PRESIDENT ISABELLA: I'd like to call this meeting -- our business meeting to order, and welcome,
ladies and gentlemen. First off, I'd like you to stand for
the pledge of allegiance.
(Pledge of allegiance)
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: At this time I'd like to
roll call the commissioners.
COMMISSIONER WEANER: All commissioners are here
and accounted for.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: At this time I'd like a
motion for approval of the minutes -- minutes of the meeting
held on January 27th.
COMMISSIONER BOOP: So moved.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: A motion by Commissioner
Boop. Second?
COMMISSIONER WEANER: Second.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Second by Commissioner
Weaner.
Any discussion? With that, all in favor of the
minutes signify by saying aye.
(Ayes)
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?
COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is
unanimously yes.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Okay. At this time I'd
MR. BECHTEL: Thank you. The first item to come before the commission today is from the Bureau of Wildlife Management. It concerns the Deer Management Assistance Program Records Release.

The Deer Management Assistance Program, or DMAP, was developed to provide landowners an additional tool to reduce deer impacts on their property through hunting and facilitate accomplishment of the landowner's land use objectives. Landowners have an interest in knowing more about hunter participation via DMAP on their property, hunting success, hunter impressions about deer availability and quality, access issues, habitat conditions, and so forth.

In an effort to monitor and administer better their DMAP program, landowner participants, particularly large property owners with large numbers of coupons, are requesting from the Commission DMAP participant address and contact information to survey them.

34 Pa. C.S. Section 325(c)(5) specifically prohibits disclosure of this type of information except as authorized by action of the Commission. In our continuing effort to work with participating DMAP landowners and improve DMAP program efficacy, Commission staff is seeking
authorization to provide landowners with contact information for hunters who have obtained DMAP permits for their enrolled DMAP property. The hunting license and permit information released shall be limited to the name, address, phone number, hunting license number, and DMAP harvest permit number. This authorization shall not in any manner be construed to authorize the release or distribution of social security numbers, dates of birth or sensitive financial data.

The Executive Director and staff recommend that the Commission authorize staff to release DMAP hunter contact information to DMAP landowners who request this information.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Is there a motion?
COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: So moved.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Is there a second?
COMMISSIONER PALONE: Second.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Any discussion? With no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?
COMMISSIONER WEANER: A unanimous vote, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item to come before the
Commission concerns State Wildlife Grants Program. Last year Congress authorized $4.9 million for the State Wildlife Grants, or SWG, Competitive Program in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008. This competitive program was open to states, the District of Columbia, commonwealths, and territories that have an approved Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan.

In November the Game Commission submitted a 1.38-million-dollar project proposal for the Competitive State Wildlife Grants Program entitled "White Nose Syndrome: Multi-state Coordination, Investigation and Rapid Response to an Emerging Wildlife Health Threat." We were joined in the proposal by eleven state partners and five NGO partners. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expects to announce awards this spring. Upon award of the funds, recipients are expected to initiate planned research and monitoring as expeditiously as possible. A small portion of the available funds will be used to subsidize agency staff work; however, a majority of grants funds will be used to manage and oversee the multi-state effort.

We are seeking Commission approval to initiate cooperative agreements needed to formalize coordination and research responsibilities to implement this multi-state project. We intend to contract with Dr. Joe Duchamp and Dr. Jeff Larkin, Indiana University of Pennsylvania Research
Institute for Project Management, Field and Laboratory Investigations in monitoring activities of all state and non-governmental organization participants at a cost not to exceed $490,000.

This project will not require any net reduction in the Game Fund. The Game Fund will be reimbursed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Aid Program using SWG funds.

The Executive Director and staff recommend approval of this State Wildlife Grants project.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Brad. You've heard the commentary. Do I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: So moved.

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Second.


COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: I would just like to comment and commend the Bureau of Wildlife Management for taking the lead among the states on this matter.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Commissioner. Any other discussion? Commissioner Delaney.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Yes, Carl. I'm also impressed with the federal government and the moneys, the way they are today and the economy, to be able to get money
to deal with the issues with bats. I'm not sure the public realizes how dire this White Nose Syndrome is, and I'm happy that our agency has taken the lead to try to curtail or look at least at the disease process and hopefully try to fix it.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Any other discussion?
Well, I'll make a comment here. Now that we have the outdoor writers here, I guess they'll be publishing that we got our stimulus check.

With that, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?
COMMISSIONER WEANER: The vote was unanimously yes.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item to come before the Commission concerns Adopted Rulemaking, the adoption of proposed amendments to Section 139.4.

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission at its January 27, 2009 meeting, proposed the following changes.

Amend Section 139.4 relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2009-2010 hunting license year.
The Executive Director and staff recommend final adoption of these amendments to 58 Pa. Code as shown on Exhibit C on Pages 5 through 12 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Okay. You heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schleiden.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Second?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schreffler.

Discussion? Commissioners, what I'll do is we'll take each page and if anyone wants to discuss anything, just let me know. So Page 5. Page 6. Page 7. Commissioner Schreffler.

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Yes. I would like to amend the turkey season for Wildlife Management Unit 2F. I would like to remove Wildlife Management Unit 2F from the three-week season of October 31st to November 23rd and put it in the two-week season, which it had been in previously, October 31st to November 14th for one more year.

The reason for this is -- okay. That's the amendment.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Okay. The amendment, if I understand you correctly, Commissioner Schreffler, is on Page 7 under WMU 2F, you want to move that from the
three-week season to the next line above where it commences
at October 31st and ends November 14th?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: That's correct.
COMMISSIONER WEANER: I second the motion.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Seconded by Commissioner Weaner. All those in favor?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Point of order.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: I'm sorry. Discussion.
COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: My reason for this is
the adopted turkey management plan currently states to
assess the monitoring for a three-year period which would
require one more year before changing. 1995 was noted as
our baseline year because it had the highest population. To
extend the full season for the three weeks, the previous
three-year trend should have been involved in that and it
was not. We need to be positive to make sure that our
attempts will not suppress the population.

If the previous three-year population trends
below the impact of 1995 and shows a decline, which they are
in this case, then we need to maintain the season length, as
in this case, to two weeks. Our fall harvest seems to have
more impact on the spring breeding population than the other
seasons. 2F was below the 1995 numbers with the declining
spring harvest even though -- with the declining spring
harvest even though that some of the sightings were up
in '08. A third year is needed to monitor turkeys and if the summer sightings in '09 spring harvest continues to show a trend, we can make a decision on that. If the harvest value increases in '09, then we can increase the season next year.

