

THE MINUTES OF  
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING  
GOTO MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Virgilio.

Chairman Virgilio read aloud the following notice: In accordance with P.L.1975, c. 231 notice of this meeting was filed with the Office of the Secretary of State on February 1, 2022, and delivered to the designated newspapers for the division, The Atlantic City Press and The Newark Star Ledger.

Roll call was taken in accordance:

Chairman Frank Virgilio  
Councilman Mitchell Jones  
Councilman Joe DeMartino  
Councilman Jim DeStephano (late)  
Councilman Dr. Rick Lathrop  
Councilman Ed Kertz- (absent)  
Councilman Rob Pollock  
Councilman Robert Puskas - (left early)  
Councilman Loren Robinson  
Councilman Ken Whildin

Division employees included: D. Golden, G. Kopkash, L. Barno, C. Stanko, J. Hearon, J. Heilferty, L. Quirk, F. Panico, M. Monteschio, A. Ivany, and D. Bajek.

There were numerous members of the public in attendance.

Chairman Virgilio asked if there were any changes or corrections to the November 9 minutes.

**A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to approve the December 14, 2021, minutes, seconded by Councilman Lathrop. Vote taken; 2 abstentions (Puskas &, Jones), motion carried.**

Chairman Virgilio wanted to welcome everyone and please join with Council ushering in the new year as we work towards a return to normal in 2022. New Jersey offers over 800,000 acres of open spaces providing excellent recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, and other wildlife-related activities. So please join the millions of outdoor enthusiasts who, as John Muir said, "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees". Additionally, on behalf of the entire Fish and Game Council, we welcome our newest council member Mitchell Jones, serving as our northern region farmer rep replacing former councilman Phil Brodhecker. Mitchell is a past president of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture and the owner of Mountain Top Farm in Harmony, New Jersey. Finally, He would like to thank our entire Fish and Game Council members for their strong sense of civic responsibility towards the management of New Jersey's Fish and wildlife resources and would also like to express his sincere gratitude to Phil Brodhecker, who served on this council for nearly ten years. Thank you, Phil.

Assistant Commissioner Golden would like to welcome new Councilmember Mitchell Jones. It's February and the staff is looking ahead towards Spring and are having some meetings to organize Spring activities and projects. We are looking forward to a semi-normal trout stocking this year. Two biggest projects happening right now in the Division include planning for our NEAFWA conference April 3-5 and our website revisions; we are actively working on redesigning our website and staff are really involved in that. It is coming together nicely, and we are getting to see some of what the end products will be and remain excited about the revisions. NEAFWA attracts hundreds of people and will be held in Long Branch, NJ. The theme of the conference this year is The Power of Partnership for Landscape Level Planning. We are trying to promote that from not only at a state level, but a regional and national level with the regard to the value of coming together as partners to do more broad-scale and landscape conservation. This winter we are still trying to settle into our new structure within the Department as part of the NHR reorganization. Parks and Forestry has come out with their new structure, which is drastically different from what they were previously. Fish and Wildlife, although our structure remains relatively the same below the Director level, we are now reporting directly to the Commissioner. Finally, as always you can find the January monthly reports along with any approved Council minutes on the "About Us" webpage.

## **Council Reports:**

### **Agriculture:**

Councilman Jones has no report but will be attending the State Agriculture Convention this week.

Councilman Puskas reported that central region asked about problems with renewing federal depredation permits for geese via the internet. The number of geese are just astounding this year. Later in the meeting, the USDA NJ Director provided the mailing address for which paper applications can still be submitted.

**Farmers/Sportsman Relations:** no report

**NJ State Federation of Sportsman's Club:**

Councilman Robinson reported he attended an in-person meeting at Middlesex, who have concerns with the restricted access from the East Brunswick side of Farrington Lake for ice fishing. He also attended the virtual State Federation meeting, Law Enforcement Committee meeting, Executive Committee meeting, and a virtual meeting at Union County last night where they reported 207 deer were harvested on their County Parks hunt and they still have 9 days to go. They have 3;1 antlerless to antlered harvest and have already donated 105 deer to the Hunters Helping the Hungry program.

