ALSO PRESENT: Thomas Grohol, Wildlife Protection Bureau Director
            Peter Sussenbach, Wildlife Habitat Management Bureau Director
            Wayne Laroche, Wildlife Management Bureau Director
            Robert B. Miller, Jr., Governor's Sportsmen's Advisor
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DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES  4 - 45
P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Call the meeting to order. Start off with the pledge of allegiance.
PLEDGE OF ALEGIANCE RECITED

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Secretary, would you take a roll of the Commissioners?

MR. LAYTON:
President Putnam?

MR. PUTNAM:
Present.

MR. LAYTON:
Vice President Hoover?

MR. HOOVER:
Present.

MR. LAYTON:
Commissioner Schlemmer?

MR. SCHLEMMER:
Present.

MR. LAYTON:
Commissioner Fox?

MR. FOX:
Present.
MR. LAYTON:
Commissioner Daley?

MR. DALEY:
Present.

MR. LAYTON:
Commissioner Weaner is absent. By statute, even though we have one seat vacant and Commissioner Weaner is not here today, we do have a quorum and are able to vote on all issues presented today.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. The quorum is set by statute at six, and so that's --- if we get below six members, we can't conduct business. As we get started, I would ask, as we usually do to turn off all your cell phones or just turn the ringers off.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
The first order will be approval of minutes of the meeting held June 30th, 2015. Do I have a motion?

VP HOOVER:
So moved.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Any discussion on the minutes?
Mr. Secretary, would you call for a vote?

MR. LAYTON:
We have a --- duly moved and seconded motion on the floor. All those in favor, say aye.
ALL AYE RESPOND

MR. LAYTON:
And opposed? Motion carried. The first order of business is the Bureau of Wildlife Management.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
Yes, the first order of business today is from the Bureau of Wildlife Management that concerns adopted rule-making, the adoption of proposed amendments in Section 135.104 to amend Section 135.104. The controlled goose hunting program on the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area provides opportunities for hunters to harvest Canada geese during the regular goose hunting season. Each year, a number of hunters are selected to hunt from blinds through a public drawing. Hunters may subsequently enter into a drawing on later days for unclaimed blinds, where they may take additional geese, but hunters must remain within the one goose per day daily
Hunter success rates have been declining on the controlled goose hunting area due in part to declining resident goose populations, fewer migrant geese and increasing harvest rates on geese in areas surrounding Middle Creek. The September season daily limits and regular season daily bag limits have been reduced to increase resident goose populations. The September hunting season is closed on State Game Land Number 46. This amendment will help increase Canada goose populations on the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area by limiting the take on the controlled goose hunting area to one goose per season per person. The change is shown on page three of your Agenda.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER FOX:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second.

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
Second?

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

We have motion that's been duly seconded. All those in favor, say aye.

ALL AYES RESPOND

MR. LAYTON:

Opposed? Motion carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

The second item that was also from the Bureau of Wildlife Management, it concerns adopted rule-making, the adoption of proposed amendments to Section 133.41, relating to classification of mammals to reflect the current status of populations of mammals in this Commonwealth and to update scientific nomenclature. The first amendment pertains to the Delmarva fox squirrel. This is one of three subspecies of fox squirrel listed in Pennsylvania. The species was historically present in only a very limited portion of southeastern Pennsylvania. A reintroduction attempt in 1989 resulted in no documented survival past one year. Suitable habitat for this species within its historic range no longer exists. No documented sighting of this species has been reported in the 25 years subsequent to the reintroduction attempt.

The Mammal Technical Committee, a
scientific advisory committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, has recommended that the status of the fox squirrel be changed to state extirpated and be removed from the list of endangered mammals. The Delmarva fox squirrel population across the species core range in coastal portions of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia is considered stable. It is currently being proposed to remove the Delmarva fox squirrel from the federal list of endangered species.

The second amendment updates the common name of the eastern woodrat in Pennsylvania to the Allegheny woodrat. Based upon genetic and morphological evidence, the eastern woodrat has been split into two species, the eastern and Allegheny woodrat. The Allegheny woodrat inhabits Pennsylvania and is currently listed as threatened. The eastern woodrat is not found in Pennsylvania. The text of this amendment is found on page five of your Agenda.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Can I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

VP HOOVER:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Mr. Secretary --- sorry, discussion?

