COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

IN RE: PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2008

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

PUBLIC HEARING

BEFORE: ROXANE S. PALONE, PRESIDENT
GREGORY J. ISABELLA, VICE-PRESIDENT
JAMES J. DELANEY, JR., SECRETARY
RUSSELL E. SCHLEIDEN, COMMISSIONER
DAVID W. SCHREFFLER, COMMISSIONER
H. DANIEL HILL, III, COMMISSIONER
THOMAS E. BOOP, COMMISSIONER

ALSO PRESENT:
CARL G. ROE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MICHAEL W. SCHMIT, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BRADLEY C. BECHTEL, ESQUIRE, ASSISTANT COUNSEL

DATE: October 24, 2008
Friday, 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Holiday Inn Meadows
340 Racetrack Road
Washington, PA 15301

REPORTED BY: Heidi H. Willis, RPR, CRR
Notary Public
Ref. No. HW0667
PRESIDENT PALONE: Good morning, and welcome to the October 2008 Pennsylvania Game Commission meeting. It's good to see you all here.

The first order of business will be the pledge of allegiance to the flag. It's right here, so please stand and join with me.

(Pledge of allegiance)

PRESIDENT PALONE: This morning we will have our invocation by my friend Ed Cesa. He lives down in Mount Morris, and he's been my friend for a long time. When his kids were little, I used to baby-sit them, and we used to work together in the forest service.

MR. CESÁ: Good morning, everyone, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

On October 3rd was a feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Francis lived towards the end of the 12th Century, and in his 20s, he had a serious illness, and during that time frame is when he committed himself to God, and the way he did that was through service. St. Francis is well known, if you see a statue of him or a picture, of having a bird or some form of wildlife in the picture or on the statue. He's one of the saints that there's a connectedness with nature and
wildlife. And St. Francis wrote a really neat prayer, which
probably most of you heard it, which I'd like to read.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where
there's hatred, let me so love; where there's injury, pardon;
where there's doubt, faith; where there's despair, hope; where
there's darkness, light; where there's sadness, joy. Oh Divine
Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to
console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to
love, for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning
that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.

Basically his prayer really focused on service, and
many, many people here spent lots of hours in service to our
Commonwealth, primarily dealing with improving or maintaining
our wildlife and natural resources. So in closing, I'd like to
thank God for all of us being hear today and for living in this
great country of ours and this great Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania, and we ask God for his wisdom and guidance for the
decisions that will be made today and for his guidance in
everything that we do, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen. In
the name of the Father and of the Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Ed, very much.
Now I'll call on Commissioner Delaney to do the roll call of commissioners.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Roll call of commissioners of the Pennsylvania Game Commission starting with President Roxane Palone.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Here.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Vice-president Gregory Isabella.

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Present.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Secretary Delaney here.

Commissioner Schleiden.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Present.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Commissioner Boop.

COMMISSIONER BOOP: Present.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Commissioner Hill.

COMMISSIONER HILL: Here.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Commissioner Schreffler.

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Present.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Commissioner Ron Weaner, absent.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you.

Now I'll ask for a motion for the approval of minutes for the meeting held June 24th, 2008.
COMMISSIONER BOOP: So moved.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Boop, so moved.

Second?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Schleiden. All in favor signify by saying aye. (6 Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: All those opposed say nay?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the board accepts the minutes of the previous meeting unanimous.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you.

Page 2 of our agenda, I'd like to call on Director Cal DuBrock. He's the director of the Bureau of Wildlife Management in our Harrisburg office, and I'd like to call on Brad Bechtel.

MR. BECHTEL: Thank you, President Palone. The first item that comes before the commission today comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Management in regards to the State Wildlife Grants Program.

Congress appropriated funds under the State Wildlife Grants Program directly and exclusively to state wildlife agencies for wildlife species of the greatest conservation Pennsylvania is eligible to receive these funds for fishing and wildlife projects under the State Wildlife Grant or SWG program.
We are recommending approval of the six projects listed in Exhibit A, which is on page 3 of your agenda.

The projects listed in Exhibit A will not require any net reduction in the Game Fund, since all are cooperator projects. The Game Commission will simply serve as a conduit for these federal funds. If approved, the Game Commission will contract with the organizations and investigators of these projects and pay SWG-eligible costs from the Game Fund. The Game Fund will be reimbursed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Aid program using SWG funds. The Game Commission will receive up to 3 percent of all SWG funds to administer the program.

The executive director and staff recommend approval of the slate of State Wildlife Grant projects listed in Exhibit A.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Brad. Do I hear a motion to approve the State Wildlife Grant projects.

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Motion.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Isabella. Second?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Schreffler. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Oh, I'm sorry, is there any discussion on the State Wildlife Grant?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Madame President.
PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Schleiden.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Cal, on the turbine facility testing, do you know which facility that's going to be? Down in this part of the state, Somerset area or do you know?

MR. DUBROCK: Off the top of my head, I don't recall which specific facility.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: I'd like to find out later on.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Hill.

COMMISSIONER HILL: Cal, do you know if there's been any real traction with regard to vertical axis turbines versus horizontal access?

MR. DUBROCK: I can't answer that question. I don't know if Bill Capouillez -- the wind energy development and much of our work is coordinated through the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management, so I don't know if Bill might be able to tell you that.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Director Capouillez.

MR. CAPOUILLEZ: With regard to your first question, I think it's the Bear Creek facility, and then you were asking with regard to vertical versus horizontal?

COMMISSIONER HILL: Yes.
MR. CAPOUILLEZ: I'm not aware of anything with regard to the difference between the two as far as the --

COMMISSIONER HILL: I saw a vertical axis up at Iowa Royal probably about four weeks ago, and it looks like it would solve a lot of the migratory bird issues, and it turns like a tree trunk.

MR. CAPOUILLEZ: The one thing I do they are not quite as efficient. That much I know.

COMMISSIONER HILL: I think with the spacing requirements, you could set up a plantation, and it just seemed like -- and it was in an area that was very sensitive environmentally, and so I'm just wondering if there's any -- I believe in Erie we are working on our -- GDs investing in horizontal axis, but just a question. I'll send some information on it if it makes much sense for this study. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Is there any other discussion or questions? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: All those opposed say no.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the vote carries unanimous.
MR. BECHTEL: The next item also comes from the Bureau of Wildlife Management, concerns adopted rulemaking, adoption of proposed amendments to Sections 147.322, 147.324, and 147.325. To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission, at its June 24th, 2008 meeting, proposed to amend Sections 147.322, .324 and .325 relating to applications for deer control permit, privileges authorized under the permit, and special conditions of the permit, to expand the list of authorized applicants to also include homeowners associations and nonprofit land-holding organizations.

The executive director and staff recommend final adoption of these amendments to 58 Pa. Code as shown on Exhibit B of page 5 and 6 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Brad. Do I hear a motion to accept the proposal for the deer control permits.

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Motion.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Isabella. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Second.
PRESIDENT PALONE: Second Commissioner Schleiden. Is there any discussion about the permits? Hearing none, all those in favor of the rulemaking signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: Those opposed say no.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the vote passes seven to zero.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Commissioner Delaney.

