

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Central Region Office  
Robbinsville, NJ  
August 14, 2007

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Fish and Game Council was held on the above date. In attendance were:

Acting Chairwoman Jeanette Vreeland  
Councilman Dave Burke  
Councilman Fred Hough  
Councilman Ed Kertz  
Councilwoman Jane Morton-Galetto  
Councilman John Messeroll  
Councilman Dan Van Mater  
Councilman Len Wolgast

Absent: Councilman Richard Culp  
Councilman Robert Puskas

Division employees included: Larry Herrighty, Jim Sciascia, Lisa Barno, Raymond Porutski, Brian Herrighty, Patrick Carr and Sue Predl.

There were five members of the public in attendance, including representatives from the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the Department of Agriculture.

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am.

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

In accordance with P.L. 1975, notice of this meeting was filed with and posted at the Office of the Secretary of State and sent to the designated newspapers of the Division, the Newark Star Ledger and The Press (Atlantic City) on July 17, 2007.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted some recent events that she had attended, including the Bear Policy Code Hearing on August 8, and the Sussex County Fair. She noted that it was interesting to hear the many various comments at the hearing, and had counted 37 people in favor of the Council's policy, and 32 in favor of the Commissioner's policy. Many comments were also received at the Fair. She added that quite a bit of material was handed out at the Fair, and the Federation had a flier to sign which opposed the disbanding of the Council. She also noted the amount of people who were drawn into the tent when they saw the display bear that was in place there. This had been a road killed bear, and gave the people an opportunity to ask questions and receive information regarding bears.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that Council is supposed to be sending an annual report to the Legislature on their progress, and that has not been done in quite some time. She noted that she would like this to resume now with the start of the new fiscal year, and asked for any highlights to be added to this report. Councilman Kertz mentioned adding the amount of land the Division manages, noting that the amount of personnel has not increased from when there was less land years ago. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland added that they should also mention the fish hatcheries, game farm and other bureaus that are doing more work with fewer personnel.

Roll call was completed.

**A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll, seconded by Councilman Wolgast to approve the minutes of the July, 2007 meeting.** Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted one correction to the minutes, where Councilman Dan Van Mater's name was left off as being absent for that meeting.

Bureau Chief Larry Herrighty reported for the Director. He noted that there was a lot of misinformation recently in the media saying that the Council was no longer being provided the complaint data on bears. This is not true, and it seems that there was a miscommunication from the Press Office. Also, there was rumor that the Commissioner did not stand behind the population data. This also is not true. There was a meeting last week with the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, and bear research personnel along with Chief Herrighty to clarify this matter. The research data is now being compared to the information received at Trenton Dispatch, and those looking at the data are not clear on just what they are looking at. Trenton Dispatch enters all the calls, not just complaints, into their database. He further reviewed the data reporting process, noting that the data will be supplied once a month, and will follow the monthly report cycle, and information will be given on a year to date basis. This will hopefully help with preventing the press from getting or giving misinformation. Councilman Wolgast asked how this would affect the Council receiving the hot topics. Chief Herrighty noted it would not affect their receiving information, as long as the Commissioner received the information first. Councilman Wolgast also asked if this can be done prior to every Council meeting. Chief Herrighty noted that yes, it could be done given the timeframe of reporting the hot topics to the Commissioner's Office, which is weekly.

Councilman Burke asked about the status of the Game Code. Chief Herrighty noted that the readoption was published on August 6, and the amendments are in place. He noted the biggest changes were to the deer season, and his staff has been attending many county Federation and other meetings because there are still many people out there who feel that this is something new and that they did not get a chance to provide their opinion on these changes

Chief Herrighty noted that the Assistant Commissioner has been asked by the Commissioner to continue to work with the Council on policy regarding bears, and that the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner would be meeting this afternoon. He was expecting a telephone call after that meeting. Because of the August 22 deadline any other details need to be resolved. Councilman Wolgast asked what else was there to discuss, since a compromised policy had been presented and either needed to be accepted or rejected. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland added it was her understanding that Council needed to take a vote to say they approved the draft proposal

that was submitted. **A motion was made by Councilman Wolgast, seconded by Councilman Van Mater to accept the compromised bear policy that was submitted to the Commissioner. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.** Councilman Wolgast noted that having endless meetings was not going to solve this problem, and that Council had presented what they were willing to do. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland added that she still had not received a reply to her request to meet with the Commissioner and the Governor on this issue.

