

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF THE
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

AND

NJ ENDANGERED & NONGAME SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CENTRAL REGION OFFICE

ROBBINSVILLE, NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 8, 2019

The regular meeting of the Fish and Game Council was held on the above date.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chairman Frank Virgilio.

The flag salute and the Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

Chairman Virgilio read aloud the following notice: In accordance with P.L. 1975, c.231 Notice of this meeting was filed and posted at the Office of the Secretary of State on October 3, 2019 and delivered to the designated newspapers for the Division, The Newark Star Ledger and The Atlantic City Press; published on October 4, 2019.

Roll call was taken in attendance:

F & G

ENSAC

Councilman Phil Brodhecker

Chairman Rick Lathrop, Ph.D.

Councilman Joe DeMartino

Committee member Joanna Burger, Ph.D

Councilman Jim DeStephano

Committee member James Applegate, Ph.D

Councilman Agust Gudmundsson

Committee member Howard Reinert, Ph.D

Councilman Dr. Rick Lathrop

Committee member Erica Miller, Ph.D

Councilman Jeff Link (absent)

Committee member David Mizrahi, Ph.D

Councilman Bob Pollock

Committee member Barbara Brummer, Ph.D

Councilman Loren Robinson

Committee member Jane Morton-Galetto

Councilman Ken Whildin

Committee member James Shissias

Chairman Frank Virgilio

Committee member Howard Geduldig

Committee member Emile DeVito, Ph.D

Russ Furnari, Guest/nominated replacement

Division employees included: D. Golden, P. Nelson, C. Stanko, A. Ivany, S. Cianciulli, J. Hearon, J. Heilferty, A. Burnett, J. Sloan, M. Monteschio, B. Longcor, S. Tesar, M. Hencheck, T. Kinney, M. Woerner, and D. Bajek, and DEP Assistant Commissioner R. Bukowski.

There were numerous members of the public in attendance.

Chairman Virgilio asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September minutes.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinson and seconded by Councilman DeMartino to approve the September 10 minutes. Vote taken, one-abstention; none opposed, motioned carried.

Chairman Virgilio started with addressing Council meeting protocols and to let the public know some of the procedures we use in protocol. Public comment period is an important part of our meeting. It's a chance to inform Council of your views and opinions. Your comments are extremely important to Council as we use them in our deliberation. Minutes are a record of the discussion made by Council, they include what was done not what was said. Our minutes are not verbatim transcripts. If a member of the public would like a verbatim account of our transcripts you should file a legal OPRA request. The chair from time to time asks staff to make factual accuracies to false public comments when statements are made that are not true. At our Game Code public hearing there is a record of testimony and that is a complete transcript of everything that was said. Public comment is three minutes and we will be adhering to that rule and will let you know when your three minutes are up.

Council Reports:

Dr. Sebastian Reist, NJ Department of Agriculture, reported the CDC announcement warning deer hunters of the possible exposure to TB from deer is not really an issue in NJ but something to be mindful of. This last month there was a national exercise for African Swine Fever. A table top exercise of the what if's and the worst case scenario along with the disposal of the animals and euthanasia. The latest science has told us that the key to decreasing the effects of these episodes is to euthanize and dispose of carcasses within 24 hours. Once the animal is dead, no live viral load but if it takes 1-2 weeks to euthanize the animal the virus increases every day.

Farmers/ Sportsman Representative:

Councilman DeStephano reported the trappers had their convention on Sunday. The two speakers from the Division were very impressive, one on the bobcat study and the other was on the license system upgrade.

Councilman Robinson reported he attended the Hunterdon County meeting where they discussed the Hunters Helping the Hungry shoot this past weekend. They stated that they will be up to 2 million meals this year in the State of NJ. They are now paying the butchers \$75 for processing, they did not increase the fees to hunters. Round Valley Trout Association had a concern about motorized water crafts other than fishing boats on Round Valley. There is currently a 9hp limit, and unfortunately some of the personalized water crafts are under 9hp but can go much faster than a fishing boat. They wanted to know if that could be adjusted to a speed limit instead of just a horse power limit. Round Valley also asked about the timber project and how that was progressing. Hunterdon Hills NRA Dinner raised over \$20,000 for the youth shooting programs and range improvements in the State of NJ. The Youth Pheasant hunt is coming up in November 2, 2019 and Hunterdon will be

providing breakfast for the youths and their parents. Councilman Robinson also reported a sick deer to Chief Stanko this month, it was late on a Sunday and he received a photo from a member of his club. The deer was euthanized and taken for testing. He attended Middlesex Co. this month, they discussed the track chair that is available for disabled hunters. They also mentioned there is a Wounded Warrior Hunt on October 12 sponsored by Central Jersey Rifle and Pistol Club and wind energy and environmental effects. The Jackson Times had a nice article in it about the Wildlife Outdoor Expo. He attended Union County last night and they wanted to know if on the deer permits, will the zones that have unlimited permits would they be able to print online. Union County, on their deer archery program reported they are ahead of last season on their harvest. Lastly, we discussed the license system and the shut-down for a couple of days.

