

BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

\* \* \* \* \*

BEFORE: Charlie E. Fox, President  
Stanley I. Knick, Jr., Vice President  
Michael F. Mitrick, Secretary  
Scott H. Foradora, Commissioner  
Dennis R. Fredericks, Commissioner  
Timothy S. Layton, Commissioner  
Kristen Schnepf-Giger, Commissioner  
Bryan Burhans, Executive Director

MEETING: Saturday, January 23, 2021  
9:28 a.m.

LOCATION: Telephonic Meeting

Reporter: Evan Bingaman

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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BRADLEY C. BECHTEL, ESQUIRE  
Chief Counsel  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
Counsel for Pennsylvania Game Commission

ALSO PRESENT:

BRYAN J. BURHANS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MATTHEW SCHNUPP, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT  
PETER SUSSENBACH, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF WILDLIFE  
HABITAT MANAGEMENT  
DEANA VANCE, DIRECTOR OF AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY  
SERVICES  
LORI NEELY MITCHELL

I N D E X

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DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES

4 - 49

## P R O C E E D I N G S

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PRESIDENT FOX: At this time I'd like to call to order the January 2021 meeting of the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners. Mr. Secretary, please call the roll.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: I will.  
Commissioner Fox?

PRESIDENT FOX: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Commissioner Knick?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Present.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Commissioner Mitrick, present.

Commissioner Foradora?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Present.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Commissioner Fredericks?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Present.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Commissioner Layton?

COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Present.

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Commissioner Schnepf-Giger?

1                   COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER: Present.

2                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All present.

3                   PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

4                   Next on the agenda is approval of the  
5 minutes for the meeting held September 26. Do I have  
6 a motion?

7                   COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner  
8 Fredericks, so moved.

9                   COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Commissioner  
10 Layton, second.

11                   PRESIDENT FOX: Mr. Secretary, please  
12 call the roll --- call the vote.

13                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor?

14 AYES RESPOND

15                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?

16 NO RESPONSE

17                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
18 the motion passes.

19                   PRESIDENT FOX: All right. We're  
20 going to take a minute to thank everyone who took the  
21 time to submit comments before this meeting. Last  
22 evening I had 88 emails. I've been averaging between  
23 75 and 100 every day. Appreciate the time they take  
24 to respond to us. That's very important. At this  
25 point I'd like to turn the meeting over to Mr. Brad

1 Betchel for the formal agenda.

2                   ATTORNEY BETCHEL: Thank you, Mr.  
3 President. The first item to come before the  
4 Commission today is from the Bureau of Administrative  
5 Services concerning proposed rulemaking to amend 58  
6 Pa. Code Section 143.1 and create Section 143.5. The  
7 Commission currently issues various hunting and fur-  
8 taking license products to customers in physical form  
9 online on the familiar, durable yellow stock. New  
10 features in the PALS, or the HuntFishPA System, are  
11 expected to go live for the 2021 to 2022 license year  
12 and will have the capacity to provide hunters and  
13 trappers with a digital version of their license  
14 products by email and through the PALS system.  
15 However, current licensing regulations will need to  
16 be amended to authorize and define their use. The  
17 Commission is proposing to amend Section 143.1 and  
18 create Section 143.5, relating to definitions and  
19 digital licenses to define and authorize the use of  
20 hunting and fur-taking eLicenses. This authorization  
21 will also extend to certain permits also sold through  
22 the PALS system such as mentored permits, bobcat  
23 permits, range permits, et cetera.

24                   An eLicense is generally defined as a  
25 digital or electronic copy of a hunting or fur-taking

1 license or permit provided to customers in the form  
2 of a PDF document. An eLicense will be issued to the  
3 hunter or trapper at the same --- or at the time of  
4 purchase and will be authorized for use in the same  
5 manner and as an alternative to traditional, physical  
6 license documents. When used the eLicense will be  
7 stored and displayed by the customer on a mobile  
8 device, such as a smartphone or tablet. The customer  
9 will also have the option of printing a copy of  
10 eLicense products on their own printer using  
11 appropriate paper stock.

12                   Carcass harvest tags will continue to  
13 be provided to customers in physical form only on the  
14 familiar durable stock. No digital versions of these  
15 documents will be issued to customers or authorized  
16 for use. Customers that elect to purchase license  
17 products online will be provided with digital copies  
18 of their license products and thereafter mailed  
19 physical carcass harvest tags. Customers that elect  
20 to purchase licenses at an agent location will be  
21 issued physical carcass harvest tags at the time of  
22 purchase and will also have the opportunity to have  
23 digital licenses provided to them electronically when  
24 a valid email address is provided. There will be no  
25 additional fee for customers to retrieve eLicense

1 products from the Commission's PALS system. However,  
2 replacement license fees will still apply where  
3 replacement carcass harvest tags are requested or  
4 where the customer opts for a physical reprint of  
5 license products.

6                   The text of these amendments are shown  
7 on page two through four of your agenda.

8                   PRESIDENT FOX: Second?

9                   COMMISSIONER FORADORA: This is  
10 Commissioner ---.

11                   PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

12                   COMMISSIONER FORADORA: ---

13 Commissioner Foradora. I make the motion that we  
14 pass the amendment.

15                   COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner  
16 Frederick. Second it.

17                   PRESIDENT FOX: Now we'll have some  
18 discussion.

19                   COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Mr. President,  
20 this is Commissioner Layton. If I can just have a  
21 minute please.

22                   So I will let Commissioner Foradora  
23 say what he wants to to the staff, but I want to  
24 commend him for his forward thinking on this. Since  
25 he's become a Commissioner he's been pushing for the



1 eLicense, and he's kind of bulldogged this until we  
2 got it to a point where we can --- the new system's  
3 up and running. And we can get it done. So to  
4 Deana, thank you for all the work that you've done,  
5 and Commissioner Foradora, thank you for the work  
6 that you've done on this too.

7 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Tim, thank you  
8 very much for your kind words, but, as you know, we  
9 were all talking about it. I was glad to be a part  
10 of it. And thank you, Tim, for the comments. Thank  
11 all the Commissioners and Deana, I know it was a lot  
12 of work, but thank you as well.

