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
amendments to §§139.4, 141.43 and 141.44. To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission, at its July 9, 2009 meeting, proposed the following change:

Amend §§139.4, 141.43 and 141.44 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year; deer; and bear) to resume restrictions on crossbow usage during archery deer and archery bear seasons to only persons possessing a valid disabled persons permit, reauthorize the lawful use of crossbows during the muzzleloading deer seasons and create a two week crossbow deer season that is shorter but runs concurrent with the early deer archery seasons. This is a Commissioner directed item. Text for this item appears on pages three through six of your agenda.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA:
Thank you, Brad. You have heard the reading of the commentary is there a motion.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:
So moved.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA:
Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER BOOP:
Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA:
I have a second by Commissioner Boop. Discussion?
Commissioner Weaner.

COMMISSIONER WEANER:

Thank you. I would like to reiterate some of the things that were just presented in testimony. First of all I do appreciate that everyone who is here today came out for the meeting under these circumstances.

In response to the motion that is put forward I think we have heard discussion on both sides; the bottom line for me is that the commission has a long history of incrementally adopting new weapons and new seasons and I am completely baffled as to why this weapon and this season is so different from everything else we have done in the long history of the Game Commission that it has to be run through without the normal precautions. I'm baffled, I can't understand where that is coming from; maybe someone could shed some light on that. One of the arguments given early on was that this was so important for hunter recruitment, hunter retention. I think that's been proven a bogus argument. If you go out and talk to the archery shop owners and ask who they are selling to and how many have not hunted before the number is insignificant.

If my proposal were to be adopted, we may discover that there is no issue and if there is no issue with crossbows and it doesn't affect other of the two
resources we are talking about here I will be glad to vote for full inclusion of crossbows the next time around. I just don't understand the rush and the break from the normal procedure so therefore I urge us all to vote yes on this proposal.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA:
Thank you Commissioner. Is there any other discussion? Since there is no further discussion, all in favor of the proposal please raise your hand.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA:
Opposed? Please raise your hand.

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

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

COMMISSIONER BOOP:
Point of order, there is a matter the Commissioners need to address concerning an executive
PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

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

COMMISSIONER WEANER:

So moved.

COMMISSIONER BOOP:

Second.

PRESIDENT ISABELLA:

So moved. This meeting is adjourned.

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 same.

Kathleen Wilson
Executive Secretary