

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

IN RE: PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING
JUNE 6, 2006

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A verbatim transcript
of meeting held at
2001 Elmerton Avenue,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania,
on Tuesday,

June 6, 2006
8:35 A.M.

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BEFORE:

THOMAS E. BOOP, ESQUIRE, PRESIDENT
ROXANE S. PALONE, VICE PRESIDENT
GREGORY J. ISABELLA, SECRETARY
JOHN J. RILEY, COMMISSIONER
RUSSELL E. SCHLEIDEN, COMMISSIONER
STEPHEN L. MOHR, COMMISSIONER
DAVID W. SCHREFFLER, COMMISSIONER
H. DANIEL HILL, III, COMMISSIONER

ALSO PRESENT:

CARL G. ROE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
M. W. SCHMIT, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WILLIAM R. POUSS, ESQUIRE, CHIEF COUNSEL

1 PRESIDENT BOOP: I call the June business
2 meeting of the Commission to order.

3 We're going to start this morning with an
4 invocation to be offered by Commissioner Palone.

5 (Prayer said.)

6 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Commissioner
7 Palone.

8 If you'd all join us now in the pledge to
9 the flag.

10 (Pledge of Allegiance said.)

11 PRESIDENT BOOP: Mr. Secretary, will you
12 please call the roll?

13 MR. ISABELLA: Commissioner Boop.

14 PRESIDENT BOOP: Present.

15 MR. ISABELLA: Commissioner Palone.

16 MRS. PALONE: Present.

17 MR. ISABELLA: Commissioner Isabella.

18 Present.

19 Commissioner Schleiden.

20 MR. SCHLEIDEN: Present.

21 MR. ISABELLA: Commissioner Riley.

22 MR. RILEY: Present.

1 MR. ISABELLA: Commissioner Mohr.

2 MR. MOHR: Here.

3 MR. ISABELLA: Commissioner Hill.

4 MR. HILL: Here.

5 MR. ISABELLA: Commissioner Schreffler.

6 MR. SCHREFFLER: Present.

7 MR. ISABELLA: Mr. President, all present
8 and accounted for.

9 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Commissioner
10 Isabella.

11 I believe we've all received copies of
12 the minutes of the April 18, 2006 meeting. Do we
13 have a motion to approve those minutes?

14 MR. RILEY: So moved.

15 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Riley
16 approves.

17 Is there a second?

18 MR. ISABELLA: Second.

19 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Isabella.

20 All in favor of approving the minutes of
21 the April 18 meeting indicate by saying aye.

22 (Signified aye.)

23 PRESIDENT BOOP: Opposed same sign.

1 MR. ISABELLA: Unanimous, Mr. President.

2 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Commissioner
3 Isabella.

4 We'll move now to the Bureau of Law
5 Enforcement. We have some adopted rule making
6 items, (A) and (B) as set forth in the printed
7 agenda.

8 We refer to our attorney, Mr. Pouss. Mr.
9 Pouss.

10 MR. POUSS: Thank you, Mr. President.

11 The first item is on page two of the
12 agenda and relates to adoption of proposed
13 amendments to Chapter 143, by adding Subchapter M,
14 which includes §§143.241 through 143.247.

15 To effectively manage the wildlife
16 resources of this Commonwealth, the Game
17 Commission, at its April 18, 2006 meeting,
18 proposed the following change:

19 Amend Chapter 143, by adding Subchapter M
20 (relating to mentored youth hunting program
21 license exemption) to create, define and implement
22 the Mentored Youth Hunting Program within this
23 Commonwealth.

1 The Executive Director and staff
2 recommend final adoption of this amendment to 58
3 Pa. Code as shown on Exhibit A, which is on pages
4 three through five of the agenda.

5 PRESIDENT BOOP: The Chair would
6 recognize Acting Director Houghton. Mr. Houghton,
7 I believe that you have some comments that concern
8 this thing.

9 MR. HOUGHTON: Yes. We had received a
10 memorandum from the Attorney General's Office on
11 May 15, regarding some questions and concerns that
12 they had in respect to the above regulatory
13 amendment.

14 PRESIDENT BOOP: Greg, just speak up a
15 little bit.

16 MR. HOUGHTON: We had received a
17 memorandum dated May 15, 2006, regarding some
18 questions or concerns with the regulatory
19 amendment with the Mentored Youth and we had to,
20 the Bureau had to answer those concerns that they
21 had. One question that they had, had to do with
22 the definition of "Mentor".

23 In Section 143.242, it states that a

1 "Mentor is a licensed person who is serving as a
2 trusted counselor to a mentored youth while
3 engaged in hunting or related activities." Their
4 question is what is meant by the phrase "trusted
5 counselor"? Does it imply some type of
6 certification program or character fitness program
7 for mentors?

8 The other question they had, had to do
9 with 143.244(1). It states that "A mentored youth
10 must be stationary and within arms reach of the
11 mentor (subject to his or her immediate control)
12 at all times while in possession of any lawful
13 hunting device."

14 Their question is subject to his or her
15 immediate control meant to modify within arms
16 reach? If so, should the two phrases be connected
17 by "and"? If they are actually separate safety
18 requirements it should be made clear in the
19 regulation.

20 So Jason Ropp, (ph) our attorney in the
21 Bureau, had to answer both of these questions.
22 Basically, the first one regarding definition of
23 "mentor" he had mentioned that a licensed person

1 21 years of age or older who is serving as a guide
2 in place of trusted counselor. We have a
3 definition in regulations 139.2 right now that
4 defines what a guide is. So we substituted
5 "guide" for "trusted counselor."

6 So it would be a licensed person 21 years
7 of age or older who is serving as a guide to a
8 mentored youth while engaged in hunting or related
9 activities.

10 The second one regarding the arms length,
11 we basically answered that with a statement. We
12 had scratched out the part that said, "A mentored
13 youth must be stationary and within arms reach of
14 the mentor (subject to his or her immediate
15 control) at all times while in possession of any
16 lawful hunting device" and substituted that with,
17 "A mentored youth shall be stationary, within arms
18 reach and subject to the immediate control of the
19 mentor at all times while in possession of any
20 lawful hunting device" and that was approved by
21 the Attorney General's Office as I just stated.

22 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, sir.

23 I believe all the Commissioners have

1 received a one page blue handout concerning this
2 proposed amendment, which is really just a
3 housekeeping matter concerning the definitions.

4 Do I hear a motion to amend the proposed
5 rule making? Let's back up then.

6 Is there a motion to approve the proposed
7 rule making concerning mentored hunting?

8 MR. ISABELLA: So moved.

9 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Isabella.

10 Is there a second to that?

11 MR. SCHLEIDEN: Second.

12 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Schleiden.

13 We have a motion and a second. Is there
14 any discussion?

15 MR. MOHR: Mr. President, just a comment
16 on the mentored youth. I think it's imperative
17 that antlerless deer somehow be worked into their
18 game plan, whether it be 2007/2008, or whatever it
19 is. I sure think it's going to make or break the
20 program. Antlerless deer I think must be
21 included.

22 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Commissioner
23 Mohr.

1 Is there any further discussion?

2 MR. SCHLEIDEN: Mr. President--

3 PRESIDENT BOOP: Yes, Commissioner
4 Schleiden.

5 MR. SCHLEIDEN: --I'd like to make a
6 floor amendment then on those items that were
7 brought forward. On page three under the
8 "Mentored" definition replace the existed one by
9 the changes as has been read and allow me to do it
10 again.