Hearing no discussion, Mr. Secretary, would you take the vote?

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

ALL AYES RESPOND

MR. LAYTON:
Opposed? Motion carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
Next item concerns adoption of proposed amendments to Section 147.673, relating to eligibility and application for DMAP to allow the Commission to assess DMAP applications for political subdivision or government agency applicants based upon current conditions relative to goals and objectives outlined in an approved management plan and to limit individual and distinct DMAP units to less than 15,000 acres each. These regulatory changes would allow the Commission to closely monitor and make necessary changes on alignment of local deer management goals using DMAP are not in alignment the agency's mandate
to effectively manage the deer in a responsible and appropriate manner. The text of these changes are shown on pages eight through nine of your Agenda.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do I have a motion?

VP HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:
Second.

MR. PUTNAM:
Discussion?

MR. LAYTON:
Mr. President, we have, as we discussed yesterday, had some pretty productive meetings with our partners that are using the DMAP program, some more effectively than others. But I think we need, we need to carry on those conversations a little bit longer before we can make any changes to the program that we feel are valuable for the program in the DMAP. So, I mean, do you have anything to say before I ---?

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Yes. I would like to add that we had spent quite a bit of time, Commissioner Hoover's made
three trips up here from the Philadelphia area to look at the, what the habitat is like in this area in 2G. We've spent a number of times in meeting with our partners. We got considerable testimony yesterday from other partners. We hear what everybody is saying. This is an issue that was, has been brought to our attention many times by our customers, by the hunters. They feel that in some cases, DMAP is not being used as it is intended.

In our perception of how DMAP should be used --- is what we heard about from the Kinzua Quality Deer Cooperative, from the Allegheny National Forest, where they're monitoring the deer population. They're monitoring the habitat. When they have unacceptable deer impacts, they take the deer population down. When the population gets in a range that they can live with, they take, they change the DMAP applicant coupon requests- they change the number of permits or eliminate DMAP. So DMAP, as a program, is designed to target high levels of deer, the hot spots, allow us to manage it to unit level, maybe not a level that's desirable across the unit as that might be too high for certain places where active management is taking place, but allow the managers then to take the deer down to where they can accomplish their
1 forest regeneration objectives.
2 And we've had some concerns about some
3 of our DMAP users have not, we don't think they're
4 using it that way. They're just issuing the same
5 number of permits every year, despite what the science
6 says. The number of applications that are put out on
7 the landscape has always been the same. So we're
8 working with our partners and continuing that
9 discussion. Any additional comments?
10
11 COMMISSIONER DALEY:
12 I agree.
13
14 MR. LAYTON:
15 Mr. President, having said that, I would
16 like to make a motion to table this adoption to the
17 rule.
18
19 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
20 Do we have a second?
21
22 COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:
23 Second.
24
25 PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
26 There's no discussion on this issue.
27 We'll now call for a vote.
28
29 MR. LAYTON:
30 Having a motion on the floor that's duly
31 seconded, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.
MR. LAYTON:

Opposed? That motion's carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The next item before the Commission comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Protection. It concerns adopted rule-making in the adoption of proposed amendments to 58 Pa. Code Section 131.8 to increase replacement costs for bald and golden eagles from $200 to $2,500. In accordance with goals established in the Pennsylvania Bald Eagle Management Plan for 2010 to 2019, the Commission determined that the bald eagle achieved a population level and geographical distribution that no longer met the definition of a threatened species. As a result, on March 15th, 2014, the bald eagle was officially removed from the Commonwealth's threatened species list. Notwithstanding the delisting, the bald eagle's population and the population of the golden eagle necessitate further protection from unlawful takings in the form of increased replacement costs. The text of this item is on page 11 of your Agenda.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Do I have a motion?

VP HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? Mr. Secretary?