Councilman Whildin reported that he attended the Atlantic County meeting last month, they are gearing up for the season and are looking for donations for their venison dinner coming up the beginning of next year.

Chairman Virgilio reported that he attended the Camden County meeting and they talked about looking into a seven-day firearm buck season instead of the six-day that we have. Our buck season begins on a Monday and ends on a Saturday. They are looking at something like Pennsylvania has, a season that opens on a Saturday, off Sunday, then back from on from Monday through Saturday. They feel that has a couple positives to it. Families are trying to make ends meet so if there was two Saturdays it would be better and they also looked into high school and college kids, and rather than missing classes, it provides them with another day there as well. Concerns on the road closure at Wharton Sate Forest but going into fall we might see some road openings. Cumberland County had talked about the Game Code changes and the Tuckahoe Waterfowl Hunt Plan. They had strong opinions on that but have a wait and see attitude. Gloucester County had issues over the stakeholders meeting on Game Code changes, some of their concerns were CWD, the elimination of natural urine and using synthetic. He would like to try to get a couple more sample bottles out so people can try it. Also, they had concerns about taxidermy and some of the regulations. Gloucester County would also like to provide a top-end trail camera for Conservation Officers in the Southern Region. They are looking at cameras that you can't see the flash at night but sends an immediate message with photographs to the officer that is monitoring it. It has around a \$600 price tag with them starting out putting \$100 towards it, Cumberland County put in \$100, Burlington County put in \$100, and Southern Region is going to give \$100. So, we already have \$400 for the camera and our Sportsman Foundation will transfer it over to the Conservation Officer Foundation. There was a concern brought up by Salem County about Elsinboro boat ramp, they had heard that PSE&G is in favor of selling that. The president of the National Wild Turkey Federation contacted Chairman Virgilio about non-toxic shot especially as it relates to turkey. He thinks it looks good and it's faster, and the quicker we can move to non-toxic the better we are.

Agriculture:

Councilman Brodhecker reported he had a 50-year celebration for Brodhecker Farms. Weather has been good, it's been pretty dry, and we are making a 2nd cut in hay. Farmers are finishing up their corn. Wildlife issues have been typical, seeing bear in the corn fields and seeing a lot of damage from the bear.

Finance Committee:

Assistant Director Nelson reported their will be a finance presentation in the afternoon.

Legislative Committee:

Assistant Director Nelson reported that there has been no activity for 2 months. On the Federal side, an update on RAWA, we now have 125 co-sponsors with 93 Democrats and 32 Republicans. The hope is to have it come up in the meeting with Natural Resources by the end of October and get it on the floor within the next couple of months after that. There is still no Senate bill but looking very favorable.

Endangered and Nongame Species Committee:

Councilman Lathrop reported they had their meeting two weeks ago and they invited the NJ Forest Service to come and talk to the Committee to inform them about Forest Action Plan. Three representatives came and gave an overview of the state of NJ forest and how they are going about the action plan. There was a lot of discussion in terms of the potential intersection between wildlife conservation planning efforts and the forest planning efforts.

Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee:

Councilman DeMartino reported they are working on changing the evaluation process of lands we will purchase in the future. We passed on a bunch of properties due to their location, rising tides, and climate change. We are looking at new properties and at the next meeting, once this new assessment is in, we will look at the properties again and re-evaluate whether they will be purchased or not. They did talk about the Waterfowl Habitat Conservation in Quebec; their duck stamp committee has been supporting the work that Ducks Unlimited does and where most of our waterfowl tend to come from with a check of \$25,000 from the duck stamps sales in the States. We did pick up another million dollar NAWCA Grant for the Southeast NJ Coastal Initiative phase which was approved this month.

Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee:

Councilman Brodhecker reported that their meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for October 20th. Back in June on the farm Councilman Brodhecker found a red-tailed hawk with a lot of organic matter on the underside of his wings and belly and was unable to fly. He called Avian Wildlife and brought the bird up to them and they were able to get the hawk all cleaned up. They were seeing good progress all summer. They had it in a flight cage and determined it was releasable, so we released it on Brodhecker Farm at their open house the other day. It successfully flew away and was pretty exciting to see.

Councilman Brodhecker gave his council report for Farmer/Sportsman Relations. He put together a proposal that he was talking to individuals about depredation season. We're going to put a doodle poll out to schedule a meeting for the people in Farmers/Sportsman Relations Committee.

Public Member:

Councilman Pollock reported that someone reached out to him regarding concern that the perception that when pheasant and chukar stocking is done, that they aren't spread out and they are put near the parking and easy access areas and there are some folks that want to walk and go farther than that area and believe that nothing is really being stocked. They believe there is more opportunity when it is spread out. Also, in Point Pleasant there are a lot of people catching small Blackfish he has gotten a few complaints about that. Councilman Pollock did tell them to call the hotline and report it. One thing that he has observed, there has been a lot of nighttime activity for Striped Bass in the canal all up and down it, you can see headlamps all over the place. The Manasquan River was packed this morning with trout anglers, there were trucks lined up all over. We were contacted about concerns using snare traps by biologist on the watershed property, we encouraged her to come to the next Fish and Game Council meeting and make a public comment.

Division Reports:**License and Permits:**

Assistant Director Nelson reported that Barbara Stoff has been very busy with the new system which is getting ready to go live this month. The general plan is the system will be shut off on the evening of October 14 until the morning of the 16th. For deer harvest the e-mail went out to everyone that deer harvest reporting is closed, and we will be manually checking deer by telephone. There will be five offices open for checking deer and we expect it to go smoothly. Hunters can call and talk to someone and be given a temporary confirmation number, we will then take their information and put it in the system where they will then get an email if they gave their e-mail address, with an official confirmation number on it. That will then show up in their profile when the system turns back on.

Information and Education:

Chief Ivany wanted to follow up on what Assistant Director Nelson was saying, the I&E staff has been heavily involved in promotion in the license system and the fact that the system will be down for a couple of days as will deer harvest reporting, it is on our website right now and we did a GovDelivery message the other day and Aspira is going to do a mailing with the same message to all hunters and anglers over the last three years, everyone who has purchased a hunting or fishing license so it will go directly to them. We will do a follow up reminder on Friday. We did a Facebook post yesterday, and we will also do an IC to staff, so our staff knows what's going on and is in the know. We are trying to get the word out as quickly as we can to everyone. As far as black bear information, we do have a news release over in the DEP press office right now with a paragraph on bear program availability and just waiting on final approval before it goes out. Following up on the Division Rep program, Bill Pitts jumped right into that program and offered up his services and Chief Ivany knows he's doing a great job, so it's great to hear that feedback. Nate Figley is overseeing the Division Rep program and he is surveying the Sportsman's Federation to find out what the sportsmen and women of the state want to see in the program also, we will have more information on that soon when we move forward. We are really looking to revamp the program and make it as efficient as possible and serve the needs of everyone the best we can.

Liz Jackson and Alanna Newmark gave a brief overview of Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs program (HOFNOD). From 2001-2008 it was managed by COs and they did a 3-day round robin fishing event with the kids and then they were released. When funding came back up in 2014, they worked from the ground up and changed to a full weekend training and make a personal commitment of 18-22 contact sessions with the same group of kids and that contact time could not be less than an hour to hour and a half each. They were running three trainings a year with a goal to do one in the north, one in the south and one central. They have now moved to one training a year, which is a full weekend and a lot of work goes into preparation and being there to work the full weekend. The big rationale for moving to one training was , it's less costly to run one training versus three, and it has also become difficult to keep up with new teams starting. We found in the past, some of earlier trainings had about 30-40 attendees and the last year or so we had about 15-18 people per session. So, rather than do three a year at north, central and south with smaller groups of people, we're now doing one training a year that can accommodate up to 50 people. We have around 4-500 kids participating actively across four counties. They do 18 sessions. For the youth that participate in the program we provide them with fishing gear and equipment. They also subsidize the field trips and outings. We are holding our all aboard event this weekend at Pequest on Saturday, which is a mud run/campout obstacle course. In moving forward, we are waiting for an increase in our funding which would allow us to have more kids and use part of it to secure another person. In future we have a training in May as well as a leader gathering once a year to meet and greet.