13 MS. VANCE: Thank you. We're excited  
14 to get this one approved and get it rolled out to the  
15 hunters.

16 PRESIDENT FOX: Any further  
17 discussion?

18 Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

19 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor?

20 AYES RESPOND

21 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?

22 NO RESPONSE

23 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
24 the motion passes.

25 ATTORNEY BETCHEL: Thank you. The

1 next item is on page five of your agenda. It comes  
2 from the Bureau of Administrative Services. It is to  
3 amend 58 Pa. Code Sections 143.45 and 143.52. The  
4 term personal limit refers to the number of  
5 antlerless deer licenses a hunter may possess at any  
6 given time. Current rules differ between wildlife  
7 management units, or WMUs, that are generally within  
8 and those that are outside areas defined as special  
9 regulation areas, such as WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D.  
10 Persons hunting outside of WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D are  
11 currently restricted to requiring a maximum personal  
12 limit of up to three antlerless licenses. Persons  
13 hunting within WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D currently have no  
14 personal limit on the number of antlerless licenses  
15 they may acquire from WMUs with a remaining  
16 antlerless license allocation. The allowance of the  
17 unlimited personal limit in WMUs 2B and 5D was  
18 originally intended to ensure that the quota of  
19 antlerless licenses set by the Commission for WMUs  
20 2B, 5C and 5D was issued to the fullest extent  
21 possible in an effort to achieve deer management  
22 goals. The unlimited personal limit does not permit  
23 a person to obtain antlerless licenses beyond a given  
24 WMU's annual allocation of antlerless license. The  
25 Commission recently observed that as of mid-November,

1 there were still well over 16,000 antlerless deer  
2 licenses available in WMUs 2A and 4A. Persons  
3 hunting in these areas where significant numbers of  
4 antlerless deer licenses have remained unsold late  
5 into the deer hunting seasons have questioned whether  
6 the current personal limit continues to make sense.

7           More to the point, these hunters have  
8 inquired whether it makes more sense for the  
9 Commission to ensure that the quota of antlerless  
10 licenses allocated to the various WMUs across the  
11 state are issued to the fullest extent possible to  
12 achieve the goals behind the original allocations in  
13 the same manner as in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D. The  
14 Commission agrees with this approach. The Commission  
15 is proposing to amend sections 143.45 and 143.52  
16 relating to completing and submitting applications  
17 and procedure for unlimited antlerless licenses to  
18 authorize unlimited over-the-counter sales of  
19 antlerless licenses in any open or unexhausted WMU on  
20 the second Monday in September until such quotas are  
21 exhausted.

22           The proposed amendments will maintain  
23 the current conventional preseason application,  
24 three-round structure for mailed antlerless deer  
25 license applications. This unchanged process will

1 continue to ensure equitable and fair distribution of  
2 antlerless licenses for hunters in the WMUs of their  
3 choice, assuming quotas remain available within these  
4 WMUs at each round of distribution. However, the  
5 proposed amendments will expand the availability of  
6 unlimited over-the-counter sales of antlerless  
7 licenses to any and all WMUs that have an available  
8 quota remaining on the second Monday in September,  
9 not just WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D. For most hunters this  
10 means that they would be authorized to purchase their  
11 fourth antlerless license over the counter starting  
12 on the second Monday in September as long as a quota  
13 remains available. For other hunters late to the  
14 antlerless license purchase process a maximum of four  
15 antlerless licenses would be authorized for purchase  
16 over the counter starting on the second Monday in  
17 September again, assuming that a quota remains  
18 available.

19                   One important facet to this new  
20 structure will be a restriction limiting all hunters  
21 to possessing no more than four active, antlerless  
22 licenses at any given time. Purchase of a fifth or  
23 subsequent antlerless deer license will require a  
24 hunter to exhaust and report online the harvest of  
25 one or more of their previously-issued antlerless

1 deer licenses before becoming eligible to purchase  
2 additional antlerless deer licenses. Over the  
3 counter sales of antlerless deer licenses will  
4 continue in this manner within each WMU until the  
5 quota assigned to each WMU is exhausted. This new  
6 method maintains equitable and fair distribution of  
7 antlerless licenses and, importantly, also helps  
8 ensure that the quota of antlerless licenses set by  
9 the Commission for each WMU is issued to the fullest  
10 extent possible, thus supporting its deer management  
11 goals. This new process will simplify the antlerless  
12 deer license regulations by applying the same  
13 distribution rules to all WMUs across the board. The  
14 Commission also expects to see the collateral benefit  
15 of increased harvest reporting rates with this new  
16 process due to the harvest reporting requirements  
17 applied to the issuance of subsequent antlerless deer  
18 licenses.

19                   Lastly, the Commission also sees the  
20 potential for antlerless deer license sales to  
21 stretch into regular firearms deer seasons for some  
22 WMUs, thus making some antlerless deer licenses  
23 available to hunters purchasing their hunting license  
24 later in the hunting season.

25                   The text is shown on pages six through

1 seven of your agenda.

2 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Commissioner  
3 Layton ---.

4 PRESIDENT FOX: Do I have a motion?

5 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner  
6 Fredericks. I move to accept the amendment.

7 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Second.

8 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner  
9 Knick. I second it.

10 PRESIDENT FOX: Okay. Any discussion?

11 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: This is  
12 Commissioner Mitrick. In 143.52 it states procedure  
13 for unlimited antler licenses. I have a problem  
14 using the term unlimited due to the fact that I  
15 believe it creates some confusion with our hunters.  
16 I saw in our Sunday paper the term unlimited, and it  
17 really was a cause for concern. That it made it  
18 sound as if we're out to slaughter the deer herd. I  
19 would propose that instead of using the term  
20 unlimited that in the future we use the term unsold  
21 antlerless licenses. That's all I have.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER: This is  
23 Commissioner Schnepf-Giger. I agree with that  
24 observation. I saw some headlines that definitely  
25 raised some eyebrows and were, in my opinion,

1 intentionally misleading for the overall objective of  
2 what we're trying to accomplish. I think it's  
3 important to highlight in here that a lot of hunters  
4 are not going to see a change to our current,  
5 conventional preseason application, which is when  
6 most people get their doe tags. The unlimited or  
7 unsold only applies to those areas that still have  
8 antlerless allocations available, so unlimited can be  
9 a very misleading term. So I would encourage hunters  
10 to take a few moments to reread this language in  
11 here, realize that it's a forward-thinking, earn-one  
12 burn-one process rather than unlimited and should  
13 also increase the rate of reporting that we're  
14 getting as far as hunter participation. Because  
15 without hunters this agency's in a world of hurt, and  
16 we need your cooperation in reporting your deer  
17 harvests and moving forward with elicensing and  
18 better antlerless allocation in the future.

