

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

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FORMAL MEETING

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BEFORE: MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

KRISTEN SCHNEPP-GIGER, PRESIDENT

Scott H. Foradora, Vice President

Dennis R. Fredericks, Secretary

Haley J. Sankey, Commissioner

Michael Mitrick, Commissioner

Todd A. Pride, Commissioner

Robert C. Schwalm, Commissioner

Stanley I. Knick, Jr., Commissioner

Allen J. DiMarco, Commissioner

Bryan Burhans, Executive Director

MEETING: January 27, 2024

1:55 p.m.

LOCATION: 2001 Elmerton Avenue

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Reporter: Rachel Wilbur

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W. CREIGH MARTSON, ESQUIRE
Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Solicitor for Pennsylvania Game Commission

ALSO APPEARING:

DR. MATTHEW SCHNUPP
JASON DECOSKEY
KATHY MUMMERT

I N D E X

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PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Begin with a roll call of Commissioners. Mr. Secretary, if you could please call the role.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yes, ma'am. Kristen Schnepf-Giger, President.

PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Present.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Scott Foradora, Vice President.

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Here.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Dennis Fredericks? Here.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Allen DiMarco?

COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Here.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Stanley Knick?

COMMISSIONER KNICK: Here.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Mike Mitrick?

COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Here.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Todd Pride?

COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Here.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Haley

1 Sankey?

2 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Here.

3 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: And Robert

4 Schwalm?

5 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Here.

6 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Madam

7 President, you have a quorum.

8 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you,

9 Mr. Secretary. Do I have a motion for the approval
10 of the minutes of the Commission meeting held
11 September 16, 2023?

12 COMMISSIONER KNICK: So moved.

13 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

14 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any

15 discussion?

16 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Mr.

17 Secretary, please call the vote.

18 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
19 favor say aye.

20 ALL RESPOND AYE

21 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All opposed?

22 The ayes have it.

23 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

24 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The first item for
25 consideration can be found on page two of your

1 agendas. Pheasant hunting within a wild pheasant
2 recovery area is currently limited to youth
3 participants who are authorized by permit to hunt in
4 designated pheasant hunt zones within the central
5 Susquehanna WPRA only.

6 Youth participants are selected for
7 WPRA hunting access permits through a raffle
8 conducted by the Commission. The Commission
9 determined these restrictions are no longer necessary
10 because the biological impacts of hunting on wild
11 pheasant populations can be adequately controlled by
12 limiting harvest to male pheasants and by following
13 an annual executive order process specifying whether
14 a season is to be opened and, if opened, the season
15 length and bag limit that will apply.

16 Therefore, the Commission is proposing
17 to amend Section 141.28 to eliminate age restriction
18 and permit requirements and provide the Director the
19 authority to annually designate WPRA's to be open to
20 hunting and establish appropriate season dates and
21 bag limits.

22 As a result of this regulatory change,
23 all individuals eligible to hunt pheasants statewide,
24 would also be allowed to participate in pheasant
25 hunting within WPRA's, subject to landowner

1 permission.

2 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
3 motion?

4 COMMISSIONER KNICK: So moved.

5 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: A second?

6 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

7 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
8 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

9 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
10 favor say aye.

11 ALL RESPOND AYE

12 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
13 The ayes have it, Madam President.

14 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

15 DR. SCHNUPP: If I could. Madam
16 President, if you don't mind, just say a quick piece
17 about this. I'm really proud of this program. I
18 don't think we talk about this enough, but with
19 Andrew's presentation yesterday on the quail recovery
20 program, I think it's just another emphasis of the
21 successes we've had in Pennsylvania of bringing back
22 our wild pheasant population, and those populations
23 are small and limited in scope.

24 But it's a real great success story
25 that I think just having this brought up, we should

1 draw attention to that and hopefully the great
2 success we're going to see from the bobwhites as
3 well, with the reintroduction this March. So thank
4 you.

5 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: So how many
6 folks are you going to take out there hunting?

7 DR. SCHNUPP: I don't own any of the
8 land or I'd make that decision.

9 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: I'll bet we
10 could make some phone calls.

11 DR. SCHNUPP: I bet.

12 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you
13 very much.

14 DR. SCHNUPP: Thank you, Madam
15 President.

16 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
17 consideration can be found on page four of your
18 agendas. To effectively manage the wildlife
19 resources and provide hunting and trapping
20 opportunities in this Commonwealth during the
21 upcoming license year, the Commission is proposing to
22 amend Section 139.4 to provide updated seasons and
23 bag limits for the 2024-2025 license year.

24 The 2024-2025 seasons and bag limits
25 have been amended to reflect current available

1 scientific data, population and harvest records,
2 field surveys and professional staff observations, as
3 well as recommendations received from staff,
4 organized sporting groups, members of the
5 agricultural community and others interested in the
6 management of the wildlife resources of this
7 Commonwealth.

8 For small game, eligibility to
9 participate in the early October pheasant season
10 segment would be expanded to include mentored hunters
11 of all ages and the Executive Director would be
12 provided with increased flexibility to authorize
13 pheasant hunting within wild pheasant recovery areas.

14 For wild turkey, fall season length
15 changes are proposed for numerous wildlife management
16 units based on analysis of long-term turkey
17 population trends and results of turkey hunter
18 surveys. Season length would be increased in 11 WMUs
19 and WMU 5A, previously closed to fall hunting, would
20 be opened for a three-day season. Season length
21 would be reduced in two WMUs, 3D and 4C.

