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
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PROCEDINGS

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:
Vice President Hoover?

VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:
Present.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Commissioner Delaney?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Present.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Commissioner Schlemmer?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:
Present.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Commissioner Weaner?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Here.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Commissioner Fox?

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Here.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Commissioner Daley?

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
Present.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
And Commissioner Layton is present.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
The next order of business is approval
of minutes of our Commission meeting held January
27th, 2015. Do I have a motion to approve those
minutes?

VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:
So moved.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Seconded.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
The motion's been approved and
seconded. Any discussion? Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
We have a motion on the floor that’s
been moved and properly seconded. All those in
favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Opposed?
COMMISSIONER LAYTON:  
Motion passes.  

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:  
Now we'll go on to the agenda for the  
proposed rulemaking.  

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

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

COMMISSIONER WEANER:  
I make a motion.  

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:  

Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
We have a motion to accept it. Do we have any discussion? I guess we'll discuss it page by page.

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

MR. DUNN:
I discussed this yesterday with our staff, and we have no biological evidence of any dangers to any of those populations.

VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:
Thank you.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Okay. We're now going to go through
page one. Any comments on page one --- or page three? Sorry. Commissioner Hoover?

VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:
Okay. On squirrel, the December 26th to February 20th, I'd like to amend the date to February 29th, 2016. On the rabbit, Cottontail, same scenario, December 26th to February 20th, I'd like to amend the end date to February 29th, 2016.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Okay. Let's go to page four of the agenda.

VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:
On Ring-necked Pheasant, male only, WMUs 2A, 2C, 4C, 4E, 5A and 5B, the December 26th to February 20th season to February 29th. And the Ring-necked Pheasant, male or female combined, WMUs 1A, 1B, 2B, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4D, 5C and 5D from December 26th through February 29th.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. Page five. Okay. That was an amendment, yes.
VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:
Yes, that was an amendment.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
So we need a second for that amendment.

COMMISSIONER WEANE R:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
The motion has been made and seconded.

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

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. Any additional comments?
Mr. Secretary?

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

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
No.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Motion carries.

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

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
So moved.

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.
PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

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

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

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

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY LAYTON:

Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Motion carries.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Mr. Bechtel?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

The next items before the Commission's concerns adopted rulemaking, the adoption of proposed amendments to Sections 141.62 and 147.701, to provide trapping opportunities for river otter during the upcoming license year. The Commission proposed as its January 27, 2015 meeting to amend Sections 141.62
and 147.701. Changes to regulations restricting types and number of devices for beaver and otter trappers in those WMUs with an open otter trapping season are proposed in Section 141.62. And amendments to 147.701 are required to implement an otter trapping permit, tagging and reporting requirements for this new season. And each proposed amendments are on page 12 and 13 of your agenda.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
So moved.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Any discussion? Mr. Secretary?

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

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Can we have a motion on this?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Mr. Secretary? Oh, discussion?
Commissioner Hoover, do you have any discussion to add to this?

VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Any additional comments? Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

We have a motion that’s been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Motion is carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

So moved.
PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER Hoover?:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? Commissioner Hoover?

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. Any additional commentary, discussion? Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

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

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Opposed.

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

The next item on the agenda is adopted rulemaking of proposed amendment to 58 Pa. Code, Sections 141.63 and 141.66, amending those sections relating to definitions; and cable restraints, to redefine cable restraints, identify a list of approved locks and clarify that furtakers who possess a valid bobcat permit could only utilize an incidentally caught bobcat during the established bobcat trapping season. The text of this adopted rulemaking is on pages 21 and 22 of your agenda.
PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Motion moved and seconded. All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Motion carries.

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Motion?

VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
I have one question. The number issued by the Commission, is that the ID number or a
specific number?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:

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

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

We just had a number issued by the Game Commission.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:

I think relative to that.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

You're okay with that?

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

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

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

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Motion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Secretary, ---.

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

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
On page 27 of the agenda is the adoption of proposed amendment to 58 Pa. Code, Section 147.804, relating to general, by eliminating the issuance of antlered deer and spring turkey
harvest tags to mentored youth under the age of seven with their mentored permit, but allowing mentors to transfer antlered deer and spring turkey harvest tags issued to them by these younger youth. The text of this amendment is shown on page 28.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Motion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? Commissioner Daley?

