

## 1                   BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

2

3

BEFORE:           David PUTNAM, Vice President

4

Ralph Martone, Commissioner

5

Brian Hoover, Secretary

6

Jay Delaney, Commissioner

7

Ron Weaner, Commissioner

8

Brad Betchel, Counsel

9

David Schreffler, Commissioner

10

Charles Fox, Commissioner

11

Carl G. Roe, Executive Director

12

R. Matthew Hough, Deputy Executive

13

Director

14

LOCATION:       PA Game Commission

15

2001 Elmerton Avenue

16

Harrisburg, PA 17110

17

HEARING:       Monday, April 15, 2013

18

9:01 a.m.

19

SPEAKERS:     Joe Neville, Bill Capouillez,

20

Chris Rosenberry

21

22

Reporter: Jolynn C. Prunoske

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DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES

3 - 63

## P R O C E E D I N G S

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VICE PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Let's call the formal meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission April meeting to order. We start off with the pledge of allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VICE PRESIDENT:

Before we have the rollcall of commissioners, I will announce that President Schlemmer has a pinched sciatic nerve and can't join us today, so as Vice President I'll be the acting president. Mr. Secretary, please call the roll of the commission.

MR. HOOVER:

Commissioner Weaner?

MR. WEANER:

Here.

MR. HOOVER:

Commissioner Delaney?

MR. DELANEY:

Present.

MR. HOOVER:

Commissioner Martone?

MR. MARTONE:

1 Present.

2 MR. HOOVER:

3 Commissioner Fox?

4 MR. FOX:

5 Here.

6 MR. HOOVER:

7 Mr. Schreffler?

8 MR. SCHREFFLER:

9 Present.

10 MR. HOOVER:

11 Mr. Putnam?

12 VICE PRESIDENT:

13 Present.

14 MR. HOOVER:

15 Commissioner Schlemmer is absent and

16 Commissioner Hoover is here.

17 VICE PRESIDENT:

18 Thank you. The first order of business  
19 will be the approval of the commission meeting minutes  
20 held January 29th, 2013.

21 MR. DELANEY:

22 So moved.

23 VICE PRESIDENT:

24 Then moved. Do we have a second?

25 MR. WEANER:

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Second.

VICE PRESIDENT:

Moved by Commissioner Delaney, and seconded by Commissioner Weaner. All in favor signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

VICE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Secretary.

MR. HOOVER:

The motion passes unanimously.

VICE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. We'll now turn it over to our counselor.

ATTORNEY BETCHEL:

Thank you, Commissioner. The first item to come before the commission today comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Management. It is adopted rule making, adoption of proposed amendments to Section 139.17 relating to wildlife management units to provide updated wildlife management unit boundaries. The text is shown on page three and a map is shown on page four of the agenda.

MR. WEANER:

So moved.

MR. SCHREFFLER:

1                   Seconded.

2                   VICE PRESIDENT:

3                   Moving by Commissioner Weaner, seconded  
4 by Commissioner Schreffler. Do we have any  
5 discussion?

6                   MR. WEANER:

7                   Mr. President.

8                   VICE PRESIDENT:

9                   Mr. Weaner.

10                  MR. WEANER:

11                  If this passes, we introduce the new  
12 wildlife management units, then there will have to be  
13 changes made throughout the rest of the meeting today.

14                  So in light of that, I move to amend this motion by  
15 adding WMU2H in all of the locations highlighted in  
16 section 139.4. This amendment will fully implement  
17 the creation of the wildlife management unit 2H by  
18 creating designated seasons for this wildlife  
19 management unit.

20                  VICE PRESIDENT:

21                  We have a motion. Do we have a second?

22

23                  MR. SCHREFFLER:

24                  Second.

25                  VICE PRESIDENT:

1 All in favor of the motion, signify by  
2 saying aye.

3 AYES RESPOND

4 VICE PRESIDENT:

5 Okay. We have an amended motion on the  
6 floor. Do we have any discussion on the amended  
7 motion? All in favor of the amended motion signify by  
8 saying aye.

9 AYES RESPOND

10 VICE PRESIDENT:

11 Mr. Secretary.

12 MR. HOOVER:

13 Motion passes unanimously.

14 VICE PRESIDENT:

15 Thank you.

16 MR. WEANER:

17 Point of order, Mr. President (sic),  
18 probably from now on you ought to ask in addition to  
19 all in favor say aye, all opposed say no.

20 VICE PRESIDENT:

21 Thank you, Mr. Weaner.

22 ATTORNEY BETCHEL:

23 The second item to come before the  
24 commission is adoption of proposed amendments to  
25 section 139.4 relating to seasons and bag limits for

1 the license year to provide updated seasons and bag  
2 limits for the 2013-2014 hunting license year. The  
3 text of these are shown on pages 6 through 13. And I  
4 would also note just for the record that Commissioner  
5 Weaner's amendment, you have already approved the  
6 addition of WMU2H where it shows in the text.

7 VICE PRESIDENT:

8 Seasons and bag limits. Do we have a  
9 motion to accept the seasons and bag limits:

10 MR. Delaney:

11 So moved:

12 MR. WEANER:

13 Seconded.

14 VICE PRESIDENT:

15 Moved by Commissioner Delaney. Seconded  
16 by Commissioner Weaner. All in favor signify by  
17 saying aye ---.

18 MR. WEANER:

19 Open for discussion.

20 VICE PRESIDENT:

21 Hold that. We'll now discuss the seasons  
22 and bag limits. We will do it page by page. We're  
23 starting on page six. Does anyone have any  
24 discussions or proposed amendments for page six.

25 MR. HOOVER:

1                   Mr. President, I'd like to make a motion  
2 to amend the squirrel season early season dates to  
3 October 12th through the 18th for eligible junior  
4 hunters and October 19th through November 30th for  
5 regular season. I feel that we're looking at some  
6 issues with coverage in the trees as far as having  
7 mentored youth and junior hunters out there taking  
8 shots with .22s and having archers in the woods and up  
9 in the trees. So that would be my concern.

10                   MR. WEANER:

11                   Second.

12                   VICE PRESIDENT:

13                   We have a motion that's been moved and  
14 seconded by --- it was made by Commissioner Hoover,  
15 seconded by Commissioner Weaner. Do we have any  
16 discussion? Commissioner Martone.

17                   MR. MARTONE:

18                   I would urge the Board to stick with the  
19 seasons that we have in place on the agenda. I think  
20 we're just coming in line with our neighbor states of  
21 Maryland, Virginia, New York, West Virginia, Ohio.  
22 And we haven't seen any issues in safety with those  
23 states. We don't have any issues with safety with our  
24 archery and squirrel season overlapping now. And I  
25 think this offers a great opportunity for our youth

1 and mentored hunters to get out and do some small game  
2 hunting. So I would urge the Board to stick with the  
3 dates that are on our current agenda. Thank you.

4 VICE PRESIDENT:

5 Commissioner Schreffler.

6 MR. SCHREFFLER:

7 Although I had some early concerns with  
8 this earlier season, after explanation by our staff  
9 biologists and the excellent reporting provided to the  
10 Board in our working group meetings and so on that I  
11 don't think that the impact would be as great and very  
12 little chance of even finding a time of the year when  
13 squirrels possibly aren't breeding and so on. So I  
14 agree with Commissioner Martone and encourage the rest  
15 of us to go along with the regular season.

16 VICE PRESIDENT:

17 Commissioner Delaney.

18 MR. Delaney:

19 I'll weigh in as long as some other  
20 commissioners have. From day one, I have had concerns  
21 with the safety aspect of a .22 mag being shot into  
22 the woods with the full fall foliage in place and that  
23 bullet is going to go a mile. And sometimes we don't  
24 know what's on the other side of a tree with all those  
25 leaves on it. So I will be supporting this amendment.