Councilman Whildin reported he attended the Cumberland County meeting where the topic was about the untimely passing of retired NJFW employee Lee Widjeskog. We had a couple of guest speakers from the improvement authority to organize our annual Trash Hunt which will be held March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Virgilio reported he had a telephonic meeting with White Buffalo Inc., and he will attend in the near future with them for the net and bolt operation. He attended the Camden County meeting, and they are planning a meet and greet to recruit new clubs and reactivate clubs that have drifted away from the entire Camden County Federation. He also attended the Gloucester County meeting where most pheasant hunters reported having a good season and the stocked pheasants were of good quality. The county continues to recruit minorities and women members. We did have a southern region meeting and Lou Martinez was the guest speaker where we talked about access at Greenwood Lake, Alloway Lake, and Delaware Bayside. Lou was also invited to be a presenter at the Federation's April convention and access will be his topic. The region was concerned with the preliminary deer harvest numbers, and we also spoke to a number of fishermen about access at Alloway Lake along with other access points along the Delaware Bayside. We had a report at that meeting of 20 dead pheasants at Port Republic. Southern region is setting up two calling classes, one for predators and one for women's turkey hunting. He also had a telephonic meeting with retired Superintendent John Donahoe and will be putting together a stakeholder meeting to go over new initiative to change the designation to a national forest and national preserve. He met with a group of sportsmen from Bergen County concerned about trout stocking quantities and he advised them to tune into today's Fish and Game Council meeting and assured them they would not be disappointed. He also attended the 49<sup>th</sup> annual pheasant dinner and had over 250 people attended.

**Finance Committee:** No report

**Fish Committee:** Councilman Pollock wanted to make sure the Division was aware of a lot of internet chat about having the preseason closure and not being able to do catch and release like we have done the past 2-years.

**Game Committee:** No report. Meeting next week.

**Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee:**

Councilman Lathrop reported they had their meeting mid-January, and a number of the committee members were concerned about recommended revisions that were going up to the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission on changes to horseshoe crab harvesting. Representatives from the Bureau of Marine Fisheries within Fish and Wildlife came to talk about the process and give some information. This is something that ENSAC is still concerned about, with the potential increase in horseshoe crab harvesting not necessarily in NJ but along the Mid-Atlantic. We also heard about what the program is doing in relation to pollinator meadows on solar panel arrays, and they have been asked to provide some guidelines to the Board of Public Utilities for large commercial solar arrays on what can be done to enhance those areas as pollinator habitats as well.

**Waterfowl Stamp Committee:** No report

**Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee:** No report. Meeting scheduled for March 23.

**Law Enforcement Committee:**

Councilman Whildin reported they met yesterday and will discuss under License Restorations.

**Public Member:** No comments

**Legislative Report:**

Mary Monteschio reported that February had a lot of movement. She also added a Marine Fisheries side because there was a lot of legislation being introduced. There was an update on the Federal side for Chronic Wasting Disease bill; it passed through the house in December.

**Division Reports:**

### **Central Services:**

Assistant Director Kopkash reported that Barb Stoff ran a monthly report to compare 2019-2022 sales and the end of the year report reflected the COVID bump in sales for 2020 fishing licenses. In 2019, overall sales were at 85,808 for hunting licenses and 166,822 for fishing licenses. 2020 had 91,052 hunting licenses and 194,463 for fishing licenses, and 2021 had 88,540 in hunting licenses and 174,904 in fishing licenses sales. The Wildlife Supporter Stamp sales were at \$17,270 with one donation totaling \$7,500.