Again, I'd like to emphasize that I feel that the turkey population gain depends a great deal on the fall harvest management, and the fall harvest season has a great effect on the population.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Commissioner.

Any more discussion?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Mr. President.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Mr. Schleiden.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: While I respect Commissioner Schreffler's comments and reasoning and I do support the study, however, what we're really talking about here is birds per square mile on this harvest which is very impressive because it's big, but we're really talking a difference of about a half a bird per harvest per square mile. So when you look at this thing, it's expanded, but that's really what we're talking about based on the harvest index you're referring to.

So that was my reason for moving forward with 2F. We did that with 2G, we did it with 4D, and there was a discussion there. And if you look at 2G and you look
at 4D, you'll see that in spite of the fact that we had it
for three weeks, the population has grown. The input that I
received up there both from staff and from others, you could
stand the three weeks and it's been three weeks since 1995.
So I respectfully request that the board support it. Thank
you.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Any other discussion? With
no more discussion, all those in favor of the amendment
signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: All those in favor of the
amendment, please signify by raising your right hand.

Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is
5 to 2 in favor. Commissioner Isabella and Commissioner
Schleiden voting no. The rest voting yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: The amendment passes.

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, under Elk
on Page 10, we've created a special license sold at auction,
and therefore I'm interested in creating a special season
for that license. Therefore, I move that there be a special
season created for that one elk tag that will start on
September 1 and run until November 7th.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Is there a motion on that
amendment?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Second?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Second by Commissioner Schleiden. Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the reason I brought up this amendment is that in some states where they have similar tags available they do have special seasons. We felt if someone's going to bid, pay a lot of money for this tag, they might not -- it might not necessarily be convenient to hunt during the time that we have normally allotted in the off season, and we figured this would provide more opportunity, therefore possibly garner a higher bid price. And so therefore that's why I'm suggesting this.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Commissioner.

All those in favor of the amendment -- oh, I'm sorry. Commissioner Boop.

COMMISSIONER BOOP: Just a point of clarification. And I don't recall from our discussion yesterday, this tag or license can be used in all zones; is that my understanding?

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER BOOP: All zones.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: All zones from September 1st to November 2nd.

COMMISSIONER BOOP: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: All those in favor of the amendment signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed.

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote was unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.


We're now going to vote on the amended proposal. All those in favor of it, please signify by raising --

COMMISSIONER BOOP: Point of clarification. Are we voting on what's --

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: No.

COMMISSIONER BOOP: What are we voting on?

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: The seasons and bag limits and the -- those two amendments that passed.

COMMISSIONER BOOP: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: There is a change on Page 12. And the change is Footnote Number 7, we are eliminating from half hour before sunrise to sunset. And Footnote Number 8, we are eliminating from half hour before
sunrise to sunset.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: This is in reference to bobcat.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: I make a motion.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Motion by Commissioner Schleiden. Second?

COMMISSIONER PALONE: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Second by Commissioner Palone. Any discussion? No discussion. All those in favor of the change signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote was unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. So now we're going to vote on the amended proposal. And all those in favor signify by raising your right hand.

Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote was unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item before the agenda is the Adoption of Proposed Amendments to Section 141.28.

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of
this Commonwealth, the Game Commission at its January 27, 2009 meeting proposed the following change.

To Amend Second 141.28 relating to wild pheasant recovery areas to define the geographic locations of the wild pheasant recovery areas and prohibit the release of propagated pheasants and certain dog training activities within the same.

The Executive Director and staff recommend final adoption of this amendment to 58 Pa. Code as shown on Exhibit D on Pages 14 and 15 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: We heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: I'll make that motion.

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Second, Commissioner Weaner. Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: President Isabella, I have -- I asked for this amendment just to show for the record just some minor geographical changes we added Greenwood Valley and there is some cosmetic changes for the Somerset Wild Pheasant Recovery Area. Would you like to have this -- the entire amendment read or we just vote on it?

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: I don't think -- I don't think so. We discussed this. We pretty much have a general
COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Okay. I make a motion.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: So with that all those -- I need a second for the amendment.

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Weaner. Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Mr. President, listening to the folks who testified yesterday, it did have me somewhat concerned about the dog training portion of it. What I understand is that's going to be a temporary thing until we get the activities established, and I also believe we'll make some corrections along that line so that in fact expands.

I guess when comes to dog training and some of these things, Commissioner Guilford used to say be careful not to put the camel's nose under the tent. I just want to caution our board members for the future reference not to get carried away with that in other areas. This is only about a hundred thousand acres, is that right, Jay?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Yes, sir, less than that.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Mr. President, I'm supporting the amendment, of course.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Commissioner.
Any further discussion? Commissioner Delaney.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: I'd just like to take Commissioner Schleiden's step a little bit further in that in order to reestablish wild pheasants in Pennsylvania we need to give these pheasants the best opportunities to reestablish themselves. And there's no doubt, as we talked before, there will be some sacrifice to be able to achieve that goal.

And working along with our partner, Pheasants Forever, and our own biologists, we think to give these birds the best opportunity is to have these minor changes to the dog training and the release of propagated pheasants in these areas. And I'm thankful if the board would consider that in their vote.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Boop.

COMMISSIONER BOOP: Covered by the previous comments.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you. All those in favor of the amendment signifying by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Now we're going to vote on the amended proposal. All those in favor signify by saying
aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item concerns the adoption of the proposed amendments to Section 141.66.

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission at its January 27, 2009 meeting proposed the following change.

Amend Section 141.66 relating to cable restraints to permit properly licensed trappers to take and utilize non target furbearing species captured in a cable restraint device during an open season for the same.

The Executive Director and the staff recommend final adoption of this amendment to 58 Pa. Code as shown on Exhibit E on Page 17 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: You heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER BOOP: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Mr. Boop. Second?

COMMISSIONER PALONE: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Palone. Any discussion? No discussion. All in favor signify by saying
aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Protection. First is the Report of Notational Vote.

On January 27, 2008, the Commission finally adopted various regulatory amendments that, in relevant part, authorized broad use of the crossbow during deer and bear archery seasons. This broad authorization was qualified or limited by language prohibiting the use of magnifying optics on crossbows.

In light of extensive public comment received by the Commission concerning the prohibition on the use of magnifying optics on crossbows during the respective archery seasons, the Commission is prepared to revisit and promote further discussion on the issue.

To this end the Commission is proposing to amend Sections 143.43 and 143.44 to remove the prohibition on the use of magnifying optics on crossbows. The text of those changes appear on Page 18.