Councilman Hough asked Chief Herrighty if a handout was available with the waterfowl season dates and limits. Chief Herrighty noted yes, he did have that information with him.

Councilman Messeroll asked if a copy of the comments made at the bear hearing was available. Chief Herrighty noted that he had received a transcript yesterday, and has begun to print out the e-mail comments that are being submitted. Tomorrow is the last day for comment submission, and he has been asked by the Commissioner to summarize these comments. He noted that after the last hearing, the comments were summarized and the main issues were highlighted. He's not sure how they will summarize the information currently being received, and a meeting will be scheduled to discuss this matter.

Councilman Wolgast questioned the validity of the comments since the meeting was not published in the newspapers. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked if that was something that should be put in a letter from the Council to whomever should hear of this. Councilman Kertz said he saw it in the Atlantic City Press in the legal advertisement section. Chief Herrighty reviewed the matter, noting that he and the Assistant Commissioner had met with the Commissioner and her attorney, public notice regarding the Council's policy was directly sent to The Press of Atlantic City and the Star Ledger. Additionally, as required, notice was sent to all the reporters of the newspapers registered at the State House, and thirteen newspapers were sent this notice, as well as it being posted on the web. Councilman Wolgast felt that this was a procedural issue, and Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked that this matter be held for further discussion during the Executive Session.

Councilman Hough reported for the Agricultural Committee. He noted that they had a slow start this Spring due to the dry weather, but the recent rains have improved matters. He also noted that there are 40 turkey poults on his farm, as well as a bear, but the deer population seems to be on the decline. Councilman Kertz noted that the southern portion of the state is also dry, and the rains have been hit and miss in all areas. Councilman Burke added it was so dry that there was another summer forest fire, and this is quite unusual for this time of year. Councilwoman Galetto noted that Cumberland County has been very dry also.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that she had met with Philip Brodecker who will eventually be replacing Councilman Hough on Council, and he is very eager to work with them. He had also pointed out to her that the bears had cost him \$20,000 dollars last year in damage to his corn fields. She also saw Allison McHose that day, and asked her to see what assistance she could give in seeing that the nominees were appointed to Council. Councilman Kertz noted that their names had not been submitted to the Senate Nominations Committee yet, and after that they would be sent to the Governor. Councilman Van Mater noted that the Appointment Secretary

was the hold up for his appointment. Chief Herrighty noted that Legislative Liaison Paulette Nelson had checked yesterday and this item was not yet posted. He had also e-mailed to Kathy Surlak to request information as to the status of her appointment.

Councilman Messeroll reported for the Legislative Committee, noting that there has been no activity due to the summer recess. Chief Herrighty added that Legislative Liaison Paulette Nelson would not be attending today's meeting.

Councilwoman Galetto reported for the Endangered and Non-Game Species Committee. She noted at their most recent meeting, they talked about their response to the Commissioner on the Sahara Sands property and the possibility of it becoming an off-road vehicle park. On that site there are a number of threatened and endangered species. A response will be prepared by one of the members of their Committee. She understands that the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Watson may want to have a meeting with them on this issue, but feels one of their Committee members may be holding off on this, so she will have to follow up with him. They are also going to be asking for an update of any sites that are still being considered for an off-road vehicle park.

Councilwoman Galetto noted Assembly Bill A 4287, which would help with enforcement on environmental laws. Someone from staff has been asked to write up a summary of this bill so that a letter of support can be prepared from the Committee.

Councilwoman Galetto noted an interchange upgrade on the Garden State Parkway that was equipped with snake passages but was not completely viable because of breaks in the fence, and this issue had been addressed. There is now another such project proposed near Barnegat, and they are looking into this to make sure that any passages for snakes are done properly.

There have been a number of issues lately regarding Champagne Island in South Jersey. It hosts one of the major colonies of skimmers in the State, and it is very busy with recreational activities in the summer. Many of these recreational users are somewhat reckless. Because of its location, neither of the two townships will claim it, and they would like protection for the species while they are nesting. Councilwoman Galetto noted that they will be asking the Bureau of Law Enforcement for assistance.