Page 7 on your agenda. We are going to change now to the Bureau of Wildlife Protection, and today we have Tom Grohol. I hope I've said your name properly.

MR. GROHOL: Close enough.

PRESIDENT PALONE: And he's filling in for Rich Palmer who couldn't be with us today. Thank you, Tom, for coming from Harrisburg. Page 7 of your agenda.

MR. BECHTEL: Yes. Turning to the Bureau of Wildlife Protection, we have adoption of proposed amendments to Section 143.243. To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission at its June 24th, 2008 meeting proposed to amend Section 143.243, relating to general, to expand the list of species that mentored youth are eligible to pursue to include coyotes.
The executive director and staff recommend final adoption of this amendment, 58 Pa. Code as shown on Exhibit A on page 8 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Page 8. Do I hear a motion to accept this proposal for the mentored youth hunting program.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: So moved.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Schleiden. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Second, Commissioner Isabella. Is there any discussion?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Yes, Madam President.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Schreffler.

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Yes, I'd like to amend the language that's printed there, clean up the language. It says, A mentored youth's hunting ability is restricted. It should say eligible.

PRESIDENT PALONE: We are talking about under 143.243 (b)?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: 143.243 (b), yes. A mentored youth's hunting eligibility is restricted to the following species. I'd like to make an amendment to that.
PRESIDENT PALONE: Okay. So there's a motion to change the word "ability" to "eligibility." Is there a second to that motion?

COMMISSIONER BOOP: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Second, Commissioner Boop. Is there any discussion about the amendment? Hearing no discussion, all those in favor of the amendment signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: All those opposed say no.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the amendment passes by a vote of seven to zero.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Do we need motion on the original as amended?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: I had one other issue that I'd like to bring up again, when we initially brought this up, and to emphasize that under the mentored youth clause here, it means that this is stationary, that mentored youth are not to be moving around. I'd just emphasize that so that everyone is clear that by including coyotes under the mentored youth program, it's only for stationary hunting, just as a point of reference.
PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Commissioner Schreffler.

Commissioner Schleiden.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Madam President, my motion will stand as amended.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you. If there's no more discussion, we'll vote on the original proposal as amended. All those in favor of the proposal signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: All those opposed say no.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Unanimous vote.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Commissioner Delaney.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item appearing on page 9 of your agenda is with regard to adoption of proposed amendments to Section 147.301 through 147.307 and 47.309. To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission at its June 24th, 2008 meeting proposed the following change: To amend Section 147.301 through 147.307 and 147.309 relating to wildlife rehabilitation to update and expand wildlife rehabilitation standards.

The executive director and staff recommend final adoption of these amendments to 58 Pa. Code as shown on Exhibit B on pages 10 through 14 of your agenda.
PRESIDENT PALONE: Okay. Exhibit B is the final adoption of our changes to the wildlife rehabilitation program. Is there a motion to accept this final adoption?

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Motion.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Isabella. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Second Commissioner Schleiden. Is there any discussion about this proposal? Hearing none, all those in favor of the wildlife rehabilitation program signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: All those opposed say no?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam president, the proposal passes by a vote of seven to zero.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you. Page 15.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item concerns the adoption of proposed amendments to Sections 147.721 through 147.726, Section 147.728 and Section 147.729. To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission at its June 24th, 2008 meeting proposed to amend Sections 147.721 through 147.726, 147.728 and 147.729 relating to a commercial wildlife
pest control by changing the name of the permit and to update and expand nuisance wildlife controller operator standards.

The executive director and staff recommend final adoption of this amendment to 58 Pa. Code as shown on Exhibit C on pages 16 through 18 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Brad. This is final adoption of the nuisance wildlife control operator regulations. Is there a motion to accept these regulations?

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Motion.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Isabella. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Second Commissioner Schreffler. Is there any discussion about the final adoption of these regulations? Hearing none all those in favor signify by saying aye?

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: All opposed say no?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the final adoption passes by a vote of seven to zero.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Secretary Delaney. Page 19 starts our proposed rulemaking. These are proposals that will have to be voted on again at the January meeting.
MR. BECHTEL: The first item of proposed rulemaking concerns amending 58 Pa. Code Sections 141.41, .43, .44, .45 and .47. In recent years the Commission has been moving towards a comprehensive restructuring of the regulations attending the Game and Wildlife Code. The goals of the restructuring of the regulations are primarily focused on simplifying and making the language more understandable to its users.

To this end the Commission has begun rewriting and restructuring the regulatory structures relating to the big game seasons. As time progresses, the Commission intends to carry the theme set forth in these changes to other chapters of the regulations to establish clear correlations between related seasonal information. As part of this comprehensive effort, the Commission desires to address clarification in the usage of crossbows during the various big game archery seasons.

The Commission recognizes that over the past decade there has been a growing debate concerning the full inclusion of the use of crossbows during the various big game archery seasons. The Commission has identified that there are scores of hunters on both sides of the issue and that each side staunchly supports their respective point of view. In an effort to promote consistency and clarity in the regulations pertaining to the big game seasons, as well as expand opportunity and increase
participation in the big game hunting within this Commonwealth, the Commission is proposing to amend Sections 141.41, .43, .44, .45 and .47. Some notable substantive changes include the full inclusion of crossbows during the various big game archery seasons as well as the prohibition of the usage of crossbows during the various muzzleloader deer seasons without an archery license. The text is shown on pages 19 through 30 of your agenda.

The executive director and staff recommend the Commission approve these changes.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Brad. Is there a motion to accept this proposed rulemaking?

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Motion.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Isabella. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Second Commissioner Schleiden. I know there will be a discussion, so we'll start with Commissioner Isabella since he made the motion. Do you have any discussion?

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Yes, I do, Madam President. As a member of the board, my oath and obligation is to protect the resources for all the citizens of Pennsylvania. Also, my
responsibility is to provide as much opportunity as possible for all the hunters in the Commonwealth. Everyone knows what I do for a living. I talk to more hunters and shooters every day than anybody in this room, and I can challenge anybody with that, and I hear all the sides, however crazy they may be or the stories, I hear them all. As a policy maker, I must listen to all the sides of the issue and keep an open mind to their concerns. I recognize the concerns of the critics of crossbow usage, but I could assure everyone that as we gather data and any further statistics, I keep an open mind for the future because I too want to protect the resource. It's with that that I intend to vote for this proposal. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Commissioner Isabella.

Any more discussion? Commissioner Schreffler.

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Yes, I have some comments and a request. The first comment is I would like to thank all the sportsmen for their input, and especially all the clubs in the south central region that provided me with guidance and information on what they would like to see happen here. As I look at all of what's gone on here in the last weeks and months, I have come to the conclusion there is a lot to learn in accepting expanded crossbow season to be included in the archery seasons, such as how do we better collect data in the field and
let's do the participation rate and success rates that don't really know right now, and what will be the impact of any increase in antler kill before the rifle season and the rut. In my opinion, the answers to these and other questions can only be learned by implementing the crossbow use during the archery season, but I caution that we should move carefully in monitoring and studying the crossbow participation and the harvest of crossbows and their impact upon the deer and bear for at least a five-year period. I think that our game management programs and goals should hold priority here. Additionally, I would like to request that the wildlife protection bureau staff develop verbiage for an amendment stating that no magnifying telescopic sites be permitted on crossbows during the archery and flintlock seasons, and I intend to offer this amendment before final adoption in January. That's all.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you. Anything else, Dave?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: That's all. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Any more discussion? Commissioner Boop.

