APPEARANCES

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P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
I call the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Mr. Secretary, call the roll, please.
SECRETARY HOOVER:
President Schlemmer?
PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Present.
SECRETARY HOOVER:
Vice President Putnam?
VICE PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Present.
SECRETARY HOOVER:
Commissioner Delaney?
COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Present.
SECRETARY HOOVER:
Commissioner Weaner?
COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Present.
SECRETARY HOOVER:
Commissioner Fox?

COMMISSIONER FOX:

Present.

SECRETARY HOOVER:

Commissioner Layton?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Present.

SECRETARY HOOVER:

And Commissioner Hoover is here.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Thank you, sir. Mr. Delaney?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

I would just like to make sure --- or acknowledge Representative Mike Peifer from Northeastern Pennsylvania, Wayne County area, also a member of the House Game and Fisheries Committee. Mr. Representative, will you stand for a minute, please, so we can acknowledge your presence?

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Thank you, Commissioner. Approval of minutes, meeting held September the 23rd, 2014. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

So moved.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion? Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Motion on the floor has been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Those opposed, no. Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The first item to come before the Commission today is from the Bureau of Information and Education concerning adopted rulemaking to amend 58 Pa. Code Section 143.12. Hunter education delivery methods continue to evolve across the nation. The use of independent study is one delivery method which had been in use for nearly a decade in Pennsylvania. Students study the majority of the course on their own, then attend an abbreviated two-hour class to meet their local WCO, who leads a lesson on hunting laws and regulations. At the conclusion of this lesson, students complete the certification exam and receive a training certificate.

Recently, online training programs have been developed to not only provide the training
component, but also enable online testing and certification of students as well. Upon successful completion of the course of study, students can print a certificate of training and purchase a hunting license. Vendors who develop and manage online hunter education training certification courses typically charge a user fee to recover ongoing development and maintenance costs of the program. The proposed regulation enables the agency to offer a completely online HTE training and certification course while providing for a convenience fee to be paid by those students who choose this option.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission will continue to offer nearly 1,000 instructor led Hunter-Trapper Education classes each year. These classes will continue to meet the legislative mandate for HTE instruction to be free of charge.

The text of this Amendment is on page three of your agenda.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Do I hear a motion?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
So moved.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Second.
PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Seconded. Discussion?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Steve, I have one question. It talks about the two hour classes a week to meet with the local WCO as a requirement of the course. Is there a cutoff on age or is that everybody who participates in the program?

MR. SMITH:
That two hour is for the existing independent sub portion of the course.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
All right.

MR. SMITH:
If you move to the online program or the Board allows us to go in that direction, it'll no longer need to be that extra component of going to an actual class. So this will take the place of that.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Thank you.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Further discussion? Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY HOOVER:
There’s a motion on the floor that’s been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify
by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:

Opposed, no. Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:


This final legislation created 75 Pa.C.S. Section 1355.1 to establish the Department of Transportation's authority, in consultation with the Commission, to issue Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage registration plates for eligible classes of vehicles. The legislation requires the Commission to charge a fee for the authorization to request the registration plate, but does not itself establish the fee amount.

The Commission created Section 131.10 to require applicants seeking authorization to request a Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage registration plate to pay a fee of $25. This rulemaking was proposed by the Commission at its September 23rd, 2014 meeting and thereafter finally adopted by notational vote on December 9th, 2014.

The text of this is shown on page five
of your agenda. This is an information item and no action is required.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Can I ask a question, though? What is the final cost of this? It seems to be more than $25.

MR. SMITH:
Right. The fee that we establish is $25 and that all goes to the Game Commission, where it can be then split up, where according to the legislation, one third going to an agency that provides venison to those in need and two thirds to the Conservation Organization. That's with the Game Commission Fee.

PennDOT still charges a $25 fee as well for the end of processing the application. And Department of Corrections charges a $6 fee for actually making the plates. So at the end of the day it's going to be a total of a $56 fee that the consumer will pay with PennDOT getting $25, Game Commission getting $25, Corrections getting $6.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Thank you.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
I would like to add one thing. This is Senator Brewster’s initiative and he’s now minority chair of the Senate. Thank you.
ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

The next item before the Commission comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Management. This concerns proposed rulemaking. To effectively manage the wildlife resources and provide hunting and trapping opportunities in this Commonwealth during the upcoming license year, the Commission is proposing to amend Section 139.4 of the 58 Pa. Code, relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year, to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2015/2016 license year. The text of these amendments are shown on pages 8 to 15 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:

So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Second?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Discussion? Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY HOOVER:

What we'll do is go through the agenda page by page. If there are any changes, please note

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Yes, Mr. Secretary and Mr. President. I will move to make an amendment on page twelve with regard to Wildlife Management Unit 3D as in dog, to take it from the current concurred season and move it into the split season.