22 For black bear, the October muzzle
23 loader season is proposed to be shortened to three-
24 days to reduce harvest rates on female bears and
25 therefore promote stabilization of the bear

1 population.

2 For furbearers, WMU 2D is proposed to
3 be opened to bobcat hunting and trapping because
4 habitat and population data indicate that this unit
5 can support sustainable a bobcat harvest. Also, the
6 fisher trapping season is proposed to be increased by
7 one week in all WMUs open to fisher harvest to
8 provide additional opportunity and to make fisher and
9 bobcat trapping seasons concurrent. No changes are
10 proposed for elk or whitetail deer seasons.

11 However, it is likely that analysis of
12 license sales and harvest data following the January
13 meeting will indicate a need for additional
14 antlerless deer hunting opportunity in chronic
15 wasting disease WMUs, where antlerless license
16 allocations did not sell out and/or antlerless
17 harvest goals were not met in 2023-2024.

18 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
19 motion?

20 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

21 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: And a
22 second?

23 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Second.

24 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
25 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

1 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
2 favor say aye.

3 ALL RESPOND AYE

4 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
5 The ayes have it, Madam President.

6 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

7 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item can
8 be found on page 15 of your agendas. To effectively
9 manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth,
10 the Commission at its September 16, 2023 meeting
11 amended Section 133.21 to add the black rail to the
12 Commonwealth's list of threatened birds due to its
13 federally protected status and small, sporadic
14 population in this Commonwealth.

15 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
16 motion?

17 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: So moved.

18 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

19 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
20 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

21 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
22 favor say aye.

23 ALL RESPOND AYE

24 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
25 The ayes have it.

1 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

2 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
3 consideration can be found on page 18 of your
4 agendas. The American marten is a furbearer, once
5 commonly found in portions of Pennsylvania, but
6 extirpated from the Commonwealth in the early 1900s
7 due to deforestation and unregulated harvest.

8 In accordance with goal 1.3b of the
9 Pennsylvania Game Commission's Strategic Plan 2020 to
10 2023, and as authorized by the Commission at its July
11 9, 2022 meeting, Commission staff developed an
12 American Marten reintroduction and Management Plan
13 for Pennsylvania. The plan outlines a long-term,
14 ten-year strategy to translocate the species back to
15 the state and then conduct long-term monitoring to
16 evaluate the reintroduction. Communication
17 strategies, partner engagement, costs, and timelines
18 are also included.

19 At its September 16, 2023 meeting, the
20 Commission authorized release of the proposed
21 American Marten Reintroduction and Management Plan
22 for a 60-day public comment period.

23 All comments have been considered and
24 appropriate revisions to the plan have been made.
25 The Bureau of Wildlife Management is requesting final

1 acceptance of the 2024 to 2033 Marten Reintroduction
2 and Management Plan.

3 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
4 motion?

5 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: So moved.

6 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: And a
7 second?

8 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: For the
9 purpose of the discussion, Madam President, I'll
10 second that.

11 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you,
12 Commissioner Fredericks. Floor is open for
13 discussion.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Madam
15 President, I have some concerns about this
16 reintroduction, and I know it's very important to a
17 lot of people that worked very hard, as well as the
18 agency. First of all, the climate here in
19 Pennsylvania is not what it was 100 years ago. Snow
20 cover, which is very important to the survival of our
21 marten, provides thermal protection as well as
22 protection from our predators, such as bobcats,
23 coyotes, and the fisher, which all three of those
24 species are on a stable and growing population.

25 I feel that I need a little bit more

1 time to take a look at this and get a better feel
2 that we're not serving this critter up on a silver
3 platter.

4 I think it's important that we do a
5 little bit more education and discussion, and also,
6 at the same time, I'm not convinced that our forest
7 is suitable enough in that area. I realize that our
8 hemlocks are somewhat on a decline with the current
9 situation with the woolly adelgid. So I'd like to
10 take a little bit more time on this. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes, Madam
12 President. Thank you, Commissioner Schwalm. I just
13 want to add to that I first of all understand the
14 biology and all the science and the effort that went
15 into it and very much support all that. Just a graph
16 that Steve Smith put up yesterday for us of the
17 hunting community, it was, whatever, a third, third,
18 third against four and equal - or excuse me, neutral.
19 So not equal. I'd just like to spend - my thinking
20 is spend a little more time and just flesh that out a
21 little better on what that's telling us, but would be
22 happy to support the initiative in the future.

23 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Madam President?

24 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Sure.

25 COMMISSIONER KNICK: I'd like to echo

1 both our Commissioners, what they said. And at this
2 time I would like to make a motion to table this
3 motion.

4 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: I'll second
5 that.

6 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: So let the
7 record note, Commissioner Knick made a motion to
8 table this, and it's been seconded. Any further
9 discussion on tabling this issue?

10 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Madam
11 President, I would like to say I'm not in favor of
12 tabling this issue, and I take advantage of the
13 opportunity to commend Tom Keller for the work that
14 he's done to this point. I've been to a couple of
15 his presentations to sportsman's clubs and county
16 leagues and other audiences, and the plan is
17 impeccable. And his work in this regard is
18 absolutely commendable. And I guess if my fellow
19 Commissioners feel like they need a little bit more
20 time on this, then so be it. But again, Tom,
21 congratulations. Good work. It's very much
22 appreciated by everybody. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: I would also
24 like to echo those sentiments.

25 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Tom, you did a

1 great job. It's nothing personal. I just need a
2 little bit more time and figure a couple things out.