COMMISSIONER BOOP: We as commissioners are constantly reminded that we are to apply and follow science when we are adopting proposed rulemaking, and I as a commissioner have been
criticized in the past for not doing that, but as we heard yesterday, we have at this point no scientific data whatsoever to determine what the number of participants will be in the season; and, secondly, we have no scientific data whatsoever at this time to predict what the harvest will be.

When we implemented the archery bear season, we struggled with a couple days and a few management units when we first implemented that. This proposal as presently constituted would allow crossbows in the general archery season for approximately six weeks. That's a pretty dramatic change in my view and one I think that we should have some scientific data before taking this leap of faith with respect to this proposal. So I'm troubled by those two points that at this point in time we really have no scientific data to determine the number of participants, no scientific data to determine what the harvest will be.

A couple other points that concern me is I know that we should not defer to special interest groups when we are making policy on this board, but I can't help but note that the United Bow Hunters have been one of the strongest supporters of this board during the five years that I have been a member. They are adamantly opposed to this proposal, and we are going to need their support in future battles that we are going to need
to wage in this Commonwealth to protect the rights of sportsmen, and I just don't quite understand why we feel the need to go forward with this proposal at this point with so little information to support it. Prior to June of this year I think -- I maybe can't compete with Commissioner Isabella in terms of how many sportsmen I speak to daily, but I get lots of phone calls, lots of e-mails and lots of letters and I go to lots of sportsmen's banquets over the winter -- prior to June of this year, I had no request from any sportsman to implement this proposed policy. And in June it comes up, and here we are in October voting on it preliminarily for what will affect the 2009 season, and I can't understand because usually this stuff shows up on your radar screen as a commissioner pretty early. I mean there's lots of discussion of Sunday hunting, there's lots of discussion of bear season, length of bear season. I didn't hear anything about crossbows before June of this year.

And not to be cynical about it, but I think that one thing that was not mentioned in all of the testimony yesterday is that I think we have to follow the money because I think money is a critical factor here. The testimony was yesterday that the average crossbow is in that 200 to 1,500 range, but if you go out to a sportsman's shop and you want to get equipped to go out hunting with a crossbow, until you get all the
accessories, it's going to cost you about $1,000 if you get other than just the bottom line crossbow that's out there.

I went into an archery shop last week, and the one I would have liked to buy if I were going to be going crossbow hunting was $1,499 was the retail price for the TenPoint manufactured by the Ohio manufacturer. If we in the first year of this season have 50,000 new crossbow hunters, and they come from the ranks of our rifle hunters, which is where I think most people believe they are going to come from, that is $50 million in sales the first year. If we have 100,000 in three years new crossbow hunters, that's $100 million. That's a lot of money, ladies and gentlemen, and I think that has a lot to do with the support that we heard yesterday for crossbow manufacturers. So I think we need to take this slowly. I certainly wouldn't get an A rating from the United Bow Hunters if they were going to vote on us as commissioners because I've certainly opposed some of their policies in the past, but this is a significant change that's going to be hard to correct with a six-week season if we are wrong about this.

So I think we need to go slowly. I think it needs to be approached on an incremental basis, but to just dump 50,000 new crossbow hunters into the fall archery season I believe is a mistake.
PRESIDENT PALONE: Is that all, Commissioner Boop?

COMMISSIONER BOOP: That's all.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you very much. Is there any other discussion? Commissioner Schleiden.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: I love these discussions. First of all, I want to recognize UBP. I think they are an outstanding organization. I heard testimony yesterday by an individual who I think is an example of what UBP and the federation, - Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen are all about, and this gentleman apologized for some activity and actions he took against the commissioners verbally on various occasions, and now he's been born again, and he's a real supporter of the resource and ethical hunting, and he attributed that to UBP. And I find myself today, much as a number of those folks are my friends, and totally disagree with them on the crossbow issue. Rest assured, this commissioner always believes in resource first, but I also believe in the big picture and all inclusive and expanding opportunity, and I think that was the comments in the commentary.

The comments of my colleague on the far end were perhaps a little ambiguous in themselves and somewhat contradictory, and I find it interesting that suddenly we want science first when in the past it came to deer we questioned all
the science. But that's okay. I mean that's why we are up here. The fact that possibly some folks didn't get a request before June I think is found in my friend's UBP's own statements and articles of the fact that they've defeated this crossbow issue several times, and I think much like my colleague had commented on the fact that there were no hunters at some of our January meeting because the commissioners wouldn't listen, if you can think the same thing happened with the bow people, if you can keep that on the same level. The crossbow people finally gave up.

But the fact is that the crossbow is an effective weapon. It's an effective tool for hunting. The science will be gathered. The controls are in place. Believe me, I think Cal said yesterday there ain't no place like Pennsylvania. That's true on both sides of the pendulum. Pennsylvania does a lot of work and a lot of our people do a lot of work and research and they collect data. So in this case I think Commissioner Isabella said or I guess it was Schreffler that said that we needed to get the science. Well, how do you get the science unless you do it, and we put it in place, we watch it closely, we keep, in fact, resource first, and I think you are going to find that in the long run this is going to be a nonissue. I think that in the long run this dog won't hunt. I
think we are going to be okay, and I hope my colleagues do support it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you. Any other comments? I guess I'll have to make a few then.

First of all, I want to thank all those folks who came out yesterday, and they were really thoughtful comments that people made on both sides of the issue of crossbows. People were very passionate. People were very polite. There was really a lot of good discussion and good, thoughtful things that were said yesterday on both sides of the issue. And I just want to remind folks that this is a preliminary vote, that in January at the earliest will be the final vote, and at the January meeting there could be some amendments offered, that often happens, or the vote could even be put off for a little bit longer. But I too have to chime in and say how wonderful the UBP has been in supporting our deer management program over the years, and they will always put the resource first. I have no doubt about that. No matter how we vote today and what happens to crossbows, the UBP is always going to be -- they are always going to want to manage our wildlife and our resources in the best possible way, what's good for both the resource and the hunters. So they have that conviction, and it's not going to go away.
As far as crossbows just appearing on the radar, this is the fourth time since I've been on the commission that we've taken up crossbows. It's not the first time they have been on the radar, and every time it's very passionate and it's very thoughtful comments and we go through the same thing. So it's been on the radar many times. I believe that some people do not want crossbows because they do not want more does harvested. In my opinion just from being on the board, and I've been on the board just as long as anyone, and longer, it always comes down to how many does we harvest, and I think that's some of the motivation for some people, they do not want another implement in there harvesting does.