Currently, it's listed with Wildlife Management Unit 1A, 1B, 2B, 3A, 3D, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D. And I want to take that, and I want to move that into the split season where --- from November 30th to December the 4th and December the 5th to the 12th antlered and antlerless. So that's my motion to move --- add an amendment to remove 3D from the current to the split season. The split deer season.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Is there a second?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
I'll second that.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Yeah, I will offer a discussion on that just to put at least some justification into this.
Wildlife Management Unit 3D has the second lowest deer per square mile in the entire state. And I feel that there's some merit to at least our sportsmen to be able to see a few more deer there in the first five days of that season. So that's why I'm moving it from --- asking for consideration to move it from current to split.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Further discussion? Here none.
Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
There's an amendment on the floor to move Wildlife Management Unit 3D from concurrent to split season. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Opposed, no. That motion carries. I have some discussions as well. We would like to see Wildlife Management Unit 1A, 1B and 3A to follow Commissioner Delaney into the split season from concurrent format. I'm making a motion to do so.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
I second, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion?

SECRETARY HOOVER:

Mr. President? I'll comment specifically on 3A. Currently 3A is completely surrounded by units that have the split season. And this would make it more consistent with the boundaries of it. 3A does have a fairly good deer population and one where the habitat conditions warrant possibly increasing the herd there. And we'll be watching that pretty close.

But I would expect with the split season, we'll be issuing at least as many permits as we did last year in three years or possible more so. This is not necessary just to cut down the deer population or increase the population. We have to make it more consistent with the properties surrounding it.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Further discussion? Mr. Weaner?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:

One thing I'd like to point out is that historically we understand that it doesn't matter how long the archery --- or the antlerless season is. We could kill a number of deer that we wish to by regulating the number of licenses. And, therefore, it
didn't matter what the season length was. And some people would think, well, we're doing this --- we're switching this now because it's going to save more deer. We're acknowledging that what we said before wasn't true. I don't think that's the case. I think we all still believe that we can harvest the same number of deer no matter how long the season is.

I personally think we'd be better off to have the concurrent season in the whole state. But that's my opinion, so I'm just saying that we haven't changed our mind on the sciences of our decision making, more or less.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Any further discussion? Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY HOOVER:
We have a motion on the floor. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Opposed, no. That motion carries.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Mr. President, there's one more issue on page 12. WMU 4A is already listed in the November 30th to the December 4th antlered only season. That
is not listed on the December 5th through December 12th antlered and antlerless season. And I would move to amend to move --- or to add 4A to that second week.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Second?
SECRETARY HOOVER:
I'll second.
PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion?
COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Mr. President, so basically this is just an oversight here we're not actually changing it?

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
That's correct.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
That's correct. There's no change being made. Just making sure it gets into the second season.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Mr. Secretary?
SECRETARY HOOVER:
There's a motion on the floor. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND
SECRETARY HOOVER:

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Mr. President? On page 14, this was another clerical error that we just discovered, but now next to the bottom where it says fisher, the intent was that 3B be added to the fisher category. And it somehow escaped here. So I move that we add 3B to fisher at the bottom of the page.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion on that? Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
There's a motion on the floor. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Opposed, no. That motion carries. Page 15?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Mr. Secretary, if I could just go back to page 14 for one second? I won't be putting this in the form of a motion, it's just a point of clarification. Since we're having our very first
river otter season, it's in Northeastern Pennsylvania. And it covers the Wildlife Management Units 3C and 3D, February 21st to 23rd.

I think we need to make a good effort, especially with our INE Department, to look at the asterisk number six on page 15, to note that there may be an additional five days extension to that season. So I just wanted to put that clarification out there for our sportsmen trappers that may have some type of interest in this. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Mr. Secretary? And just to clarify that, that extension can be done in a block in either a block of three days or a day at a time; is that correct?

MR. DUNN:
That's correct.

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Page 15? Page 16?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Yes. You went to page 16?

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Any further discussion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Are we at page 16?
SECRETARY HOOVER:
Not yet, no.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Okay. We're going to take a vote on the proceedings of bag limits as amended. I need a motion --- or I’ll make a motion ---

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
I will.

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Okay. I need a second.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Second.

SECRETARY:
The motion on the floor has been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Opposed, say no. That motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
Yes, before the Commission now is a document proposed rulemaking to amend Section 141.62 and 147.701. To effectively manage the wildlife
resources of the Commonwealth and to provide trapping opportunities for river otter during the upcoming license year, the Commission is proposing 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. Amendments to Section 147.701 are required to implement an otter trapping permit, tagging and reporting requirements for this new season. Those changes are shown on pages 16 and 17 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Do I hear a motion? We can go to page 17 in replacement.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Okay. I'll make that motion. I have something to say under discussion.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Okay. Second?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Mr. President?
PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Yes.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
The motion that was seconded deals with this replacement page; is that correct?

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Yes.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
I just wanted to point that out. The page that we're --- the motion is referring to the blue page, replacement page 16 and 17.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Under discussion, I'll clarify it further.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
We're in discussion.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
And just to clarify that just a bit further, the Pennsylvania Trappers Association came here to testify on Sunday afternoon, and in their testimony, they had a concern. And it says does the word trap include all devices including snares if you're not trapping otters?

Perhaps Director Tom Grohol might be able to better identify this for us. At least why we
have two replacement pages and what they mean pertaining to the request from the Pennsylvania Trappers Association.

