COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

BEFORE: MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:
CHARLES FOX, PRESIDENT
Stanley Knick, JR., Vice President
Michael Mitrick, Secretary
Kristen Schnepp-Giger, Commissioner
Dennis Fredericks, Commissioner
Scott Foradora, Commissioner
Tim Layton, Commissioner
Brian Hoover, Commissioner
Bryan Burhans, Executive Director

HEARING: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:10 a.m.
LOCATION: Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

(Meeting held via Webex due to Coronavirus safety protocols)

Reporter: Evan Bingaman

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APPEARANCES

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ALSO PRESENT:
MATTHEW SCHNUPP, Director of Bureau of Wildlife Management
JASON DECOSKEY, Director of Bureau of Wildlife Protection
PETE SUSSENBACH, Director of Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
CHRISTOPHER ROSENBERRY, Game Commission Deer and Elk Section Supervisor
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- ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Good morning. My name is Brad Bechtel. I am Chief Counsel for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Welcome to the Commission meeting. This is Tuesday, April 7th, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. President, would you like to call to order?

PRESIDENT FOX: The meeting of Pennsylvania Game Commission will come to order. Mr. Secretary, will you call the roll please?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Okay.

This is Michael Mitrick, Secretary calling to roll. Charlie Fox?

PRESIDENT FOX: Present.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Stanley Knick?

Commissioner Knick, are you there?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Present.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Okay.

Michael Mitrick, present. Scott Foradora?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Here.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Dennis
Fredericks?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Here.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Brian Hoover?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Here.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Timothy Layton?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Here.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Kristen Schnepp-Giger?

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER: Here.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: I'd like to say that all the Commissioners are here, present.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And Mr. President, next would be approval of the minutes of the Commission meeting held in January 25th, 2020.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do I hear a motion to approve the minutes?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: I'll move.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Denny Fredericks, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Denny - Denny Fredericks, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND
PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

The ayes have it.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: So thank you. The first item on the agenda today comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Management. It concerns the adopted rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Section 139.4 relating to seasons and bag limits to the license year to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2020-2021 license year. The 2020 through 2021 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.

The text is shown on pages 3 through 9 of your agenda.

Mr. President, staff has also identified four floor amendments. If the Commission desires to consider them, I will identify which pages. And if the Commission wishes, then Bureau Director Schnupp can discuss those as we get to them for your convenience, once there's been a motion and
second to go through this.

    PRESIDENT FOX: Okay. All right.
    ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Mr. President,

would you like a motion?

    PRESIDENT FOX: I'd like a motion.
    COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: I - Denny

Fredericks, so moved.

    PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a second?
    COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Scott

Foradora, second.

    COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I make a second,

Brian Hoover.

    PRESIDENT FOX: Good. All those in

favor.

    ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Mr. President,

would the Commission like to proceed page by page?

    PRESIDENT FOX: Yes.
    ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Okay.

So Mr. President, first is page 3.

Mr. President, would you like to proceed to page 4?

Page 4 does have a floor amendment. Would the

Commission like Mr. Schnupp to speak to it?

    PRESIDENT FOX: Yes.
    MR. SCHNUPP: Okay.

Charlie, this is Matthew for the
Commissioners, Matthew Schnupp with the Pennsylvania Game Commission Bureau Director for the Wildlife Management Bureau.

So what you see there on page 4 is basically a modification of our fall turkey harvest. So based on input from the Board of Commissioners, biologist and from valued partners that we have, we're suggesting we remove the Thanksgiving season from 1A, 2A, 4A, 4B, 4D, and 4E and change it to the two week season. This would allow more access to the Pennsylvania turkey hunters.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Denny Fredericks, I move to accept the floor amendment.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I make a second, Brian Hoover.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: All those in favor?

PRESIDENT FOX: We're going to move forward.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion passed.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: So moving forward Mr. President to page 5, if you want to call for discussion.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any discussion? There being none, move ahead.
ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And - and Mr. President, moving to page 6 there are two floor amendments proposed by staff on this page. I’ll ask Bureau Director Schnupp, can we address these one by one Mr. Schnupp so that we can get the Motion and know how they went through?

MR. SCHNUPP: You bet. So the first one, 6.1, is a recommendation to extend the archery season. So four Commissioners asked us to look more into this. We provided supportive information on this topic, but basically this boils down to a social issue. And so what this first amendment does is extend the archery season.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: This is Commissioner Hoover. I make a motion that we extend the archery season to November 20th. That would increase the week - one week from November 16th to the 20th.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Denny Fredericks, I second.

PRESIDENT FOX: All those in favor?

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: The motion passes.
MR. SCHNUPP: Okay.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And Bureau Director Schnupp, the second amendment?

MR. SCHNUPP: Okay.

So what we're doing here is this is, comes back to the - the split firearm season. So staff is suggesting that it's a statewide implementation of a concurrent season is not the case, and staff is suggesting three urban units. The three urban units are traditionally concurrent 2B, 5C, and 5D continue to have some current season. In addition, staff is recommending that 2D, 2C, 2E, 4A, 4B, 4D, and 5A have concurrent seasons in the - to help aid the management of CWD in these areas.

In addition to that, we did not include 5B, 4E, 2F even though these units do have CWD management DMAs extending into them. The 5B unit was - was caused by two game farms that we're currently depopulating. And the 2F and 4E were just small parcels of areas that have the DMAs go into that. So staff did not make that suggestion. It would be up to the Board to include those.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I make a - I make a motion that we accept the amendment.
COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Knick, I second that.

PRESIDENT FOX: All in favor?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Could we have discussion?

PRESIDENT FOX: Yes we do.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Let's have discussion real quick if we can.

So initially - Mr. President, this is Commissioner Layton. Initially we had asked the staff, and we had proposed a two week in the statewide. We have gotten enough feedback from our hunter population to find out that the hunters were not completely in favor of this. There was misinformation I think that was out there.

And - and so I think because of the CWD issues in those units, if we did go two weeks it's important for us to have those two weeks so that we can control the deer populations there. Give hunters more opportunity to harvest deer there. But I also think it's important that we listen to what the hunters are saying in this situation, and we give some information out so that in the future we might be able to look at this option again.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any further
discussion?