As far as one of Mr. Boop's comments, he said we do not know the number of participants that we are going to have, and then he said we are going to have 50,000 participants. So either we don't know or we do know how many participants we are going to have. You can't have it both ways. As far as the manufacturers, I love capitalism. I'm a very big capitalist. I think it's wonderful that the crossbow manufacturers are out there trying to make money. It's called good marketing, and all the other manufacturers do it: rifles pistols, camouflage clothes, all kinds of deer calls and predator calls, all sorts of ammunition, tree stands, all kinds of things that I've never
heard of. So I think that's a good thing. I don't think that's bad to have capitalism in the hunting community.

Yesterday we heard a lot of things from Cal. He said that he doesn't believe that we would have to shorten the season if we implement crossbows, at least for two years. So I agree with Commissioner Schleiden that we have to try it before we know what's going to happen, and it's a very hard decision for me. A couple other things I heard yesterday, that crossbows won't increase license sales, there's no evidence of that. The other thing that worries me, that if we don't take some action, the General Assembly will, and believe me, it's much better for us to take action than to let the General Assembly take action.

So those are just some of my thoughts about the crossbow issue. Are there any other comments? Hearing no other comments, all those in favor of the proposal, please raise your right hand. All those opposed to the proposal, please raise your right hand.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the vote passes by a vote of five to two, and for the record, Commissioners Isabella, Palone, Schleiden, Schreffler and Hill voted affirmatively for it, and Delaney and Boop voted negatively against it, just for the record.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Secretary Delaney.
MR. BECHTEL: The next item concerns the amendment of Pa. Code 147.783. It's found on page 31 of your agenda. In recent years, continental snow goose populations have experienced a rapid growth in their numbers. This dramatic increase in population size has in turn resulted in extensive, possibly irreversible damage to arctic and subarctic breeding habitats of the continental snow goose, as well as other bird populations dependent these habitats.

In January 2008, the Commission, working in conjunction with the federal government, created Subchapter W, relating to snow goose conservation hunt permit, in chapter 147, relating to special permits, to define and create the regulatory structure necessary to implement the new snow goose conservation hunt program within this Commonwealth. However, since the adoption of this rulemaking, the Commission has continued to receive extensive public input from the various sources, including the Susquehanna River Waterfowlers Association, hunters and guides on ways to improve the program. In particular, these sources have strongly encouraged the permitted use of electronic calls during the snow goose conservation hunt, a proven method that is effective in increasing harvest rates.

In light of the Commission's continued recognition of the need to dramatically increase the harvest of snow geese in
Pennsylvania to assist in the reduction of overall continental populations, the commission is proposing to amend Section 147.783, relating to permit, to authorize the limited use of electronic calls for all hunting and taking activities conducted pursuant to a snow goose conservation hunt permit. The text of these minutes are shown on pages 31 through 32 of your agenda.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Okay. Thank you.

MR. BECHTEL: The executive director and staff recommend the Commission approve this change.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you now. I just wanted to remind everyone that this snow goose conservation hunt has to be approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and so far they haven't approved anything. So we are out ahead of them, but we are just trying to be proactive, and we don't know when that will be approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

So with that being said, is there a motion to accept this adopted rulemaking?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: So moved.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Schreffler. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Second.
PRESIDENT PALONE: Second Commissioner Schleiden. Is there any discussion? No discussion. All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: All those opposed, say no?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the vote passes by a vote of seven to zero.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you Secretary Delaney.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item is found on page 33, concerns hunting license revocations for convictions, the 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, such period of time as the Commission shall determine. Persons denied the right to hunt or
partake in the Commonwealth through this action are notified by certified mail that the revocation will commence July 1st, 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 28th, 1978, a 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 1st, 2009, and shall continue for such period of time and under the conditions set forth following each individual's name.
PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Brad. Those listed individuals you received in your packet. It's the big list of revocations. Is there a motion to accept those revocations?

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Motion.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Isabella. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Second Commissioner Schreffler. Is there any discussion about the revocation? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: All those opposed say no.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the vote on the hunting license revocation is seven to zero.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Commissioner Delaney.

Now, we have a supplemental list that we have to take up. These are the people that had administrative hearings.

MR. BECHTEL: Yes. First there are administrative hearings concerning the revocation of hunting and furtaking privileges. Administrative hearings are held to review the hunting and furtaking revocations for those persons who file a petition requesting a review, in accordance with the Administrative Agency Law.
The Commission was furnished a copy of the findings of fact, the conclusions of law and the recommendations of the hearing officer concerning the administrative hearing held at the request of each individual listed on your supplement. Findings of fact set forth the circumstances surrounding this matter.

The executive director recommends that the Commission approve the findings of fact, the conclusions of law and recommendation of the hearing officer Andrew Lehman allowing the revocation period to remain as originally ordered for the individuals listed on your supplement.

PRESIDENT PALONE: And the recommendation on the next page, would you read that too.

MR. BECHTEL: Yes. There's also a recommendation being made, the executive director recommends the Commission approve the findings of fact, the conclusions of law and the recommendations of the hearing officer Andrew Lehman allowing the revocation period to be reduced for an individual listed on the second page of your supplement.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you. I'm going to ask for a motion that we approve both of these at the same time on both pages, the ones that remain the same and the ones that will be reduced. Do I hear a motion?
COMMISSIONER BOOP: So moved.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Boop. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Second Commissioner Isabella. Any discussion? No discussion? All those in signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: All those opposed say no.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the vote on both administrative hearing pages is seven to zero to accept them.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Commissioner Delaney. Thank you, Tom. We'll now be changing to the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management, and I'd like to on call on Director Bill Capouillez to come to the podium. He's our director from our Harrisburg office. We are on page 34 of the agenda.

MR. BECHTEL: The first items concern donations of real estate. The first donation is Option No. 3539, State Game Land No. 302, Greene County. 125 plus or minus acres of land in Richland Township, Greene County, adjoining State Game Land No. 302 as shown on Exhibit RED 1 on page 36 of your agenda. This a donation from Consol Pennsylvania Coal Company, LLC, of Pittsburgh. The parcel consists of 60 acres of mixed hardwoods,
35 acres of shrub lands and reverting old fields and 30 acres of agricultural land, of which 20 acres are tillable. There is a small stream originating from the groundwater and springs on the property which flows into the Enlow Fork of Wheeling Creek. Indiana bats, a federal and state listed endangered species, are present on or near the property. There is no surface mining taking place on the tract, but there is a 10-foot square fenced vent shaft and a 2-acre vent shaft adjacent to the tract which will need to be subdivided prior to the donation. The entire property is currently being long-wall mined and will be subject to planned subsidence. No evidence was seen of acid mine drainage.

Option No. 3540, is on State Game Land No. 187, Luzerne County. It's 1 plus or minus acre of land in Dennison Township, Luzerne County, located approximately 2.3 miles from State Game Land No. 187, as shown on Exhibit RED 2 on page 37 of your agenda. This is a donation from Patricia A. Davis of Greenville, South Carolina. This detached parcel is predominantly forested with northern hardwoods and eastern hemlock.