The Executive Director and staff recommend the
Commission approve these changes.
The notational vote was tabulated on March 4, 2009, with a result of a 4-3 vote in favor of the proposal. And the votes are as shown on your agenda on Page 19.
The next item to come before the agenda is adopted rulemaking. This concerns the adoption of proposed amendments to Section 131.8.

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission at its January 27, 2009 meeting proposed the following change.

Amend Section 131.8 relating to replacement costs for wildlife killed to provide a more comprehensive list of applicable costs for all of the various wildlife species found within this Commonwealth.

The Executive Director and staff recommend final adoption of this amendment to 58 Pa. Code as shown on Exhibit B on Page 21 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: You've heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schleiden.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Delaney. Any discussion? No discussion. All in favor signify by saying aye.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item concerns the adoption of proposed amendments to Section 141.4. To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission at its January 27, 2009 meeting proposed the following changes.

Amend Section 141.4 relating to hunting hours to update the tables of hunting hours for the 2009-2010 hunting year to reflect the annual change in days and subsequent hunting times.

The Executive Director and staff recommend final adoption of these amendments to 58 Pa. Code as shown on Exhibit C on Pages 23 through 25 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: You've heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Weaner. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schreffler.

Any discussion? Commissioner Schreffler.
COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: I would like to make one comment to those of you in the audience and others that the tables are split into two, one is for hunting hours and the other is for migratory game bird hunting hours because there was some discrepancy in the hours. Just point that out. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Commissioner. Any further discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote was unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item to come before the Commission is the adoption of proposed amendments to Chapter 143 by reserving Subchapter M and Chapter 147, by adding Subchapter X.

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of the Commonwealth, the Game Commission at it's January 27, 2009 meeting proposed the following changes.

Amend Chapter 143 by reserving Subchapter M relating to mentored youth hunting program license exemption and Chapter 147 by adding Subchapter X relating to mentored youth hunting program permit to implement a permitting
process to gain authorization to participate in the program. The Executive Director and staff recommend final adoption of these amendments of 58 Pa. Code as shown on Exhibit D on Pages 27 through 29 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: You've heard the commentary. Is there a motion? Commissioner Schleiden.

Second?

COMMISSIONER PALONE: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Palone.

Discussion? No discussion. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote was unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item concerns the adoption of the proposed amendments to Sections 141.43 and 141.44.

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission by notational vote completed on March 4, 2009, proposed the following change.

To Amend Sections 141.43 and 141.44 (relating to deer and bear) to remove the prohibition on the use of magnifying telescopic sights on bows and crossbows during
The Executive Director and staff recommend final adoption of this amendment to 58 Pa. Code as shown on Exhibit E on Pages 31 and 32 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Brad. You heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schleiden.

Second?

COMMISSIONER PALONE: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Palone.

Discussion? No discussion. All in favor of the proposal please raise you right hand. Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is 6 to 1. Mr. Schreffler voted no. Everyone else voted yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item before the Commission concerns the proposed rulemaking. Amend 58 Pa. Code, Section 135.41.

Drug use and related drug crime has been a recurring problem that has plagued State game lands properties across the Commonwealth for decades. The Commission has and will continue to maintain a zero tolerance policy for drug use and related drug crime on State game lands in its continuing efforts to maintain these
lands for their primary purposes of providing and conserving habitat for the Commonwealth's wildlife resources, as well as providing public access to open lands for recreational hunting and trapping activities.

The Commission has determined that although current regulatory provisions clearly prohibit the use and possession of controlled substances, they fail to clearly prohibit the use and possession of drug paraphernalia. The Commission has also determined that the use and possession of drug paraphernalia on State game lands is just as deleterious as their related drug substances.

In an effort to address this concern, the Commission is proposing to amend Section 135.41 to specifically prohibit the use or possession of drug paraphernalia on State game lands. The text is shown on Page of 33 of your agenda.

The Executive Director and staff recommend the Commission approve this change.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Brad. All right. Commissioners, you heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schreffler.

Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Second.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Delaney.

Discussion? No discussion. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item concerns an amendment to 58 Pa. Code Section 135.48.

During the fall hunting seasons each year, the Commission enhances disabled hunter/trapper access to interior portions of its various State game land holdings across the Commonwealth by opening certain designated roads normally closed to public travel to limited vehicular travel by persons issued a Use of a Vehicle as a Blind/Disabled Person Permit. Traditionally, travel on these designated roads has been strictly limited to one-way travel.

In an effort to further expand this access, the Commission has determined that directional travel and related limitations should be determined on a location-specific rather than on an across-the-board basis. Under this structure some roads will remain limited to one-way travel while other roads may be expanded to two-way travel, all based upon location and specific conditions.
The Commission is proposing to amend Section 135.48 to remove the one-way travel limitation affecting the limited travel permitted on designated State game land roads and replace it with an open travel allowance that is subject to further limitation based upon existing weather or road conditions.

The text of this amendment is found on Page 34 of your agenda.

The Executive Director and staff recommend the Commission approve this change.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Brad. We heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schreffler. A second?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schleiden. Any discussion? No discussion. All those in favor signifying by saying aye.

(AYE)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: The vote is unanimously yes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item concerns the
amendment to 58 Pa. Code Section 135.103.

The Commission currently maintains two controlled goose hunting areas across the Commonwealth at its Pymatuning and Middle Creek Wildlife Management Areas. As a measure to promote full and equal opportunity for all Pennsylvania goose hunters, the Commission has limited hunters to hunt only one day per season on only one controlled goose hunting area as either a reservation holder or a guest of a reservation holder. Although a rare occasion, the lack of flexibility of this restriction has had the unfortunate consequence of limiting the Commission's ability to fill unclaimed blinds when there was an absence of available first-time hunter applicants present on the morning of the designated shooting day.

The Commission has determined that it can continue to promote full and equal opportunity for all Pennsylvania goose hunters while also advancing the fullest utilization of its unclaimed blinds by amending this restriction.

The Commission is proposing to amend Section 135.103 to permit persons who have previously hunted a controlled goose hunting area to make application for unclaimed blinds on the morning of the designated shooting day, but only when there exists an absence of applications for the unclaimed blinds from persons who have not
previously hunted a controlled goose hunting area. The text is found on Pages 35 and 36 of your agenda. The Executive Director and staff recommend the Commission approve this change.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Brad. Commissioners, you heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Delaney.