1                   VICE PRESIDENT:

2                   Commissioner Weaner.

3                   MR. WEANER:

4                   For the same reasons that he just stated  
5 and also what Mr. Hoover had said, I think that I'm in  
6 favor of going back to the traditional season as well,  
7 and I therefore I urge to vote yes on this amendment.

8                   VICE PRESIDENT:

9                   Any additional comments? All those in  
10 favor of the amendment signify by saying aye.

11 AYES RESPOND

12                   VICE PRESIDENT:

13                   All those opposed?

14 NAYS RESPOND

15                   VICE PRESIDENT:

16                   I think we need to do a hand vote on  
17 this. All those in favor of the proposed amendment  
18 signify by raising your right hand.

19 VOTES TAKEN

20                   VICE PRESIDENT:

21                   All those opposed to the proposed  
22 amendment signify by raising your right hand?

23 VOTES TAKEN

24                   VICE PRESIDENT:

25                   Mr. Secretary.

1                   MR. HOOVER:

2                   The motion passes four to three.

3                   VICE PRESIDENT:

4                   Would you read off the names of each  
5 vote.

6                   MR. HOOVER:

7                   Commissioner Weaner, yes; Commissioner  
8 Delaney, yes; Commissioner Martone, no; Commissioner  
9 Fox, no; Commissioner Schreffler, no; Commissioner  
10 Putnam, yes; Commissioner Hoover, yes; and  
11 Commissioner Schlemmer is absent.

12                   VICE PRESIDENT:

13                   Thank you. The motion fails --- the  
14 motion passes. Okay. Now, do we have any additional  
15 changes to page six? Moving on to page seven.

16                   MR. Delaney:

17                   Mr. Vice President, I have some changes  
18 or some proposals and an amendment with regard to the  
19 pheasants on page seven. I propose on line 16 ring  
20 neck pheasants male only, WMUs 2A, 2C, 4C, 4E, 5A and  
21 5B to be added for a season of December 16th to the  
22 24th, December 26th through February 27th. I'm sorry.  
23 22nd. I will repeat that. December 26th through  
24 February 22nd. Following down to line 21 regarding  
25 male and female pheasants, in WMU 1A, 1B, 2B, 2D, 2E,

1 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4D, 5C, and 5D, to  
2 close the season on February 22nd, 2014 to coincide  
3 with the regular rabbit season.

4 MR. WEANER:

5 Second.

6 VICE PRESIDENT:

7 We have a motion by Commissioner  
8 Delaney, seconded by Commissioner Weaner.  
9 Discussion? Commissioner Delaney, would you explain  
10 the impact of your proposal?

11 MR. Delaney:

12 Yes. The Game Commission raises and  
13 releases 200,000 pheasants statewide to be harvested,  
14 to be hunted and to be utilized. And there has been a  
15 growing swell of support from sportsmen to be able to  
16 harvest the game farm birds where they are still  
17 available late in the season. We have beaglers out  
18 hunting rabbits late into February that ran into the  
19 game farm hens, hens and cock birds that the Game  
20 Commissions stocks and to utilize it would be a --- it  
21 would be a resource that they can utilize.

22 The same thing for instance WMU --- I'm  
23 not sure if it was 5A or 5B Lancaster area, we stocked  
24 almost 7,000 cock birds. And those sportsmen wanted  
25 additional opportunity to be able to harvest the game

1 farm birds. We certainly want to protect our wild  
2 pheasant recovery areas. And those, the first set of  
3 WMUs that I had mentioned, will stay male only. We do  
4 want to protect the game farm hens --- I'm sorry, we  
5 want to protect the hen pheasants in those WMUs. But  
6 we feel there's a justification.

7 We raise those birds to be released for  
8 hunters to be able to utilize. And I think the Board  
9 has heard from sportsmen across the state loud and  
10 clear what they would like to be able to do with the  
11 resource that they paid for.

12 VICE PRESIDENT:

13 Mr. Schreffler.

14 MR. SCHREFFLER:

15 I'd like to concur with Mr. Delaney and  
16 support this motion. I, of course, encourage my  
17 fellow commissioners to do likewise. I also have  
18 heard from sportsmen and also feel that this is only  
19 logical that these birds be utilized by sportsmen  
20 after they spend the money and the Game Commission  
21 spent considerable time and money to get them out  
22 there for us to enjoy it in our hunting activities.  
23 And I do want to emphasize that the wild pheasant  
24 recovery areas will still be well protected. They're  
25 designed to be buffered and so on. There will be no

1 hunting in those, as has been the normal there for the  
2 last several years, so ---. Thank you.

3 VICE PRESIDENT:

4 Thank you. Any additional discussion?  
5 All those in favor of the amended motion signify by  
6 saying aye.

7 AYES RESPOND

8 VICE PRESIDENT:

9 Opposed?

10 NAYS RESPOND

11 VICE PRESIDENT:

12 Mr. Secretary.

13 MR. HOOVER:

14 Motion passed unanimously.

15 VICE PRESIDENT:

16 Any additional discussion on page seven?

17 Page eight. Discussion on page eight. Turkey  
18 season. Commissioner Martone.

19 MR. MARTONE:

20 Yeah, I've heard from considerable  
21 number of turkey hunters requesting that May 3rd date  
22 for spring gobbler be moved to April 26th, which is  
23 the Saturday prior. However, we did get testimony  
24 from the turkey biologist and the Bureau Director for  
25 Wildlife Management that that may not be the best

1 choice of an opening date. And I can understand that.

2 And obviously we want to protect our resource that we  
3 work so hard to get a good turkey population.

4 But the date that keeps coming up is ---  
5 everything is focussed on May 1st as the key date for  
6 determining when the season should start. So I would  
7 like to propose that at this time we change the  
8 opening date for spring gobbler from May 3rd to May  
9 1st, 2014. Thank you.

10 VICE PRESIDENT:

11 We have a motion. Do we have a second?

12 The motion fails for lack of a second. Any other  
13 discussion on page eight? Page nine? Page ten?

14 MR. SCHREFFLER:

15 Yes.

16 VICE PRESIDENT:

17 Commissioner Schreffler.

18 MR. SCHREFFLER:

19 Yes. I would like to offer an amendment  
20 to deer regular firearms antlered and antlerless. I'd  
21 like to ---.

22 VICE PRESIDENT:

23 Commissioner, will you turn you  
24 microphone on?

25 MR. SCHREFFLER:



1 year before we open this area up. So my motion would  
2 be to delete 4B from this extended bear any age  
3 extended firearms, third item from the bottom.

4 MR. Delaney:

5 Second.

6 VICE PRESIDENT:

7 We have a motion by Commissioner Weaner,  
8 seconded by Commissioner Delaney. Discussion?

9 MR. WEANER:

10 Just to follow up. If we have another  
11 year and we have similar results within --- that we  
12 had in the last year and there's still recommendation  
13 to go this, I'll look at it a lot better next year.  
14 But I just think to be cautious I'm going to urge us  
15 to take this out of the deer season.

16 VICE PRESIDENT:

17 Any additional discussion? All those in  
18 favor of the proposed amendment signify by saying aye.

19 AYES RESPOND

20 VICE PRESIDENT:

21 Those opposed?

22 MR. SCHREFFLER:

23 Opposed.

24 VICE PRESIDENT:

25 Mr. Secretary.

1                   MR. HOOVER:

2                   The motion passes six to one.

3                   VICE PRESIDENT:

4                   Can you read off the votes of the  
5 commissioners?

6                   MR. HOOVER:

7                   Commissioner Weaner, yes; Commissioner  
8 Delaney; yes. Commissioner Martone, yes; Commissioner  
9 Fox, yes; Commissioner Schreffler, no; Commissioner  
10 Putnam, yes; Commissioner Hoover, yes; and  
11 Commissioner Schlemmer, absent.