19 PRESIDENT FOX: Any further  
20 discussion?

21 Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

22 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor?

23 AYES RESPOND

24 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?

25 NO RESPONSE

1                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
2 the motion carries. Thank you.

3                   ATTORNEY BETCHEL: The next item  
4 before the Commission appears on page eight of your  
5 agenda. It's from the Bureau of Wildlife Management  
6 and proposed rulemaking to amend 58 Pa. Code Section  
7 139.4 relating to seasons and bag limits for the  
8 license year to provide updated seasons and bag  
9 limits for the 2021-2022 license year. The 2021-2022  
10 seasons and bag limits have been amended to reflect  
11 current available scientific data, population and  
12 harvest records, yield surveys and professional staff  
13 observations as well as recommendations received from  
14 staff, organized supporting groups, members of the  
15 agricultural community and others interested in the  
16 management of the wildlife resources of this  
17 Commonwealth. Proposed Sunday hunting dates are  
18 similar to those used in 2021 --- 2020 through 2021.  
19 However, expansions of Sunday hunting opportunity  
20 are proposed in that the Sundays during the archery  
21 deer and firearm bear seasons would also be open for  
22 other species, except for migratory game birds and  
23 wild turkey, with seasons encompassing those dates.  
24 These expansions of Sunday opportunity are the only  
25 changes proposed for small game and furbearer



1 seasons.

2                   With wild turkey population trends  
3 declining in many wildlife management units. Closure  
4 of the fall season in WMU 5A and reductions in season  
5 length for 14 other WMUs are recommended in  
6 accordance with wild turkey management plan  
7 guidelines to increase hen survival.

8                   For deer, a statewide 14-day  
9 concurrent antlered and antlerless firearm season is  
10 recommended to simplify regulations and provide  
11 increased opportunity, especially for younger  
12 hunters. Also, the extended post-Christmas firearm  
13 season is proposed to be set at the WMU level 2B, 5C  
14 and 5D rather than at the county level to simplify  
15 regulations, given that the antlerless harvests are  
16 evenly distributed throughout these WMUs regardless  
17 of firearms restrictions.

18                   Minor expansions of archery bear  
19 hunting opportunity are proposed in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C  
20 and 5D. Other black bear season recommendations are  
21 similar to those in 2020. The antlerless designation  
22 is proposed to be removed from the late elk season to  
23 provide the Commission the flexibility to issue  
24 antlered elk licenses for this season, if and when  
25 appropriate. Specific license allocation

1 recommendations for all elk seasons will be provided  
2 in April. The text of seasons and bags limits are  
3 shown on pages 9 through 18 of your agenda.

4 PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?

5 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Motion to  
6 accept, Commissioner Layton.

7 PRESIDENT FOX: Second?

8 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second,  
9 Commissioner Foradora.

10 PRESIDENT FOX: Any discussion?

11 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Yeah. I just  
12 want Matthew, if you're hearing me, so I want you to  
13 touch base very quickly on the migratory game bird  
14 issue. Because we've been getting some comments  
15 about allowing hunters to hunt even waterfowl during  
16 those Sundays. And you can just touch on why we're  
17 not using or not allowing migratory game birds on  
18 those Sundays?

19 MR. SCHNUPP: Yeah. Sure. So the  
20 waterfowl issue is that a lot of that comes the  
21 federal level, and so we, by adding those in we would  
22 actually be taking days. Though that's the whole  
23 premise of that.

24 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER: This is

1 Commissioner Schnepf-Giger, I just want to comment  
 2 that I'm very pleased to see the addition of small  
 3 game including squirrel, grouse, pheasant et cetera  
 4 included in Sunday hunting this year. I think that's  
 5 a step in the right direction as far as Sunday  
 6 hunting in this State is concerned with the  
 7 regulatory authority that we have been granted to us  
 8 by the state legislature. And I'm excited to see the  
 9 opportunities and the pictures posted on Facebook of  
 10 smiling people out there enjoying the resource on a  
 11 Sunday.

12 PRESIDENT FOX: Any further  
 13 discussion?

14 Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

15 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor?

16 AYES RESPOND

17 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?

18 NO RESPONSE

19 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
 20 the motion passes.

21 ATTORNEY BETCHEL: And the next item  
 22 for the Commission is on page 19 of your agenda.  
 23 This item is to amend 58 Pa. Code Section 147.673,  
 24 relating to eligibility and application for DMAP.  
 25 This section currently provides a DMAP application

1 deadline of May 1st. Reviews by external users and  
2 Commission staff identified a deadline of May 1st as  
3 too early. For many users of DMAP the May 1st  
4 deadline does not allow adequate time to collect  
5 post-winter data, analyze the data and incorporate  
6 those results into DMAP applications. In addition, a  
7 later deadline will allow more time for landowners to  
8 prepare and submit an application. The Commission is  
9 proposing to amend Section 147.673 to make July 1st  
10 the deadline for DMAP applications. The text is  
11 shown on page 19 of your agenda.

12 PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?

13 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Motion,  
14 Commissioner Knick.

15 PRESIDENT FOX: Second?

16 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Second,  
17 Commissioner Layton.

18 PRESIDENT FOX: Any discussion?

19 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: I have a  
20 question, Mr. President. This is Commissioner  
21 Layton. Matthew, is this you again?

22 MR. SCHNUPP: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: So, as I recall,  
24 it wasn't long ago that we changed this date to the  
25 May deadline, and if I'm not correct with that just

1 we'll stop here. But did we find out that it was  
2 just too fast, too quick for those DMAP applicants to  
3 get their information in, and we're just kind of  
4 helping them out by going to July?