Option No. 3541 is on State Game Land No. 156 in Lebanon County. It's 1.99 plus or minus acres of land in Cornwall Borough, Lebanon County, being adjacent to State Game
Lands No. 156 as shown on Exhibit RED 3 on page 38 of your agenda. This is a donation from Katherine M. Fitzgibbons of Cornwall. The forested parcel is approximately 4,268 feet long by 20 feet wide and is located adjacent to an existing electric transmission line right-of-way located on State Game Land No. 156. Oak, hickory, black gum and sassafras make up the overstory with arrowwood, witchazel, maple-leaf viburnum and blackberry in the understory.

The executive director and staff recommends that the donations listed above be accepted and the commission authorize the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management to proceed with the acquisition of these tracts.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Do I hear a motion to accept these donations?

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Motion.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Isabella. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Second Commissioner Schreffler. Is there any discussion? I'd like to bring up a point. First of all, I'd like to recognize one of our former commissioners who is here today, Dennis Fredericks, he's in the back. He was the commissioner before I was, and I want to commend Dennis on the
donation of State Game Lands 302 in Greene County. On Wednesday
Commissioner Delaney and I and Commissioner Schreffler went on a
tour of the site that they are donating to us, and when Indiana
bats were first found on that site, everyone panicked because
they are a federally endangered species, and we want to be good
stewards of our wildlife, but at the same time we have resources
that we need to develop in order that people have electricity in
the Commonwealth. Most of our electricity comes from coal
mining.

But Consol Energy and the Game Commission worked
together very well, and they developed a partnership with other
agencies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Western
Pennsylvania Conservancy and the National Wild Turkey Federation
all worked with us to resolve this issue of the Indiana bats, and we
came to this resolution, and Consol agreed to donate this
land to us so that we could protect these Indiana bats, and we
appreciate it so much, and we are just so thankful that this was
resolved and that everyone can live with the outcome and we can
get some new game lands. So thank you to Dennis and our other
partners, and thank you, Bill, and your department.

If there's no other discussion, all those in favor of
the motion signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)
COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the vote is seven to zero to pass the three real estate donations.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Commissioner Delaney.

MR. BECHTEL: The next item concerns a land exchange that's found on page 39 of your agenda.

Option No. 3542, State Game Land 86 in Warren County. Tony L. Stec Lumber Company, Inc., was previously the high bidder on the Commission's timber sale number 086-06-01 in the amount of $202,020. The Stec family is the owner of a tract of land comprised of 100 acres in Deerfield Township, Warren County, an indenture into State Game Land No. 86, which the Commission is interested in acquiring.

The Commission and Tony L. Stec Lumber Company, Inc., have agreed to the value of $170,000 for the parcel. Tony L. Stec Lumber Company, Inc., has offered to transfer the 100 acres in Deerfield Township, Warren County, shown on Exhibit RED 4 on page 40. The value of $170,000 would then be credited against the blocks to be cut on the timber sale listed above until the value has been exhausted. The property is entirely forested with mostly mixed northern hardwoods to include hickory, oak and cherry. The majority of the tree species are in early forest succession. A small 1-acre wetland is located on the property.
and an unnamed tributary, which supports native brook trout, flows across the property. The property is surrounded on three sides by State Game Land No. 86, and acquiring this tract will result in a reduction of future boundary line maintenance.

The staff has reviewed this proposal and has determined it to be of equal or greater value for the benefit of wildlife. 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 PALONE: Thank you. Do I hear a motion to approve this land exchange?

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Motion.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Isabella. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Second Commissioner Schleiden. Is there any discussion about the land exchange? Hearing none all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: Those opposed say no?

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the vote was unanimous on Option No. 3542, the land exchange.
PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Secretary Delaney.

MR. BECHTEL: Moving on to oil, gas and minerals, the next item on page 41 of your agenda concerns an oil and gas lease amendment on State Game Land No. 49 in Bedford County in the south central region.

Steckman Ridge LP has requested to amend its existing 753.32 acre oil/gas lease on State Game Land No. 49 in Monroe Township, Bradford County. The lease amendment consists of the addition of gas storage rights in the Oriskany formation for 82.36 storage acres and 398.6 buffer acres as shown on Exhibit OGM-1 on page 42 of your agenda.

Steckman Ridge, LP, is converting 1,906 acres of the now depleted Oriskany sandstone formation to a natural gas storage field of which 82.36 acres is under the Commission ownership. In exchange for the lease amendment Steckman Ridge, LP, will make a one-time bonus payment of $48,460 to the Game Fund. Steckman Ridge, LP, will also pay the Commission an annual rental of $15,067 per year or a storage fee rate of 3 cents per MCF of the storage field proportionally owned by the Commission, whichever the greater.

The project will be regulated by the Commonwealth's oil/gas regulations and the Commission's standard lease agreement. There will be no surface use of the lease area.
associated with this proposed gas storage lease storage amendment. All other terms and conditions of the lease will remain unchanged.

The staff has reviewed this proposal and has determined that the total value of the oil/gas storage lease is greater than or equal to the accumulated value for the lease.

The executive director and the staff recommend the proposed lease be approved and the Commission authorize the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management to proceed with the leasing amendment arrangement as listed above.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Brad. Do I hear a motion to accept this oil and gas lease amendment?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Motion.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Schreffler. Second?

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Isabella. Is there any discussion about the lease? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: Those opposed say no.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the vote is seven to zero to support the oil/gas lease amendment on State Game Lands 49.
MR. BECHTEL: The next item on page 43 of the agenda is the coal refuse removal and reclamation lease on State Game Land No. 60 in Clearfield County in the north central region. CMT Energy, Inc., of Brisbin Pennsylvania has requested a lease to mine and remove abandoned coal refuse disposed on a portion of a 20.2 acre tract of land being part of State Game Land No. 60 as shown on Exhibit OGM-2 on page 44 of your agenda. The proposed coal refuse removal would entail approximately 9.3 acres of unclaimed coal refuse spoil piles. The remaining lease acreage will be utilized for access to the coal refuse removal site, construction of erosion and sedimentation controls and operational support.

The accumulated coal refuse royalty value of this proposed project has been calculated at approximately $25,000. Removal and reclamation of the spoil piles will reduce ongoing pollution into Muddy Run. Reclamation will be regulated by the Commonwealth's surface mining regulations and the Commission's coal refuse removal and reclamation lease agreement. The five-year lease will include a $10,000 performance bond and environmental protection standards. Further, CMT Energy will be obligated to carry out a site specific wildlife habitat reclamation plan as per the direction of the local Land Management Group supervisor. The reclamation plan will include
the development of a 1 1/2 to 2 acre shallow water wetland complex. No merchantable timber is to be affected by this reclamation operation.

In exchange for the coal refuse removal and reclamation lease, CMT Energy, Inc., will pay the commission a royalty of 10 percent F.O.B. pit price or a minimum of $1 per ton, whichever the greater for each and every ton of coal refuse mined and removed from the site.

The executive director and staff recommend the proposed lease be approved and the Commission authorize the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management to proceed with the leasing arrangement as listed above.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Brad. Do I hear a motion to accept this coal refuse removal and reclamation lease?

COMMISSIONER BOOP: So moved.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Boop. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Second Commissioner Schleiden. Is there any discussion about the lease? Hearing none all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: All those opposed say no.
COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, the vote is unanimous.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Commissioner Delaney. That concludes our agenda items today. I don't have a lot because I'm retired most of the time, but we are going to move on to new business.