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

ALL AYES RESPOND

MR. LAYTON:
Opposed? That motion's carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
And the next item concerns adoption of proposed amendments to 58 Pa. Code Sections 143.182, 143.185 and 147.804 to add cottontail rabbit and mourning dove to the list of species that mentored youth are eligible to hunt and also require that mentored youth obtain a Migratory Game Bird License prior to hunting mourning dove. Since the successful implementation of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program in the fall of 2006, the Commission has been striving to improve upon the successes of this mentor-based
program. Sporting organizations and other interested
group have continued to encourage the Commission to
expand mentored youth hunting opportunities within
this Commonwealth to additional species, including the
cottontail rabbit and mourning dove. Importantly, the
mourning dove is defined as a migratory bird species
and therefore requires the acquisition of a Migratory
Game Bird License to facilitate the Harvest
Information Program, or HIP. HIP is a cooperative
state and federal program designed to improve the
information collected regarding the harvest of
migratory game birds. The changes are shown on page
13 of your Agenda.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do I have a motion?

VP HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion?

VP HOOVER:
Mr. President, I think it's unclear as
to the timing, we'd like to have someone explain when this becomes, when this will be implemented because it doesn't specifically state the date that this will start. And we're in the seasons now.

MR. GROHOL:
Sure. It has to go through the approval process through the Attorney General's Office and then the Legislative Review Board, so we're anticipating that it will take 'til sometime in mid-November.

VP HOOVER:
That's when it will become effective.

MR. GROHOL:
As soon as it's published in the bulletin, it will be effective.

VP HOOVER:
So then, you know, our mentored youth then would be or will be eligible to hunt these species this year later on in the season. And it wouldn't be delayed; it would take effect this year and not next year.

MR. GROHOL:
Correct.

VP HOOVER:
For next year's season.
Yes.

VP HOOVER:
I just wanted to clarify that.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
That's a good clarification.

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Mr. President, I just want to say, too, that this is another example of us trying to get youth more involved in the small game hunting in Pennsylvania. And you know, once we get --- a lot of us grew up hunting cottontails. And I think that that's the hook. If we can get kids in the woods, hunting small game, having fun, with some success, that we are going to have hunters for life. And I just want to commend the Board. I know this was one of former Commissioner Delaney's movements. And again, being an advocate of small game hunting, I just want to give him the credit for that and just commend all the Commissioners for making this move forward, making it happen.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:
Mr. President, Southwest would like to say about the same thing. Our clubs in our area are very excited about this for the youth and would recommend that we pass this.
PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Thank you. Any additional comment?

COMMISSIONER DALEY:

Mr. President, I just wanted to remind everyone that, you know, as mentored youth, we do have to be stationary. The adult has to carry the firearm until, you know, they're ready to shoot, so the child can't be out there and kicking brush piles and stuff with a gun in his hand. We just need to make that clear as we move forward.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

I think that should be included with the news release that announces when the kids really start. Any additional discussion? Mr. Secretary?

MR. LAYTON:

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

ALL AYES RESPOND

MR. LAYTON:

Opposed? Motion carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

The next item before the Commission comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management, concerns real estate and a donation of real estate,
contract number L-3685, State Game Land Number 168 in Northampton County. Wildlands Conservancy, Inc. is offering a donation of 11 more-or-less acres of land in Moore Township, Northampton County that adjoins and will connect a tract of State Game Land Number 168 to a larger parcel of State Game Land Number 168, as shown on Exhibit RED One on page 15 of your Agenda. The property is forested with mixed hardwoods and has a small rock outcrop. Public access is from Smith Gap Road, which bisects the property.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do I have a motion?

VP HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.

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

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

ALL AYES RESPOND
MR. LAYTON:
Opposed? Motion carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The next item is an acquisition, contract number L-3686, State Game Land Number 170 in Cumberland County. Central Pennsylvania Conservancy is offering for sale 18.6 more-or-less acres of land in Silver Spring Township, Cumberland County, adjoining State Game Land Number 170, as shown on Exhibit RED Seven on page 17 of your Agenda. The option price is $400 per acre, to be paid with funds from the Game Fund. The property is forested with red maple, tulip poplar and red and white oaks, with sassafras and witch hazel in the understory. Public access is from existing State Game Land Number 170.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
One minor correction, that's RED Two.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
RED Two on page 17 of your Agenda.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do I have a motion?

VP HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?
COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
And discussion? Mr. Secretary?