DIRECTOR GROHOL:

Okay. The Board is considering approval of a river otter trapping season in Wildlife Management Units 3C and 3D, on the dates of February 22nd --- or 21st, 22nd and 23rd, with the possibility of extending that season for up to five days.

During that same time frame, beaver trapping season is also open in Wildlife Management Units 3C and 3D. In Wildlife Management Unit 3D, the season limit is 20 beavers. And trappers would be permitted to use a total of 20 combined traps and snares in that season. Out of that 20 combined traps and snares, ten may be traps, and out of that ten traps, two may be body-gripping traps.

In Wildlife Management Unit 3C, there's a 40 limit on beavers for the season. Trappers can also use 20 combined traps or snares in that season. Again, ten of which may be traps. But in that area, ten of the traps may be body-gripping traps.

Since these two seasons run concurrently, the regulation is going to state that beaver trappers and otter trappers during that three
day season and any extensions and five days after that season will be limited to a total of five traps or snares. Two of which may be body-gripping traps.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

Thank you for the clarification.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Further discussion of the amendment?

Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:

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

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:

Opposed, no. That motion carries.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Now may I have a motion for the proposed rulemaking as amended? Do I hear a motion?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:

Point of order. I don't think we need to vote on anything else. I think we voted on everything.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Counsel?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
Well, I would agree with you, but you're only making a second motion for the amendment.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
But I didn't second the motion. Did I?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
I thought you did.

SECRETARY HOOVER:
I thought that that covers it, so if you feel there's a need to vote again, go vote again.

What are we voting on?

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
The blue replacement pages that we just reviewed.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
If you need a motion, I'll make that motion.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
I have a motion. I need a second.

SECRETARY HOOVER:
I'll second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion? Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
There's a motion on the floor that has been moved and seconded. All in favor, signify by
saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Those opposed, no. That motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The next item is the Proposed Rulemaking
to amend Section 139.17. The Commission has conducted
an evaluation of the structure of the Wildlife
Management Unit System and has developed the following
WMU Map revision. Expand WMU 5D north and west into
WMU 5C to cover more developed urban areas. The
proposed change to the WMU boundary line is shown on
the attached map, which is on page 19 of your agenda.
The text of this change is set forth on page 18 of
your agenda.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Motion?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Second?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion?
SECRETARY HOOVER:

I have. One of the reasons that we did that we were noticing that 5C --- some of the areas of 5C were becoming more urbanized. We wanted to get that into one unit so we could control and follow the same motive and leave the sections of 5C that were still suburban or, you know, basically wild or were farmland. I think we've done that. I think we've covered that.

Is it a perfect fix? I don't know that anything's a perfect fix. But I think at this point in the game, and for the foreseeable future, I think this change will help those areas of 5C where there’s not enough deer. We can do that in all different allocations, so I think it’s a good fix. And thanks, Deputy Director Bryan Burhans, for stepping up.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Further discussion? Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:

The motion on the floor has been moved and seconded. And all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:

Opposed, no. That motion carries.
ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

The next item before the Commission is from the Bureau of Wildlife Protection to adopted rulemaking and the adoption of proposed amendment to 58 Pa. Code Section 147.726. To authorize the use of raptors for nuisance wildlife abatement by persons in possession of a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator Permit and a Special Purpose-Abatement Using Raptors Permit. The text of this change is shown on page 21 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Do I hear a motion?

SECRETARY HOOVER:

So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Second?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY HOOVER:

There's a motion on the floor that has been moved and seconded. And all of those in favor, signify by saying aye.
PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Do I hear a motion?

SECRETARY HOOVER:

So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Second?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:

Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Discussion?
SECRETARY HOOVER:

I'd like to thank everyone that was involved in trying to get this done. For those of you that don't understand what we've done, we've now given our falconers the opportunity to trap a single bird if, in fact, they're able to get the permit which is issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There are limited permits issued to Eastern Fly away. Pennsylvania had not been able to work towards getting one of those permits for our hunters. And this, in fact, now breaks the ice. It gets everyone involved. It will level the playing field. So thank you. Thank you to everybody that was involved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Further discussion? Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY HOOVER:

The motion on the floor has been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:

Opposed, no. That motion's granted.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

The next item concerns proposed
rulemaking to amend Sections 141.1, 147.681 and 147.682. The Commission is proposing to expand this authorization for Deer Attractant Permits by authorizing use of the Deer Attractant Permit on township and municipal authority property as well. The text of this change is shown on pages 26 through 27 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Do I have a motion?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Second?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
I'd like to make an amendment to the motion. In paragraph seven, I'd like to propose a motion and an amendment under paragraph seven, eliminating, after the word permit, and written consent of the owner to engage in baiting activities on their person at all times while exercising the permit privileges and while maintaining the bait site
and shall produce the permit upon demand.  

Now, you're still required to carry a copy of the permit. What we're asking --- what we're removing is having to carry a copy of a written consent letter from the landowner in that statement.

**COMMISSIONER WEANER:**

Second.

**PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:**

Seconded. Further discussion? Mr. Secretary?