Freshwater Fisheries:

Chief Barno reported fall trout stocking started today. Last week biologists checked the streams, three sections of which will not be stocked: Walkill River (above Mountain Road), Flat Brook (above Rt. 206) due to low flows, and the Ramapo River (within the Ramapo Reservation) due to the reservation being closed. We got a call that there was heavy machinery at India Brook which is a trout production stream in Mendham Twp. that runs into the North Branch of the Raritan. Apparently, a land owner went through an old berm to divert water from the creek to fill a pond on his premises. It has been turned over to Compliance and Enforcement for further investigation. Fortunately, it wasn't enough to jeopardize the trout, but it is the worst time of year to be doing this because it has both Brook and Brown Trout and they are both spawning this time of year. The Burnt Mills dam removal will begin next week. There were threatened mussels located downstream from the dam, those have been collected and relocated into the river upstream to the project. Update on the solar project, on September 30 the Intent of Award was issued, which starts a 10-day mandatory protest period which ends on October 9. If nobody protests the award, then the contract will be issued on October 10. They have requested the drawings and photos of the raceway structures and we have provided that information to help facilitate that project.

Land Management:

Chief Hearon reported that there was a question brought up at the last meeting about the closure of Mine Road Road and pheasant stocking, and the staff has made all the appropriate accommodations and it will not impact stocking. We have made it through the first of the dog training stockings with a contract vendor and everything went smoothly, we got good feedback on the quality of the birds. Update for the northern ranges, they are both closed, and things are moving forward, the next two weeks you will see the finishing up of demos and the starting of the new footings. On the habitat project, we just wrapped up 100 acres of forestry work at Whiting.

Staff is assisting Chief Barno's staff with Columbia Dam and some additional fencing to keep safety up in the area. We finished several habitat projects for wildlife. We are in desperate need of rain to keep our planting productive for wildlife most have sprouted but looking awfully dry.

Law Enforcement:

Chief Cianciulli mentioned that he is happy to report that all the applications for hiring have gone out electronically. There are 37 individuals on our recruit list, so they will all get an application packet and return them by October 22. Our officers will conduct about 5-6 weeks of background investigations and report their findings the first week in December then we will be conducting interviews the week after the six-day deer season; around December 16 and 17. We hope to fill five positions. Bear response training is being conducted today and tomorrow at Colliers Mills; we have 16 Park Police officers from bear country for training.

Chairman Virgilio asked Chief Cianciulli to explain the process of how of CPOs issue summonses and who determines what goes to prosecution and how plea bargains work in court.

Chief Cianciulli responded that first, every officer determines whether they issue a summons or not. Our summonses for the most part are generally civil in nature and you have elements of every statute with criteria that applies to it. Our officers are pretty even-handed and try to educate the public. Sometimes you have to give a summons for a violation and then other times you just need to talk to the person and just inform them.

Wildlife Management:

Chief Stanko reported that what Chief Barno was referring to when she said she might not stock the Ramapo River by the Ramapo Reservation was that there was an incident with coyote at the Ramapo Reservation which is a county property. We got reports over the weekend that a dog was attacked, and a person was attacked and sent to the hospital. Last night we found out there was a second individual who was also bitten by the coyote and sent to the hospital as well. Staff has responded, we set up trap lines in the park and advised them to close the park to the public for the time that our traps are there. We generally keep traps out for a week and check them every day. Odds are good that this animal is rabid and probably will succumb rather than being caught. The deer season opened on the 14th. On opening day 1,856 deer were taken, that's up 36% over last year's opening day and when checked year-to-date to this past Sunday, we were at 8,112 animals, which is up 44% over the same time period as last year. Two weeks ago, Chief Stanko and staff members including Ted Nichols, Andy Burnett, and Jimmy Sloan attended a two-day Bobwhite Quail workshop set up by NJ Audubon Society. Tall Timbers was in attendance as was a biologist from the University of Delaware and state biologists from Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland addition to us and she will update us more on that later.