Second?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schreffler. Any discussion? No discussion. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item concerns the amendment of 58 Pa. Code Sections 141.47, 141.49 and 147.701 and to add Subchapter Y, Sections 147.901 through 147.905 to Chapter 147. Currently Sections 147.47, 141.49 and 147.701 separately provide for the permitting of persons guiding
other hunters or trappers in their pursuit of elk and
bobcats. The Commission has determined that these
provisions fail to adequately define and implement all of
the necessary aspects of the permitted process concerning
this activity.

In an effort to correct this deficiency, the
Commission is proposing to amend Sections 141.47, 141.49 and
147.701, and to add Subchapter Y, Sections 147.901 through
147.905 to Chapter 147 to relocate, consolidate and more
clearly define the permitting process for persons interested
in guiding other hunters or trappers for certain designated
species. Some notable changes will be increases in the
permit fees, as well as more stringent eligibility
standards.

The text of these changes appears on Pages 37
through 40 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Brad.
Commissioners, you heard the commentary. Is there a motion?
COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: So moved.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schreffler.
Second?
COMMISSIONER PALONE: Second.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Palone. Any
discussion? Commissioner Schreffler.
COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: I would like to
commend the Bureau of Wildlife Protection for their continuing efforts in consolidating and simplifying the regulations which certainly are part of that. I think that's making a real difference for everyone being able to use the regulations. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Commissioner. Any other discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item concerns the Amendment of 58 Pa. Code Section 147.142.

The Game and Wildlife Code and its attendant regulations currently lack a specific permit classification that authorizes the Commission to authorize residents of this Commonwealth to possess and consume the edible portions of game or wildlife that do not meet the current eligibility criteria of Section 147.142 (relating to possession of wildlife accidentally killed by a motor vehicle), including, but not limited to, mistake kills, agricultural or property protection kills and illegal kills. Despite this absence of a specific permit classification, the Commission has found
pragmatic approaches to informally authorize the possession and consumption of the edible portions of the applicable game or wildlife to make legitimate use of these valuable wildlife resources.

The Commission has determined that it has become necessary to more formally and clearly define and implement a permitting process by which these distributions should occur. The Commission is proposing to amend Section 147.142 to expand the section's coverage application to cover wildlife disposition generally pursuant to a consumption permit.

The text of these changes are on Pages 41 through 43 of your agenda.

The Executive Director and staff recommend the Commission approve this change.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Brad. Commissioners, you heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER BOOP: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Boop. Second?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Weaner. Any discussion? I have a question. Rich, I just want to clarify. For deer and turkey, it's an automatic pickup?

MR. PALMER: Yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: They still have to phone
MR. PALMER: Yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Okay. And for elk and bear?

MR. PALMER: Elk and bear cannot be taken possession of by a Pennsylvania resident until a Commission officer physically arrives and issues them a permit at that time.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schleiden.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Rich, nonresidents who are traveling through the state, what do they do?

MR. PALMER: This does not apply to nonresidents.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: I'm sorry?

MR. PALMER: This regulation does not apply to nonresidents.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Does not apply to nonresidents?

MR. PALMER: That's correct.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Any other discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is unanimously yes.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item before the Commission concerns Hunting License Revocations—Convictions. Proposed recommendations to revoke the hunting and furtaking privileges of the individuals convicted of violating the Game and Wildlife Code.

The Commission, under authority of the Game and Wildlife Code, may revoke any hunting license and furtaker's license and deny any person the right to secure a license or to hunt and furtake anywhere in the Commonwealth, with or without a license, if said licensee or person has been convicted or signed an acknowledgment of violating any provision of the Game and Wildlife Code.

The Commission may revoke such licenses for a period of not to exceed three years for the first offense; for a second or subsequent offense, for such a period of time as the Commission shall determine.

Persons denied the right to hunt or furtake in the Commonwealth through this action are notified by certified mail that the revocation will commence July 1, 2009, and continue for such period of time as set forth following the individual's name. The symbol RA means the revocation was added to an existing revocation.

In accordance with the Administrative Agency Law of April 28, 1978, the person placed on revocation has the
opportunity for an Administrative Hearing concerning the hunting license revocation. If an Administrative Hearing is requested, a petition for review must be filed at the Commission Headquarters within 30 days from the date of notice. Unless deemed in the best interest of the Commission by the Director or a designee, hearings shall be conducted at the central office. Hearings will be conducted in accordance with the General Rules of Administrative Practice and Procedure, 1 Pa., Code 31.1 et seq.

The hearing itself will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 35 of the Rules and Chapter 145 of the Pa. Code.

The Executive Director and the Wildlife Protection Director recommend that the Commission revoke the hunting and furtaking license privileges of the persons named by the Bureau of Wildlife Protection. Such revocation shall become effective July 1, 2009, and shall continue for such period of time under the conditions set forth following each individual's name.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Brad. You've heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

MR. PALMER: Mr. President, there is one change to the revocation list that the board has been provided. That change is number 105 on the revocation list. That individual has filed an appeal and we do not wish to proceed
with revocation until that appeal is completed.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Rich.

Commissioner Schleiden.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: I make a motion that we accept the commentary as read and the inclusion of the supplemented evidence.

COMMISSIONER BOOP: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Seconded by Commissioner Boop. Any further discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item concerns a supplement to your agenda. The next item concerns the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management Real Estate items for acquisition.

The first is Contract Number 3547, State Game Land No. 44, Elk County. 37.5 acres of land in Fox Township, Elk County, adjoining State Game Land Number 44 (Exhibit Red 1). The purchase price of $30,600 is to be paid by third-party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses from previously approved Commission
actions involving oil, gas and mineral recovery. The
sellers shall retain all coal, oil and gas rights. The
property is a reclaimed surface mine. Trees and grasses
were planted as part of the reclamation requirements
creating a grassland interspersed with black locust.

Acquiring this property will reduce the size of an interior that was created when 1,555 acres were added to State Game Land No. 44 in June of 2008, and more recently when an additional 376-acre parcel was approved for acquisition from the New Shawmut Timber Company at the January 2009 Commission meeting. A township road borders the eastern side of the property and provided excellent access to the game lands.

Contract No. 3548, State Game Land No. 168, Northampton County is 12 acres of land in Bushkill Township, Northampton County adjoining State Game Land No. 168 as shown on Exhibit Red 2 on Page 47 of your agenda. This land consisting of three tracts is being offered to the Game Commission by the Wildlands Conservancy, Inc., for $12,000 lump sum. The wooded tracts are located on the south side of the Blue Mountain and have mature mixed oaks, maples, black gym and birch growing on the property. There are a few spring seeps located on the lower portion of the property as well as a headwater stream of the Bushkill Creek.
Acquiring these tracts will begin to fill in an indenture into State Game Land No. 168. The purchase price is to be paid by third-party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses from previously approved Commission actions involving oil, gas and mineral property.

