APPEARANCES

BRADLEY C. BECHTEL, ESQUIRE

Counsel for the Commission

ALSO PRESENT:

KEITH GILLESPIE, House of Representatives Game and Fisheries Committee Majority Chairman

JOHN WYANT, Game Warden
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PROCEDINGS

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Going to call the meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission to order. It is 8:31 a.m. If you would all please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED

PRESIDENT LAYTON: If I could have everyone please check your phones, make sure they're on silent or vibrate throughout the meeting. And Mr. Secretary, will you please call the roll?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Layton?

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Present.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Hoover?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Present.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Fox?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Present.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Mitrick?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Here.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner
Fredericks? He's excused.

Commissioner Foradora?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Here.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: And myself, Commissioner Knick here.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Can we have a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held April 9th, 2019?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We have a motion and a second.

Are there any comments?

Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

SECRETARY KNICK: Opposed?

Motion passed.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: At this time I would like to make a motion to reorganize the Board, like to open the floor up for a nomination.

Do I have a second for that?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Second.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Can we have a motion to open the floor for reorganization? We have a second.

Is there any - any discussion?
Mr. Secretary, call the vote to open the floor.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Passes.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: I'd like to make a motion to nominate Commissioner Charlie Fox as Vice President.

Do we have a second?

MR. KNICK: I'll second it.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We have a motion and a second.

Is there any comment?
Okay. Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

AYES Respond

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Motion passed.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So Mr. Fox, you will step in and serve as Vice President of the
Board. Congratulations.

Mr. Bechtel?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The first item before the Commission this morning from the Bureau of Wildlife Management, concerns adopted rule making to amend the 58 PA Code Section 141.28, relating to wild pheasant recovery areas, to eliminate the Hegins-Gratz Wild Pheasant Recovery Area or WPRA, to modify boundaries of the Central Susquehanna and Franklin County areas for better representation of existing populations of wild pheasants, and to remove the dog training restrictions within WPRAs. The text is shown on pages three and four of your agenda.

Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: I do.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any conversation?

Any comments?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I just have one.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Commissioner Hoover?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I really wish we had taken a little bit of time on the Hegins Gratz motion so that the - we could have saved a little bit
if we reorganize that WPRA and just done a couple of farms in the area where they are holding wild pheasants. I'm going to vote for this, but I just wish we had taken a little bit of time to fix some of the assets that we have.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you.

Any other comments?

Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Ayes have it, 6-0.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item is from the Bureau of Wildlife Protection. It concerns the adopted rule making 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 traps. The text is shown on pages six through eight of your agenda.

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

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any conversation? Any explanation?

All right. Hearing none, Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

6-0.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item is also adopted rule making to amend 58 PA Code Section 141.47, to reduce the minimum caliber and bullet weight to .26 caliber and 120 grains, respectively. The text is shown on page 10 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We have a motion and a second.

Any comment? Questions? Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?
AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?
Motion passes 6-0.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item is concerning adoption of amendments, 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 pages 12 through 13 of the agenda.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?
COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: We have a motion and a second.

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

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?
Passes 6-0.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item on the agenda is from the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management. It concerns real estate and a donation
of contract number L-3748, State Game Land number 276 in Indiana County. William L. Kinter is offering to donate his one-half interest in 1.3 more-or-less acres of land in Brush Valley Township, Indiana County, which is an indenture into State Game Land number 276, shown in EXHIBIT RED 1, on page 15 in your agenda. The property is forested with oak, cherry, and poplar. Access is from Township Route 611, known as Rhine Road, which borders the property to the north.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?

MR. KNICK: Motion.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: So we have a motion and a second.

Any questions? Any comments?

Mr. Secretary, call the roll.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Passes 6-0.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And the next item is a donation, Contract Number L-3749 in York County.
York and Adams County Coon Protective Association, doing business as York and Adams Beagle Club, is offering to donate two adjoining parcels of land totaling 264.87 more-or-less acres in Paradise and Jackson Townships, York County, EXHIBIT RED 2. York and Adams Beagle Club is excepting and reserving the right and privilege of using the property as a Beagle Club, for as long as the York and Adams County Beagle Club exists.