**SECRETARY HOOVER:**

We have a motion on the floor to amend 141.1, 147.681, and 147.682 paragraph seven, and 147.683 paragraph seven. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

**AYES RESPOND**

**SECRETARY HOOVER:**

Opposed, no. That motion carries.

**PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:**

I'll revert back to the original motion. Further discussion? Mr. Secretary?

**SECRETARY HOOVER:**

The motion on the floor has been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify with aye.

**AYES RESPOND**
SECRETARY HOOVER:

Opposed, no. That motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

The next item appears on page 28 of your agenda is proposed rulemaking to Amend 58 Pa. Code Sections 141.63 and 141.66. The proposed regulation changes to Sections 141.63 and 141.66 are designed to clarify the legal definition and use of cable restraints in the Commonwealth.

The National Trap Testing Program, administered by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, has been conducting field testing on cable restraints and has currently identified six lock designs that have performed at acceptable levels in terms of efficiency, selectivity and animal welfare criteria.

By maintaining a list of approved lock designs, the PGC will be able to regularly incorporate results from ongoing cable restraint research. Additionally, the revision to Section 141.66 would specify that furtakers who possess a valid bobcat permit could only utilize an incidentally caught bobcat during the established bobcat trapping season. The text to these changes is shown on pages 28 and 29 in your agenda.
COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Motion to accept.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Second?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion? Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
The motion on the floor has been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Opposed, no. That motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The next item concerns proposed rulemaking to amend 58 Pa. Code Sections 135.2 and 135.41. Historically, the Commission has permitted the placement and use of the portable hunting blinds and stands on State game lands and continued support for their allowance has not diminished.

However, the Commission has identified that this allowance has, in certain instances, resulted in the unintended consequence of some
portable hunting blinds and stands on State game lands becoming seemingly permanent fixtures due to long-term placement by hunters.

While the Commission continues to support the placement and use of portable hunting blinds and stands on State game lands, it is proposing to amend Section 135.41 relating to state game lands to require that persons using portable hunting blinds or stands must mark their blinds or stands with a tag bearing their name and address or a number issued by the Commission.

The Commission is also proposing to extend the application of these requirements to portable hunting blinds or stands on Cooperative Access properties that are open to public hunting. The text of this amendment is shown on pages 30 and 31 of the agenda.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Do I hear a motion?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Second?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Second.
PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Further discussion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

Mr. President, I'd like to direct a question to Director Grohol. With regard to this proposed rulemaking, can you give some feedback from the regional PGC offices across the state, please?

DIRECTOR GROHOL:

Yes. We looked at this proposal for two reasons. First is, after consulting with regional staff, they identified the problem with tree stands being left on State game lands past the time frame. And when we removed the stands, we have no idea who owns these stands and how to get them to remove them. So we're required to do it and it's a burden. And we would like to hold those people who leave the stands on the game lands responsible.

And we received complaints from cooperators on this issue as well. They complained to us that tree stands are found on their property. They don't know who owns them and many times they're left there after the end of the season is over.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

Based on that report, I'm certainly a supporter of this, but when our hunter access
cooperators, those folks that have their private property open to public hunting in Pennsylvania, tell us they have an issue with this, I'll be supporting it. Thanks for your commentary.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Mr. Putnam?

VICE PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Tom, they talk about a number issued by the Commission. Could you expand on that?

DIRECTOR GROHOL:
Sure. We considered a couple of ways we could identify the tree stands. Name and address, we considered CID numbers, there were some issues with the CID number. How I envision this to work is that we will come up with a registration online that hunters will be able to go on our website, put their information in, and they will be issued a number that they can utilize to identify their tree stands.

They'll take this number, put it on a tag, attach it to their tree stand, and we will maintain the database of the people that are issued those numbers here in Harrisburg. And our officers will have access to it via our internet site, similar to the deer tracking permit that we've been handing out.
VICE PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
That's what I was going to ask you, if
we have a similar thing. So people have three
options? They can get a unique number that is
proposed through us, use their CID number, or use
their name and address?

DIRECTOR GROHOL:
Correct.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Further discussion? Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY HOOVER:
There's a motion on the floor that has
been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify
by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Opposed, no. That motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The next item before the Commission is
on page 32 of your agenda. It's a proposed rulemaking
to amend 58 Pa. Code Section 141.45. The Commission's
2015/2016 seasons and bag limits proposal identifies
only Wildlife Management Unit 2B as a shotgun and
archery only area. Furthermore WMUs 5B, 5C and 5D,
remain closed to fall turkey hunting. All remaining
WMUs are currently organized to permit use of operated centerfire, rimfire or muzzleloading firearms using single projectile ammunition.

The Commission is proposing to amend Section 141.45 relating to turkey by removing reference to WMUs 1A, 1B and 2A in the provision prohibiting use of operated centerfire, rimfire or muzzleloading firearms using single projectile ammunition in order to maintain continuity between these regulatory provisions. The text is shown on page 32 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Second?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Further discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
The motion on the floor has been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying
aye.  

AYES RESPOND  

SECRETARY HOOVER:  

Opposed, no. That motion carries.  