### **Freshwater Fisheries:**

Chief Crouse reported that we will be reverting back to our normal Spring trout stocking schedule for 2022, which he will further detail under New Business. He would like to follow up on Councilman Pollock's comment on the preseason closure and let everyone know that we too acknowledge diversity and opinions that anglers have on our trout stocking program. Our interest is returning to a normal trout stocking season or as close to normal as we can get. We are gathering information both internally as well as externally as to Division needs and the anglers' interests, but feel it is best interest for everyone to return to a normal season for 2022. That has been our gold standard of having a 7-week program. We will consider modifying our program down the road, but now is just not that time. One pivotal component that's going to be necessary is a thorough angler preference survey. The second thing Chief Crouse would like to acknowledge is the ice fishing issue at Farrington Lake. We have been working with Law Enforcement and uncovered a North Brunswick ordinance 234-16 that prohibits activities on ice unless the Township declares it is safe. At this point in time, we are encouraging our anglers to comply with Law Enforcements wishes. Alloway Lake access, a public notice has been issued in Alloway Township on June 10, 2021, to close the lake for public safety concerns. We were made aware of this situation last summer when we were contacted by the South Jersey Bass Association. With that said, the Township continued to allow organized bass fishing tournaments with the permit issued by the Township. It's noted that Alloway Township does not have its own police department and is covered by the State Police. We corresponded through email with the Township that we sent July 6<sup>th</sup> asking if the lake was still closed and the township replied that it was. The most recent update we have was a picture taken of a closure sign at the boat ramp at the end of December 2021.

### **Information and Education:**

Chief Ivany reported that Cindy Kuentner, who has been our Digest editor for many years, will be retiring March 1, 2022. Thank you, Cindy, for all your 41 years of service to the people of NJ, this Division, and our constituents. Moving forward, we will be working together to ensure that the digest and her current job responsibilities are being handled and we will look to backfill at an appropriate time. Briana Merriel has moved on at DEP to Site Remediation, and Chris Lido, who was handling our Clean Vessel Act outreach, has also moved on and we wish them well on their

new journey. We hired a new hourly employee to work with Jessica Griglak at Pequest teaching education programs.

The Freshwater Digest came out in stores late January and is on the website as well. Current work on the Marine Digest continues. The Garden State Outdoor Sports Show and Deer Classic was postponed and rescheduled to August 11-14 in Edison NJ, and it is our intent to honor the recipients of the 201- 202 winners this year. Being outdoors in August we should be able to bring our outreach trailer and maybe set up some other events. The Suffern show which would be coming up this later month to early March has been canceled for this year. The Governors Surf Fishing Tournament is scheduled for May 15, 2022, at Island Beach State Park, and planning is still ongoing there. We are also trying to plan a trapping class for some time in April-May, that's to be determined. As Assistant Commissioner Golden mentioned, the Division's website work continues at a frenzied pace right now. Everyone is heavily involved. The website developer provided wireframe designs for the home page for Freshwater, Saltwater, Hunting, Wildlife and Conservation so the next steps include incorporating existing website links into the new pages and developing new website content. The anticipated launch is still scheduled for early Summer 2022. The Wildlife Habitat Supporter Program marketing campaign is still being promoted including email messages, social media ads, cross platform standard banners, and connected tv media promotions through February, then search ads will run until the marketing campaign concludes in April. The vendor is also producing Wildlife Habitat Supporter program signs that will be displayed at Wildlife Management Areas across the state. The NEAFWA conference planning is in full swing, we are only a couple of months away on April 3-5 in Long Branch. This will be a hybrid format with both virtual and onsite. Extensive planning is happening for this event. Hunter Education schedules are being put together now and will be posted by the end of the month and field sessions will begin again in March. As far as the rest of our programming, Pequest, Sedge, and R3, we're working on schedules for those now. We will be having a Fishing with Veterans event on opening day of trout season, April 9<sup>th</sup> at Pequest. As of right now we have several outreach events scheduled with our Outreach Trailer: April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority birthday festival in Egg Harbor Township, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Green Fair in Stafford Township, and May 14<sup>th</sup> at Hudson Farms for Hopatcong Community Day. The R3 programs are being put together now, one being R3 Women of NJ Virtual Turkey Hunting Workshop on April 12-28 followed by the Women's Mentored Turkey Hunt May 1-3.