3 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: And I echo what
4 you've been hearing all the time, Tom, from all of
5 us. What a fantastic, exemplary job you've done as a
6 person out into the community and explaining all of
7 this and doing all the research and organization and
8 the time you've spent on the road away from your
9 family and support that you've given the Commission.
10 What a yeoman's job. And thank you very much.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Thank you, Tom.

12 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: And I also just
13 want to add to that, one is just to recognize the
14 work that Tom has done on this plan. I mean, just a
15 tremendous effort and the time that Tom you spent on
16 the road educating various groups. But I will also
17 echo a part of what Commissioner Schwalm had
18 mentioned, but also just want to share with you all,
19 I mean, there are a number of things that we have to
20 take into consideration when we're making these
21 decisions, and I think for tabling, this gives us an
22 opportunity to get to some of our hunting groups in
23 particular. I mean, I think it was just mentioned
24 that we had a third, I guess approximately that
25 opposed, a third that supported, and a third that

1 were neutral.

2 And I think we heard from the staff
3 yesterday that was the first time that many of them
4 had ever seen our hunters be uncertain about an
5 element of a species. And so I think we've got a
6 little bit more work to do to get some input from our
7 hunters. In particular, I think we've got a number
8 of our stakeholder wildlife organizations that have
9 supported this, but I am in favor of the plan. But I
10 think we do need a little bit more time to engage
11 some of our hunter groups and others because I think
12 a number of us have been getting reach outs pretty
13 frequently opposing this plan.

14 So I want to spend some time myself
15 getting to some groups to get them to understand and
16 get some more feedback before we make a final
17 decision.

18 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: I'll echo
19 some of those comments. And at the risk of sounding
20 like we're beating a dead horse up here, man, what an
21 outstanding job you did on the road and to have 92
22 percent general public in favor. Somebody up here
23 said, I don't think we can get 92 percent of anybody
24 to agree on anything. And somehow you did that.

25 And I think every Commissioner up here

1 understands that it is our responsibility as
2 Commissioners to engage those other stakeholders,
3 those other groups that we don't traditionally engage
4 with. They're not our core group of folks, and a lot
5 of them are here today. So thank you for coming and
6 weighing in on this.

7 I think we also, as Commissioners and
8 knowing that hunters are a core and key stakeholder
9 and that we've never had the statistics before of a
10 third of those stakeholders that are historically
11 very opinionated people telling us they have no
12 opinion makes us, as Commissioners, want to go out
13 and talk to folks in our district. And I'm not
14 talking about going on the road like you did. I'm
15 talking about bumping into somebody at Walmart or
16 Cabela's or Dunham's that has no idea who I am and
17 just pick their brain and understand the general
18 public and where they're coming from. So hearing
19 that one third that's absolutely neutral really has a
20 lot of us up here going, man, that's obscure.

21 So I'd like to take the next couple of
22 months and do some of those kind of bump into folks
23 out in public and see what we can come up with. And
24 then we'll reconvene on this in the future.

25 So, Mr. Secretary, will you please

1 call the vote on tabling item D on the agenda,
2 American Marten Reintroduction and Management?

3 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yes, ma'am.

4 I'm going to assume that you'd like to have a roll
5 call vote on this.

6 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Yes, please.

7 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: And the
8 issue on the table that we're voting on is to table
9 this for now or not?

10 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Correct.

11 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Kristen
12 Giger?

13 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Scott
15 Foradora?

16 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Dennis
18 Fredericks? No. Allen DiMarco?

19 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Stanley
21 Knick?

22 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Mike
24 Mitrick?

25 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: No.

1 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Todd Pride?

2 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Haley

4 Sankey?

5 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: No.

6 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: And Bob

7 Schwalm?

8 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Madam

10 President, would you mind repeating your vote?

11 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: You vote yes

13 to table? The ayes have it.

14 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you,

15 Mr. Secretary.

16 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item can

17 be found on page 19 of your agendas and also comes

18 from the Bureau of Wildlife Management. The black

19 bear is a valuable resource in Pennsylvania. A

20 comprehensive plan for managing the bear resource was

21 first approved in 2006 with a mission statement to

22 maintain healthy black bear populations in suitable

23 habitats throughout the Commonwealth that provide

24 hunting and recreational viewing opportunities

25 without human-bear conflicts exceeding levels

1 The ayes have it, Madam President.

2 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

3 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item can
4 be found on page 20 of your agendas. Due to growing
5 public concern for the apparent decline of snowshoe
6 hares in Pennsylvania and the potential of this
7 species to benefit from focused habitat management,
8 the Commission developed a comprehensive snowshoe
9 hare conservation and management plan to maintain or
10 increase snowshoe hare populations and their habitat
11 within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for current
12 and future generations.

13 The management plan provides a
14 comprehensive summary of snowshoe hare biology,
15 historic and current status in Pennsylvania, and
16 habitat and harvest management strategies. The plan
17 also provides supporting objectives and strategies to
18 achieve snowshoe hare specific goals related to
19 population monitoring, assessment, and management
20 related to habitat and harvest.

21 At its September 16, 2023 meeting,
22 the Commission authorized release of the proposed
23 snowshoe hare management plan for a 60-day public
24 comment period. All comments have been considered
25 and appropriate revisions to the plan have been made.

1 The Bureau of Wildlife Management is requesting final
2 acceptance of the snowshoe hare management plan.

3 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
4 motion?

5 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: So moved.

6 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

7 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
8 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

9 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
10 favor say aye.

