

NJ Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
1/27/16
Northern Region Office –
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

WRAC Purpose: The purpose of the WRAC is to provide advice and assistance to the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to improve the wildlife rehabilitation program and the care that is provided to injured and orphaned wildlife.

Committee Members Present: Kelly Simonetti, Lisa DeLambert, Dr. Erica Miller, Tracy Leaver, Diane Nickerson, Giselle Chazotte-Smisko, Dr. Jennifer Norton, Phil Brodhecker

Committee Members Absent: Don Bonica

Division Employees: Paulette Nelson, Krista Moser

Three members of the public were present, including Adam Randall from USDA Aphis Wildlife Services and Cathy Malok.

Meeting called to order at 10:11 A.M.

- A motion was made by Dr. E. Miller, and seconded by D. Nickerson, to approve the July 22, 2015 meeting minutes. A vote was taken with all in favor.
- Discussion ensued on treatment of endangered and threatened (E/T) species by rehabilitators. ENSP will be deciding who is qualified to care for E/T species. Communication between rehabilitators and Division personnel is crucial. Division call list will be developed for when rehabilitators receive E/T species. Rehabilitators should be reviewing permits for accuracy. Suggestion was made for the new regulations to include a section about handling of E/T species.
- A. Randall gave a presentation on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) research being conducted by USDA. USDA is trying to determine the role raptors play in HPAI, which is suspected to be highly virulent and quickly fatal in raptors. There is a strong focus on raptors that prey on waterfowl. USDA is asking for help from rehabilitators to provide raptor samples. A. Randall is willing to provide materials (swabs, tubes, etc.) for sampling. He can be contacted or if he's unavailable, L. DeLambert volunteered to be contacted if someone has a sample.
- K. Moser gave a Division update. She is handling all captive game permits, including wildlife rehabilitation.
- Discussion ensued on Division involvement in wildlife rehabilitation. Rehabilitators must follow national standards. Disagreements are handled on a case-by-case basis. Suggestion was made that disagreements may be presented to WRAC for resolution. T. Leaver suggested that WRAC and NJAWR collaborate to do an education event for Division personnel.

- C. Malok from Raptor Trust asked permission from WRAC to share letter sent to NJ veterinarians with NYDEC.
- Discussion ensued on rehabilitation requirements, including lapses and apprenticeships. Recommendations included:
 - The Division reserves the right to verify rehabilitators' veterinarians.
 - A letter of commitment from a veterinarian willing to work with the applicant is required for all lapses.
 - Rehabilitators who allow their permit to lapse for more than two years must submit two letters of recommendation.
 - Rehabilitators who allow their permit to lapse for more than five years must also complete an apprenticeship (minimum of 6 months, 100 hours).
 - Apprentices who do not apply for their permit within 2 years of the completion date of their apprenticeship must restart the apprenticeship. Letter of recommendation from sponsoring rehabilitator must include the date of completion of the apprenticeship.
- K. Moser announced that the WRAC terms expiring in May 2016 included 1 Avian Representative, 1 Mammal Representative, 1 ENSAC Representative, and 1 Veterinarian Representative. The Reptile Representative position is still vacant. The Division will send note to rehabilitation community and ENSAC to ask for nominations, which will be due by March 25. The chair seat is also expiring.
- A motion was made by D. Nickerson, and seconded by G. Smisko, to approve the 2016 meeting dates of April 27 at CRO Conservation Center, July 27 at NRO, and October 26 at CRO Conservation Center. A vote was taken with all in favor.
- A motion to adjourn was made by D. Nickerson, seconded by P. Brodhecker. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15PM.