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

ALL AYES RESPOND

MR. LAYTON:
Opposed? Motion carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The next item concerns an acquisition, contract number L-3687, State Game Land Number 217 in Lehigh County. Wildlands Conservancy, Inc. is offering for sale 22 more-or-less acres of land in Washington Township, Lehigh County, adjoining State Game Land Number 217, as shown on Exhibit RED Three on page 19 of your Agenda. The option price is $400 per acre, to be paid with funds from the Game Fund. The property is forested with mixed oaks, beech, hickory and maple. Public access is from existing State Game Land Number 217.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do I have a motion?

VP HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
Discussion? I will make a --- one comment here is that these tracts are relatively small. They all take the same amount of work, somebody has to go look at them. There's a lot of work involved in picking these smaller tracts. The other thing is, if you look at all these tracts we're buying, they --- almost every one of them will be providing additional access to our lands. We've got some huge tracts of land that have difficult or very limited access. And to pick up all these pieces that provide additional access is a very good thing. It's part of our strategic plan. It's not --- we're not buying willy nilly. We're going out and targeting these things to give us additional access.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Any additional discussion? Mr. Secretary?

MR. LAYTON:
We have a motion that's been duly
ALL AYES RESPOND

MR. LAYTON:
Opposed? The motion's carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
The next item before the Commission concerns an exchange, contract number L-3688, State Game Land Number 232 in Washington County. MarkWest Liberty Midstream & Resources, LLC, or MarkWest, is offering 23.7 more-or-less acres of land currently owned by Mule Tracts, LLC in Donegal Township, Washington County, an interior within State Game Land Number 232, as shown on Exhibit RED Four in your Agenda on page 21, in lieu of habitat and surface damages associated with nine previously executed right-of-way licenses and one pending right-of-way license for natural gas pipelines on State Game Land Numbers 117, 232 and 245. MarkWest will continue to pay the Commission's standard, annual license fees for all licenses so long as those licenses remain active.

The property being offered is primarily mixed hardwood forest, with some interspersed shrub land in the lower elevations. Dog Run and two unnamed tributaries thereto, all designated High-Quality Warm Water Fisheries, flow through the property.
Acquisition of this property will secure a critical interior, eliminate safety zone concerns associated with future development and reduce future boundary line maintenance. Public access is from Dog Run Road (T-325), which traverses along a portion of the western boundary.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do I have a motion?

VP HOOVER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:
Second.

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

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

ALL AYES RESPOND

MR. LAYTON:
Opposed? Motion carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
Before the Commission next is a Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement, Tract 223A-15, State Game Land Number 223 in Greene County. Vantage Energy Appalachia II, LLC, or Vantage, of Englewood, Colorado, requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under a portion of State Game Land Number 223 for non-surface use development. The proposed tract, containing approximately 114.1 acres, is located in Perry Township, Greene County, as shown on Exhibit OGM One on page 23 of your Agenda.

Vantage has a strong privately-owned oil/gas lease position surrounding State Game Land Number 223 and has initiated unconventional well drilling and development activity in the vicinity of the proposed tract. Vantage has also 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. Commission staff has negotiated the proposed terms of the agreement with Vantage in an effort to prudently develop the Commission's oil/gas reserve as well as simultaneously protect the wildlife resources and recreational use of State Game Land Number 223.

The terms of the Agreement are a three-
year paid up non-surface use oil and gas agreement, a $3,000 per net oil/gas acre bonus payment 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 $342,300 may be deposited either into the Game Fund or into an interest-bearing escrow account, to be used for the future purchase of wildlife habitats, lands or other uses incidental to hunting, fur-taking 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 Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Do I have a motion?

VP HOOVER:

So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX:

Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Discussion? Hearing no discussion, Mr.
Secretary?

MR. LAYTON:

We have a motion that's been duly seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

ALL AYES RESPOND

MR. LAYTON:

Opposed? That motion is carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

The next item is also a Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement, Tract 223B-15, State Game Land Number 223 in Greene County. Chevron Appalachia, LLC, or Chevron, of Coraopolis, Pennsylvania requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under a portion of State Game Land Number 223 for non-surface use development. The proposed tract, containing approximately 213.7 acres, is located in Greene Township, Greene County, as shown on Exhibit OGM Two on page 25 of your Agenda.

