DeMartino. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried.**

A-3242 and S- 2419 Permits certain deer control activities; prohibits deer feeding; and establishes check-off donation on hunting license applications to support venison donation program and authorizes issuance of a multi-species depredation permit for wildlife control on farm land. The only concern from the committee is on deer feeding, we want to make sure it's enforceable. The committee is recommending supporting this bill.

**Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to support bill A-3242 and its companion bill S-2419, seconded by Councilman DeStephano. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried.**

A-4020 and S-2511 Changes title of DEP "Conservation Officer" to "Conservation Police Officer." The committee recommends supporting this bill.

**Councilman DeMartino made a motion to support bill A-4020 and its companion bill S-2511, seconded by Councilman Whildin. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried.**

A5113 and S-3457 Appropriates \$450,000 for Hooked on Fishing- Not on Drugs program. Currently we receive \$200,000 for this program so it will be a \$250,000 increase. Recommendation from the committee is to support this bill.

**Councilman Gudmundsson made a motion to support bill A-5113 and S-3457, seconded by Councilman DeStephano. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried.**

Assistant Director Nelson reported that legislature has been tied up with budget hearings right now so there hasn't been any activity for several weeks. There are two bills still pending introduction

A-5013 Creates program in Department of Agriculture for fencing on certain farmland.

A-5232 Prohibits possession of deer or elk originating from outside the state. This one is still pending introduction, so the next time the Legislature meets it will be introduced and at that point we will be able to see the language for that bill.

Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee: meeting tomorrow

Waterfowl Advisory Committee:

Councilman DeMartino mentioned that they are moving the meeting from October to September 10, 2019.

Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee:

Assistant Director Paulette Nelson reported that it was a short meeting and they are looking to clean up some language and at guidelines for the rehabbers. Next meeting is in July.

Law Enforcement Committee: no report at this time.

Acting Chairman Virgilio would like to schedule a meeting on June 10, 2019 to go over any license revocations that will be coming up.

Public Member:

Councilman Pollock reported yesterday he was blasted with phone calls due to the e-mail on the harvest report that Aspira sent out on accident.

### **Division Reports:**

**License and Permits:** Assistant Director Nelson reported that Barbara Stoff is swamped with Aspira and working on the new system. There was an e-mail that went out from Aspira of old harvest numbers, so anyone who had electronically reported a deer in the last 5 years got this e-mail. Aspira sent out an apology e-mail letting them know they don't have to respond, that they were working on fixing the issue. Our target go-live date is August 8, 2019. As of right now we think we are going to make that target.



The number for license sales compared to last year for hunting and trapping licenses and permits are up 2.5%. Fishing license and trout stamp sales are up 3.6%; turkey permits are down 1.7% which could be due to the bad weather.

Councilman Robinson questioned if we could include the phone number for Operation Game Thief on the license?

Assistant Director Nelson noted it was a great suggestion, her only concern would be the limited amount of space on the license, we are always struggling to get everything you need and want to get on there, so she will look into it but is not sure they can.

Councilman Gudmundsson mentioned that you have the actual license with the dotted line around it that most people cut around, maybe we can print it outside of the dotted lines, so it could be folded under and not changing the license around.

Acting Director Golden asked Assistant Director Nelson to update the Council on the new communication plan.

Assistant Director Nelson reported that we are putting together the whole communication plan and getting the word out to the public on the new system, what it's going to do and the new costs. We have all of the information up front and next week will be sending out a draft of the information to the staff and making sure we got all the bugs out and running smoothly. The target date is for May 24 for it to go out on the website. We will be working with the license agents to make sure they are up to speed and have everything they need. The agents will have to turn in the old equipment and replace it with the new equipment. We don't want any down time during these changes.

### **Information and Education:**

Assistant Director Nelson reported that Sunday is the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, with 300 people signed up so far and the weather forecast for this weekend is looking nice, so that number should significantly go up. Update on the Spanish brochures being translated, and we expect to be done soon.

Acting Chairman Virgilio had a question on Division Rep Program. He was the Division Rep for 15 years, so he understands the value of it and as president of the Federation he understood how valuable those reps were for our counties and now being a councilman, he really understands it. He attends meetings where they have a division rep and where they don't have one. There is some changing of the division rep program and we might want to look into some recruitment and get the bureau chiefs involved.

Assistant Director Nelson replied that we are updating, and Nathan Figley has taken over the division rep responsibilities for the agency, which will free up some of Chief Ivany's time and

they have had some meetings as to where they are heading and are very conscious that there are gaps in the vacancies, so they are already in the discussion to update.