11 The definition of "Mentor - A licensed
12 person, 21 years of age or older who is serving as
13 a guide to a mentored youth while engaged in
14 hunting or related activities." That's on page
15 three.

16 And part of the amendment and also on
17 page four Item 1 I'd like to replace that Item 1
18 by the following statement, replacement rather, "A
19 mentored youth will be stationary, within arms
20 reach and subject to the immediate control of the
21 mentor at all times while in possession of any
22 lawful hunting device."

23 That's my amendment.

1 PRESIDENT BOOP: You've heard
2 Commissioner Schleiden's proposed amendment.

3 Is there a second?

4 MR. ISABELLA: Second.

5 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Isabella.

6 Any discussion on the amendment?

7 (No response.)

8 PRESIDENT BOOP: If not, we're prepared
9 to vote on the amendment. If so, all those in
10 favor of the amendment as properly moved and
11 seconded, indicate by saying aye.

12 (Signified aye.)

13 PRESIDENT BOOP: Opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. ISABELLA: Unanimous, Mr. President.

16 PRESIDENT BOOP: On the main motion as
17 now amended by the Schleiden amendment, all those
18 in favor of the main motion as amended indicate by
19 saying aye.

20 (Signified aye.)

21 PRESIDENT BOOP: Opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. ISABELLA: Unanimous, Mr. President.

1 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Mr.
2 Secretary.

3 Moving to the second agenda item under
4 the adopted rule making, Mr. Pouss.

5 MR. POUSS: And that item can be found on
6 page six of the agenda and relates to the adoption
7 of a proposed amendment to Chapter 131 of Title
8 58, §141.4.

9 To effectively manage the wildlife
10 resources of this Commonwealth, the Game
11 Commission, at its April 18, 2006 meeting,
12 proposed the following:

13 Amend Chapter 141, §141.4 (relating to
14 hunting hours) to reflect the annual change in
15 days and subsequent hunting times for the 2006-
16 2007 hunting license year.

17 The Executive Director and staff
18 recommend final adoption of this amendment to 58
19 Pa. Code, as shown on Exhibit B, which is on pages
20 seven and eight of your agenda.

21 PRESIDENT BOOP: We've heard the reading
22 by Mr. Pouss of the agenda item which is second of
23 this morning's business. Is there a motion

1 concerning the second?

2 MR. RILEY: Moved.

3 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Riley.

4 Is there a second?

5 MR. ISABELLA: Second.

6 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Isabella.

7 Is there discussion on this agenda item?

8 (No response.)

9 PRESIDENT BOOP: If there's no
10 discussion, I think we're prepared to vote on this
11 agenda item which has to do with hunting hours.

12 All those in favor indicate by saying
13 aye.

14 (Signified aye.)

15 PRESIDENT BOOP: Opposed the same sign.

16 (No response.)

17 MR. ISABELLA: Unanimous, Mr. President.

18 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Mr.
19 Secretary.

20 MR. SCHREFFLER: Mr. President.

21 PRESIDENT BOOP: At this point I would
22 recognize Commissioner Schreffler.

23 MR. SCHREFFLER: I have the floor. I'd

1 like to offer a directive concerning the Citizens
2 Advisory Committee. It should read as such, "The
3 Board of Commissioners . . ."

4 PRESIDENT BOOP: Excuse me, Commissioner
5 Schreffler. Just for the benefit of those in the
6 audience, could you explain a little bit the
7 Citizens Advisory Committee for those that may not
8 be familiar with it?

9 Mr. Schreffler is the Chair of our
10 Wildlife Management Committee and this item has
11 come through his committee.

12 MR. SCHREFFLER: The Citizens Advisory
13 Committee was an experiment in Wildlife Management
14 Unit 4-B this year and are to give some input to
15 our Deer Management Team. We felt that it was
16 very successful. It helped educate some of the
17 stakeholders who were involved, which were given
18 the opportunity to give input, help provide them
19 with an opportunity to interact with one another.

20 They got some additional education as to
21 the intricacies of our Deer Management Plan and
22 program and provided them with an increased
23 understanding of other stakeholder's concerns and

1 values and so on that have to be considered in
2 each time. This group was able to provide some
3 input to the Deer Management Team on the Game
4 Commission staff concerning our deer population
5 goals that affected the wildlife in our antlerless
6 allocations.

7 This would be important information in
8 helping us to determine deer-human conflict
9 measures as we are using now in our measurements.

10 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Commissioner
11 Schreffler, for providing that background for
12 those in the audience that may not be as familiar.
13 Your directive to Mr. Roe is what, sir?

14 MR. SCHREFFLER: The directive is that
15 the Board of Commissioners of the Pennsylvania
16 Game Commission directs the Executive Director to
17 implement the use of Citizen Advisory Committees
18 to solicit and obtain stakeholder input on
19 Wildlife Management Unit level deer population
20 management goals in the Commonwealth.

21 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you for that. I'm
22 sure Mr. Roe has heard the request.

23 Is there any discussion on this item? I

1 don't think it requires a vote. If there's any
2 other Commissioner who would like to comment now
3 would be the time to do so.

4 Mr. Schleiden.

5 MR. SCHLEIDEN: Mr. President, I would
6 just like to emphasize for the record that we
7 realize the public input is very important. To
8 the formation of the Advisory Committee, it is
9 very important, but it's absolutely necessary that
10 the advisory people who are selected understand
11 the final decision is made by the Board of
12 Commissioners as recommended to the staff. Point
13 is for the record.

14 PRESIDENT BOOP: Point well taken.

15 Is there any other Commissioner who
16 wishes to comment concerning this issue?

17 (No response.)

18 PRESIDENT BOOP: If not, Mr. Roe, you're
19 aware of the Board's request.

20 So we'll move now, again, we still in the
21 Bureau of Law Enforcement and Mr. Houghton. We'll
22 move to proposed rule making, Item C on the agenda
23 and again I refer to Mr. Pouss.

1 MR. POUSS: Thank you, Mr. President.

2 The item in consideration is on page nine
3 of your agenda and relates to amending Pa. Code,
4 Chapter 141, §141.20.

5 On April 18, 2006, the Commission adopted
6 the seasons and bag limits for the upcoming 2006-
7 2007 hunting license year, which included the
8 anticipated trial bear archery season that will
9 take place during the week prior to the
10 traditional statewide bear season. However,
11 despite the successful creation of the trial bear
12 archery season, it is necessary to amend §141.20
13 (relating to protective material required) to
14 specifically except the trial bear archery season
15 from certain fluorescent orange requirements.

16 The Commission intends to treat the trial
17 bear archery season in a manner similar to the
18 deer archery season, where no fluorescent orange
19 is generally required. Without this amendment,
20 bear archery hunters would be required to comply
21 with the default fluorescent orange requirements,
22 which call for a minimum of 250 square inches of
23 daylight fluorescent orange-colored material on

1 the head, chest and back combined so that it is
2 visible in a 360-degree arc at all times when
3 hunting.

4 While amending this section relative to
5 the new archery bear season, the Commission also
6 took the opportunity to reorganize and reword some
7 of the subparagraphs to help make them less
8 ambiguous and more understandable.

9 The Executive Director and staff
10 recommend the Commission approve these proposed
11 changes.

12 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Mr. Pouss.

13 Just to digress a minute, for those of
14 you who weren't in the audience yesterday, we did
15 have some difficulty at our April meeting with
16 cell phones, so I forgot to mention it this
17 morning. So if you're here and weren't here
18 yesterday and have a cell phone, please turn it
19 off in fairness to the other people in the
20 audience and the Board.