5 MR. SCHNUPP: Yeah. It's actually two  
6 parts. One is folks were out there collecting data,  
7 trying to figure out what the best path moving  
8 forward is. And they just didn't have enough time to  
9 get that in. As well as our staff meets, you know, we  
10 get a lot of them based on, in some regions get a  
11 whole bunch and some regions don't. And so as this  
12 is building, this program is building, providing more  
13 staff time to give them that flexibility to work  
14 with. These guys, these landowners and so on, it's  
15 important that they have that so we can get this done  
16 right.

17 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: I appreciate  
18 that. And I appreciate the Bureau looking out for  
19 our constituents and making this whole process easier  
20 for them. Thank you for that, Matthew.

21 MR. SCHNUPP: Thank you.

22 PRESIDENT FOX: Any further  
23 discussion?

24 Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

25 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor of

1 the motion?

2 AYES RESPOND

3 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?

4 NO RESPONSE

5 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
6 the motion passes.

7 ATTORNEY BETCHEL: Next item before  
8 the Commission is also from the Bureau of Wildlife  
9 Management. It appears on page 20 of your agenda.  
10 The item is to amend 58 Pa. Code Section 141.45. The  
11 manually operated rifles, including both center fire  
12 and rim fire, are listed as permitted devices for use  
13 by hunters during the fall turkey seasons in all WMUs  
14 with an open fall turkey season, excluding those  
15 portions found within the special regulations areas  
16 designated in 58 Pa. Code Section 141.1  
17 Notwithstanding their permitted use, the Commission  
18 has observed that very few hunters hunt during the  
19 fall turkey season with a rifle, and the 2020 general  
20 turkey hunters survey showed 14 percent of  
21 respondents primarily used rifles to hunt fall  
22 turkey, whereas 33 percent of the statewide harvest  
23 was with a rifle. But this varied by WMU. Most fall  
24 turkey hunters, 70 percent, primarily used shotguns,  
25 which accounted for 53 percent of the harvest. Nine

1 percent used crossbows, accounting for 10 percent of  
2 the harvest. Eight percent used vertical bows,  
3 accounting for four percent of the harvest. And a  
4 few used muzzle loaders or handguns, which accounted  
5 for less than one percent of the harvest. Were it  
6 assumed that all rifle hunters in 2020 used a shotgun  
7 and had the same efficiency as other shotgun hunters,  
8 fall harvest could decrease statewide by  
9 approximately 20 percent. Of course, that figure  
10 would vary by WMU.

11                   The Commission's turkey management  
12 plan provides guidance to adjust fall season lengths  
13 by one week at a time to manage turkey population  
14 trends. For example, when populations are declining  
15 the plan calls for fall season length to be reduced by  
16 one week. The Commission has observed evidence of  
17 declining turkey populations in 15 of 23 WMUs, and has  
18 therefore proposed season length reductions in those  
19 areas. However, the Commission is also investigating  
20 alternative methods of stabilizing fall turkey harvest  
21 numbers without focusing solely on further reductions  
22 in hunting opportunity as measured by season length.  
23 The Commission has determined that the elimination of  
24 rifles during fall turkey season may aid in this goal.  
25 Based on the results from the 2020 turkey hunter

1 survey, the Commission observed that the elimination  
2 of rifles during the fall turkey season could reduce  
3 fall harvest by as much as 20 percent. Depending on  
4 the actual impact of removing rifles from fall turkey  
5 seasons, the Commission anticipates that recent fall  
6 turkey season length reductions could eventually be  
7 reversed and more hunting opportunities added. The  
8 Commission is proposing the amend Section 141.45  
9 relating to turkey to eliminate the use of rifles  
10 during the fall turkey season. The text is shown on  
11 pages 20 through 21 of your agenda.

12 PRESIDENT FOX: Do I have a motion?

13 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Commissioner  
14 Foradora, I'll make that motion. And I'd like to  
15 come back under discussion and comment.

16 PRESIDENT FOX: Okay. Do we have a  
17 second?

18 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner  
19 Fredericks, second.

20 PRESIDENT FOX: Okay. Discussion,  
21 Scott.

22 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes. So just  
23 wanted to add appreciate Mary Jo's input. This is  
24 strictly, in my opinion, a biological motion.  
25 Myself, I'm a proud member of the NRA and second



1 amendment supporter as well as, I think, all the  
2 Commissioners. This is strictly biological. I'm a  
3 proud turkey hunter for years, my family. So if this  
4 helps us keep some semblance of the season in the  
5 fall, I'm all for that, rather than closing seasons  
6 completely. I know it's a change. But we, my  
7 opinion is Mary Jo and the turkey team will evaluate  
8 it in the future and come back with a recommendation  
9 if it is working. So I just wanted to explain my  
10 reason for supporting it. Thank you, Charlie.

11 PRESIDENT FOX: Thank you.

12 Any further discussion?

13 COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GIGER: This is  
14 Commissioner Schnepp-Giger, I'll echo some of what  
15 Commissioner Foradora just said. It's great to be  
16 part of an agency that puts the resource first and  
17 that's looking at declining turkey populations.  
18 There are a lot of people on this webinar that hunt  
19 in Pennsylvania that really enjoy fall turkey  
20 hunting. And the last thing we want to do is see  
21 that season closed. So this may be a little bit more  
22 conservative approach than what a lot of people would  
23 like to happen, but let's hope we're airing on the  
24 side of caution right now and that pays dividends for  
25 us. Thank you.

1                   PRESIDENT FOX: Any further  
2 discussion?

3                   Mr. Secretary, call the vote.

4                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor of  
5 the motion?

6 AYES RESPOND

7                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?

8 NO RESPONSE

9                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing no  
10 opposition, the motion passes.

11                   ATTORNEY BETCHEL: The next item on  
12 your agenda appears on page 22. It's adopted  
13 rulemaking, also from the Bureau of Wildlife  
14 Management. It's to amend 58 Pa. Code Sections  
15 137.34 and 137.35 (relating to Chronic Wasting  
16 Disease and emergency authority of Director) and  
17 (relating to Chronic Wasting Disease restrictions) to  
18 expand the authority of the Executive Director to  
19 issue executive orders to address additional diseases  
20 in species of wildlife other than only chronic  
21 wasting disease as it relates to only cervids. The  
22 Commission also proposed to amend section 137.35 to  
23 define the term 'Establish Area', restrict the  
24 movement of high-risk parts outside from established  
25 areas and further expand the ban on importation of

1 high-risk parts to all areas outside the  
2 Commonwealth. The text is shown on pages 23 through  
3 26 of your agenda.