### **Land Management:**

Chief Hearon reported staff is busy finishing winter storm and ice clearing across the state. Lately he has been getting a little bit of email traffic concerning the response time of our staff with cleaning snow in residual parking lots on Wildlife Management Areas, so he wanted to ask the Council to help us message that COVID has been really tough, and we have had a lot of quarantining and when it effects one, it effects the whole area. We continue to struggle with that, but we continue to remove snow. We started our office areas first, our boat ramps, and then spread-out to WMAs, and more remote areas will get dealt with last. To further complicate things, the supply chain has made vehicles hard to get or not at all for us, so we are using an

aging fleet and equipment which hasn't added to the help of doing things in a timely manner. We haven't neglected anybody intentionally and are doing our best. Councilman Whildin had mentioned the Cumberland County Trash Hunt, and just wanted to highlight that Lee represented the Division of Fish and Wildlife and helped organize that for us and made it easy for the Division over the years. With his passing, Nate Figley will attempt to fill his shoes and work directly with the Cumberland County Authority and the Federation. Staff has a great deal of time involved in the planning of the trout run schedules and it was great to work with Chief Crouse in his new role. In the Fall we presented on the early successional work being done by the bureau around the states specifically targeting Woodcock and we presented a video showing some grid rotations, and as we speak, we are in that forestry rotation at the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area and are working with the Woodcock group as well. We are in the final stages with the money Island Beach restoration project in Cumberland County, which is a unique project. It started out that Blue Acres came in with money from hurricane Sandy, bought out the homes and for the first time ever, Blue Acres provided money to do beach restoration where the houses were. The next project we are about to start is the dredging of the Morris River. What this project will do is allow the industries along the river to be able to do business in a more efficient manner and allow bigger ships through the river adding to their commerce, but what it will mean for the WMAs is it will bolster the dikes protecting our wildlife habitat impoundments and will also bolster storm protection.

On infrastructure projects, the Point Pleasant boat ramp is seeing progress and we will be having a meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The Holly Farm new office updates, we just finally received the final design plans, and the committee will be meeting tomorrow to review the final plans and move that forward, so the new Southern Region Office is making progress.

Update on the farm leases, at the end of November, 55 leases were presented to the State House Commission and approved, but a question from the public prompted additional discussion on the use of pesticides and pesticide products and they were referencing the pending A20-70 bill. So where we are now is the Department is seeking clarification. On the farmer front, the farmers that had received or bid on leases and were confirmed were given the opportunity to back out of those leases because of the new additional restriction. With that, the extension to notify, which was the Leases and Concessions Department was extended through February 11<sup>th</sup> so there is no final word on that yet. Last time we checked in January, it was 50/50 where it was going for the people responded where 50% may stay and 50% may backout but there was still a significant number of non-responses.

Mary Monteschio reported that a little over a year ago, Chief Hearon presented the swap to Council on the 44 acres at Colliers Mills would be going to the Central Jersey Pistol Club in exchange for 88 acres at Pleasant Run WMA in Upper Freehold. We have all of the approvals right now to complete both of those closings. We received State House Commission approval in November. Unfortunately, the club has a lot of things they have to complete at Pleasant Run before we can close on those properties. In the meantime, the closing team is drafting those documents. We anticipate if all goes well, we should have a closing soon.

Dr. Reist reported High Path Avian Influenza was found in the Atlantic Flyaway in some geese about 6 weeks ago and around 4-5 weeks ago it started showing up in domestic poultry. Both the Carolina's and Virginia have had outbreaks. Nova Scotia is dealing with one as we speak. This is just something we want people to be aware of in the wildlife community because it shows up in wildlife before the domestic population. Tennessee has an outbreak this month of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease. He believes it is the closest we've seen in wild species. On African Swine Fever, there is a big take down of a swine-based bologna smuggling from Mexico into Texas.

### **Law Enforcement:**

Chief Panico reported the CAD (computer aided dispatch) system was approved, bringing the bureau into the 21st century. Another approval was for the body-worn cameras, which will roll out in another 3-5 months depending on when they come in. We are working out the details on chemical immobilization training for CPOs especially in the Northern Region to help Wildlife Control in dealing with black bear response. On personnel side, we had some promotions. Conservation Police Officer Sean McManus has been voted to Lieutenant at District 4 in Central Region. Conservation Officer Joseph Soell was promoted to Lieutenant of Administration, with all these big projects coming up he already has a part in them and now will have an even bigger roll. We are in the process of bringing in new hires, tomorrow some candidates will be dropping off their background packages at the Central Region Office and those background packages will be handed out to the officers for investigation. Any of the candidates that are successful passing the background check will be brought in for interviews.