21 This proposed agenda item is also really
22 a housekeeping item. It doesn't really change the
23 basic intent of the agenda item. You've heard the

1 reading.

2 Is there a motion to approve that?

3 MR. SCHLEIDEN: So moved.

4 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Schleiden.

5 Is there a second?

6 MR. ISABELLA: Second.

7 PRESIDENT BOOP: So the proposed rule
8 making has been moved and seconded.

9 Is there a discussion on Agenda Item C?
10 Any discussion of any Commissioner?

11 (No response.)

12 PRESIDENT BOOP: If there is no
13 discussion, all those in favor of the this
14 proposed rule making indicate by saying aye.

15 (Signified aye.)

16 PRESIDENT BOOP: Opposed same sign.

17 (No response.)

18 MR. ISABELLA: Unanimous, Mr. President.

19 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you.

20 We're now to Agenda Item D under proposed
21 rule making. As Chair I'm going to exercise the
22 option to defer this until after we take our
23 morning break. I think that we may need to have

1 some brief discussion before we're ready to move
2 forward with this proposed rule making. So Agenda
3 Item D will be deferred.

4 Mr. Houghton, with your indulgence, thank
5 you, and we'll move to the Bureau of Land
6 Management.

7 Good morning, Scott.

8 MR. KLINGER: Good morning, Mr.
9 President.

10 PRESIDENT BOOP: We'll go to Mr. Pouss
11 who will address, under the Bureau of Land
12 Management, Agenda Item A on pages 14 and 15.

13 MR. POUSS: Thank you, Mr. President.

14 This item relates to an oil and gas lease
15 offering on State Game Lands No. 152, Crawford
16 County, Northwest Region.

17 The Commissioner offered its oil and gas
18 ownership under a portion of State Game Lands No.
19 152 for lease. Tract 152A-06 containing 277
20 acres, was exposed for competitive royalty bid in
21 May 2006, with a fixed yearly rental rate of \$10
22 per acre. Additionally, the lease offer provides
23 the Commission a one-time payment of \$5,000 for

1 each deep well drilled within the leased premises
2 or a one-time payment of \$1,000 for each shallow
3 well drilled within the leased premises. The
4 lease area, exposed for competitive royalty bid,
5 is shown on the attached Exhibit OGM1 map, which
6 can be found on page 15 of your agenda.

7 Oil and gas development will be regulated
8 by the Commonwealth's Oil and Gas Regulations, the
9 Commission's standard oil and gas lease agreement
10 and a \$25,000 performance bond. The lease will
11 include the Commission's standard wildlife and
12 environmental protection measures, and further
13 limits the subsequent well development to a total
14 of three wells, unless additional written approval
15 is obtained from the Commission. The lease will
16 also include a free gas provision for the
17 Commission to use free of charge, up to 3000,000
18 cubic feet of gas annually.

19 Bids for this tract were opened on May
20 22, 2006, with Great Lakes Energy Partners, LLC of
21 Hartville, Ohio, submitting the highest royalty
22 rate bid of 22 percent. The results of this
23 royalty bid expressed in a percentage rate of the

1 market value of each mcf of gas are listed below.

2 You can see them on page 14.

3 The Jack Company showed interest, but
4 submitted no bid.

5 The Executive Director and staff
6 recommend an oil and gas development lease be
7 awarded to the highest bidder, Great Lakes Energy
8 Partners, LLC, of Hartville, Ohio, in accordance
9 with Commission policy and lease award procedure.

10 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Mr. Pouss.

11 Of course, there is a map on page 15
12 relating to this agenda item.

13 Is there a motion to approve?

14 MR. SCHREFFLER: So moved.

15 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Schreffler.

17 Is there a motion to second?

18 MR. ISABELLA: Second.

19 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Isabella.

20 Is there discussion on this agenda item
21 of the Bureau of Land Management? Discussion?

22 (No response.)

23 PRESIDENT BOOP: No discussion, I assume

1 we're prepared to vote. All those in favor
2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Signified aye.)

4 PRESIDENT BOOP: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. ISABELLA: Unanimous, Mr. President.

7 PRESIDENT BOOP: Mr. Pouss, the second
8 item under the Bureau of Land Management, which is
9 Exhibit B on pages 16 to 19.

10 MR. POUSS: It involves a deep mine
11 surface support lease-land exchange on State Game
12 Lands 79, Indiana County and State Game Lands No.
13 93, Somerset County.

14 Amfire Mining Company, LLC, of Latrobe,
15 Pennsylvania, has requested a surface support
16 lease to utilize approximately 8.6 acres of
17 existing State Game Lands road for coal haulage
18 and support of its Gilhouser Run Deep Mine
19 Complex, which is located on private land adjacent
20 to State Game Lands No. 79. The lease area is for
21 surface support only and no mining on State Game
22 Lands will be authorized by this proposed lease
23 action, which is shown on Exhibit OGM2, on page 18

1 of your agenda.

2 In exchange for the ten-year lease,
3 Amfire Mining will pay the Commission a wheelage
4 rate of 1 percent of the then current FOB pit
5 price per each ton of coal mined and hauled across
6 the lease area or a quarter per ton of coal mined
7 and hauled, whichever is greater. As initial
8 consideration of the lease, Amfire Mining will
9 provide the Commission two separate payments of
10 \$60,000 each as advanced wheelage.

11 The first payment will be due upon the
12 execution of the lease and the second payment due
13 within one year from the date of the lease. The
14 total sum of the payments, \$120,000, will be used
15 by the Game Commission to assist in acquiring
16 approximately 300 acres of new State Game Lands
17 located immediately north of the Flight 93
18 National Memorial in Somerset County, as shown on
19 Exhibit OGM3, as well as other tracts which may be
20 acceptable to the Commission in the immediate
21 future.

22 The purchase of these properties is an
23 ongoing cooperative effort made possible by The

1 Conservation Fund, the National Park Service and
2 its partners to include the Flight 93 Advisory
3 Commission, the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force, and
4 the Families of Flight 93, Inc. This new Game
5 Lands will be designated as State Game Lands No.
6 93 in honor of the Flight 93 passengers and crew.
7 The current State Game Lands No. 93, located in
8 Clearfield County will be redesignated as State
9 Games Lanes No. 331.

10 All future wheelage payments beyond the
11 initial advanced wheelage value will be paid to
12 the Commission on a monthly basis with respect to
13 each month's hauled tonnage and will be deposited
14 directly into the Game Fund. Based on current
15 market conditions and assumed full coal recovery,
16 the potential wheelage value to the Commission is
17 approximately \$725,000. Any timber, which may be
18 impacted as a result of the surface use activity,
19 will be assessed prior to cutting at a double
20 stumpage value.

21 Mining support activities will be
22 regulated by the Commonwealth's Mining Regulations
23 and the Commission's standard coal mining lease

1 agreement and a \$10,000 bond. The lease will
2 include the Commission's standard wildlife and
3 environmental protection measures.

4 The Executive Director and staff
5 recommend this deep mine surface support lease-
6 land exchange be approved and the Commission
7 authorize the Bureau of Land Management to proceed
8 with the leasing arrangement, as listed above.

9 PRESIDENT BOOP: You've heard the reading
10 by Mr. Pouss of the agenda item. Is there a
11 motion to approve?

12 MR. SCHREFFLER: So moved.

13 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Schreffler.
14 Is there a second?

