PA GAME COMMISSION MEETING

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IN RE: QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

GAME COMMISSION MEETING

BEFORE:    TIMOTHY LAYTON, President
        James Daley, Vice President
        Stanley Knick, Secretary
        Brian Hoover, Commissioner
        Charles Fox, Commissioner
        Michael Mitrick, Commissioner
        Bryan Burhans
        Brad Bechtel, Chief Counsel
        Thomas Grohol
        Rich Palmer

HEARING:   Tuesday, April 24, 2018
           8:35 a.m.

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

WITNESSES: Peter Sussenbach, Matthew Schnupp, David
Mitchell, Chris Rosenberry

Reporter: Amy Warehime

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APPEARANCES

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P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We're going to call a meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, April 24th, 2018, to order. If you all please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED

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PRESIDENT LAYTON: I would ask everybody at this time to please check your cell phones and make sure they are either turned off or placed on vibrate.

Mr. Secretary, will you call the roll?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Mr. Layton?

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Present.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Mr. Daley?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Here.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Mr. Fox?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Here.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Mr. Mitrick?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Here.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Mr. Hoover?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Here.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Can I get a motion
to approve the minutes of January 30th, 2018?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Duly moved and seconded. All in favor - all in favor aye?

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AYES RESPOND

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PRESIDENT LAYTON: Opposed?

The motion is carried, Mr. Bechtel?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Thank you. The first item to come before the Commission today is from the Bureau of Wildlife Management.

This concerns the adopted rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Section 139.4 relating to seasons and bag limits with the licensee. Provide updated seasons and limits for the 2018 to 2019 license year. The text is shown on pages three through ten of your agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Gentleman, we need a motion to approve season and bag limits?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do I have a second?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

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AYES RESPOND

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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Wait, wait, wait, we need comments first.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Right now, we need the motion to -. 

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We need the motion to go ahead.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Okay.

So we do not want to vote at this time.

All right.

We do have a motion, we do have a second. So during the discussing we're going to do this page at a time if we can starting on page three, starting on page three.

Any changes to page three? Page four? Changes to page five? Any changes to page six? Page seven?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Mr. President,
I'd like to make a motion to amend the Deer, Archery, Antlered and Antlerless Season ending date, and move it from November 10th to the 12th.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So we have a motion, do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

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AYES Respond

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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any other changes to page seven?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Mr. President, I'm not going to put it in the form of a change at this point. But I do think by next year we really need to be looking at Saturday start for Deer Regular Firearms.

And whatever we have to do to determine if that's the right move going forward for next year.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Okay.

Duly noted.

Page eight? Changes to page nine?

Page ten?
So having a motion and a second on the floor, a discussion as to the amended seasons and bag lists?

Okay.

Mr. Secretary?

**COMMISSIONER KNICK:** All in favor?

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**AYES RESPONSES**

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**COMMISSIONER KNICK:** Opposed?

Motion passed.

**ATTORNEY BECHTEL:** The next item concerned in the Amendment 58 PA Code Section 141.28 relating to wild pheasant recovery areas to eliminate the Somerset Wild Pheasant Recovery Area (WPRA). That's shown on page 12 of the agenda.

**PRESIDENT LAYTON:** Do we have a motion?

**COMMISSIONER DALEY:** So moved.

**PRESIDENT LAYTON:** Second?

**COMMISSIONER FOX:** Second.

**PRESIDENT LAYTON:** Any discussion?

Mr. Secretary?

**COMMISSIONER KNICK:** All in favor?

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AYES RESPOND

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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?
The motion is carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item this morning concerns the Bureau of Wildlife Protection and the adopted rulemaking concerning wildlife resources in the Commonwealth.

The Game Commission proposed at its January 30th, 2018 meeting to amend Chapter 141 Appendix G (relating to hunting hours) to replace the current hunting hours and migratory birds hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal hunting for the 2018 to 2019 Hunting/Trapping, License year.

The Commission also proposed to amend Section 141.4 (relating to hunting hours) by deleting the hunting hours closure of mourning dove season prior to noon during the first mourning dove season.

