

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

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COMMISSION MEETING

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BEFORE: David J. Putnam, President
Brian H. Hoover, Vice President
Timothy S. Layton, Secretary
James J. Delaney, Jr., Commissioner
Ronald A. Weaner, Commissioner
Robert W. Schlemmer, Commissioner
Charles E. Fox, Commissioner
James R. Daley, Commissioner
Bradley C. Bechtel, Esquire, Chief Counsel

HEARING: Friday, April 10, 2015
8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Reporter: Brian D. O'Hare

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ALSO PRESENT:

R. Matthew Hough, Executive Director

Bryan Burhans, Deputy Executive Director

Richard Palmer, Deputy Executive Director

John Dunn, Acting Director, Bureau of Wildlife
Management

Thomas Grohol, Director, Bureau of Wildlife
Protection

William A. Capouillez, Director, Bureau of Wildlife
Habitat Management

I N D E X

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DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Call the meeting to order. Start off
with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Mr. Secretary, will you call the roll
of Commissioners?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

President Putnam?

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Present.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

1 Vice President Hoover?

2 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

3 Present.

4 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

5 Commissioner Delaney?

6 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

7 Present.

8 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

9 Commissioner Schlemmer?

10 COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

11 Present.

12 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

13 Commissioner Weaner?

14 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

15 Here.

16 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

17 Commissioner Fox?

18 COMMISSIONER FOX:

19 Here.

20 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

21 Commissioner Daley?

22 COMMISSIONER DALEY:

1 Present.

2 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

3 And Commissioner Layton is present.

4 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

5 The next order of business is approval
6 of minutes of our Commission meeting held January
7 27th, 2015. Do I have a motion to approve those
8 minutes?

9 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

10 So moved.

11 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

12 Seconded.

13 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

14 The motion's been approved and
15 seconded. Any discussion? Mr. Secretary?

16 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

17 We have a motion on the floor that's
18 been moved and properly seconded. All those in
19 favor, signify by saying aye.

20 AYES RESPOND

21 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

22 Opposed?

1 NO RESPONSE

2 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

3 Motion passes.

4 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

5 Now we'll go on to the agenda for the
6 proposed rulemaking.

7 ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Yes. Thank
8 you, Mr. President. The first item is for the
9 Commission's Bureau of Wildlife Management, proposed
10 rulemaking, adoption of proposed amendments 58 Pa.
11 Code, Section 139.4, to amend that section relating
12 to seasons and bag limits for the license year, to
13 provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2015-
14 2016 hunting/trapping license year. The text of
15 these proposals are shown on pages three through ten
16 of the agenda.

17 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

18 We'll go through the --- first, we need
19 a motion to accept the seasons and bag limits.

20 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

21 I make a motion.

22 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

1 Do we have a second?

2 COMMISSIONER FOX:

3 Second.

4 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

5 We have a motion to accept it. Do we
6 have any discussion? I guess we'll discuss it page
7 by page.

8 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

9 I'd like to ask John Dunn a question. I
10 am going to propose an amendment to the late
11 squirrel, late pheasant and late rabbit season. I
12 wanted to make sure if there was any reason that
13 would call to not to extend the season for those
14 three species to the end of February?

15 MR.DUNN:

16 I discussed this yesterday with our
17 staff, and we have no biological evidence of any
18 dangers to any of those populations.

19 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

20 Thank you.

21 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

22 Okay. We're now going to go through

1 page one. Any comments on page one --- or page
2 three? Sorry. Commissioner Hoover?

3 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

4 Okay. On squirrel, the December 26th
5 to February 20th, I'd like to amend the date to
6 February 29th, 2016. On the rabbit, Cottontail, same
7 scenario, December 26th to February 20th, I'd like to
8 amend the end date to February 29th, 2016.

9 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

10 Okay. Let's go to page four of the
11 agenda.

12 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

13 On Ring-necked Pheasant, male only,
14 WMUs 2A, 2C, 4C, 4E, 5A and 5B, the December 26th to
15 February 20th season to February 29th. And the Ring-
16 necked Pheasant, male or female combined, WMUs 1A,
17 1B, 2B, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B,
18 4D, 5C and 5D from December 26th through February
19 29th.

20 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

21 Thank you. Page five. Okay. That was
22 an amendment, yes.

1 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

2 Yes, that was an amendment.

3 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

4 So we need a second for that amendment.

5 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

6 Second.

7 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

8 The motion has been made and seconded.

9 Do we have a discussion? Any discussion from the
10 Commissioners?

11 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

12 Yes, just one point to add into the
13 record of our discussion that I support this proposal
14 based on the fact that we had four rabbit hunters
15 that came here yesterday before this Board and simply
16 asked the Board to consider this during its
17 consideration. Actually when we had our public
18 comment, who gave the Board additional thoughts and
19 maybe ---. So I credit those four rabbit hunters
20 that were here yesterday and urge my fellow
21 Commissioners to support this amendment.

22 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

1 Thank you. Any additional comments?
2 Mr. Secretary?

3 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

4 We have an amendment on the floor
5 that's been moved and properly seconded. All those
6 in favor, signify by saying aye.

7 AYES RESPOND

8 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

9 Opposed?

10 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

11 No.

12 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

13 Motion carries.

14 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

15 Page five of the agenda. On to page
16 six. Page seven. Page eight. Page nine. Page ten.
17 We have a motion on the seasons and bag limits that's
18 been amended.

19 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

20 So moved.

21 COMMISSIONER FOX:

22 Second.

1 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

2 Any additional discussion on the
3 seasons and bag limits? Mr. Secretary?

4 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

5 We have a motion on the floor. It's
6 been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify
7 by saying aye.

8 AYES RESPOND

9 SECRETARY LAYTON:

10 Opposed?

11 NO RESPONSE

12 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

13 Motion carries.

14 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

15 Mr. Bechtel?

16 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

17 The next items before the Commission's
18 concerns adopted rulemaking, the adoption of proposed
19 amendments to Sections 141.62 and 147.701, to provide
20 trapping opportunities for river otter during the
21 upcoming license year. The Commission proposed as
22 its January 27, 2015 meeting to amend Sections 141.62

1 and 147.701. Changes to regulations restricting
2 types and number of devices for beaver and otter
3 trappers in those WMUs with an open otter trapping
4 season are proposed in Section 141.62. And
5 amendments to 147.701 are required to implement an
6 otter trapping permit, tagging and reporting
7 requirements for this new season. And each proposed
8 amendments are on page 12 and 13 of your agenda.

9 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

10 So moved.

11 COMMISSIONER HOOVER:

12 Second.

13 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

14 Any discussion? Mr. Secretary?

15 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

16 We have a motion that's been moved and
17 seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

18 AYES RESPOND

19 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

20 Opposed?

21 NO RESPONSE

22 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

1 Motion carries.

2 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

3 The next item is also adopted
4 rulemaking. It's the adoption of the proposed
5 amendments Section 139.17. The Game Commission
6 proposed at its January 27, 2015 meeting to amend
7 Section 139.17 relating to wildlife management units.
8 This proposed revision will expand WMU 5D north and
9 west into WMUC 5C to cover more developed urban
10 areas. The text is shown on page 15 of your agenda
11 and the proposed changes to the WMU boundary lines
12 shown on map on page 16 of your agenda.