15 MR. SCHLEIDEN: Second.

16 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Schleiden.
17 Is there discussion on the agenda item?

18 MR. SCHREFFLER: Yes.

19 PRESIDENT BOOP: I recognize Commissioner
20 Schreffler.

21 MR. SCHREFFLER: I want to commend the
22 Land Management Bureau for doing a good job. I
23 especially like the idea here that we're going to

1 redesignate this in honor of the Flight 93
2 passengers and crew. I think that's a fitting, a
3 really fitting thing to do in this case. It will
4 be right across Route 30, adjoining and
5 surrounding the Memorial Park. I just want to
6 point that out especially and I think that's
7 extremely nice to have done.

8 Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT BOOP: The Chair recognizes
10 Commissioner Isabella.

11 MR. ISABELLA: Mr. President, this is a
12 good deal for the agency. For the benefit of the
13 audience, the road that the mining company will be
14 using is an existing road so we're not losing or
15 damaging any game lands. There is a performance
16 bond for any damage to the road. Good win for the
17 agency.

18 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Palone.

19 MRS. PALONE: I would just like to thank
20 our Southwest Regional Director, Matt Hough, who's
21 here today and his Land Management Supervisor
22 Barry Zaffuto and all the folks in the Bureau of
23 Land Management. This was a very emotional issue

1 and it took several years for us to negotiate this
2 land.

3 The Park Service wanted a lot of land and
4 there was a lot of controversy about should people
5 be allowed to hunt there or not. So this is a
6 beginning of several opportunities for us to
7 purchase land around the monument and keep it open
8 for hunting.

9 The Bureau of Land Management and also
10 the Southwest Region has been very sensitive to
11 the families of Flight 93 and also to the National
12 Park Service and they did a very good job and I
13 just want to thank them.

14 PRESIDENT BOOP: I appreciate all those
15 comments. There's no rhyme or reason -- I know
16 you all three wanted to speak to the issue as far
17 as the recognition. Thank you all.

18 Is there anyone else that wanted to
19 address the issue?

20 (No response.)

21 PRESIDENT BOOP: If not, we're prepared
22 to vote. If so, all those in favor indicate by
23 saying aye.

1 (Signified aye.)

2 PRESIDENT BOOP: Opposed same sign.

3 (No response.)

4 MR. ISABELLA: Unanimous, Mr. President.

5 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Commissioner
6 Isabella.

7 I appreciate that it's only 9:00 A.M.,
8 but we do have a relatively short business agenda
9 today. I think now is the appropriate time that
10 we should move to the agenda item that I deferred,
11 which is the deer baiting and the special
12 regulations, but I think that we need a little
13 break to just make sure that we have a couple of
14 concerns ironed out there, because I understand
15 there's probably going to be a proposed amendment
16 offered or an alternative.

17 So we're going to take a 15-minute break
18 until 9:15 and we're going to come back promptly
19 at 9:15 and we're going to finish the meeting.

20 So we're in recess for 15 minutes.

21 (Recess 9:00 A.M.)

22 (Reconvened 9:15 A.M.)

23 PRESIDENT BOOP: We'll reconvene our

1 meeting. For the benefit of the press that may be
2 in the audience, we did have some indication that
3 there might be an amendment offered with respect
4 to Agenda Item D. Some of the people and the
5 Commissioners were involved in that. I just
6 wanted a little bit more time on getting that
7 ready. So we're ready to reconvene and we're
8 going back to Agenda Item D, which is on page 12
9 and 13 of the preprinted materials.

10 I turn to Mr. Pouss to give us, as you
11 recall, this was proposed rule making today.

12 Mr. Pouss.

13 MR. POUSS: Thank you, Mr. President.

14 The item relates to amending Chapter 141,
15 §141.1 of Title 58 of the Pa. Code.

16 The Game Commission is directed by law to
17 use hunting in managing white-tailed deer. The
18 Game Commission has supported and encouraged
19 hunting as the primary means of managing deer
20 populations by annually making hunting
21 opportunities available, increasing hunting
22 opportunities and providing deer hunters with
23 tools to increase their success. With the recent

1 completion of the "Plan to reduce human-deer
2 conflicts in developed areas," also known as the
3 Urban Deer Management Strategy, this same approach
4 will be used where safe and appropriate in
5 developed areas.

6 Strategy 1.1.3 the Urban Deer Management
7 Strategy calls for the use of regulated baiting to
8 increase deer hunter harvest in developed Wildlife
9 Management Units. In 2004, the state legislature
10 authorized the Commission to regulate the use of
11 bait for deer removal in special regulations areas
12 in southeastern Pennsylvania.

13 While traditional hunting, that is,
14 without bait, is the most economical way to manage
15 deer populations, by allowing the use of bait
16 while hunting, there is the potential to increase
17 harvest, hunter success, and hunter opportunity in
18 developed areas. Providing this tool in our most
19 developed areas will be beneficial to hunters,
20 urban residents, and the Game Commission's Deer
21 Management Program.

22 You can see the proposed changes on page
23 12 and 13.

1 The Executive Director and staff
2 recommend the Commission approve this change.

3 PRESIDENT BOOP: You have heard the
4 reading of this agenda item under Bureau of Law
5 Enforcement, proposed rule making.

6 I would note that Dr. Rosenberry is in
7 the audience, as his Bureau Director DuBrock from
8 Wildlife Management, and that this impacts that
9 bureau as well.

10 Do I hear a motion on this proposed rule
11 making?

12 MR. MOHR: Motion.

13 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Mohr.
14 Is there a second?

15 MR. RILEY: Second.

16 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Riley.
17 Is there discussion on the agenda item?

18 MR. ISABELLA: Mr. President.

19 PRESIDENT BOOP: I recognize Commissioner
20 Isabella.

21 MR. ISABELLA: I'd like to offer an
22 amendment to this. But first, in southeastern
23 Pennsylvania, there is a real problem with

1 overabundance of deer creating damage. I, for
2 one, am strongly in favor to solve the problem via
3 hunting.

4 There is a private group down there, a for
5 profit group that is trying to stir the pot up in
6 saying that we need shooters. We don't need
7 shooters. Hunting can solve the problem.

8 I understand that the Bureau with how
9 they crafted this proposal they wanted regulations
10 for effective baiting and collecting data. I want
11 to keep things simple. I understand what they're
12 trying to say. So what I would want to do is I
13 want to offer this amendment. My main concern is
14 enforcement. And I just want to make sure that we
15 don't get any hunters in trouble for attempting to
16 follow the spirit of the regulation. I've been
17 assured by the Executive Director that that won't
18 happen.

19 That's it.

20 PRESIDENT BOOP: Your amendment is the
21 blue handout, the two-page handout that you just
22 distributed?

23 MR. ISABELLA: Yes, it is, Mr. President.

1 PRESIDENT BOOP: I believe you had
2 mentioned in the hall that there is an amendment
3 to the blue? Yes, you and Commissioner Schreffler
4 worked on this?

5 MR. SCHREFFLER: That's right.

6 The amendment should read "141.41 Special
7 regulations areas, (d) Permitted acts. It is
8 lawful to: and (5) Hunt or take deer in the
9 southeast area through the use of or by taking
10 advantage of bait."

11 And then sub number (i) under that, "Bait
12 may be distributed up to a maximum of three times
13 per day, during legal hunting hours only. Each
14 distribution of bait shall be no greater than 10
15 pounds."