The text is shown on pages 14 through 16 agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I move.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any discussion?
Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?
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AYES RESPOND
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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And the next item
to amend is the 58 PA Code Section 141.43, 141.44, and
141.47 (related to deer, bear and elk) to authorize
statewide use of semiautomatics, centerfire shotguns
to hunt for deer, bear and elk. The text is shown on
pages 18 and 19 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a
motion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: A second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comments?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I would just
like to make one comment. This essentially adds
semiautomatic shotguns to the regulations which have
been in use in the Southeast Special Regulations area
for a considerable period of time without incident.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you.
Any other comments?
Okay.
Mr. Secretary, call the vote.
COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?
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AYES RESPOND
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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?
Motion carried.
ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And the next item today concerns the amendment 58 PA Code Section 141.1 and the rescission of Sections 147.681 through 147.686.
To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission proposed at its January 30, 2018, meeting to amend Section 141.1 (relating to special regulations areas) and rescind Sections 144.681 through 147.686 to eliminate the baiting permit and reporting requirements. The text is shown on pages 21 through 22 of your agenda.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?
COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?
COMMISSIONER DALEY: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comments?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I'd just like to make one, this just streamlines the regulation of this area and the southeast region with some cumbersome regulations that were involved with it. It does not the - it does not eliminate the use of it.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any other comments?

Mr. Secretary, call the votes?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

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AYES RESPOND

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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Motion carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item that concerns the amendment is 58 PA Code Section 147.316 and 147.317 (relating to application permit) to require junior hunters to obtain a free pheasant permit to hunt pheasants in the Commonwealth.

The Commission also proposed to amend Section 147.317. To exempt additional individuals from the pheasant permit requirement, including individuals from the pheasant permit requirement, including individuals currently exempted from the
licensure by statue and also individuals hunting and
taking privately acquired propagated pheasants on
private land. The text is shown on pages 24 through
25 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Motion to accept?
COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.
COMMISSIONER KNICK: Presently we do
have a floor amendment I believe on this particular
page one through five.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We'll get there as
soon as we get - do we have a motion - do we have a
second?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Discussion?

Now, we do have a floor amendment. So
I already looked into to add number four. Lawful
hunting of pheasants by persons that previously
acquired a senior lifetime resident hunting license or
a senior lifetime resident combination hunting and fur
taking license as defined under 2705 of the Act prior
to May 13th, 2017 when the subchapter first became
effective.

Do I have a second?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Second.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comments?

Okay.

Mr. Secretary, will you call the vote on the amendment?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

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AYES RESPOND

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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Motion carried.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any other comments?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Do you want to explain why this occurred?

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We can. Currently there is legislation coming that's coming through the House that we do not oppose. In fact, we support the legislation.

In order to make sure that it is in effect for this coming season, we just wanted to go ahead and kind of copy the language of the Legislation that's coming down and just make it a regulation that has moved.

Any other comments?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: I don’t think there was an awful lot of comments from Seniors that
previously held this license, that they didn’t think
they should have had to pay for it.

I think if we hadn’t been able to
reduce the price of raising pheasants as much as we
did, through our own efforts - I don’t think we'd see
this. But even if we did, this change just makes
sense.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you.

So we have a motion and a second on
the floor. We need a vote to pass the amended rule.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

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AYES RESPOND

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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Motion carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item is
from the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management, it
contains the adopted ruling to create the 58 PA Code
11 Section 135.183.12 relating to archery rangers, to
authorized the manners of usage of archery ranges
established by the Commission. The text is shown on
pages 27 through 28 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do I motion to
accept.
COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have any discussions?

Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

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AYES RESPOND

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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item before Commission concerns the acquisitions of real estate contract number L-3729, State Game Land Number 217 in Carbon County.

Wildlands Conservancy, INC. is offering 428 more or less acres of land in East Penn Township, Carbon County adjoining State Game Land Number 217 to the west and National Park Service property to the south as shown in Exhibit RED 1 on page 30 of your agenda.

The option price is $400 per acre 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 property is located on the north slope of Blue Mountain, is forested with oak, poplar, maple, and white pine along the ridge and transitioned into a savannah-type field of green briar and fern interspersed with trees at lower elevations.

Acquiring this property will resolve in long-standing boundary line dispute with the prior owners. Access is from Blue Mountain Road on the west and Sunset Road on the east.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do I have a motion to amend?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I move.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: And a second?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comments?

Steve, can you just talk about the third party commitment?

MR. SUSSENBACK: Sure, so the third parties then commitments are basically for impacts that we have taken on other Game Lands throughout State. Generally from oil and gas activities.

So this is a great way to put some acreage back in the hands of hunters and wildlife as
I’m going to give my sincerest gratitude to folks over at DCNR and Wildland’s Conservancy, because without them, we just wouldn’t have been able to pull this deal off.