13 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

14 Can we have a motion on this?

15 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

16 So moved.

17 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

18 Second?

19 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

20 Second.

21 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

22 Mr. Secretary? Oh, discussion?

1 Commissioner Hoover, do you have any discussion to
2 add to this?

3 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

4 I'd just like to say that we've done
5 this to try to reduce some pressure on 5C, an area
6 that, you know, we've got some farmland as well as
7 some forested areas that are taking a pretty good
8 beating. We've heard comments from our hunting clubs
9 and our hunters up in that area that have asked for a
10 reduction, and we're going to work to get their
11 requests into the system. 5D we'll expand that to
12 encompass a lot more of the urban area. Of course,
13 we are unable to get all of the urban area out of 5C
14 and, in the future, we will have to deal with more
15 urban deer into 5C. Hopefully, this revision will
16 get us what we need. That's all.

17 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

18 Any additional comments? Mr.
19 Secretary?

20 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

21 We have a motion that's been moved and
22 seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

1 AYES RESPOND

2 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

3 Opposed?

4 NO RESPONSE

5 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

6 Motion is carried.

7 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

8 The next item before the Commission
9 comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Protection. It
10 concerns the adopted rulemaking of proposed amendment
11 to 58 Pa. Code, Section 141.1 and 147.681 to 147.683,
12 amending Sections 141.1 and 147.681 to 147.683,
13 relating to special regulations areas; purpose;
14 permit eligibility and use; and operation, to expand
15 the Commission's limited baiting authorization by
16 allowing use of the deer attractant permit on
17 township and municipal property. This text is shown
18 on pages 18 and 19 of your agenda.

19 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

20 Do we have a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

22 So moved.

1 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

2 Second?

3 COMMISSIONER Hoover??:

4 Second.

5 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

6 Discussion? Commissioner Hoover?

7 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

8 I want to clarify the reason that we
9 did this. We encountered some problems last year with
10 several of our municipal properties down in the 5D
11 region using bait. It wasn't clarified in our
12 regulations and we were creating our own problems.
13 So we've done this to allow municipalities to open
14 their parks and utilize bait and get deer to a
15 specific area of the park that's not specifically
16 traveled heavily. So I think this works out pretty
17 well. I do want to remind everyone that even
18 municipalities who utilize this still have to report
19 the number of deer they're taking while using bait.
20 And we did have some of that this year so report your
21 harvests. That's all I have.

22 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

1 Thank you. Any additional commentary,
2 discussion? Mr. Secretary?

3 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

4 That rule on the floor has been
5 seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

6 AYES RESPOND

7 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

8 Opposed.

9 NO RESPONSE

10 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

11 Motion carries.

12 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

13 The next item on the agenda is adopted
14 rulemaking of proposed amendment to 58 Pa. Code,
15 Sections 141.63 and 141.66, amending those sections
16 relating to definitions; and cable restraints, to
17 redefine cable restraints, identify a list of
18 approved locks and clarify that furtakers who possess
19 a valid bobcat permit could only utilize an
20 incidentally caught bobcat during the established
21 bobcat trapping season. The text of this adopted
22 rulemaking is on pages 21 and 22 of your agenda.

1 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

2 Do we have a motion?

3 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

4 So moved.

5 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

6 Second?

7 COMMISSIONER FOX:

8 Second.

9 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

10 Discussion? Hearing no discussion, Mr.

11 Secretary?

12 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

13 Motion moved and seconded. All those
14 in favor, say aye.

15 AYES RESPOND

16 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

17 Opposed?

18 NO RESPONSE

19 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

20 Motion carries.

21 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

22 And the next adopted rulemaking is

1 adoption of proposed amendment to 58 Pa. Code,
2 Sections 135.2 and 135.41, relating to unlawful
3 actions; and State game lands, to require that
4 persons using portable hunting blinds or stands on
5 State game lands or cooperative access properties
6 mark their blinds or stands with a tag bearing their
7 name and address or a number issued by the
8 Commission. The text of this adopted rulemaking is
9 on page 24 of your agenda.

10 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

11 Motion?

12 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

13 So moved.

14 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

15 Second?

16 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

17 Second.

18 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

19 Discussion?

20 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

21 I have one question. The number issued
22 by the Commission, is that the ID number or a

1 specific number?

2 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

3 Do we need to amend the amendment to
4 specifically say those things?

5 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

6 We just had a number issued by the Game
7 Commission.

8 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

9 I think relative to that.

10 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

11 You're okay with that?

12 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

13 I would have one additional comment,
14 that yesterday we heard discussions from the Farm
15 Bureau about requesting that this apply to all lands
16 in the Commonwealth as opposed to just Game
17 Commission lands or cooperators' lands. I would
18 point out that everyone is eligible to become a
19 cooperator, at least all the agricultural producers.
20 So if someone in the agricultural community wants to
21 be part of this program, they can join our
22 cooperative program. Mr. Secretary?

1 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

2 We have a motion on the floor that was
3 seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

4 AYES RESPOND

5 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

6 Opposed?

7 NO RESPONSE

8 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

9 Motion carries.

10 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

11 The next item is a adopted rulemaking
12 adoption of proposed amendment to 58 Pa. Code,
13 Section 141.45, relating to turkey, to delete the
14 reference to Wildlife Management Units (WMU) 1A, 1B
15 and 2A in the provision prohibiting use of manually
16 operated centerfire, rimfire or muzzleloading
17 firearms using single projectile ammunition in order
18 to maintain continuity between these regulatory
19 provisions.

20 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

21 Motion?

22 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

1 So moved.

2 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

3 Second?

4 COMMISSIONER FOX:

5 Second.

6 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

7 Discussion? Hearing no discussion, Mr.
8 Secretary, ---.

9 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

10 We have a motion on the floor that was
11 seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

12 AYES RESPOND

13 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

14 Opposed?

15 NO RESPONSE

16 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

17 Motion carries.

18 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

19 On page 27 of the agenda is the
20 adoption of proposed amendment to 58 Pa. Code,
21 Section 147.804, relating to general, by eliminating
22 the issuance of antlered deer and spring turkey

1 harvest tags to mentored youth under the age of seven
2 with their mentored permit, but allowing mentors to
3 transfer antlered deer and spring turkey harvest tags
4 issued to them by these younger youth. The text of
5 this amendment is shown on page 28.

6 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

7 Motion?

8 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

9 So moved.

10 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

11 Second?

12 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

13 Second.

14 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

15 Discussion? Commissioner Daley?

16 COMMISSIONER DALEY:

17 I'd like to see if we can look at how
18 you deal with sportsmen's clubs. So right now we
19 have arrangements with a parent or a guardian,
20 whatever, can give the mentored youth the deer tag.
21 But an organized club, for instance, where the club
22 member would have to transfer a tag, can we look at

1 that and how to share.

2 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

3 I would agree with that. This is a
4 flexible program. We were the first state in the
5 country to adopt this program, and we're making some
6 modifications to it now. And I see no reason why we
7 would not expect that we will make modifications in
8 the future.