COMMISIONER HOOVER: This is Commissioner Hoover. This is Commissioner Hoover. I agree with Commissioner Layton.

I did really think that we should take a look at creating a DMA season that would've gone concurrent. I did not want to include all of the WMUs that were - that had small portions of it, and I'm glad that they did remove some of those. But we still have ones that have considerable open area without being in the DMA, and I hope in the future that we take a look at that.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any further discussion?

COMMSSIONER FREDERICKS: President Fox, this is Denny - Denny Fredericks. Just to reiterate, if I heard Mr. Schnupp correctly, that we - we will be accepting the 14-day concurrent antlerless allocation in these units. And the - and the allocation, 14-day concurrent allocations are significantly lower than the seven day concurrent allocations. You know, like Commissioner Layton said, it'll give hunters more opportunity. Am I correct?

PRESIDENT FOX: Any further
discussion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Commissioner Hoover again. It's Commission Hoover again. As far as giving hunters more opportunity, I think we're taking away opportunity and we're reducing allocations in those units considerably to go to the 14 day. So there are going to be hunters out there that are going to complain that they did not get the opportunity to get their doe allocation or doe license. So I just want everyone to be aware that that's what's going to occur.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any further discussion?

All those in favor?

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER: Aye.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: All right.

If the Commission pleases, we'll move to page 7. There's also a floor amendment on page 7 that came from staff. Mr. Schnupp, if you would want to explain that?

MR. SCHNUPP: Yeah, you bet. This one is general housekeeping. What we did here is given that the Sunday hunting for deer only was popped up,
what we didn't want to do is confuse our hunters by saying that bear opener was on a Saturday, closed on a Sunday and back open on a Monday. So the recommendation from staff was to clarify that regulation, just open bear season on a Monday so they would, they would still be able to hunt that following two Saturdays.

So it was a general housekeeping amendment.

**COMMISSIONER LAYTON:** It's Commissioner Layton. A motion to approve

**COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS:** Commissioner Fredericks, second.

**PRESIDENT FOX:** Any discussion?

All those in favor?

AYES RESPOND

**PRESIDENT FOX:** Opposed?

**COMMISSIONER MITRICK:** Motion carries.

**ATTORNEY BECHTEL:** So if the Commission pleases, we would move to page 8. Does President desire discussion?

**PRESIDENT FOX:** Would you repeat that?

**ATTORNEY BECHTEL:** We would move to page 8 if the President desires discussion.

**PRESIDENT FOX:** Any further
discussion?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: In - in hearing none, we would move to page 9 if you would want discussion.

And at this point Mr. President, I would return it back to you for discussion and approval as amended of the seasons and bag limits.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: This is Commissioner Hoover. I make a motion that we approve the amended seasons and bag limits.

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Scott Foradora, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Any opposed?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: All right.

So the next item to come before the Commission is on page 10 of your agenda. It concerns adopted rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Section 141.62 to increase the number of authorized body-gripping traps to 20 in any WMU where beaver bag limits are 60 per season. Beaver trappers will still be limited to using no more than five traps or snares, no more than two of which may be body-gripping traps in any WMU.
with an open otter trapping season during periods when the open beaver trapping season overlaps by calendar dates with the open otter trapping season.

The text of this is shown on page 11 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

Do we have any discussion?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Mr. President, we need a motion -.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do have a motion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I'll make the motion, Hoover.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks, second.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Knick, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Yes. Dr. Schnupp, could you like just touch base with this a little bit? Tell us how we came to this change in the regulation.

MR. SCHNUPP: Yeah, sure Tim, I can provide some but I think that Jason DeCoskey, our Bureau Director of Wildlife Protection probably would
be able to find a little more, better detail than I would.

    Jason, would you mind taking this one?

MR. DECOSEKEY: No, no. Not at all. It's not a problem at all.

    Basically, we're looking at trying to handle some of the issues that our officers are facing up in the northwest region as it deals with the overpopulation of beaver and the destructive nature that they bring towards the land owners up in the, in those wildlife management units. We're looking at the effective tool of using trappers versus having our officers have to come in there and take a resource that otherwise could be used by our trappers.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: All right.

    Thanks, Jason.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any further discussion?

    We have a motion and a second. All those in favor?

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion passes.

    A motion on -.

TYLER HOCK: Brad - Brad, let me jump
in one second. Your mic was on mute. Could you please start over? That last section.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Surely. The next section is on page 12, Bureau of Wildlife Protection for adopted rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Section 141.4 to replace the current hunting hours table and migratory bird hunting hours table to accurately reflect the date and hours of legal hunting for the 2020 through 2021 hunting trapping license year.

The text is shown on pages 13 through 15 of your agenda.

Mr. President, would you like a motion?

PRESIDENT FOX: I will take a motion.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved, Denny Fredericks.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Knick, so moved.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Commissioner Mitrick, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: We have a motion and a second.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Commissioner Mitrick, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: All those in favor say
AYE.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: So the next item before the Commission is on page 16 of your agenda. It concerns adopted rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Section 141.29 to eliminate the September 15th crop or feed manipulation cutoff date for managed dove fields.

The text is shown on page 17 of your agenda.

Mr. President, would you entertain a motion?

PRESIDENT FOX: Yes. Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks - Commissioner Fredericks, so moved.

PRESIDENT FOX: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Commissioner Mitrick, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

All those in favor, say AYE.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?
ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And the -
Commissioners, the next item is on page 18 of your agenda concerning adopted rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Section 141.41 to eliminate the requirement that hunters lawfully tag each successive deer that they have hunted before lawfully harvesting a subsequent deer within their season limit.

The text is shown on page 19 of your agenda.

Would the President like to entertain a motion?

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks, so moved.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Knick, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: All those in favor say AYE.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: No, how about discussion?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Wait. There was no discussion.
PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have discussion?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Yeah. This is Commissioner Mitrick. I think it's a bad idea to require that - not require, that you tag your deer after you shoot one. I really do not like the idea of being able to shoot multiple deer. We've had a lot of negative comments about that.