But it’s certainly going to offset the impacts that we've had. And we're putting it in a place in the southeast region within fairly easy access to, you know, hundreds of hundreds of hunters if not tens and thousands.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: It even looks like this connects with parts of 217 with the National Park Services.

Can hunters go through there or does the Park Service prohibit hunting on that strip of land?

MR. SUSSENBACK: Generally, they prohibit hunting on a corridor of the Appalachian Trail. However on some of their additional land to the sides of that they will allow hunting. But there is a restriction or prohibition on the Appalachian Trail.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any other comments? Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?
AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Motion is carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item concerns a Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement. Tract 223A-18, State Game Land Number 223 in Greene County.

Greylock Production Company, LLC with (Greylock) requested the Commission to 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 724 surface acres of 537.61 oil and gas acres, is located in Whiteley Township, Greene County as shown on Exhibit OGM 1 on page 32 of your agenda.

Greylock has a strong privately owned oil and gas lease position surrounding this portion of State Game Land Number 223, has initiated unconventional well drilling and development in the vicinity of the proposed tract, and 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
The OGM staff has negotiated the proposed terms of the agreement with Greylock in an effort to prudently develop the Commission's oil and gas reserves and simultaneously protect the wildlife resources and recreational use of State Game Land Number 223.

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 18 percent royalty for all oil gas and other liquids or condensates produced and sold from the proposed tract.

The bonus payment of approximately $2,150,440 may be deposited either into the Game Fund or into an interest bearing escrow account to be used for the future purchase of wildlife habitat, lands or other uses incidental to hunting, furtaking and wildlife resource management. Future rental and royalties owned 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 Commission's Standard Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do I have a motion for this Act?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comments?

Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

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AYES RESPOND

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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Motion carries.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: All right.

At this time we will move on to the Deer Allocations for the 2018 - 2019 Hunting Season. We are going to do this by Wildlife Management Unit, and each Commissioner that is assigned to that Wildlife Management Unit will offer up his suggestions for Allocations.

In the areas that do not have Commissioners currently seated, we'll just take turns. They've been assigned to Commissioners.

Commissioner Daley, if you'd start with 1A, please?
COMMISSIONER DALEY: Sure. So if we look at the report that was put together for us and you go through that report, you'll see all the various measures of forest health, deer health, and fawn to doe ratios.

And then as Commissioners, we look at that as well as social impacts that we are aware of in our areas. So if you look at this year, the biologists would suggest 48,000 down from 52,000 we allocated last year. Looking at the numbers, I would agree with that 48,000.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So 48,000 for 1A?
Okay.
Commissioner Daley 1B?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: All right.

Similarly, the harvests have been up there since 2009. The population's been up since 2010 forest health is now declining. So we're looking to try to hold the population stable. Our biologists have suggested 37,000. I agree with that number.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 2A - 2A is in the southwest region of Pennsylvania. Last year we had an allocation of 50,000. We did have an outbreak of EHD in that area. So I'm going to recommend that we set next year's allocation to 49,000.
2B, again, an area that's vacant. Last year's allocation was at 60,000. The recommendation this year is 58,000, which is a reduction of 2,000. And we're going to go with a recommendation of 58,000.

2C, which happens to be in my District. Last year, the allocation was 31,000. The recommended allocation for this year is 44,000. Again, there's issues in 2C. Part of that area is in the disease management area number 2.

We have some issues in the northern part of the county with getting samples for CWD. So I'm going to go with the recommended allocation of 44,000.

2D, also an area in the southwest where we've done some significant reductions through the years on allocations. We see that the numbers are starting to grow - deer numbers are growing. We've had some - actually we had some complaints from farmers in the area about deer numbers.

Last year's approved allocation was 55,000, the recommendation this year is for 63,000. And I would suggest we approve the recommendation of 63,000.

2E, again, in my District. Last year
we were 22,000, the recommendation for this year is 23,000. There are no issues with deer numbers in 2E, would like to go with the recommendation of 23,000.

Commissioner Daley, 2F, if you would, please?

**COMMISSIONER DALEY:** 2F's kind of an oddball to look at. It’s got some very effective hunters it takes 3.3 licenses to tag a deer there. We've had some increase in the population to the and the fawn to doe ratio is starting to drop. I think given all the factors if you look at 2F, we stay with the recommended 23,000.