11 ALL RESPOND AYE

12 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?

13 The ayes have it.

14 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

15 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
16 consideration can be found on page 21 of your agendas
17 and comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Protection.
18 The Commission is proposing to amend Section 141.4
19 relating to hunting hours to replace the current
20 hunting hours table and migratory bird hunting hours
21 table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of
22 legal hunting for the 2024-2025 hunting/trapping
23 license year.

24 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
25 motion?

1 COMMISSIONER KNICK: So moved.

2 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Second.

3 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
4 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

5 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
6 favor say aye.

7 ALL RESPOND AYE

8 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
9 The ayes have it.

10 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

11 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item is on
12 page 24 of your agendas. To effectively manage the
13 wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the
14 Commission, at its September 16, 2023 meeting,
15 amended Section 141.18 to authorize electronic
16 devices used to disturb water with the purpose of
17 preventing ice formation. This amendment is now
18 before the Commission for final adoption.

19 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
20 motion?

21 COMMISSIONER KNICK: So moved.

22 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

23 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
24 discussion?

25 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Madam President,

1 I think we talked formally about following up on this
2 in a year or two, just to make sure there's nothing -
3 no adverse effects of this. I just wanted to put
4 that out there on record, that we plan to revisit
5 this in the future, if necessary.

6 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you,
7 Commissioner Sankey. Any other points of discussion?
8 Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

9 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
10 favor say aye.

11 ALL RESPOND AYE

12 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
13 The ayes have it.

14 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

15 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item can
16 be found on page 26 of your agendas. To effectively
17 manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth,
18 the Game Commission, at its September 16, 2023
19 meeting, amended Section 135.2 to prohibit any person
20 from using or possessing controlled substances or
21 drug paraphernalia on hunter access properties. A
22 violation of this provision will be graded as a
23 summary offense of the fifth degree carrying a
24 potential fine of \$100 to \$200. This amendment is
25 now before the Commission for final adoption.

1 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
2 motion?

3 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: So moved.

4 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

5 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
6 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

7 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
8 favor say aye.

9 ALL RESPOND AYE

10 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
11 The ayes have it.

12 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

13 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
14 consideration can be found on page 29 of your
15 agendas. To effectively manage the wildlife
16 resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission, at
17 its September 16, 2023 meeting, amended Section
18 141.67 to prohibit the hunting of any furbearer using
19 a dog during the overlap with any regular firearms
20 deer season, or regular firearms bear season. This
21 amendment is now before the Commission for final
22 adoption.

23 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
24 motion?

25 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: So moved.

1 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: And a
2 second?

3 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Second.

4 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
5 discussion? As a point of clarification, this change
6 is for regular firearm season only. So this would
7 not impact, say, bobcat hunting during extended
8 firearm season.

9 Is that correct?

10 MR. DECOSKEY: You're correct. Any of
11 those after hours, after the lawful hunting hours
12 will not impact raccoon pursuits or fox hunting at
13 night. Or any of those predator callers.

14 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Correct.

15 Okay. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: What about
17 private regulated shooting grounds, shooting
18 preserves, private property?

19 MR. DECOSKEY: This will not limit the
20 use of dogs after hours, after lawful hunting hours.
21 So as long as the hunting season is in during the
22 rifle deer and rifle bear season, it will not impact
23 those people who wish to pursue predators after those
24 hours are lawfully over, I should say.

25 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Okay.

1 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: I have a
2 question. With the regular firearms season, does
3 that also include the special regulation areas?

4 MR. DECOSKEY: If it's during the
5 regular deer season, it doesn't go into those
6 extended seasons.

7 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: It does not?
8 Okay.

9 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: So the
10 definition of regular firearm season is that
11 approximate two-week window?

12 MR. DECOSKEY: Correct.

13 Yeah, it's listed as in the digest
14 under the regular.

15 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Okay,
16 perfect.

17 Any other discussion? Mr. Secretary,
18 please call the vote.

19 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
20 favor say aye.

21 ALL RESPOND AYE

22 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
23 The ayes have it.

24 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

25 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for

1 consideration can be found on page 32 of your agendas
2 and comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat
3 Management. The estate of Donald M. Heller and
4 Michele H. Conway are offering to donate .17 more-or-
5 less acres of land in Logan Township, Blair County.
6 An indenture to State Game Land Number 267. Access
7 is from Lookout Avenue.

8 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
9 motion?

10 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

11 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: And a
12 second?

13 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.

14 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
15 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

16 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
17 favor say aye.

18 ALL RESPOND AYE

19 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
20 The ayes have it.

21 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

22 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item is on
23 page 34 of your agendas. John A. Jr. and Sandra S.
24 Pape are offering 0.4 more-or-less acres of land in
25 West Fallowfield Township, Crawford County. An

1 indenture into State Game Land Number 214. The
2 option price is \$3,200, lump sum to be paid from the
3 Game Fund. The parcel is an indenture to State Game
4 Land Number 214. And therefore, the Commission may
5 exceed \$400 per acre under Section 705(b) of the Game
6 and Wildlife Code. Access is from US Highway 322.

7 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
8 motion?

9 COMMISSIONER KNICK: So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

11 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
12 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

13 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
14 favor say aye.

15 ALL RESPOND AYE

16 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
17 The ayes have it.

