

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

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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 10th 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