Councilman Messeroll noted that there are a numbers of islands in New Jersey that have protection for different species of birds. Councilwoman Galetto noted that the problem is that island is not part of the WMA system, and Councilman Messeroll questioned if the property could be taken by eminent domain. Councilwoman Galetto noted that Bureau Chief Jenkins had been asked to contact the Tidelands Council about such actions.

Councilwoman Galetto noted the Diamond Back Terrapin was also talked about at their meeting. Jeanette Bowers-Altman, from the ENSP staff, noted that it is a species of special concern and is under Delphi process review, and it was a recommendation that the Marine Fisheries Council require recreational crab trap license holders have terrapin excluders in their traps. She gave a further explanation of this matter.

The horseshoe crab closure is going to be up soon, and a letter is being prepared for the Marine Fisheries Council and the Commissioner regarding the Committee's unanimous support for closure of the horseshoe crab harvest until there is enough improvement to the shorebird population and that the egg densities are enough to justify a crab harvest.

Committee has asked Director Chanda to work with staff to give them a clear and consistent approach to how species go from being game to being to non-game and vice versa. Some species that are on the Federal list are on our harvest list, and they feel it needs to be a more consistent process.

Kathy Clark, from the ENSP staff, will be adding the Atlantic sturgeon to the current rule making for the endangered species list.

Councilman Wolgast asked if there was any discussion on the feral cat issue at their meeting. Councilwoman Galetto said no, but Director Chanda had said he would talk to Chief Jenkins on this.

Councilman Kertz noted that the horseshoe crab closure had been in place for several years now, and asked if there was any increase in eggs over the years. Councilwoman Galetto believes that they had not increased, but offered to have someone come to a meeting to discuss this matter with the Council and give a brief overview of the program. Councilwoman Galetto also noted that the Red Knot is projected to go extinct by 2010 if it stays on its projected decline, and they have asked for a committee meeting of the Shorebird Sub-Committee to discuss this matter. There was additional discussion by the members on the horseshoe crab issue.

Councilman Messeroll reported for the Federation Committee. He noted they had a successful day recently at the Sportsmen's Center, as well as at the Sussex County Fair. Upcoming events include the Cumberland County Sportsmen's Jamboree and the Tuckerton Decoy Show in September.

Councilman Messeroll noted that matters have been quiet, except for the issues regarding bear hunting and Legislative changes to Council.

Federation President Ed Markowski was in attendance, and thanked Council for their bear policy and for their working with the Commissioner on it. He noted that he had testified at the bear hearing last week. He also noted that a group of sportsmen in Monmouth County now have a Political Action Committee to back their candidates on legislative issues. The Federation is looking to institute a Camo Coalition to work with the Legislators, noting that this has been tried before but did not receive Democratic Party support. The idea behind this is to allow the ideas of the sportsmen to come to the forefront. It appears that there is some interest from the Democratic side on certain issues.

Federation President Markowski also noted some legislative bills that are pending, most notably the one that would change the makeup of the Council, and the Federation is very much opposed to this bill. He noted that this one issue has brought many sportsmen together, and they now have 1.3 million voices against this bill. They have added a new item to their website where

someone can “talk to the President” and this has been receiving a lot of activity since it was first introduced.

Chief Herrighty reported for the Bureau of Wildlife. He noted that he had recently attended the Atlantic Flyway Council meeting as the New Jersey representative. Two changes we supported went to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The first was compensatory dates for Sundays during the Woodcock season. This was voted down, due to a 1997 gentlemen’s agreement on compensatory days for duck hunting, and at that time they stated we should never ask for compensatory days again. The Atlantic Flyway Commission was not satisfied with this response. Chief Herrighty gave an explanation of the matter. The second change was that data submitted showed that there was a surplus of Canvasbacks, and they requested to have a second Canvasback added to the bag limit. This was approved. Chief Herrighty added that Council would need to vote to accept the change in the bag limit. **A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Messeroll to increase the bag limit for Canvasback ducks to two. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.** Paperwork will be submitted to get this into the Federal register.