Acting Chairman Virgilio had a question for Information & Education and Freshwater Fisheries. Keeping with the inner cities, we have fish advisories in our Digest and these are entirely useless to the inner city, they have no value and probably touch no one because most of the people in the inner city that fish are subsistence fishermen and a lot of them don't even have a fishing license let alone know about a Digest or have a computer to look up this information. There was a time when we posted signs in prominent places where people went to fish. We need to start getting in touch with different a constituency group. When you look at R3, what is R3 doing for inner cities other than providing programs? Maybe we can get signs posted.

Assistant Director Nelson said she will look into it.

Councilman Robinson mentioned that Hunterdon County's Round Valley Trout Association asked if the open house at Pequest next year may be moved to the Free Fishing Day in June?

Assistant Director Nelson replied that we have been discussing a bunch of things on the open house, there are always conflicts, but it is a possibility.

Chief Barno mentioned that we did try it a couple of years ago and although the weather was great, the attendance was half of what it normally is due to graduations and communions.

Councilman Robinson also had a question on the WMA Use Permits and the survey that was done with Stockton, has anything moved forward with that?

Acting Director Golden replied that nothing has moved forward yet, but there were discussions on it and talked about looking into the budget and exploring different options for revenue. We have talked about it more recently as a voluntary program rather than something that is required. It's in the mix with a number of things we're discussing and as we get some clarity on which initiatives we want to push forward with first we will present those to the Finance Committee and the Council.

### **Freshwater Fisheries:**

Chief Lisa Barno reported that trout stocking is going as scheduled even with all the rain. Anglers are having a harder time getting to the fish due to high waters.

An employee at Princeton Hydro caught an American shad in Blairstown.

We brought on two new night watchmen at Pequest, so we are almost fully staffed again. Unfortunately, we have three retirements at Pequest and these are people with a lot of experience. One of the retirees is Clint Decker with 27 years. Clint has literally saved the Division millions of dollars over the course of his career. His knowledge on mechanical systems

is unsurpassed and on everything he does. Frank Jalosky is retiring with 30 years and George Figueroy with 26 years of experience that we are losing all at the same time. Along with another retirement back in December, we are down around 33% of staff at Pequest. We are bulking up with seasonal staff until we can get these positions backfilled. Pat Hamilton is also retiring at the end of the month with over 40 years experience. Hackettstown brood stock collection is completed. At the last meeting we noted that the northern pike and walleye are doing well, muskies were a little different, we only had one female musky captured between Greenwood Lake and Echo Lake. We are okay as far as numbers. Pennsylvania in trade for our northern pike brought us over a jar of musky eggs, so we will have everything we need to meet our quota. The eggs have hatched and are starting to feed on the brine shrimp and then we begin the process of slowly converting them over to dry feed.

In response to Chairman Virgilio's comment on Environmental Justice, we are working on the Community Lakes Program and as part of that we sampled 63 urban lakes and ponds last summer as part of our selection process with a few more added this year. As part of our Warmwater Fisheries Management Plan we will start to make the final selections on waters where we would consistently stock catchable-size bass and sunfish to create new fishing opportunities. A reminder on the production side of things, we are still two or three years out from implementing the program as we have to have several age classes of bass and sunfish at the facility for the program to support itself. Research management staff continue to work on Coldwater and Warmwater Fisheries Management Plans updates. We have about three chapters finished from the Coldwater Plan and as they get through final review we have three series of edits through the bureau. Chief Barno would like to start getting them out to the Fish Committee for review and suggestions. We are looking at the end of October -November for the plans to be finished.

### **Land Management:**

Chief Jason Hearon reported the Land Management crews are starting to work on boat ramps. Pheasant stocking areas are going well. The Federation groups expressed concerns up at Johnathan Wood area and some of the Morris County Parks, the division has met with the county about doing some land swaps and clearing up some of the land management and management agreements that we have. What's happening now is that division owned the property, but the county parks managed the property and there were some confrontations when it came to bear hunts as far as what would be approved or what wasn't allowed, so we are looking to rectify that. There is another piece of property known as the Merck Tract which had the management agreement with NJ Audubon and the county, and we are making progress to clean that up as well. We are finishing up on the Tuckahoe impoundment project with Ducks Unlimited, those area have recently been planted and we will be doing some aerial seeding to bring it back to the status that we saw in the sixties where we can control waterfowl. The Assunpink project is moving forward with the addition where we are hoping to see that finished

by late May. Chief Hearon is initiating a project down in Money Island and Bay Point, Cumberland County, where Blue Acres purchased all the houses along the beach and have taken them down and with that there is some restoration money available. We have received some NRD money which is going to fund the Pond Creek Project in Cape May County. The Winslow projects are scheduled to begin. We talked previously about the Humus property, it made it through the state house and the Governor signed off on it.