18 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

19 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
20 consideration can be found on page 36 of your
21 agendas. Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is
22 offering 124 more-or-less acres of land in Cambridge
23 Township, Crawford County, near State Game Land
24 Number 277. The option price is \$49,600 lump sum to
25 be paid from the Game Fund. WPC's acquisition of the

1 property is contingent upon them receiving funding
2 through a partnership grant provided by the United
3 States Fish and Wildlife Service through the North
4 American Wetlands Conservation Act. Covenants,
5 conditions and restrictions associated with this
6 grant will be required to accept the property.
7 Access is from Perry Highway.

8 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
9 motion?

10 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: So moved.

11 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: A second?

12 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Second.

13 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
14 discussion?

15 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Madam
16 President, for reasons that I occupy a seat on the
17 Board of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, I will
18 need to abstain from this vote.

19 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you,
20 Commissioner Fredericks. Any other discussion? Mr.
21 Secretary, please call the vote.

22 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
23 favor?

24 ALL RESPOND AYE

25 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?

1 The ayes have it.

2 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

3 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item can
4 be found on page 38 of your agendas. The estate of
5 Louis Emanuel, Marie A. Emanuel, Elizabeth E.
6 Krolczyk, and Fred W. Carlson are offering 140 more-
7 or-less acres of land in Buffington Township, Indiana
8 County, an indenture into State Game Land Number 79.
9 The option price is \$350,000 lump sum to be paid from
10 the Game Fund. The parcel is an indenture to State
11 Game Land's Number 79, and therefore the Commission
12 may exceed \$400 per acre under Section 705(b) of the
13 Game and Wildlife Code. All subsurface rights have
14 been accepted and reserved by prior owners. Access
15 is through existing State Game Land Number 79.

16 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
17 motion?

18 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: So moved.

19 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

20 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
21 discussion?

22 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: I have a
23 question. If you look at that State Game Land 79,
24 there's a little spot right dead center in the Game
25 Lands. Do they have a right-of-way to get in there?

1 MS. MUMMERT: I'm going to call it a
2 reverse L. So the top perpendicular property, that
3 one does have a right-of-way coming across from the
4 north. The long piece that is vertical, they do not.

5 Currently, they are in the process of
6 trying to get a right-of-way from the top L. I don't
7 know how to explain it. So that they can come in
8 from the north, but they do not have a legal access
9 across the Game Lands from the south. Their access
10 point is from the north.

11 COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

12 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: And our
13 staff is currently working with them and negotiating
14 on that.

15 Correct?

16 MS. MUMMERT: We are not involved.
17 They are negotiating with the other person that
18 already has a right-of-way on the north side. Their
19 title ties together, so we're not -.

20 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: So it's out
21 of our hands anyways.

22 MS. MUMMERT: Exactly.

23 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Perfect.

24 COMMISSIONER: Are they interested in
25 possibly selling that little piece?

1 MS. MUMMERT: I've only had contact
2 with - well, I should say our regional staff had
3 contact with the one landowner. He has reached out.
4 The other one has not returned a phone call or a
5 letter yet. So I'm not sure what their thought
6 process is.

7 COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

8 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any further
9 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

10 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
11 favor say aye.

12 ALL RESPOND AYE

13 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
14 The ayes have it.

15 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

16 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
17 consideration can be found on page 40 of your
18 agendas. Land Management Systems, Inc. is offering
19 87 more-or-less acres of land in Eldred Township,
20 McKean County, adjoining State Game Land Number 301.
21 The option price is \$87,000 lump sum to be paid from
22 the Game Commission's restricted account representing
23 funds from third party commitments for compensation
24 of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on
25 State Game Lands from previously approved projects.

1 Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per
2 acre. Land Management Systems, Inc. will retain the
3 subsurface rights. Access is through existing State
4 Game Land Number 301.

5 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
6 motion?

7 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: So moved.

8 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

9 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
10 discussion?

11 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Quick question.
12 Do we know who owns the parcel in between?

13 MS. MUMMERT: I'm sorry? The parcel
14 in between -?

15 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: I mean, just
16 north of that.

17 MS. MUMMERT: I did and I don't
18 remember. I can look it up. It's on my phone.

19 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: You don't have to
20 go through that trouble right now. We can go on the
21 links.

22 MS. MUMMERT: No, I have his email.

23 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: I have a
24 question. What is a green line going through there?
25 Is that just some kind of waterway?

1 MS. MUMMERT: That is the Allegheny
2 River. So a good chunk of this property, about a
3 third of the year, it is flooded.

4 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any other
5 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

6 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
7 favor say aye.

8 ALL RESPOND AYE

9 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
10 The ayes have it.

11 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item can
12 be found on page 42 of your agendas. The Margaret A.
13 Buhler 2013 Irrevocable Trust is offering 94.25 more-
14 or-less acres of land in Horton Township, Elk County,
15 adjoining State Game Land Number 44. The option
16 price is \$220,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game
17 Commission's restricted account representing funds
18 from third party commitments for compensation of
19 habitat and recreational losses which occurred on
20 State Game Lands from previously approved projects.
21 Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per
22 acre. Access is from Route 219.

23 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
24 motion?

25 COMMISSIONER KNICK: So moved.

1 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

2 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Discussion?

3 Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

4 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
5 favor say aye.

6 ALL RESPOND AYE

7 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?

8 The ayes have it.

9 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

10 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
11 consideration can be found on page 44 of your
12 agendas. HJJS, LLC is offering 262 more-or-less
13 acres of land in Greenfield Township, Blair County,
14 adjoining and connecting two tracts of State Game
15 Land Number 41. The option price is \$355,560 lump
16 sum to be paid from the Game Fund. This parcel
17 provides critical access to State Game Land Number
18 41, and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per
19 acre under Section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife
20 Code. Access is from Sproul Mountain Road.