Chief Herrighty reported that New Jersey would be hosting the Atlantic Flyway meeting next July. Research Scientist Paul Castelli is now looking into a facility where this can be hosted. Some additional discussion was had among the members with different ideas where this may be held.

Councilman Messeroll asked if the use of seven shotgun shells was approved for the entire September season. Chief Herrighty noted that yes it was, and gave an explanation of this matter.

The final Snow Goose rules have been announced, but due to the timeframe they will not go in effect until next year.

Bear complaints are up 1.5% compared to this time last year. Chief Herrighty passed out a bear information update to the Council. He noted that attempted home entries are up. He pointed out the bottom of the form, where the Commissioner suggested that a note be added as to where this reported information is obtained from. Councilwoman Vreeland asked if there is a year to year comparison that can be done. Chief Herrighty noted that yes, and gave an explanation. He also reported that yesterday there was an incident at Camp Marcella, which is a camp for visually impaired children, where the maintenance person was putting trash into the dumpster and a bear jumped out of the dumpster and scratched him on his back. This bear is now being treated as a Category One bear, and a trap was set yesterday. The bear had gotten into a broken bear resistant trash can, and Wildlife Control Technician Bob Longcor had discussed how they could possibly chain the lid closed until the dumpster was replaced. The trash hauler had not previously responded to the camp when they reported that the dumpster was a broken. The camp is clean, and they are doing all they can to avoid having a bear problem. The bear has been seen in the area several times before.

Councilman Kertz asked if there was a way that towns or trash haulers who did not comply could be fined. Chief Herrighty noted that there were recommendations on this issue in both policies, and that Deputy Commissioner Watson had held a meeting earlier in the year with some of the

major haulers in the bear area to note our desire to have them provide bear resistant cans. Some of the companies have done this voluntarily, but others don't have them or are slow to comply to requests for such dumpsters when requested by their customers. Councilwoman Galetto asked if the landfills are being frequented by bears. Supervising Biologist Pat Carr noted that he was not aware of any landfills in this area, and Councilman Messeroll noted that most areas had transfer stations where the trash was loaded and moved to another location. There was some additional discussion among the members on bear activity in landfills. Chief Sciascia had a question on the 2007 numbers on the bear activity report, asking how it compares to the data used in the 2006 report, and if they were comparing the same sources of information. It was noted that that methodology used is the same, and has been the methodology used since 2001. Chief Herrighty gave an explanation of the data used.

Councilman Wolgast commented on the complaints, noting that the bear complaints exceeds and almost doubles the amount of complaints of all the other species combined. Chief Herrighty noted that this was pointed out by former Director McDowell as well.

A request was received from Assemblywoman Marcia Karrow to tour the Rockport Game Farm next week. She is interested in the pheasant issue. Chief Herrighty added that they had just received a report from the Humane Society of the United States where they have a National campaign to target and eliminate the stocking of pheasants in the United States. Chief Herrighty noted that this was a very biased report, and wanted to make the members of the Council aware of it. Councilwoman Vreeland asked if it would be wise to ask other Legislatures to join her. Chief Herrighty was not sure it would be possible on such short notice, and noted that in years past this was something that was done but got less and less popular.

Chief Herrighty noted two additional items that he was passing out information on. One was an application for Bernards Township, and the other was a report on the immunocontraceptive GonaCon. The Star Ledger had an article noting the lack of success in using GonaCon at Giralda Farms he gave copies of the report of the work at Giralda Farm and Princeton for the Council's review. He also noted the United States Department of Agriculture has asked to delay approving licensing of GonaCon based on the data and research. He noted they are now looking at 2009 as a possible date for licensing.

One other fertility control agent that has made news lately is OvoControl, which is used for Canada geese. It is not licensed for use in the State of New Jersey. Chief Herrighty noted that licensing has not been requested in New Jersey based on the practicality of it, and it would also be a problem to keep non-target animals from ingesting this compound. He gave an explanation of this matter, noting some type of machine that has been developed that would deliver a dose of the agent in a dough ball that would be released to the geese. A machine is also being developed for dispensing control agents to deer as reported by the USDA. There was additional discussion on this matter, noting that this agent would need New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection approval plus Council's approval to be used in New Jersey. Councilman Wolgast noted that it would be extremely expensive to use such devices in New Jersey, and said that he had seen that Dr. DiNicola was considering a new compound from New Zealand.