The rights to use the property for the Beagles Club include the rights to operate and maintain the clubhouse and existing buildings, provided no new development or improvements occur contrary to the terms and conditions as set forth in the Conservation Easement dated December 15, 2016, by and between York Adams Beagle Club and the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County. The rights to lawfully hunt, trap, and train dogs, and to reasonably excluding non-members from hunting, fur taking and dog training, the rights to mow grass, hay, and plant agricultural crops; cut or remove hedgerows or trees; the rights to remove invasive species; and other legal uses directly related to and incidental to use of the property as a Beagle Club. For purposes of this exception and reservation, the
York Adams Beagle Club will cease to exist when it no longer has any living members, when existing members vote to disband, when any charters or authorizations for use of the name York and Adams County Coon Protective Association end or are revoked, or when the club is deemed abandoned. York and Adams Beagle Club will be deemed to be abandoned when no taxes are paid for a period of two years, no management such as mowing takes place for a period of two years, when York and Adams Beagle Club does not use the property for a period of two years, or when the totality of the circumstances indicates York and Adams Beagle Club is no longer in existence.

The property is intensively managed for rabbits with mowed grass fields interspersed with hedgerows and woodlots bisected by mowed grass roads and trails. Access is from Orchard Road to the north and Jackson Square Road on the south.

Founded in 1939, York and Adams Beagle Club has a committed, viable membership and is financially sound; however, the present club membership has the foresight and desire to ensure the property will remain undeveloped and continue as wildlife habitat regardless of the future of York and Adams Beagle Club. The current members want to
guarantee that should the interest in the Beagle Club diminish and membership be unable to support the club in the future, that their founders' vision and the dedication and hard work of previous members would be honored by ensuring the land would continue as wildlife habitat. To be clear, this property will remain as a private Beagle Club until York and Adams Beagle Club no longer exists.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any questions?

So just to be clear, because we had some questions yesterday and we talked about this a little bit, because just at face value it's a little confusing. People always wonder why people donate property to the Pennsylvania Game Commission and this is a perfect example, where this Beagle Club has a property that is prime for development in that area, and they don't want that to happen. So they put it into our trust, as long as they can continue to maintain it as their own private club. And so if something would happen to that club and they would
fold, that property would just revert to us, and we
would pick up maintenance and care of the property.

MR. NEIGHDEIGH: That’s correct.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Is that it in a
nutshell?

MR. NEIGHDEIGH: Yes, it is.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: All right. Very
good.

Do we have any other - any other
comments? Any other questions?

Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Ayes have it 6-0.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item is
the donation, Contract Number L-3750, State Game Land
number 180, Pike County. Robert Bittel is offering
to donate 3.78 more-or-less acres of land in Blooming
Grove Township, Pike County, adjoining State Game
Land number 180, as shown on EXHIBIT RED 3 on page 19
of your agenda. The property contains an oak heath
forest with lowbush and highbush blueberry in the
understory. An unnamed perennial stream flows from
the south to the north across the parcel creating
wetlands along poorly drained low-lying soils. The tract falls within an Important Bird Area - Shohola Waterfowl Management Area. Access is from U.S. Route 6.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Motion to accept?
COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a second?
COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comments? Mr. Secretary, call the vote.
COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?
AYES RESPOND
COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?
Ayes have it 6-0.
ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item before the Commission is an exchange, Contract Number L-3751, State Game Land number 168, in Carbon County. Lehigh Gap Nature Center is offering to exchange 103 more-or-less acres of land in Lower Towamensing Township, Carbon County, adjacent to State Game Land number 168, as shown on EXHIBIT RED 4 of page 21 of your agenda, for ten more or less acres in Washington Township, Lehigh County, part of State Game Land number 217.
Lehigh Gap Nature Center wants to consolidate their land holdings around their Nature Center and connect their Warlber Trail to Woodpecker Trail, which is a spur trail off the Appalachian Trail. The 103 more or less acre property is located on the northern aspect of Blue Mountain, forested with dry oak mixed hardwoods, has lowbush blueberry in the understory and miscellaneous herbaceous openings throughout. The Appalachian Trail bisects the southern portion of the property. Access is through existing State Game Land number 168. Staff has determined the exchange is in the best interest of the Commission.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Motion to accept?
MR. KNICK: Motion.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?
COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: We have a motion and a second on the floor.
Is there any comment?
Mr. Secretary, call the vote
COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?
AYES RESPOND
COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?
Motion passes 6-0.
ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item is an informational item concerning the purchase of property at auction. Subject to certain limitations, 58 PA Code Section 135.241, authorizes the Director to bid on real estate, oil, gas or mineral rights at auction or tax sale and to request down payment checks to bid on property at auction. Successful bids must be made known to the general public at the next regularly scheduled meeting at the Board of Commissioners.