I just think it's absolutely the wrong thing to do. I just think it'll result in a lot of careless shooting, and deer will be shot, won't be found. I just - I really don't like it. And I think most of our responsible hunters don't like it.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any other discussion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I'm going to go on record in saying that, this is Commissioner Hoover, that this has been in effect in the special regulation area for years. Typically, this doesn't occur. I don't know where Commissioner Mitrick is getting his information about people shooting deer and not recovering them or going I think that's a scare tactic for this, and I believe that it's -.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: This is Commissioner Fredericks. I also, in my area, have a special regulation area that this has been in effect for quite some time, and I'm not aware of any issues
to that effect involving the area in and around the Pittsburgh area.

PRESIDENT FOX: Mr. Secretary, would you do a roll call vote?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: We'll call for the vote.

PRESIDENT FOX: Mr. Secretary, will you do a roll call vote?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Well - all right. Sure. We can have a roll call vote.

All right.

Charlie Fox?

PRESIDENT FOX: No.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: No, okay.

Stanley Knick?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Michael Mitrick, no. I think it gives the wrong idea - wrong impression to everybody that we're out -.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Not time for discussion. Point of order. Point of order.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Okay.

Scott Foradora?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Dennis
COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Brian Hoover?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Timothy Layton?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Kristen Schnepp-Giger?

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion carries, 6-to-2.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: So the next item before the Commission is on page 20 of your agenda which concerns adopted rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Section 147.674 to increase the number of DMAP harvest permits that a person may receive for each DMAP unit or area from two to four, except for those DMAP areas designated by the Commission that will remain at a maximum of two harvest permits per person. The Commission intends to designate DMAP units within large land areas that are sold over the counter and without coupons as the units that will remain at a maximum of two harvest permits per person. This includes state game lands and state forest lands and certain large tracts of private
lands.

The text is shown on page 21 of your agenda.

Does the President wish to entertain a motion?

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks, so moved.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Commissioner Foradora, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have discussion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: So the question has been brought up by quite a few people that they were concerned about those DMAP tags that are being sold over the counter. And I - and I think that it's addressed here and those larger DMAP areas are going to remain at two permits per person, and I think that will solve a lot of problems. This will lean more towards the small farmer that has individual hunting on his farm. They're currently limited to two, but would be able to gain four at this point.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any further discussion?

MR. SCHNUPP: Mr. President, this is
Matthew Schnupp if I may jump in here one quick second as well? Just to clarify, DMAP does not apply to state forests in - in some of the other larger areas. So I just wanted to clarify that too and support what Brian's saying. So just thought I'd mention that.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT FOX: Thank you.

We have a motion and a second. All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: So the next item before the Commission is on page 22 of your agenda. It concerns adopted rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Section 147.804 to one, combine the species eligibility list for mentored youth and mentored adults to one list. Two, to issue all applicable harvest tags to mentored adults and mentored youth seven years of age or older in a manner consistent with the purchase of a hunting license. Three, expand the ability for certain mentored hunter age classes to make direct application for antlerless deer licenses and Deer Management Assistance Program, or DMAP, harvest permits for mentored adults and
mentored youths seven years of age or older. And four, expand the ability for all mentored hunter age classes to make direct application for migratory bird licenses and pheasant permits within the eligibility standards and limitations of these programs.

The text is shown on pages 23 through 24 of your agenda.

Mr. President, would you like a motion?

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Knick, so moved.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks -.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: This is Commissioner Hoover. Does this amendment allow mentored adult or mentored youth to purchase the add-on tags as well or no?

MR. DEocosKEY: I believe they would have to purchase them later. This is Jason DeCoskey with the Bureau of Wildlife Protection.
PRESIDENT FOX: Any other discussion?
All those in favor?

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item
before the Commission is on page 26 of your agenda.
It concerns adopted rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code
Section 135.53 to expand ATV eligibility for use of
mobility devices by including ATVs registered with
the Department of Transportation as neighborhood
electric vehicle to properly display the valid
registration plates and the required 25 mile per hour
vehicle decal.

The text is shown on page 27 of your
agenda.

Mr. President, would you like a
motion?

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Commissioner
Layton, so moved.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: This is
Commissioner Hoover, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a second?
COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Commissioner Hoover, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

We have a motion and a second. All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item before the Commission is on page 28 of your agenda. It concerns adopted rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Section 141.43, 141.44, and 141.47 to expand the list of lawful devices authorized for applicable deer, bear, and elk seasons during periods of overlap. The Commission also proposed to amend Section 141.47 to provide specific arms and ammunition listing for the archery elk season and the elk seasons established for the special conservation license and the special license established under 34 Pa.C.S. Section 2706.2 relating to elk hunting licenses.

The text is shown on pages 29 through 34 of your agenda.

There is a floor amendment for your consideration if you would like to hear from Bureau Director DeCoskey after this would be motioned and brought up for consideration.
Mr. President, would you like a motion?

PRESIDENT FOX: Are we moving the amendment?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: No sir. Just the - just on the adopted rulemaking.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks. For purposes of discussion, I move to accept.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Commissioner Hoover, I second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yeah we'd like to hear from - hear what the floor amendment is.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Bureau Director DeCoskey, are you able to speak to that floor amendment?

MR. DECOSKEY: Yes I am. The floor amendment returns to put flintlock season back to flintlock muzzleloaders only and not bows or crossbows. This is intended to eliminate any confusion on allowances given that there is an overlapping archery season at the same time. In particular, this was an issue of using a buck tag on a doe which is allowed for the flintlock season, but
not the archery season.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any further discussion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: This is Commissioner Hoover. Could you please explain that again?

MR. DEocoskey: Yes. Basically, the that late flintlock season, flintlock holder - a flintlock hunter who has an unused back tag, a buck tag typically, can use that for a buck or a doe during that season. The traditional archery hunter cannot do the same.