Nongame and Endangered Species: Chief Heilferty reported that this afternoon we will have our joint meeting with ENSAC. James Shissias is looking to retire from ENSAC, so we have somebody nominated in his place and when that goes through, he will stop attending our meetings. Chief Heilferty encourages everyone to bump into Mr. Shissias and thank him for his service. We certainly appreciate it and he will be missed. We have two people that are representatives on wildlife meetings, Robert Somes and Bill Pitts, both attend Federation

meetings and we will continue to look into whether we could contribute more and how that program could be revamped. He phoned into the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture meeting, there was a lot of talk about high marsh work for black duck, black rail, and salt marsh sparrows. That's an interesting conservation issue where nongame and game species conservation management efforts overlap in a meaningful way and he is looking forward to working on some projects that would benefit both of those species. He also attended a Fish and Wildlife Diversity Committee recently, which is an AFWA tech committee. An interesting project that came up there was they are trying to encourage a grant project to install Motus Towers which are towers, that transponders attached to waterfowl will ping as they fly by. We have a grant that is under consideration that we have a complete string of towers from the northwest corner of Pennsylvania through the southeast corner of Pennsylvania and continuing through New Jersey to the extent that there might be waterfowl researchers that are using these same types of transponders on waterfowl. It does not just ping on game species when they fly by, it is going to ping everything. We continue to work on our landscape project mapping and trying to update that. Connecting Habitat Across NJ, there is some new mapping being added to the tool kit. Lastly, he wanted to express his appreciation to the Conservation Officers, we had a significant wildlife-related bust recently where a gentleman in Langhorne, PA was busted by the State and Feds for having over 2,000 juvenile Northern Diamondback Terrapins in his residence he was selling illegally.

Lunch: 11:45 – 12:35

Joint Meeting Fish and Game Council and Endangered and Nongame Committee:

Director Golden gave an update on the NJ Conservation Leadership program, for the past year we have been working on developing a NJ Conservation Program patterned after a national program which was the National Conservation Leadership Institute. The whole idea behind both of these programs is to try to help develop leadership within conservation communities. The national program that he attended about five years ago was a really powerful program and it really spreads out leadership across the nation with 36 people accepted each year from across all 50 states. We worked on putting together a NJ-specific program that stepped down that national program, the same instructors, same basic curriculum and that was carried out last week. Director Golden passed around the resource guide that went along with the first residency to the council to look at. On the Advisory Committee, the group that helped build this program were Bob Pollock, Dr. Rick Lathrop, Joe DeMartino, Paulette Nelson and others within the conservation community. There were 24 people from NJ who attended, four were from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Sharon Petzinger, Jason Hearon, Tony McBride, and Brian Zarate all attended from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The first residency took place last week and there will be a second one-week residency that will occur in January. An update to the Council and Committee, staff from the Division of Fish and Wildlife attended the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting about two weeks ago, Assistant Director Nelson and Director Golden both attended as well as Mary Monteschio and Captain Ann Quirk. These meetings are really packed with a ton of good information that is hard to get through it all. One of the recurring themes was the need for agency relevancy in the new age, so how does the Division of Fish and Wildlife stay relevant with a changing society. There has been a big focus on this topic at the last three meetings. Humans values towards wildlife is changing. The emphasis behind relevancy is that we need to change with those changes in values to maintain our agencies relevancy. A group worked on a relevancy road map that is meant to help guide state agencies through relevancy and to maintain it. Also, Director Golden passed around a report from the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, it's the state of the bird report

that shows that in the last 50 years our nation has lost 2.9 billion birds. That's a problem and we need to figure out how to stabilize this trend.

The good news is the bird species that are managed for hunting are relatively stable. One of the take homes from this report in addition to the bad news upfront about losing birds over the years is that we can manage bird populations. AFWA the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is the national group and NEAFWA is the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. New Jersey is hosting the 2020 NEAFWA meeting in April at the Ocean View Hotel in Long Branch. Our staff is developing different sessions associated with that meeting. Director Golden would like to put together a demonstration on non-lead ammunition alternatives. At the last NEAFWA meeting in Connecticut, the directors had a little outing where they went to a shooting range and a group called the Non-lead Partnership that flew in from California did a demonstration to show ballistics behind non-lead ammunition alternative. They shot lead and non-lead into ballistic gels and you could see how the lead fragments and the non-lead does not fragment. They did similar demonstrations where they shot into water jugs and you can see the fragmentation. Fragmentation is a problem for many reasons, it goes into the environment and into game and potentially into humans. We are trying to set a demonstration up 1-2 days before the meeting for Council members and ENSAC members if you'd like to come see that demonstration on non-lead alternatives. It is really important for us to see as we start to promote these non-lead alternatives to hunters, we should see it firsthand.