Chevron also has a strong privately-owned oil/gas lease position surrounding State Game Land Number 223 and has initiated unconventional well drilling and development in the vicinity of the proposed tract. Chevron has the ability to unitize and develop the Commission's oil/gas reserve under the proposed tract by horizontal drilling with no surface
use or disturbance to the game land. Commission staff has negotiated the proposed terms of the agreement with Chevron in an effort to prudently develop the Commission's oil/gas reserve as well as simultaneously protect the wildlife resources and recreational use of State Game Land Number 223.

The terms of the gas agreement are a four-year paid up Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Agreement, a $3,000 per net oil and gas acre bonus payment 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 $641,000 (sic) may be deposited either into the Game Fund or into an interest-bearing escrow account to be used for the future purchase of wildlife habitats, lands or other uses incidental to hunting, fur-taking and wildlife resource management. Future rentals and royalties owed the Commission shall be deposited directly into the Game Fund. Oil and gas development will be regulated by the Commission's Oil and Gas Regulations and the Commission's Standard Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:
Motion.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? I have a question on all these leases. Do we --- are we addressing deductions? Do we have a deduction clause?

MR. SUSSENBACK:
We do and that's part of that Standard Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Could you just tell, fill us in a little bit on how that works 'cause our early leases did not have the deduction clause.

MR. SUSSENBACK:
Right. So essentially, you know, looking at the way the market variation has been over the last few years, there's increases in the amount of deductions that are being pulled out through the, you know, from the oil and gas producers. And we're navigating through some of that because, again, some
of the earlier leases were written very vaguely. And we're working towards resolution on some of those and strengthening, you know, each of the agreements going forward. In fact, the entire lease agreement is in rewrite at this point. And these are some of the first agreements that we've entered into that have the strengthened clause.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. Any additional discussion or comment? Mr. Secretary?

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

ALL AYES RESPOND

MR. LAYTON:
Opposed? Motion carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
Next item before the Commission concerns a Restricted Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement on Tract 238A-15, State Game Land Number 238 in Fayette County. Chevron Appalachia, LLC, Chevron, of Coraopolis, Pennsylvania has requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under approximately 215 acres of State Game Land Number 238
in German Township, Fayette County for oil and Gas
development, as shown on Exhibit OGM Three on page 27
of your Agenda. Chevron has acquired private leases
on the remaining 562 acres of State Game Land Number
238 and has the right to utilize the Game Commission
surface to access and develop the privately-held oil
and gas rights. Additionally, Chevron maintains a
strong lease position on private lands immediately
adjacent to the State Game Land Number 238 and has
already drilled several horizontal wells in the
immediate vicinity of the game land.

The terms of the agreement are a five-
year paid restricted surface use oil and gas
agreement, a $3,000 per net oil and gas acre bonus
payment, an 18 percent royalty for all oil, gas and
other liquids or condensates produced and sold from
the proposed tract. The bonus payment of
approximately $645,000 shall 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, fur-taking and
wildlife resource management. Future rentals and
royalties owed to 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 PUTNAM:
Motion?

MR. LAYTON:
So moved.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? Hearing none ---?

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

ALL AYES RESPOND

MR. LAYTON:
Opposed? That motion's carried.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
We have some --- the next order is new
business. I want to introduce Rob Miller, or
acknowledge that Rob Miller's here, the Governor's
Sportsmen's Advisor. He's the one that runs the group
that will be picking the replacement Commissioner for
Delaney's seat. And he's been an important partner. In fact, he was --- he ran the committee in a prior time that selected several of the Commissioners that are sitting here today, so thank you for coming, Rob. We're glad you're here. Did you catch any fish up on Lake Erie?

MR. MILLER:
No. And I didn't get out on Lake Erie, unfortunately.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
The Fish Commission has their meeting up in Lake Erie. I think they get a little better turnout probably than we do. We're proposing to have our next Working Group meeting on January 4th. Is that acceptable to the Commissioners? So that will be held at the Harrisburg Office, and there'll be further details published on the time. The next ---.