We're trying to fix the confusion that was created by the proposed language, therefore returning it back to the same way it used to be where a flintlock hunter who has an unused back tag can use that for a buck or doe.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: This is Commissioner Fredericks. I'd like to hear from Dr. Schnupp about that, or - and - and or Chris Rosenberry. Basically, I'm - I'm sure it's a minute number, but basically that's an antlerless harvest that's out of - out of - out of the data set. So I don't - I don't - I mean I don't know if - if Dr. Schnupp and Chris Rosenberry see that as a problem or
not. I'd like to hear what they have to say.

MR. SCHNUPP: Sure, Denny. Thanks for that. I'll - I'll kind of let - let you know what we think is - is that it's basically, you know, like Jason said, it reestablishes the status quo that archery hunters need an antlerless license and - and there's flintlock guys. The flintlock season is so unique as it is that just maintaining the regulation for those guys makes it a little easier and a little cleaner, and - and I'm a proponent of that. And so I think that's what it does.

And so I, Chris you're more than welcome to - to provide more information if you'd like to as well.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: This - this - this is Commissioner Hoover again. This does not restrict archers from hunting during the muzzleloader season because we do have an - an overlap there. We have two seasons in progress.

Correct?

MR. DECOSKEY: Commissioner Hoover -.

MR. SCHNUPP: That is correct. You would -.

MR. DECOSKEY: I'm sorry, Dr. Schnupp. Go ahead.
MR. SCHNUPP: No, go ahead Jason.

MR. DE COSKEY: I was - I was just going to say Commissioner Hoover, you're correct.

There are two seasons going on, but this is more to clarify that those - those individuals who are muzzle - are a flintlock muzzle hunting are using a flintlock to harvest their deer versus those who are archery hunting are using bows or crossbows to harvest their deer.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Thank you for the clarification. I just wanted to make sure everyone understood that.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any further discussion?

We have a motion and a second. All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Mr. President, I - we haven't moved -.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner - this is Commissioner Fredericks. I move to accept the floor amendment.

PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Knick. I second it.
PRESIDENT FOX: All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion - motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And so Mr. President, this would return back for a vote on the adopted rulemaking as amended now.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: This is Commissioner Hoover. I make a motion -.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: All those in favor say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

Okay.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: So the next - so the next item before the Commission is on page 35 of this agenda. This concerns adopted rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Sections 147.907 to 147.905 and to create 58 PA Code Section 147.904.1 to restructure...
the application requirements for commercial and noncommercial guiding permits, create a noncommercial elk guiding permit, create new guide permit fee structures for commercial and noncommercial elk guiding permits, create recordkeeping and reporting requirements for commercial guides and to address other minor housekeeping items.

The text is shown on pages 36 through 38 of your agenda.

Mr. President, would you entertain a motion?

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Knick, so moved.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Commissioner Hoover, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

Hearing no discussion, all those in favor say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And the next item is on page 39 of your agenda. It concerns proposed rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Section 131.2.
As the nature of its name implies, a muzzleloading firearm is by definition a firearm designed to have its loose ammunition components loaded from the muzzle. In this instance, the ammunition components refer to the combination of the loose or pelletized black powder or black powder substitute and the projectile or projectiles. Recent developments in the firearms industry have generated muzzleloading firearms that can accommodate the loading of a captured power charge similar to a cartridge, casing, or shell that is loaded from the breech with the projectile or projectiles remaining to be loaded from the muzzle.

Current regulations specifically prohibit muzzleloaders that accept cartridge ammunition. However, this restriction was originally intended to restrict modern firearms that are loaded by cartridge of casing that contain both the powder and the projectile. The Commission does intend or desire for this restriction to apply to the above described muzzleloaders.

The Commission is proposing to amend Section 131.2 relating to definitions to provide clarity that muzzleloading firearms that allow a cartridge of loose or pelletized black powder or
black powder substitute to be loaded from the breech while the projectile remains loaded form the muzzle are lawful for use as a muzzleloading firearm.

The text is shown on page 39 of your agenda.

Mr. President, would you entertain a motion?

PRESIDENT FOX: Do I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Commissioner Hoover, so moved.

PRESIDENT FOX: Second?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Commissioner Layton, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

I have - I guess my - my concern is this is going to be one specific manufacturer. Is that - now there may be other manufactures that come on board at a later time, but we're getting awful close, when I see that term cartridge in there, I have concern that we've already had some folks out there who have been asking about straight walled cartridge. About the only difference that I see is that the bullet comes down from the barrel - from the muzzle as opposed to coming in from the breech. But we're - we're - we're getting right there to
splitting hairs on this one.

Anyone else have discussion?

**COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS:** I agree with you, Charlie. This is Commissioner Fredericks. We're getting away from, you know, the - the - the theory of muzzleloaders. You know, we - we - we require that they be manufactured before the year 1800. Now we're going to load the powder in the breach. And I just think it takes away from that, those folks that appreciate that season to be able to hunt with those - those older firearms. So I would not -.

**COMMISSIONER FORADORA:** Charlie, this is Scott Foradora. I agree with you.

**COMMISSIONER MITRICK:** I also do, Commissioner Mitrick.

**PRESIDENT FOX:** Okay.

We have a motion on the floor. We have a second. Those in favor, say aye. Wait - wait a second.

**COMMISSIONER LAYTON:** Wait, wait, wait. Commissioner Mitrick's trying to say something.

**COMMISSIONER MITRICK:** I said I - I agree with Charlie.
COMMISSIONER LAYTON: So - so what is the recommendation? This is Commissioner Layton. What is the recommendation? I - I'm not an avid muzzleloader hunter, so the, you guys that are, Charlie I respect you in this - in this regard, give me a recommendation.

PRESIDENT FOX: I - I - I don't like it, but - do we want to do a roll call vote with -?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: You want a roll call vote? Okay.

Charlie Fox?

PRESIDENT FOX: No.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Stanley Knick?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: No.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Michael Mitrick, no. Scott Foradora?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: No.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Dennis Fredericks?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: No.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Brian Hoover?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I'm going to say yes only because it's here, and I - and I'm not a big muzzleloader hunter myself. But I mean, we have to take a look at what's coming on so.
COMMISSIONER MITRICK:  Tim - Timothy Layton?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON:  No.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK:  Kristen Schnepp-Giger?