4 PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?

5 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Motion,

6 Commissioner Knick. So moved.

7 PRESIDENT FOX: Second? Second?

8 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second,

9 Commissioner Fredericks.

10 PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

11 Hearing no further discussion, Mr.

12 Secretary, call the vote.

13 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: In favor of the  
14 motion?

15 AYES RESPOND

16 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?

17 NO RESPONSE

18 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
19 the motion carries.

20 ATTORNEY BETCHEL: The next item on  
21 the Commission's agenda today, it appears on page 27  
22 of your agenda. It is from the Bureau of Wildlife  
23 Protection concerning proposed rulemaking to amend 58  
24 Pa. Code Section 141.4 to replace the current hunting  
25 hours table and migratory bird hunting hours table to

1 accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal  
2 hunting for the 2021 through 2022 hunting/trapping  
3 license year. The text is show on pages 27 through  
4 29 of your agenda.

5 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Commissioner  
6 Layton, motion to accept.

7 PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a motion?

8 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner  
9 Fredericks, second.

10 PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

11 There's no discussion. Mr. Secretary,  
12 call the vote.

13 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor of  
14 the motion?

15 AYES RESPOND

16 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?

17 NO RESPONSE

18 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
19 the motion passes.

20 ATTORNEY BETCHEL: Moving to page 30

21 of your agenda, the next item on the agenda is to  
22 amend 58 Pa. Code Sections 143.203 through 143.203a  
23 and 143.206 and to create Section 139.18 and  
24 143.2303b. The Commission has identified the current  
25 regulations concerning elk licenses do not adequately

1 describe the three available elk licenses and their  
2 authorized uses. Furthermore, current regulations do  
3 not even define the extent and location of the elk  
4 management area or elk hunt zones. The Commission is  
5 proposing to amend Sections 143.203 through 143.203a  
6 and 143.206 relating to random drawing elk licenses,  
7 special elk conservation license, auction elk license  
8 and the validity of elk licenses and to create  
9 sections 139.18 and 143.203b relating to elk  
10 management area and hunt zones and special license  
11 fundraiser elk license to define the elk management  
12 area and elk hunt zones, better delineate and  
13 describe the three available elk licenses and lastly  
14 close all elk hunting in any elk hunt zone that does  
15 not receive an allocation for a given hunting license  
16 year. The text is shown on pages 30 through 33 of  
17 your agenda.

18 PRESIDENT FOX: Okay. Do we have a  
19 motion?

20 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner  
21 Fredericks, make a motion.

22 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

23 PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

24 If there's no discussion, Mr.  
25 Secretary, please call the vote.

1                    COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor of  
2 the motion?

3 AYES RESPOND

4                    COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?

5 NO RESPONSE

6                    COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
7 the motion carries. Thank you.

8                    ATTORNEY BETCHEL: And the next item  
9 on your agenda is on page 34. It comes from the  
10 Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management. It concerns  
11 real estate and a donation, contract number L3776,  
12 State Game Land number 157, Bucks County. Natural  
13 Lands Trust, Inc., or Natural Lands, is offering to  
14 donate 15 plus or minus acres of land in Haycock  
15 Township, Bucks County, an indenture in State Game  
16 Land Number 157, as shown on Exhibit RED 1 on page 35  
17 of your agenda. Natural Lands was successful in  
18 receiving funding through partnership grants provided  
19 by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and  
20 Natural Resources and the United States Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service through the Highlands Conservation  
22 Act. Covenants, conditions and restrictions  
23 associated with these funding sources will be  
24 required to accept the property. Access is through  
25 existing State Game Land Number 157.

1                   COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Commissioner  
2 Layton, motion to accept.

3                   COMMISSIONER KNICK: Second,  
4 Commissioner Knick.

5                   PRESIDENT FOX: Any discussion?

6                   MR. SUSSENBACH: Mr. President, this  
7 is Pete Sussenbach. If I may just have a few  
8 moments.

9                   PRESIDENT FOX: Go ahead.

10                  MR. SUSSENBACH: Okay. I just want to  
11 thank Jack Stefferud and the team over at Natural  
12 Lands Trust as well as our partners over at DCNR and  
13 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm amazed every  
14 time we deal with Jack and his team, and I've dealt  
15 with him personally for about the last ten years or  
16 so. I'm amazed that as soon as we complete a deal  
17 it's like another deal comes along that fits  
18 perfectly into our Game Lands system. And as this  
19 one shows in the accompanying map, I mean, we're  
20 closing out an indenture which has been a strategic  
21 objective of ours for quite some time. So I just  
22 wanted to throw that out there, that we've got great  
23 partnerships with other staff from other agencies and  
24 private organizations and that the team within the  
25 Game Commission is, in my opinion, second to none in

1 helping to aid and pull these things together. So I  
2 just wanted to throw that out there.

3 PRESIDENT FOX: Okay. Any further  
4 discussion?

5 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Yeah, you know,  
6 Mr. President, this is Commissioner Layton. I just  
7 want to say, Pete, you know, it never ceases to amaze  
8 me that every meeting that we have we are adding land  
9 that's been donated by somebody or a conservancy or  
10 whatever the case may be. And I just, I can't thank  
11 you and your staff enough for the work that you do to  
12 continue to add game lands for the Pennsylvania  
13 hunter to use to, what a great resource. And thank  
14 you, thank you, thank you. Great job.

15 MR. SUSSENBACH: I appreciate the kind  
16 words, and, again, it's a team effort. And, you  
17 know, things just continue to get pulled together in  
18 a positive direction, and it's exciting to be a part  
19 of that.

20 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: I have a  
21 question. Approximately what did this land cost? I  
22 mean, I realize it was donated to us, but I'm just  
23 curious as to what kind of dollars the Natural Lands  
24 Trust had to put up to purchase this. Do you have  
25 any idea?