### **Wildlife Management:**

Chief Stanko reported that with Norvin Green updates there isn't much headway yet but will keep Council updated.

Deer harvest numbers are down significantly throughout the year due to various reasons including 2020 when we had a COVID bump. We sold more hunting licenses and permits with much more participation than usual during the COVID bump. We had an outbreak of EHD early on in the season as well as the weather. With that being said, we have been down in the 30percent range all along throughout the season. Numbers through January 31 numbers were down 33.4% over 2020. Compared to 2019 we are only down 2.6%. When we look at 2015, which was the last year we had such a significant mast crop we are up 12.5%. We still have a couple of weeks to go, and we will see what that brings and report back to Council next month. On the SARS CoV-2, it has been found in two NJ deer. We are participating in a research study with USDA sampling deer. They have already determined it in deer Illinois, Michigan, Ny, Ohio, and Pennsylvania so far. There is no evidence of transmission from deer to deer or deer to human. We are also cooperating with NJ Department of Health, and they just got a grant entitled SARS CoV-2 Surveillance and Capacity Building at Human Animal Environment Interface. What this research will do is document mechanisms and legislation related to SARS CoV-2 and



other emerging zoonotic disease and assess the existing infrastructure to detect and respond to those diseases and strengthen partnerships between human, animal and environmental health.

Every month Chief Stanko has been reporting Category 1 bear incidents to Council, this will cover 2 months since the January meeting was canceled. There were two high profile incidents, both occurred in Sparta Township. One where a woman was injured and her dog was killed, and then one shortly thereafter in the same vicinity where a dog was killed. In addition to those we had a bear take a third sheep off a property in a protected lot in Warren County. Another sheep was taken in Morris County, and a bear in Warren County broke into a dog pen and attacked the dogs in Bergen County. Also, there was a report of destruction of beehives in Somerset County at two houses. So, all total equal 7 Category 1, four traps were set, and one bear was euthanized. In addition to the bear incidents, we also had a coyote-human attack last month in Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County. A young woman was walking her dog and the coyote went after the dog and when she started screaming the coyote went after her. Luckily it was a cold day, so both the young woman and the dog were bundled up, so the coyote didn't do too much damage and we assume it was rabid.

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

Chief Heilferty reported that staff zoologist Mandy Dey retired the end of January. We will be carrying out the 2022 Shorebird season with a strong reliance on some of the conservation partners and contractors that have historically helped us run that program. Councilman Lathrop mentioned that we are doing some coordination work regarding the designation of appropriate pollinator mixes that might be used on solar installations which is a result of some legislation that occurred that mandated regulations be crafted wherein the Division of Fish and Wildlife would provide some technical guidance on seed mixes that can be used on these sites to benefit pollinators and wildlife and also help with erosion and sediment control. We are not sure how those regulations will read whether those pollinator friendly mixes be mandated or just recommended so we will keep the council posted. The Endangered and Nongame Species Program received some money via competitive statewide grant award to investigate how we can better implement conservation measures for the Freshwater mussel Brook Floater and among some of the things we are investigating with the use of those funds is the potential for standing up a propagation capacity at our Hackettstown Fish Hatchery. Chief Heilferty and Chief Crouse and the hatchery staff coordinated to learn from them that it might take in forms of personnel resources and associated infrastructure for ENSP to stand up a modest Brook Floater propagation facility there.

### **Old Business:**

### **Hunting Digest Stakeholders Update:**

Assistant Director Barno reported no new updates. Staff are working on taking comments from our November meeting with our stakeholders and integrating it and working inhouse to update

the digest for the upcoming year. Assistant Director Barno wanted to take a moment to commend Cindy for the job that she has done.

