COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
* * * * * * * * *
IN RE: QUARTERLY MEETING
* * * * * * * * *
BEFORE: Timothy S. Layton, President
James R. Daley, Vice President
Stanley I. Knick, Jr., Secretary
Scott H. Foradora, COMMISSIONER
Charlie E. Fox, COMMISSIONER
Dennis R. Fredericks, COMMISSIONER
Brian H. Hoover, COMMISSIONER
Michael F. Mitrick, COMMISSIONER
Bryan Burhans
Thomas Grohol
Richard Palmer
Bradley Bechtel, Chief Counsel

HEARING: Tuesday, April 9, 2019
8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: 2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

SPEAKERS: Matthew Schnupp, Randy Shoup, Pete Sussenbach
Reporter: Bridget Hockenbroch

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index Item</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPENING REMARKS</td>
<td>5 - 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>6 - 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Attorney Bechtel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROPOSED RULEMAKING</td>
<td>18 - 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Attorney Bechtel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION</td>
<td>23 - 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Attorney Bechtel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUREAU OF WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>34 - 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Attorney Bechtel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REAL ESTATE</td>
<td>42 - 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Attorney Bechtel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIL/GAS &amp; MINERALS</td>
<td>51 - 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Attorney Bechtel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CERTIFICATE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NONE OFFERED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROCEDINGS

PRESIDENT LAYTON: I would call to order the meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Today is April – Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. If everyone would please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance?

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(WHEREUPON, THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS HELD.)

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PRESIDENT LAYTON: If everyone would please make sure you check your cell phones and place them on vibrate or turn them off for the meeting. Mr. Secretary, would you please call the roll?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Layton.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Present.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Hoover?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Present.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Daley.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Here.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner
Mitrick.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Here.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Fox.

COMMISSIONER FOX: Here.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Foradora.

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Here.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Fredericks.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Here.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Myself, Commissioner Knick here.

All present.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do I have a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 29, 2019?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So having a motion and a second. Any discussion? Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Ayes
have it, eight to zero.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: At this time we'll turn to the meeting over to Attorney Bechtel.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Thank you, Mr. President. The first item to come before the Commission today is from the Bureau of Wildlife Management and concerns adopted rulemaking, to amend 58 Pa. Code, Section 139.4 relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year.

To provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2019-2020 license year. 2019-2020 seasons and bag limits have been amended to reflect current available scientific data, population and harvest records, field surveys and professional staff observations, as well as recommendations received from staff, organized sporting groups, members of the agricultural community and others interested in the management of the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth.

To provide an overall increase in black bear hunting opportunity and harvest, the Commission is proposing to expand the October muzzleloader and special firearms seasons, previously limited to WMUs on the periphery of the bear range, statewide. Also, to increase bear harvest and reduce
regulation complexity, the length of extended firearms bear seasons is proposed to increase from four to six days in several WMUs.

For elk, the addition of a September archery season and a January antlerless season are proposed to address hunter crowding issues during the regular season while simultaneously reducing elk habituation toward humans and residential areas, and improving the agency's ability to respond to elk-human conflicts and to potential future CWD infection.

Expansions of bobcat hunting and trapping opportunity to WMU 4B, and of fisher trapping opportunity to WMU 4A, are recommended in light of population indices in these units that are comparable to those in other WMUs where harvest is occurring sustainably. For beaver, an increase in the season bag limit from 20 to 40 is recommended for WMUs 2A and 2B in response to increasing nuisance complaints in these units. For porcupine, a reduction in season length is proposed to ensure population sustainability given significant uncertainty about the impacts of harvest on this species.

To increase hunting opportunities for younger deer hunters, a Saturday opener for rifle deer season is being proposed. Changing the historic
opening day from the Monday following Thanksgiving to
the Saturday following Thanksgiving represents a
change in tradition. However, retaining our younger
hunters is important to preserving our hunting
heritage. By shifting the opening day to a Saturday
this change will create more hunting opportunity by
selecting a day which better fits the working/school
schedule of youth and young adults. Changes are also
proposed for small game and turkey season closing
dates to accommodate the one-day shift in the opening
ing of deer rifle season.

The text of this proposal is shown on
pages 4 through 11 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So as we begin this
process, I will ask for a motion to accept the seasons
and bag limits. And then after we have a motion and a
second on the floor we will go page by page through
the seasons and bag limits to see if there are any
changes that the Commission wants to make.

So do I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We have a motion.

Do I have a second, please?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We have a motion
and a second. Let's start with, if we will gentlemen, page four on the agenda.

DR. SCHNUPP: Commissioner, I'd like to provide a floor amendment to this page four at the bottom there, for more general language to accommodate the upcoming decision on WPRAs. We'd like to change that bottom text to the blue text that you see on your floor amendment where it says there is no open season for taking of pheasants in any area designated as a “Wild Pheasant Recovery Area,” except as authorized by the executive.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you, Doctor SCHNUPP.

Do we have a motion to accept that proposal?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion on the executive order proposal? Mr. Secretary, call the roll on that amendment change, please.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor.

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Ayes
have it.


COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I'd like to make a motion to change the date on the deer, archery season, a late season, from January 11th to January 20th. And for the deer, flintlock, antlered or antlerless from January 11th to January 20th.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So we have a motion on the floor. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Discussion? Dr. Schnupp, do you have any comments about that? Anything you want to say?

DR. SCHNUPP: No.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Very good. We have a motion and a second. Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor? (AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT DALEY: I have another amendment for that particular page, President Layton.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: So I would like
to amend the regular firearms deer season to begin on Monday, December 2nd.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Let's clean up the first amendment first, is that okay?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Yeah. I thought we were - reviewing that page so I didn't want to miss it.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Well, we just had that amendment. So it's done already. We already were just told it passed. So please, go ahead.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Okay. So I guess to repeat, I would like to amend regular firearms deer season to begin on Monday December 2nd. And adjust the end date of the small game and turkey season accordingly to end on November 30th and beginning bear, extended firearms to start on December 2nd as well. I'll do that in form of a motion.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So we have a motion. Is there a second to that motion?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We have a motion and a second. Do we have any discussion?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: I will if no one else will.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: All right.
Commissioner Daley.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: This issue is one that I floated the idea of a Saturday opener as an R3 initiative quite a while ago and we talked about it a lot. We knew that we had two surveys for current hunters that showed that they had a preference for keeping the Monday by a two-to-one ratio.

However, I wanted to be sure to get this proposal out as early as possible to allow for comments. We tallied 1,152 comments with 81 percent of those also opposed. We conducted an additional survey of lapsed hunters and found that 24-and-a-half percent of lapsed hunters said they would definitely buy a license with a Saturday opener. Yet, our prior studies show that really 39 percent would probably follow through, which in that case would be 9.6 percent.

So when you weigh all the benefits which would mostly be to the college students, and we had some who testified to that, against the hunters who not only don't prefer Saturday but despise Saturday due to Thanksgiving holiday disruption, you camp travel and preparation time, the desired R3 gain which is what I wanted is too small to make a change at this time. The potential benefits are outweighed
by the disruption for many hunters and rural businesses. And I'm glad that we did have this discussion because we need to focus on R3.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you, Commissioner Daley. Any other comments?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Yeah, I'd like to add a couple of things to that. I think that we need to look as an agency to the future. And the future being our youth in what we're attempting to do in the R3. And to be I'm not saying short-sighted to say that a small percentage, and Jim and I will differ on the percentage, I got - I received very little to no complaints about the Saturday change in the southeast region which covers nine counties.

So, and then at the meetings that I've been at in Columbia County and Schuylkill County as well to say that there were no complaints is a fact. I mean, this past weekend I was in Columbia County with farmers and hunters up there and I got no complaints about the Saturday opener. So I'm not seeing it and I'm going to stay the course on Saturday opening.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you, Commissioner Hoover. Any other comments? So we have a motion on the floor -.
COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Can I? I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: We had a tremendous number of emails on this subject and as Commissioner Daley said the overwhelming response has been not only negative but they really absolutely hated the thought of a Saturday opener. And, I just, we have a lot of things we want to accomplish going forward and to incur the wrath of this population I think is not a good thing. I think there is certainly things to be said that are very good about a Saturday opener but to incur the wrath of all these people at this point in time when we really need to have everybody behind us I don't think it's a good thing. So I'm not going to support the Saturday opener.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you, Commissioner Mitrick. Any other comments? I'm just going to say that this is an issue that has been vetted more than any issue I think that we've had since I've been a Commissioner here. Each Commissioner has put a lot of time and a lot of effort into the decision of whether or not we should have a Saturday opener.
And really, and I think Commissioner Daley said this before, this is how the process is supposed to work. We bring it up, we find out what the hunters think and then we make a decision on the comments that we get back and what we believe is best for the future of hunting in Pennsylvania.

So to my fellow Commissioners I'm going to say “thank you" for all the work that you've put into this. And don't think for a minute that everyone didn't struggle with this decision from the time that we first began discussions with it until right now when we decide to take a vote.

So do we - are there any other conversations, any other discussions, comments? Having said that, we have a motion. We have a motion on the floor to revert back to a Monday opener. So a “yes” vote on this would be to go back to Monday and a “no” vote would be to continue the course for the Saturday opener. As long as we all understand that. So Mr. Secretary, could you please call the vote?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: You're going to have to go roll call.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do you want to do a
roll call? Let's do a roll call vote.

Commissioner Layton?

President Layton: Yes.

Commissioner Knick:

Commissioner Hoover?

Commissioner Hoover: No.

Commissioner Knick:

Commissioner Daley?

Commissioner Daley: Aye.

Commissioner Knick:

Commissioner Mitrick?

Commissioner Mitrick: Yes.

Commissioner Knick: Commissioner Fox?

Commissioner Fox: No.

Commissioner Knick:

Commissioner Fredericks?

Commissioner Fredericks: No.

Commissioner Knick:

Commissioner Foradora?

Commissioner Foradora: No.

Commissioner Knick:

Knick, myself? No. It is five no’s and three yeses.