1                   MR. SUSSENBACH: I don't have those  
2 numbers off the top of my head at this point, but I  
3 can certainly get them to you. I could tell you it's  
4 Bucks County. It was pretty significant.

5                   COMMISSIONER KNICK: That's what I was  
6 going to say. It's Bucks County, yeah.

7                   MR. SUSSENBACH: It was pretty  
8 significant.

9                   COMMISSIONER KNICK: Yeah, well,  
10 that's unbelievable. But I was just curious. But  
11 thank you.

12                   PRESIDENT FOX: Any further  
13 discussion?

14                   Mr. Secretary, please call the vote?

15                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor of  
16 the motion?

17 AYES RESPOND

18                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?

19 NO REPSONSE

20                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
21 the motion carries.

22                   PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

23                   ATTORNEY BETCHEL: And the next item  
24 concerns an acquisition shown on page 36 of your  
25 agenda, contract number L-3777, State Game Land

1 Number 147 in Blair County. May Brothers, L.P. and  
2 Ben L. May Excavating, Inc. are offering 635 more or  
3 less acres of land in Freedom and Greenfield  
4 Townships, Blair County, adjoining a detached portion  
5 of State Game Land Number 147 as shown on Exhibit RED  
6 2 on page 37 of your agenda. The auction price is  
7 \$1,040,000 lump sum to be paid with funding from the  
8 Indiana Bat Conservation Fund, IBCF, and will be  
9 subject to approval from the United States Fish and  
10 Wildlife Service. The IBCF was established by the  
11 Fish and Wildlife Service to fund projects important  
12 to the conservation and recovery of the Indiana bat  
13 within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Indiana  
14 bat is listed as a federal and state-listed  
15 endangered species. The property is to be managed  
16 for the primary benefit of the Indiana Bat in  
17 accordance with an Indiana bat management plan  
18 developed cooperatively with the Pennsylvania Game  
19 Commission and the United States Fish and Wildlife  
20 Service. Four tower sites are located on the  
21 property and are being conveyed with the property.  
22 Two of the tower sites provide additional revenues,  
23 which will be transferred to the Commission upon  
24 conveyance of the property. As per the agreement  
25 between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the

1 Commission, these annual revenues will be retained  
2 and kept by the Commission in the game fund. The  
3 property is forested with northern hardwoods. Access  
4 is from T-349 or Mountain Road.

5 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Commissioner  
6 Layton, Motion to accept.

7 PRESIDENT FOX: Do we have a second?

8 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner  
9 Knick, second.

10 PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion.

11 MR. SUSSENBACH: Mr. President, this  
12 is Pete Sussenbach again. If I could just add a few  
13 comments.

14 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Go ahead.

15 MR. SUSSENBACH: I just wanted to  
16 mention that, you know, this acquisition comes from a  
17 partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
18 out of the State College office. They've been very  
19 supportive of us. It's exciting to acquire some  
20 lands not only for the Indiana bat and the  
21 conservation opportunities this property will  
22 provide, but this property also gives us access into  
23 an adjoining piece of State Game Lands that was  
24 previously inaccessible. So not only is it some  
25 additional land to hunt, but it was access into some

1 previously purchased land that we did not have. So  
2 it a pretty exciting acquisition from our team as  
3 well.

4 PRESIDENT FOX: Okay. Any further  
5 discussion?

6 Having none, Mr. Secretary, call the  
7 vote.

8 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor of  
9 the motion please signify by saying aye.

10 AYES RESPOND

11 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed.

12 NO RESPONSE

13 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
14 the motion carries.

15 ATTORNEY BETCHEL: And the next item  
16 is on page 38 of your agenda, concerning an exchange  
17 contract number L3778, State Game Land Number 249 in  
18 Adams County. The Pennsylvania Department of  
19 Transportation, PennDOT, is offering to exchange  
20 0.043 more or less acres of land in Huntington  
21 Township, Adams County, near State Game Land Number  
22 249, as shown on Exhibit RED 3 on page 39 of your  
23 agenda, to the Commission in exchange for 0.043 more  
24 or less acres of State Game Land Number 249. PennDOT  
25 is replacing a bridge over an unnamed tributary to

1 Bermudian Creek on State Route 1009, Section 012,  
2 commonly known as Wiermans Mill Road. The bridge  
3 replacement project is located on a parcel of land  
4 acquired with funding authorized by the Project 70  
5 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act. Using this land  
6 for purposes other than prescribed in the Act will  
7 require approval from the General Assembly of the  
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which will be the  
9 responsibility of PennDOT. Access is from White  
10 Church Road. Staff has determined the proposed  
11 exchange is in the best interests of the Commission.

12 PRESIDENT FOX: Motion?

13 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner  
14 Fredericks, move to accept.

15 PRESIDENT FOX: Second?

16 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Commissioner  
17 Layton, second.

18 PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

19 Pete, do you want to comment?

20 MR. SUSSENBACH: No comments other  
21 than to say that, obviously, staff and PennDOT have  
22 agreed that this was, although a diminimous sort of a  
23 transaction, that it proves favorable for both sides  
24 at this point.

25 PRESIDENT FOX: Okay. Okay.

1                   No further discussion. Mr. Secretary,  
2 please call the vote.

3                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor of  
4 the motion signify by saying aye.  
5 AYES RESPOND.

6                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?  
7 NO RESPONSE

8                   COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
9 the motion carries.

10                  ATTORNEY BETCHEL: For the next item  
11 on the agenda concerns oil, gas and minerals, a  
12 restricted surface use Oil and Gas Cooperative  
13 agreement, tract 36a-20, State Game Lands Numbers 12  
14 and 36 in Bradford County. It appears on page 40 of  
15 your agenda. Chief Exploration and Development LLC,  
16 or Chief, of Dallas, Texas has requested the  
17 Commission offer its oil and gas rights under a  
18 portion of State Game Lands Numbers 12 and 36 for  
19 restricted surface use oil gas development. The  
20 proposed tract, containing approximately 1,440 more  
21 or less gross acres, is located in Barclay and  
22 Overton Townships, Bradford County, as shown on  
23 Exhibit OGM 1 on page 41 of your agenda.