12                   VICE PRESIDENT:

13                   Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Is there any  
14 other discussion on page 11? Page 12? No discussion  
15 on page 12. We'll move to page 13. If there is no  
16 additional amendments, we can discuss the entire  
17 proposal or vote on it. We have had discussion. Any  
18 additional discussion? We'll vote on the amended  
19 season and bag limit. All those in favor, signify by  
20 saying aye.

21 AYES RESPOND

22                   VICE PRESIDENT:

23                   Those opposed? Mr. Secretary.

24                   MR. HOOVER:

25                   Motion passes unanimously.

1                   ATTORNEY BETCHEL:

2                   The next item before the Commission  
3 comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Protection. This is  
4 adopted rule making. It concerns the adoption of  
5 proposed amendments to Section 137.35 relating to  
6 feral swine and wild boar eradication to remove  
7 protection for feral swine and wild boar statewide,  
8 wherever found, and also to prohibit the importation,  
9 possession and release into the wild of feral swine  
10 and wild boar. The text of this is found on pages 15  
11 and 16 of your agenda.

12                   VICE PRESIDENT:

13                   We have a motion.

14                   MR. Delaney:

15                   Mr. Vice President, I would like to  
16 offer the following.

17                   VICE PRESIDENT:

18                   Commissioner Delaney.

19                   MR. Delaney:

20                   With regards to wild boar, I would like  
21 to move to make a motion that the Executive Director  
22 have staff prepare language which amends the proposal  
23 in front of us today to include the severability  
24 clause, so that in the event there is legislation  
25 and/or regulations passed at a later date which govern

1 wild boars and superseded whatever regulations we may  
2 pass, there's a provision in our regulations  
3 indicating which sections, if any, are still in  
4 effect. I would like that language to be added to the  
5 proposed regulation so that we can vote on the  
6 proposal as amended at the June meeting.

7 VICE PRESIDENT:

8 Is there a second?

9 MR. WEANER:

10 Second.

11 VICE PRESIDENT:

12 Motion by Commissioner Delaney, seconded  
13 by Commissioner Weaner. Discussion.

14 MR. Delaney:

15 Mr. Vice President, what this is all  
16 about, both our staff and the Board have had  
17 discussions with members of the legislature. And we  
18 feel that by providing this necessary time to them, we  
19 can comply with the law and at the same time give us  
20 some time to bring some common sense to what we're  
21 doing.

22 VICE PRESIDENT:

23 Thank you. Any additional discussion?  
24 All those in favor of the proposed amendment please  
25 signify by saying aye.

1 AYES RESPOND

2 VICE PRESIDENT:

3 Those opposed? Mr. Secretary.

4 MR. HOOVER:

5 Motion passes unanimously.

6 ATTORNEY BETCHEL:

7 The next item before the Commission is  
8 the adoption of proposed amendments to Chapter 141  
9 appendix G relating to hunting hours. By replacing  
10 the current hunting hours table and migratory bird  
11 hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates  
12 and hours of legal hunting for the 2013 through 2014  
13 hunting license year.

14 The Commission is also proposing to  
15 amend section 141.4 relating to hunting hours to add  
16 feral swine and wild boar to the list of species that  
17 may be lawfully taken during the regular antlered and  
18 antlerless deer seasons and expand references to the  
19 seasons during which coyotes may be hunted to big  
20 game. The text of these changes is shown is on pages  
21 18 through 20 of your agenda.

22 VICE PRESIDENT:

23 Do we have a motion?

24 MR. Delaney:

25 So moved.

1 VICE PRESIDENT:

2 Do we have a second?

3 MR. HOOVER:

4 Second.

5 VICE PRESIDENT:

6 Motion by Commissioner Schreffler.

7 Second by Mr. Commissioner Hoover. Any discussion?

8 All those in favor of the proposed motion signify by  
9 saying aye.

10 AYES RESPOND

11 VICE PRESIDENT:

12 Opposed? Mr. Secretary.

13 MR. HOOVER:

14 Motion passes unanimously.

15 MR. SCHREFFLER:

16 The next item before the Commission  
17 comes from the Bureau of Information and Education in  
18 terms of adopted rule making, in adoption of proposed  
19 amendments to section 143.12 relating to hunter  
20 education training to give the director the authority  
21 to establish hunter education course registration fees  
22 or certificate replacement fees. The text of this  
23 amendment is shown on page 22.

24 VICE PRESIDENT:

25 Do we have a motion?

1                   MR. SCHREFFLER:

2                   So moved.

3                   VICE PRESIDENT:

4                   Commissioner Schreffler. Do we have a  
5 second?

6                   MR. HOOVER:

7                   Second.

8                   VICE PRESIDENT:

9                   Second Commissioner Hoover. Discussion.

10                  MR. SCHREFFLER:

11                  Yes.

12                  VICE PRESIDENT:

13                  Commissioner Schreffler.

14                  MR. SCHREFFLER:

15                  I've had number of times when hunters  
16 have contacted me, and this would be extremely helpful  
17 to them, especially the ability to get certificate  
18 replacements easily and I think that clears up the  
19 problems in the past.

20                  VICE PRESIDENT:

21                  I agree and I would ask Director Neville  
22 to please expand on this to further explain exactly  
23 what we're doing here and what the benefits would be  
24 to the hunters.

25                  MR. NEVILLE:

1                   Thank you, Commissioner. What this  
2 allows us to do is contract with a third-party vendor  
3 to allow replacement cards to be fulfilled through an  
4 electronic system 24/7 and from anywhere you have  
5 Internet access. Currently hunters have to go through  
6 the Game Commission during our normal business hours  
7 and may have to wait a few days to get their card in  
8 the mail. This would streamline that process and make  
9 it easier for them.

10                   VICE PRESIDENT:

11                   If I would fly to Colorado and my  
12 baggage is lost and I go to get my license and don't  
13 have my card, how does this help me?

14                   MR. NEVILLE:

15                   You could go onto the Internet, pay a  
16 few dollars and have a card printout right there and  
17 go hunting, get your license right there.

18                   VICE PRESIDENT:

19                   I'm sure this would relieve a lot of  
20 consternation that's occurred over the years from that  
21 type of situation. Any additional discussion? Do we  
22 have a vote on this? All those in favor signify by  
23 saying aye.

24 AYES RESPOND

25                   VICE PRESIDENT:

1                   Those opposed? Mr. Secretary.

2                   MR. HOOVER:

3                   Motion passes unanimously.

4                   ATTORNEY BETCHEL:

5                   The next item before the Commission  
6 comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management  
7 concerning real estate. The first two are land  
8 exchanges contract number 3632, State Game Land Number  
9 223 in Greene County. Mark West Liberty Midstream and  
10 Resources, LLC is offering 98 more or less acres of  
11 land adjacent to State Game Land Number 223, Greene  
12 and Cumberland Townships, in Greene County, as shown  
13 on Exhibit RED One on page 25 of your agenda.

14                   In lieu of habitat and surface damages  
15 for an amendment to an existing right-of-way license  
16 that allows Mark West Liberty Midstream and Resources,  
17 LLC to construct a new 20"-diameter pipeline across  
18 State Game Lands Number 232, Blaine and Donegal  
19 Townships, Washington County, as shown on Exhibit RED  
20 Two, on page 26 of your agenda. The new 20" pipeline  
21 parallels an existing gas pipeline for 6,933' and then  
22 traverses another 16,052' along a new alignment. The  
23 right of way is 75' wide with an additional 25' width  
24 as a temporary construction area and has five  
25 additional 50' by 100' temporary work areas for

1 staging equipment, as well as the privilege of  
2 constructing approximately 1,928' of roadway having a  
3 width of 20' to be used as temporary access to  
4 construct the pipeline.