President Layton: So the motion is defeated.
Okay. Moving on. Page nine? Page 10?

DR. SCHNUPP: Commissioner, I'd like to add a floor amendment in there for the - to extend the current 13-day fisher season by three additional days to provide an additional weekend of opportunities for fisher trappers. Our current data suggests a small increase in harvest is sustainable. And effective monitoring programs are in place such that if any unexpected negative population impacts were to occur they could be rapidly identified and addressed via future season restrictions.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Very good. Thank you. Do we have a motion to accept this?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any discussion?

Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor.

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed. Ayes have it eight to zero.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Page 11, any changes? Page 12? We are done with Seasons and Bags.
Page 11 is the last page of Seasons and Bags. So we have a motion the floor and we have second. Is there any further discussion? Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: No.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Passes seven to one.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item for the Commission is Proposed Rulemaking on page 12 of your agenda to amend 58 Pa. Code Section 141.28.

Commission staff have completed a final report on the Wild Pheasant Recovery Area, or WPRA project, and are recommending several changes to WPRA status and regulations based on the findings of the report. The Hegins-Gratz Valley WPRA was established by the Commission in 2010. In 2011, 300 wild pheasants were trapped and transferred to the WPRA and annual population and habitat monitoring have continued through 2018.

Population surveys show that current wild pheasant numbers in this WPRA are very low, and much lower than the initial population at the conclusion of releases. Staff have concluded that due
to habitat conditions, a huntable wild pheasant population is not achievable or sustainable on this WPRA, and that in keeping with guidelines established in the Pennsylvania Ring-necked Pheasant Management Plan for unsuccessful WPRAs, the Hegins-Gratz Valley WPRA should be dissolved and the area should be re-opened to either-sex pheasant hunting and to the stocking of game farm pheasants.

Boundary changes are recommended for both the Central Susquehanna and Franklin County WPRAs, reducing the size of each WPRA to better represent existing populations of wild pheasants. Finally, removal of the dog training restriction within WPRAs is recommended as there is low likelihood of negative impacts from this activity on now-established pheasant populations.

The text is on pages 12 through 14 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept this proposal?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any commentary from you, Matthew?
PRESIDENT LAYTON: You know, the WPRAs is one of those things that I supported ever since I've been on the Board. We've put a lot of work, a lot of effort, a lot of money into them. The problem with the WPRAs is obviously they're driven a lot by private landowners. And as the years go on their dedication and their needs for the use of their land change.

So we've seen some struggles in those WPRAs as far as habitat and sustainability of pheasants. So it's unfortunate that we're looking to shut down another WPRA, but I think it's just one of those things that it's a necessary evil. So, are there any other comments?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Mr. President, I'd like to make a motion to amend and remove number two, which is actually the removal of the Hegins-Gratz WPRA. And the reason behind that is I'd like to see us leave that open so that we do have wild pheasants on the ground at this time, although not very many, we are not laying pheasants on that farm - bred pheasants over top of them, so we're not allowing hunting in there anyway. We have no game lands in there so my thought would be to leave even as small as an
opportunity as there is for the wild pheasants to recover on its own in that area, I'd like to see us at least give them a chance without adding hunting pressure to the 160 birds that are left in there that are wild, a least for the time being. So I'd like to strike number two.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So we have a motion on the floor to remove Hegins-Gratz Valley WPRA from the purposed closings. Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We have a motion and a second. Any other discussion? Again, a "yes" vote would be to keep Hegins-Gratz Valley WPRA. A vote "no" would be to remove it. Mr. Secretary, you can call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Layton?

PRESIDENT LAYTON: No.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Hoover?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Yes.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Daley?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: No.
Mitrick?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: No.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Fox?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Yes.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Fredericks?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: No.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Foradora?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Knick, myself, I vote yes. The vote right now is four to four.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So that motion does not pass. Any other discussion?

Okay. We have a motion and a second on the floor. Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: No.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Motion passed seven to one.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item for the agenda is on page 15 of your agenda from the Bureau of Wildlife Protection concerning adopted rule
making to amend 58 Pa. Code Section 141.4. The Commission is proposing to amend Section 141.4 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 2019-2020 hunting/trapping license year.

The text is shown on pages 16 through 18 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any discussion?

Mr. Secretary, call the vote, please.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Passes eight to zero.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And the next item is to amend 58 Pa. Code Section 141.20.

Requirements for the wearing of fluorescent orange protective material within Pennsylvania are complex and make up a significant number of violations detected each year by State Game
Wardens. On a national scale, the requirements for fluorescent orange protective material vary from state-to-state.

Those regulations include 11 states, such as Texas and New York, which do not require any fluorescent orange protective material to be worn. Ten states only requiring it to be worn while hunting big game. Twenty states only requiring it to be worn when hunting big game with a firearm. And nine states, including Pennsylvania, having a mixture of instances in which the wearing of fluorescent orange is required.

The Commission is proposing to amend Section 141.20, relating to protective material required, to eliminate the requirements for the wearing of fluorescent orange protective material for archery deer seasons, archery bear seasons and fall turkey seasons, including where these seasons overlap with other firearms seasons. While representing a significant reduction to the current requirements for fluorescent orange protective material requirements, the proposed changes will still maintain Pennsylvania's position as one of the more restrictive states in the nation.