16 Sub number (ii) "Bait may also be
17 distributed at any deer treatment bait station
18 used for tick control; distribution conditions as
19 noted in (1) do not apply."

20 Sub number (iii), "It shall be the
21 responsibility of the hunter to ensure that the
22 land has been baited in compliance with the above
23 requirements prior to hunting in that area."

1 Sub number (iv) "There shall be a three-
2 year sunset to this provision."

3 PRESIDENT BOOP: So then what you're
4 saying, Commissioner Schreffler, is that where the
5 blue handout now indicates "Action," there shall
6 be a three-year sunset on this provision should be
7 moved up to Roman Numeral (iv)?

8 MR. SCHREFFLER: That is correct.

9 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Isabella,
10 is this your amendment as Commissioner Schreffler
11 has read it?

12 MR. ISABELLA: Yes, it is, Mr. President.

13 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Schreffler,
14 are you seconding that amendment?

15 MR. SCHREFFLER: I am seconding it.

16 PRESIDENT BOOP: So we have it properly
17 moved and seconded, the amendment.

18 Is there discussion on the amendment?

19 MR. MOHR: A couple comments, Mr.
20 President. I'll be the last one to try to change
21 this too severely. It's been eight years, six
22 months since I first mentioned baiting in the
23 southeast and it seems like it may be coming to

1 fruition. I think we need to keep it as simple as
2 possible, not only for the hunters, but for our
3 law enforcement people to oversee. The less
4 amount of details we put with it I think it will
5 work out to be better.

6 I'm all in favor of the baiting and I
7 want to continue to keep it simple.

8 PRESIDENT BOOP: Are there other
9 Commissioners who would like to comment on the
10 proposed amendment?

11 MR. SCHLEIDEN: Yes, sir.

12 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Schleiden.
13 Please go ahead, Commissioner Schleiden.

14 MR. SCHLEIDEN: I concur with what Steve
15 is saying, although I haven't been here eight
16 years and six months.

17 I am concerned about Item 1 or small item
18 (i) that last portion, "Each distribution of bait
19 shall be no greater than 10 pounds." I'm
20 concerned that we're putting both the hunter and
21 our law enforcement people in a bad position.

22 Then when we go on over to Item 2, where
23 now item (i) doesn't apply when we're on a bait

1 station with tick control, I'm just concerned
2 about that. However, I'm not going to oppose
3 this. I think that baiting in that area is
4 necessary. This is something new.

5 I've been again assured by the Regional
6 Director, Doug, and our Executive Director, that
7 our people will be well-versed on this and,
8 hopefully, they'll use some good bedside manner
9 while we get this underway.

10 We are putting a three-year sunset on it.
11 This is a proposal. We'll have time for public
12 comment. I know that Greg would like to see this
13 happen, so I would expect you'll get some more
14 comment down there.

15 But those are my concerns on that. So
16 that's my comment, sir.

17 PRESIDENT BOOP: Anybody else who would
18 like to comment?

19 I guess I would just like to make some
20 brief comment as well. I sort of view myself as
21 the traditional hunter from the north-central part
22 of the state and we do have a lot of tradition up
23 there. Baiting is sort of something that's going

1 to take a little bit getting used to, but I
2 recognize that the southeast portion of the state
3 has a very different situation than what we have,
4 where I have traditionally hunted.

5 As I think all the Commissioners do, we
6 want to have hunters have an opportunity to take
7 deer. I just recognize this is a different
8 situation down there and I think it's something as
9 part of our Urban Deer Management Plan that we
10 need to go forward with. I think it's very
11 important to realize that this is limited to the
12 special regulations areas in the southeast.

13 I understand in talking to Commissioner
14 Palone that there's some desire that maybe we
15 could do this also in the special regulations
16 area, in the Pittsburgh area, but Allegheny County
17 is different and we have some statutory issues
18 there that would have to be dealt with.

19 But we're going to come back in October,
20 so we got about 120 days here until we would
21 finally adopt this. I'm sure we're going to have
22 some comment and input from the public and hunters
23 until we would come back for final approval in

1 October.

2 So I think it's something we need to move
3 forward with and I think that those of us that the
4 issue of baiting may make us a little
5 uncomfortable. We just have to realize that we're
6 dealing with a different situation and have to
7 recognize the reality of that.

8 So if there's nothing further, I think
9 we're prepared to vote on the amendment as offered
10 by Commissioners Isabella and Schreffler.

11 All those in favor of the amendment
12 indicate by saying aye.

13 (Signified aye.)

14 PRESIDENT BOOP: Opposed same sign.

15 (No response.)

16 MR. ISABELLA: Unanimous, Mr. President.

17 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you.

18 On behalf of all the Commissioners, I'd
19 like to commend Dr. Rosenberry and all of the
20 members of the Deer Team that have provided input.

21 So we have unanimous vote on the
22 amendment so we go back to the main motion as
23 amended. If there's no further discussion we'd

1 ask for a vote on the main motion as amended.

2 So all those in favor of the main motion
3 as amended indicate by saying aye.

4 (Signified aye.)

5 PRESIDENT BOOP: Opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. ISABELLA: Unanimous, Mr. President.

8 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you.

9 I believe that that concludes the formal
10 part of the agenda as far as the items. We're
11 down to other new business.

12 I first ask the Commissioners if there's
13 any further new business?

14 MR. HOUGHTON: Excuse me, we have some
15 administrative hearing information that's being
16 passed around.

17 PRESIDENT BOOP: Very good.

18 Yes, I'd give the floor to Acting
19 Director Houghton. You provided us with a
20 handout.

21 MR. HOUGHTON: Yes.

22 PRESIDENT BOOP: Briefly explain what we
23 received.

1 MR. HOUGHTON: I can read this.

2 Administrative Hearings are held to
3 review the Hunting and Furtaking Revocations for
4 those person who file a petition requesting a
5 review, in accordance with Administrative Agency
6 Law, 2 Pa. C.S.A. §501.

7 The Commission was furnished a copy of
8 the Findings of Fact, the Conclusions of Law, and
9 the Recommendations of the Hearing Officer
10 concerning the Administrative Hearing held at the
11 request of each individual listed below. The
12 Findings of Fact set forth the circumstances
13 surrounding this matter.

14 The Executive Director recommends that
15 the Commission approve the Findings of Fact,
16 Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation of the
17 Hearing Officer, Andrew Lehman, allowing the
18 revocation period to remain as originally ordered
19 for each individual listed below on that first
20 page.

21 I believe there's seven individuals on
22 there.

23 PRESIDENT BOOP: Do we want to do them

1 collectively or individually?

2 MR. HOUGHTON: Good point. I can go to
3 the second page.

4 PRESIDENT BOOP: We'll do the first page
5 then. You've heard the explanation on the first
6 page of the supplement as provided by the Bureau
7 of Law Enforcement.

8 Is there a motion to approve as
9 indicated?

10 MR. ISABELLA: So moved.

11 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Isabella
12 made the motion.

13 Is there a second?

14 MR. SCHLEIDEN: Second.

15 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Schleiden.

16 Any discussion?

17 (No response.)

18 PRESIDENT BOOP: All in favor indicate by
19 saying aye.

20 (Signified aye.)

21 PRESIDENT BOOP: Opposed same sign.

22 (No response.)

23 MR. ISABELLA: Unanimous, Mr. President.

1 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Commissioner
2 Isabella.