5           The property being offered is mainly  
6 forested with mixed hardwoods with approximately five  
7 acres of shrub land and reverting oil fields.  
8 Acquiring the 98 acres will provide much needed access  
9 into northern portion of State Game Land 223 by way of  
10 Kurans Road.

11           The next exchange is contract number  
12 3633, State Game Land Number 91, Luzerne County. Blue  
13 Ridge Real Estate Company, BRRE, is offering 3,684  
14 more or less acres of land adjacent to and near State  
15 Game Land Number 91, Bear Creek and Buck Townships,  
16 Luzerne County, as shown on Exhibit RED Three on page  
17 27 of your agenda.

18           PPL Electric Utilities Corporation has  
19 requested multiple right-of-way licenses to construct  
20 electric transmission facilities across numerous State  
21 Game Lands in the northeast and has agreed to convey  
22 land to the Commission in lieu of habitat and surface  
23 damages. The electric transmission projects are  
24 detailed in your agenda and are shown on Exhibit RED  
25 Four on page 28, Exhibit RED Five on page 29 and

1 Exhibit RED Six on page 30, Exhibit RED Seven on page  
2 31, Exhibit RED Eight on page 32 and Exhibit RED Nine  
3 on page 33.

4 BRRE will retain the rights to develop  
5 the oil and gas until June 30, 2023. The tracts are a  
6 mixed oak/maple forest interspersed with stands of  
7 hemlock and white pine. The understory is comprised  
8 of low bush blueberry and mountain laurel. All the  
9 tracts are part of the Upper Lehigh River watershed.  
10 Tracts BRRE2 contain Stoney Run, a tributary to Bear  
11 Creek and Whitehouse Run. Access into the BRRE2  
12 tracts is from Route 115. BRRE14 borders  
13 approximately two miles of Choke Creek, which is  
14 classified as exceptional value and is a documented  
15 brook trout spawning stream. Access into BRRE14 is  
16 from SR 2040, Buck River Road.

17 The combined acreage will provide for  
18 continuity of hunter/trapper access and habitat  
19 management by linking State Game Lands together with  
20 other lands being managed for conservation.

21 VICE PRESIDENT:

22 Do we have a motion to accept the  
23 proposed land exchange?

24 MR. WEANER:

25 So moved.



1 a right-of-way land exchange. And in this particular  
2 case, you're looking at roughly 270 acres total,  
3 easement for right away on existing game lands, we  
4 still maintain control and own that acreage, in  
5 exchange for the 3,700 acres that's going to be made  
6 available.

7                   And what you don't see on the map is how  
8 that acreage is situated throughout those regions.  
9 There is what is called the National Land Trust, which  
10 is the Bear Creek Preserve. They have a lot of  
11 acreage in the area. DCNR of the Lackawanna State  
12 Forest has acreage in the area. And these tracts that  
13 we are purchasing actually link all that up as  
14 continuous habitat for a corridor of not only for  
15 species management but also for sportsmen to enjoy.  
16 Roughly a third of that area that we're talking, or  
17 270 acres, is already in right of way.

18                   So when we went through the alternative  
19 analysis, it just makes sense for them to continue to  
20 expand upon or utilize the existing right of way. And  
21 in purchasing that acreage through those damages, as a  
22 right of way land exchange, I personally have never  
23 been involved in anything that big. That particular  
24 area for acquisition, that Luzerne County area, that's  
25 the largest acquisition we have had in over 50 years.

1                   MR. DELANEY:

2                   There's gated communities is what's  
3 popping up all over the place there in that area. But  
4 I'm glad you're able to stand here, Dan Figured and  
5 the rest of your staff that pulled this stuff off.  
6 There's no doubt in northeastern Pennsylvania.

7                   This is a hotly-contested issue, but I  
8 think when whether you're a conservationist or a  
9 hunter or a trapper and you look at what the  
10 Pennsylvania Game Commission and our wild resources  
11 and our sportsmen are getting compared to what the  
12 little bit of sacrifice we had to give up, this is a  
13 phenomenal a deal with Marcellus Shale in Northeastern  
14 Pennsylvania and the Pocono Vacation Community and to  
15 be able to pull off such a large tract of land like  
16 this, but it's just so interconnected.

17                   When you look at a map of that whole  
18 region, generations and generations and generations  
19 will always have this type of large expansive public  
20 land so, I mean, the entire staff here needs to be  
21 congratulated for pulling this off. And in my over  
22 six years on the Board I have yet --- you pull a lot  
23 of rabbits out of hats --- but this is amazing how you  
24 and your staff pulled this whole thing together.  
25                   Very good work. I will be supporting it for sure.

1                   MR. WEANER:

2                   Mr. President (sic).

3                   VICE PRESIDENT:

4                   Commissioner Weaner.

5                   MR. WEANER:

6                   To follow up on this, too, and the thing  
7 that is the most intriguing here is 3,684 acres. This  
8 is land that was fairly well through the development  
9 process. This was going to be built full of houses,  
10 and instead it is part of the game lands right now.  
11 That's unbelievable, too. So I urge us all to vote  
12 yes on this.

13                   VICE PRESIDENT:

14                   Any additional discussion? We have a  
15 proposal to adopt the two land contracts. All those  
16 in favor signify by saying aye.

17 AYES RESPOND

18                   VICE PRESIDENT:

19                   Opposed? Mr. Secretary.

20                   MR. HOOVER:

21                   Motion passes unanimously.

22                   ATTORNEY BETCHEL:

23                   The next item concerns oil, gas and  
24 minerals. And it's a restricted surface use oil and  
25 gas cooperative agreement amendment. Tract 36B-12,

1 State Game Land Number 36, Bradford County.  
2 Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC, or Chesapeake, of Oklahoma  
3 City, Oklahoma, proposes to amend their existing  
4 Restricted Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative  
5 Agreement for Tract 36B-12 by adding 1,091.9 acres to  
6 their lease area.

7 Tract 36B-12 is located on a portion of  
8 State Game Lands Number 36 in Monroe and Overton  
9 Townships, Bradford County, as shown on Exhibit OGM  
10 One on page 35 of your agenda. In 2012, the  
11 Commission offered a competitive royalty bid for the  
12 development of oil and gas on Tract 36B-12 and  
13 Chesapeake submitted the highest royalty bid of 25.5  
14 percent. Chesapeake has agreed to non-surface use on  
15 the amended portion of the agreement. Chesapeake has  
16 been able to secure the development leasehold in the  
17 area and the amendment to the existing lease will  
18 maximize the Commission's value for oil, gas recovery,  
19 while minimizing the overall impact to the wildlife  
20 resources and recreational uses of State Game Land  
21 Number 36.

22 The terms of the amendment will remain  
23 consistent with the existing agreement, approved by  
24 the Commission in June 2012, which includes a \$2,000  
25 per acre bonus payment and a 25.5 percent royalty for

1 the additional lease acreage. Oil and gas development  
2 will be regulated by the Commonwealth's Oil and Gas  
3 Regulations and the Commission's Standard Restricted  
4 Service Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement.

5 The bonus payment of \$2,183,800 shall be  
6 deposited into the Game Fund or an interest-bearing  
7 escrow account for the future purchase of wildlife  
8 habitats, lands, or other uses incidental to hunting,  
9 furtaking and wildlife resource management.

