BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GAME COMMISSION

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

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BEFORE: KRISTEN SCHNEPP-GIGER,
Commissioner
Allen J. DiMarco,
Commissioner
Scott H. Foradora,
Commissioner (via phone)
Dennis R. Fredericks,
Commissioner (via phone)
Haley J. Sankey,
Commissioner

HEARING: Saturday, January 29, 2022
9:07 a.m.

LOCATION: 2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Reporter: Derek Richmond
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APPEARANCES

BRYAN J. BURHANS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

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

GIGER:

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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(WHEREUPON, THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED.)

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COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-

GIGER:

We'll do a roll call of Commissioners. As I'm sure if you're in the gallery you see a couple new faces up here, so this is my heads-up for my new colleagues. I'll maybe have you introduce yourself. Just give a sentence or two and go from there.

So working down the list, Mr. Allen DiMarco?

COMMISSIONER DIMARCO:

Present.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-
GIGER: Commissioner Foradora, via phone, are you present?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Here.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-

GIGER: Commissioner Fredericks?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Here.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-

GIGER: Commissioner Haley Sankey?

COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Present.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-

GIGER: And Commissioner Schnepp-Giger, myself, present. I'm going to give this back to Commissioner DiMarco. Would you introduce yourself briefly?

COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I'm from central
Pennsylvania, a little bit south of Williamsport. I've been in public education practically all my life. And I'm a farmer. I farm approximately 330 acres. I run about 75 head of beef cattle. I have three sons. Well, let me back up. I like to say I'm a big farmer. Obviously, in today's respect, that's not very big, but I am in three counties. I do live in the area of State Game Lands 252. In fact, my property line and state game lands borders one another. So I do get the chance to see quite a few hunters back and forth.

I'm anxious to start this position and do what I can to foster the opportunity for residents and especially young residents to enjoy and get involved in hunting and enjoy the activities of the outdoors.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-

GIGER:

Thank you, Commissioner DiMarco. Look forward to working with
you.

Commissioner Sankey?

COMMISSIONER SANKEY:

Hi. I'm Haley Sankey, and I'm a teacher and advisor at Penn State University. I've been hunting and fishing my whole life and enjoy the outdoors. And I've been learning a ton the last ten years, and I look forward to learning more and serving on the board.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP- GIGER:

Thank you. It's great to have you on the board.

So with that we have five seated Commissioners. We do not have a quorum. What does that mean?

ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

Thank you, Commissioner. I anticipated this question would come up, so I've prepared a little bit of remarks. They're very short. I'll give you some ideas for the public. The Board has failed to reach a quorum
of six Commissioners, as required by
Section 321 of the Game and Wildlife
Code.

There are vacant Board
seats, which means that the Board
cannot reach a quorum. As a result,
the Board cannot lawfully conduct
business or take any action today or
any date in the future until the
quorum is reached. This specifically
means, in addition to the other
important business currently on the
agenda, the Board cannot propose
seasons and bag limits or hunting
hours for the '22/'23 license year.
Coincidentally, it also means the
Board cannot elect new officers for
the year.

So you might be asking
so what's this mean? What's that mean
for my ability to hunt and trap?
There are two paths forward, more
importantly, both paths lead to
hunters and furtakers, it leads to
access to seasons and bags and hunting
hours for next year. The first path is heavily committed on timing, if a quorum of six Commissioners is reached with enough time to complete rulemaking and comply with the law, and if the board wants to change seasons and bag limits for social or biological reasons, the Board could try to set new meetings dates for late winter or early spring. This path is largely business as usual. It is anticipated to have impacts to early access to print copies of the Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping Digest because of shipping schedules.

The second path forward is essentially a default procedure, as already set forth in the Game and Wildlife Code, Section 2102(b)(2). This means that seasons and bag limits previously set for the 2021/2022 license year will be applied to the 2022/2023 license year, minus one day, to accommodate the calendar change. This path also provides a viable path
forward to provide hunting and fur-taking opportunities as well as to protect the resources. Silver lining, the Commission maintains the ability to print and ship the schedules for the Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping Digest.

So when a quorum is reached, the Board will have to balance their opportunities to provide the resource protection with the legal possibilities moving forward. However, at this point our only choices are, frankly, to adjourn or recess.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-GER:

With that, this meeting is adjourned.

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MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:14 A.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, hearing was held before Secretary Schnepp-Giger, was reported by me on January 29, 2022 and that I, Derek Richmond, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Date the 21 day of February, 2022

[Signature]

Derek Richmond,
Court Reporter