9 I would want to comment that we did
10 receive a lot of comments on this when we first
11 proposed this. And partly that was because our
12 proposal probably was not as well vetted as what it
13 could have been. We probably should have issued a
14 news release and requested comments as opposed to
15 putting it on our agenda, which is the way some of
16 our partners found out about it in the first place.

17 Since we put it on the agenda, we've
18 had a lot of --- we had a lot of comments and we
19 responded by modifying this proposal pretty
20 substantially to go from no one under the age of nine
21 being able to participate in the program to every
22 child, no matter what age, can participate in the

1 Mentored Youth Program. We're restricting the
2 issuance of tags to --- directly to the mentorees
3 to age seven, but any youth of any age can still
4 participate in the hunt if the mentor is going to
5 transfer their tag to them.

6 Most of our complaints and comments
7 centered around white-tailed deer. We got very
8 little complaints regarding wild turkeys. But our
9 wild turkey program provides for two permits, so to
10 me it's not like we're closing the door on turkey
11 hunting to mentors. And with the ability to get two
12 tags, I think that becomes a fairly small problem. I
13 guess I would ask if any other Commissioners have
14 comments they want to provide.

15 COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

16 One thing I would add is --- okay,
17 something that I would add is that since we voted
18 earlier in January I have received quite a number of
19 comments. And almost 100 percent of them were such
20 that it's about time we get things ecologically going
21 a lot further. So I think it's a good thing.

22 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

1 And I would follow up with that, we are
2 strong supporters of the Mentored Youth Program.
3 Commissioners at the table here today were involved
4 in it from day one and participated in the Governor's
5 signing. So we are strong supporters of the mentored
6 program. We received some comments that were less
7 than flattering over our decision to modify this
8 program, but we strongly support it. We feel it will
9 make it a stronger program. Mr. Secretary?

10 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

11 We have a motion on the floor that's
12 been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify
13 by saying aye.

14 AYES RESPOND

15 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

16 Opposed?

17 COMMISSIONER FOX:

18 No.

19 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

20 Motion carries.

21 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

22 The next item is adopted rulemaking of

1 proposed amendment to 58 Pa. Code, Section 141.4,
2 Appendix G, relating to hunting hours, to replace the
3 current hunting hours table and migratory bird
4 hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates
5 and hours of legal hunting for the 2015 through 2016
6 hunting/trapping license year. The text of these
7 amendments is shown on pages 30 through 32 of your
8 agenda.

9 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

10 Motion?

11 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

12 So moved.

13 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

14 Second?

15 COMMISSIONER DALEY:

16 Second.

17 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

18 Discussion? No discussion on the
19 changing of the time. Mr. Secretary?

20 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

21 We have a motion that's been moved and
22 seconded. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

1 AYES RESPOND

2 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

3 Opposed?

4 NO RESPONSE

5 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

6 Motion carries.

7 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

8 Turning to page 33 of your agenda, the
9 next item is from the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat
10 Management. The first concerns acquisition. The
11 first acquisition is Contract No. L-3678, State Game
12 Land No. 49, Bedford County. Clifford D. and
13 Christine F. Hurst and Linford S. and Janelle L.
14 Martin are offering for sale 28.16, more or less,
15 acres in Monroe Township, Bedford County, adjacent to
16 State Game Land 49. That's shown on Exhibit RED One,
17 page 34 of your agenda. The option price is \$70,000
18 lump sum to be paid with funds from the Game Fund.
19 The tract is forested with mixed oaks. The East
20 Branch of Sideling Creek flows through the property.
21 The creek's floodplain is fairly wide and provides
22 habitat for woodcock and other species whose habitat

1 requirements include riparian areas in young forest
2 habitat. Currently there is no public access from
3 the west and southwest into this detached portion of
4 State Game Land No. 49. And acquiring this property
5 will provide critical access from SR 2011,
6 Robinsonville Road.

7 The second acquisition, Contract No.
8 L-3679, State Game Land No. 224, Luzerne County,
9 Silverbrook Anthracite, Inc. is offering for sale
10 144, more or less, acres of land in Newport Township,
11 Luzerne County, located near State Game Land No. 224,
12 as shown on Exhibit RED Two on page 35 of your
13 agenda. The option price is \$281,000 lump sum to be
14 paid by habitat mitigation commitments for impacts to
15 state and federally listed species. The presence of
16 eastern small-footed Myotis, a Pennsylvania
17 threatened species, and Indiana bat, a Pennsylvania
18 and federally listed endangered species, is the
19 impetus for the mitigation funding and will require
20 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's approval before the
21 property can be purchased. The property is forested
22 with oaks, maples, black birch, hemlock and white

1 pine. These are natural rock outcroppings on the
2 property. Glen Lyon Mine opening is located on the
3 property and has become a bat hibernaculum.
4 Silverbrook Anthracite, Inc. also has an active
5 surface mining permit issued for portions of the
6 property. Acquiring the property will permanently
7 protect the hibernaculum, which is currently
8 protected by fencing. Access is from SR 3004, known
9 as West Main Street.

10 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

11 Motion?

12 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

13 So moved.

14 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

15 Second?

16 COMMISSIONER HOOVER:

17 Second.

18 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

19 Discussion? Commissioner Weaner?

20 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

21 I'd just like to point out one thing
22 for the record. It's quite unusual for us to buy 144

1 acres of land that's not inside the game land or
2 connected to the game land, but do we demand our
3 staff to protect bats and bat hibernacula. If you go
4 on and just talk a little about how critical is it
5 that not excused for the bats, and I'm just curious
6 about the 144 acres that's not affiliated to a game
7 land. Why is it so special to make that acquisition?

8 MR. DUNN:

9 So in this area, there are two
10 hibernaculums. With regard to the ones that are bat
11 habitat. So where we've located those in the state,
12 we've set that as a high priority for acquisition and
13 protection. The purpose of this really is --- can be
14 generated by what we call I-Bat Escrow which is ---
15 created largely to go in there for talk through a
16 grievance and there was a litigation that was put in
17 place for potential Indiana bat impacts. Money was
18 set aside for the conservation and protective needs.
19 And so that money gets set aside to be utilized here
20 to fulfill those obligations. And the Fish &
21 Wildlife Service works very closely with us to
22 identify those areas to save those species so we

1 don't have more species listed in the future.

2 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

3 Thank you for that explanation. We
4 just showed the agency that this and all the game
5 species and non-game species need protection. So
6 thanks for that clarification.