The Executive Director and staff recommend the options listed above be accepted and the Commission authorizes the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management to proceed with the acquisition of these tracts.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Brad. You heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Delaney.

Second?

COMMISSIONER BOOP: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Boop.

Discussion? No discussion. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote was unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item appears on Page 48 of your agenda. It concerns a land exchange. Contract
Number 3549, State Game Land Number 289, Bradford County.
The Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority has proposed a land exchange of 26.1 acres of State Game Land No. 289 in West Burlington Township, Bradford County, one containing approximately 53.87 acres, and the other tract being 23.4 acres as shown on Exhibit Red 3 on Page 50 of your agenda.

As part of the agreement, the Commission shall agree to a relocation of Township Road T-357 located north of the property being conveyed to the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority to continue and enhance operations at its landfill site in West Burlington Township, Bradford County.

The 26.1-acre portion of State Game Land Number 289 being exchanged with the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority is a four-plus-year-old red pine plantation creating a monoculture with limited wildlife habitat value. The 53.87-acre tract is mostly wooded with mixed oaks, maples, eastern hemlock and pine species. The age class is roughly 40 percent mature timber, 40 percent pole timber and 20 percent seedling sapling. Approximately 10 acres are a reverting old hay field.

The property is bounded by Route 6 to the south and provides access into the property. The 23.4-acre tract from the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority is an indenture into State Game Land No. 289 consisting of a mature stand of hemlock and white pine interspersed with mixed hardwoods.
Mill Creek flows through the southwest corner of this property. This tract is surrounded on three sides by State Game Land No. 289, and acquiring this parcel will reduce future boundary line maintenance.

This exchange is contingent upon approval from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the National Park Service since the 26.1 acres of State Game Land No. 289 was acquired in part with funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

The Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority also entered into a cooperative agreement with the Commission to transfer an additional 35-acre tract adjoining State Game Land No. 289 to the Commission upon settlement of the above land exchange. As part of its continued operation, the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority may desire to use topsoil from this 35-acre property and has retained the rights to remove said topsoil now or in the future.

Northeast Region personnel have determined this property is conducive for creating a wetland complex and deem the conversion to a wetland complex acceptable mitigation for removal of topsoil. The Commission agrees to assist with the design of the wetland complex prior to the topsoil removal by offering its expertise on creating wetlands. To the extent of available and budgeted funds, the Commission will offer manpower and equipment to be used
only on the portion of the property being made into wetlands. This tract is almost entirely tillable agricultural soils with a narrow wooded riparian corridor running parallel to Sugar Creek which is the southern boundary. The lower sections of the property are seasonally flooded. Access into the property is possible from Route 6, a portion of its northern boundary, and Carman Road, its western boundary.

The Executive Director and staff recommend that the land exchange listed above be approved and the Commission authorize the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management to proceed with this exchange.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Brad. Commissioners, you heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schleiden.

Second?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Delaney.

Discussion? Commissioner Delaney.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Yes. Bill, I'm maybe not the best mathematician in the world, but 26 acres for 113 is fairly awesome in my mind so I just wanted to compliment you and Regional Director Steve Schweitzer. This is with a
complicated issue, but I think certainly that the sportsmen are going to get a heck of a lot more of a return than what they once had if my fellow commissioners support this bill.

MR. CAPOUILLEZ: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Any more discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item before the Commission concerns the settlement of dispute on State Game Land No. 44, Elk County.

By deed dated June 19, 2008, the Commission acquired a tract of land comprised of 4,968.2 acres in Horton Township, Elk County, from New Shawmut Timber Company. The acquisition was funded by moneys set aside by a third party as security for commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses from previously approved Commission actions involving oil, gas and mineral recovery.

At the time of this conveyance, there was an outstanding right of first refusal for a 35.53-acre parcel in favor of Ronald, Timothy and Matthew Rogos dated July 1, 2002. This parcel is shown on Exhibit Red 4 on Page 52 of
your agenda. The deed to the Commission included this 35.53-acre parcel which the Rogos have demanded be conveyed to them.

In an effort to settle this dispute, the Commission and the Rogos have negotiated a proposed course of action. The Commission would convey a 35.53-acre property as shown on Exhibit Red 4 to Ronald, Timothy and Matthew Rogos. Ronald, Timothy and Matthew Rogos will reimburse the third party in the amount that they paid for the property, which is $400 per acre. The money will then be used to meet their commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses.

This settlement will result in clearing a cloud on title and fostering cooperation with private parties. In addition, the third party will still meet their commitments so the Commission and wildlife resources will benefit.

The Executive Director and staff recommend the settlement listed above be approved and the Commission authorizes the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management to proceed with the settlement agreement as outlined.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Brad. Now you've heard the commentary. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Schleiden.

Second?
COMMISSIONER PALONE: Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner Palone. Any discussion? No discussion. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, the vote is unanimously yes.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Okay. We're going go into new business. And the first item I'd like to turn over to Executive Director Roe.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROE: Thank you, Mr. President. Although it's not usual, it certainly isn't without precedent, as you know this year we had the opportunity to auction off our first elk -- conservation elk tag. And only fitting a gentleman from Pennsylvania in fact acquired that.

So, Jim Knight, if you'll come down here and let me recognize you for your generous donation on behalf of the Wild Turkey Federation. You not only had the opportunity to hunt one of our great elk in Pennsylvania, but we'd like to give you this as a recognition for the -- and get it on the official record of a Commission meeting that you were the first to get a conservation tag in Pennsylvania. Thank you, Jim.
(Applause)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: I will say it was pretty exciting being at the table while the bidding was going on, but what was even better was the exchange of conversation afterward with the losing party. We'll save that for another time.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Jim, the bull on that photo is gone.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Carl. The second item of new business, the Commission dates were approved for 2009 and January 2010. We just want to make sure do we want to proceed with these dates, Commissioners? Can you look at them and just make sure everything is okay. The October date was tentative for Philadelphia, but we have firmed that up. No questions there.

Okay. Item Number 3. Cal DuBrock, Bureau Director.

MR. DUBROCK: I'm here to discuss the allocation of antlerless licenses for the 2009-2010 season. How would you like to proceed with this?

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Did you hand that out for everybody?