The text is shown on pages 20 and 21.
RESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Second.

MR SHOUP: We do have a staff recommended change of the fluorescent orange. In the passing of seasons and bag limits 139.4 just a few minutes ago, we incorporated an elk archery season for the first time, and our fluorescent orange proposal here does not address anything related to fluorescent orange for elk archery hunters. So there is a changed page in your agenda that addresses that issue that would exempt elk archery hunters from needing to wear any fluorescent orange.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So gentlemen we have a blue page that needed a motion on, if I can get a motion for somebody to read the blue page.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

And I'll read it.

All coyote seasons, except during the respective portion of any regular firearms seasons for deer, bear or elk within each wildlife management unit, when the requirements of subsection (a) remain
applicable. All turkey season and all archery elk seasons. Hunt for woodchucks during any woodchuck season while wearing a hat made of solid daylight fluorescent orange-colored material on the head only. And a person who violates this section shall be subject to the penalties as provided in the Act.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We have a motion. Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: President Layton?

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: I just want to make sure that people understand that we did get comments on fall turkey hunting. I got called personally, one from another widow and I really believe that fall turkey hunting should require fluorescent orange.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Okay. Right now we're just working on the amendment. So let's get the amendment out of the way and then we can discuss that.

Any other discussions on the amendment? Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?
(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK:  Opposed?  Okay.

Passes eight to zero.

PRESIDENT LAYTON:  So as Mr. Daley said, did you want to expand on that?

COMMISSIONER DALEY:  No, not really.  I already said what I needed to.

PRESIDENT LAYTON:  All right.  Any other questions, comments about the changes to fluorescent orange?

MR. SHOUP:  President Layton, the Bureau of Wildlife Protection also shares Commissioner Daley's concerns regarding the complete removal of fluorescent orange during the fall turkey season.

PRESIDENT LAYTON:  Thank you.  This is again one of those issues that we've been talking about for years, about how we can simplify the fluorescent orange.  And we've had discussion after discussion, sometimes argument after argument, until we came to this proposal that I think the majority of the Commission and a lot of the staff have come to agree with.

So again, the work that was put into this, I just want to thank everybody.  I want to thank Randy and his staff.  I want to thank the
Commissioners for the discussions that we've had. And it is another one that was well vetted and a lot of work put into it.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: May I? Mr. President. I want to echo the same sentiments and what we're doing with this effort. And again, every Commissioner labored over this and we're trying to make things more fun for everybody and still maintain a high-level of safety. And I want to make it clear that even though the Commissioners managed to get this done we're not telling you to not wear blaze orange ever, you know. Certainly, if you feel that you're in an uncomfortable position or an unfamiliar property or daylight hours are waning whether they be in the morning or in the evening, you know, we would strongly encourage you to carry some blaze orange material on you at all times and use it as you feel necessary to maintain a high-level of safety.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you, Commissioner Fredericks.

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: I just want to echo what Commissioner Fredricks said from my perspective.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any other comments? Mr. Secretary, call the vote.
COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: No.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Seven to one.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item

before the Commission is Proposed Rulemaking to Amend
58 Pa. Code Sections 141.63, 141.67 and 141.68 to
provide greater clarity in common trapping terminology
and increased understanding in what trapping devices
are permitted within the Commonwealth. To this end,
the Commission is proposing to amend Section 141.63 to
add definitions to the terms body-gripping trap, cage
or box trap and leg-hold trap.

The Pennsylvania Trapper's Association
has also requested that the Commission amend the
definition of a snare to establish consistent
definitions for the locks that are legal for use for
cable restraints and snares. Cable restraint
regulations and definitions were developed to allow
live restraint of canids, whereas regulations and
definitions for snares were developed to allow for
live restraint or kill sets for beaver and otter.

Current language in Section 141.63
requires that a snare be equipped with a mechanical
sliding metal release lock and the cable restraints must be equipped with an approved lock. The approved locks are listed and visually represented in Section 141.66(g). The current list of approved locks is based on research conducted during the development of Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States. The change is intended to expand the number and types of locks available to trappers using snares. Furthermore, these changes will provide consistency in the legal lock requirements for cable restraints and snares.

Cage or box traps are efficient, selective, and humane tools for harvesting furbearers. Section 2361 of the Act references the Commission's authority to approve cage or box type traps for taking furbearers, but their permitted use has not been asserted in the trapping regulations. The Commission is proposing to amend Sections 141.67 and 141.68 to specifically add cage or box traps, as well as other currently accepted trapping devices, to the list of approved devices.

The text is shown on pages 22 through 25 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?
COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any discussion?

Hearing none, Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Passes eight to zero.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And the next item is to amend 58 Pa. Code Section 141.47. At present, the minimum caliber and bullet weight requirements for elk are .27 caliber and 130 grains, respectively. These requirements do not currently permit the use of the 6.5 millimeter Creedmoor round.