24                  Chief has successfully developed  
25 approximately 27,426 acres of State Game Lands 12 and

1 36 under six Commission-approved agreements, which  
2 consist of both Commission-owned and severed, or  
3 privately-owned, gas rights. Chief desires to  
4 further develop this 1,440 acre unleased portion of  
5 the Game Lands, and will not utilize any PGC surface  
6 for drilling pad locations, as the proposed area will  
7 be developed from Chief's current and planned  
8 drilling operations located on adjacent private lands  
9 by horizontal drilling. The Commission also  
10 recognizes the potential future need to utilize  
11 portion of this proposed leasehold abutting of Falls  
12 Creek Road for an access road to future drilling  
13 operations located on adjoining State Game Lands.  
14 OGM staff negotiated the proposed terms of the  
15 agreement with Chief in an effort to prudently  
16 develop the Commission's oil gas reserve and  
17 simultaneously protect the wildlife resources and  
18 recreational use of State Game Land Numbers 12 and  
19 36.

20                   The terms of the agreement are a five-  
21 year period paid restricted surface use oil and gas  
22 agreement, a \$1,500 per net oil and gas acre bonus  
23 payment and a stepped royalty structure that has an  
24 initial royalty of 12 percent for all oil, gas and  
25 other liquids or condensates produced and sold from

1 the proposed track for the first 24 months of  
2 production for each well then stepping up to 18  
3 percent for the remaining life of each well. The  
4 bonus payment of approximately \$2,160,000 will be  
5 deposited into the Game Fund. Chief will also make a  
6 \$504,000 wildlife enhancement payment to be deposited  
7 into the Game Fund or into an interest bearing escrow  
8 account to be used for the future purchase of  
9 wildlife habitats, lands or other projects incidental  
10 to hunting, furtaking and wildlife resource  
11 management. The bonus and wildlife enhancement  
12 payment will be made in three equal payments of  
13 \$888,000 with the first payment due in July 2021 and  
14 the second and third payments due in July 2022 and  
15 July 2023. Future rentals and royalties owed the  
16 Commission shall be directly deposited into the Game  
17 Fund.

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

22 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner  
23 Fredericks, move to accept.

24 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Commissioner  
25 Knick, second.



1                   PRESIDENT FOX: Discussion?

2                   COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Pete, this  
3 is Commissioner Fredericks. I have a question. Is  
4 that surface area severed?

5                   MR. SUSSENBACH: That surface area is  
6 not under any severed rights, if that's what you  
7 mean.

8                   COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: It's not, so  
9 the Agency has the gas, and the surface is included?

10                  MR. SUSSENBACH: That is correct.

11                  COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So Chief  
12 had, if they want to, they have the right to enter  
13 upon that surface to develop their resource. You  
14 folks have negotiated no surface disturbance in that  
15 area?

16                  MR. SUSSENBACH: Correct. That was  
17 part of the negotiations, trying to protect as much  
18 of the integrity of that game lands as possible.

19                  COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Good job.

20                  MR. SUSSENBACH: Thank you.

21                  COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: I don't, I  
22 can't tell from where I sit if there's any more land  
23 agreements coming up. But Mr. President, if I might  
24 take a moment I'll probably continue to do this for  
25 as long as I occupy this chair, but, again, I would

1 like to point out for those listening, you know,  
2 these are significant land agreements, again, with no  
3 expenditure from the general fund, adding acres.  
4 And, you know, we continue to get communication from  
5 hunters who seem to misunderstand how much hunting  
6 license money goes to the purchase of these  
7 properties. And I'll continue to emphasize that  
8 until it seems as though the message is clear. Our  
9 folks do a tremendous job of running a sustainable  
10 program to continue to accumulate acres for  
11 recreation and wildlife with little or no expenditure  
12 from general fund and hunting license money. Pete,  
13 thank you again. I want to echo what Commissioner  
14 Layton said. You guys are doing an outstanding job,  
15 and I really want for the public to understand what  
16 you're doing in cooperation with energy partners,  
17 conservancies and other NGOs. Thank you.

18 MR. SUSSENBACH: I appreciate the kind  
19 words. We got great staff, Mike DiMatteo and his  
20 team. This is a great oil and gas deal protecting  
21 the surface and integrity of the game lands and  
22 prudently developing the you know, the gas resource  
23 underneath the game lands. You know, really excited  
24 about this partnership that we've got out there with  
25 Chief. Things seem to be going extremely well, so I

1 appreciate the kind words.

2 PRESIDENT FOX: Any further  
3 discussion?

4 The only thing I'd like to add, if you  
5 happen to have an opportunity to take a look at that.  
6 They're just doing some remarkable things on 12 and  
7 36.

8 No further discussions. Secretary,  
9 call the vote.

10 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor of  
11 the motion signify by saying aye.

12 AYES RESPOND

13 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?

14 NO RESPONSE

15 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
16 the motions carried. Thank you.

17 PRESIDENT FOX: Brad, I'd like to  
18 thank you.

19 ATTORNEY BETCHEL: Mr. President, this  
20 ends the formal part of the agenda that's printed.  
21 I'll turn it back over to you.

22 PRESIDENT FOX: Yeah. Thank you,  
23 Brad. I appreciate that.

24 Is there any new business to come  
25 before the Commission at this time?

1 Commissioner Fredericks, you have an  
2 item?

3 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Mr.  
4 President.

5 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: I apologize.  
6 Yes. I do have some new business with the pleasure  
7 of my fellow Commissioners, I would like to ask the  
8 staff to develop language that would permit the use  
9 of straight wall cases statewide, which would include  
10 the special regulation areas where currently the only  
11 thing that we're allowed to use are shotguns and bows  
12 and arrows. And, you know, most other states, I  
13 think there's only two remaining that have special  
14 shotgun areas that do not allow straight wall cases.  
15 And if it's okay with everybody I'd like to ask  
16 staff to develop language to put before us in April  
17 for consideration to be able to use straight wall  
18 cases in statewide.

19 PRESIDENT FOX: Okay.

20 Another item I'd like to ask staff to  
21 take a look at would be adding a species  
22 opportunities for mentored program, mentored youth,  
23 mentored hunters period. Take that up at a later  
24 time.