**PRESIDENT LAYTON:** Commissioner Daley, will you take 2G as well, please?

**COMMISSIONER DALEY:** So in 2G, the population's certainly increased there. We're getting a lot of - certainly from farmers, we’re getting a lot of input, they're seeing a lot of crop damage. Last year we allocated 25,500. The recommended by our biologist is 39,000, which is a drastic increase. We've decided to cut that drastic increase. I'm thinking 30,000 should be a good number there.

**PRESIDENT LAYTON:** Okay.

Commissioner Daley, 2H.
COMMISSIONER DALEY: it has always fluctuated between always a question there between 6 and 7,000 tags. Looking at it, I think that it can hold some more deer than it has. So we're going to go with a 6,000 number this year which is down from last year.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Okay.

Commissioner Knick, 3A?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: 3A, last year we had 20,000, this year we're going with 22,000 for the recommendation.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Okay.

Commission Knick, 3B?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: 3B, last year we had 30,000. This year recommended was 29,000 we are going to go with 29,000 for the recommendation.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Commissioner Fox 3C?

COMMISSIONER FOX: We received a significant amount of crop damage in 3C. We're going to go with that recommendation of 38,000.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: And Commissioner Fox, 3D? Oh, - I'm sorry, Commissioner Knick?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Last year we had 25,000 in 3D it's stable. The recommendation of
25,000 this year we will stay with the 25,000 as recommended.

**PRESIDENT LAYTON:** 4A in the heart of the CWD area, we have held steady at 30,000 allocations over the past several years but that's been supplemented by DMA permits.

And now that we've eliminated DMA permits in just doing township issues, the recommendation this year is for 38,000. And I agree with that number, I'll recommend that we go with that 38,000.

Commissioner Mitrick?

**COMMISSIONER MITRICK:** 4B, the recommendation is 26,000, last year was also 26,000 and we'll leave it at that. A portion of that is also within Disease Management Area 2, so we certainly don’t want to decrease that allocation.

**PRESIDENT LAYTON:** Commissioner Hoover 4C?

**COMMISSIONER HOOVER:** We had an allocation of 29,000 approved by the Board last year. The recommendation this year is the 35,000. I have seen an increase in deer, so maybe there's some possibilities there I'm going to raise it to 30,000 this year.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: 4D, Mr. Mitrick?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: That's not me.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Who's 4D?

I'll take 4D. So 4D, there's really no change, the recommendation last year - the allocation last year was 34,000. The recommendation for this year is 34,000, we'll just keep it the same.

4E, Commissioner Fox, is that you?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Yes.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: It's mostly you.

COMMISSIONER FOX: Mostly me, mostly me. Yeah, there's an increasing population with a 32,000 recommendation which stays at 32,000.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 5A?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: We're going to go with the recommendation of 22,000. Last year was 22,000.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: You also have 5B?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Correct.

Last year's recommendation was 57,000 this year's is 58,000. We're going to go with the recommendation of 58,000.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Commissioner Hoover 5C?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: We've pretty
well - since we've changed the unit around we've left it at 70,000, we're going to go ahead and leave it at 70,000 again this year.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: And Commissioner Hoover, 5D?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: We've seen some reduction in the number of deer in 5D as a whole, we're going to reduce it by 2,000 we'll have 28,000.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Gentleman, we have a motion to accept the allocations for the 2018-2019 hunting season?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comments?

All those in favor - I'm sorry. Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

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AYES RESPOND

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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Motion carries.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Now, we move onto the Elk Allocations. Matthew, you might want to step
up because we're going to ask questions. Not hard ones but questions.

Okay.

So this is a hard one, talk about the new - if you would, the new hunt zone and the changes that were made there. Were you able to do that?

MR. SCHNUPP: Probably not as efficiently as somebody else.

Dave, do you want to talk about that? Let me get somebody up here that's better at answering that.

MR. MITCHELL: Elk hunt zone 14, which is the new hunt zone. The Elk herd is expanding to the north and east. That would be the herd that's up around Kettle Creek State Park.

Actually I have the numbers back in my folder. But I think our minimum count we counted 81 Elk that are residing right now in Elk Zone 14. So it has a good population and it's increasing.

And I believe that the numbers that were put in there, it will be able to sustain hunting pressure and still allow that herd to grow.

The changes we made around Elk hunt Zone 7 were - there were some boundaries that used really small roads to get to game lands there. They
were essentially like two track roads.

   It was very easy to walk across them without seeing them. So we went to the more established township roads just to make those boundaries a little bit clearer.