10 VICE PRESIDENT:

11 Do we have a motion to accept this  
12 amended agreement?

13 MR. FOX:

14 So moved.

15 VICE PRESIDENT:

16 Commissioner Fox.

17 MR. Hoover:

18 Second.

19 VICE PRESIDENT:

20 Seconded by Commissioner Hoover.

21 Discussion? No discussion. All those in favor of the  
22 proposed amendment to the agreement signify by saying  
23 aye.

24 AYES RESPOND

25 VICE PRESIDENT:

1                   Opposed? Mr. Secretary.

2                   MR. HOOVER:

3                   Motion passed unanimously.

4                   ATTORNEY BETCHEL:

5                   The next item --- and to supplement  
6 here, gentlemen, there's also a real estate owned ---  
7 this is an acquisition contract number 3634, State  
8 Game Land Number 168 Monroe County and State Game Land  
9 Number 217 Schuylkill County. Wildlands Conservancy,  
10 Inc. is offering for sale two properties totaling 738  
11 more or less acres. Wildlands Conservancy is work ing  
12 on behalf of the Palmerton Natural Resources Trustee  
13 Council, consisting of seven agencies: The United  
14 States Department of Interior, The United States Fish  
15 and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
16 Administration, the Pennsylvania Game Commission,  
17 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat commission, Pennsylvania  
18 Department of Environmental Protection and Natural  
19 Resources.

20                   The trustees council had received a  
21 financial settlement to resolve claims for natural  
22 resource damages in connection with the Palmerton Zinc  
23 Pile Superfund Site in Northampton and Monroe  
24 Counties. The trustee council has agreed to provide  
25 funding to acquire portions of these properties as

1 compensation and mitigation for natural resource  
2 impacts.

3           The Commission agreed to provide the  
4 land funds so the properties could be added to the  
5 State Game Land System. The first property known as  
6 Alpine Motor Sports Track is 354 more or less acres  
7 adjacent to State Game Land Number 168 in Eldred  
8 Township, Monroe County Exhibit RED Ten.

9           The property is located on the outside  
10 of Blue Mountain and adjoins the Appalachian Trail  
11 corridor on south. The property is a mix oak forest  
12 with approximately 25 acres of reverting fields.  
13 Approximately 3,600 feet of that, Aquashicola Creek, a  
14 high-volume cold water fishery running through the  
15 property. There are 40 acres of high-quality wetlands  
16 and repairing corridors --- that access is from Upper  
17 Smith Gap Road.

18           The second property know as the  
19 Nothstein tract is 384 more or less acres adjacent to  
20 State Game Land Number 217 in West Penn Township,  
21 Schuylkill County, shown on Exhibit RED 11. The  
22 property is located on the north side of Blue Mountain  
23 and joins the Appalachian Trail corridor to the south,  
24 and is comprised of a mixed wood forest. There is a  
25 one acre pond on the property, as well as a

1 rhododendron line spring on the east side.

2                   Access is from State Game Land number  
3 217 and Deer Lane, a private road. The Game  
4 Commission shall provide one million dollars for  
5 acquisition the acquisition of both properties with  
6 funds from third-party commitments for compensation of  
7 habitat and recreational losses which occurred on  
8 State Game Lands from previously approved projects.

9                   The Commission, as Trustee Council  
10 members and landowners shall be responsible for  
11 maintaining ownership and exercising a sufficient  
12 control and management over these properties to ensure  
13 the properties meet the objectives for which they were  
14 acquired.

15                   VICE PRESIDENT:

16                   Do we have a motion to approve the  
17 proposed acquisition?

18                   MR. WEANER:

19                   So moved.

20                   VICE PRESIDENT:

21                   Commissioner Weaner.

22                   MR. SCHREFFLER:

23                   Second.

24                   VICE PRESIDENT:

25                   Second Commissioner Schreffler.

1 Discussion. There being no discussion, we will vote  
2 on the proposed acquisition. All those in favor  
3 signify by saying aye.

4 AYES RESPOND

5 VICE PRESIDENT:

6 Opposed? Mr. Secretary.

7 MR. HOOVER:

8 Motion passes unanimously.

9 MR. CAPOVILLEZ:

10 Vice President Putnam, I have another  
11 consideration for the Board. Section 135.241 of 58PA  
12 Code, authorizes the right for us to bid on a maximum  
13 of \$500,000 for real estate, oil, gas and mineral  
14 rights at auction or tax sale, and request down  
15 payment for checks to bid on those properties at  
16 auction.

17 The intent of the authorization is to  
18 allow the Commission the flexibility to react quickly  
19 in a bedded environment in order to acquire key tracts  
20 of land or rights which will further protect and  
21 promote the wildlife resources management initiatives,  
22 as well as increase recreational values on existing  
23 game land's areas.

24 Currently, there is an upcoming real  
25 estate auction, which, if purchased by the Commission,

1 will improve critical and needed wildlife habitats,  
2 and will provide for a much-needed public access to  
3 existing game lands. The real estate being sold at  
4 auction has been identified as a high priority for the  
5 Commission, and may ultimately sell for more than the  
6 \$500,000 maximum bid to authorization, which is  
7 inherited to the executive director.

8 So as to such, the Bureau of Wildlife  
9 Habitat Management is requesting authorization on  
10 behalf of the executive director, to bid whatever  
11 dollar amount is needed to be competitive and in the  
12 hope that we can successfully acquire that particular  
13 key real estate for the Commission and the sporting  
14 public.

15 VICE PRESIDENT:

16 Do we have a motion to provide the  
17 acquisition authority?

18 MR. SCHREFFLER:

19 Mr. Vice President.

20 VICE PRESIDENT:

21 Commissioner Schreffler.

22 MR. SCHREFFLER:

23 Thank you. Mr. Vice President, I make a  
24 motion to fully authorize the Executive Director of  
25 the Pennsylvania Game Commission the ability to

1 competitively bid at any real estate auction occurring  
2 between now and the next regularly-scheduled Board of  
3 Commissioners meeting.

4                   Whatever dollar value deems to be  
5 appropriate and in the best interest of the Commission  
6 and the wildlife resources and the sporting public,  
7 which was just mentioned. This authorization is to be  
8 conditioned such that any successful bids must be made  
9 known to the general public at the next  
10 regularly-scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting.

11                   VICE PRESIDENT:

12                   Thank you. Do we have a second?

13                   MR. WEANER:

14                   Second.

15                   VICE PRESIDENT:

16                   Commissioner Weaner. Discussion?

17                   MR. Delaney:

18                   Yes, Mr. Vice President. I just have a  
19 question for Bill, or I should say to Commissioner  
20 Schreffler. This means any and/or all, or any  
21 additional, or are we talking about targeting this  
22 property?

23                   COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER:

24                   We're talking about targeting this  
25 particular property.

1                   MR. Delaney:

2                   Very good. Thank you.

3                   VICE PRESIDENT:

4                   I would like to make a comment, I guess.

5                   It just seems as though and in fact the Commission is  
6                   granting a pretty broad blinded authorization to the  
7                   executive director and his staff to go and acquire  
8                   property on behalf of the sportsmen of Pennsylvania.  
9                   That's a pretty big commitment on part of the Board,  
10                  but it shows the trust and faith that we have in our  
11                  land acquisition program. Our program is second none,  
12                  and I would be in favor of having it almost a blank  
13                  check all the time because we just don't get bad  
14                  deals.