7 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

8 Any additional comment? Mr. Secretary?

9 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

10 We have a motion that's been properly
11 moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by
12 saying aye.

13 AYES RESPOND

14 COMMISSIONER LAYTON

15 Opposed?

16 NO RESPONSE

17 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

18 Motion carries.

19 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

20 The next item before the Commission
21 concerns two land exchanges. The first land exchange
22 is Contract No. L-3680, State Game Land Nos. 91 and

1 264, in Luzerne and Dauphin Counties. PPL Electric
2 Utilities Corporation is offering 261, more or less,
3 acres of land in Buck Township, Luzerne County,
4 adjacent to State Game Land No. 91, shown on Exhibit
5 RED Three, on page 39, and 86.85, more or less, acres
6 of land in Wiconisco and Williams Townships, Dauphin
7 County, which is an interior within State Game Land
8 No. 264, as shown on Exhibit RED Four, on page 40 of
9 your agenda. PPL has requested amendments to two
10 existing right-of-way licenses in order to construct
11 new or rebuild existing electric transmission
12 facilities across State Game Land No. 127 in
13 Tobyhanna and Coolbaugh Townships, Monroe County, and
14 State Game Land No. 129 in Kidder Township, Carbon
15 County, and has agreed to convey this 347.85, more or
16 less, acres of land to the Commission in lieu of
17 habitat and surface damages and annual license fees
18 in excess of the minimum fees required under Pa.
19 Code, Sections 135.221 through 135.225.

20 The amended right-of-way license on
21 State Game Land No. 127, as shown on Exhibit RED Five
22 on page 41 of your agenda, will result in 3,720

1 linear feet of new 100-foot wide right-of-way, in
2 addition to the 16,878 linear feet of existing right-
3 of-way that has been licensed since 1976.

4 The amended right-of-way license on
5 State Game Land No. 129 will result in the widening
6 of the existing right-of-way in order to improve
7 safety and minimize the potential for flashover once
8 PPL rebuilds the 138/69 kV electric transmission line
9 and a 12 kV electric distribution line. This is
10 shown on Exhibit RED Six on page 42 of your agenda.

11 Of the 261, more or less, acres to be
12 conveyed adjacent to State Game Land No. 91, PPL will
13 reserve the right to construct, operate, maintain and
14 remove future electric facilities within a 200-foot-
15 wide right-of-way abutting and parallel to the
16 northeastern boundary of the 182-acre tract, which is
17 shown on Exhibit RED Three, the right to construct,
18 operate, maintain and remove future electric
19 facilities anywhere within the 79-acre tract, which
20 is also shown on Exhibit RED Three, and the right to
21 utilize 2,829 linear feet of existing access road
22 through these tracts. Both tracts consist of a mixed

1 oak/maple forest interspersed with stands of hemlock
2 and white pine, and the understory is comprised of
3 low bush blueberry and mountain laurel. The tracts
4 are located in the Upper Lehigh River watershed and
5 contain portions of the headwaters of White House
6 Run, Kendall Creek, and associated unnamed
7 tributaries, as well as numerous forested and scrub-
8 shrub wetland complexes. Both tracts also provide
9 critical summer roost habitat for eastern small-
10 footed bats, a Pennsylvania threatened species.
11 Access to the 261 acres is available either from SR
12 115 or Buck River Road.

13 PPL will not reserve any rights on the
14 86.85, more or less, acres to be conveyed within
15 State Game Land No. 264, which is on Exhibit RED
16 Four. This tract consists primarily of a dry oak
17 mixed hardwood forest with a mix of dogwood, hop-
18 hornbeam, low bush blueberry, huckleberry and
19 mountain laurel in the understory, interspersed with
20 herbaceous openings, and a Commission administrative
21 road. PPL Tract three is located almost entirely
22 within the Bear Creek Valley, with its eastern end

1 extending into the headwaters of West Branch Rausch
2 Creek. Acquisition of this acreage will eliminate an
3 interior on State Game Land No. 264 and secure access
4 through State Game Land No. 264.

5 The second exchange is Contract L-3681,
6 State Game Land Nos. 80 and 168, Schuylkill and
7 Monroe Counties. Nestle Waters North America is
8 offering 18.67, more or less, acres of land in Pine
9 Grove Township, Schuylkill County, adjacent to State
10 Game Land No. 80, shown on Exhibit RED Seven on page
11 43 of your agenda, and 89, more or less, acres of
12 land in Ross Township, Monroe County, adjacent to
13 State Game Land No. 168, shown on Exhibit RED Eight,
14 on page 44 of your agenda. In exchange for the
15 107.67 acres of land Nestle has requested a Surface
16 Use Cooperative Spring Water Recharge Protection
17 Agreement involving 184 acres of land in Lynn
18 Township, Lehigh County, within State Game Land No.
19 217, shown on Exhibit RED Nine, on page 45 of your
20 agenda.

21 In the Cooperative Agreement the
22 Commission and anyone under the Commission's control,

1 except with written consent from Nestle, agrees not
2 to engage in certain activities within the recharge
3 area, including but not limited to development, earth
4 disturbance, surface mining or rock quarrying,
5 timbering, road construction, placement of hazardous
6 materials, implementation of prescribed fire
7 techniques and spraying herbicides, insecticides or
8 other chemicals that may adversely impact the surface
9 or groundwater recharge area supplying springs
10 located on private property and utilized by Nestle.
11 The Commission further agrees not to withdraw or
12 allow others under the Commission's control to
13 withdraw surface or groundwater from the recharge
14 area for transfer or use off of the recharge area.
15 The Commission shall have the right to use water on
16 the recharge area for normal and customary wildlife
17 and related land management activities. There are no
18 other limitations on the normal and customary
19 wildlife and related land management activities of
20 the Commission, including selective timber cutting or
21 limited timber cutting to create clearings for
22 wildlife habitat or manage diseases trees, vegetation

1 management, hunting and furtaking.

2 The two tracts totaling 18.67, more or
3 less, acres adjoining State Game Land No. 80 are
4 forested with mixed hardwoods and will provide
5 critical access from Swopes Valley Road into a large
6 section of State Game Land No. 80 with limited
7 access. The 89, more or less, acre property is
8 forested mainly with maple, chestnut oak, birch and
9 black gum and lies on the north slope of Blue
10 Mountain. The property adjoins National Park Service
11 lands to the south and access is through existing
12 State Game Land No. 168.

13 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

14 Do we have a motion?

15 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

16 So moved.

17 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

18 Second?

19 COMMISSIONER FOX:

20 Second.

21 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

22 Discussion? Director Capouillez, do

1 you have any additional comments you'd like to add?
2 These are fairly complex --- I'd say quite complex.
3 There's a tremendous amount of work that's gone into
4 making these pieces all come together both at the
5 regional and Harrisburg level.

6 MR. CAPOUILLEZ:

7 I do have a response. Both of these
8 exchanges --- you know, you're exactly right.
9 They're complex --- they're far more complex than
10 what we can even put into words here. They hit on
11 absolutely everything that the region and the Bureau
12 does. We're looking at protection, minimization and
13 mitigation. You're looking at 347 acres being
14 exchanged for another acre's impact on a footprint
15 that basically already exists. That meets our
16 protection, minimization and mitigation requirements.
17 And you're looking at how those pieces of property
18 fit in with other state lands, other conservation
19 lands, how we get contiguous large blocks and land
20 outright. Both of them have --- habitats, wetlands,
21 high-quality streams, threatened and endangered
22 species. We can look at the fact that in the one

1 case we're eliminating interior --- a long interior,
2 and quite frankly, we didn't trip over dealing with
3 for the last several decades. We've waited for that
4 opportunity to hand over the land from PPL, get that
5 interior out of game lands so that we can use fully
6 the game lands better.