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER:  No.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK:  Motion does not carry.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:  Before the Commission for consideration from the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management on page 40 of your agenda is adopted rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Sections 131.2, 135.2, and 135.41 to define and allow use of Class I and Class II e-bikes on state game lands in the same manner as traditional bicycles. It is important to note that these amendments do not eliminate current statutory restrictions prohibiting the possession of loaded firearms in, on, or against vehicles propelled by mechanical powder under section 2503 of the act.

The text of the rulemaking is shown on pages 41 through 42 of your agenda.

Mr. President, would you entertain a motion?

PRESIDENT FOX:  Do we have a motion to
COMMISSIONER LAYTON: So moved, Commissioner Layton.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks. For purposes - for purposes of discussion, I'll second Commissioner Layton.

PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Commissioner Layton, if I may? I - I think this is too complex of an issue to - to work over the format that we're - we're having this meeting at. So I would - I would now make a motion to table this until our next meeting.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: This is Commissioner Knick. I'll second the motion.

PRESIDENT FOX: We have a motion and a second to table. All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

The item's tabled.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item before the Commission, on page 43 of your agenda concerns proposed rulemaking to amend 58 PA Code Section 135.41.

On February 25th, 2019 the Act of
November 27th, 2019, P.L. 739, Number 107 Section 4, became effective. Among other things, the final legislation amended the Section 2303 to allow the Commission to authorize three designated days of hunting on Sunday in addition to existing authorizations. All three of the Sunday dates collected by the Commission fall within the date range found in Section 135.41(c)(21) which requires persons entering state game lands that are not hunting or trapping to wear fluorescent orange colored material for their safety during the overlapping big game seasons.

Entries on Sunday have previously been exempted from the requirement since no big game hunting typically occurred on these days. With the passage of Act 107 this will no longer be the case. The Commission is proposing to amend Section 135.41 relating to state game lands to eliminate the Sunday exemption from the fluorescent orange wearing requirement.

The text of this shown - of this amendment is shown on page 43 of your agenda.

Mr. President, would you entertain a motion?

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?
COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Knick, so moved.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Commissioner Hoover, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

There being no discussion -

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks -.

PRESIDENT FOX: - all those in favor, say aye.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Hold - hold on. Commissioner -

PRESIDENT FOX: All right.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: -

Commissioner Fredericks. I would like - I’m - I'm confused. I’d like clarification on that. Jason DeCoskey? Hello?

MR. DECOSKEY: Yes, Commissioner.

What - what's your question?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Clarification. I’m - I'm not quite understanding this.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Denny -

Commissioner Hoover. I guess to be present on the game lands from November 15th to December 15th when
not engaged in lawful hunting or trapping, you must wear 250 square feet of orange.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: I got you.

Thank you.

MR. DECOSKEY: Yeah - yeah.

Commissioner Fredericks, this is to cover those days in between now that we hunt on Sunday.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Got you.

Okay. I'm good. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any further clarification needed?

All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: The motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Okay.

The next item before the Commission comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management and concerns real estate, a donation. Contract number L-3762 State Game Land Number 42 in Somerset County. Marion Leonard on behalf of Leonard's Land Preservation, LLC is offering to donate 222 more or less acres of land in Jenner Township, Somerset County adjoining State Game Land Number 42 as shown
on exhibit RED 1 on page 45 of your agenda. Access
is from Roaring Run Road.

Mr. President, would you entertain a
motion?

PRESIDENT FOX: Do - do we have a
motion?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Commissioner
Layton, so moved.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner
Fredericks, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Yeah, please.

If I can just - this is Commissioner Layton. Again,
express how exciting it is to, again, expand Game
Lands 42. We just added acreage to that game lands
and this addition is - is really nice. So thank you,
thank you for the Bureau's work that you put into
this. Great job.

MR. SUSSENBACK: Yes, this is Pete
Sussenbach. I appreciate those comments,
Commissioner Layton. This is a great acquisition.
Dennis Neideigh in the real estate division, the
region, our friends over at WPC all had a hand in
this and we really appreciate the - the sizeable
donation. It's 222 acres from Mrs. Leonard. It's
some great habitat, and some additional access and
hunting opportunities as well for Game Land 42.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: This is
Commissioner Fredericks. Question, Pete. Did I hear
you say that the WPC had a hand in this?

MR. SUSSENBACK: They did, yes. In
the early days, I believe they were working with Mrs.
Leonard, and then you know, as we - as we sometimes
do, they handed this parcel off to us to take it, you
know, through the - right to the end zone.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Okay, thank
you.

Mr. President, I wasn't aware of that.
I would like the record to show that I'm going to
abstain from this vote because I - I do talk and I
seat on their board. So therefore, I'll have to
abstain from voting on this issue. Although I really
do appreciate the donation and the addition to Game
Land 42.

PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

I'll call for the vote. All those in
favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed? All right.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion carries.
ATTORNEY BECHTEL: The next item before the Commission concerns contract number L-3763, State Game Land Number 156 in Lebanon County. Patricia E. Krall is offering to donate six more or less acres of land in Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County adjoining State Game Land Number 156 as shown on exhibit RED 2 on page 47 of your agenda. Access is through existing State Game Land Number 156.

Mr. President, would you entertain a motion?

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Commissioner Hoover. I make the motion.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion carries.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And Commissioners, the next item is an acquisition, contract number L-3764, State Game Land Number 55 in Columbia County. This is shown on page 48 of your agenda. Press Enterprise, Inc. is offering 80.1 more or less acres
of land in North Centre Township, Columbia County adjoining State Game Land Number 55 as shown on exhibit RED 3 on page 49 of your agenda. The option price is $80,000 lump sum to be paid with funds from the Game Fund.

The tract provides critical access from the south into the western portion of Game Land Number 55. Therefore, the Commission may exceed the $400 per acre under Section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. The property is subject to a reciprocal easement and maintenance agreement with G. Robbins, and easements and assignments with American Towers, LLC and ATC Sequoia, LLC. Access is from S.R. 1012, Mountain Road.

Mr. President, would you entertain a motion for this acquisition?

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?
COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Knick, I make a motion.