   And what we were going to do is, one of the reasons that it was the way it was because some of the viewing areas at Winslow Hill and also at the Woodring Farm. But we're going to post those viewing areas close to Elk Hunting.

   So we don’t have to worry about any conflicts with hunters and Elk viewers. But it's going to make the actual boundaries of the Management Hunting Guidelines much clearer so we don’t have people accidentally shooting Elk.

   **PRESIDENT LAYTON:** All right.

   So let me go down through these numbers if I can. I'll go by hunt zone and then we'll do totals at the end.

   So hunt zone 2, the recommendation is 2 antlered, 25 antlerless for a total of 27.

Hunt zone 6, 2 antlered, 7 antlerless, total of 9. Hunt zone 7, antlered zero, antlerless zero for a total of zero.

Hunt zone 8, 2 antlered, 7 antlerless, total of 9. Hunt zone 9, 2 antlered, 7 antlerless, total of 9.

Hunt zone 10, 2 antlered, 11 antlerless for a total of 13. Hunt zone 11, 2 antlered, 2 antlerless, total of 4.

Hunt zone 12, 3 antlered, 17 antlerless for a total of 20. Hunt zone 13, 2 antlered, 6 antlerless, total of 8.

Hunt zone 14, 2 antlered, 4 antlerless, for a total of 6. The total number of antlered is 26, the total number of antlerless is 99 for total of 125 Elk.

Do I have a motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Just for clarification on Elk zone 12, you stated 3 antlered and it specifically says 2 recommendations.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Twelve (12)? That's not what I have.

Doctor Rosenberry, can you clarify zone 12 for us, please?

DOCTOR ROSENBERRY: Three, 17 and 20.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Three, 17, and 20.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Table 2 is wrong.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Okay.

Do we have a motion to accept the allocations?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: I have a question, but I don't know if it would be for you or someone else. Elk Zone 5, or Hunt Zone 5, in 2016 we had 24 tags in the zone, in 2017 we dropped it to 10 and in 2018 we want to drop it to 6? Is there something wrong in that zone? It just seems like a huge change. We have about a quarter of what we had two years ago.

DR. ROSENBERRY: That was the end of two years ago that we - there was a lot of complaints -

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Is that like Weedville?

DR. ROSENBERRY: That's the Weedville area, yes. So we had a lot of tags in there, there was some success. We had an extended season because hunters weren’t able to use the tags. Last year, then it was cut down a little bit further.

And we're not seeing as many Elk in that zone. There's still Elk there, but the numbers
and the complaints aren't there, so that's why it was cut this year.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Okay.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Okay.

So now we need a motion to set the allocations?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: So moved.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?
COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any other discussion?

Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

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AYES RESPOND

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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Motion is carried.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you.

So now we have two resolutions that need to be read and accepted in.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Thank you, Mr. President.

The first resolution, I'll read the tax resolution of the Board of Commissioners.
Whereas, the Commonwealth has experienced consistent declines in hunting participation by both resident and non-resident hunters over the past several decades, with both the number of licenses sold and revenues generated experiencing steady declines; and whereas, youth participation is vital to maintaining the longstanding tradition of hunting in the Commonwealth.

And whereas, Sunday hunting can be an effective means of recruiting new hunters and retaining current hunters by increasing the value of the hunting license through offering additional opportunities to spend time in the field.

And whereas, the Commission recognizes that it can effectively double the number of hunting days for youths during the school year by offering Sunday hunting.

And whereas, many residents of this Commonwealth seek hunting opportunities and hunting leases in neighboring states that offer Sunday hunting.

And whereas, the Commission recognizes that Sunday hunting will help keep Pennsylvania hunters in Pennsylvania. And whereas, the Commonwealth has a longstanding tradition of hunting
camps and clubs.

And whereas, Sunday hunting can effectively double the number of hunting days for camp owners and club members. And whereas, Sunday hunting has the potential to generate a substantial increase in non-resident license sales and the accompanying revenue for the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

And whereas, hunting license sales and their associated federal matching funds are the primary revenue source for the Pennsylvania Game Commission in carrying out its mission, including maintaining 1.5 million acres of State Game Lands and acquisition of additional public lands, research and management of wildlife and providing information and education to the public.

And whereas, Sunday hunting has the potential to provide substantial economic benefits to rural areas and businesses by increasing money spent by hunters on lodging, food, gas, and other incidental items.