Principal Biologist Sue Predl gave a review of the studies of the done at Giralda Farms and Princeton. After reviewing the information with the Council, she noted that it doesn't seem to be practical for use on free roaming deer that may need additional booster shots, and that Dr. DiNicola is now looking into a new treatment that is being used in New Zealand.

The application from Bernards Township for an extension of their Community Based Deer Management Application was reviewed. They are requesting the same permit approval as they had last year. Principal Biologist Predl reviewed the request with Council, noting that they do allow hunting during the regular seasons, and they are asking for a six week extension of the existing shotgun, muzzleloader and bow and arrow seasons. Buck stubs would carry over into this extended season if they were not used before this time. The Township also pays for butchering of any deer the hunter's do not want. A damage survey showed significant damage to area properties. Their reported numbers of road killed deer are down from when they first made application in 2000, but they still had 97 road killed deer last year. They estimate a population of 524 deer, and would like to maintain that number. They are asking to extend the season through March 30, and Principal Biologist Predl asked the Council to grant an exception to the Game Code to allow this extension. Councilman Wolgast asked how many deer were donated to the food bank, and Principal Biologist Predl reported 118. **A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll, seconded by Councilman Burke to approve the application from Bernards Township.** Principal Biologist Predl asked if this was an extension of the season or would be antlerless only. Chief Herrightly noted that a few years ago Council agreed to allow antlered or antlerless deer be harvested in this extended period. He also noted that last year they set up their own check station at their police department, and that things worked out well. **A vote was taken showing all in favor, none opposed to extend the season as requested in the permit application.**

Chief Jim Sciascia reported for the Bureau of Information and Education. He presented a handout with an update on the Hunter Education program. The numbers are still up, showing a 50% increase from this time last year. He noted that the August classes are all full.

Chief Sciascia noted that at the meeting last month, he reported that a meeting was set up with Assistant Commissioner Cradic regarding the status of the archery range at the Black River WMA. That meeting was held, and the Commissioner does support this proposal. Due to the large donation from the Archery Trade Association for this project, it must now go to the Governor's Office for him to sign off on this donation. This paperwork has been done, and the Commissioner has signed off, and has requested the Governor's approval as well to accept this large donation. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked how long he expected this to take. Chief Sciascia noted he hoped it would not take too long, since there is no apparent conflict of interest. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked if there was a timeline in which they would like to see the building done. Chief Sciascia noted they would like to have this done in approximately one to one and a half years from when it actually starts, and that he would check on the status of this project with Donna Mahon of the Commissioner's Office and advise. Things such as the site plan are still moving on.

Chief Sciascia reported that the new Bear Education Biologist has started. There has been a lot of activity in the last month. They had a meeting with the Communications and Press Office



with what they would like to do in the future. New literature is being reviewed, and he hopes this will be produced and distributed within the next two months. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked when they bear CD would be available. Chief Sciascia noted the problem now is cost, since it would cost an additional \$5,000 to make it specific to New Jersey. Chief Herrightly added that the Director is committed to finding funding for this CD, but reviews of the budget still need to be done. Chief Sciascia also noted that additional funding would be needed for distribution. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that she felt this was a good source of information and felt that they needed to push forward on this. Federation President Ed Markowski noted that the Sussex County Federation has spent over \$20,000 for this production, and that the States' share would now only need to be \$5,000. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland thanked him for his input, and shared some additional thoughts why she felt the importance of seeing this released. Councilwoman Galetto asked how long the program was. Federation President Markowski noted it was 60 minutes long, with 20 minutes available for the Division to add any information they would like. There was additional discussion on this matter.

Chief Sciascia reported that at the Association for Conservation Information Conference in July, the 2007 Freshwater Fishing Digest took second place in the competition for Regulation Publications. The 2006 Hunting and the 2006 Marine issues tied for third place. The Digest is being recognized as a National model, and the publisher is now working with other states.

Chief Sciascia noted that the Division had a big presence at the Sussex County Fair. Attendance overall was down this year. The Division will also be at events in Warren and Hunterdon Counties.