PRESIDENT FOX: Second?
COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion? Pete, would you weigh in on this?
MR. SUSSENBACK: Sure. Mr. President,
this - this acquisition will provide, as mentioned, vital access into that portion of Game Land 55. We've needed it for quite some time, and with - with the fact that it provides that critical access, it - the Game Code does give us a little bit of additional latitude under Section 705. And that's why we were able to pay a little bit more for this property, approximately $1,000 an acre and - and acquire that critical access. So that, the 80 acres is a great addition. It fills in a little of that - that sort of indenture there. But most importantly, it gives us that critical access.

PRESIDENT FOX: I have a motion and a second. All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

Now the -

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion carries.

PRESIDENT FOX: - motion carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And the next item is on page 50 of your agenda. It concerns an exchange. Contract number L-3765, State Game Land Number 46, State Game Land Number 156, Lancaster County, and the auxiliary administration office building in Huntingdon County.
Ken and Christa Boona of Alabaster House are offering to participate in an exchange of 392.3 more or less acres of land in Elizabeth Township, Lancaster County adjoining and connecting State Game Land Numbers 46 and 156, as shown on Exhibit Red 4 on page 51 of your agenda, for 9.36 more or less acres in Brady Township, Huntingdon County, as shown on Exhibit Red 5 on page 52 of your agenda.

The 9.36 more or less acre property was acquired from the Huntingdon Area School District in April, 2014 with the intent of renovating the existing vacant 27,000 square feet Brady Henderson Elementary School into future office space for the Commission's Southcentral Regional Office. After reevaluation and careful consideration, the Commission has determined not to relocate the Southcentral Regional Office to the Brady Henderson Elementary School site.

Based on an appraisal of the 9.36 more or less acre property, Alabaster House will provide $200,000 towards the acquisition of the 392.3 more or less acres. The Commission will provide an additional $241,679 lump sum to be paid with other cost charging funds from third party commitments for
compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State Game Lands from previously approved projects.

The acquisition of the 392.3 more or less acres of land is made possible through the efforts of Natural Lands Trust, Inc. who was successful in receiving supplementary funding through partnership grants provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service through the Highlands Conservation Act. Covenants, conditions, and restrictions associated with these funding sources will be required to accept the property.

Access is from PA Route 501. Staff has determined the portion of the 392.3 more or less acres to be conveyed to the Commission by Alabaster House is of equal value to the land to be conveyed to Alabaster House and that the proposed exchange is in the best interests of the Commission.

Mr. President, would you like to entertain a motion for accepting this exchange?

PRESIDENT FOX: All right.

Do we - do we have any discussion on that?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Well -.
COMMISSIONER LAYTON: We need a motion first.

PRESIDENT FOX: We didn't do any motion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Commissioner Hoover, I'll make the motion.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: I'll make a motion to second, Commissioner Layton.

PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion. Pete, do you want to weigh in on that?

MR. SUSSENBACH: Sure. Thank you, Mr. President. I got to tell you, this is probably one of the more rewarding acquisitions that - that my team has been a part of recently. We've got the, you know, the highly populated southeast part of the state. And to be able to tie together two pieces of - of property, Game Lands 156 and Game Lands 46 in the southeast region, and at the same time you know, working with our partners to acquire that property, it's really what is a reasonable rate.

You know, the - the Natural Lands Trust, DCNR (phonetic), all very willing partners and have been great partners over the years. And this is really one of those - one of those moments where you just highlight - highlight another exciting
acquisition and tying that habitat together. I really appreciate everything everybody's done on this, and hopefully the motion carries.

**PRESIDENT FOX:** All those in favor say aye.

**AYES RESPOND**

**COMMISSIONER MITRICK:** Motion passes.

**ATTORNEY BECHTEL:** Mr. President and Commissioners, at this time we're on to new business. And the Commission needs to take up the issues of the antlerless allocations and the elk allocations. If I could just, as we change our screens a little for staff here, I'd like to just explain what you're going to see. And - and what we would hope is that you're going to see a list of antlerless allocations. These allocations are what are being recommended by staff with respect to the seasons that the Commission just set a short while ago.

So for instance, WMU 1A was just set at a seven day concurrent season, and staff is recommending a 49,000 allocation. Same with 1B and 2A. They were seven day concurrent. However, for 2B a 14 day concurrent was just approved and staff is recommending an allocation of 49,000 for WMU 2B. And you can see those going down through.
So if you - if the Commission desires to take these up and walk through those one WMU at a time, you can have your discussion and determine what numbers you wanted to have for the allocation, and we can put those in. And at the end, you can a motion and vote on it as it appears on your screen.

If that would be acceptable to the Commission, Mr. President? We just to make a - have a motion and second and open that up. You can move forward in that manner.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have - do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: I - this is Scott Foradora -.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: I make a motion, Commissioner Knick.

PRESIDENT FOX: And a second?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks, I second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

1A, does any of you want to add - do we have any discussion?

Moving on, 1B. Any discussion?

2A? 2B? 2C?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Yeah. Mr.
President, this is Commissioner Layton. If I can just address 2C? 2C is - is one of the areas that we just put into a 14 day concurrent, and because of the spillover of CWD to, you know, we had hoped that for the longest time that the Allegheny Ridge would kind of keep the CWD on the other side of the mountain into 4A. However, we're seeing more and more positives popping up in 2C. And I think it's like that we - that we watch the deer population and this doesn't in support the allocation was set forward.

PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.


COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Yeah. Mr. President, Commissioner Layton again. 4A is the - the heart of - management area in two where the majority of our - our positives in the wild population has been found. Again, it's one of those areas where we've been targeting deer in town - at the township level. And again, if we can increase the opportunities in 4A to help stabilize or even reduce the population. I think it's vital to - to the CWD management program. So I, again, I support full heartedly everything we're doing in 4A.

PRESIDENT FOX: 4B? 4C? 4D? 4E?
5A? 5B? 5C? And 5D? On that, do we - do we need a motion to accept those as presented on the screen? Is that the way that we do that?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: I make - this is Commissioner Hoover. I make a motion that we accept the allocations as presented.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: This is Commissioner Knick. I'll second it.