This is Contract Number L-3747, State Game Land number 81, Huntingdon County. On April 22nd, 2019, Director Bryan Burhans notified the Board of Commissioners of the pending auction sale of April 26th, 2019, and the urgent need to react to the sale of property adjoining and providing critical access into State Game Land number 81. On April 26, 2019, the Game Commission was the successful bidder on three of seven tracts of land being offered for sale at public auction by Scott L. Kelley. The three tracts located in Dublin Township, Huntingdon County and are adjacent to State Game Land number 81, EXHIBIT RED 5 page 23 of your agenda. Tract 5 is 20.345 more or less acres, Tract 6 is 44.657 more-or-less acres, and Tract 7 is 43.518 more-or-less acres.
All three tracts, totaling 108.519 more or less were acquired with the successful bid of $475,000. The lump sum amount was paid with funds from an escrow account established from a prior land exchange on State Game Land number 176 with The Pennsylvania State University and required approval from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The property is mostly forested with mixed hardwood with redbud and flowering dogwood in understory. An approximate eight-acre field running parallel to Tannery Road is located on Parcel 5. A shallow one-tenth acre spring-fed vernal pond exists on Parcel 6. Access is from Tannery Road (T-304). This is an informational item only therefore no action is required.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item is again an informational item, a Notational Vote, Contract Number 50486 in Blair County. The following item was sent to the Board of Commissioners on April 30th, 2019, for action through a notational vote and was unanimously approved on May 7th, 2019, to not accept the gift of real estate from the Estate of Gianni Blackbear, it was a donation through will.

The Last Will and Testament of Gianni Blackbear had made a request of real estate to the Pennsylvania Game Commission consisting of 22.86
acres located in Snyder Township, Blair County, as shown on EXHIBIT RED 6 on page 25. The gift was made with the condition that this property not be sold but be held in perpetuity for the wildlife that live in this area, and for hunters to be able to hunt there. After careful consideration and research, and due to the location of the land and restrictions placed on the property, the Southcentral Region and the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management have recommended that the Pennsylvania Game Commission should not accept this property. The deadline to file a Disclaimer of Interest for the bequest was June 7th, 2019, and therefore required the notational vote. This is an informational item only, therefore no action is required.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item is also from Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management and concerns oil, gas and minerals, non-surface use of oil and gas cooperative agreement, Tract 35A-19, State Game Land number 35, Susquehanna County. Southwestern Energy Company of Spring, Texas, has requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under a portion of State Game Land number 35 for non-surface use development. The proposed tract, containing approximately 4,224 more-or-less acres, is
located in Great Bend and Oakland Townships, Susquehanna County, and is shown EXHIBIT OGM1 on page 27 of your agenda.

Southwest Energy Company has successfully developed approximately 1,598 acres on an existing non-surface use agreement and desires to further develop an additional unleased portion of State Game Land number 35. Southwest Energy Company can access the Commission's gas reserve from its current and planned drilling operations on adjacent properties by horizontal drilling with no surface use or disturbance to the game land. The Commission has negotiated the proposed terms of the agreement 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 35.