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:  

Mr. President, the next item concerns an amendment and it's on page 33. With the Commission’s indulgence, there is a replacement page that is different. I elect to work from the replacement page. This is the proposed rulemaking to Amend 58 Pa. Code Section 147.804.  

The Commission has received extensive public comment regarding concern over the appropriateness of young children’s abilities to utilize high-powered firearms to harvest big game as well as allegations of adults utilizing the harvest tags of mentored youth unlawfully.  

Wildlife Conservation Officers have encountered evidence of the allegations in several enforcement operations this past hunting season.  

The Commission is proposing to amend Section 147.804 by eliminating additions to the antlered deer and spring turkey harvest tags to mentored youth under the age of seven with a mentored permit, but allowing mentors to transfer antlered deer
and spring turkey harvest tags issued to them to these younger youth.

The text of this proposed rulemaking is shown on the replacement page 33.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Do I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Second?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Mr. President? The proposal we have in front of us, just for the motion here, it says at the top, will maintain the integrity of the mentored youth program exactly like it is right now with one change.

The change here would be that prior to the seventh birthday you would not have a separate tag for turkey, for deer. A mentor could still transfer the tag to a person that was three or four years old if these choose to do that. All of the options --- the mentor hunter can still hunt. We just have this
one change. That's all there is.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Further discussion?

VICE PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Mr. President, to add to Commissioner Weaner's comments, those tags that he referred to are for antlered deer and spring gobbler. Currently, the mentors can take an antlered deer with their own tag. If they take an antlerless deer, it would be a transferred tag. If they took a turkey in the fall, it’s with a transferred tag. So we're only talking about antlered deer and spring gobblers as far as the tags go.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Thank you. Further discussion?

Commissioner Delaney? Commissioner, go ahead.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
I just turned my microphone on for the vote.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
There's a motion on the floor that has been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:

Opposed, no. That motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

The next item before the Commission is on page 34 of your agenda. The Commission is proposing to amend Section 141.4 of 58 Pa. Code 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 2015/2016 hunting license year. The text in this change is shown on page 34 through page 36 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER WEANNER:

So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Second?

SECRETARY HOOVER:

Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:

The motion on the floor has been moved
and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Opposed, no. That motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The next item on the agenda comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management. It concerns a real estate donation, Contract Number 3673, State Game Land Number 217 in Lehigh County.

Nancy F. Becker is offering a donation of 3.35 more or less acres of land in Washington Township, Lehigh County which adjoins State Game Land Number 217 shown on Exhibit RED 1 on page 38 of your agenda. The property is forested with mixed oaks and has a spring seep located on the northwest edge of the property. The tract is accessed from State Game Land Number 217.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Do I hear a motion?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Second?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion? Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
The motion on the floor has been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Opposed, no? That motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The next item concerns two acquisitions.
The first is Contract Number L-3674, State Game Lands Number 311 in Elk County. Anthony Gelotti is offering for sale one fourth more or less acres in Benezette Township, Elk County adjacent to State Game Land Number 311 shown on Exhibit RED 2 on page 40 of your agenda.

The option price is $1,500 lump sum to be paid with funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State game lands from previously approved projects. The tract is planted in cool season grasses and mowed periodically. The property is accessed from Winslow Hill.
The second acquisition is Contact Number 1 L-3675, State Game Land Numbers 91 and 207 in Luzerne County. The Conservation Fund is offering for sale 1,980 more or less acres of land in Jenkins, Plains, Bear Creek and Hanover Townships in Luzerne County.

Some of tracts adjoin State Game Land Number 91 shown on Exhibit RED 3 on page 41 of your agenda. And some of the tracts are located near State Game Land Number 207 shown on Exhibit RED 4 on page 42 of your agenda. All timber assets have been previously reserved by Deer Park Lumber, Inc. until August 1st, 2028. All oil and gas will be reserved by the Theta Land Corporation until August 1st, 2055.

The Commission has the option of paying the full purchase price in one lump-sum payment of $2,574,000 or in a series of phased closings with an initial payment of $858,000, followed by a second installment of $909,480 and a third and final installment of $883,740. These installments may be paid in cash or in lieu thereof the Commission, at its sole discretion, may choose to exchange timber from other State game land tracts.

If the installment option is selected, the Agreement allows the transfer and sale of an undivided one-third interest of the property per
annual payment until the entire property, 100 percent, has been transferred to the Commission.

The property is mainly forested with mixed oak, maple, ash and cherry, with minimal forest openings. These are numerous streams classified as cold water fisheries located on the property including Gardner Creek, Warden Run and Mill Creek.

Access is through existing State Game Land Number 91 and Bald Mountain Road. The two small detached parcels are located west of State Game Land Number 207 and west of I-81.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Thank you. Is there a motion, please?
COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
So moved.
PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Second?
COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Second.
PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion?
COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Yes, Mr. President. I'd like to speak specifically with regard to Contract Number 3675 and the acquisition in Luzerne County.
I know that we have some written words here that talks about the property, but it is certainly high value. What's not written in here is this is a former watershed property.