Sportsmen have requested that the Commission review current regulations and consider adjustments to allow use of the 6.5 millimeter Creedmoor round and related .26 caliber firearms. The Commission has reviewed the .26 caliber range and determined that these firearms provide adequate and commonly accepted kinetic energies to efficiently and ethically harvest elk. The Commission is proposing to amend section 141.47 to reduce the minimum caliber and bullet weight to .26 caliber and 120 grains,
respectively.

The text is shown on page 26 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Passes eight to zero.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item is to Amend 58 Pa. Code Section 147.322 to require applicants to provide specific hunter and hunter harvest information from previous public hunting activities with the application.

The text is shown on page 27 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I'd like to point out the reason behind the change. We have continuously attempted to get public hunting into the urbanized areas of the State of Pennsylvania in an effort to allow hunters the first opportunity prior to issuing a cull permit— we have— adjusted this last year and we made several changes to it and we continue to have problems with municipalities coming in after the fact where the Game Commission has no opportunity to verify there was a public hunting component taken.

This change requires that the applicant must specifically define how licensed public hunting for white-tailed deer has been utilized in the problem area and what results hunting activities have on the population or damage problem, or both. The applicant must list the name, C.I.D. number and harvest information related to public hunting activities that have previously taken place in a problem area.

So in— what we ran into again this
year is that a municipality came in in February to apply for a permit after the fact and there was no verification of anything in the applicant's application to get the cull permit and it was issued. And I think we're missing the boat. And I think this should help clear up some of those issues.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So specifically this is for those urban areas where we’re looking at deer management where we required hunting to be the primary source of deer reduction.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: That's correct.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you.

Any other comments? Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Passes eight to zero.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management Real Estate Acquisition Contract L-3744, State Game Land No. 176 in Centre County.

Clearwater Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania is offering 18.7, more or less, acres of land in Halfmoon Township, Centre County, adjoining
State Game Land No. 176 as shown on EXHIBIT RED 1 on page 29 of your agenda. The option price is $60,000 lump sum to be paid with escrowed funds from a prior land exchange on State Game Land No. 176 with Pennsylvania State University and will require review and approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The tract is a mixed dry oak forest-type interspersed with hemlock, white pine and pitch pine. The understory is minimal due to the mature closed canopy. Access is from existing State Game Land No. 176.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Motion to accept?
COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?
COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any discussion?
MR. SUSSENBACK: Mr. President, if I may? So this - this land acquisition being offered by the Clearwater Conservancy is extremely important to us for several reasons. The first and foremost reason is this land exchange had previously occurred with the Penn State, there was escrow monies put aside and we've been going through nearly two decades of audits and audit findings in an attempt to clarify and clear up any of the remaining dollars that are left in that
- in that fund.

And this is going to go a long way, this one and the acquisition on the following pages to clearing some of that up. But it should be noted that initially we gave up approximately 950 acres and with these two potential acquisitions we'll be pushing almost 4,000 acres in exchange. So a pretty fair deal for the Pennsylvania Game Commission as a whole.

It's taken quite a bit of time to get there. We're starting to get to the point where we're just about cleaned up with the rest of those dollars in that escrow account but it's been a really great ride for everybody involved to make sure that they nearly quadruple the amount of game lands that we gave up.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thanks, Pete.

Any other comments? Again, this is one of those - we can't say enough about the work that Wildlife Habitat does to get land for the Game Commission. Again, we are lucky in Pennsylvania to have so much public land for people to go out and hunt. And it's, you know, the management that your staff does is beyond none and we appreciate all the work that you guys do. So thanks for that. We appreciate that.
Mr. Susenbach: Thank you. We’ve really got a great team.

President Layton: Any other comments?

Mr. Secretary, call vote.

Commissioner Knick: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

Commissioner Knick: Opposed? Passes eight to zero.

Attorney Bechtel: The next item is Contract Number L-3745, State Game Land number 176 in Centre County.

Norman R. Sunday Jr. and Linda S. Carter are offering 62.4, more or less, acres of land in Halfmoon and Ferguson Townships, Centre County, adjoining State Game Land number 176, as shown on Exhibit Red 2 on page 31 of your agenda. The option price is $400,000 lump sum to be paid with escrowed funds from a prior land exchange on State Game Land number 176 with Pennsylvania State University and will require review and approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The tract is a mixed dry oak forest-type interspersed with white pine and pitch pine. Approximately six acres are forest openings with another 13 acres in shrubland and reverting old
fields. A small one-story concrete block cabin is located on the property and the owners have requested to keep the appliances, furnace, and wood stove. An electric transmission line bisects the western corner of the parcel. The property is located off Remington Lane which is accessed from West Gatesburg Road.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any seconds?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have any comments? Yeah, Commissioner Daley.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: I just have a question. Pete, as I look at this map there's still a little indenture. And that's correct? I mean we didn't just mess the map up, there is really is a small indenture left there?

MR. SUSSENBACH: Correct. The map is accurate. Although we're filling out the majority of that indenture apparently that piece was subdivided out sometime ago.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Is that where this cabin that you're talking about or something else?
MR. SUSSENBACH: No, the cabin that we're talking about in the commentary is actually within the property that we will be acquiring.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any other comments?

Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Motion passed eight to zero.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item is Contract number L-3746, State Game Land Number 43 in Chester County.

Natural Lands Trust, Inc., NLT, is offering 28, more or less, acres of land in West Nantmeal Township, Chester County adjoining State Game Land Number 43, commonly referred to as the Piccoli tract as shown on EXHIBIT RED 3 on page 33 of your agenda. The option price is $25,000 lump sum to be paid with funds from the Game Fund. The parcel provides essential access into State Game Land Number 43 from the south and therefore the Commission may exceed $400 per acre under Section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code.

This same property was offered to the
Game Commission at the January 29, 2019, Board of Game Commissioners Meeting by NLT as a donation under Contract Number L-3737. After the Board unanimously voted to approve accepting the donation at the January Commission Meeting, NLT had difficulty in securing matching federal funds in a timely manner to meet the obligations under their sales purchase contract with the current owner. To remove the risk of losing the property and the other funds previously committed to purchase the property, NLT asked the Commission to contribute $25,000 to close the funding gap.

NLT was successful in receiving non-federal funding through numerous partnership grants provided by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Chester County, the Open Space Institute and the William Penn Foundation. Covenants, conditions, and restrictions associated with these funding sources will be required to accept the property.

The tract has 18 acres of red oak mixed hardwoods, seven acres in agricultural fields and three acres in wetlands. An unnamed tributary to South Branch French Creek Flows through the property. The property lies within an Important Bird Area referenced as the Hay-Creek-French Creek Forest Block.
and a federally listed endangered species is within close proximity. Access is from S.R. 23, locally known as Ridge Road.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any discussion?

MR. SUSSENBACK: Mr. President, if I may, it’s obvious from the mapping here that this property will provide vital access to the game lands. One bit of information that the commentary does not say is the fact that this property appraised at over $500,000 and the cost to the Game Commission is simply $25,000 at this point thanks to, you know, numerous partnerships with DCNR, various conservancies, the whole thing is coming together.

But the real price tag on this thing is over a half-a-million dollars. And that’s just one of those challenges that we face in trying to buy our land in the heart of the southeast. So anything we can do to increase game land acreage there is pretty important.

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

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Motion passed eight to zero.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item of concerns a Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement Tract 36A-19, State Game Land Number 36 in Bradford County.

Chief Exploration & Development, LLC, or “Chief” of Dallas, Texas has requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under a portion of State Game Land Number 36 for Non-Surface Use Development. The proposed tract, containing 1,500, more or less, acres, is located in Franklin and Overton Townships, Bradford County as shown on EXHIBIT OGM 1 on page 35 of your agenda.

Chief currently holds agreements to operate on approximately 25,951 acres of State Game Land Numbers 12 and 36 consisting of both Commission owned and severed gas rights. Chief will access the 1,500 acre reserve from its current and planned drilling operations on adjacent properties by horizontal drilling with no surface use or disturbance
to the Game Land. Staff has negotiated the proposed terms of the agreement with Chief in an effort to prudently develop the Commission's oil/gas reserve and simultaneously protect the wildlife resources and recreational use of State Game Land Number 36.

The terms of the Agreement are a five-year paid-up Non-surface-Use Oil-and-Gas agreement, a $2,350 per net oil and gas acre bonus payment and 21 percent royalty for all oil/gas and other liquids or condensates produced and sold from the proposed tract. The bonus payment of approximately $3,525,000 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, furtaking and wildlife resource management.

The payment will be made in two installments of $1,762,500. The first payment will be made in July 2019 and the second will be due in July 2020. Future rentals and royalties owed the Commission shall be deposited directly 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 LAYTON: Motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any discussion?

Hearing none, Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Motion passes eight to zero.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item concerns the Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement Tract 223A-19, State Game Land Number 223 in Greene County.

Greylock Production, LLC, or “Greylock,” 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 106.37 more or less surface acres - 106.37 Oil/Gas acres, is located in Whiteley Township, Greene County as shown on EXHIBIT OGM 2 on page 37 of your agenda.

Greylock has a strong privately owned oil and gas lease position surrounding this portion of State Game Land Number 223. Greylock 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 game land. 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 $425,480 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, furtaking and wildlife resource management. Future rentals and royalties owed the Commission shall be directly deposited into the Game Fund.

Oil and Gas development will be regulated by the Commonwealth's Oil and Gas
Regulations and the Commission's Standard Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: A second?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comments? Hearing none, Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Motion passed eight to zero.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And the next item is also Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement Tract 245A-19, State Game Land Number 245, Washington County.

EQT Production, or EQT, of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania has requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under portions of State Game Land Number 245 for non-surface use development. The proposed tract, containing approximately 240 net acres, or 240 more or less oil and gas acres, is located in East Finley and Donegal Townships, Washington County as shown on EXHIBIT OGM 3 on page 39.
of your agenda.

EQT has a strong, privately-owned oil and gas lease position surrounding this portion of State Game Land Number 245. EQT has initiated unconventional well drilling and development in the vicinity of the proposed tract, and also 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 the game land. Staff has negotiated the proposed terms of the agreement with EQT 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 245.