21 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
22 motion?

23 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

24 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: A second?

25 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Second.

1 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
2 discussion?

3 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I have a quick
4 question. It's just curiosity.

5 MS. MUMMERT: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: At the end of
7 the pointer there, it points to what looks like it's
8 a road, I assume. Or is it a railroad spur?

9 MS. MUMMERT: No, there is no
10 railroad. So that is 99 with a little bit of their
11 right-of-way for an interchange for Sproul Mountain
12 Road, then. Is that what you're looking at?

13 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: So it's a four
14 lane highway, then with the two vertical pieces.

15 MS. MUMMERT: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Thank you.

17 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
18 additional discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call
19 the vote.

20 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
21 favor say aye.

22 ALL RESPOND AYE

23 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
24 The ayes have it.

25 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

1 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
2 consideration can be found on page 46 of your
3 agendas. John and Suzi Brannock are offering 124
4 more-or-less acres of land in Frankstown Township,
5 Blair County, adjoining State Game Land Number 147.
6 The option price is \$390,000 lump sum to be paid from
7 the Game Fund. This parcel provides critical access
8 to State Game Land Number 147, and therefore the
9 Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under Section
10 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. Access is from
11 Frankstown Sportsman Road.

12 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
13 motion?

14 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: So moved.

15 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

16 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
17 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

18 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
19 favor say aye.

20 ALL RESPOND AYE

21 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
22 The ayes have it.

23 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
24 consideration can be found on page 48 of your
25 agendas. Ted N. Sage is offering 1.9 more-or-less

1 acres of land in Martic Township, Lancaster County,
2 adjoining State Game Land Number 288. The option
3 price is \$1,500 per acre to be paid from the Game
4 Commission's restricted account, representing funds
5 from third party commitments for compensation of
6 habitat and recreational losses which occurred on
7 State game lands from previously approved projects.
8 Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per
9 acre. Access is from Fox Hollow Road.

10 MS. MUMMERT: If I can interject just
11 real quick, that was a mistake on our part. It is
12 actually not per acre. It is a lump sum. It's
13 \$1,500 lump sum for the 1.9 acres. So my apologies.

14 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you
15 for the clarification. Do I have a motion?

16 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: So moved.

17 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

18 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
19 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

20 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
21 favor say aye.

22 ALL RESPOND AYE

23 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
24 The ayes have it.

25 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item can

1 be found on page 50 of your agendas. Natural Lands
2 is offering 22.9 more-or-less acres of land in
3 Haycock Township, Bucks County, adjoining State Game
4 Land Number 157. The option price is \$400 per acre
5 to be paid from the Game Fund. Natural Lands
6 acquisition of the property is contingent upon them
7 receiving funding through partnership grants provided
8 by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and
9 Natural Resources and the United States Fish and
10 Wildlife Service through the Highlands Conservation
11 Act. Covenants, conditions and restrictions
12 associated with these funding sources will be
13 required to accept the property. Access is through
14 existing State Game Land Number 157.

15 Because the HCA funds are payable to
16 the Commonwealth only as a reimbursement, the
17 Commonwealth determined the most expeditious way -
18 expeditious, excuse me, way to move forward is for
19 the Commission to accept a subaward for the federal
20 funds from DCNR, provide the HCA award amount to
21 Natural Lands from the Commission's restricted
22 revenue account set up through treasury for other
23 cost sharing funds, and then directly accept the HCA
24 federal reimbursement amount back into the restricted
25 revenue account.

1 it's a total of 22.9. Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I didn't know
3 if each of them was that. I didn't think so.

4 MS. MUMMERT: No.

5 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Okay.

6 MS. MUMMERT: I wish.

7 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Quick
8 question also, is Highlands Conservation Act and the
9 grant tied to that, is that something we've done much
10 with previously, or is this something we're looking
11 to do more with in the future? Can you kind of just
12 put some context to that?

13 MS. MUMMERT: So the Highlands
14 Conservation Act is restricted to certain areas of
15 Pennsylvania. Whenever we can, we like to partner
16 with them. It is just like any other grant cycle.
17 It's just a matter of timing. They only accept
18 applications certain months. They fund in certain
19 months.

20 So if we can, we like to take
21 advantage of it as much as possible. We have used
22 them in the past, and they have been renewed.
23 They're funding for, like, another seven-years, so
24 hopefully we will continue to use this great source.

25 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

1 Any additional discussion? Mr. Secretary, please
2 call the vote.

3 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
4 favor say aye.

5 ALL RESPOND AYE

6 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
7 The ayes have it.

8 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

9 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
10 consideration can be found on page 52 of your
11 agendas. John Sedeski is offering to participate in
12 an exchange of 28 more-or-less acres of land in
13 Coolbaugh Township, Monroe County, adjoining State
14 Game Land Number 127, for 15 more-or-less acres of
15 land located in Slocum Township, Luzerne County, a
16 detached part of State Game Land Number 207.

17 John Sedeski will provide \$26,000
18 towards the acquisition of the 28 more-or-less acres
19 being offered for sale by Robert W. and Gail F. Fitch
20 with an option price of \$116,000. The Commission
21 will provide an additional \$90,000 lump sum to be
22 paid from the Game Commission's restricted account
23 representing funds from third party commitments for
24 compensation of habitat and recreational losses which
25 occurred on State Game Lands from previously approved

1 projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed
2 \$400 per acre.