While it does direct that there's some cold water fisheries, it is extremely --- there's so much value to this property. Former watershed property, ten minutes from Wilkes-Barre. And when you add the other acquisition that the Northeast Regional Office helped facilitate just last year in Luzerne and Lackawanna County, it equates to almost over 5,000 acres of new property for the sportsmen.

But back to this property, it is quality land. It's wrapped right around the reservoir, so my compliments to the staff again for making this happen. And I would urge my fellow commissioners to support it.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Thank you, Commissioner. Further discussion? Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:

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

AYES RESPOND
SECRETARY HOOVER:
Opposed, no. That motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The next item also concerns two acquisitions. The first is Contract Number L-3676, State Game Land Number 168, Northampton County.

Betty Jane Bellas is offering for sale 3.06 more or less acres in Moore Township, Northampton County, adjacent to State Game Land Number 168, shown on Exhibit RED 5 on page 44 of your agenda.

The option price is $8,000 lump sum to be paid with funds from the Game Fund. The tract is mostly forested with mixed oak, poplar, black gum, birch and red maple. The property will connect two parcels of State Game Land Number 168 by joining a detached parcel to the main portion of State Game Land Number 168. The property will provide critical access into a portion of State Game Land Number 168 with limited access. Access is through existing State Game Land Number 168 from Smith Gap Road.

The second acquisition on page 43 is Contract Number L-3677, State Game Land Number 168, Northampton County. Kenneth S. Walter is offering for sale 2.32 more or less acres in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, adjacent to State Game Land Number
168 shown on Exhibit RED 6 on page 45 of your agenda. The option price is $5,000 lump sum to be paid with funds from the Game Fund. The tract is mostly forested with mixed oak, poplar, black gum, birch and red maple.

The property will connect two parcels of State Game Land Number 168 by joining a detached parcel to the main portion of State Game Land Number 168. The property will provide critical access into a portion of State Game Land Number 168 with limited access. Access is through existing State Game Land Number 168 from Timberline Road.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Thank you. Motion?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Second?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
There is a motion on the floor that has
been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:

Opposed, no. That motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

The next item before the Commission is on page 46 of your agenda and concerns Restricted Non-surface Use Oil and Gas Agreement.

Tract 133A-15, State Game Land Number 133, in Lycoming County. Anadarko Onshore E&P, LLC, Anadarko, of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under State Game Land Number 133 for non-surface use development. The proposed tract, containing approximately 10.7 acres, is located in Gamble Township, Lycoming County, is shown on Exhibit OGM 1 on page 47 of your agenda.

Anadarko has a strong privately owned oil/gas lease position surrounding the southeastern portion of State Game Land Number 133 and has initiated unconventional well drilling and development activity in the vicinity of its tract. Anadarko also has the ability to unitize and develop the Commission's oil and gas reserves under the proposed tract by horizontal drilling with no surface use or
disturbance to the game land.

PGC staff has negotiated the proposed terms of the Agreement with Anadarko in an effort to prudently develop the Commission's oil and gas reserve as well as to simultaneously protect the wildlife resources and recreational use of State Game Land Number 133.

The terms of the Agreement are a five year paid up non-surface use oil and gas agreement, a $2,000 per net oil and gas acre bonus payment, total bonus of $21,400, and 18 percent royalty for all oil, gas and other liquids or condensates produced and sold from the proposed tract. The bonus payment of approximately $21,400 shall be deposited into the Game Fund. Future rentals and royalties owed the Commission shall also be 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 cooperative agreement.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Do I hear a motion?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Second?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion? Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
The motion on the floor has been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Opposed, no. That motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The next item is in terms of Restricted Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement on the Loyalsock Game Farm in Lycoming County.

Inflection Energy, LLC, or Inflection, of Denver, Colorado has requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under Loyalsock Game Farm for non-surface use development. The proposed tract containing approximately 389.15 acres is located in Loyalsock Township, Lycoming County as shown on Exhibit OGM 2 on page 49 of your agenda.

Inflection has a strong privately owned oil and gas lease position surrounding the Loyalsock
Game Farm and has initiated unconventional well
drilling and development in the vicinity of the
proposed tract.

Inflection has the ability to unitize
and develop the Commission's oil and gas reserve under
the proposed tract by horizontal drilling, with no
surface use or disturbance to PGC property.

Commission staff has negotiated those
terms of the Agreement with Inflection in an effort to
prudently develop the Commission's oil and gas
reserves, while simultaneously protecting the wildlife
resources and pheasant production at the Loyalsock
Game Farm.

The terms of the Agreement are a five
year paid up non-surface use oil and gas agreement, a
$4,000 per net oil and gas acre bonus payment, and 20
percent royalty for all oil, gas and other liquids or
condensates produced and sold from the proposed tract.

The bonus payment of approximately
$1,556,600 shall be deposited into the Game Fund.
Future rentals and royalties owed the Commission shall
also be 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 cooperative agreement.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Thank you. Do I hear a motion?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Second?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion? Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
This is on a motion on the floor that was moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Opposed, no. That motion carries.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Okay. Now, moving on to new business, and I'd like to call on Commissioner Layton.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Thank you, Mr. President. At the December work group meeting, a committee was established to look into DMAP permits and how they're
handled on public land. That meeting consisted of
Commissioner Putnam, Commissioner Hoover and myself.