### **Law Enforcement:**

Chief Cianciulli reported that we are going back to integrating our Conservation Police Officers into the Hunter Education program again. It's been discussed for a number of years and as part of the R3 initiative it has a lot of value to teach our constituents and new hunters who we are, what we do, and what our identity is. This will help clear up any underlying issues with civilians in the division possessing firearms and loop that back into some control by the Bureau of Law Enforcement. We had expressed some concerns over the print-at-home firearm license because it's an exemption to the Firearms Purchasers ID Card, a requirement to possess a firearm. Those licenses that you print at home will also receive at no additional fee a hard copy. There will be no app for officers to scan as we originally anticipated. The next Law Enforcement bear class is scheduled for May 24, 2019 at Morris County Police Academy. Chief Cianciulli mentioned we did not have a full class last class, so he is not anticipating a full class for the upcoming class as well. He will report back in June and let us know how the participation was and will assess if we have the demand to do bi-monthly classes.

Acting Chairman Virgilio mentioned that at the Federation Convention a group of awards were handed out and Chief Stanko was a reward recipient. She received the Jeanette Vreeland award. The Federation put together a women's award specially given to trail blazer type women and Chief Stanko has been a strong ambassador for hunting, especially in municipalities and urban hunting areas getting a lot of good programs in there and she received that award. Congratulations Chief Stanko.

### **Wildlife Management:**

Chief Stanko reported that last month she gave an update on Rockport Game Farm and that we had met with the Township of Mansfield and they pointed out that they felt there were some deficiencies in our first REI, so we put together a new one and as a courtesy it was sent to the mayor last Friday and it will go live this Friday. With this we will see what if any additional interests we will get for that as a poultry or game farm. Last week a professor from Centenary College called interested in possibly utilizing the farm for a sustainability program that they were thinking of putting together. Chief Stanko told her to put together a plan and forward it to us rather quickly due to it already being past the due date. The professor replied back a few

days later and said never mind. Bear team is gearing up to start our research trapping starting after Memorial Day and will be the first two weeks in June. Back in January of this year, Jodi Powers presented a Community Based Deer Management Permit application for Joint Base Maguire Dix Lakehurst it was conditionally approved by Council at that time because it was missing two documents which we have since received. The first document was the base commander sign-off on a resolution and that would normally come from a municipality, and the other document was the US Attorney General's sign-off on the use of suppressors which would normally come from the county prosecutor's office. With all the papers in order, Chief Stanko is going to have Acting Director Golden sign the permit and send it out to JBMDL today.

### **Endangered and Nongame Species:**

Acting Director Golden just wanted to mention that the reason John Heilferty hasn't been at the Council meeting is because on Tuesdays the Assistant Commissioner has senior staff meetings and John has been going in Acting Director Golden's place. We will try to have a cover for him so when he has something to report he can come do that.

### **New Business:**

#### **Update on Law Enforcement Range Use:**

Chief Cianciulli gave a brief update on our ranges. We have two ranges that are dedicated to law enforcement on Wildlife Management Areas; one in Black River and one in Colliers Mills.

Colliers Mills is our main training facility, it has a classroom and that's where we train as well as Wildlife Control. It also has a bigger and better rifle range. We have historically let police departments who didn't have facilities to use our range. We looked at the budget and saw that we have something that they need so we decided to charge police departments for the facility. It is a nominal fee, the Colliers Mills with the class room is \$200 a day and we do a.m. and p.m. sessions. This facility is scheduled to be rented this year for 126 sessions so far and generated \$25,500. The Black River range has a lean-to, so you can get out of the rain but no classroom and that's scheduled for 64 sessions at \$150 a session for a total of \$9,600. This year alone we generated \$34,800 worth of revenue with more requests still coming in. With a number of other departments coming in we incurred management costs for that. One problem we are having is as a state agency or the Division, money generated from the ranges can't be put in separate accounts. The money comes back for the Division to use but is not dedicated for the maintenance of those facilities. Currently we are looking at a remediation project at the Colliers Mills facility to get lead out and it will cost between \$40,000 and \$200,000 to do that work, so we will be tapping into some of that money.