3 Move to the second page, Administrative
4 Hearings (B).

5 MR. HOUGHTON: This is Administrative
6 Hearings concerning rescinding the hunting and
7 furtaking revocations.

8 Basically, the Executive Director
9 recommends that the Commission approve the
10 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and
11 Recommendations of the Hearing Officer, Andrew
12 Lehman, allowing the revocation period to be
13 rescinded, resulting in no revocation for each
14 individual listed below and there is three
15 individuals on that second page.

16 PRESIDENT BOOP: Again, all Commissioners
17 have a copy of this item under new business.

18 Is there a motion to approve as indicated
19 in (B)?

20 MR. ISABELLA: So moved.

21 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Isabella.

22 Is there a second?

23 MRS. PALONE: Second.

1 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Palone.

2 Discussion?

3 (No response.)

4 PRESIDENT BOOP: All in favor indicate by
5 saying aye.

6 (Signified aye.)

7 PRESIDENT BOOP: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. ISABELLA: Unanimous, Mr. President.

10 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you.

11 Is there any other bureau that has any
12 other item under new business?

13 (No response.)

14 PRESIDENT BOOP: Seeing no indication of
15 such, we'll move back to the agenda on other new
16 business.

17 Before we get to some discussion
18 concerning the status of Commissioner Riley and
19 Commissioner Mohr, are there any other items the
20 Commissioners would like to address at this time?

21 Commissioner Palone.

22 MRS. PALONE: Thank you, Mr. President.

23 Several years ago the Commission voted to

1 ban the use of all muzzleloading pistols as
2 hunting implements and I believe this was done
3 because there was a question as to the killing
4 power of the primitive revolver. But today there
5 are many new in-line modern muzzleloading pistols
6 that use maxi-balls and Pyrodex and scopes, among
7 other innovations.

8 As Chair of the Law Enforcement Committee
9 and after consulting with the Executive Committee,
10 I am directing Director Roe to direct the Law
11 Enforcement staff to study the feasibility of
12 making it legal once again for hunters to use
13 muzzleloading pistols. These would be for hunting
14 in the appropriate seasons. This may include
15 primitive and/or modern muzzleloading pistols.

16 This is just a request for information
17 and/or draft proposed regulations to be presented
18 at the next Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

19 PRESIDENT BOOP: You've heard
20 Commissioner Palone's comment concerning this
21 issue.

22 Is there any other Commissioner who wants
23 to speak to that issue or any other matter?

1 MR. SCHLEIDEN: Yes, Mr. President. I
2 don't wish to speak to that directive. It's okay
3 with me.

4 PRESIDENT BOOP: Sure.

5 MR. SCHLEIDEN: I have some photographs
6 that I want to pass around to the Commissioners to
7 look at. This is some activity that took place
8 around Earth Day up in the north-central region.
9 Quite often we don't hear all the great things
10 that happen in our world of game lands and
11 activities that our people do, as well as the
12 volunteers.

13 What you're looking at there, and I'll
14 leave them up here for folks who may want to look
15 at them later, what you're looking at is a
16 photograph of a property of about 50 acres that
17 was purchased by the Game Commission with the
18 cooperation of the following people: Pennsylvania
19 Wildlife Habitat Unlimited, which is located out,
20 headquartered out in the DuBois area, Brookville
21 area; the Sinnamahoning Sportsman Association, up
22 in Sinnamahoning; and River Hill Coal Company.

23 These folks donated some actual dollars

1 to purchase this 50 acres, which give us access,
2 gave our hunters additional access to Game Lands
3 321, which I believe, and, Dennis, you can correct
4 me, I think that was purchased about four or five
5 years ago.

6 I went up there in April. They had a
7 volunteer day to come and clean the dump that you
8 see there. Part of the deal was, there was quite
9 a volume of material that had been used as a dump
10 unauthorized for many, many years and it's a steep
11 area, our land manager in that area, Colleen
12 Shannon, oversaw this, put the deal together.

13 It was an extremely wet day, heavy rain
14 on a Saturday. I went up to meet some of the
15 folks and watch them. This was on a Saturday.
16 There was quite a number of employees out there
17 working in that rain and Colleen was down on that
18 dump with several of our other people, and a whole
19 passel of young people. We talk about young
20 people, the Clinton County Clean Scape was
21 involved; Lock Haven University young people were
22 involved and I'll pass that photograph down so you
23 can see. We have a photograph of these folks in

1 raincoats in front of the dedication sign.

2 These are the good stories. There's
3 people there soaking wet, working to clean up that
4 dump and they did most of that work in about an
5 eight-hour period for our hunters.

6 What I found out was a lot of those young
7 people didn't even know about the Game Commission.
8 A lot of them didn't. They learned something that
9 day, plus volunteering their effort. They were
10 from all ethnic backgrounds and they came from a
11 wide area, not only in Pennsylvania, but attending
12 that school they came from other states. They
13 came out there and worked their dogs off cleaning
14 that up.

15 Denny Dusza and his group of officers
16 came out, put a tent up, provided chicken for
17 those people. The Habitat Unlimited people, who
18 were, unfortunately a lot of them were about my
19 age, so we need to get more young people in that
20 group, but they were out there as well. Not only
21 did they donate dollars, but they were out there.

22 I don't know, Denny, was there any
23 equipment donated or was that all of our

1 equipment?

2 MR. DUSZA: The Wayne Township Landfill,
3 which was Clinton County's landfill, they donated
4 the dumpsters and everything. In that six-hour
5 period they pulled up 22 tons of debris. It's
6 just unbelievable the amount of work that group
7 did.

8 The landfill permitted the stuff to go
9 into it for nothing, so it didn't cost us anything
10 to get rid of 22 tons of junk.

11 MR. SCHLEIDEN: This is an important
12 story. You always hear the other side of it.
13 This is an important story.

14 People talk about license increase, and
15 what and so on. This is what the Game Commission
16 does. This is what our people do. We manage
17 properties. We take care of these properties and
18 we have volunteers who don't ask questions. They
19 know what we're about and they're out there doing
20 it.

21 I thank you for giving me the time. I
22 wanted it on the record.

23 Dennis, I wanted to thank you and the

1 staff up there and a special to-dos to Colleen.
2 She looked like she was climbing Pork Chop Hill.

3 Thank you.

4 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Commissioner
5 Schleiden, both for the presentation today and for
6 your involvement in the matter.

7 We now move under other new business. We
8 have Commissioner Mohr over here on our far right.

9 Commissioner Mohr, my understanding with
10 your six-month extension on your term that that
11 six months is going to end on June 9, I believe.
12 I would like to thank you for sticking around for
13 the additional six months while we've been waiting
14 for your replacement and for your continued effort
15 on behalf of the agency. We haven't always agreed
16 with you on everything, but we certainly know
17 where you have stood and we appreciate that.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. ROE: I guess many of you know Steve.
20 I would say he's not shy. He's definitely
21 outspoken about what he believes and it's been a
22 real pleasure working with him throughout the
23 years I've been here. You always know where Steve

1 stood on an issue, never any doubt.

2 But what you don't probably know about
3 him, he has a tremendous sense of humor. You have
4 no idea some of the things he can come up with.
5 I've always enjoyed that about him. When it comes
6 thick and thin, Steve has always been able to come
7 up with a zinger for us to relieve the tension on
8 many issues, so . . .

9 If you've noticed, Steve lost quite a lot
10 of weight over a last year or so. It is
11 intentional I'm assuming. It hasn't been the
12 pressure of being a Commissioner on the Board.

13 (Pictures taken and presentation made.)