### **Greenwood Lake:**

Assistant Director Barno reported that there are no new updates on the ramp aspect of access on Greenwood Lake. The Department is working on the parameters of \$10 million that was set aside for lake management. We are still waiting to hear what the process is going to be for applications and the guidelines that they will utilize. We will provide that information to Council once we receive it. Anglers brought to our attention recently that Greenwood Lake Village passed an ordinance beginning January 1, 2022, that non-resident anglers wishing to fish from the shore or access the ice from the shore from Greenwood Lake Village would be required to purchase a \$10 permit in addition to their fishing license. Not only are the additional funds a problem, but the permit is valid only for that day of purchase and is only available from the Borough Hall Monday-Friday from 8am.-4pm. This definitely further restricts access to the lake for anglers. To further clarify, non-resident is not only out-of-state but is for residents outside the Village though they did exempt Warwick Township residents and if you work for the school district.

At Browns Point Parks is still working with the township with the clearing of the trees, due to that microburst several months ago there was quite a bit of tree damage, and the township is trying to fit that in between their other work duties. Parks will be meeting with the township and closing out the lease and the final cleanup in the area in the upcoming months.

### **Black Bear Education:**

Chief Ivany reported we have contracted a vendor to do our black bear marketing campaign and they are really engaged and making a lot of progress. The statewide media spend is set to launch in early Spring and will stress the importance for residents and communities to reduce the attractants to bears such as trash, pet foods, animal feed, and birdfeed around homes. That media mix will include bi-lingual ads that target key demographics using social media search, digital, video, streaming, radio, PSAs, and email blasts on many platforms. The campaign also includes the redesign of our black bear web page. We met the other day, and it is going extremely well. New graphics entirely are being developed and will grab people's attention and make the black bear web page much easier to use. The 20-minute black bear education video that we have been producing has been completed and is with the Office of Communications for review. It was captioned by Matt Hencheck, our videographer. Already we have worked with communications to pull a 2-minute clip of bear safety tips from that video and the plan is to pull out more short clips also for use on social media.

### **Community Based Deer Management: Mercer**

Assistant Director Barno reported that at the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting this CBDMP permit for Mercer County was presented to Council and after review was approved and a permit was issued by the Division on December 23, 2021, with activities to begin in January. On January 19<sup>th</sup> the Council Chair alerted the Division of a potential ethical issue regarding the permit. At the Council Chair's request, it was placed on hold Jan 24<sup>th</sup> through the Mercer County Park Commission. The Division followed up and consulted with the Department's ethics liaison within the Office of Legal Affairs. After their review, there were no findings of ethical concerns regarding the permit issuance. As a result, this information was discussed in an Executive Committee meeting yesterday, and the Committee is releasing the hold on the permit.

### **Lunch/ Executive Session: 11:48 – 1:00**

Chairman Virgilio reported that during the Executive Session they discussed a personnel action, the draft Administration Order sent to the Chairman by the Commissioner of DEP. Council reviewed the draft Administrative Order and this is our finding: Council has reviewed and agreed with the Commissioner's draft Administrative Order elevating Dave Golden from Director to Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. This Order elevates him to Assistant Commissioner reporting directly to the Commissioner and he will retain all the rights and responsibilities of Director of the Division as outlined in various statutes. Congratulations Assistant Commissioner Golden.

### **Diversity Initiative:**

Doug Applegate gave a brief presentation on the F&W Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group.

### **Pheasant/Quail Survey:**

Ryan Risher gave a brief presentation on the Pheasant/Quail Survey.

### **Spring Trout Stocking 2022:**

Chief Crouse gave a brief presentation on the 2022 Spring Trout Stocking Plan B, the return to a 7-week in-season Spring Trout stocking with the normal regulations and 3 week of preseason.

### **Public Comment on 2022 Spring Trout Stocking:**

Barbara Sachua commented that fishing is cruel and abuse to the fish. She feels that trout stocking is a very un-natural thing to do.

Craig Durand commented about the Greenwood Lake issues with restricted access.

Mark Dryfus commented he has been fishing for the last 45 years and thanks all who do the work behind the scenes.