Future upcoming events include the Sportsmen's Jamboree, attendance at the Somerset Patriot's Game on September 11, a Division Biologist meeting on September 27, the Heritage Festival on September 30 and the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament on October 7.

Chief Sciascia noted that staff will be picking up the pace on preparations for next year's Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in April, which New Jersey is hosting.

The Hunting Digest is delayed, and is about to go to print. They anticipate having it out near the end of August.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked since we are now in the new fiscal year, have all the bear monies been turned over to the Division. It was noted that yes, they had. She also wondered how long it would take until all the equipment necessary for the new positions would be available. Chief Herrightly noted that it depending on how soon his staff could do the paperwork necessary to complete these orders. Councilman Kertz wondered why the \$5,000 needed for the bear CD could not come from the monies that were given for the bear education program. Chief Sciascia gave of a breakdown of where those monies are already allocated for, and noted that the cost of the CDs was much greater and would reach only a limited amount of people, compared to the amount of other information that could be produced for that same amount of money. A question was asked by a member of the public as to whether or not this could be a business opportunity for someone. Chief Herrightly noted he was not sure as to who has the rights to make money on this production. There was additional discussion on this matter.

A review of the upcoming Estuary Enhancement Tour was discussed by the members.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that she was invited to attend the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference in Kentucky on Monday, September 17. She is able to go, and asked for members of Council to add any comments on this matter. Chief Herrighty added that he and Director Chanda would also be attending this event, and gave a summary of the conference.

Captain Brian Herrighty gave the report for the Bureau of Law Enforcement. He reported that there were 4,376 hours reported this period, with 849 hours being given to Freshwater Fishing activities, 1,495 for Marine Resources, and 85 hours for wildlife management area activities. The total amount of summonses issued for this reporting period were 360, with 4 criminal arrests and 18 warnings issued as a result of 6,458 field inspections. Most of the summonses were issued for freshwater fishing violations, followed by marine inspections and wildlife management area violations.

Captain Herrighty reported that Conservation Officer Steve Sutton had begun training at the Morris County Police Academy, and Conservation Officer Paul Toppin was to begin training at the Gloucester County Police Academy in the very near future. These two officers are the most recent new hires for the Northern Region.

One of the highlights Captain Herrighty pointed out from this month's report was an incident that occurred in Vernon Township, Sussex County where an individual had been tampering with a bear trap. Personnel were doing night time surveillance on the trap, and on the fifth night, they hear a splashing noise and when they turned on their flashlights an individual was seen holding a gallon container of fluid in the vicinity of the trap. The suspect ran, and was apprehended. This same individual had been arrested previously in 2005 for harassing hunters during the bear hunt. The gentleman admitted to tampering with the trap, saying that the liquid was human urine. Captain Herrighty gave an explanation of the charges that are pending against this individual. During the last month, officers spent 250 man hours watching and protecting bear traps in the Northern Region.

A second highlight that Captain Herrighty noted was an inspection on the Assunpink WMA in the Washington Township area near Route 130. Officer Sean McManus, working with Deputy Wayne Tindall, stopped to check three individuals who were fishing in that area. None of the individuals had a fishing license displayed, and the individuals were also in possession of a cooler with beer in it. When they were asked for their licenses, one of the individuals became very agitated. Officer McManus went with them to the parking lot to retrieve their identification, and two of the individuals had identification as well as fishing licenses in their vehicle. The third individual, the person who had previously become agitated, claimed to have no identification and gave the officer two different names. He continued to become very agitated, to the point where his friends were asking him to calm down. The individual was told he would be patted down, and then took a swing at Officer McManus, who tackled the individual and handcuffed him. Officers from the Washington Township Police Department assisted with processing this individual under arrest, and he was charged with many violations. The same individual

telephoned his family to come and get him, and while in the parking lot outside of the police station he got in to a fight with them too, and was escorted from the police department property.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that the individual on who's property the bear trap that had been tampered with was located was at the hearing other night. This person had asked Acting Chairwoman Vreeland whether or not she should come to today's meeting to share some information, and was advised she could attend but all it would do would be to get her comments entered into the minutes. Instead, she will be writing letters to the editor on the situation she is confronted with living with individuals such as this and what the people in her area are doing. Chief Herrighty noted that the person involved with the tampering of the traps had also testified at the public hearing. Councilman Wolgast asked about a terroristic threat that had been made to her threatening her family. Chief Herrighty noted that our officer's were not involved in that matter, but Supervising Biologist Carr noted that the two homeowner's had filed complaints against each other, and the matter is now in the hands of the Conflict Resolution Court in their township. Federation President Markowski added that this same woman was approached outside of the museum after testifying at the hearing, and was told if you think you had problems before wait until you get home. This threat was heard by one of the outdoor writer's who was in attendance at the meeting, and he should be writing about this matter.