14 PRESIDENT BOOP: Well, again, I wait
15 until you get back to your seat, Steve. Again
16 we've appreciate all you've done on behalf of the
17 agency. I know you had an opportunity six months
18 ago to give some remarks. I've been threatened
19 with removal from office if I give you the mike
20 again, so I guess we'll rely on your remarks from
21 six months ago.

22 Now we'll move to Commissioner Riley.

23 Commissioner Riley, I understand your regular term

1 also expires on the ninth. I'm going to yield the
2 mike to you for some remarks. We're hoping that
3 you're going to exercise your option to stay with
4 us for an additional six months.

5 MR. ROE: Can we give him his prints
6 first and then let him?

7 PRESIDENT BOOP: Maybe we won't want to
8 give them to him after he speaks.

9 MR. ROE: As is the tradition, we give
10 our Commissioners a print for their service and a
11 print for those that served as president. John
12 has done both of that.

13 It's been a quick tour, hasn't it? It's
14 one of these ones where I would say it's been
15 smooth, but as many of you know John started out
16 with a bang. It's gotten better since then. It's
17 been a great pleasure working with John.

18 Obviously, like I said, it started off
19 with a little rough area there, but his tour as
20 the president of the Board was also a difficult
21 one, a period of transition, which is never easy,
22 and in following a process, a lot of people want
23 to get their fingers in and John held the line on

1 all that, along with the rest of the Board
2 members.

3 I won't say too much more about it, but
4 if I had to describe John Riley, I would say a
5 consummate gentleman. That's what always took me
6 about John all along.

7 So, Mr. Riley, for your service as
8 president I give you this.

9 (Presentation and pictures taken.)

10 MR. RILEY: I'm here about four-and-a-
11 half years and it's funny how the only thing I'm
12 noted for is my entry. It was kind of unique,
13 because the fellow before me was removed and they
14 wanted a Mr. Clean, et cetera, et cetera, to come
15 on the Board and not have all the controversy they
16 had before me.

17 Of course, they're well on their way. I
18 got involved in a little telephone conversation
19 with a couple of people and little did I know, I'm
20 Irish, so I didn't have it figured out there was
21 only six Board members at the time. I would be
22 number seven. At that time Gary Alt's Deer
23 Management Plan was invoked and the current

1 seasons were already in the regs.

2 The big thing being voted on at that
3 meeting, April 9, 2002, was the antler
4 restrictions. As you know, there were sides on
5 both sides of the table. So this discussion on
6 the phone was designed to get me involved and
7 knowing that I can go from zero to a hundred in
8 five seconds or so and that ended up with an
9 investigation and all that stuff. It was just
10 enough. So I think it was bad, so to speak. I
11 had no idea that sportsmen and hunters would go to
12 such limits.

13 I accompanied Gary Alt for four of his
14 presentations and he had two armed guards and wore
15 a Kevlar vest all over white-tailed deer. You
16 kind of wonder sometimes how people get so far out
17 with those things.

18 In my case, of course, I'm a business
19 person and we have eight children and a big family
20 and, of course, the newspapers were full of all of
21 this nonsense and everybody was embarrassed by it,
22 but I kind of learned to lay low after I got in
23 there.

1 So anyhow, we had to vote on the antler
2 restrictions and, of course, I was the swing vote
3 and most of them knew how I would vote to start
4 with and that's why we had the commotion. Fifty
5 years from now I'll be at my funeral probably.
6 I'll hear the story about the big bang and that's
7 that.

8 Over the next four years, four-and-a-half
9 years really now, it's really been a busy time.
10 This Board is just constantly besieged with
11 issues, a lot of items. Many issues, law
12 enforcement issues, every issue under the sun.
13 It's information, and education and manuals,
14 especially now with the tough times that we have,
15 so you're constantly under the gun.

16 We can remember that not long ago there
17 was the threat of the merger and all that, talking
18 to your representatives and going out and talking
19 to groups and telling them why you didn't think
20 this was a good idea, et cetera, et cetera, et
21 cetera.

22 Legislative initiatives are a constant as
23 you know, every day just about. House and Senate

1 Bills are out there constantly that we have to
2 look at and make our opinions about whether
3 they're good or bad.

4 CWD became a big issue in one of my first
5 meetings with Bob Boyd. I put the response team
6 together right off the bat because we were all
7 scared to death of what was happening. That was a
8 big thing.

9 Later on the elk range and those things,
10 the lead contamination with our ranges, about our
11 license increase and all of those things, and,
12 therefore, our budget, et cetera. Along the way
13 we had to select a new Executive Director and that
14 was not without its difficulty.

15 But, anyhow, we stood together as a
16 Board, with difference of opinions, but we stood
17 together nonetheless and we still got there.

18 When I first got in here I kind of asked
19 about how much of my time would this take because
20 I work full-time then and still do today. I was
21 told, oh, it will take about a half-a-day a month.
22 Yeah, exactly.

23 In all realty, it takes about a half-a-

1 day a day, if you're really going to do what it is
2 that you're supposed to do, and read your e-mails
3 and answer them, and answer your voice mails and
4 in my reading the correspondence, then you have
5 the irate people.

6 One of the first guys I got involved with
7 was in Roxanne's region. He sends me a letter
8 that I won't repeat, but it had different
9 salutations than you would normally expect.

10 If you had the intestinal fortitude
11 you'll call me and here's my number, et cetera.
12 So I called him. Yeah, blah, blah, blah. I said,
13 "This is John Riley."

14 "It is not. He wouldn't have the
15 intestinal fortitude to call me."

16 I said, "Well, here's your address."

17 Well, you, blah, blah, blah. So we
18 talked for about an hour. When we got done he
19 said, "Well, you're not such a bad guy after all."

20 I said, "Well, sorry I can't say that
21 about you."

22 "Why you SOB."

23 Really there were great times. So many

1 people that were being angry about things, call
2 them, talk to them. You're put upon constantly to
3 go to functions, fire company banquets, and gun
4 pro banquets and youth field days, and
5 conservation camps.

6 Then you speak to all these groups and
7 sometimes people get a little bit hostile. You
8 just have to find your way to do what it is you do
9 and just agree or disagree. You're not going to
10 change their mind, but don't get in a big fight
11 over an issue that you can't win.

12 But, anyhow, the business about deer
13 management, of course, is the big thing, wildlife
14 management particular, the deer side of that.
15 When you read about 1895 to 1995, you get an
16 education about what should have happened 50 years
17 ago, et cetera, et cetera.

18 I had the luck with discussing that with
19 Glenn Bower. He was also very descriptive in how
20 they tried to deal with issues 30 years ago and
21 did not get anywhere, so today we have all those
22 things.

23 But the education is the big thing, Title

1 34, 58, all the regulations, the things you had to
2 know about, the various bureaus from within the
3 agency.

4 I've been heavily involved with the Penn
5 State Federation of Sportsmen for 42 years, past
6 state president, state officer for more years than
7 I can remember. I did a lot of work with the Game
8 Commission so I thought I knew a little bit
9 something about it, only to find out upon my
10 arrival I really knew nothing about it. So that
11 was an education for me.

12 Really, it's been a pleasure. It's a
13 busy job. It takes a lot of energy and strong
14 conviction, very strong convictions. So I'm glad
15 I had the opportunity to serve in this capacity.
16 I think we've accomplished a great deal in the
17 short time that I've been here.

18 I know that everybody doesn't share that,
19 but then they don't sit in this seat either. So
20 that's where the differences are.