MR. DUBROCK: That was handed out yesterday. I do have a few additional copies if anyone needs them.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Is there any discussion?
Is there a motion?
COMMISSIONER WEANER: Mr. President, I move that these recommendations be accepted.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Commissioner.
Second?
COMMISSIONER PALONE: I second it.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Commissioner.
Any discussion on the antlerless allocations? With that, all in favor signify by saying aye.
(Ayes)
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Opposed?
COMMISSIONER BOOP: Nay.
COMMISSIONER WEANER: Commissioner, the vote is 6 to 1. Mr. Boop voting no.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.
Thank you, Cal.
MR. DUBROCK: Thank you.
PRESIDENT ISABELLA: We're almost ready to wrap it up. And this is probably the last meeting for two of our commissioners. And Commissioner Palone and Commissioner Schleiden, I'd just like to know if you'd like to make any comments. Commissioner Palone.
COMMISSIONER PALONE: Thank you, Mr. Isabella. I can't believe it, but it's been ten-and-a-half years since
I first sent a letter to the Governor's Sportsmen Advisory Council and indicated my interest in wanting to become a commissioner. And that's been over a decade, and really a lot of things have changed in my life and in all of our lives in the last decade.

I guess the biggest event was the tragedy of September 11th, 2001. And at that time that day I didn't even know what was happening because we were at our Southwest Regional Meeting up at Prince Gallitzin State Park so I had to find out from the conservation officer when I arrived what had happened. And it was just horrible all these things that were unfolding in New York City and Somerset County which was very close by to us.

Then the next year I was in the terrible train accident in Maryland, and that set me back a little bit. Some people think it has influenced my brain some but I don't know. And then my mom passed away, and I miss her very because she was the person who really introduced me to the outdoors. And then I retired from my paying job and in the meantime all my pets died so I'm going to have to get some new pets.

But on the good side of things the Steelers won two Super Bowls in the time that I've been here, and we have a new Executive Director, Carl. And the Southwest Region moved from its old office in Ligonier out into the country,
which was a wonderful thing. And also we had two wildlife conservation officer classes since I've been here.

So a lot of good things have happened also and a lot of changes have happened, but one thing that has not changed is my commitment to wildlife and to hunters and my convictions concerning our natural resources and their conservation.

These things have stood the test of time. And if I had to do it all over again, I would not change a single vote that I have made on this board.

The letter that I wrote way back in 1998 mentioned two important items, and I just want to touch on those briefly. One of the things that I wanted to see was that I said, I would like to see the Commission take a more proactive approach in public relations and develop long-term strategies to better educate the public about the important work it does.

Well, I'm here to tell you that we've made enormous progress in this area. I think that we are one of the most open and transparent agencies in the Commonwealth, and we use every means to get our message out. And in the ten years that I'm talking about here, technology has changed immensely and I feel like we've taken advantage of that.

And I just want to take this opportunity to
thank our Bureau of IE Director Joan Neville and our press
director Jerry Feeser, who's our first press secretary that
we've had as far as I know, for their good job in getting
their message out. And also to Bob Mitchell who's from my
hometown in Green County so I'm kind of partial to him, and
Bob DeAngelo who's also one of my homeys.

But the whole department has really done a
wonderful job, and I just think it's wonderful how hard they
work and I'm going to talk about some other people too as I
go along.

But my second quote from my letter said, my
first priority as a commissioner will be seek an approach to
deer management that is best for the herd and will result in
long-term benefits to hunters.

I feel that we've also made tremendous progress
in this area. For example, we have new and longer deer
seasons, we have the recurrent seasons, we have the deer
management assistance program. We have many new deer
biologists and we have a revised deer management plan. And
we learned yesterday we're one of the few states that do
have a deer management plan. And the herd is now more in
balance with its habitat and healthier than it's been in
decades.

And I just want to thank Cal DuBrock and his
team. Cal is probably one of the most persecuted people
ever in the history of the Game Commission. And that's okay. He really does a good job in having the tough skin and being stoic in all of this.

And I just want to thank Trish Rosenberry and Jeannine Fleagle and Brad Wallingford for all their hard work. I'm very partial to biologists because I am one. And I don't say that at every Commission meeting, but I'm trained in biology and so I respect our biologists very much and the hard work that they do.

I don't consider myself to be a very good politician. And I'm sure people will agree with you on that. Some would even consider me as naive when it comes to politics, but I will take that as a compliment. Sometimes when I'm out and about doing my Commission duties people consider me an elected official, but I'm really not. I consider myself a public servant. And I have diligently attended to the tasks for which I was appointed. And with the help of all the staff and our other commissioners we have made sound policy that I feel benefits hunters, wildlife and all residents. And I feel that this board and our executive office have integrity that's beyond reproach.

It would have been very easy for me to come here and not stir the pot or ask any tough questions. I could have strove to be popular and liked by everybody just like a good politician does. But then if I would have done that I
would have not fulfilled my oath, nor my constitutional duty
to be a trustee of the public's natural resources.

Way back when I first started Commissioner
Guilford warned me that there would be nights when I
wouldn't be able to sleep because I'd be wondering how to
solve some complex social issue relating to wildlife, but at
that time I didn't believe him. But now I know what he's
talking about because I could not just pass the deer problem
on to the next generation. That is not leadership.

If you wonder why issues like social security
and budget deficits, property tax reform or any other hot
political potato never gets fixed, you only need to look at
the Pennsylvania deer management debate for the past eight
years. Everybody wants things fixed and they want them
fixed right now, but only if it's without pain, sacrifice
and consequences. And we know, of course, that's not
possible.

I have been very honored and humble to serve on
this board. I was appointed to do a job that I have done
faithfully. As a board I consider some of our greatest
accomplishments to be the deer management program,
especially the deer management assistance program, all of
our youth hunts and youth days that we have instituted, in
particular the mentor youth hunt program. We've also
instituted the first elk hunts in several decades, the bear
archery season, the license point of sale and cable restraint devices, just to name a few.

And we've had some really good old-fashioned rump-'em-up fights too here. Russell doesn't call them fights. He just calls them debates, but I just like that word fight. But one of the very first lump-'em-ups we had at one of the first Commission meetings was how many foxes should a person be allowed to possess for the purpose of obtaining fox urine. And we debated about that for two whole meetings, and I know there were some people in the audience who were really looking at us. But we also had good fun debates concerning the abolition of deer farms, the private land only doe tags, in-line muzzle-loading seasons in the October season, how many doe tags should be allocated each year and the restrictions, game lands regulations, mining on Game Land 75 and whether or not feral cats come under the purview of the Game Commission. And John Shutter was here yesterday and I should have reminded him about the feral cat debates we had.