3 The Commission will retain subsurface
4 rights on the 15 acres conveyed to John Sedeski.
5 Access to the 28-acre parcel is through existing
6 State Game Land Number 127. Staff determined that
7 the 28 more-or-less acres to be conveyed to the
8 Commission is of greater value than the land to be
9 conveyed to John Sedeski and that the proposed
10 exchange is in the best interest of the Commission.

11 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
12 motion?

13 COMMISSIONER KNICK: So moved.

14 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: A second?

15 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

16 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Discussion?

17 Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

18 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
19 favor say aye.

20 ALL RESPOND AYE

21 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?

22 The ayes have it.

23 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

24 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item can
25 be found on page 56 of your agendas. Karen Knight is

1 offering 12 more-or-less acres of land in Shenango
2 Township, Lawrence County, adjoining State Game Land
3 Number 336 to the Commission in exchange for six
4 more-or-less acres of State Game Land Number 336 in
5 Shenango Township, Lawrence County. The Commission
6 determined that the 12 more-or-less acres to be
7 conveyed to the Commission is of greater value than
8 the land to be conveyed to Knight and the proposed
9 exchange is in the best interest of the Commission.
10 Access to the 12-acre parcel is from Denny Drive.

11 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
12 motion?

13 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

14 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

15 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
16 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

17 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
18 favor say aye.

19 ALL RESPOND AYE

20 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
21 The ayes have it.

22 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

23 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item is on
24 page 58 of your agendas. Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC
25 is offering \$397,176 in exchange for a Special Use

1 Permit granting the temporary privilege of
2 constructing, operating, maintaining and removing a
3 total of 23,982 feet of above ground waterline, 16
4 shutoff valves and one pump. The temporary privilege
5 of using and reclaiming a total of 4.39 acres of
6 temporary workspace and 4,687 feet of existing access
7 roads and the temporary privilege of using an
8 existing five-acre freshwater impoundment, all on
9 State Game Land Number 12 in Leroy and Franklin
10 Township's Bradford County.

11 The waterline and a pertinent
12 equipment will be placed in existing clearings from
13 prior oil and gas development by Chesapeake and
14 others. All temporary workspace is located on
15 existing Chesapeake pads and the freshwater
16 impoundment was constructed and continues to be
17 operated to support Chesapeake's oil and gas
18 development within game lands.

19 The privileges granted are necessary
20 to provide freshwater for the completion of natural
21 gas wells on adjacent private property, but will also
22 serve to reduce truck traffic within and around State
23 Game Land Number 12. The Bureau of Wildlife Habitat
24 Management is requesting Commission approval to
25 deposit the \$397,176 into the restricted revenue

1 account to be used for the future purchase of lands
2 to mitigate the temporary loss of wildlife resources
3 and/or recreational values associated with this
4 project.

5 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Do I have a
6 motion?

7 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

8 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: And a
9 second?

10 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Second.

11 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Any
12 discussion? Mr. Secretary, please call the vote.

13 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
14 favor say aye.

15 ALL RESPOND AYE

16 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
17 The ayes have it.

18 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item is on
19 page 60 of your agendas and is an informational item
20 only. Therefore, no action is required. On October
21 5, 2023, the Board of Commissioners approved by
22 notational vote the deposit of \$158,741 into the
23 restricted revenue account to be used for the future
24 purchase of lands to mitigate the temporary loss of
25 wildlife resources and/or recreational values.

1 CNX Gathering, LLC offered \$158,741 in
2 exchange for a Special Use Permit granting the
3 temporary privilege of constructing, operating,
4 maintaining and removing a total of 2,547 feet of
5 above ground waterline and one air release valve on
6 State Game Land Number 302 in West Finley Township,
7 Washington County.

8 The waterline will be placed in an
9 existing 50-foot-wide natural gas pipeline right-of-
10 way licensed to CNX earlier this year and CNX will
11 use the same licensed temporary workspace and access
12 road for construction, operation, maintenance and
13 removal of this waterline. The waterline will be
14 used to transport, reuse water during completion and
15 flow back of natural gas wells while reducing truck
16 traffic around SGL 302. The Special Use Permit
17 includes conditions to minimize the potential for
18 pollution and impacts to sportsmen and wildlife on
19 the Game Lands. Again, this is an informational item
20 only.

21 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: I have a
22 question. When they say temporary, what does that
23 mean? Do they give you any indication? Is it five-
24 years, ten-years, 20-years, 50-years?

25 MS. MUMMERT: Unfortunately, I do not

1 remember the details of this one. I know the one
2 that you just voted on, it was a one year temporary
3 one with the possibility be extended. I don't
4 remember this one off the top of my head, but I'd be
5 more than happy to look it up and send it to you.

6 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Thanks.

7 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item is on
8 page 62 of your agenda. On October 18, 2023, the
9 Board of Commissioners approved by notational vote
10 the acquisition of 75 more-or-less acres of land in
11 Cherrytree Township, Venango County, an indenture
12 into State Game Land Number 96. The option price is
13 \$318,750 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. The
14 parcel is an indenture to State Game Land Number 96,
15 and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre
16 under Section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code.
17 Acquire Timber will retain the oil and gas rights.
18 Access is from Hamilton Corners Road.

19 Again, this is an informational item
20 only, therefore, no action is required.

21 And lastly on page 64, on May 10th,
22 2023, the Commission entered into a Cooperative
23 Agreement with Ernst Farms, LLC and French Creek
24 Recreational Trails, Inc. for the purpose of creating
25 and maintaining a recreational trail along the length

1 of the former Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad that
2 traverses State Game Land Number 213, totaling 1.4
3 more-or-less acres in Crawford County.