7 And in the case of Nestle, you know,
8 looking at what makes sense, protection of waterfowl
9 and recharge which is something their agency does on
10 an everyday basis. And we may benefit of additional
11 demands in order to do something that we do more.
12 Both of these, I can't say enough how complex all the
13 different pieces, the amount of effort in the
14 northeast and the southeast regions and Habitat
15 Management Staff. These are pinnacles of what we do.

16 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

17 Thank you. Any additional comments?
18 Mr. Secretary?

19 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

20 We have a motion on the floor that's
21 moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by
22 saying aye.

1 AYES RESPOND

2 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

3 Opposed?

4 NO RESPONSE

5 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

6 Motion carries.

7 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

8 Moving to page 46 of your agenda,
9 you'll have the Restricted Surface Use Oil and Gas
10 Cooperative Agreement, Tract 117A-15, State Game Land
11 No. 117, Washington County. Range Resources
12 Appalachia, LLC requested the Commission offer its
13 oil and gas ownership under a 41.08 acre portion of
14 State Game Land No. 117 for oil and gas development.
15 The proposed tract is located in Smith Township,
16 Washington County, as shown on Exhibit OGM One, page
17 47 of your agenda.

18 Range has leased the privately owned
19 oil and gas rights under the majority of State Game
20 Land No. 117 and surrounding private lands and has
21 initiated unconventional well drilling and
22 development programs in the vicinity of the proposed

1 tract and has the ability to unitize the Commission's
2 oil and gas reserve by horizontal drilling with no
3 surface disturbance to the 41.08 acre tract.

4 The terms and conditions of the
5 agreement are a five-year paid up non-surface use oil
6 and gas agreement, a \$2,500 per acre bonus payment
7 and 19-percent royalty for all oil/gas and other
8 liquids or condensates produced and sold from the
9 proposed tract. The bonus payment of \$102,700 may be
10 deposited into the Game Fund or into an interest-
11 bearing escrow account for the future purchase of
12 wildlife habitats, lands or other uses incidental to
13 hunting, furtaking and wildlife resource management.
14 Future rentals and royalties owed the Commission
15 shall be directly deposited into the Game Fund.

16 Oil and gas development will be
17 regulated by the Commonwealth's oil and gas
18 regulations and the Commission's standard Restricted
19 Surface Use Oil and Gas Development Agreement.

20 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

21 So moved.

22 COMMISSIONER HOOVER:

1 Second.

2 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

3 Second. Commentary, discussion? Mr.
4 Secretary.

5 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

6 We have a motion on the floor that's
7 been moved and seconded. All those in favor signify
8 by saying aye.

9 AYES RESPOND

10 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

11 Opposed?

12 NO RESPONSE

13 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

14 Motion carries.

15 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

16 The next item on the agenda concerns an
17 amendment to shallow oil and gas assignment, Tract
18 262-01, Joseph Clark, doing business as Susquehanna
19 Exploration and Production, on State Game Land No.
20 262, in Indiana County.

21 As part of the Pennsylvania Game
22 Commission's agenda for the April 2004 meeting, the

1 Commission approved an assignment of oil and gas
2 rights on a 99.6-acre parcel designated as tract 262-
3 01 in exchange for coal and coal mining rights on
4 177.76 acres located on State Game Land No. 262,
5 Banks Township, Indiana County, to Joseph Clark,
6 doing business as Susquehanna Exploration and
7 Production, LLC, of Glen Campbell, PA. Subsequently,
8 Susquehanna had drilled two shallow gas wells on the
9 tract and currently holds the 99-acre tract by
10 production.

11 Susquehanna has requested to drill a
12 third shallow well designated as the Lamkie #3 well
13 on Tract 262-01. In exchange for the rights to drill
14 and produce the Lamkie #3 well, Susquehanna will
15 install a 5,000-foot pipeline and provide up to 250
16 MCF of free gas annually to the Commission's food and
17 cover building on State Game Land No. 262, Banks
18 Township, from the proposed Irvin #2 well. The
19 Irving #2 well is a proposed shallow vertical well
20 located on State Game Land No. 262, Banks Township,
21 in which the Commission does not own the oil and gas
22 rights. Tract 262-01, the proposed Lamkie #3 well,

1 and the proposed Irvin #2 well and the pipeline route
2 are depicted on Exhibit OGM 2 on page 49 of your
3 agenda.

4 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

5 Motion?

6 COMMISSIONER DALEY:

7 So moved.

8 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

9 Second?

10 COMMISSIONER HOOVER:

11 Second.

12 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

13 Discussion? Mr. Secretary?

14 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

15 We have a motion on the floor that's
16 been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify
17 by saying aye.

18 AYES RESPOND

19 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

20 Opposed?

21 NO RESPONSE

22 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

1 Motion carries.

2 ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

3 Mr. President, that concludes that
4 portion.

5 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

6 Thank you. We're going to go to the
7 Elk Allocation next. Go ahead, John.

8 MR. DUNN:

9 I don't know if the Board has a handout
10 of the application for recommending 116 licenses.

11 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

12 I don't think we're going to need to do
13 that. I would just point out to the audience and our
14 internet listeners that we have already discussed
15 these allocations at prior working group meetings.
16 It may seem like we're just coming in here and voting
17 on them, but we actually have had a fair amount of
18 discussion, and that discussion is recorded on our
19 website. So if you'd like to --- if any of the
20 viewers want to go back and look at the website, they
21 can see the prior discussion. Do we have a motion to
22 accept the proposal?

1 COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

2 I move we accept the elk license
3 proposed recommendation.

4 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

5 Second?

6 COMMISSIONER FOX:

7 Second.

8 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

9 Discussion? Mr. Secretary?

10 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

11 There is a motion on the floor and it's
12 been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify
13 by saying aye.

14 AYES RESPOND

15 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

16 Opposed?

17 NO RESPONSE

18 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

19 Motion carries.

20 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

21 We're going to go on to the antlerless
22 deer allocation. The antlerless deer allocation has

1 been presented to us on several prior occasions. The
2 Commissioners have a list of the recommended
3 allocation for each unit. We're going to have each
4 Commissioner discuss what their particular
5 recommendation is for the units. Some of these units
6 are split among as many as four or five --- at least
7 four Commissioners. The Commissioner that has the
8 majority of that unit will make the --- will initiate
9 the discussion for the unit. The Secretary will
10 record their recommendation. When we have all the
11 recommendations, the Secretary will read them off
12 again. We'll vote on them as a whole. We'll make a
13 motion, then we'll discuss it. So we'll start off
14 with Wildlife Management Unit 1A. That's
15 Commissioner Daley.

16 COMMISSIONER DALEY:

17 Mr. Putnam, I looked at the
18 recommendations of our Deer Team as well as the
19 hunter surveys, essentially looking at the population
20 trends. Having looked at those historic allocations
21 since about 2005, we've always had 40,000, 45,000
22 range, but the licenses have gone 2.5 to 4.4 to

1 harvest single antlerless deer. That means the
2 success rates have dropped in some way, and there's
3 not been any reason for that. So essentially, having
4 looked at all of that and regeneration rates, where
5 this has been back in the solid fair range in terms
6 of forest regeneration, my recommendation is 46,000
7 allocations.