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 and 18 percent royalty for all oil/gas and other liquids or condensates produced and sold from the proposed tract. The bonus of approximately $960,000 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, furtaking and wildlife resource management. Future rentals and royalties owed the Commission shall
be directly deposited into the Game Fund.

Oil and Gas development will be regulated by the Commonwealth's Oil and Gas Regulations and the Commission's Restricted Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: If I could.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Yes, Commissioner Daley.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: Pete, I'm just curious as I look at this map and knowing how the laterals will be laid out on this particular tract, it looks like we've kind of now lost any chance to get oil and gas in that very northwest corner that's on this page because of the way the laterals would run in that area. Is there a reason? Because you know, a laterals can now be four miles long. Why would we want to have that cut off from our lease here?

MR. SUSSENBACH: Right, I'll have to refer to Mike DiMatteo on that. Mike?
MR. DIMATTEO: The Game Commission does not own the oil and gas rights to that tract that you're talking about.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: That’s the answer. Thank you.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Pete?

MR. SUSSENBACH: Just one comment. I got to give Mike DiMatteo and his staff a lot of credit for negotiating these deals. I challenge anybody around the Commonwealth to look at the numbers that we're seeing here today and actually achieve those rates. I think we're doing a phenomenal job. I think 21 percent in one of the previous agenda items and 18 percent plus the bonus values up front I think the guys over there are doing a great job for us.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Yes, great job, thank you.

Anybody else? Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Ayes have it, eight to zero.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item is a Coal Refuse Reclamation Agreement Tract 276A-19, State
Game Land Number 276, Indiana County.

Alverda Enterprises, Inc. or Alverda of Alverda, Pennsylvania has requested an Agreement to mine and remove approximately 36,000 tons of economically recoverable coal refuse material on approximately one acre of State Game Land Number 276, and the right to occupy an additional six-tenths of an acre for a total of approximately one and six-tenths acres as shown on EXHIBIT OGM 4 on page 41 of your agenda.

The Commission owns the surface and surface support rights, and coal refuse conveyed with the property. A removal of potential acid-forming coal refuse and elimination of an abandoned surface coal mine feature along with wildlife habitat enhancements exist with the proposed project. The terms are a five-year agreement, and a royalty rate of thirty cents per ton of coal refuse removed from the premises. All coal refuse royalty payments will be deposited in the Game Fund. Mining will be regulated by the Commonwealth's Mining Regulations and the Commission's Coal Refuse Reclamation Agreement.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?
COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

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

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Ayes have it eight to zero.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Mr. President, that's the end of the written agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So we're moving on to New Business. We will look at and address the antlerless allocation for the coming antlerless season. We will go WMU by WMU and the Commissioner who has the majority of that Wildlife Management Unit in their district will speak on behalf of the allocation. So 1A, refer to Commissioner Daley.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: So for 1A the deer team has recommended a 49,000 allocation, which is just a slight increase from 48,000 last year. We're seeing the fawn to doe ratio is declining slightly as is the forestry regeneration. But all in all this will hold the population pretty stable and that's where we want to be.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So we're at 49,000 for WMU 1A.
1B, Commissioner Daley.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: 1B, they're recommending 35,000 which is down slightly from 37,000 last year. I would agree with that number.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 35,000 for 1B.

2A, Commissioner Fredericks.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: The biologist recommendation for 2A for this year would be 46,000. That's down slightly by 3,000 from last year. And I concur with the biologist, for the recommendation of 46,000 antlerless tags. In 2B, last year's recommendation was 58,000, this year it is down slightly to 54,000. And I also concur with the biologist recommendation.

2C, 52,000, slightly up from last year which was 44,000. So I concur with the biologist recommendation of 52,000. And 2D, the recommendation is up slightly from last year of 63,000 to this year of 66,000. And again, I concur with the biologist recommendation of 66,000.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 2E is the area that was adjusted a couple years ago. There was a split made between 2E and 2C to change those boundary lines. And there again, it's close to the disease management area and the recommendation of 32,000 I would concur
with the biologist recommendation and use that as the allocation number for this year.

2F.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: 2F they’re recommending 31,000 which is a significant increase from the 23,000 last year. There’s been an increasing deer population there. The harvest and population trends are both up, so they want to stabilize that herd which does make sense so 31,000.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 2G.

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes, 2G, biologist recommendation is 26,000 down slightly, or down a little bit from 30,000 last year. Agreeing with the biologist recommendation for the stable herd prediction of 26,000. And likewise, Mr. Chairman, that's the same for 2H, 6,000 last year recommendation, 6,000 this year. That’s the stable outlook. And 3A down slightly from 22,000 to 20,000 this year. And there again, biologist recommendation for a stable outlook.

COMMISSIONER FOX: I have part of that 3A. The part that I have –– I encourage everyone in my area to apply for DMAP to control that population.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 3B.

COMMISSIONER FOX: 3B is one of the
largest that we have in the state, it extends all the way over to the Wyoming Valley and down through Sullivan County. I would concur with the recommendation of the biologist.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So the recommendation is 38,000?