The first thing that we have is a pheasant resolution by Commissioner Delaney.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Yes, Madam President. In discussions with the entire Board of Commissioners, I've drafted a resolution to support our pheasant plan, and I would like to read the resolution and then offer a vote by our Board of Commissioners, our entire Board of Commissioners, if I may. It reads,

A resolution expressing the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Board of Commissioners, support for the Ring-Necked Pheasant Management Plan for Pennsylvania for 2008 to 2017, which is a comprehensive plan with six strategic goals identified.

Whereas, the plans call for the restoring, self-sustaining and hunttable ring-necked pheasant populations in suitable habitat by establishing wild pheasant recovery areas;
Whereas, the Pennsylvania Game Commission seeks to provide pheasant hunting opportunities by annually producing and releasing 250,000 pheasants at PGC Game Farms and maximize their harvest by sportsmen;

Whereas, the plan calls for the Pennsylvania Game Commission to actively inform and educate landowners and cooperators about suitable pheasant habitat, how to manage habitat areas to enhance their value to pheasants and create pheasant habitat demonstration areas on State Game Lands;

Whereas, the plan seeks to develop partnerships to restore wild pheasants in Pennsylvania and integrate the recovery efforts with the existing farm bill and state conservation programs;

Whereas, population monitoring and research will be used to ensure the best management of pheasant resource;

Whereas, the pheasant management plan seeks to identify sustainable funding and resources necessary to return wild pheasant populations and quality pheasant hunting in Pennsylvania;

And whereas, the Board of Commissioners wish to thank executive director Carl Roe; Cal DuBrock, bureau director of Wildlife Management; Bob Boyd, assistant bureau director; Scott Klinger, wildlife biologist, and all the agency employees that
built a pheasant management plan that will be a model for other states to follow.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Board of Commissioners, wholeheartedly support and advocate the implementation of the Ring-Necked Pheasant Management Plan for Pennsylvania for 2008 to 2017.

And I would like to offer a motion to support this resolution, President.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Commissioner Delaney. We have a motion to support this resolution, and I would like to have a roll call vote.

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: I'll have a second to that motion.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Commissioner Schreffler is second. Commissioner Delaney, as secretary, you can do the calling.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Okay. We'll start with Commissioner Boop.

COMMISSIONER BOOP: Support the resolution.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Commissioner Isabella.

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: I support the resolution.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Commissioner Palone.

PRESIDENT PALONE: I support the resolution.
COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Commissioner Schleiden.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Commissioner Hill.

COMMISSIONER HILL: Support.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Commissioner Schreffler?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: I wholeheartedly support the resolution.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, I believe we have unanimous support for the resolution.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Commissioner Delaney.

COMMISSIONER BOOP: Madam President.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER BOOP: I just also would like to thank Commissioner Delaney for his efforts on behalf of the board, not only with the resolution, but with the program. We know he's certainly interested in this area, and that interest shows through to the benefit of our stakeholders, and I'd just like to thank him for his work on this.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Isabella.

MR. ISABELLA: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, I can remember in 2005, that's how far back this issue goes with my involvement, we had just hired a new executive director, and I had just met my esteemed colleague via the internet through a
friend, and through conversation, you know, he was concerned, along with a lot of others, that pheasant hunting was going to be no more in the Commonwealth.

A few months after our new executive director got his feet wet, we had a meeting in the conference room, and it was all stakeholders and pheasant hunting throughout the state were there, and the blueprint was started for actually what we have today. So if there was any concerns back then that pheasant hunting was going to be history in the Commonwealth, I can assure you that it is not and the opposite is happening, and that is it, Madam President.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you. Any other comments?

Commissioner Schleiden.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Yes, just one thing that we all have to remember. We are working very hard to reestablish the wild population, but like everything, there are two sides to that, and I positively think that that's going to happen, but I think, you know, the school is still out on that issue as to whether it will be successful.

But this resolution is, in fact, encouraging our staff and the agency and our executive director to do all that is possible to support bringing more wild birds in, but it's not a panacea, and I'd like to see us have 250 birds also as soon as
possible, but we do need a license increase, and we put that on the record. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you. Any other discussion?

Okay. Thank you, Commissioner Delaney. I'm going to ask for new business as a result of our work sessions that we've had since the last meeting. Is there any new business under Wildlife Management? Wildlife Habitat Management? Wildlife Protection? Information and Education?

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: Yes, Madam President.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Schreffler.

COMMISSIONER SCHREFFLER: I would like to bring up to items to the public's knowledge. It was already mentioned yesterday in the presentation on form access that the Pennsylvania Game News magazine is now available to schools and libraries and the public access cooperators online. Those people who previously got a complimentary subscription are getting it online. It's available, and we sent out brochures like this, and it's out there. It's really neat. It's Next Book, called Next Book, the Game News comes up, it looks like the regular Game News. You click on the lower corner of the magazine, and you hear the page turn (indicating) and it opens up and you can read it.
It's really neat, and I hope that students in school and computer labs and public libraries will get in there and read it. You'll have 30 kids reading it. Rather than one kid reading one magazine, we'll have 30 kids reading it at the same time on different computers. They can print off articles they want. They can click on the table of contents to see what other topic or article they'd like to have, and if they want to take an article home, they just print it out and take it along.

So I'm hoping that's there, and in the future as we start moving our Information and Education Bureau into the new century and the future here getting more computerized and getting out in line with technology, hopefully we'll be able to have special announcements and things for our cooperators on there that would be relevant to them and maybe extra pictures at the schools for kids who have their trophies that they've gotten and so on and tailor it a little bit that way. So I'm really excited about this. I think as we go into a more computer age here, we are already in it, that the Game Commission is really moving forward.

There's one other item I'd like to mention also. We've completed about six months of work on Outdoor Pennsylvania with the Game Commission. This is a radio program. It's aired on about 34 stations around the state. It's a little three-
minute program where we have one-minute commercials and couple
minutes with the Game Commission, and it's hosted by Jerry
Feaser, one of our employees here. But what I want to say is
that I've heard these on the radio. They are really interesting
and I think they are really neat, and I want to thank the staff
who have taken time out from a lot of their busy schedules and
so on to participate in the interviews to get the word out about
all the good things that the Game Commission is doing, and I
think this is very effective.

As people drive around, I hear them during the day as
people drive from here to there, and I've gotten a few comments.
So thank you, staff, for your cooperation and taking time from
your duties and participating with this very important effort.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you, Commissioner Schreffler.
Is there any other new business by any individual Commissioner?
Okay. The next thing we have on the agenda is to set the time
and place for our next meeting. We've already established
January 25th, 26th and 27th of 2009 as the dates of our next
meeting. It will be held in our Harrisburg headquarters. On
January 25th, which is a Sunday, the meeting begins at 1 p.m.,
and on the Monday and Tuesday, the meeting begins at 8:30 a.m.
Do I hear a motion to accept this meeting date and time?

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Motion.
PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Isabella. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER BOOP: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Second Commissioner Boop. Is there any discussion? is everyone okay with those dates? Okay. Hearing no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: All those opposed say no.