The terms of the agreement are a five year, paid-up non-surface use oil and gas agreement, a $1,500 per net oil and gas acre bonus payment and a stepped royalty structure that has an initial royalty of 17 percent for all oil, gas and other liquids or condensates produced and sold from the proposed tract for the first 24 months of production for each well, then stepping up to 18 percent for the remaining life
of each well. The bonus payment of approximately $6,336,000 and future rental and royalty payments shall be deposited into the Game Fund.

The agreement will also include a two year option for Southwestern Energy Company to execute an agreement to develop an additional 1,691 acres of State Game Land number 35 under the same terms and conditions. This area is depicted as the option area on exhibit OGM 1, on page 27 of your agenda.

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: Do we have a motion to accept?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comment?

Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Passes 6-0.
ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item concerns a non-surface use oil and gas cooperative agreement, Tract 247A-19, State Game Land number 247 in Armstrong County. Snyder Brothers, Inc. of Kittanning, Pennsylvania has requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights from the Tully limestone to the top of Onandoga formation under State Game Land number 247, for non-surface use development. The proposed tract containing approximately 452.3 acres is located in North Buffalo Township, Armstrong County, is shown in EXHIBIT OGM 2, on page 29 of your agenda.

Snyder Brothers has a strong, privately-owned oil, gas lease position surrounding State Game Land number 247. They have initiated unconventional well drilling and development in the vicinity of the proposed tract, and also have 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. The Commission has negotiated the proposed terms of the agreement with Snyder Brothers 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 247.

The terms of the agreement are a
ten-year paid-up non-surface use oil and gas
agreement, a $2,000 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 $904,600 and future rental and royalty
payments shall be deposited into the Game Fund.

Oil and gas development will be
regulated by the Commonwealth's oil and gas
regulations and the Commission's standard restricted
surface use oil and gas cooperative agreement.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Motion to accept?
COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Second?
COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comment?
Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.
COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

AYES REPLY

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?
Ayes have it, 6-0.
ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And the next item

is a non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative
Agreement, Tract 287A-19, State Game Land Number 287, Armstrong County. Snyder Brothers, Inc. of Kittanning, Pennsylvania has requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under portions of State Game Land number 287 for non-surface use development. The proposed tract contains approximately 95.81 acres, is located in Boggs Township, Armstrong County, as shown on EXHIBIT OGM 3 on page 31 of your agenda.

Snyder Brothers has a strong privately-owned oil/gas lease position surrounding this portion of State Game Land Number 287. They initiated unconventional well drilling and development in the vicinity of the proposed tract, and also have 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. The Commission has negotiated the proposed terms of the agreement with Snyder Brothers in an effort to prudently develop the Commission's oil and gas reserves and simultaneously protect the wildlife resources and recreational uses of State Game Land Number 247.

The terms of the agreement are a five-year Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Agreement, a
$4,000 per net oil and gas acre bonus payment, an 18-
percent royalty for all oil, gas and other liquids or
condensates produced and sold from the proposed
tract. The bonus payment well be paid upon
penetration and unitization of each well bore. The
bonus payment of approximately – and I would like to
note - there's a typo. The correct number is
$383,240. And future rental and royalty payments
shall be deposited into the Game Fund.

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

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Do we have a motion
to accept?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So moved.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FOX: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Any comment?

Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Ayes have it, 6-0.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: I just want to take
a minute if I can. Chairman Keith Gillespie from the House Game and Fisheries Committee just walked in.

Welcome, Chairman. Glad to have you here.

CHAIRMAN GILLESPIE: Good morning.

Good to be here.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Rich, thank you.