I've also had some of the most wonderful adventures while serving on this board, and I just want to comment on a couple of those. One of the most interesting was every April Game Commission personnel go out to Wade Island here in the Susquehanna River to count the egrets and the night herons that are out there. And Joe Kosack asked me
one year on a cold April day if I wanted to go out to Wade
Island. So he took me out there and we counted the egrets.
And I'm here to tell you when you're counting those birds in
those big giant nests, they just don't sit up there real
good, cool and calm and quiet. They're flying all around
the whole time dropping poop on you while you're down there
counting them.

Well, after we got done we were heading back to
shore, and, if that wasn't bad enough, we hit a big log in
the middle of the Susquehanna River. And when we hit the
big log we stopped, but I didn't stop. I was in the front
and I continued forward over into the river.

And there were some people by us who were
fishermen. They looked over because our canoe was sinking,
all of our gear was sinking. And it was very calm, and it
was only about 3 feet of water, but for me 3 feet, you know,
can be dire. But these men were sitting there and they were
saying, oh, well, that's one of the game commissioners,
let's get out of here. So they high-tailed it out of there
as fast as they could and didn't even help us.

But we got back to shore, and Kathy Wilson
helped me find some dry clothes. And so we made it back to
shore, but I just wanted to tell that story because it was
funny. But I did lose my camera, but my husband did buy me
another one.
One of the most poignant adventures I went on was when we did the fawn mortality study in Penns Valley. And we went to catch fawns when they were newborn and then we put radio collars on them and studied why they died and why they lived.

And we trampled through hill and dale, and we went over to Russ's farm and we went to Red Wallingford's farm and we counted 12 does that day -- I mean 12 fawns that we found that day. And our team was the most -- caught the most fawns ever on that day. And it was just wonderful. It was like a gift from God to see these little miracle tiny new fawns being born. And I just wanted to thank Justin and Wendy Freeland for letting me participate in that fawn mortality study.

But every time we would pick up a fawn it would bawl like, hey, Mom, what's going on, where are you, tell them to put me down, and they would cry. But we would process them and let them go. And they were really miracles from God.

One of the things I do every year also to age the deer at the deer processing plants in the southwest with Roger Brown, and he's our regional forester down there in the southwest, one of our foresters. And it's very interesting to check these deer heads and age the deer. Except when it's really warm weather and the deer have been
in the bottom of the barrel for a couple days, it's not very glamorous, but we need to do that to help with our harvest data.

And one of the last things I wanted to mention was most years I get to go to the southwest game farm in Armstrong County to help the people there take off the pheasant hatch. And Jim Doemyer is the superintendent there, and May and June is the hatching time there at the game farm. And most days we take twelve to sixteen thousand eggs -- baby pheasants off the hatch. And it's really funny because these folks fret over these pheasants and the chicks and the eggs just like they're children.

And just as an example, the hatchery has an alarm system and it wakes up Jim and his assistant when the electricity goes out or if anything goes wrong. And the phone when it wakes him up, there's a big panic message on there that says, wake up, wake up, get out of bed, the electricity is off at the hatchery or the humidity or the temperature in the incubator, something's wrong, get up and get over there now. And they just take their job so seriously and they really, really do a good job with the game farms, and I wanted to commend them on that.

I also had the opportunity to go out with several conservation officers. My officers where I live that I want to thank are Rod Burns and Randy Crego and Steve
Linebecker. And they showed me how to careen through the
game lands in the middle of the night with the headlights
out, stop the truck, jump out and catch an illegal drunken
four-wheeler while they're busting through the brush. So
that was really an adventure. I was scared to death. I
didn't jump out. I just sat in the back of the truck and
watched them, but it was really kind of scary.

But I just wanted to thank a few people. And I
know that I cannot thank everyone here today, and I
apologize for that. But I appreciate all the hard work and
the dedication that the Game Commission folks have done. I
just wanted to thank Kathy and Francis for always taking
care of our paperwork and our travel and making sure that we
have supplies and making sure everything's ready for our
meetings. I want to thank Janet Nyce for being such a role
model and such a kind person and for all her hard work on
the Youth Advisory Council.

I want to thank Melody Zullinger who's not here
today but she really has brought the Pennsylvania Federation
of Sportsmen's clubs along very well, especially in the area
of legislative affairs.

I want to thank Mike Schmit for all of his
optimism and his can-do attitude and his positive attitude
and for really helping us get things done. I want to thank
Bill Capouillez. When I first came here he had the back of
his truck full of fisher mining files, big files about fisher mining and what we were going to do there on Game Land 75 which was a surface mine. That's really come a way and this morning Mike Schmit gave out some handouts describing what was recently done there on Game Land 75.

I wanted to thank Bob Strailey for all his hard work in getting the point of sale system through. I know there were times when he wanted to give up and just say we need to start over again, but he didn't.

I wanted to thank hunters for always coming to our meetings faithfully and for testifying and for stepping up to the plate when we asked them to help us manage the deer. I worked in government for 27 years, and I can say from experience that the Pennsylvania Game Commission has some of the most dedicated people that I've ever worked with. And the PGC is one of the most transparent agencies in the Commonwealth.

And also I want to tell Carl how much I appreciate his hard work and his dedication along with Bob, he got the point of sale up and running when many people told him that it just wasn't going to work. Also, he has worked very hard to streamline our budget and make people accountable for all the money that we spend because we really do need a hunting license increase desperately and he's been working on that. And along with Dot Derr who's
really helped the regions with their budget constraints and,
also, how to do their budgets and make them more
accountable.

I want to thank Matt Hough who's our regional
director. He took us on very tough adventures, and also all
the regional directors were wonderful. Several years ago
when we did the game land tours, he took us around and
showed us some of the game lands and the good thing that the
Food and Cover Corps were doing.

Also, I want to thank Carl for staying true to
our mission and fulfilling the mission of the Game
Commission and also our strategic plan.

In summary, I just want to convey my feelings
about my colleagues that are here on stage and also of those
who care about wildlife by quoting the words of President
Ronald Reagan from 1992. This is what President Reagan
said: "Whatever else history may say about me when I'm gone,
I hope it will record that I've appealed to your best hopes,
not your worst fears, to your confidence rather than your
doubts. My dream is that you will travel the road ahead
with liberty's lamp guiding your steps and opportunity's arm
steadying your way. My fondest hope for each of you and
especially for the young people here is that you love your
country not for her power or wealth but for her selflessness
and her idealism. May each of you have the heart to
conceive, the understanding to direct and the hand to
execute works that will make the world a little better for
your having been here."

