

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

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IN RE: Game Commission Board Meeting
PUBLIC MEETING

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BEFORE: Gregory J. Isabella, President
James J. Delaney, Jr., Vice President
Ronald A. Weaner, Secretary
Thomas E. Boop, Member
David W. Schreffler, Member
David J. Putnam, Member
Robert W. Schlemmer, Member
Ralph A. Martone, Member

HEARING: Thursday, September 3, 2009
12:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

P R O C E E D I N G S

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PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

Since there is no further public comment I am going to call our business meeting to order. Welcome to the special meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. At this time, I'd like to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

Mr. Secretary, roll call of Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:

Mr. President, all Commissioners are here and accounted for and we have a full contingent of eight Commissioners I am proud to announce.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Also, at this time I would like to welcome aboard our newest Commissioner, Ralph Martone who is on the end there, Ralph welcome aboard.

At this time I would like to bring in Agency Counsel Brad Bechtel for reading of the commentary.

MR. BECHTEL:

The first item on the agenda is adoption of proposed

1 amendments to §§139.4, 141.43 and 141.44. To effectively
2 manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game
3 Commission, at its July 9, 2009 meeting, proposed the
4 following change:
5 Amend §§139.4, 141.43 and 141.44 (relating to seasons and bag
6 limits for the license year; deer; and bear) to resume
7 restrictions on crossbow usage during archery deer and archery
8 bear seasons to only persons possessing a valid disabled
9 persons permit, reauthorize the lawful use of crossbows during
10 the muzzleloading deer seasons and create a two week crossbow
11 deer season that is shorter but runs concurrent with the early
12 deer archery seasons. This is a Commissioner directed item.
13 Text for this item appears on pages three through six of your
14 agenda.

15 PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

16 Thank you, Brad. You have heard the reading of
17 the commentary is there a motion.

18 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

19 So moved.

20 PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

21 Is there a second?

22 COMMISSIONER BOOP:

23 Second.

24 PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

25 I have a second by Commissioner Boop. Discussion?

1 Commissioner Weaner.

2 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

3 Thank you. I would like to reiterate some of the
4 things that were just presented in testimony. First
5 of all I do appreciate that everyone who is here today
6 came out for the meeting under these circumstances.
7 In response to the motion that is put forward I think
8 we have heard discussion on both sides; the bottom
9 line for me is that the commission has a long history
10 of incrementally adopting new weapons and new seasons
11 and I am completely baffled as to why this weapon and
12 this season is so different from everything else we
13 have done in the long history of the Game Commission
14 that it has to be run through without the normal
15 precautions. I'm baffled, I can't understand where
16 that is coming from; maybe someone could shed some
17 light on that. One of the arguments given early on
18 was that this was so important for hunter recruitment,
19 hunter retention. I think that's been proven a bogus
20 argument. If you go out and talk to the archery shop
21 owners and ask who they are selling to and how many
22 have not hunted before the number is insignificant.
23 If my proposal were to be adopted, we may discover
24 that there is no issue and if there is no issue with
25 crossbows and it doesn't affect other of the two

1 resources we are talking about here I will be glad to
2 vote for full inclusion of crossbows the next time
3 around. I just don't understand the rush and the
4 break from the normal procedure so therefore I urge us
5 all to vote yes on this proposal.

6 PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

7 Thank you Commissioner. Is there any
8 other discussion? Since there is no further
9 discussion, all in favor of the proposal please raise
10 your hand.

11 PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

12 Opposed? Please raise your hand.

13 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

14 Mr. President the vote was four to four. In favor
15 were Schreffler, Weaner, Delaney and Boop. The others
16 voted no. It's a tie vote.

17 PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

18 Thank you Mr. Secretary. Since there is a tie,
19 there is no voting majority so this proposal fails.
20 Is there any new business? Since there is no new
21 business we have a press conference right after
22 adjournment and then the Commissioners will be going

23 COMMISSIONER BOOP:

24 Point of order, there is a matter the
25 Commissioners need to address concerning an executive

1 session.

2 PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

3 I was bringing that up right now. After the press
4 conference, the Commissioners will be going upstairs
5 for an executive session to discuss a real estate
6 item. With that, do I have a motion to adjourn.

7 COMMISSIONER WEANER:

8 So moved.

9 COMMISSIONER BOOP:

10 Second.

11 PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

12 So moved. This meeting is adjourned.

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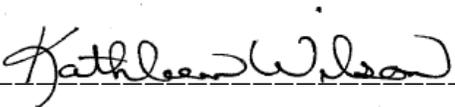
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16 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
17 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
18 notes taken by me on the within proceedings and that
19 this copy is a correct transcript of same.

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Kathleen Wilson

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Executive Secretary