MR. PALMER: We just want to take a minute to recognize Chairman Gillespie for his leadership. He's been the chairman of the committee for several sessions now, several years. And it's truly been a pleasure to work with him and he continually demonstrates that he is a true hunter and a conservationist and a definite supporter of the Game Commission. And his most recent effort, which was not insignificant, was not only introducing House Bill 615 which produced the Equitable Retirement Bill for game wardens across the state, to be on par with all other law enforcement officers, all our state law enforcement officers in the state. Keith worked diligently on this, expended a lot of time and energy, and I'm sure some political capital, to make sure that it was moved forward. But I can't say enough about how much he does for the sportsmen and the wildlife of the Commonwealth. True conservationist. I'm not sure what else I can say.
John, John Wyant, who's a Warden, is President of the Union, he worked as well with us and Keith on the bill. John, would you like to say a few words?

MR. WYANT: President Layton, members of the Board, the Executive Office, I was actually the second one in the auditorium this morning, I had about a two-hour drive. And while I was sitting here, I knew that Chairman Gillespie was going to be on his way today, and it struck me that I was now sitting in the room with just about everyone that was responsible for making this bill happen. As the Board may remember, I appeared here in January and asked for the Board to pass resolution supporting this bill. And I can't stress enough that the resolution that you folks have passed was one of the key features in the presentation that we would give at the House and Senate when we were seeking this bill.

As the bill progressed along the pathway here, certainly the Executive Office, Rich Palmer, specifically, Josh Zimmerman, we had worked very closely with them. They opened up many doors. They allowed us to sit down and talk about it in a collaborative effort about why this bill was good for not only the game wardens in Pennsylvania, but also
for the Game Commission as a whole. And certainly
Chairman Gillespie, it has been a sincere pleasure of
mine to have many evenings with you to sit down and
talk about not only this bill, but certainly the
hunting and our life's experiences as well. The only
folks that were unable to be here today was the State
Fraternal Order of Police and I would be very remiss
if I didn't mention Joe Regan and Les Neri, who is
the President and the Secretary of the State
Fraternal Order of Police.

And last folks is the rank and file
that made this bill happen. One of the things that
we did along the way was we had approached the
Executive Office to encourage every officer within
the state to seek out his elected representatives and
sit down and talk about not only this bill but also
other Commission initiatives. And our hope was that
we could foster many relationships. We just had a
class that recently graduated, and it was certainly a
prime time to indoctrinate those folks into taking
the time to sit down with their elected
representatives so that they may begin to foster a
personal relationship with those folks.

So if you would just bear me one
moment here, I really thought about what I wanted to
say today. And one of my favorite lines out of all of the – out of all of the movies I've ever seen came out of the movie called *The Shawshank Redemption*, maybe some of you have seen it. And it said “hope, it's a good thing and maybe the best of things.” And after the bill passed and the Governor signed it, I had one of the Wardens send this to me, and I think that - I'll try to be brief with it, but I think it really captures the essence of exactly what this bill has done for the rank and file of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The effect of this bill provides an individual life insurance policy for each of our game wardens. Unlike most life insurance policies which are paid out when the policyholder dies, this - sorry, I got to turn it sideways I’m getting a little older here. Unlike most life insurance policies that are paid out when the policyholder dies, this policy is a reverse life insurance policy. It pays out long before the death of the policyholder and in fact, if the policyholder decides to cash it in, it will most likely extend both the length and the quality of the life of the policyholder. What you have just ensured for the rank and file is the potential for a richer, healthier life for those who choose to cash the
The initial effect of Act 52, which is what House Bill 615 turned into when the Governor signed it, will do as all insurance policies do, is provide peace of mind for everyone. All PA Game Wardens now know that if they have a personal crisis, physical or mental, as they approach the end of their career, they are covered and can cash that policy in. That is a great feeling to have.

A lot of the rank and file had a preconceived expectation that this bill may or may not be accurate. But a lot of us look at it as potential for early retirement, period. You and I know the true intention and value recognized by the authors of the original legislation many, many years ago. And being a game warden is not an old man's game physically or emotionally. And I - I won't read the rest of it, but what I will tell you is there are - there are two that come right to my mind that were basically put in the position right now to say either "I have to take a disability retirement or go out standing on my own two feet." And the folks in this room have allowed those gentlemen the integrity to say now "I can go out on my own two feet."