15                  MR. CAPOUILLEZ:

16                  I'll second that.

17                  HEARING EXAMINER:

18                  Write that down quickly.

19                  VICE PRESIDENT:

20                  Our staff is really good and the people  
21                  that are regular attendees of this have watched these  
22                  land deals year after year after year. There's no  
23                  agency that would compare to us as far as going out  
24                  and acquiring the land at a reasonable,  
25                  toughly-negotiated price. So that's my comment. Is

1 there any additional discussions? Those in favor of  
2 the proposal signify by saying aye.

3 AYES RESPOND

4 VICE PRESIDENT:

5 Opposed?

6 MR. HOOVER:

7 Motion passes unanimously.

8 VICE PRESIDENT:

9 Yes, Mr. Secretary. Thank you. We're  
10 on to new business.

11 MR. Delaney:

12 Mr. Vice president, I do have some  
13 before you get onto deer, if I could?

14 VICE PRESIDENT:

15 Yes.

16 MR. Delaney:

17 This is just merely a suggestion for our  
18 staff for our next working group meeting. Just  
19 request that the staff research the issues of  
20 reauthorizing the use of bait in SRAs, special  
21 regulations areas. And just present some  
22 recommendations maybe to the Board of Commissioners at  
23 the next meeting with some language to see if it's  
24 prudent to continue to go in that direction. But  
25 again there's no mandate with this. This is just

1 merely a discussion for our next working group  
2 meeting. That's it.

3 VICE PRESIDENT:

4 Do we have any other new business before  
5 we go into the elk allocation?

6 MR. SCHREFFLER:

7 Yes.

8 VICE PRESIDENT:

9 Commissioner Schreffler.

10 MR. SCHREFFLER:

11 Yes. I want to make a motion to  
12 authorize the Board to release the goals of the  
13 peregrine falcon plan for public comment.

14 VICE PRESIDENT:

15 Do we have a second?

16 MR. WEANER:

17 Second.

18 VICE PRESIDENT:

19 Discussion? The peregrine falcon plan  
20 was presented to us yesterday during our working group  
21 session. And for anyone who would be interested in  
22 seeing that presentation, it's available currently on  
23 the Gaming Commission website. And I'm sure there  
24 would be a reference to the plan on the website as  
25 well, you'd be able to review it. So the motion is to

1 provide for public comment. Commissioner Martone.

2 MR. MARTONE:

3 I think that also it would be  
4 appropriate if the Board approve those goals that were  
5 presented to us yesterday as well as authorize it to  
6 be put out to the public. And I agree with  
7 Commissioner Schreffler on that.

8 MR. SCHREFFLER:

9 I think --- if I may?

10 VICE PRESIDENT:

11 Go on Ahead.

12 MR. SCHREFFLER:

13 I think that now is not the time to  
14 approve the goals. We are still under the discussion  
15 and the comment period where suggestions are made and  
16 opinions can be made. I think that comes at a later  
17 time.

18 MR. MARTONE:

19 Thank you.

20 VICE PRESIDENT:

21 Additional discussion? All those in  
22 favor of Commissioner Schreffler's motion signify by  
23 saying aye.

24 AYES RESPOND

25 VICE PRESIDENT:

1 Opposed? Mr. Secretary.

2 MR. HOOVER:

3 Motion passes unanimously.

4 VICE PRESIDENT:

5 Okay. We have a going to consider the  
6 elk allocation and the antlerless deer allocation.  
7 The first proposal is the elk allocation. And we  
8 received a recommendation yesterday from the deer team  
9 on a proposed allocation of --- do we have that  
10 number, the number?

11 MR. WEANER:

12 Mr. President?

13 VICE PRESIDENT:

14 Commissioner Weaner.

15 MR. WEANER:

16 I move that we adopt the elk allocations  
17 as presented to us yesterday.

18 VICE PRESIDENT:

19 I believe that was 29 bull elk and 16  
20 antlerless.

21 THE WITNESS(Chris Rosenberry):

22 Twenty-six (26) antlered and 60  
23 antlerless.

24 VICE PRESIDENT:

25 Twenty-six (26) antlered and 16

1 antlerless. We have a motion to accept that  
2 recommendation. Do we have a second?

3 MR. SCHREFFLER:

4 Second.

5 VICE PRESIDENT:

6 Seconded by Commissioner Schreffler.

7 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

8 AYES RESPOND

9 VICE PRESIDENT:

10 Opposed? Mr. Secretary.

11 MR. HOOVER:

12 Motion passes unanimously.

13 VICE PRESIDENT:

14 Okay. Now that we've got the easy part  
15 of out of the way, we're going to discuss the  
16 antlerless deer allocations. And we have done it  
17 differently almost every time since I have been on the  
18 Board. This time we're going to go through the  
19 Commissioners, have each Commissioner who represents  
20 or a --- or who, yeah, represents a WMU or represents  
21 a majority of a WMU make their recommendation.

22 The Secretary will compile that  
23 recommendation. We'll discuss them as we go through  
24 them. If the person that makes a recommendation if  
25 there's discussion among the other commissioners, if

1 we can decide during our discussion that they'll agree  
2 to certain number, we will go with that.

3           Otherwise the Commissioner who makes a  
4 recommendation will be recorded by the Secretary.  
5 Once we have all the numbers together we can make a  
6 motion to accept those and if we have to we'll amend  
7 them as we go and vote on them individually. So we'll  
8 start off with Commissioner Fox to give his  
9 recommendation.

10                   MR. FOX:

11                   4D I would recommended 35,000. 4E  
12 28,000.

13                   VICE PRESIDENT:

14                   Commissioner Schreffler.

15                   MR. SCHREFFLER:

16                   I also am in 4D and I concur with that.  
17 And 4A, I'd like 28,000. And this is I have this is  
18 so ---.

19                   VICE PRESIDENT:

20                   So we have 4A, you recommended 28,000.

21                   MR. SCHREFFLER:

22                   Yes. And 4A, 28,000 to stabilize the  
23 population and yes.

24                   VICE PRESIDENT:

25                   Okay. Okay. Now, Commissioner

1 Schlemmer is not here but he gave me his  
2 recommendations. I'll do unit 2A, 49,000 was his  
3 recommendation for 2A. Any other Commissioners in 2A  
4 have any discussions on 49,000? 2B, 62,000. 2C,  
5 35,000.

6 MR. SCHREFFLER:

7 I have some concerns about that. If I  
8 can --- I'm still sorting through all my papers here.  
9 If you can give me just a minute.

10 VICE PRESIDENT:

11 That's okay. We're going pretty smooth  
12 so far.

13 MR. SCHREFFLER:

14 Okay. We're at 2C.

15 VICE PRESIDENT:

16 The staff recommendation for 2C was  
17 51,000.

18 MR. SCHREFFLER:

19 Okay. And just please give me a minute.

20 VICE PRESIDENT:

21 Well, Commissioner Schlemmer recommends  
22 a reduction of 16,000 in that unit.

23 MR. SCHREFFLER:

24 The 2C ---.

25 VICE PRESIDENT:

1                   Next year we'll have our pages organized  
2 in a different fashion.

3                   MR. SCHREFFLER:

4                   Yeah, I hope so. I'm still --- in 2C  
5 this is one where the population of --- I had some  
6 comments of with the decreasing trend. But the staff  
7 had recommended to stabilize it here. And my feeling  
8 in this case the harvest of does was down about 16  
9 percent. But I think that the --- I know Mr.  
10 Schlemmer doesn't want to have a concurrent season  
11 there. I would like to have one there, with a lower  
12 number, but I can, I can go on the need. But I think  
13 that the number should be closer to 52,000 or 51,000  
14 that's currently recommended by the staff in this  
15 case.

16                   As I look at it, although the population  
17 has been slowly decreasing, also I look at the forest  
18 health and the doe to --- fawn to doe records there.  
19 And also this is part of 2C that is in the area which  
20 is my daily area, per region is right up against the  
21 CWD, which has been recently found. So I would like  
22 to increase that from the 43,000 to be ---.