The January Meeting will be held January 31st, February 1st and 2nd at the Harrisburg headquarters. That's our big meeting to start off on a Sunday with public testimony. We have an additional plan that needs approval. We have the Osprey Management Plan.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:
Yes, Mr. President, there are two other
things per the Agenda. One is a proposed Osprey Management Plan. The osprey plan was developed to document the successful recovery of osprey in the state and provide a transparent path for delisting. A draft plan was presented to the Board of Commissioners at the June meeting. And an affirmative vote approved its release for public comment. The draft was further strengthened by incorporating feedback from the Board of Commissioners and the public. The revised ten-year plan for the management of osprey in Pennsylvania is being presented to the Board of Commissioners for acceptance.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Do I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEMMER:
Motion.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Second?

COMMISSIONER DALEY:
Second.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Discussion? Director, do you have any additional comments to provide on the Osprey Plan or the changes that you made on the plan?

MR. LAROUCH:
I can make a few comments. We've had --- actually, as everybody knows, we've had excellent success in restoring osprey in the state. We have 150 nests as per the last survey, which was last year. And criteria at the time that the Osprey Plan was derived, there were criteria. Not enough information was known to do this. But now we have plenty of osprey. And we will be having another survey next year of nests. And hopefully, we continue that upward trend in nests and don't fall backwards, and if we do, then we're hoping that we can move towards delisting fairly soon.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
That'll be a good accomplishment.
Hopefully the avian influenza doesn't attack the ospreys.

MR. LAROUGH:
And it'll be a story for the state of Pennsylvania. And I think we should celebrate that when the time comes if we're able to delist the osprey. And we will show that what we can do when we, you know, put our minds to the recovering species.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. Mr. Secretary?

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

ALL AYES RESPOND

MR. LAYTON:

Opposed? The motion carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

Well, the next item on your Agenda is actually a report of a notational vote that's the acceptance of the Wildlife Action Plan. Since its approval in 2006 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the 2005 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan has been a foundational document for guiding management and research of fish and wildlife in the Commonwealth. Without it, many species would not be receiving the crucial management attention they need. For nearly three years, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission staff, with assistance from numerous conservation partners, have revised the 2005 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan, an important blueprint for conservation action. To keep the plans current and maintain eligibility for state and tribal wildlife grants program funding, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires each state to revise its state wildlife action plan no less than every ten
years. As a comprehensive plan for Pennsylvania, the 2015 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan includes all major taxonomic animal groups. A total of 664 species of greatest conservation need have been identified in the plan, of which the Commission jurisdictional species include 90 birds and 19 mammals. Species under the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Authority include 65 fishes, 18 amphibians, 22 reptiles, 50 mussels and 175 other aquatic invertebrates.

The 2015 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan Revision updates the species in greatest conservation need, condition and extent of associated habitats, threats to species in habitats, needed conservation actions have been monitoring considerations to gauge progress. The revised plan is due to the Fish and Wildlife Service by October 1st, 2015. The plan was accepted by the Board of Commissioners by notational vote and will be transmitted under transmittal letter dated September 16, 2015 and the plan itself is dated as of October 1st, 2015. This was approved by notational vote and no action is necessary by the Commission but it needs to be reported at the next meeting as we are doing now.
PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Thank you. The time period was such that if we waited until today to approve it, they would have had a very hard time getting it out by October 1st. That's why the notational vote was taken. At a prior meeting we asked the staff to look into the possible regulations regarding deer urine as a lure. And the staff has been working on that. I’m going to ask Matt to give us a little update on where we’re at with that project.

MR. HOUGH:

Well, we have been working on that deer urine ban and we actually have regulations that are proposed sitting back in the Bureau of Wildlife Protection. We are meeting with members of the deer urine industry. Director Larouche has a meeting scheduled with them to meet with them and look at some of their operations trying to ensure that CWD prions are not being spread around the Commonwealth by deer urine. So Wayne's going to meet with them. And from what I understand, the industry is now looking at a way to certify that the animals that they use for urine collection are CWD free and hopefully, that will happen in the near future.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. Commissioners, in your packet you received an update on our strategic plan. Does anyone have any questions on that --- if you have any questions on that, Matt can address that now or ---. Hearing none, do we have any additional new business?

MR. LAYTON:
Mr. President?

PRESIDENT:
Mr. Layton.

MR. LAYTON:
One of the things I'd like to see for the next working group meeting is to have staff kind of get together and talk about how our doe license sales and the allocations are distributed. We get comments every year from out-of-state hunters about their ability or their lack of their ability to get doe licenses because they're all gone by the time they have the opportunity.