So from the bottom of my heart, from
all of the officers that are out there, we wish to
thank each and every one of you.

MR. PALMER: Mr. President, Executive
Director Burhans would you like to join down here
too? Keith, would you please come down and be
recognized.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: I would also
like to thank Representative Gillespie- Keith is from
York, and is the representative where I live and he
was extremely supportive of my getting on board here.
Which I very much appreciated. But I just want to
say, Keith has been a true friend of this agency, we
need more people like him in the House. And he
certainly has been a tremendous pleasure to work
with. So Keith, thank you so so much from the bottom
of my heart

CHAIRMAN GILLESPIE: I just want to
say one thing here. Yeah, my name's on this bill,
this bill, but there was a lot of people that pulled
the wagon to make this happen, as we heard here
today. And it was an absolute pleasure to work with
them throughout this process. So on behalf of
everybody, I really do appreciate all the recognition
that's associated with this. You guys are a world
class, fine organization. And it's a story that
hasn't been told enough. And I'll do everything I can in my power, as long as I'm in the General Assembly, to tell the great story of the work that you guys do. Thank you.

MR. PALMER: As a token of our appreciation, we would like to present you with this print.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: At this time, I have a resolution that I would like to introduce. The resolution of the Blue Ribbon panel recommendations. The resolution dated this 23rd day of July, the Pennsylvania Game Commission Board of Commissioners, an independent administrative agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, supporting the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon panel on sustaining America's diverse fish and wildlife resources and recommending Congress dedicate to states and territories $1.3 billion annually in existing revenue to diversify funding and management of all wildlife. Whereas Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, provides for the preservations of the natural values of the environment as a birthright of every Pennsylvanian citizen, including generations yet to come.

And whereas, the Title 34, Section 103
of the Game and Wildlife Code provides ownership, jurisdiction and control of game and wildlife to the PGC. And whereas, the mission of the Pennsylvania Game Commission is to manage Pennsylvania's 480 wild birds, wild mammals, and their habitats for current and future generations. And whereas, the Pennsylvania Game Commission does not receive revenue from the Pennsylvania General Fund. And whereas, there is a recognized need to expand the dedicated and sustainable funding base for wildlife conservation in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation.

And whereas, the Blue Ribbon panel on sustaining America's diverse fish and wildlife resources, made up of 26 businesses and conservation leaders, are tasked with recommending a new funding mechanism to support the state fish and wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations. And whereas, the Blue Ribbon panel on sustaining America's diverse fish and wildlife resources has recommended that Congress dedicate to states and territories $1.3 billion annually for the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program to diversify funding and management of all wildlife.
And whereas, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would fund recommendations of the Blue Ribbon panel on sustaining America's diverse fish and wildlife resources by making funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of the greatest conservation need as determined by the State Fish and Wildlife agencies and each state's Wildlife Action Plan. And whereas, secure and dedicated federal funding is likely to require a non-federal state match similar to that in place for Pittman-Robertson.

And therefore, be it resolved to support the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon panel on sustaining America's diverse fish and wildlife resources and further be it resolve to that the PGC encourage other state fish and wildlife agencies throughout the country to do the same. And further be it resolved to support broadening a non-federal dedicated funding mechanism for wildlife conservation, and implementation of the Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan, and to serve the state's 25 percent match in the event that new dedicated federal funding is secured. Signed by the Board of Commissioners. Approved this 23rd day of July, 2019.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: Can we get a second to approve the resolution?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: We have a motion and a second.

Is there any comment?

MR. BURHANS: You know, this is really - this legislation has - is a historic if passed- the Pittman-Robertson Act which passed, we all know what impact that's had long term for wildlife conservation across the country. This Act is just as remarkable and impactful as the Pittman-Robertson Act. The key to wildlife conservation is to keep species off the list, and that requires a lot of work and investment on the part of agencies and partners to get that done. So looking forward, this Act is critical to the future of wildlife conservation. And especially for species of greatest conservation need.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Thank you.