23                   VICE PRESIDENT:

24                   Commissioner Schlemmer proposed 35,000.

25                   MR. SCHREFFLER:

1 Oh, he did.

2 VICE PRESIDENT:

3 And the staff proposed 51,000. 43,000  
4 would be midway between the two numbers.

5 MR. SCHREFFLER:

6 Okay. I could live with that.

7 VICE PRESIDENT:

8 Okay. Commissioner Schlemmer, as his  
9 representative, we'll live with 43,000 in that unit.  
10 The next unit is 2D. Commissioner Schlemmer  
11 recommended 57,000 for 2D. Do we have any discussion  
12 on the 57,000?

13 MR. MARTONE:

14 Vice President Putnam.

15 VICE PRESIDENT:

16 Commissioner Martone.

17 MR. MARTONE:

18 I share 2D with Commissioner Schlemmer,  
19 and although, I respect his proposed number, I do feel  
20 that there should be some modification of that. And I  
21 would go along with what you just mentioned with 2C  
22 that there's a difference of 8,000 between  
23 Commissioner Schlemmer's 57,000 and the recommended  
24 65. I would propose that we split the difference, and  
25 make the number 61,000 for 2D.

1                   VICE PRESIDENT:

2                   Okay. Without the benefit of  
3 Commissioner Schlemmer here, I'll go along with that  
4 61,000. And let's see, we did all of Commissioner  
5 Schlemmer's. Okay. We're going to go to 2E. 2E the  
6 staff recommended 22,000 to stabilize the herd. And  
7 I'm concurring with 22,000, that's my recommendation.  
8       Is there any discussion on 2E? 2G, the staff --- 2G  
9 has been redrawn as a result of our earlier action.  
10 It's not exactly the same old 2G. But the staff  
11 recommended 31,000.

12                   One concern with 2G is that population  
13 has come up quite a bit. Now, we're not getting many  
14 comments acknowledging that, but our estimates are  
15 that the population has increased about 50 percent in  
16 the last several years. My recommendation for 2G is  
17 28,000. Any discussion on 2G?

18                   2H. 2H is the new unit in the western  
19 third approximately of 2G, a western quarter of 2G.  
20 The staff recommendation is 6,000 for that unit. And  
21 I'll concur with the staff recommendation of 6,000.  
22 Any discussion on 2H?

23                   And 3A. The 3A is the only unit in the  
24 region that has a 12-day concurrent season. It  
25 somewhat sticks out. I really felt we ought to

1 shorten that to the seven-day season, just to avoid it  
2 being an island. But we've already voted on that part  
3 of it, so I'm going to recommend an allocation of  
4 23,000, which is a reduction of 3,000 from the  
5 proposed 26,000 to stabilize the unit. And we're on  
6 to Commissioner Martone.

7 MR. MARTONE:

8 Thank you. The first one would be 1A.  
9 The recommendation was 49,000. And I would concur  
10 with that number, 49,000 for 1A. For 1B, again, the  
11 recommendation there was 31,000, and again I concur  
12 with that number of 31,000. The next would be 2F. In  
13 there the recommendation was 29,000, and I concur with  
14 that number of 29,000. And that ends my areas.

15 VICE PRESIDENT:

16 Are there any discussions on those  
17 numbers? Commissioner Hoover.

18 MR. HOOVER:

19 I think that the --- taking a look and  
20 having conversations with several of the sporting  
21 groups in my area, 5C is a very large WMU that has  
22 diverse habitat in it and has separate problems in it.

23 A lot of them are issues with where you can rifle  
24 hunt and where you can shotgun hunt. And with the  
25 extended season. The current recommendation is

1 108,000. I'm going to reduce that to 103,000 for the  
2 WMU. And at some point in the future I would like to  
3 take a look at possibly changing that WMU to reflect  
4 the differences. 5D, the recommendation is 18,000,  
5 and I will agree to the 18,000.

6 VICE PRESIDENT:

7 Is there any discussion of Commissioner  
8 Hoover's recommendations? Commissioner Delaney.

9 MR. Delaney:

10 I have one easy one and two tough ones.  
11 Let's start off with WMU 3C. WMU 3C, we do have  
12 somewhat of an increasing population. The deer impact  
13 seems to be stable. The forest health, not doing too  
14 good. In 2003, it was 49 percent. In 2012, it was 54  
15 percent. We did have a major increase in tags in 2011  
16 when we went from 29,000 to 35,000. So I'm going to  
17 agree to keep it at 35,000 the same as it was last  
18 year.

19 For 3B, I think 3B is a perfect role  
20 model for success with the forest health. I have  
21 actually watched this WMU really respond well to our  
22 deer program. And I just want to simply follow along  
23 with the recommendations from staff on WMU 3B at  
24 39,000.

25 And now for the trouble spot that we

1 heard about yesterday and every year since I have been  
2 on the Board there's been difficulty in discussion  
3 with WMU 3D. It definitely seems to be the anomaly of  
4 our WMUs. Currently --- and I struggle with it, and  
5 if you look at the minutes --- when I come to these  
6 meetings, I try to look at the minutes from the  
7 previous years to see what our discussions have been  
8 about these WMUs. And every year I think since I've  
9 been on the Board there's been a problem with 3D. But  
10 from a sportsman's perspective, it's the second lowest  
11 deer population in the entire state, at 13.9 deers per  
12 square mile. We're harvesting three deer or less per  
13 square mile from 3 D. And with that 13.9, that's the  
14 average. So it might be somewhat higher in some  
15 spots, and somewhat lower in some spots.

16           The staff gives us the sheets that  
17 you're all able to read online. And since 2003 almost  
18 all the lines are flat. And I just, I personally  
19 don't see a lot of change with the forest health, the  
20 fawn to doe ratio. The population even has gone down  
21 in 3D.

22           The antlerless harvest has gone down by  
23 1,100. The deer population has gone down by almost  
24 2,000. Very little has worked in 3D, again, in my  
25 opinion. And I know there are lots of them out there.

1       When I travel across WMU 3D and speak to the  
2 sportsmen's organizations, they tell me the most  
3 important thing to them is D map. They want D map to  
4 be able to manage their properties.

5               So what I'm going to propose here is D  
6 map will be a big part of it. And what I propose is  
7 to keep the same allocation that we had in 2010 of  
8 32,000 with an increased emphasis on D map, for a  
9 couple years to see if we can put some deer back into  
10 the cold areas or the cold spots.

11              When you're a commissioner from an area  
12 like 3D that has such a low deer population, there is  
13 no doubt there's a social push from the sportsmen to  
14 give them some more deer. But I'm also very  
15 respectful of D map and the large property owners, if  
16 the commissioners should support this, are going to  
17 need to buy into D map, and heavily utilize D map to  
18 keep the deer populations where they need on their  
19 properties.

20              Again, I have found or I've seen nothing  
21 really that's worked real well so far. I'd like to  
22 try this for a few years. And if it doesn't work,  
23 then we revert back to something else. So that's my  
24 read on 3D.

25              Oh, by the way, I do want to add one

1 thing. If we wanted to increase the herd in 3D  
2 according to our sheet here the 12-day concurrent, we  
3 would need 24,000 tags. And I thought that if we  
4 wanted to increase it slightly, I didn't want to go to  
5 24,000. But I thought that 32,000 was something that  
6 maybe the Board would be able to digest a little bit  
7 more. So that's my thoughts.

8 VICE PRESIDENT:

9 I would just like to add a comment to  
10 Commissioner Delaney's comments. The problem we're  
11 faced with with trying to get the right number in  
12 these wildlife management units are we have good  
13 habitat and bad habitat intermixed.