COMMISSIONER DELANEY: Madam President, that passes for next year's January meeting by a vote of seven to zero.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Okay. I want to thank you all for attending today.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROE: I think we are not done yet, Madam President.

PRESIDENT PALONE: I think we have a little bit of other new business, but I want to make sure, before everybody gets all excited, that -

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: I think you're excited.

PRESIDENT PALONE: I am. I am. I've been so nervous. Hal is going to take our picture before we run off, before all the Commissioners run off, and so after we do our other things that the executive director would like to do, I'd just want the Commissioners to stand by up here and get a little closer, and
Hal is going to take some pictures before we leave, and then later on we'll have our press conference also. So we are going to have our picture taken by Hal before we run off.

Now I'm going to turn the meeting over to Executive Director Roe.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROE: Thank you, Madam President.

I'll try to get you unnervous.

Well, today is really a day of change for the Board of Commissioners. Although we are going to say good-bye to two of our Commissioners, I hope they will be around for the next six months, or they are allowed to stay around for another six months, let's put it that way, and I hope they take that opportunity. We'll be ladies first this morning, so PRESIDENT PALONE, if you'll come down here.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Got my bible.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROE: Her bible is the Game News if you look real carefully here. On behalf of the agency, I'd really like to thank -- I'll say Roxane. We'll do it a little more informal -- for your great, dedicated service to, like I said yesterday, to not only the Game Commission, but to the Commonwealth, and more importantly to our hunters and trappers out there. I know it hasn't always been easy for you. You have now made history with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. I
believe that you are the first lady to serve a full term on the Board of Commissioners, and certainly the first lady to serve as a president, and I know at times it's been very challenging. I know I've enjoyed working with you. I know our staff has enjoyed working with you, and we appreciate everything you've done for us and working with us and your leadership and your guidance.

So on behalf of the Game Commission, we have two prints we'd like to give you, and we'll go to the center here in a minute. This is the first one -- I guess let's go out in center anyhow. We'll go out in front here.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Okay. Whatever you want.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROE: Can we do it this way or bring them up?

(Photos taken)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROE: And I believe, Greg, you have some commentary.

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Yes. Well, Roxane, ladies and gentlemen, when I first met Roxane it was 2002 at State College at a PFSC convention. So I was first introduced to her. We had talked, and I see this blond in a black dress, I go whoa. So of course, you know, I get a conversation going. She proceeds to tell me she was in the Marines. I said really. So the first
thing I did was I insulted her. I said, Oh, so you were a BAM.
Now, if you don't know what a BAM is, she knew. A BAM is a broad ass marine, but I think she was a little ticked at me, but then, you know, we hit it off. But what I did find out about her is that she was a hunter, she was a fisherman, she was a shooter, she was a tomboy, and there are none of those where I come from on the other end of the state. Most importantly though, she was a leader, and during the five years that I have known her, she showed tremendous courage in really a man-dominated sport, and I give her top marks for that.

So, Roxane, when you retire and you go to that big commissioner's seat in the east, I want to wish you and Vince all the best luck.

Another thing about Roxane is I was teaching her some south Philly lingo.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Oh, no.

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: So I told her what a south Philly roll is, we won't get into that, okay. Then I told her how to order a cheese steak, and she understood that. And then I was telling her, well, yeah, the way you do that is you whack them. So I know I made an impression on her because in the last couple of meetings, she'd go, oh, yeah, G, we'll whack them.
So, Roxane, I wish you and Vince the best of luck in your retirement.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. The first thing I'd like to do is introduce my brother and his wife who are here today. My brother Craig Freeman, I call him Freeman, and his wife Bonna. I have four wonderful brothers, and they have all been very good to me since I have been a Commissioner, and they spoil me terribly, but over the years they've all told me that they have to quit telling people that I'm a Commissioner because they've gotten a lot of flack over that, so they've just laid low. At first they were very excited about it, but then when they saw that some other people weren't so excited about some of the deer decisions we made, they had to lay low.

And I also want to introduce my wonderful husband. He's a very modest person and very low key, but I want to introduce him anyway, my husband Vince. He's my anchor and my rock and my chief pilot. He's really stood behind me and stood in front of me and stood beside me and held my hand and held me up and all sorts of things as I've been a Commissioner, and I just call him the first dude, the first dude. So thank you, Vince.
I have to correct a couple things that Greg said. Actually I first met him, I think it was way back in 1994 when the National Rifle Federation had their national convention in Philadelphia at the convention center. Firing Line had a booth there at the convention, and Greg had a beautiful woman named Elizabeth who was working at the booth. And I kept wondering why my husband kept going by this booth five or six times a day for about four days, so I went over there to check out Firing Line, and there was Elizabeth. So I got Vince to have his picture taken with Elizabeth, and by the time we were done taking pictures, there was a big crowd around him cheering him on, so that was a lot of fun. So that's when I really met Greg.

And it's true that I used to harvest animals and now I whack 'em. And one other correction I have to make. A BAM is not what Greg said it is. It is a beautiful American marine.

(Applause)

I have to be honest with you, I'm not really going to give a big, long talk today because I do have to come back to the January meeting because the Governor and the Senate have really not done anything in the way of replacing Russ and I. So I will be back at the January meeting, but I do want to read one little comment before I go sit down. This is from the March 2001 edition of the Pennsylvania Game News, and this was my speech...
that I gave at my swearing-in ceremony at the southwest regional office in Ligonier, and I've tried to remember this through my whole tenure as a Game Commissioner, and it's very apropos today as we took on some tough issues.

In order to succeed, I feel there are at least five important things that we need to do. The first one is listen, listen, listen. We need to develop and implement a long-term strategic plan. We need to practice discipline in our dealings with all stakeholders, seek collaborative solutions which sometimes means compromising, and above all set aside our tribal bickering and present a united front. We are not hyphenated hunters -- bow hunters, rifle hunters, women hunters or junior hunters -- but we are simply hunters. It's not that I don't welcome intelligent debate and disagreements, that's the way to listen and learn, but let's disagree quietly and let's agree with great celebration. Thank you.

(Applause)

I'm still nervous though.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROE: Russ, come on down.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: I thought by now I'd have to be wearing Kevlar and a cane.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROE: Seen some old pictures of me.

Obviously our next Commissioner who is leaving us is
Commissioner Russ Schleiden. I guess I would say Russ and I are kind of joined at the hip to a certain degree. One of the first things I did as an intern with the Game Commission in the year 2000 was attend Russ' swearing-in in Bellefonte. So I guess we've kind of had these past eight years together, but I can tell you there hasn't been anyone more dedicated to the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the wildlife resources of Pennsylvania than Russ.

We laugh about it behind closed doors, and we kind of say Russ has been the patriarch of this board. He has managed it directly and indirectly through some very tough times, led the charge in some very tough decisions and good decisions the board has made over the last few years, and has really put this agency and wildlife ahead, in many cases, of his family.