Currently, the way it is, we have two weeks set aside for resident license holders to get doe licenses and then week three, of course, is the out-of-state sales. So if could get some data together to kind of see how many licenses get sold the first week, how many out-of-state license sales we
actually have. And what percentage of those
out-of-state people actually get a doe license or
apply for a doe license so that we might be able to
address that issue with our out-of-state hunters.
Because I know we've all discussed this before.
Really, our out-of-state hunters are
mostly Pennsylvanians, former Pennsylvanians, who are
coming home. They have camps here. They have family
here. So I think that we need to make that
opportunity available to them. And I would like staff
to kind of come up with a recommendation to see how we
can do that most effectively.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Thank you. And I would add to that,
that will only affect a very few wildlife management
units because they don't all sell out right away.
Surely 2G, 2H and a few of the northcentral units
would be affected. But by and large, most of the
state would not be affected by that. It is also one
of the more recurring themes in the comments that we
receive where people are --- virtually every one of
them is I had to leave Pennsylvania to get a job
someplace else, I was in the military someplace else,
I settled there, I'd like to come back and really, I
would like to be able to get a doe license, so I think
it's a very good topic for us to discuss. Any additional?

[COMMISSIONER HOOVER:]

Mr. President, I'd like to point out that over the past couple of years we've done what most of the hunters asked us to do, we've reduced doe allocations pretty much across the board. This year what we noticed was that we sold out of doe allocations pretty quickly. And again, the wave of I didn't get mine showed up. And so now we've got the hunters out there yelling at us because oh, wait a minute, I wanted you to reduce doe allocations but I still wanted my allocation, I still wanted mine but I didn't get it.

So there are some areas where, you know, we have the ability now to probably increase our allocations as we look into what happens next year and we get through this season and see what --- where we end up. And we will look in the future at, you know, 5C and 5D, trying to determine exactly where we go with those two units, especially the special regulations area. That for the first time in as far back as I can remember, we actually sold out in the first week as it went over the counter which was an anomaly.
So we're going to look at that and the staff is going to look at that and come back to us as a working group meeting with some solutions and some reasons as to why the allocations went so quickly. I just wanted everybody to know that. And you know, the hunters got what they wanted. We reduced the allocations and now we're going to look at the deer herd. And as it comes up, we'll take the appropriate action.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

Thank you.

MR. DALEY:

Mr. President, along those lines with selling out quickly, I'd like the staff to look to see, too, should we put some limit on at least the initial purchase so that more can be spread around. And then if licenses don't sell out, have additional rounds where people can buy them. You know, there's people go out there and buy 47 tags.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:

That would be in the special regulations.

MR. HOOVER:

And in the state, on that note, in the rest of the state, actually, I think there is a limit
of two that's placed on them. When you get into the
special regulations area, those areas are different
than the rest of the state in that a lot of people are
managing properties and there's some very large
properties. And we've said that in the past, you
know, please, if you have the opportunity to DMAP your
property, it does take an added tool to the larger
property owners down there. But of course, they've
never had to do that in the past, the allocations have
always been there. So just another tool that they can
avail themselves to.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
Any additional comments? Matt, do you
have anything you'd like to report on?

MR. HOUGH:
No. I think it was an excellent
Commission Meeting up here in DuBois.

PRESIDENT PUTNAM:
I guess on that note I would like to
thank the Northcentral and the Northwest Regions for
all the time and effort they put in. Keith had a nice
ceremony for us out there in Jefferson County at the
1.5 million acre dedication. And Barry and his staff
worked tirelessly, I don't know how many hours they
got in but they were working at this for a long time.
We had some excellent tours out through the, mostly through 2G to see the habitat.

I think that tour was very worthwhile. Even Commissioner Hoover softened his stance on the conditions up here. We're still looking for that camp for sale. We were under the impression that all the camps are for sale. And we saw a lot of camps and there was a lot of people at those camps, too, but we didn't see any for sale. So with that note, we'll adjourn the meeting.

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MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:15 A.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, hearing held before Commissioner Putnam was reported by me on 9/29/15 and that I, Rhonda K. Thorpe, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Rhonda K. Thorpe

Court Reporter

Rhonda K. Thorpe