8 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER DALEY:

11 And I would like to say we will
12 continue to monitor everything when setting future
13 allocations.

14 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

15 Unit 1B, Commissioner Daley.

16 COMMISSIONER DALEY:

17 1B amounts to the same with regard to
18 what to say again, having variable allocations of
19 27,000 to 31,000. Licenses again per deer have
20 increased, so success rates are down. Forest
21 regeneration, you know, it started out poor, from
22 about two thousand seven, eight, and nine. Now it's

1 back to around 60 percent, good, since 2009. Based
2 on that, biologist recommendations, and regeneration
3 in the fair range, I was hoping to swing the pendulum
4 a little bit more toward more deer. I'm recommending
5 allocating 29 thousand tags and then continue
6 monitoring things.

7 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

8 Thank you. Unit 2A, Commissioner
9 Schlemmer.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

11 I have --- after looking at the hunter
12 satisfaction, the hunters that did call in to discuss
13 this coming back, but they're looking to improve the
14 herd a little bit in that area, looking at
15 approximately 43,000.

16 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

17 Thank you. 2B, Commissioner Schlemmer.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

19 2B, I'm going to recommend a 61,000
20 recommendation in that particular area, part way into
21 Allegheny County, and in hopes that it will encourage
22 our municipal partners, through the work of the PGC
and the hunters, to work on the deer situation in

1 Allegheny County itself. So I'm recommending a staff
2 recommendation of 61,000.

3 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

4 2C, Commissioner Layton.

5 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

6 2C is an area where hunters are calling
7 for an increase in deer. People that I talked with
8 feel that they feel that we increase the deer hunters
9 a little bit in 2C. The forest regeneration has been
10 increased. It's something I think we --- certainly
11 need to push the envelope a little bit. 2C is one of
12 those areas that we all need to keep an eye on
13 because, again, they've just recently expanded and
14 gone into 2C. And while they haven't seen any
15 positives on the 2C side or not, it's something we
16 still need to be aware of. So I'm recommending an
17 allocation of 31,000 antlerless permits in that area
18 to allow the herd to increase a little bit.

19 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

20 Unit 2D, Commissioner Schlemmer?

21 COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

22 2D, be brief a little bit. We've had

1 more documents than we've had inquiries, although we
2 have an outstanding climate factor this year in
3 regards to the harsh winter. So based on what I'm
4 hearing from the hunters in that particular area, I'm
5 going to recommend 55,000.

6 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

7 Thank you. 2E. That would be
8 Commissioner Putnam. The hunter satisfaction
9 indicates that we have a --- that the hunters are
10 satisfied with the deer in that level. We have a
11 population that's relatively high compared to the
12 other units. I'm going to recommend 21,000 permits
13 for the unit.

14 2F, Commissioner Daley.

15 COMMISSIONER DALEY:

16 Just on the CWD management area so we
17 have to keep an eye on that, but right now I'm going
18 to tell you that both the hunters and the residents
19 say that deer numbers are too low in that area. When
20 you look at the allocations since 2005 they have
21 varied from 22,000 to 30,000, and plot to plot
22 regeneration rates have improved from 47 to 58

1 percent, showing again that we are seeing fewer deer
2 increase regeneration as a positive effect. I'm
3 suggesting 22,000 to increase the herd in that area.

4 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

5 Thank you. 2G is Commissioner Putnam.
6 2G is the elephant in the room. It's the Ground Zero
7 for our big woods units. The population is
8 relatively low there, but it's come up substantially
9 since the days of the deer reduction program. The
10 recommendation by the staff to stabilize that unit
11 was 28,000. I'm going to recommend 22,000. It will
12 permit the herd to grow some more. Again, we're
13 watching the forest health regeneration there, make
14 sure we don't turn it from a green unit to a red
15 unit.

16 2H is a northern hardwood unit that has
17 a lot of active timbering in there. It's one of the
18 lowest. Right now we're issuing some of the lowest
19 deer permits per square mile. I'm recommending an
20 issuance of 6,500 permits for that unit, it's a small
21 unit, which is 500 more than the recommended
22 allocation to stabilize the herd.

1 3A, Commissioner Fox.

2 COMMISSIONER FOX:

3 I'm requesting more here, I recommend
4 19,000. There is some land in the eastern area that
5 can be used.

6 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

7 One thing I would add to Commissioner
8 Fox's commentary is that unit was reduced from a
9 concurrent season to a split season this year. So
10 even though the allocations are close to what we had
11 last year, we've still --- we've taken the first week
12 of doe hunting off that unit.

13 3B is Commissioner Fox.

14 COMMISSIONER FOX:

15 3B is one of the ones that has some
16 growth, I'm going to recommend 33,000.

17 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

18 3C, Commissioner Delaney.

19 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

20 Mr. President, let's go back to 3B. I
21 share part of that also. And Commissioner Fox I
22 think has left that again to the 3B. There was a

1 recommendation of 33,000?

2 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

3 That's what Commissioner Fox said. I'd
4 ask Commissioner Fox if he would reconsider that
5 number based on his ---.

6 COMMISSIONER FOX:

7 Yes. I'll amend that to 28,000.

8 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

9 I would concur with that lower number
10 as it's right out of our own data, the other things
11 that says deer population is too low. We had to do
12 something about that, so I have to agree with
13 Commissioner Fox on 28,000.

14 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

15 Thank you, Commissioner Delaney. The
16 next up is 3C, Commissioner Delaney.

17 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

18 3C, I'm going to recommend 36,000. But
19 just a little bit about 3C. It takes all of
20 Susquehanna County, parts of Wayne, Wyoming and
21 Lackawanna County. The population is fairly stable.
22 The population objective is a decrease. That's why I

1 would ask the Board to consider 4,000 more tags in
2 that area, close --- closer to what the staff had
3 wanted. I've heard from municipal officials in 3C,
4 sportsmen, landowners. I've gotten a lot of feedback
5 on 3C. So that's one of the reasons why I recommend
6 to increase the allocation somewhat. The other
7 issues with forest regeneration only at fifty-five
8 percent. The deer impact from 2010 to 2014 was high,
9 31 deer per square mile right now. So based on that,
10 I feel really comfortable and would ask the rest of
11 the Board to support 36,000 tags for WMU 3C.

12 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

13 3D, Commissioner Delaney.

14 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

15 3D has been my trouble WMU since I've
16 been on the Board. Basically all of Pike County,
17 half of Wayne, parts of Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe
18 and Crawford County. The Board agreed for the first
19 time this year to put it into a split season from the
20 current season. The population appears stable. The
21 population objective is stable, but I would also say
22 WMU 3D has the lowest deer per square mile at 16, in

1 Pennsylvania.

2 The 2014/2015 allocations were 25,000.
3 I recommend keep it at that and request that the
4 Board issue 25,000 this year. The deer ratio remains
5 stable. The forest regeneration remains good at 61
6 percent. And PA --- Pennsylvania hunter opinion
7 either in the packet we got or the deer season, the
8 hunter opinions were deer population was too low.