25 At this time ---.

1                   COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Mr. Commissioner  
2 or Mr. President, this is Commissioner Layton. Can  
3 I just have a quick minute, please?

4                   PRESIDENT FOX: Yes.

5                   COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Two things. One  
6 is if Director Burhans is listening, and I'm sure he  
7 is, every year I like to get an update, if we can, on  
8 our cave dwelling bats and our situation with White  
9 Nose Syndrome. So I was wondering if we could  
10 either, if either way doesn't matter to me. If we  
11 could get a written report and send it out to the  
12 Commissioners, or if we can have a presentation ready  
13 for April I would appreciate that. Just so we know  
14 where we're at and where we've come to this point.

15                   MR. BURHANS: You bet, Tim. We'll  
16 take care of that, absolutely.

17                   COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Thanks. I  
18 appreciate that.

19                   And one more quick thing. I just  
20 wanted to recognize the retirement of our Southwest  
21 Region Director Tom Fazi. Tom has served the agency  
22 for 30 years and has been a great resource for me and  
23 I know the other Commissioners, and I just want to  
24 thank him for the service and his leadership over the  
25 past few years in the Southwest Region and just wish

1 him all the well, all the best in his future  
2 endeavors. So Tom, if you're listening, thank you  
3 and good luck, my friend.

4 PRESIDENT FOX: I'd like to echo that.

5 MR. BURHANS: Mr. President, if I  
6 could I'd like to echo comments about Tom Fazi. He's  
7 been a tremendous asset to the team. I can remember  
8 the first time I met Tom was probably 25 years ago.  
9 He checked me while I was turkey hunting in Western  
10 Pennsylvania. I liked him ever since, and it's been  
11 such an honor to be able to serve with Tom as part of  
12 the Pennsylvania Game Commission. And he's done an  
13 outstanding job. So thank you Tom for what you've  
14 done.

15 PRESIDENT FOX: All right. Any  
16 discussion on our dates that are proposed for next  
17 year?

18 If not I'd like to just go over them.  
19 April 17th, July 24th, October 1 and 2.

20 At this time I'd like to turn it over  
21 to Commissioner Layton, the election of officers.

22 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Thank you, Mr.  
23 President. I would like to just thank you, President  
24 Fox, for your leadership over this difficult time.  
25 This past year has been really hard on everybody I

1 know. But on the Board, with the Board of  
2 Commissioners not being able to meet face-to-face has  
3 been very difficult. And your ability to keep us  
4 connected through phone calls and emails has just  
5 shown your leadership and your ability to get things  
6 done here with the agency. So thank you very much  
7 for your service and your time here as President.

8 So on behalf of the Pennsylvania Game  
9 Commission I would like to talk about nominees for  
10 the 2021 officers. At this time if I could have a  
11 motion to open the floor to nominees?

12 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved,  
13 Commissioner Fredericks.

14 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: With a motion  
16 and a second all those in favor of opening the floor  
17 say aye.

18 AYES RESPOND

19 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Opposed?

20 NO RESPONSE

21 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Thank you. So I  
22 have spoken to each of the Commissioners individually  
23 and talked to them about their desires for the 2021  
24 officer slate, and with that I would like to offer up  
25 this slate of officers. For President, Commissioner

1 Stan Knick; for Vice President, Commissioner Michael  
2 Mitrick; and as Secretary, Commissioner Kristen  
3 Schnepf-Giger. At this time are there any other  
4 nominations from the floor?

5 NO RESPONSE

6 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Hearing none,  
7 can I have a motion to close nominations?

8 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

9 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

10 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: All in favor of  
11 closing nominations?

12 AYES RESPOND

13 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Thank you. So  
14 for the slate of officers with President Knick, Vice  
15 President Mitrick and Secretary Schnepf-Giger, all  
16 those in favor say aye.

17 AYES RESPOND

18 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Opposed?

19 NO RESPONSE

20 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Congratulations  
21 President Knick, Vice President Mitrick and Secretary  
22 Schnepf-Giger.

23 And I'd like to turn the meeting over  
24 now to President Knick for closure.

25 PRESIDENT KNICK: At this time I'd



1 like to thank the Board for letting me serve as  
2 President, and I'm looking further to working with  
3 the Board to keep the Game Commission moving forward.

4 And from there do we have any public comment or  
5 anything?

6 MR. BURHANS: Yes, President Knick,  
7 could I, this is Bryan Burhans. If I could say a few  
8 words?

9 First, congratulations, President  
10 Knick. I want to take a moment to thank Commissioner  
11 Fox for his service as President. As President, the  
12 President works very closely with the Executive  
13 Director almost on a daily basis. Charlie has always  
14 been there to lend an ear, to talk things through,  
15 has provided great counsel and advice, great  
16 leadership to the Board. I just want to say,  
17 Commissioner Fox, on behalf of all the staff at the  
18 Pennsylvania Game Commission we are grateful for your  
19 leadership and for what you've done to keep this  
20 agency moving forward, so thank you very much.

21 PRESIDENT KNICK: I'd like to echo  
22 Bryan and thank President Fox for his term serving as  
23 President. It was a great pleasure working  
24 underneath him.

25 And do we have anything else from the

1 Board?

2 COMMISSIONER FOX: I never in my  
3 wildest dream thought I'd wind up in this position.  
4 It's been an honor and a privilege. If I, the one  
5 thing that I have to say is I so much appreciate all  
6 the people that I've been able to work with here.  
7 Everyone from food and cover to the Executive  
8 Director. It's been a real pleasure for me and a  
9 real honor, and I thank you.

10 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you Charlie,  
11 do we have a motion to adjourn?

12 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Commissioner  
13 Fredericks, move to adjourn.

14 COMMISSIONER LAYTON: Commissioner  
15 Layton, second.

16 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: All in favor of  
17 the motion signify by saying aye.

18 AYES RESPOND

19 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Opposed?

20 NO RESPONSE

21 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Hearing none,  
22 the motion carries.

23

24

\* \* \* \* \*

25

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:38 A.M.

## CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was reported by me on 01/23/2021 and that I, Evan Bingaman, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding. This notarial act involved the use of communication technology.

Dated the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Evan Bingaman", is written over a horizontal line.

Evan Bingaman,

Court Reporter