Councilman Messeroll had a question on the non-toxic shot requirement at ranges on several WMAs. This matter would be reported on by the Bureau of Land Management later in the meeting.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:10 pm, and resumed again at 12:50 pm.

Chief Barno reported for the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. The first review of the proposed Code from the Office of Legal Affairs was just received yesterday. She noted that this will set them back on scheduling the public hearing, and it now looks as though this may not occur until December. She has spoken to the Bureau of Law Enforcement on this matter, and they see no problem as of this point, but they will have to be sure that it is adopted before the trout season next year. There was some additional discussion on this matter and the things that need to be done to have these code revisions completed. The preliminary schedule for the public hearing is either December 11, after the Council meeting or December 1, after the Freshwater Fisheries Forum. Acting Chairwoman recommended trying to have the hearing after the Fisheries Forum since you get more people come to the Forum than do to the public hearing. Councilman Wolgast questioned whether or not Council would get a quorum at that time, since it was so far North for some members to attend. It was pointed out that a quorum would not be necessary, just members from the Fish Committee. After some additional discussion, it was decided to wait until the September meeting to decide on choosing a date for the hearing. Chief Barno will keep the Council informed of any additional changes that are made.

Chief Barno noted a recent report of a fish kill of smallmouth bass on the Delaware River in the area of Upper Black Eddy. Principal Biologist Mark Boriek went out to investigate the matter, and noted some dead fish on the bottom of the river, but not in large numbers. He contacted retired Fisheries Pathologist Ed Washuta on this matter, and he noted that a bacterial problem called Columnaris was seen previously in the river from 1999 to 2001. Although always present

in the water, warm temperatures can increase levels to the point they become problematic for fish. Reports of any additional dead fish will be closely monitored.

The DRBC Fish and Technical Policy Committee Meeting was held. The use of hydro-acoustic monitoring was voted down by the policy committee, since they felt the estimates were too high for the overall shad count. Other states are looking at the overall cost of using this equipment since it can be costly and they are looking to save money.

For 2008, they are going to look into contracting out with the Lewis Fishery to do additional netting. They are currently doing other netting work on the river. New Jersey has concerns with replacing the hydroacoustics with the Lewis netting, since it cannot be done during high spring flows, when most of the fish typically pass. Chief Barno reviewed additional concerns regarding this matter.

They are still waiting for the 2007 shad run preliminary report, and are expecting that information later this month.

Juvenile shad netting is underway, and Chief Barno gave a brief review of the numbers so far. Councilman Messeroll asked if the juvenile shad sampling was more accurate than hydro-acoustic sampling. Chief Barno noted that both pieces of data are needed to determine the overall shad migration for the year.

The Teen Angler Youth Program was held at Pequest, with 40 participants in attendance. Chief Barno gave a brief summary of this program.

Seventy fishing derbies have been completed to date, and there are still fifteen more scheduled.

There is a push to get the field sampling in, as well as working on the first draft of the Freshwater Fishing Digest.

Regional Superintendent Ray Porutski gave the report for the Bureau of Land Management. He noted that Northern Region Superintendent Bob Olsen and Wildlife Planning Biologist Mimi Dunne had done inspections on the Clinton, Pequest and Black River WMA's to develop future habitat management plans.

All three regions have been very busy doing road repair for Fall access.

A new parking lot and access area were developed at the Lockatong Creek WMA in cooperation with the D & R Greenway Land Trust.

Plans are being developed by the new office of Research and Development for the Split Rock Reservoir.

Staff assisted the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries with juvenile shad seining, and the Bureau of Information and Education with displays at the Warren and Sussex County fairs.