PRESIDENT FOX: All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion carries.

PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

We'll move on to the elk.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Mr. President, at this point you -.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion to accept the elk?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: All right.

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Knick. I'll make a motion, so moved.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Commissioner Hoover, I second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any discussion?
COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Mr. President, this is Commissioner Fredericks. I'd like to hear from Jeremy Banfield if he's present? Apparently he's not.

TYLER HOCK: One second. Let me see if I can locate him and get him in the panels list.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks again. If we can't - if we can't get Jeremy on, maybe Dr. Schnupp can speak to this?

MR. SCHNUPP: You bet, Denny. Just give us five minutes here. I bet you we can - we can get him on. I know he's - I know he's in the background and he loves to talk about it, Denny. Give us five minutes.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: I don't - I don't want to hold the meeting up.

MR. SCHNUPP: Okay.

No problem, Denny. Why don't we just move on, and if I can't answer them, I'm sure Chris can too.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: The only - the only thing that I wanted to add, I'm - I'm - I'm sure that Jeremy stands behind these numbers. I wanted to bring attention to the public and to the medium what a - what a magnificent job that elk team
and deer team have been doing. And last - last
year's expansion of the opportunities to hunt elk
were absolutely off the charts. And you got so many
positive comments and so many people participated.
The expansion of that to this is just
super exciting, and I just want to make sure that
everybody knows what a great job they've done.

MR. SCHNUPP: Thanks, Denny. We
appreciate that and we look forward to presenting
some of our newest aerial survey data that we've
collected this past winter as well. I know Jeremy
was excited to talk about that at the last Commission
meeting so we look forward to providing those results
to you guys.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yes. Thank
you. I did see - I did see a clip of that. And if
I'm not mistaken, that's the first flyover we've had
in probably five or six years.

MR. SCHNUPP: Probably even longer
than that, yes sir. It's pretty amazing where
they've come to technology.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yeah. The
technology, it was just amazing. And I'm sure the
public and the media and everybody's looking forward
to seeing those, the results of that flyover. It's
pretty interesting.

Thank - thank you again.

MR. SCHNUPP: You bet. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any further discussion?

We have a motion and a second to accept the elk recommendations. All those in favor, say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Motion carries.

PRESIDENT FOX: Motion carried.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: Commissioners, there was one further new business item to come before you which is the Elk Management Plan. I would - Deer Director Schnupp, is that prepared to be moved forward at this time?

MR. SCHNUPP: Yes sir, it is. We're prepared, we presented that at the last Commission meeting. We've gone through all the appropriate steps. And so at this point, we would just like the - the Board has the time and management plan. We - we would just need the - the acceptance of that plan through a vote.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion -?
ATTORNEY BECHTEL: So Mr. President –.

PRESIDENT FOX: I didn't catch that.

Do we have a - who made the motion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: This is Commissioner Hoover. I'll make a motion to accept the Elk Management Plan.

PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner Knick, I'll second that.

PRESIDENT FOX: All those in favor say aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT FOX: Is there any further discussion?

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Should have done that before.

PRESIDENT FOX: Yeah.

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: And Mr. President, at this point I - I would - don't know if the Commission has any other new business, but if they do, this would be the time to - to request that.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Yeah. Yeah.

This is Commissioner Mitrick.

PRESIDENT FOX: Any other new business?
COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Yeah. This is Commissioner Mitrick. I had asked for a white paper in regards to helping the rehabilitators in the state take care of bald eagles. The period is 47 rehabilitators, which about ten actually would take care of lead poisoned eagles. The cost of taking care of a lead poisoned eagle is quite expensive. It can vary from $1,000 to up to $3,500.

I did talk to some of the rehab – rehabilitator’s right in York. There's a Mitzy Eden (phonetic). Last year she didn't take care of any eagles. The year before she took care of three lead poisoned eagles, one of which survived. I talked to Carol Hungrin (phonetic) at Tammereck (phonetic). Last year they took care of 16 eagles, seven of which were lead poisoned, nine of which were injured. Out of the seven that they – out of the seven lead poisoned eagles, only one of them survived.

At any rate, they – it costs a lot of money for them to take care of that. To take care of these eagles. They rely strictly on donations. I think that one of the proud moments in the Pennsylvania Game Commission is when they reintroduced eagles to the state. Quite a bit of money I'm sure was spent to do that. These people
love the fact that the eagles have taken off in the state. We're making a big push now to make the public and - and the hunters aware of lead poison, but I still think we can save a sizable portion, a sizable number of the lead poisoned eagles.

I spoke to Chad Eyler, and my thought was that we - we should just really have a few centers to take care of these eagles, these lead poisoned eagles. And he assured me that basically when a lead poisoned eagle comes in, that if a rehabilitator is not comfortable taking care of one of these, they basically send them to one of about ten different rehabilitators. So I think, and he was very comfortable with it. He - he feels that this mechanism is already in place.

So my proposal was that we give money to these rehabilitators for each eagle that, each lead poisoned eagle that they take care of. I had asked, I was thinking that we could start out with $30,000 and Chad Eyler assured me that this money would go a long way in helping these people out. He - he doesn't think they'll burn right through it. He thinks in the state last year there may have been somewhere under 20 lead poisoned eagles, total. Anywhere from 10 to 20.
But anyway, so that was my thought. Like I said, it's been a very proud point for the Pennsylvania Game Commission when we introduced these. And - and when I say eagles, I'm also talking about Peregrine Falcons too because a few of those get poisoned as well.

So that was my - my pitch.

PRESIDENT FOX: So - okay. Do I understand you're - you're making the motion?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Yes. I'd like to make - I'd like to make a motion that the Pennsylvania Game Commission -.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Point of order - wait a moment. That's not a motion. This is new business.

PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: So - okay. So what do we have to do then?

PRESIDENT FOX: Guess we'll have to come up with another meeting, am I right?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: This is Commissioner Fredericks. This - this is Commissioner Fredericks. So Commissioner Mitrick, I think what you need to do is ask staff to develop language in -
in regard, in your proposal to be voted on at the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Okay.