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
I'd like to see if we can look at how you deal with sportsmen’s clubs. So right now we have arrangements with a parent or a guardian, whatever, can give the mentored youth the deer tag. But an organized club, for instance, where the club member would have to transfer a tag, can we look at
that and how to share.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

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

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

Since we put it on the agenda, we've had a lot of --- we had a lot of comments and we responded by modifying this proposal pretty substantially to go from no one under the age of nine being able to participate in the program to every child, no matter what age, can participate in the
Mentored Youth Program. We're restricting the issuance of tags to directly to the mentorees to age seven, but any youth of any age can still participate in the hunt if the mentor is going to transfer their tag to them.

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

COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

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

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

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

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

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Opposed?

COMMISSIONER FOX:

No.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

The next item is adopted rulemaking of
proposed amendment to 58 Pa. Code, Section 141.4, Appendix G, relating to hunting hours, to replace the current hunting hours table and migratory bird hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal hunting for the 2015 through 2016 hunting/trapping license year. The text of these amendments is shown on pages 30 through 32 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Motion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? No discussion on the changing of the time. Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
We have a motion that’s been moved and seconded. All in favor, signify by saying aye.
AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

Turning to page 33 of your agenda, the next item is from the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management. The first concerns acquisition. The first acquisition is Contract No. L-3678, State Game Land No. 49, Bedford County. Clifford D. and Christine F. Hurst and Linford S. and Janelle L. Martin are offering for sale 28.16, more or less, acres in Monroe Township, Bedford County, adjacent to State Game Land 49. That's shown on Exhibit RED One, page 34 of your agenda. The option price is $70,000 lump sum to be paid with funds from the Game Fund. The tract is forested with mixed oaks. The East Branch of Sideling Creek flows through the property. The creek's floodplain is fairly wide and provides habitat for woodcock and other species whose habitat
requirements include riparian areas in young forest habitat. Currently there is no public access from the west and southwest into this detached portion of State Game Land No. 49. And acquiring this property will provide critical access from SR 2011, Robinsonville Road.

The second acquisition, Contract No. L-3679, State Game Land No. 224, Luzerne County, Silverbrook Anthracite, Inc. is offering for sale 144, more or less, acres of land in Newport Township, Luzerne County, located near State Game Land No. 224, as shown on Exhibit RED Two on page 35 of your agenda. The option price is $281,000 lump sum to be paid by habitat mitigation commitments for impacts to state and federally listed species. The presence of eastern small-footed Myotis, a Pennsylvania threatened species, and Indiana bat, a Pennsylvania and federally listed endangered species, is the impetus for the mitigation funding and will require U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s approval before the property can be purchased. The property is forested with oaks, maples, black birch, hemlock and white
pine. These are natural rock outcroppings on the property. Glen Lyon Mine opening is located on the property and has become a bat hibernaculum. Silverbrook Anthracite, Inc. also has an active surface mining permit issued for portions of the property. Acquiring the property will permanently protect the hibernaculum, which is currently protected by fencing. Access is from SR 3004, known as West Main Street.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Motion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? Commissioner Weaner?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
I'd just like to point out one thing for the record. It’s quite unusual for us to buy 144
acres of land that's not inside the game land or connected to the game land, but do we demand our staff to protect bats and bat hibernacula. If you go on and just talk a little about how critical is it that not excused for the bats, and I'm just curious about the 144 acres that's not affiliated to a game land. Why is it so special to make that acquisition?

MR. DUNN:

So in this area, there are two hibernacula. With regard to the ones that are bat habitat. So where we've located those in the state, we've set that as a high priority for acquisition and protection. The purpose of this really is --- can be generated by what we call I-Bat Escrow which is --- created largely to go in there for talk through a grievance and there was a litigation that was put in place for potential Indiana bat impacts. Money was set aside for the conservation and protective needs. And so that money gets set aside to be utilized here to fulfill those obligations. And the Fish & Wildlife Service works very closely with us to identify those areas to save those species so we
don't have more species listed in the future.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Thank you for that explanation. We just showed the agency that this and all the game species and non-game species need protection. So thanks for that clarification.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Any additional comment? Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
We have a motion that's been properly moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON
Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The next item before the Commission concerns two land exchanges. The first land exchange is Contract No. L-3680, State Game Land Nos. 91 and
PPL Electric Utilities Corporation is offering 261, more or less, acres of land in Buck Township, Luzerne County, adjacent to State Game Land No. 91, shown on Exhibit RED Three, on page 39, and 86.85, more or less, acres of land in Wiconisco and Williams Townships, Dauphin County, which is an interior within State Game Land No. 264, as shown on Exhibit RED Four, on page 40 of your agenda. PPL has requested amendments to two existing right-of-way licenses in order to construct new or rebuild existing electric transmission facilities across State Game Land No. 127 in Tobyhanna and Coolbaugh Townships, Monroe County, and State Game Land No. 129 in Kidder Township, Carbon County, and has agreed to convey this 347.85, more or less, acres of land to the Commission in lieu of habitat and surface damages and annual license fees in excess of the minimum fees required under Pa. Code, Sections 135.221 through 135.225.