The majority of the complaints we get
about deer numbers is from public land. The DMAP
process is one of those goals that we have that we
have that we think is valuable to the deer management
program. And if you want to continue --- certainly,
we're not looking at doing anything on privately held
land. We just want to get together with our partners
at DCNR and look at the process that they've used to
establish DMAP permits on their land.

This past month we had a meeting with
DCNR. We met with the executive staff. Dr.
Rosenberry (phonetic) and members of the committee all
got to meet with DCNR. And I think we had a very good
first meeting with DCNR. They understand our
position, and of course, we understand theirs. They
have dual responsibility on --- DCNR has, while they
have --- their main responsibility obviously is
management of their habitat. They are conscious of
the fact that Pennsylvania hunters use their land and
they like people to come on there year round.

So after that first meeting and the
discussions that we had, we decided to get together
later on next month. It's February 16th, I believe is
our next meeting with DCNR. Does that sound right?

And in addition to that, we've agreed to get together with them and ride around to kind of tour some of the land that they're using DMAP permits on to see what we can do cooperatively to kind of make that process work better for both DCNR and the Game Commission.

It's important again to mention that we do recognize the importance of DMAP. And we like the use of DMAP to help address those hot and cold spots across the state when we get complaints there are too many deer or not enough deer. And again, I think it's important to say that we're not looking at changing anything along the lines of our private landowners that currently use the DMAP process.

So I'm encouraged by what's happened so far between us and DCNR. I certainly want to thank them for the cooperation they've shown at this point. And if there's anybody else that needs to add anything to these comments, please feel free.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Thank you, Commissioner. Any other new business?

SECRETARY HOOVER:

I'd like to point out that we removed
one item from the agenda, the permit issue, for the state game land. And what we learned from this is that we need to engage other interested parties in the process in developing the permits.

We are going to bring this permit back. And we are going to get it done for the sport in the State of Pennsylvania. And it's going to be done with the inclusion of the other partners that are currently secondary users on the game land. And I think we got more information off of what we did this time with the permit than we've seen in years.

And I think the process will work. I want everyone to know that, you know, probably 90 percent of the people out there don't understand who owns the game lands. And it's the hunters. And it's there for them. And we want them to know that we are looking to make sure that their experience on the game land is the best that they can be. So we will once again continue the process until we get it right in developing this permit. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:

Thank you. Any other new business?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

Mr. President, I have a combination of old business item and new business item. If you
recall last year, the sportsman in northeastern Pennsylvania had a problem with their antlerless deer tags. At that point Representative Gerald Mullery from Luzerne County entered some legislation to allow the Pennsylvania Game Commission have the authority to distribute those tags. Subsequently, this Board of Commissioners by resolution supported our agency to be involved in the distribution process of those tags.

Yesterday, in Harrisburg, Representative Mullery introduced House Bill 231 that addresses the issue as last year. And I would just ask that our agency executive staff and others utilize the resource --- or I should say the resolution from last year, to help facilitate and move this legislation in the right direction.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Further discussion? Mr. Putnam?

VICE PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Mr. President, I would like to request that staff evaluate adding rabbits to the mentored youth program. Possibly by the next working group meeting, have something together, but --- because it's not something that we're going to make in this current season. I would ask the staff to work with the Pennsylvania Beagle Club, the people that have been
testifying here regularly at our meeting to that.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Mr. President, if I could second that motion, I would, but I know it's not a motion. But anything that we can do to facilitate small game hunting for our youth, we need to do.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Thank you.

SECRETARY HOOVER:
I did miss one thing. I wanted to thank the staff for working like you did on the permit issue. And I would also asked that the executive staff move forward with setting up a meeting with the parties that are interested in proceeding with this permit, so that we get their inclusion in the process. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Further discussion? I'd like to note that the upcoming meetings in April have changed to April 9th and 10th. June meeting 29th and 30th. And September meeting 28th and 29th.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Mr. President? I think we probably
ought to have that in a form of a motion since we're changing here. Don't you think?

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Do we need a motion, Counsel?

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
I move that we adopt those dates of April 9 and 10, June 29 and 30, September 28 and 29 as our next three meetings.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Motion on the floor. Second?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Discussion? Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY HOOVER:
There's a motion on the floor that has been moved and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Those opposed, no. That motion carries.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Thank you. At this point, I'd like to say a few words. First of all, it's been an honor, believe me, to serve as president for the past few
years for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. I get a little choked up about that. I've been with the Commission now, I guess, for 41 going on 42 years. It's been a big part of my life.

And I'd like to just thank the staff here in Harrisburg who has worked well. Everybody. Regional directors who I've had good communications with. Right down to their staff, WCOs executives. I'd like to thank everybody. Thank you.

Moving on, we're going to have election of officers, and I'm going to turn the meeting over to Commissioner Jay Delaney. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. I think we can do things just from our current seating arrangement here. Current officers of the Board of Commissioners are President Robert Schlemmer. The Vice President currently is Dave Putnam. And the current Secretary is Brian Hoover. And I will move some nominations for each of the three offices. We'll do them separately and we'll vote on each of the separately.