9 So with that said, that's what our
10 recommendation is. But I'll say the same thing I
11 have said other years. In 3B, I think that 3B should
12 be worked less. So my recommendation is for 25,000,
13 same as last year.

14 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

15 Thank you. 4A, Commissioner Layton.

16 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

17 4A is this thorn in my side, in the
18 Game Commission's side. We know that the disease
19 management area is located squarely in 4A. Seventy-
20 seven (77) percent of 4A is now consumed by the DMA.

21 First I want to thank Secretary McComb
22 (phonetic), Deputy Burhans, Dr. Brown, Dr.

1 Rosenberg, for getting information together so that
2 we can make some sound decision on 4A, the disease
3 management area this year. I appreciate the work
4 that they've put in and the amount of information
5 they got for me.

6 Last year we had an allocation of
7 28,000 in 4A. It's one of those areas where the deer
8 numbers are low. They're the lowest in the State.
9 But because of the CWD being a part of that area, you
10 know, we believe presently that that's a good thing,
11 because we want to try to aide as much as we can the
12 CWD for the disease management area. So I'm going to
13 go with the allocation that's been recommended by the
14 deer team at 30,000. And then under new business,
15 we'll discuss the disease management area.

16 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

17 Thank you. 4B, Commissioner Weaner.

18 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

19 Last year we had 26,000 licenses for
20 this area. And I would be in favor of --- I
21 recommend we stay at 26,000.

22 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

1 4C, Commissioner Hoover.

2 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

3 4C encompasses a lot of Columbia and
4 Schuylkill County. The staff recommendation was, I
5 believe, 33,000. We've attempted to bring the herd
6 up a little bit. We've had complaints from sportsmen
7 in that area, so I'm going to recommend 25,000.

8 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

9 4D, Commissioner Putnam. The other
10 Commissioners have expressed their problem areas, and
11 4D surely is another tough one. It runs from in
12 Blair County, where we have CWD, all the way up to
13 the southern Lycoming County. It has some of the
14 best agricultural ground in the state. It has some
15 of the worst forest soils in the state. We have
16 areas of too many deer, where we have to fence to
17 protect planting, and we have areas that have very
18 few deer. There's no simple answer for 2D --- or for
19 4D. I think our unit allocation is good. We have an
20 average --- on the average, we have a good deer
21 population. However, in any one spot we either have
22 too many or too few. So I'm going to stick with the

1 33,000 as my recommendation, the same as what it was
2 last year.

3 4E, Commissioner Fox.

4 COMMISSIONER FOX:

5 4E is 4 percent forested. We have seen
6 a drop in overall density in that area. It seems to
7 be good and recommend 25,000

8 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

9 5A, Commissioner Weaner.

10 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

11 Mr. President, if I could comment on

12 4E ---

13 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

14 Yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

16 --- since I share on that in Luzerne
17 County, also. I won't be on the Board next year, but
18 I think we do have to watch that unit. The deer
19 population really is --- in 2008 the deer population
20 was 35,141. In 2015, it's 59,206. This shows some
21 caution is needed with forest regeneration of 68
22 percent in 2003 to 2007. It's down around 56 percent

1 in 2010 to 2014. So I spoke to Commissioner Fox on
2 that and I'll just ask that he keep close eyes on
3 that for any change.

4 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

5 Thank you. 5A, Commissioner Weaner.

6 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

7 In 5A for a number of years we had
8 around 19,000 permits. It seems to be working well.

9 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

10 5B, Commissioner Weaner.

11 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

12 Similar story here. I'm going to
13 recommend 50,000.

14 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

15 5C, Commissioner Hoover?

16 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

17 5C and 5D, due to the realignment, is
18 one that's going to be a little bit more difficult to
19 deal with. Hunters are asking to see more deer in
20 5C. They actually asked to see a stabilized the
21 herd. Sorry. To determine allocations in 5C and 5D,
22 do hunters want less deer? The answer was no. Is

1 CWD present, no. The fawn to deer ratio decreasing,
2 no. So the request was to stabilize the herd. I'm
3 actually going to, in 5C, reduce the permits from the
4 requested amount to 70,000. And in 5D, to go to the
5 stabilized side at 24,000 permits, just to get a look
6 at what we're doing in those areas in an attempt to
7 see if we can allow the deer to come up in 5C and in
8 the areas that we have the ability to do so, and in
9 5D, until we get some idea of what this realignment
10 is going to do to the tag system and to the number of
11 deer harvested, I'd rather take the cautious side of
12 that, so again, 70,000 in 5C and 24,000 in 5D.

13 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

14 Thank you. I'm going to ask the
15 Secretary to read the revised list of antlerless
16 allocations. We'll have a motion on that and further
17 discussion. Mr. Secretary?

18 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

19 1A, we have a proposal of 46,000; for
20 1B, 29,000; for 2A, 43,000; 2B, 61,000; 2C, 31,000;
21 2D, 55,000; 2E, 21,000; 2F, 22,000; 2G, 22,000; 2H,
22 6,500; 3A, 19,000; 3B, 28,000; 3C, 36,000; 3D,

1 25,000; 4A, 30,000; 4B, 26,000; 4C, 25,000; 4D,
2 33,000; 4E, 25,000; 5A, 19,000; 5B, 50,000; 5C,
3 70,000; and 5D, 24,000.

4 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

5 Do I have a motion to accept those
6 numbers?

7 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

8 So moved.

9 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

10 Second?

11 COMMISSIONER FOX:

12 Second.

13 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

14 Discussion? I'll start off the
15 discussion by saying that you've heard a little
16 different format for going through these at this
17 time. This data has been presented several times and
18 it's available on our website, the various references
19 that the Commissioners are citing. I would hope you
20 would take from that that the Commissioners are not
21 doing this lightly, that we spent a lot of hours
22 going through all the various numbers.

1 One of the things that's important to
2 note while we're making adjustments in the numbers,
3 we're taking the --- we're looking at the data, and
4 one of the most important things is the forest health
5 data. The Commissioners may be a little more
6 aggressive in allowing the herd to come back up than
7 what the biologists would feel comfortable with, but
8 we're still looking at the numbers. We're looking at
9 the health of the deer and the health of the forest.

10 And we have three units right now where
11 the deer impacts are unacceptable. That's going to
12 be one of the key things we're going to watch as we
13 go forward in the future. We don't want to turn more
14 of those units red. So the Commissioners may be a
15 little more aggressive than what the staff would
16 recommend, but we're taking great weight and spending
17 a lot of time going through that information. I
18 would ask if any other Commissioners have any
19 comments? Commissioner Hoover?

20 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

21 I would also like to recommend that
22 anyone out there that owns a large parcel of land,

1 agricultural land, that's interested in managing
2 their property, they have tools to their avail that
3 they can use. They have the DMAP Program, they have
4 the Red Tag Program, that they can get involved if
5 they feel they've got some damage that's occurring on
6 their farms that needs to be taken care of.