The amended right-of-way license on State Game Land No. 127, as shown on Exhibit RED Five on page 41 of your agenda, will result in 3,720
linear feet of new 100-foot wide right-of-way, in
addition to the 16,878 linear feet of existing right-
of-way that has been licensed since 1976.

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

Of the 261, more or less, acres to be
conveyed adjacent to State Game Land No. 91, PPL will
reserve the right to construct, operate, maintain and
remove future electric facilities within a 200-foot-
wide right-of-way abutting and parallel to the
northeastern boundary of the 182-acre tract, which is
shown on Exhibit RED Three, the right to construct,
operate, maintain and remove future electric
facilities anywhere within the 79-acre tract, which
is also shown on Exhibit RED Three, and the right to
utilize 2,829 linear feet of existing access road
through these tracts. Both tracts consist of a mixed
oak/maple forest interspersed with stands of hemlock and white pine, and the understory is comprised of low bush blueberry and mountain laurel. The tracts are located in the Upper Lehigh River watershed and contain portions of the headwaters of White House Run, Kendall Creek, and associated unnamed tributaries, as well as numerous forested and scrub-shrub wetland complexes. Both tracts also provide critical summer roost habitat for eastern small-footed bats, a Pennsylvania threatened species. Access to the 261 acres is available either from SR 115 or Buck River Road.

PPL will not reserve any rights on the 86.85, more or less, acres to be conveyed within State Game Land No. 264, which is on Exhibit RED Four. This tract consists primarily of a dry oak mixed hardwood forest with a mix of dogwood, hop-hornbeam, low bush blueberry, huckleberry and mountain laurel in the understory, interspersed with herbaceous openings, and a Commission administrative road. PPL Tract three is located almost entirely within the Bear Creek Valley, with its eastern end
extending into the headwaters of West Branch Rausch Creek. Acquisition of this acreage will eliminate an interior on State Game Land No. 264 and secure access through State Game Land No. 264.

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

In the Cooperative Agreement the Commission and anyone under the Commission's control,
except with written consent from Nestle, agrees not
to engage in certain activities within the recharge
area, including but not limited to development, earth
disturbance, surface mining or rock quarrying,
timbering, road construction, placement of hazardous
materials, implementation of prescribed fire
techniques and spraying herbicides, insecticides or
other chemicals that may adversely impact the surface
or groundwater recharge area supplying springs
located on private property and utilized by Nestle.
The Commission further agrees not to withdraw or
allow others under the Commission's control to
withdraw surface or groundwater from the recharge
area for transfer or use off of the recharge area.
The Commission shall have the right to use water on
the recharge area for normal and customary wildlife
and related land management activities. There are no
other limitations on the normal and customary
wildlife and related land management activities of
the Commission, including selective timber cutting or
limited timber cutting to create clearings for
wildlife habitat or manage diseases trees, vegetation
management, hunting and furtaking.

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do we have a motion?

VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? Director Capouillez, do
you have any additional comments you'd like to add?  
These are fairly complex --- I'd say quite complex.  
There's a tremendous amount of work that's gone into  
making these pieces all come together both at the  
regional and Harrisburg level.

MR. CAPOUILLEZ:

I do have a response. Both of these  
exchanges --- you know, you're exactly right.  
They're complex --- they're far more complex than  
what we can even put into words here. They hit on  
absolutely everything that the region and the Bureau  
does. We're looking at protection, minimization and  
mitigation. You're looking at 347 acres being  
exchanged for another acre's impact on a footprint  
that basically already exists. That meets our  
protection, minimization and mitigation requirements.  
And you're looking at how those pieces of property  
fit in with other state lands, other conservation  
lands, how we get contiguous large blocks and land  
outright. Both of them have --- habitats, wetlands,  
high-quality streams, threatened and endangered  
species. We can look at the fact that in the one
case we're eliminating interior —— a long interior, and quite frankly, we didn't trip over dealing with for the last several decades. We've waited for that opportunity to hand over the land from PPL, get that interior out of game lands so that we can use fully the game lands better.