In the Central Region, staff have been busy repairing roads on the Medford, Turkey Swamp, Greenwood Forest, Assunpink and Colliers Mills WMAs. Roads used for pheasant stocking and deer hunter access are the priority.

Staff have been busy doing dam mowing, which is a requirement of the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Regional Superintendent Porutski noted that his staff was still operating with only two Wildlife Workers in the Central Region. A proposal is in for eight vacant positions Statewide to be backfilled, but that is still awaiting approval.

Fall mowing for safety zones is being planned.

In the Southern Region, the 600 acre Eagle Manor acquisition has been completed, and the property has been assigned to the Division. The property is in Fairfield Township, Cumberland County along the Cohansey River. There are outbuildings on 10 acres of the property that will be subdivided and auctioned off at a later time. One of the properties is a mansion that dates back to the seventeen hundreds. Councilwoman Galetto noted that this may not be auctioned, since there is a lot of interest being shown to this property by various groups, and gave a brief summary of these groups. Superintendent Porutski noted that the open acreage of this property is exceptional, but added we aren't in the business of maintaining mansions, outbuildings or their surrounding property and felt that this needed to be moved on soon or it may go the way of Ponder Lodge. He noted that the Ponder Lodge is now boarded up, that the township has backed out again, and demolition plans are moving forward for the lodge and all it's buildings. They are still having problems with break-in's and vandalism at the Ponder Lodge property, and liability is a concern.

South Jersey crews have also been busy with road repairs. Southern Region Superintendent Widjeskog wanted Superintendent Porutski to express that they are getting more and more acreage, but still have not gotten additional staff to help maintain this acreage. Councilman Messeroll asked if volunteers could be used for this type of activity, but Superintendent Porutski noted it doesn't always work out.

Superintendent Porutski gave an update on the status of the shotgun ranges in the Central Region that have been closed to the use of lead shot. He just returned from a meeting with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency as well as the Department's Hazardous Site Mitigation representative. The Assunpink and Colliers Mills shotgun ranges are currently restricted to steel shot only, and there are no restrictions on the Stafford Forge range. The Department wants more sampling done, and the Pinelands Commission is waiting for the Department's response. The plan is to move the range at Colliers Mills to the field next to the existing range, which is out of the wetlands area. There were too many obstacles in place to renovate the existing range at Colliers Mills. Letters of support to move the range to this other field will be received from the Department and the EPA to the Pinelands Commission. Superintendent Porutski noted that this process will take some time, and in the meantime shooters are being redirected to use the range at Stafford Forge. Due to concerns that shooters will continue use lead shot at the range at Colliers Mills regardless of the signs requiring steel

shot only, plans are in place to permanently close the range after Labor Day, pending approval of the Director. The range at the Assunpink WMA will remain open, but future plans to relocate the range may not be possible due to the popularity of the Assunpink WMA by many user groups. This matter will be discussed with Chief Herrighty and Director Chanda, and once the new range at Colliers Mills is completed, the range at the Assunpink may be done away with completely. Councilwoman Galetto noted she felt it was important to keep the range as centralized as possible, noting she felt it was possible that all the ranges will eventually be asked to clean up the lead in the soil. There was some additional discussion on this matter. Superintendent Porutski was asked if people would be using the muzzleloader range at Colliers Mills instead of the shotgun range, and he noted that this was a possibility. He was also asked if the range closures would be posted on the Division's website, and he noted that yes, they would be and that a news release on this matter would be done before Labor Day.

A vote was taken on the tentative meeting schedule for 2008. **A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll, seconded by Councilman Van Mater to approve the tentative meeting schedule. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Messeroll, seconded by Councilman Wolgast to go to Executive Session. A vote was taken with all in favor, and Executive Session began at 1:37 pm.**

Executive Session ended at 2:35 pm.

The regular meeting resumed. **A motion was made by Councilman Van Mater, seconded by Councilman Burke to send a letter to the Judge regarding their concerns on matters related to the Bear Policy. A vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed.**

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland referred back to the North American Fish and Wildlife Agencies Convention on September 17, asking if anyone had any comments to add. She noted that she would make known the problems in New Jersey of politics and wildlife. Councilman Messeroll noted that they were asking for agenda items and wondered if we could be added to the agenda.

There was no additional business. Meeting was adjourned.