7 So in our reduction of antlerless
8 allocations and in an attempt to bring up the herd in
9 areas where it's capable of coming up, we don't want
10 to upset farms, and we don't want to affect the
11 profitability of these farms, so we're giving them
12 tools to work with. I just want to make sure that
13 everybody's aware of that and that those tools are
14 out there for them.

15 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

16 Commissioner Weaner?

17 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

18 I should have mentioned this before,
19 but I remain --- to the fact that we converted a lot
20 of these areas to a seven-day antlerless season from
21 fully concurrent seasons. But having said that, we
22 already voted on that. I fully support the

1 recommendations that have been given here by all the
2 Commissioners.

3 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

4 Additional discussion?

5 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

6 Yeah, just briefly.

7 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

8 Commissioner Layton?

9 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

10 This is the second time I've been
11 through this process and I want to say that this year
12 compared to last year, I think we had more
13 information available to us. We had more
14 communication from staff. We had more interaction.
15 And I just want to tell them that I appreciate that.
16 Thank you.

17 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

18 Thank you. Additional discussion? Mr.
19 Secretary?

20 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

21 We have a motion on the floor that has
22 been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify

1 by saying aye.

2 AYES RESPOND

3 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

4 Opposed?

5 NO RESPONSE

6 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

7 Motion carries.

8 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

9 We're on new business. One of the
10 items we want to discuss is a request for release of
11 names to the Association of Fish and Wildlife
12 Agencies.

13 Mr. Dunn:

14 The Association of Fish and Wildlife
15 Agencies are constantly providing contact information
16 as part of a national survey. The fact we use in the
17 types of traps, the trap that they're using in the
18 survey because it's going to provide opportunities
19 for our trappers to get an expert in and also go over
20 future trap practices. So we would recommend that we
21 release these names for the survey.

22 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

1 Thank you. Do we have a motion to
2 release the names of our trap hunters or trappers?

3 COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

4 So moved.

5 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

6 Second.

7 COMMISSIONER FOX:

8 Second.

9 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

10 Mr. Secretary? Or discussion?

11 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

12 Yeah, I have a question that this is
13 the first time something like this has ever happened
14 before.

15 MR. DUNN:

16 Really in the past we've actually
17 authorized the release of trapper information to
18 third parties. So this is not something new.

19 COMMISSIONER DALEY:

20 So some trappers go out and they get a
21 number instead of putting their name on the tag. In
22 doing that, do we offer them any kind of anonymity

1 that we would violate by going this route?

2 MR. DUNN:

3 I believe that's a ---.

4 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

5 In doing that, have we promised them
6 that ---.

7 MR. DUNN:

8 Furtaker Survey every year, all that
9 information from that.

10 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

11 Additional discussion?

12 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

13 I actually don't.

14 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

15 Okay. Mr. Secretary?

16 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

17 We have a motion on the floor that's
18 been properly seconded. All those in favor, signify
19 by saying aye.

20 AYES RESPOND

21 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

22 Opposed?

1 NO RESPONSE

2 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

3 Motion carries.

4 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

5 Additional new business? Commissioner
6 Weaner?

7 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

8 I see that we have a meeting every
9 quarter, and I just want to also add that,
10 understanding that our next working group meeting is
11 Monday, the 18th of May, in addition to any other
12 matters.

13 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

14 Thank you. Additional new business?
15 Commissioner Daley --- Delaney. I'm having a hard
16 time getting past ---.

17 COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

18 Yes. I have --- this is actually new
19 business for the Executive Director. There's pretty
20 clear language in regard to adding rabbit to the
21 Mentored Youth Program. What I would request is that
22 our staff draft a proposal in that regard so the

1 Board could vet it and discuss it at the next
2 meeting, also having some language to present at that
3 meeting.

4 Mr. President, I have one other thing.
5 I don't know if you're going to address it or not,
6 but Director Capouillez is retiring. He will still
7 be here. This will be the last meeting in attendance
8 with us. And I just want to recognize and thank you,
9 you know, for what you've done for us. You've done
10 an amazing, amazing job through my eight years on
11 this Board with land, gas. I could go on and on and
12 speak about what you've done for the agency. I just
13 want to say thank you, Bill, and good luck in the
14 future.

15 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

16 Thank you. Bill, you're going to have
17 to come up to the podium here. I suspect you already
18 have a long prepared speech to give.

19 MR. CAPOUILLEZ:

20 I just want to say that, working for
21 the agency, I never really saw it as a job. I saw it
22 as an honor and privilege. There's a lot of people

1 that take all the work to fish and wildlife and to be
2 able to do that sort of action is unbelievable. It's
3 an absolute honor.

4 It's more than just a wildlife agency.
5 You know, when you think about it, it's an
6 opportunity to connect with God and your family and
7 carry on a lifetime sport. I mean, there's so many
8 other competitions out there and have some experience
9 with. I can't tussle with my kids like I used to.
10 They're a lot bigger than me, the boys are, but we
11 still hunt and we still trap and that comradery, you
12 know, is more than just about wildlife. So everybody
13 that's touched my life, thank you.

14 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

15 We'd like to get --- we'll get a
16 picture together. Commissioner Layton?

17 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

18 I have two things. The first is I
19 would like the Board to direct Executive Director
20 Hough by executive order to reestablish the DMA
21 permit and to issue an allocation of 13,500 permits,
22 which is 500 more than we had last year. So if we

1 have to put it in motion, that is a motion.

2 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

3 Do we have a second?

4 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

5 Second.

6 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

7 Mr. Secretary --- or discussion? Mr.
8 Secretary?

9 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

10 We have a motion on the floor. It's
11 been duly seconded. All those in favor, signify by
12 saying aye.

13 AYES RESPOND

14 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

15 Opposed?

16 NO RESPONSE

17 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

18 Motion carries. The other thing I have
19 is that the PGC, the Board Commissioners have been in
20 ongoing talks with DCNR about the purpose and there
21 are --- I'm not sure what the date is. I think it
22 was April 22nd was the next scheduled date. I think

1 that's changed.

2 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

3 It's changed.

4 COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

5 So whatever it is. Again, I've been
6 told that we can come to some kind of an
7 understanding with DCNR where we have put in place a
8 different format for the DMAP permits. And those
9 requests will be sent to the regional office and will
10 be reviewed by the biologists. The regional director
11 will look them over and forward them to the committee
12 that's been established by the Board of
13 Commissioners. And the Committee will verify
14 approval for those allocations. So we'll be moving
15 forward on that in April and I think we'll have more
16 information at that meeting.

17 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

18 Thank you. Is there any additional new
19 business?

20 VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

21 One thing. I want to add onto Jay's
22 request to get information on the rabbits for the

1 mentored youth and take a look at dove as a passive
2 sport with potential for mentored youths. When
3 mentored youth are sitting stationary with an adult,
4 I think it's a good addition to the small game season
5 that we can add some things for the mentored youth.

6 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

7 Thank you. Any additional business?

8 Meeting's adjourned.

9 * * * * *

10 MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:47 A.M.

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CERTIFICATE

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I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, meeting held before President Putnam was reported by me on 04/10/2015 and that I Brian D. O'Hare read this transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.



Court Reporter