COMMISSIONER FOX: 38,000.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 3C.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: 3C, the biologist recommends 46,000 up from 38,000. I'll agree with the biologist 46,000.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 3D, also you, Commissioner Knick.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: 3D, the biologist recommends 37,000 up from 25,000 in - - the hunters in my area cannot go with that and I would like it to stay at 25,000.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 4A, again, that's the heart of the DMA2. We're trying to reduce deer populations in that area. So the allocation of 41,000 is going to be what I recommend and that's the recommendation of the biologist. And keeping in mind we'll also be overlapping some of that area with DMAP again in order to try to reduce the herd in that disease management area.
Commissioner Mitrick, 4B.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: 4B, the recommended 32,000 up from 26,000 last year. And we're going to go with that.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 4C.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I would recommended that we - under 4C last year's allocations were 30,000. We have seen a significant increase in the herd in that area. So I'm going to recommend 36,000, which is the biologist's recommendation.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 4D.

So the recommendation in 4D was 46,000, which is up considerably from 34,000 last year. We're going to go with the biologist recommendation of 46,000.

4E, Commissioner Fox.

COMMISSIONER FOX: 4E, recommendation was 32,000 last year, 34,000 this year. I would go with that recommendation.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 5A, Commissioner Mitrick.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: 5A the biologists are recommending 22,000. It's down 1,000 from last year. I'm going to go with that.

And 5B, which is basically in York and
Lancaster Counties they’re increasing it from 58,000 last year to 67,000. There’s a lot of deer in York County, and of course the new disease management area in 5B. I think that’s part of the reason to recommend that.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: 5C, Mr. Hoover.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I would agree with the recommendation. We have kept this stable for the last three years at 70,000. The herd has been stabilized in that unit. And 29,000 is an increase of 1,000 from last year in 5D. Again, it’s an urbanized environment. And we’re just giving the hunters the tools that they need.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept the allocation as they were presented here?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comments?

COMMISSIONER DALEY: I just have one, Tim.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER DALEY: So if you add all these allocations together were up about 77,000 but much of that is in areas where we have CWD - so we are
trying to address CWD in a proactive way.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you. I appreciate those comments. Any others? Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Ayes have it eight to zero.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So Matthew, do you want to go over the elk numbers with us please?

DR. SCHNUPP: Sure, absolutely.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you.

DR. SCHNUPP: So we made a recommendation this year if you look here a second, Chris Rosenberry provided a presentation yesterday well we're recommending a total of 142 elk. That could be broken down into five for archery season for antlered, 10 for antlerless in archery season. The general antlered season would be 27 and the general antlerless season will be 71. And then the late antlerless season would be 29.

We worked pretty diligently over the last couple years to make sure that we reached out to folks and got some public input into those, especially those newer seasons. And so we've gotten overwhelming
support of the program as you guys know and the regions and my staff have worked really hard to make sure that we're developing this elk program in a constructive way in a positive way moving forward with it.

And so those are our recommendations for this year.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you. Do I have a motion to accept?
COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?
COMMISSIONER DALEY: Second.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: I just want to say that, you know, I think it's a bold move but a great move that your people have proposed the archery season, the archery elk season. I think it's something that you got the support of all of the Board of Commissioners. And it's something that we're looking forward to see how it turns out this year and see how we can work on it to make it better next year. So thank you for that.

Any other comments?
COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yeah, I would just like to add, please thank Jeremy Banfield. I know he had a lot to do with the research behind this. So,
I just want to thank him.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any other comments?

Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

(AYES Respond)

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed? Motion passed eight to zero.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Another thing I would like to do under New Business is I've got a statement that I'd like to read.

The Game Commission is 100 percent committed to putting into place measures to manage CWD in Pennsylvania. We've heard from hunters and legislators in the Blair and Bedford Counties over the opposition in our efforts to control CWD in that region. We took a step back to reevaluate a better path forward. We'll continue to work with local hunters, communities and legislators to evaluate new strategies to manage CWD.

Later this month the Game Commission scientists are meeting with numerous colleagues from CWD affected states to evaluate new strategies, to help us manage CWD. We will be working with hunters, communities and legislatures to get their feedback on these new measures as they are developed.
The Game Commission will not succeed in the battle against CWD alone. If we're going to be successful we need the support of our hunters, communities and the legislature. The future generations of deer hunters are depending on all of us. And I will also say that we were looking in probably in the next month or two we're looking to spend a lot of money on figuring out disease in Pennsylvania. So we are taking this seriously. We are listening to the hunters. But we also know that if we sit and do nothing that deer hunting two generations from now is not going to be what it is today. So we need your help, we need your support. We appreciate your comments but we also need to come together and figure out what we're going to do to effectively combat CWD in Pennsylvania.

Any other issues under New Business? So the next working group meeting will be held June 24, 2019. The next Commission meeting will be July 22 and 23. Hearing no new business, this meeting is adjourned.

* * * * * * * *
MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:33 A.M.

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CERTIFICATE
I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings was reported by me on 04-09-19 and that I, Bridget Hockenbroch, read this transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 30th day of April, 2019

Bridget Hockenbroch,

Court Reporter