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Thank you. Any additional comments? Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

We have a motion on the floor that's moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Opposed?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Motion carries.

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

Range has leased the privately owned
oil and gas rights under the majority of State Game
Land No. 117 and surrounding private lands and has
initiated unconventional well drilling and
development programs in the vicinity of the proposed
tract and has the ability to unitize the Commission's oil and gas reserve by horizontal drilling with no surface disturbance to the 41.08 acre tract.

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

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

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

So moved.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second. Commentary, discussion? Mr. Secretary.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
We have a motion on the floor that's been moved and seconded. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Motion carries.

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

As part of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's agenda for the April 2004 meeting, the
Commission approved an assignment of oil and gas rights on a 99.6-acre parcel designated as tract 262-01 in exchange for coal and coal mining rights on 177.76 acres located on State Game Land No. 262, Banks Township, Indiana County, to Joseph Clark, doing business as Susquehanna Exploration and Production, LLC, of Glen Campbell, PA. Subsequently, Susquehanna had drilled two shallow gas wells on the tract and currently holds the 99-acre tract by production.

Susquehanna has requested to drill a third shallow well designated as the Lamkie #3 well on Tract 262-01. In exchange for the rights to drill and produce the Lamkie #3 well, Susquehanna will install a 5,000-foot pipeline and provide up to 250 MCF of free gas annually to the Commission's food and cover building on State Game Land No. 262, Banks Township, from the proposed Irvin #2 well. The Irving #2 well is a proposed shallow vertical well located on State Game Land No. 262, Banks Township, in which the Commission does not own the oil and gas rights. Tract 262-01, the proposed Lamkie #3 well,
and the proposed Irvin #2 well and the pipeline route are depicted on Exhibit OGM 2 on page 49 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Motion?

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? Mr. Secretary?

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

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
Mr. President, that concludes that portion.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. We’re going to go to the Elk Allocation next. Go ahead, John.

MR. DUNN:
I don't know if the Board has a handout of the application for recommending 116 licenses.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
I don't think we're going to need to do that. I would just point out to the audience and our internet listeners that we have already discussed these allocations at prior working group meetings. It may seem like we're just coming in here and voting on them, but we actually have had a fair amount of discussion, and that discussion is recorded on our website. So if you'd like to --- if any of the viewers want to go back and look at the website, they can see the prior discussion. Do we have a motion to accept the proposal?
COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:
I move we accept the elk license proposed recommendation.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? Mr. Secretary?

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

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Motion carries.

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

COMMISSIONER DALEY:

Mr. Putnam, I looked at the recommendations of our Deer Team as well as the hunter surveys, essentially looking at the population trends. Having looked at those historic allocations since about 2005, we've always had 40,000, 45,000 range, but the licenses have gone 2.5 to 4.4 to
harvest single antlerless deer. That means the
success rates have dropped in some way, and there's
not been any reason for that. So essentially, having
looked at all of that and regeneration rates, where
this has been back in the solid fair range in terms
of forest regeneration, my recommendation is 46,000
allocations.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
And I would like to say we will
continue to monitor everything when setting future
allocations.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Unit 1B, Commissioner Daley.

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
1B amounts to the same with regard to
what to say again, having variable allocations of
27,000 to 31,000. Licenses again per deer have
increased, so success rates are down. Forest
regeneration, you know, it started out poor, from
about two thousand seven, eight, and nine. Now it's
back to around 60 percent, good, since 2009. Based on that, biologist recommendations, and regeneration in the fair range, I was hoping to swing the pendulum a little bit more toward more deer. I’m recommending allocating 29 thousand tags and then continue monitoring things.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Thank you. Unit 2A, Commissioner Schlemmer. COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Thank you. 2B, Commissioner Schlemmer. COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

2C, Commissioner Layton.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Unit 2D, Commissioner Schlemmer?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:

2D, be brief a little bit. We've had
more documents than we've had inquiries, although we have an outstanding climate factor this year in regards to the harsh winter. So based on what I'm hearing from the hunters in that particular area, I'm going to recommend 55,000.

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

2F, Commissioner Daley.