And whereas, Sunday hunting could effectively generate $629 million in additional spending and create 5,300 new jobs, resulting in $18 million in additional sales and income tax.

And whereas, the mission of the
Pennsylvania Game Commission is to manage wildlife and its habitat for future and current generations - or I should say for current and future generations.

And whereas, Sunday hunting which is currently permitted to control a growing population of coyotes, will provide the biologists of the Pennsylvania Game Commission new tools to manage wildlife populations.

And whereas, the 47 states that currently permit Sunday hunting, have not experienced any discernable impact on the health or vibrancy of game populations.

And whereas, the Board of Commissioners recognizes that the authority to permit Sunday hunting lies entirely with the General Assembly of Pennsylvania. And whereas, if the General Assembly repeals the restrictions on Sunday hunting, thus giving the authority to regulate Sunday hunting to the Board of Commissioners, the Board recognizes the many stakeholder groups that any actions on Sunday hunting will affect and will endeavor to engage these stakeholders before passing any new regulations in regard to Sunday hunting.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Commissioners of Pennsylvania Game
Commission does hereby urge the General Assembly of Pennsylvania to repeal the prohibition on Sunday hunting in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Given under the hand and seal of the Board of Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Game Commission on this 24th day of April 2018.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do I have a motion to accept the resolution?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do I have a second?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comments?

Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

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AYES RESPOND

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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Motion is carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The Commissioners have a second resolution, I'll read that entirely also. The resolution of the Board of Commissioners, whereas, The Pennsylvania Game Commission has received numerous solicitations from various industrial wind energy developers interested in erecting wind turbines
on State Game Lands over the past few years.

And whereas, the Commission recognizes the significant value of exploring alternative energy resources and renewable energy initiatives within this Commonwealth.

And whereas, the Commission has determined that the protection of wildlife habitat values and their associated recreational use of State Game Lands are one of the Commission’s highest priorities.

And whereas, the Commission has further determined that evaluation and approval of wind energy projects on State Game Lands must be completed in strict accordance with the mandates of the Game and Wildlife Code, 34 Pa.C.S. Section 101 et seq., the Code to ensure the protection and conservation of the Commonwealth’s wildlife resources and promotion of recreational opportunities on State Game Lands.

And whereas, Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, Pa. Constitution Article 1, Section 27, mandates that the public natural resources of the Commonwealth, including State Game Lands and their associated flora and fauna, are the common property of all the people, including
generations yet to come; and whereas, The Commonwealth, including the Board of Game Commissioners, as trustee of the public natural resources, is charged with conserving and maintaining those resources for the benefit of all the people.

And whereas, the Commission drafted guidance in 2005 to aid in its evaluation of proposed wind energy development on State Game Lands; and whereas 19 State Game Lands have been targeted by industrial wind energy developers since 2005, some multiple times.

And whereas, to date, all of the wind energy proposals submitted to the Commission were determined to have a high probability of adversely impacting wildlife resources and the recreational uses associated with State Game Lands and were therefore not approved.

And whereas, the Commission has recognized the need to provide a clear policy concerning the potential for future wind energy development on State Game Lands; and whereas, the Commission has generally determined that the high probability of adverse impacts to wildlife resources and recreational uses caused by wind energy development on State Game Lands is incompatible with
its mandates under the Code to protect, propagate, manage and preserve the game and wildlife of the Commonwealth and promote recreational opportunities on State Game Lands.

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Game Commission does hereby declare as policy that wind energy development on State Game Lands to be inconsistent with the responsibilities of the Pennsylvania Game Commission under both the Game and Wildlife Code and Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Given under the hand and seal of the Board of Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Game Commission on this 24th day of April, 2018.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept the resolution?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: I second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comments?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: I do. We discussed this at length, if you recall.

I think, you know, if you were a wind energy developer, and you had an outstanding piece of
habitat that you wanted to exchange for some game land, that would be the mechanism, we’re prohibiting it by this resolution. That’s fair.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you. Any other comments?

Mr. Secretary?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

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AYES RESPOND

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COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Motion carried.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Is there any other new business?

Our next working group meeting will be held June 4th, 2018. The Next Commission meeting will be July 30th and 31st, of 2018. Immediately following this will be a press conference in the cafeteria executive session if it is needed. We are adjourned.

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MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:19 A.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, meeting held before Commissioner Layton was reported by me on 04/24/2018 and that I, Amy L. Warehime, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 17th day of May 2018

Amy L. Warehime

Court Reporter