I'd like to do that then. I would like the staff to request language that we could vote on this at the next meeting.

PRESIDENT FOX: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Thank you, Mike.

MR. BURHANS: This is Bryan Burhans. So I'll just add a note to this. This isn't a regulatory change. It was a request for financial assistance to the rehabbers to support eagle rehab with the lead poison. I just want to provide that point of clarification.

PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

Any more new business?

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER: Mr. President - this is Commissioner Schnepp-Giger. After listening to yesterday's panel of CWD experts - there were a few things that really stuck in my mind that were common among all those presentations. The one thing was that the passive wait and see what happens approach was widely counted among these
experts as the absolute, wrong decision.

Among some of the proactive and successful responses that they've employed in other areas of the country, we're used to sharpshooters and the elimination of antler point restrictions within these management areas. Responding to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's CWD response plan has made it very clear that they would like hunters to have the first opportunity to help meet deer management objectives before they would entertain the idea of sharpshooters being used.

I believe the first step was taken earlier today when we voted on the concurrent season being that many WMUs that have DMAs in them. But if we truly want to give our hunters the best opportunity to help meet those deer management goals, I think we need to talk about removing as many barriers as possible for them to be successful.

So my question specifically to Dr. Schnupp is twofold. One is I'm wondering if you and your team could put together a white paper on what the biological implications would be, either positive or negative, if antler point restrictions were removed in those WMUs that we voted concurrent because of associated DMAs. And the second part of
the question is what would the biological implications be, again either positive or negative, if antler point restrictions were removed in WMUs 4A and 4B. Those are currently the only two WMUs that are 100 percent encompassed by DMA, and as Commissioner Layton mentioned earlier during antlerless allocation discussion, this is the heart of the DMAs within the Commonwealth.

PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

MR. SCHNUPP: Kristen, this is Matthew. I - I appreciate - I appreciate your input and applaud you and the rest of the Board. I know yesterday was a really challenging day to make it through, but I also feel like it's very beneficial. And - and I think I took a lot of messages away from yesterday as well, and I'm excited to be part of this agency in - in the way that we're doing things, and be happy to look into the APRs.

It's - it's a contentious issue, of course. As you can imagine as well - as well as everything as the CWD. But like we mentioned during our presentation, we're here to look at the best available science and make the best management decisions and then adjust accordingly. And so, we'd be happy to look into that and we'll provide that
before the next vote on that CWD response plan which is proposed for next month.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER:
Appreciate that. I - I think I speak for most of the Board when I say we're looking forward to exploring the best ways we can manage CWDs in the state.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: This is Commissioner Hoover. I just want a, the clarification there. Kristen, did you say 4C or 4B? Because 4C is not in - in the DMA.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER: 4A as in four alpha and 4B as in four bravo.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Thank you.

MR. SCHNUPP: The - the other - the other thing I'd like to say is that 5C, 5D, and I believe 2A were voted concurrent seasons, again. But those obviously would not be in the antler - we would not want to remove antler point restrictions in those areas.

Is that correct?

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER: Yeah, that's correct. My thought process goes back to a lot of the science that was presented to us yesterday. And looking at how young buck dispersal
may or may not be contributing to the spread of CWD. So that's why it's specific to antler point restrictions within the disease management areas.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: And you had said the areas that we voted for concurrent seasons, which would've included the -

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER: Based -.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: - 5C, 5D, and 2A. So -.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER: The - well the ones that were voted concurrent because of associated DMAs, not because of special - other special regs areas.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: Okay, excellent.

PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

Any further discussion? Any further new business?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Mr. President, Commissioner Layton. I'm just wondering if we could get staff to maybe add a species to the mentors hunt - to the mentor's hunt list such as bear, an extra turkey tag and another species maybe they can get the information together for it, get a white paper together and present that to us at our next working group session.
PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

MR. DECOSKEY: Commissioner Layton, this is Jason DeCoskey. I would be happy to get my staff working on that for you.

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Thanks, Jason. I appreciate that very much.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Mr. President, this is Commissioner Fredericks. Jason DeCoskey, if you could stay on for a second? I would like to ask, you and your - you - you provided the - you provided the Board at our last meeting with white paper on caliber restriction recommendations for big game. Basically, bear and deer.

And I'm of the opinion that as time passes, the animals that we continue to harvest in Pennsylvania are getting larger and larger. It used to be that the antlered deer that we took out weighed maybe 110, 115 pounds. Now it's not uncommon for people, and especially in the northern tier to harvest white tailed deer that are up to 250 pounds. And our bears are getting to be some of the largest in the country. And I'm concerned about the existing caliber restrictions on the humane taking of - of those big game species.

So I - I would respectfully request
that you provide some language based around the white paper that you provided which basically puts a bottom limit on the calibers for white tailed deer and bear at six millimeter. We've already taken care of elk we already have other restrictions for archery and shotguns, and we - and we restrict or regulate ammunition or implement accordingly for humane take. And I would like - I would like for you folks to develop language for the Board's consideration at the next meeting to address white tailed deer and bear and the six millimeter caliber minimum.

MR. DECOSKEY: Commissioner Fredericks, I'll get right on that for you.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it.

MR. DECOSKEY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT FOX: Does anyone have anything else they'd like to bring before us?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL: So Mr. President, before you adjourn, I - I just wanted to ask Mr. Burhans if there are any announcements that need to be made. Usually we announce at this time either some sort of press conference or something. I didn't know if you wanted to do that before your adjournment.
MR. BURHANS: Sure. There'll be a Commission meeting - next Commission meeting on July 24th and 25th, 2020 in Harrisburg, COVID-19 permitting. And there will be a call in to the media for the - for a press conference call for the press that can attend. That was distributed through Travis Lau, our media liaison, out to the press.

COMMISSIONER HOOVER: This is Commissioner Hoover. I make a motion to be adjourned.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner Fredericks, second.

PRESIDENT FOX: Meeting adjourned.

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MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:36 P.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was reported by me on 04/07/2020 and that I, Evan Bingaman, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 20th day of April, 2020

Evan Bingaman,
Court Reporter