Assistant Director Nelson asked if we get the value of the lead?

Chief Cianciulli replied that it is worked into the quotes, we do get a portion. We pay for the services and then we split the lead with the company that's doing the work. It is a commodity, so the value fluctuates through the year.

Acting Director Golden mentioned that we are doing our Clinton range now up North, so we are trying to pay closer attention to lead management on all of our ranges. Clinton range is costing us \$40,000, that's the quote we got to extract the lead and cleanup.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked when the Police Departments come to the range and rent a session do they take their brass and shot shells or leave them for the division to sell?

Chief Cianciulli said it depends on the police department, some leave their brass, some have been asked not to come back because they don't police their brass or clean up after themselves.

Councilman Gudmundsson mentioned that Centenary University had a river education conference last month that was an all-day affair. They were hoping to get 30-40 people and they ended up with over 200 people come out to attend. It was really well attended and an interesting affair. Councilman Gudmundsson gave a seminar as well as attending three others. This looks like it will be an annual event.

**Public Comment:**

Joe Borrelli, Wycoff, NJ, is a pheasant hunter and last year the change made to stocking took miles of open land and condensed birds into three pockets and he believes it's unsafe. He would love to see the land back open with birds in it to make it fun to hunt again. He also mentioned that NJ has the best facilities out of all the states he hunted. He also wrote a letter to Council and was given to all the members of the Fish and Game Council.

Janet Pizar, Milbourn, NJ, is very shocked with the contradictory on management programs. Farmers are allowed to have depredation permits, but she feels it counterproductive that in deer management zones that are zoned for increase there is a practice that directly impedes the farmers from offering the greatest amount of produce and stock, it's a source of chronic frustration for farmers. The other issue she has is with farmers who are frustrated with the number of deer and practice in-kind services by growing crops and produce on wildlife management areas to enhance the habitat that helps with deer proliferation because they are well feed and then expect deer not to recognize another field of produce where they are not wanted. It is a contradictory practice.

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ would like if the F&G meetings are going to be held at the Conservation Center still to please not have any meetings before the Council meeting, so people don't have to stand outside and wait. She feels public comment should have more than 3 minutes to talk. She showed an old newspaper article on a black bear chasing a clawless kitten up a tree. She believes the hunters make bears out to be malicious killing animals when the fact is the black bear is not a grizzly bear. She mentioned there has been biologist all over the country telling us we can co-exist with bears, so there is no necessity to have a bear hunt. She presented a report to the Council a few years ago about immunocontraceptive vaccines and they worked with a 90% effective rate, so we don't need to hunt these animals. Rail birds are disappearing because of the chemicals farmers use on the ground, they need to go all organic. The lead issue, she said tests have shown it migrates in the soil, plants and animals. Our science is so far behind the times.

Acting Director Golden added that at all our ranges, they lime them annually to prevent the migration of lead.

Liz Thompson, Farm Bureau, commented that Councilman Brodhecker did a good job talking about our last year committee meeting and would like to just add a few things. She was glad to see the Council vote to support some of that legislation, some of which are items our deer committee recommended. The concept of wildlife management on public open space, if the lands are managed by Fish and Wildlife, but there is a lot of land in the state that for farmers has become a tremendous problem because it's not managed in any way. We are speaking to legislatures about a piece of legislation on that as well. She appreciates that Acting Chairman Virgilio has always made an effort for the sportsmen community and the farmers to talk and try to find areas where we agree. The brochure is a great idea. We are still waiting on more information on aerial drone work we had done which compared deer density to land uses we were flying over. Liz lives in Warren County on a piece of property that her family has owned for many years, the majority of the land they sold to the state in the 90s and the division manages it and this year she had a big problem with hunters parking on her road. About 2¼ miles of private road which they post, but they just kept pulling onto her road and parking and when she confronted them they would say that the conservation officer told them they could park there. Her brother made a call to the division and Sue Predl showed up with signs and helped post it. Her and her family appreciates how quickly it was taken care of.

Nick Laratta with the Bloomfield Police Department mentioned HOFNOD and was interested in the process of having Clarks Pond in Bloomfield stocked for an upcoming derby. His request was relayed to Chief Barno.

**A motion was made by Councilman Gudmundsson, seconded by Councilman DeStephano to adjourn the meeting at 12:33 p.m. Vote taken, all in favor, none-opposed; motion carried.**

**Next meeting will be at the Conservation Center June 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.**