

NJ Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2020
Central Region Office
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

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: Phil Brodhecker, Giselle Chazotte-Smisko, Lisa DeLambert, Carol Dragland (10:50AM), Heather Freeman, Dr. Erica Miller, Diane Nickerson, Michael O'Malley

Committee Members Absent: Tracy Leaver, Dr. Jennifer Norton

Division Employees: Krista Laws, Paulette Nelson, Katherine Szostak, Carole Stanko

Members of the Public: None

Meeting called to order at 10:34AM.

- A motion was made by G. Chazotte-Smisko and seconded by Dr. E. Miller to approve the November 20, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. A vote was taken with all in favor.
- Bureau of Wildlife Management Chief C. Stanko gave a presentation on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy caused by a prion. There is no live test or cure for CWD, which is highly transmissible and always fatal. NJDFW has tested 8030 cervids for CWD since 1997, and it has not been found in NJ. The closest known incidence in PA is in Lancaster less than 50 miles from the border. Preparedness planning includes hunter advisories, updated captive regulations, and emergency response plans. Repercussions of CWD in NJ would include exponential spread of disease due to density of white-tailed deer population, human health and safety, response effort and expense, reduction in license/permit sales which will cause revenue loss and population growth, and decreased funding for conservation efforts due to revenue loss.
- P. Nelson provided an update on the proposed regulations to combine game with exotic and nongame species. She believed that the regulations would officially be in review in June.
- T. Leaver reported that the Division training subcommittee continues to meet and make progress. The members had a couple meetings since the last WRAC meeting and had another scheduled for January 23, 2020.
- There was no Wildlife Conservation Corps update. K. Clark continues to make contact with P. Nelson about raptor training.
- An update was given on nuisance wildlife control (NWC). There was a meeting with the NWC operators on January 16. The current focuses are to encourage depredation permits and training classes, which will help determine which operators may be referred to by rehabilitators for ethical handling. There was a discussion of making amendments to the depredation control permit, and there is a long-term goal to make it mandatory. Discussion has occurred to provide

list of depredation control permittees to disperse to rehabilitators so they can make referrals. Lack of education for homeowners continues to be a huge problem.

- There was no veterinary report update.
- Dr. E. Miller provided a disease update. She reported that CWD was spreading in Pennsylvania and also that raccoons were being poisoned using sugar free gum (xylitol) in Pennsylvania.
- WRAC terms were addressed. Dr. E. Miller was selected by ENSAC as the representative again. H. Freeman's term will be expiring next.
- D. Nickerson and Dr. E. Miller reported that they received an email about \$25,000 of State money going to Monmouth County SPCA for TNR. They did not believe that there was any legislation but that it had been done as part of a budget with no public comment period.
- The next WRAC meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2020 at 10:30AM at the Northern Region Office.
- K. Laws provided an update on wildlife rehabilitation permits. Only one permit had been issued so far for 2020.
- A motion was made by Dr. E. Miller and seconded by M. O'Malley to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53AM.