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
Just on the CWD management area so we have to keep an eye on that, but right now I'm going to tell you that both the hunters and the residents say that deer numbers are too low in that area. When you look at the allocations since 2005 they have varied from 22,000 to 30,000, and plot to plot regeneration rates have improved from 47 to 58
percent, showing again that we are seeing fewer deer
increase regeneration as a positive effect. I'm
suggesting 22,000 to increase the herd in that area.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Thank you. 2G is Commissioner Putnam.

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

2H is a northern hardwood unit that has
a lot of active timbering in there. It's one of the
lowest. Right now we're issuing some of the lowest
deer permits per square mile. I'm recommending an
issuance of 6,500 permits for that unit, it's a small
unit, which is 500 more than the recommended
allocation to stabilize the herd.
3A, Commissioner Fox.

COMMISSIONER FOX:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

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

3B is Commissioner Fox.

COMMISSIONER FOX:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

3C, Commissioner Delaney.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

Mr. President, let's go back to 3B. I share part of that also. And Commissioner Fox I think has left that again to the 3B. There was a
recommendation of 33,000?

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

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

COMMISSIONER FOX:

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

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

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

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

3C, I'm going to recommend 36,000. But just a little bit about 3C. It takes all of Susquehanna County, parts of Wayne, Wyoming and Lackawanna County. The population is fairly stable. The population objective is a decrease. That's why I
would ask the Board to consider 4,000 more tags in that area, close --- closer to what the staff had wanted. I've heard from municipal officials in 3C, sportsmen, landowners. I've gotten a lot of feedback on 3C. So that's one of the reasons why I recommend to increase the allocation somewhat. The other issues with forest regeneration only at fifty-five percent. The deer impact from 2010 to 2014 was high, 31 deer per square mile right now. So based on that, I feel really comfortable and would ask the rest of the Board to support 36,000 tags for WMU 3C.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

3D, Commissioner Delaney.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

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

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

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Thank you. 4A, Commissioner Layton.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

4A is this thorn in my side, in the Game Commission's side. We know that the disease management area is located squarely in 4A. Seventy-seven (77) percent of 4A is now consumed by the DMA. First I want to thank Secretary McComb (phonetic), Deputy Burhans, Dr. Brown, Dr.
Rosenberry, for getting information together so that we can make some sound decision on 4A, the disease management area this year. I appreciate the work that they've put in and the amount of information they got for me.

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Thank you. 4B, Commissioner Weaner.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
4C, Commissioner Hoover.

VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

4D, Commissioner Putnam. The other Commissioners have expressed their problem areas, and 4D surely is another tough one. It runs from in Blair County, where we have CWD, all the way up to the southern Lycoming County. It has some of the best agricultural ground in the state. It has some of the worst forest soils in the state. We have areas of too many deer, where we have to fence to protect planting, and we have areas that have very few deer. There's no simple answer for 2D --- or for 4D. I think our unit allocation is good. We have an average --- on the average, we have a good deer population. However, in any one spot we either have too many or too few. So I'm going to stick with the
33,000 as my recommendation, the same as what it was last year.

4E, Commissioner Fox.

COMMISSIONER FOX:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

5A, Commissioner Weaner.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:

Mr. President, if I could comment on 4E ---

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Yeah.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:

--- since I share on that in Luzerne County, also. I won't be on the Board next year, but I think we do have to watch that unit. The deer population really is --- in 2008 the deer population was 35,141. In 2015, it's 59,206. This shows some caution is needed with forest regeneration of 68 percent in 2003 to 2007. It's down around 56 percent
in 2010 to 2014. So I spoke to Commissioner Fox on that and I’ll just ask that he keep close eyes on that for any change.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. 5A, Commissioner Weaner.

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
5B, Commissioner Weaner.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Similar story here. I'm going to recommend 50,000.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
5C, Commissioner Hoover?

VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:
5C and 5D, due to the realignment, is one that's going to be a little bit more difficult to deal with. Hunters are asking to see more deer in 5C. They actually asked to see a stabilized the herd. Sorry. To determine allocations in 5C and 5D, do hunters want less deer? The answer was no. Is
CWD present, no. The fawn to deer ratio decreasing, no. So the request was to stabilize the herd. I'm actually going to, in 5C, reduce the permits from the requested amount to 70,000. And in 5D, to go to the stabilized side at 24,000 permits, just to get a look at what we're doing in those areas in an attempt to see if we can allow the deer to come up in 5C and in the areas that we have the ability to do so, and in 5D, until we get some idea of what this realignment is going to do to the tag system and to the number of deer harvested, I'd rather take the cautious side of that, so again, 70,000 in 5C and 24,000 in 5D.