14 Some of the units are more homogeneous  
15 than others. Some are much more despaired and I think  
16 our philosophy --- our hope is is that we're not  
17 necessarily hoping to reduce the number of deer taken  
18 in the unit. We are trying to put less pressure on  
19 certain lands and allow the landowners to apply the  
20 pressure to manage properties with the D map program.

21 It's more work on the part of the landowners to go  
22 out and do, be engaged in the D map program, but we're  
23 more than happy to have them manage those numbers at a  
24 level that's consistent with getting the forest  
25 regenerated on that many properties.

1                   But it's very difficult to sit up here  
2 and pick a number for an entire two or three or four  
3 thousand acre mile, square mile WMU, this could be  
4 right on every acre. If we're lower on allocation  
5 over the entire unit we still do not, we're still  
6 encouraging I guess land owners to increase that  
7 allocation on their properties on the D map program.  
8 And Commissioner Weaner.

9                   MR. WEANER:

10                   Okay. The first one I want to look at  
11 is 4B. The recommendation is 24,000. I'm going to go  
12 along with the recommendation of 24,000. In 5A and 5B  
13 both of these are within the --- it's called the  
14 chronic wasting disease area within them. And that  
15 automatically triggers a recommendation from our staff  
16 to reduce the deer population. I'm not a hundred  
17 percent sure that there's good research that shows  
18 that reducing the deer population is going to make a  
19 significant difference in chronic wasting disease.

20                   And 5A is the one area or one of our  
21 figures here where the forest health is increasing.  
22 And so that's like the best one in the state. And as  
23 far as when you look at impacts to people it's not  
24 impacting either 5A or 5B that they are complaining  
25 about. So I'm going to recommended that in 5A we go

1 with the same 19,000 we had last year and in 5B 50,000  
2 was the recommendation to stabilize it. So I'm going  
3 to go with 19 for 5A and 50,000 for 5B.

4           And one thing we've seen down there with  
5 the chronic wasting disease, our hunters still  
6 continue to hunt. It didn't have a big impact on the  
7 harvest one way or the other. And I think that this  
8 maybe sends a message to the people that chronic  
9 wasting disease might not be the end of the world.  
10 And we want them to as near as possible continue to  
11 hunt, continue to harvest deer.

12           And we've seen in some other states  
13 where they took radical takes on chronic wasting  
14 disease and tried to annihilate the herd. And that's  
15 not what's being recommended by our staff. But  
16 people see that out there and a lot of people were  
17 fearful and saying are we going to really have to wack  
18 back the population in these areas. And I'd like to  
19 say no we're not, we're going to maintain them as  
20 stable. So those are my recommendations.

21           VICE PRESIDENT:

22           Thank you.

23           MR. WEANER:

24           Could I follow up with one other  
25 question?

1                   VICE PRESIDENT:

2                   Go ahead.

3                   MR. WEANER:

4                   I might have just plain missed this in  
5 my scorecard there. I'm writing all these down.  
6 Brian, did you offer a suggestion for 4C?

7                   MR. HOOVER:

8                   I see that. I have --- I actually have  
9 two things here. I have 4C having taken a look at  
10 everything in 4C and actually hunted in 4C and have  
11 some property in 4C --- the staff recommendation is  
12 35,000. I'm going to recommended 27,000 for 4C. I'd  
13 like to see. From speaking with the organizations  
14 that are up in that area there and hearing the  
15 complaints I think 27,000 will allow the herd to come  
16 up a little bit which is what most of the complaints,  
17 I think 27,000 would allow the herd to come up a  
18 little bit, which is what most of the requests have  
19 been.

20                   I also have a question of 4E with  
21 Charlie that I didn't get a chance to address. I also  
22 have a portion of 4E in the WMU, and I also again hunt  
23 in sections of 4E and have spoken with members and  
24 member groups in that area. And I would ask for a  
25 reduction of 4,000 to 24,000 from the recommended

1 28,000.

2 MR. FOX:

3 Can we meet in the middle, 26?

4 MR. HOOVER:

5 Okay. I will go with 26.

6 VICE PRESIDENT:

7 Okay. If the list is complete, I'll ask  
8 the secretary to read the entire list. We'll ask for  
9 a motion to accept the list. We can have additional  
10 discussions and amendments if we're still in any  
11 disagreement. Mr. Secretary, if you will read the  
12 list.

13 MR. HOOVER:

14 From the top to the bottom. 1A  
15 recommended 49,000. The recommended by Ralph was  
16 49,000; 1B, 31,000; 2A, 49,000; 2B, 62,000; 2C,  
17 43,000; 2D, 61,000; 2E, 22,000; 2F, 29,000; 2G,  
18 28,000; 2H, 6,000; 3A, 23,000; 3B, 39,000; 3C, 35,000;  
19 3D, 32,000; 4A, 28,000; 4B, 24,000; 4C, 27,000; 4D,  
20 35,000; 4E, 26,000; 5A, 19,000; 5B, 50,000; 5C,  
21 103,000; 5D, 18,000.

22 VICE PRESIDENT:

23 Do we have a motion to accept the list  
24 as read?

25 MR. WEANER:

1 So moved.

2 VICE PRESIDENT:

3 Commissioner Weaner.

4 MR. HOOVER:

5 Second.

6 VICE PRESIDENT:

7 And Commissioner Hoover seconded the  
8 motion. Discussion? Commissioner Weaner.

9 MR. WEANER:

10 The only thing I would like to suggest  
11 and we said it many times is that I really appreciate  
12 this information packet and all that went into it, but  
13 just next year we need to have the pages in a  
14 different order by WMU, so we can find them. Thank  
15 you. And I urge us all to vote yes.

16 VICE PRESIDENT:

17 Thank you. Any additional discussion?  
18 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

19 AYES RESPOND

20 VICE PRESIDENT:

21 Opposed? Mr. Secretary.

22 MR. HOOVER:

23 The motion carried unanimously.

24 VICE PRESIDENT:

25 Went smoother than I thought it would.

1 The next item is Commission meeting dates approved for  
2 2013. Do the Commissioners wish to approve of the  
3 dates and location, which would be June 24th and 25th  
4 in Harrisburg and September 23rd and 24th in western  
5 Pennsylvania?

6 MR. WEANER:

7 So moved.

8 MR. HOOVER:

9 Second.

10 MR. DELANEY.

11 If we could ask or I would just add to  
12 that, Mr. Commissioner, for our January meeting of next  
13 year, if we could have staff give us some  
14 recommendations. We always run into the Superbowl and  
15 other issues. If the staff can give us their  
16 recommendation for our June meeting then maybe we can  
17 set the date for next year.

18 VICE PRESIDENT:

19 Okay. I'm sure the staff heard that. So  
20 we have a motion by commissioner Weaner, seconded by  
21 commissioner Hoover to approve the meeting dates of  
22 June 24th and September 23rd. All those in favor  
23 signify by saying aye.

24 AYES RESPOND

25 VICE PRESIDENT:

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Opposed? Mr. Secretary.

MR. HOOVER:

Motion passed unanimously.

VICE PRESIDENT:

Then the next working group meeting will be held on May 20th. That will be posted on our website the location and time, and any other details will be posted on the game commission's website. Do we have any other business to come before the Board? Okay. We will have executive session after this if we need to, but I don't believe we have anything scheduled for executive session, so meeting is adjourned.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:12 A.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CERTIFICATE

1  
2  
3 I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter,  
4 that the foregoing proceedings were taken  
5 stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to  
6 typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this  
7 transcript is a true and accurate record to the best  
8 of my ability.

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