From the Office of Secretary, the nomination is Tim Layton. I will make that nomination and we will need a second from the Board if that's how
we're moving forward.

SECRETARY HOOVER:
I'd like to second that nomination.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Point of order. Mr. President, whenever you nominate someone, you don't need a second.

PRESIDENT SCHLEMMER:
Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
Okay. Well, we'll --- what I'll state from this point then, is there any other nominations from the floor for the Office of Secretary of the Board of Commissioners? Is there any other nominations from the floor from the Office of Secretary of the Board of Commissioners? If not, I will still move for a show of hands and a vote.

All those in favor of Tim Layton being the Secretary for the Board of Commissioners for the 2015 to '16, please raise your right hands. Okay. Are there any noes? If not unanimous.

Congratulations, Commissioner Layton.

For the office of Vice President, there are two Commissioners that expressed interest in the Office of Vice President. And I will offer two names and then the Board will vote on those names. And the
nomination will be Commissioner Brian Hoover and the second will be Commissioner Ron Weaner.

Are there any other considerations and nominations from the floor for the Office of Vice President? Are there any other nominations from the floor for the Office of Vice President?

If not, Commissioners, those in favor of Commissioner Hoover, please raise your right hand. And for the sake of the court stenographer, let's say the names. Delaney.

VICE PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Putnam.

PRESIDENT SCHLIEMMER:
Schlemmer.

SECRETARY HOOVER:
Hoover.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:
Layton.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:
All those in favor of Commissioner Weaner, raise your right hand. Commissioners, say your name for the stenographer.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
Weaner.

COMMISSIONER FOX:
COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

By order of the vote, six for Brian Hoover, two for Ron Weaner, Congratulations ---

VICE PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Five. Five and two.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

Yes, five to two. Commissioner Hoover is now the new Board Vice President. The last nomination will come from the Office of President. And I will nominate Dave Putnam for the Office of President. Are there any other nominations from the floor for the Office of President? Any other nominations from the floor for the Office of President?

If not, we'll vote. All those in favor of Commissioner Dave Putnam to be the President for this coming year to the Board of Commissioners, please raise your right hand. Any noes? If not, it's unanimous. Congratulations, President Putnam.

VICE PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY:

That will conclude the election of officers. If Commissioner Putnam can take the
President's chair, and Commissioner Schlemmer take his chair.

VICE PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

I have about 42 pages of prepared remarks. Actually, it's an honor for me to assume this position. Bob said that he had 44 years associated with the Game Commission. I can top that by about 23 years. I was affiliated with the Game Commission before I was born because my father was in the Game Commission training school, so I'm going to top you on that one, Bob.

I took this job to be helpful and that's helpful to our wildlife resources, to our hunters and to the agency. That's the only reason I took this job. And please throughout the next year, keep that in mind. Because that's my whole goal here is to not to fight with people, but to try and move things forward for the betterment of the resources, the hunters and the agency.

Specific things that I would like to do would be to work with our conservation partners. I believe the Game Commission does have a very good director. We have many meetings throughout the year with various conservation partners, but we still have more to do and I would ask that the partners consider
that as well.

We talked during the last couple days about give us a call, send me a personal email. Those people in the audience here that do communicate with me regularly. One guy sitting in the back there, way in the back, he's sent me very thoughtful emails and they carry great weight. One well written email carries far more weight than 500 form letters. It takes a long time to just delete 500 form letters. But one well written email can be there.

Some of the items on our agenda today were the product of a relatively small group. The falcon program, two or three people contacted Commissioner Hoover. Commissioner Hoover granted meetings. We vetted back and forth. We spent a lot of effort on it, but it wasn't 500 emails that got that falconer permit. It was some people giving us some well reasoned sound advice.

Another thing that I would like to work on more --- and now that we have the new governor in place, and the whole legislative session starting off is to expand our work with the legislature.

As far as agency business, over the next year we'll be working on our strategic plan. I think that's probably going to be one of our highest
priorities and what the Commissioners will be spending
a lot of our time on, working on that strategic plan.

And the bottom thing would be the
budget. We are passing gas leases for the people that
are regularly attending our meetings. You're not
seeing $20 million gas leases now. This one offered a
million, that's a pretty good. But our gas lease
revenue has gone down pretty substantially, so it's
been since 1995 when we got our last increase ---
1999.

We've only had seven license increases
in the last 120 years. We don't get license increases
very often, and so we have to stretch our budget. And
we are getting to the end of that point where we're
going to be stretching, stretching. The gas revenue
has been a great help stretching us for the last ten
years or so. But we're nearing the end of that as far
as the good days of the gas leases.

So that's really all I have to say. I
look forward to the next year and working with all of
you. Meeting adjourned.

* * * * * * *

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:34 A.M.

* * * * * * *
CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, meeting held before President Schlemmer was reported by me on 01/27/2015 and that I Daniel Kubach read this transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

[Signature]

Court Reporter