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

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
1A, we have a proposal of 46,000; for 1B, 29,000; for 2A, 43,000; 2B, 61,000; 2C, 31,000; 2D, 55,000; 2E, 21,000; 2F, 22,000; 2G, 22,000; 2H, 6,500; 3A, 19,000; 3B, 28,000; 3C, 36,000; 3D,
25,000; 4A, 30,000; 4B, 26,000; 4C, 25,000; 4D, 33,000; 4E, 25,000; 5A, 19,000; 5B, 50,000; 5C, 70,000; and 5D, 24,000.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do I have a motion to accept those numbers?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? I'll start off the discussion by saying that you've heard a little different format for going through these at this time. This data has been presented several times and it's available on our website, the various references that the Commissioners are citing. I would hope you would take from that that the Commissioners are not doing this lightly, that we spent a lot of hours going through all the various numbers.
One of the things that's important to note while we're making adjustments in the numbers, we're taking the --- we're looking at the data, and one of the most important things is the forest health data. The Commissioners may be a little more aggressive in allowing the herd to come back up than what the biologists would feel comfortable with, but we're still looking at the numbers. We're looking at the health of the deer and the health of the forest.

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

VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:

I would also like to recommend that anyone out there that owns a large parcel of land,
agricultural land, that's interested in managing
their property, they have tools to their avail that
they can use. They have the DMAP Program, they have
the Red Tag Program, that they can get involved if
they feel they've got some damage that's occurring on
their farms that needs to be taken care of.

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Commissioner Weaner?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
I should have mentioned this before,
but I remain --- to the fact that we converted a lot
of these areas to a seven-day antlerless season from
fully concurrent seasons. But having said that, we
already voted on that. I fully support the
recommendations that have been given here by all the Commissioners.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Additional discussion?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Yeah, just briefly.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Commissioner Layton?

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. Additional discussion? Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
We have a motion on the floor that has been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify
by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Motion carries.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

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

Mr. Dunn:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. Do we have a motion to release the names of our trap hunters or trappers?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second.

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Mr. Secretary? Or discussion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Yeah, I have a question that this is the first time something like this has ever happened before.

MR. DUNN:
Really in the past we've actually authorized the release of trapper information to third parties. So this is not something new.

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
So some trappers go out and they get a number instead of putting their name on the tag. In doing that, do we offer them any kind of anonymity
that we would violate by going this route?

MR. DUNN:
I believe that's a ---.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
In doing that, have we promised them that ---.

MR. DUNN:
Furtaker Survey every year, all that information from that.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Additional discussion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
I actually don’t.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Okay. Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
We have a motion on the floor that's been properly seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Opposed?
COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Motion carries.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Additional new business? Commissioner Weaner?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

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

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

Yes. I have --- this is actually new business for the Executive Director. There’s pretty clear language in regard to adding rabbit to the Mentored Youth Program. What I would request is that our staff draft a proposal in that regard so the
Board could vet it and discuss it at the next meeting, also having some language to present at that meeting.

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. Bill, you're going to have to come up to the podium here. I suspect you already have a long prepared speech to give.

MR. CAPOUILLEZ:
I just want to say that, working for the agency, I never really saw it as a job. I saw it as an honor and privilege. There's a lot of people
that take all the work to fish and wildlife and to be able to do that sort of action is unbelievable. It's an absolute honor.

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
We'd like to get --- we'll get a picture together. Commissioner Layton?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
I have two things. The first is I would like the Board to direct Executive Director Hough by executive order to reestablish the DMA permit and to issue an allocation of 13,500 permits, which is 500 more than we had last year. So if we
have to put it in motion, that is a motion.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Mr. Secretary --- or discussion? Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
We have a motion on the floor. It's been duly seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Opposed?

NO RESPONSE

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
It's changed.

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

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. Is there any additional new
business?

VICE PRESIDENT HOOVER:
One thing. I want to add onto Jay's
request to get information on the rabbits for the
mentored youth and take a look at dove as a passive sport with potential for mentored youths. When mentored youth are sitting stationary with an adult, I think it's a good addition to the small game season that we can add some things for the mentored youth.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Thank you. Any additional business?

Meeting's adjourned.

* * * * * * *

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:47 A.M.

* * * * * * *
CERTIFICATE

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.

[Signature]

Court Reporter