And I want to thank Jean and Jeannine who are here today for letting us have him for the last eight years. I know there's been some times, and probably the news clippings are still on the refrigerator, to remind you of some of those less favorable times, but thank you for sharing Russ with us and with the Commonwealth, and, Russ, thank you for all the great things you've done, and we are going to miss you, buddy. And on behalf of the Commission, we have two prints for you, and if you want to come out front here.
Russ and Roxane both get a print for being on the board and being the president of the board.

(Photos taken)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROE: Rox, do you have a few words?

PRESIDENT PALONE: Yes, I do. I have a few words.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Uh-oh.

PRESIDENT PALONE: No, I really have just a few words.

Russ and I are kind of joined at the hip also because we came on the board at the same day, November 21st, 2000, but before we came on the board, we attended all the Game Commission meetings, I don't know, it was a year or two prior, but Russ would have to sit back there with me, and he had to wait for me to be confirmed, because Russ was a shoe-in and I was kind of a --

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Marine.

PRESIDENT PALONE: -- more controversial, so he had to wait for me to be sworn in before he could be sworn in and confirmed. So Russ had a lot of patience sitting back there with me, and we got to know each other pretty well. Russ has really been a leader on the board. He's been a mentor to many of us. He's really a team builder. Russ has a background in football. He played for Penn State University, and he was a guard and a tackle both, and I can tell you I've been the recipient of both of those positions. Sometimes he was my
guard, sometimes he tackled me, but I appreciate it. And Russ also has the distinguished honor of being the greatest deer slayer in the history of the Commonwealth. He's also been many times referred to as skunk in the woodpile, and also him and I are from another planet.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: That's right.

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: So I think I'm from Venus and he's from Mars.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Go planets.

PRESIDENT PALONE: So we've really been through a lot together. This board is a very dedicated board, and we went through a lot in revamping our deer management program, and Russ was very instrumental in that. So I just want to thank him from the bottom of my heart for being my leader and my friend and working with all of us. He's just a wonderful team builder, and thank you, Russ, and you'll always be my friend.

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: Thank you, Roxane.

(Applause)

COMMISSIONER SCHLEIDEN: You are a tough act to follow. Thank you very much, Roxane, and many of the words you have said go both ways, and I don't want to reiterate it, but, yes, we have been very close and we have worked, and I think if anybody showed courage on this board, it has been you, and I
think it's very appropriate that you finish your career as the
president of this board.

And ladies and gentlemen, and Carl, thank you very
much for your comments. I have to tell you, this is a good
board, and for probably the last five years, we have developed
an outstanding board. There's a lot of mutual respect. There's
a lot of differences of opinion, and those are appropriate, and
I think there's been some friendships develop through this. In
fact, I didn't know I'd ever like anybody from south Philly but
--

(Laughter)

It's a mixed board politically, and that's been very
interesting and very healthy, and I think that in the long run I
believe the agency has, in fact, probably benefited from this,
and I couldn't have committed the time and effort that I had
being in the business that I was in without the support of my
family, and Carl mentioned my wife Jeanie's here today, and you
are right, she does have some of those comments on the
refrigerator. And my daughter Jeannine took on some time out of
her busy schedule to be here today, and she was also here the
first time I came in, and so it's appropriate, and I appreciate
the fact that you are here.
But most of all, I want to thank all the sportsmen, even those folks who adamantly disagreed with me, and it's true I believe on the deer issue one of our proponents that we put out in the field actually did have to wear a Kevlar for a while, but I haven't because I have a layer of fat to protect me.

We did make some tough decisions. We made some very tough decisions, and I think in the long run history will bear out the fact that this board worked very hard, it's in good hands now, it's going to move on forward. I think we have some great times ahead for this agency. I mean 113 years, no small license increase hindrance is going to stop us. It's a great agency, it has great tradition, and it's just too bad that the public in Pennsylvania doesn't know who we are and what we do.

We are working very hard at that, as Dave has told you. Carl's been a very hard worker. Jerry Feaser's done a wonderful job through the years. And then when you come down to the bureaus and the bureau directors, the teamwork that I have seen that seemed to be developing more and more over the last eight years, and it's so important to have disagreements but in the long run work together for the resource. And our sportsmen for the most part have done that as well. We have special interests on tools. We have special seasons. That's okay.
That's okay, but in the long run, never forget, never forget our wildlife and our wildlife heritage.

That's what I'm going to be doing once I step off the board. I'll be quietly supporting you folks in what you do, whether I agree or not. When the final vote's made, we move on. But I'm also going to be working with our agency and working for our Wildlife For Everyone Foundation that we started, the board members that worked on this. John Reilly was involved, Tom was involved, Roxane obviously and myself as Commissioners worked on this thing to get it going, and now we have people in the audience that are now also supporting us, and we have I think over 400 members now that are joining up at $20 a year or something of that nature.

We recently got a great, a great plug by the Center Daily Times in State College saying that after a recent interview, that this is a great thing. Central Pennsylvania has a lot to be thankful for when people like the Wildlife For Everyone Endowment Foundation find their home there. And so, you know, that's what we are going to be doing more of, I'll be spending more of that time, providing the family allows me to do so.

Yeah, I'll be around for January I think. I might as well take another beating. Our people in the region, our people
in the region are just fantastic people. When I first came on the board, I had an opportunity to -- Vern Ross was executive director then, and he started the game lands tours. That's when we had a few more bucks that we could do that, and that was really very helpful for me as a Commissioner, and those of you who haven't done that yet, try to do that, get out and meet these folks.

It was enlightening. I saw where the development of habitat for pheasants was already started, and now it's in the Susquehanna Valley as well, working very hard. But I got a chance to meet the people in the regions. I got to meet the food and cover people. I had an opportunity to meet the land managers, and what I found out is this is a small agency that nobody knows about, but we have probably the most dedicated people in state government that I have ever met. They are dedicated, they are hard working, they don't always like my vote, but the simple fact of the matter is I wouldn't trade you folks in for anybody as a group.

Keep up the good work you are doing, and, you know, I've been watching you since I was -- 1952 when I was 12 years old and my dad introduced me to the first game protector, and I've watched that and watched the people, and now I've gotten to know a lot of you, and you are the other generation. I think
this board is going to carry on with good policy, and I believe you folks are going to execute good policy, and you are going to make this thing go on, and I thank you all for the opportunity of having been part of this. Thanks, Carl.

(Applause)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Thank you. Very nice. Thank you all very much. I'm going to ask for the motion to adjourn, but I just want to remind the Commissioners not to move because we are going to take a picture, and then we'll have a recess for about 15 minutes, and then we'll have our press conference. So is there a motion to adjourn the meeting?

COMMISSIONER BOOP: So moved.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Commissioner Boop. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER ISABELLA: Second.

PRESIDENT PALONE: Second Commissioner Isabella. All those in favor say aye.

(Ayes)

PRESIDENT PALONE: All those opposed? The meeting is adjourned.

(The proceedings were concluded at 10:04 a.m.)
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the transcript of the proceedings and evidence contained herein are a true and accurate transcription of my stenographic notes taken by me at the time and place of the within cause; that the transcription was reduced to printing under my direction; and that this is a true and correct transcript of the same.

___________________________    November 3, 2008
Heidi H. Willis, RPR, CRR
AKF REPORTERS, INC.