Director Golden addressed at the joint meeting we try to put together an agenda with items and topics that are interesting to both the Council and the Committee. The first thing to present this year is an update for Fish and Wildlife's Budget. This is a great opportunity to engage the Council and the Committee and give an end of the year summary on where we are with the budget and then a look ahead to where we think we will be.

DFW Budget update:

Steve Tesar, administrative analyst for DFW, gave a presentation on our Fish and Wildlife Budget focused mainly on the Hunter and Angler account, revenues that come in from license sales, and how we spend the funds.

Bob Longcor, Federal Aid Coordinator for DFW, gave a presentation on the Federal Aid Grants for the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Questions were asked by both the Fish and Game Council and ENSAC members.

Assunpink Connectivity Project:

Brian Zarate, ENSP, gave a presentation on the Habitat Connectivity Project. This is a wildlife passage system that is monitored. The goal is to reduce the number of road-killed animals, a provide a safe passage opportunity for wildlife and re-establish a connection between fragmented habitat.

Questions were asked by both the Fish and Game Council and the ENSAC members.

Fertility Control in Wildlife:

Chief Stanko, Bureau Chief of Wildlife Management, gave a brief presentation on fertility control in wildlife. She went over the possible procedures and effectiveness.

Questions were asked by both Fish and Game Council and ENSAC members.

Species Update/Habitat Management:

Jimmy Sloan, biologist, gave an update on bobwhite quail. He discussed translocation sites, donors of birds and the amount of birds, and management.

Andy Burnett, senior biologist, gave a brief update on ruffed grouse. He discussed the cause of habitat decline, season closure, and habitat management.

Habitat Management Update:

Mellissa Woerner, northern and central region habitat planner BLM, and Tyler Kinney, southern region habitat planner BLM, gave a presentation on Early Successional and Young Forests. They discussed some early successional habitat initiatives and young forest projects they have going at DFW.

Assistant Commissioner Ray Bukowski mentioned that he was at the Garden State Preservation Trust. Preserve NJ Act was signed this summer by the Governor. We have a substantial increase not only in our acquisition dollars from Green/Blue Acres side, but we also increased our capital development dollars for Wildlife Management Areas, Parks and Forests and our stewardship dollars which is an enormous increase of 39 million this year for projects in Parks, Forests and Fish and Wildlife. Being that the CBT business tax dollars had gone up across the board there is more money in all the different pots but was a Redivision of the money to put more towards stewardships.

Public Comment:

Mark McCarthy, Somerset Co., a lifelong sportsman who is aware of the environment and knows it is not an easy thing to manage. He wanted to inform the council that he has submitted paperwork to DFW that he believes he has some endangered animals living on his property.

Sylvia Salaun, Director of NJ Forest Watch, Sparta NJ, wanted to meet with ENSP and Fish and Wildlife. There seems to be some emphasis over young forest and would like to encourage the two divisions to look at our intact forest and the species that live there.

Janet Pizar quoted some numbers from the wildlife report from May 2019 on some of the harvest levels of specific species. She would like to know: what are and where are the population estimates of these species and

how do you know if they are being over harvested. She also passed out a paper on reasons why people cannot permanently lower deer population.

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ, is upset by the plans to cut mature trees to bring back species that we don't even know if they are successful in coming back. She had concerns on logging and who was getting the money from it.

Director Golden wanted to address the concern of money and logging and make the clarification that the Division does not make any money off any of the cuts. In most cases, because they are small cuts targeting areas for habitat improvement, they are not commercially viable, and we end up paying people to come in to do that work.

Director Golden also addressed the Sparta Mountain issues. For Sparta Mountain we developed a Forest Stewardship Plan, which is a pretty intensive planning process. One of the requirements of that process is that there is external stakeholder meetings. For Sparta, because there was a lot of concern about that particular plan during the development stages, we had multiple meetings within each township. Not only with the town administrations but individually with each town administration and also public meetings. There is clearly a difference of opinion on how we are managing that land. We tried to work with outside groups and individuals to try to find a spot for all interests. We can manage the wildlife we think is important and try to maintain some of the characteristics on that WMA that others think are important.

Emile DeVito, Ph.D., ENSAC member, would like to acknowledge what Director Golden said, there have been meetings and compromises made with various groups. In many cases we have agreed on certain activities and some cases we did not agree, but the point is that there have been lots of meetings.

A motion was made by councilman Gudmundsson and seconded by Councilman Brodhecker to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m. Vote taken, all in favor, non-opposed; motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday November 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Central Region Office.