Drew Lafrance just wanted to thank all involved in the hard work. He would also like to see the meeting take place at night so the sportsmen could join. He wanted to thank the Division for the pheasant stocking, they were excellent. Also, he asked about why the bear hunt season was closed?

Chairman Virgilio took a moment to address the closure of the bear season. The season was closed due to a NJ Supreme Court order where council must work with the Commissioner on comprehensive black bear policy. The Commissioner has been working with the Chairman and they have had communications, meetings on this and he sent over changes which we have incorporated, so we are working towards that policy.

Janet Pizar wanted to thank Loren Robinson for voluntarily asking to witness the netting and bolting in Princeton. She feels it should be required for all F&G council members.

**Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to accept the Plan B 2022 Spring Trout Stocking schedule as presented.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to accept the Plan B for 2022 Spring Trout Stocking as presented, seconded by Councilman Whildin. Vote taken; all approved, motion carries.**

**License Restorations:**

### **Michael Stoner- Present**

Captain Quirk read aloud the statement for the revocation appeal for Mr. Stoner who was present. Mr. Stoner was convicted of a violation on February 16, 2021, for **PA 34.2307.A** for possession of a Canada Goose after the season. A second violation on April 5, 2021, for **NJSA 23:5-10.1**, over the daily limit of crappie.

**Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to open the floor for discussion and seconded by Councilman DeMartino. Vote taken, all in favor; motion approved.**

After the council discussed Mr. Stoner's violations, Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to close the floor for discussion.

**A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to close the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman DeMartino. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried.**

Chairman Virgilio stated that the council has three options, reinstate, continue with the revocation, or delay for additional information. If there is a motion to reinstate, for the record justification is needed.

**Councilman Whildin made a motion Not to reinstate Mr. Stoner's license, seconded by Councilman DeMartino. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried.**

### **Yong-Dian Yang - not present**

Captain Quirk read aloud the statement for the revocation appeal for Mr. Yang who was not present. Mr. Yang was convicted of a violation on July 19, 2021, for **NJSA 23:5-35.2** possession of 4 undersized blue claw crabs. A second violation on August 17, 2021, for **NJSA 23:2B-6** take/possesses undersized black sea bass and **NJSA 23;5-35.2** possession of undersized blue claw crab.

**Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to open the floor for discussion and seconded by Councilman DeMartino. Vote taken, all in favor; motion approved.**

After the council discussed Mr. Yang's violations, Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to close the floor for discussion.

**A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to close the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman DeMartino. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried.**

Chairman Virgilio stated that the council has three options, reinstate, continue with the revocation, or delay for additional information. If there is a motion to reinstate, for the record justification is needed.

**Councilman made a motion Not to reinstate Mr. Yang's license, seconded by Councilman DeMartino. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried.**

**Public Comment:**

Lou Martinez wanted to congratulate Assistant Commissioner Golden on his new position. He also is in favor of the Plan B 2022 Spring trout stocking schedule.

Barbara Sachau feels cruelty and abuse of animals is what prompts her ideas on council. She feels that there should not be crops on Wildlife Management Areas.

Mark Dryfus wanted to know if Ryan Risher's presentation will be available to the public.

Aaron Guikema with USDA Wildlife Services, wanted to give this mailing address for Migratory bird depredation permit:

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Services North-Atlantic-Appalachian Region Migratory Bird Permit Office (MBPO)**

**US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Division of Migratory Birds Permits Office  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035**

Ernie Kabert would like for the council to look into expanding Youth season to give them a better opportunity to harvest an animal.

Drew Lafrance thinks it is important to keep the bear hunt open and hopes council will stay on top and get it changed back. Also, he would like to thank everyone for their work.

Janet Pizar says despite the comprehensive deer harvest report, it is not comprehensive as it should be. Also, for black bear it seems there is an intentional plan not to put out the bear kills from farmer depredation permits and records should be more comprehensive.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 3:02 pm, seconded by Councilman DeMartino. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carries.

**Next meeting: March 8, 2022, at 10:00 am. Location to be determined.**