4 Under the terms of the Cooperative
5 Agreement, Ernst Farms, LLC agreed to convey title to
6 27 lots totaling 3.9 more-or-less acres in the
7 Lakeview Plan of lots in exchange for the privilege
8 of developing and maintaining the trail. This is an
9 informational item only, therefore no action is
10 required.

11 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.
12 Under new business, Commissioner Sankey and
13 Commissioner Knick were the nominating committee for
14 the 2024 Pennsylvania Game Commission Board of
15 Commissioners Officers, so you could bring us up to
16 speed on where you're at with that.

17 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: On behalf of the
18 nominating committee, we'd like to nominate
19 Commissioner Scott Foradora for president,
20 Commissioner Dennis Fredericks for vice president,
21 and Commissioner Allen DiMarco for secretary for the
22 year 2024.

23 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.
24 Do I have a motion?

25 COMMISSIONER KNICK: I will make a

1 motion.

2 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: I'll second
3 that. Any discussion?

4 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Can I have,
5 like, six months to think about it?

6 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: No. We'll
7 give you six seconds, though. Time to call the vote.
8 He's still counting to six. Mr. Secretary, will you
9 please.

10 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: I'm vice
11 president now.

12 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: All those in
13 favor say aye.

14 ALL RESPOND AYE

15 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Opposed?
16 The ayes have it.

17 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Madam
19 President, or past Madam President. Before we
20 adjourn, myself as well as others, which I'll ask if
21 they want to say words, want to sincerely thank you
22 for the last year of your leadership and your
23 dedication to wildlife. Your passion for the
24 resource is second to none. We've got in very heated
25 discussions, and you've never backed down. But you

1 advocate a position when we disagree or when we
2 agree, and you've never held any hard feelings.
3 You're a pleasure to work with, and you have a bright
4 future. So on behalf of myself and the Commission,
5 we'd like to thank you, but others may want to say a
6 few words.

7 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: I definitely want
8 to say something. One, this first full year from you
9 being on the Board, it was great, Kristen. Seeing
10 your leadership, contrary to a part of public belief,
11 we all don't always get along. You've navigated some
12 of the fistfights and others that others may miss.
13 But it's been a great year having you and hopefully
14 you'll continue to be here. And, Scott, you got
15 really big shoes to fill.

16 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Kristen, I'd
17 also like to thank you very much for all your
18 leadership over this past year. You've done a really
19 great job. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Kristen, I'd
21 also like to say as a first year Board member, thank
22 you so much for helping me get on board and always
23 being there. And I really appreciate your dedication
24 and all your effort that you put into this. Thank
25 you, buddy.

1 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Kristen, thank
2 you very much for being our president. It was a
3 pleasure to work with you, even though we didn't
4 agree on everything, especially E-bikes. But I tell
5 you what, it was a pleasure and thank you very much
6 for everything you've done for the Commission.

7 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I'm not new,
8 that's for sure, but I'm not very old either in my
9 teeth as far as the rest of the people here on the
10 Commission. But I remember the first time coming to
11 Harrisburg for the first meeting, I had no idea of
12 anyone here. A couple phone calls maybe, but I walked
13 into the hotel and I looked and there was someone
14 standing there with a backpack over their shoulder
15 and it said, WTF. What is it? Wild Turkey
16 Federation? NWTF. And I thought, well, must be one
17 of them. So I just bellied up next to her and I
18 bumped her a little bit and I said, you must be a
19 Commissioner. And she said, yes. And I said, I need
20 a little guidance, I think. And she said, we'll get
21 you through this and she's been a wonderful leader.
22 Thank you so much.

23 PRESIDENT SCHNEPP-GIGER: It's been a
24 pleasure. Thank you very much for trusting me to sit
25 here and smack the gavel.

1 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Before we
2 leave, I'm sorry to prolong this. One thing I do
3 want to thank my Commissioner peers on your
4 confidence in me. For the public, the role of the
5 chairman has no more greater authority or
6 responsibility than the rest of these volunteer Board
7 members. So my duty is to run the meeting and
8 mediate some discussions and just want to - we're all
9 equal in our votes.

10 So thank you for your confidence and
11 appreciate it and look forward to working with you.
12 And before we adjourn, one more thing. Kristen, we'd
13 like to present you with our appreciation, elk print
14 for your year of president. And it's perfectly
15 fitting for elk. Kristen, just, lucky man, got
16 engaged to a wonderful person and the engagement ring
17 is an elk tooth with pretty diamonds, and it's
18 beautiful. So Kristen is an elk hunter, so we felt
19 it was appropriate. Thank you.

20 Okay.

21 If there's no further business, come
22 before the Board. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

23 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Motion.

24 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second. All
25 in favor, say aye.

1 ALL RESPOND AYE

2 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Meeting
3 adjourned. Thank you, everybody, for coming.

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5 MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:53 P.M.

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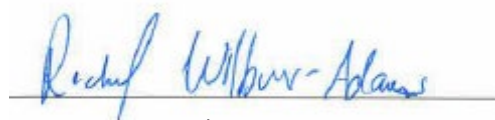
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, hearing held before President Schnepf-Giger, was reported by me on January 27, 2024 and that I, Rachel Wilbur-Adams, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 15 day of February, 2024



Rachel Wilbur-Adams,

Court Reporter