Is there any other comment?

Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Passes. 6-0.
PRESIDENT LAYTON: So the next item I'd like to bring up under new business is - is the support that we have always had for Hunters Sharing The Harvest. Mr. Plowman was here yesterday and spoke to us. He's not here today. I don't see him. But he - he talked about the amount of donations that have gone up, to Hunters Sharing the Harvest and of course the increased cost that goes along with that. In the past, the - the Pennsylvania Game Commission has supported Hunters Sharing the Harvest with a donation annually of $20,000.

We would like to - and I would like to propose - that we increase that spending to Hunters Sharing the Harvest to $55,000. That money is going to go a long way for their mission and what they need. Again, that money enables hunters to donate deer to the program without having to pay money out of their pockets to process the deer. We've supported John and that program for years, and I hope we continue to support them in the years to come. So - we need a motion. I will present that in the form of a motion, and if we have a second -.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Second.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Are there any comments? Any questions?
Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Opposed?

Ayes have it, 6-0.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: The next item I'd like to bring under new business, If Mr. Raup would come forward please - we've had some presentations on e-bikes in the past. I think that we would like to hear from you about where we are, and maybe at the next meeting we can look at maybe some regulations that we put together to see how e-bikes work with the Commission on the game land, so if you'd like to address that.

MR. RAUP: Yes. Just very briefly, as the Board is aware, a - a few members of the senior staff were tasked by Executive Director Burhans to take a look at developing some review of the use of e-bikes on, in particular, state game lands, that resulted in a briefing paper that covered a number of the issues that are created by such an expansion of use of these electric or motor-powered devices. And with that review, I was tasked by Director Shoup to sit down and come up with some draft regulations to take a look at what these devices could look like in
their allowance.

We're dealing with a couple prohibitions on use of electric or more particularly motor-powered devices on game lands. Initially, we had looked at maybe treating them the same as non-motorized devices, such as horses or bicycles. But in the regulation it created some additional complexities that we were not interested in creating. So at present we are going to treat them as an additional category of authorized devices. And we'll share those regulations with you.

The most notable and important factor is the definition of which devices are going to be lawful. And if I can read that to you, I think that'll help highlight the type of devices that we're interested in allowing pursuant to this regulation. They're going to be defined as class one electric bicycles. I will note that this term is something that is reflected in both federal legislation as well as a number of other states around the country, who class electric bicycles in three different tiers.

We are most interested in focusing on the first tier, which is the lowest level device. Class one electric bicycle, a two-wheel bicycle equipped with a fully operable pedals and an electric
motor of 750 watts which is the equivalent of one horsepower or less that provides assistance only when the rider is actively pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when that bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles an hour. The term does not include any device that is equipped with a throttle or that provides any degree of assistance when the rider is not pedaling.

So with these devices and this definition, it will allow for devices that provide assistance in addition to the power provided by the rider. But it's not going to operate in the form of - of another type of device that would be solely powered by the device itself. This will allow both recreational users who are already authorized to operate on game lands on designated trails and roadways. But in particular, it's going to also focus and allow for hunters and trappers to gain access to state game lands in places that maybe have been more difficult to get to because of distance and/or the lack of - of a really robust road system to make those areas more accessible.

So these regulations will be provided to the Board for your review and we need take a look at any adjustments. But I think we have a pretty
good working product at this point that we can move forward with, review for preliminary approval in September.

PRESIDENT LAYTON: Very good.

Anyone have any questions?

Alright. Thank you.

Do we have any other new business that we need to bring forward?

Okay. Hearing none, the next Commission meeting - or the next Board meeting will be held August 19th, 2019. The next Commission meeting will be set for September 30th to October 1st, 2019, and that will be held in Erie, Pennsylvania. Our location I guess will be determined and announced.

And we are adjourned.

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HEARING CONCLUDED AT 9:17 A.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, hearing held before President Timothy S. Layton, was reported by me on 07/23/19 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 27th day of August, 2019

Bridget Hockenbroch,
Court Reporter