

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
PENNSYLVANIA

GAME COMMISSION

\* \* \* \* \*

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

\* \* \* \* \*

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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A P P E A R A N C E S

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

BRADLEY C. BECHTEL, ESQUIRE  
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Counsel for Pennsylvania Game  
Commission

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NONE OFFERED

P R O C E E D I N G S

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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-

1 GIGER:

2 Commissioner Foradora,  
3 via phone, are you present?

4 COMMISSIONER FORADORA:

5 Here.

6 COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-

7 GIGER:

8 Commissioner Fredericks?

9 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS:

10 Here.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-

12 GIGER:

13 Commissioner Haley

14 Sankey?

15 COMMISSIONER SANKEY:

16 Present.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-

18 GIGER:

19 And Commissioner  
20 Schnepf-Giger, myself, present.

21 I'm going to give this  
22 back to Commissioner DiMarco. Would  
23 you introduce yourself briefly?

24 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO:

25 I'm from central

1 Pennsylvania, a little bit south of  
2 Williamsport. I've been in public  
3 education practically all my life.  
4 And I'm a farmer. I farm  
5 approximately 330 acres. I run about  
6 75 head of beef cattle. I have three  
7 sons. Well, let me back up. I like  
8 to say I'm a big farmer. Obviously,  
9 in today's respect, that's not very  
10 big, but I am in three counties. I do  
11 live in the area of State Game Lands  
12 252. In fact, my property line and  
13 state game lands borders one another.  
14 So I do get the chance to see quite a  
15 few hunters back and forth.

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

22 COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-

23 GIGER:

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

1       you.

2                               Commissioner Sankey?

3                               COMMISSIONER SANKEY:

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

12                              COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-  
13      GIGER:

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

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

19                              ATTORNEY BECHTEL:

20                              Thank you, Commissioner.  
21      I anticipated this question would come  
22      up, so I've prepared a little bit of  
23      remarks. They're very short. I'll  
24      give you some ideas for the public.  
25      The Board has failed to reach a quorum



1 of six Commissioners, as required by  
2 Section 321 of the Game and Wildlife  
3 Code.

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

19 So you might be asking  
20 so what's this mean? What's that mean  
21 for my ability to hunt and trap?  
22 There are two paths forward, more  
23 importantly, both paths lead to  
24 hunters and furtakers, it leads to  
25 access to seasons and bags and hunting

1 hours for next year. The first path  
2 is heavily committed on timing, if a  
3 quorum of six Commissioners is reached  
4 with enough time to complete  
5 rulemaking and comply with the law,  
6 and if the board wants to change  
7 seasons and bag limits for social or  
8 biological reasons, the Board could  
9 try to set new meetings dates for late  
10 winter or early spring. This path is  
11 largely business as usual. It is  
12 anticipated to have impacts to early  
13 access to print copies of the  
14 Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping  
15 Digest because of shipping schedules.

16 The second path forward  
17 is essentially a default procedure, as  
18 already set forth in the Game and  
19 Wildlife Code, Section 2102(b)(2).  
20 This means that seasons and bag limits  
21 previously set for the 2021/2022  
22 license year will be applied to the  
23 2022/2023 license year, minus one day,  
24 to accommodate the calendar change.  
25 This path also provides a viable path

1 forward to provide hunting and  
2 furtaking opportunities as well as to  
3 protect the resources. Silver lining,  
4 the Commission maintains the ability  
5 to print and ship the schedules for  
6 the Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping  
7 Digest.

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

16 COMMISSIONER SCHNEPP-

17 GIGER:

18 With that, this meeting is adjourned.

19  
20 \* \* \* \* \*

21 MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:14 A.M.

22 \* \* \* \* \*  
23  
24  
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## CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, hearing was held before Secretary Schnepf-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

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

Derek Richmond,

Court Reporter