21 We try to do what is best for the
22 resource and the habitat and you know just a few
23 short meetings ago we had differences of opinion.

1 We have to work those out. We have to vote our
2 convictions and we have to keep our decorum. So
3 we do that. If you lose, you lose. If you win,
4 you win and you go on with the next issue.

5 I've always been grateful of all the
6 input, even those who I don't agree with almost
7 ever and have not agreed with for many, many
8 years. I'm anxious to hear the input. I read
9 their e-mails and I answer their correspondence.
10 I try to keep some kind of a rapport, even though
11 I knew they were responsible for my little
12 embarrassment when I first came here. It's
13 important to this Board that we hear all sides.
14 Even if we don't want to hear it, we need to hear
15 it.

16 That's why I think the CAC is a good idea
17 so that we can get the pulse of the people and add
18 that to the formula so it makes sense to maybe do
19 that. We need to hear from all the sides. We are
20 concerned with that.

21 No, we did not sell out to the insurance
22 companies, big timber and DCNR and everybody else
23 under the sun. Yes, we do care. Yes, we are

1 hunters. Yes, we are trappers, et cetera, so we
2 need to make the best of it. Everybody's opinion
3 counts, then we go with the wisest choices that we
4 feel that we can put together that makes sense for
5 the agency.

6 I think the big thing that I see that's
7 missing from many people, at least in my judgment,
8 is that they are not really adequately informed
9 about the issues, where we work, where we came
10 from, where we think we're going, how we're going
11 to get there and how to deal with the issues.

12 They just have their own personal
13 thoughts about seeing deer, not seeing deer, et
14 cetera, et cetera. They have no idea how hunting
15 has changed since we instituted the early seasons
16 and we have bucks living who are smarter. By the
17 time they're two-and-a-half-years old they have a
18 Ph.D. in how to stay away from hunters. It's just
19 different. We have to learn to hunt.

20 In my area there's no such thing as
21 baiting. I have Homeowner's Associations and
22 there's no hunting allowed at all, so USDA has to
23 come in and call deer and it's a terrible thing.

1 We can save the meat, sportsmen sharing their
2 harvest together and those things, but all in all,
3 it's a terrible thing.

4 We wouldn't even want to hunt those deer.
5 I just drive in the development, roll down the
6 window and hold out my hand and two or three deer
7 will come up and put their muzzle right in your
8 hand, whether you have anything in it or not and
9 you pat them on the head and the whole thing.
10 Nobody really wants to shoot people's pets. So
11 it's just a terrible thing. It really is.

12 You can go out in the state game lands
13 and you could see two deer and six coyotes. You
14 come into the Homeowner's Association you can see
15 50 deer in 20 minutes. They truly are pets. They
16 are fed and coddled and looked at from all those
17 things.

18 Anyhow, I think people really need to be
19 adequately informed about issues and study them,
20 read them and make informed decisions about what's
21 right and what's wrong, especially for the future
22 of this agency and the future of those who enjoyed
23 what we enjoyed over the last 79 years.

1 So it's been great. I thank all those
2 who have been involved, plus or minus. I'm sorry
3 for the big bang, but that's part of -- I seem to
4 have had a few of those in my life now that I
5 think about it.

6 But, anyhow, it's been my pleasure to be
7 a part of this Board and I want to thank all the
8 members of this Board, those who have served their
9 term and gone. I have to mention Bob Gilford, for
10 sure, the old curmudgeon and a good friend who has
11 always given me advice about keep your mouth shut.
12 I need that advice. If you don't believe me ask
13 Jerry Feeser, he'll vouch for me.

14 So, again, thank you, Commissioners.
15 Thank you, staff, and thank all of you who have
16 come faithfully to give testimony and share in
17 what we do here, so I thank everybody.

18 (Applause.)

19 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you very much,
20 John, for those remarks.

21 The one thing that I look back in my own
22 life and in many ways I'm just sort of an ordinary
23 person, but I've been very, very fortunate in my

1 career in every area that it seems almost every
2 time I get in a new situation I have been blessed
3 with having wonderful mentors.

4 When I first came on the Board with
5 Commissioner Isabella, you and Russ Schleiden
6 certainly were mentors that first year as we sort
7 of struggled to get our footing on the Board. In
8 my own experience, it does take about a year
9 before you really get comfortable in the position.
10 We could not have asked for better mentors than
11 the two of you.

12 I find you absolutely maddening at times.
13 I disagree with you on some issues, but, yet, at
14 the end of the day I know I can go and ask for
15 your advice and you will give it to me. The
16 advice, even if I don't agree with it, is always
17 on point. You have a wonderful ability to forget
18 where we disagree and to give the advice.

19 If you had the good judgment to become a
20 lawyer, you would be viewed as a lawyer's lawyer,
21 which is an extreme complement in my profession.
22 I think all of us as younger Commissioners have
23 benefitted from your counsel, even when we haven't

1 agreed with you, so thank you on behalf of all of
2 us. We're hoping that you will stay with us until
3 your replacement is chosen.

4 Is there anything else that we have under
5 new business?

6 MR. MOHR: A couple comments, Mr.
7 President. There's been quite a few inquiries
8 under the results of the infrared studies done
9 over the last spring and winter. Apparently, we
10 don't have those, but maybe if someone in our
11 agency could inquire now to DCNR so they would be
12 made available.

13 One other item that for eight years and
14 six months has been on the burner and that's to
15 extend the shooting hours. I sure hope that comes
16 back up again even after I'm gone.

17 PRESIDENT BOOP: Thank you, Commissioner
18 Mohr.

19 In the agenda, the time and place for our
20 next meeting has been set for October 1, 2 and 3.
21 I think that since I believe it has been decided
22 that we would go back to doing season and bag
23 limits in January, I guess I'm just wondering if

1 we need Sunday, October 1, or whether we can just
2 have our meeting on Monday and Tuesday, the second
3 and third of October. I believe that we can take
4 care of all the business we have in two days, but
5 if there's any Commissioner that feels otherwise,
6 I would certainly entertain their thoughts or
7 opinions.

8 (No response.)

9 PRESIDENT BOOP: Hearing none, I think
10 our meeting then will be Monday and Tuesday,
11 October 2 and 3, starting at 8:30 both mornings. I
12 think we're prepared to meet the press in a few
13 minutes after we adjourn, so does any other
14 Commissioner have any item for our June meeting?

15 Commissioner Palone.

16 MRS. PALONE: Mr. Boop, do you want
17 announce about the dog meeting at 1 o'clock?

18 PRESIDENT BOOP: Yes. Commissioner
19 Palone reminds me that the hound's people are
20 here. We're planning to meet with them at 1
21 o'clock this afternoon informally. If anyone in
22 the audience is interested, I think we'll either
23 meet in the cafeteria or in the training room,

1 depending upon the size of the group. We would
2 invite anyone to attend with us.

3 Again, if I didn't this morning, I'd like
4 to thank all of you for coming out and being part
5 of our meeting. We hope that you have benefitted
6 from it and the agency, I'm sure has.

7 So if there's nothing further, I'll
8 entertain a motion to adjourn.

9 MR. SCHLEIDEN: So moved.

10 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Schleiden.
11 Second?

12 MRS. PALONE: Second.

13 PRESIDENT BOOP: Commissioner Palone.
14 We're adjourned.

15 (Meeting adjourned 10:12 A.M.)

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I hereby certify that the proceedings taken
by me in the within matter are fully and accurately
indicated in my notes and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

Notary Public