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Commissioner.
Commissioner Schleiden, any formal remarks?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Those of you know I
usually ad lib so I don't usually have a lot to say. And,
of course, Roxane covered a lot of my feelings as well on
the various issues that we've been deeply involved.

When I look back over the past eight years as a
commissioner, I think of a few key words to describe my
experience. One is privilege, the other is integrity and
another is the big picture.

Privilege. It's been a great privilege to serve
the public of the Commonwealth to follow our mandates to
support our hunting and trapping heritage to the best of my
ability.

Integrity. The dedication and integrity of the
employees of this great agency, the Pennsylvania Game
Commission, that I have been exposed to over these past
eight-and-a-half years has been very encouraging to me. You
are a shining example of what a government agency should
strive for. This carries over in my opinion to many of the
people in the sports community out there. Many of you have
been here for every meeting and you've played a role, you've
volunteered. You've also shown that same trait whether you
agreed or disagreed with some of the votes up here.

You've been great volunteers for our hunting
conservation and mining communities, and you've worked
closely with one another in a positive way to protect our
great heritage. And in that same light, like Roxane
mentioned some of the individuals, and I really don't like
to do that too much either because I'm afraid I'll miss
somebody.

But I do want to recognize Janet. Janet, what
you've done with the youth -- what you've done with the
Youth Council is just fantastic. And they're going to be
the future leaders. And I hope that they'll be sitting up
here, and I hope that they keep that training that you gave
them in mind.

I've watched them come in here. I never said a
whole lot when they were here, but I admire the way that
they handled themselves, and I think that they're going to
be great leaders no matter whether they get involved at this
level or as an employer or whether they go out into the
business world, they're going to show that same positive
attitude and have that integrity. And I thank you for
that.

The big picture folks, I know you've heard me
say it time after time after time. Big picture, that's what
we're all about. Sometimes this has been the most difficult item to stay focused on. And when that happens and we get to doubt one another, ultimately we lose ground as leaders in our wildlife conservation mission. So please, my fellow commissioners, those out there in the conservation and hunting community, please stay focused on the big picture. That's really what counts.

Finally, it's always been my objective to work closely with people involved with our mission to vote on issues based upon the best information available to do so with a clear conscious knowing that I did not compromise my principles. I know many of you have heard the motto it is better to do the hard and right than the easier wrong. That's been my motto.

Now I'm going to spend the rest of my time around the conservation community working very hard to continue to support our Wildlife for Everyone Foundation. Some of you have been following it, some of you, maybe you only hear about it when it's mentioned up here or somewhere else, but it's been making very steady progress. And it's a great foundation. Its basic reason for being, it was started by we commissioners and it supports some of the low times financially for the agency. Fortunately, we're not big enough to be the relief valve this time, but down the road 114 years, if we can double that so down the road it's
going to be even greater although we have in fact supported many of the minor projects that needed help.

And I wish my fellow board members continued positive success as they carry over a 114-year tradition. It's a good system. It's an excellent system, and it needs to stay independent. And it depends on you guys to keep that tradition going.

It's been a great honor to work with you, Carl. And your predecessor Vern. And Mike Schmit. You are two of the great leaders that sometimes don't get enough credit. Mike, you've just been steady as a rock and I very much appreciate your input.

Also, in this building downstairs Dave and his crew, the unsung heroes that keep things going. And Roxane mentioned supply and Kathy and Francis and Denise help us. It's usually a simple phone call downstairs and those people respond and provide transportation over to the Capitol and so on.

Kathy and Francis and Denise upstairs, a super job. You're the mainstay. And I'm glad to see you here today, Kathy, though you're still under the weather.

And, of course, we can't forget the bureau directors. I'm not going to start naming every individual. You guys are the leaders. And your staff and everyone of the bureau, good job. We're all human, we have our ups and
downs, but you're the mainstay. The regional directors, of course, I'm more familiar with the North Central, but I know that each of the regions are like the North Central in their attitude, that can-do attitude. And that's what makes this agency great.

With that I salute you all and thank you for the privilege to serve.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Thank you, Commissioners.

Any other new business? Commissioner Weaner.

COMMISSIONER WEANER: I'd like to introduce an item of new business here. I would like our staff to try to put together a proposal for our next meeting to address some things that I'm interested in seeing changed in the continuing controversy that we have with crossbows.

And I don't know whether this can take effect yet in the upcoming season or whether it would have to happen in the season after, but I would like to plow ahead with this proposal and see if it would gain traction amongst other members of our board here as soon as possible.

I have a four-part plan that I'd like to present and I'd like the State to develop whatever regulations would be necessary to implement this so that at the committee meeting we could study it and hash out the details.

But first of all I'd like to see the crossbow
permit system continue as it had back in 2008. I would like to see the archery bear season be just like it was in 2008, meaning that crossbows would not be permitted unless you had the handicap permit. I would like to see a general crossbow season for deer to run the first two weeks of the regular archery season, twelve days, two weeks and two Saturdays, and for that the archery license would be required.

    And I would like to see that if a crossbow hunter would like to hunt in muzzle loader season or the late season if they would buy a muzzle loader license just like they did in 2008.

    Those are the four tenets of the plan that I'm putting forth and I'm recommending that -- or I would like to see our staff develop information to bring to the committee meeting as early as possible.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Commissioner, do you have your four-part plan written out?

COMMISSIONER WEANER: I do.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: May I make a suggestion? Would you give a copy to the bureau directors of the respective bureaus or give it to Carl and Carl will disseminate it to the bureau directors.

COMMISSIONER WEANER: I will do that.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA: Any other new business?

Commissioner Schleiden.
Commissioner Schleiden: I would comment on that proposal. Some time ago the board had reminded the commissioners that if they have a specific proposal that they would like to make, even though they had staff work on it and put it together, that in fact they can place that on the agenda as a commissioner and does not necessarily have to go with the president and the executive director. So I would recommend that you put that together. That's the way you probably should introduce it on the agenda. Just a recommendation. I'm not going to be here.

President Isabella: Any other new business? Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

Commissioner Delaney: I'll make that motion.

President Isabella: Motion. Second?

Commissioner Weaner: Second.

President Isabella: The meeting is adjourned. (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.)
I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me on the within proceedings, and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same.

__________________________________
Pamela L. Packer
Court Reporter-Notary Public