

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Central Region Office
Robbinsville, NJ
July 14, 2009

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 Len Wolgast

Absent: Councilwoman Barbara Brummer
Councilman Fred Hough
Councilman Ed Kertz
Councilman John Messeroll
Councilman Robert Puskas
Councilman Dan VanMater

Division employees included: Director Dave Chanda, Assistant Director Larry Herrighty, Paulette Nelson, Tim Cussen, Jim Sciascia, Tony Petrongolo and Lisa Barno.

Members of the public included representatives from the Federation of Sportsmen's clubs and others.

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 pm.

The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

In accordance with P.L. 1975, c.231 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 June 22, 2009.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that there were no agenda items to be voted on, and therefore would be no public comments on the agenda at this time.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland reviewed her activities from this past month, which included some travel.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that when she was reviewing the minutes from the June 16, 2009 meeting, the last six pages of the total 17 pages were all comments made at the end of the meeting by the public. She added that there were many questions during this time, and that this time was for comments only. Based on this, she was allowing two minutes per person at the end of the meeting for comments, not questions, to the Council. She noted that after the last meeting, it was brought to her attention that there were many questions as well as comments directed to the Council.

Director Chanda reported to the Council. He noted that the budget is in place, and funds are still being sorted out. He noted that there would be a meeting of the Council Finance Committee in September.

He added that even with cuts to the funds, the Division should still be okay due to the loss of personnel over the last several years.

The Director shared a copy of an article by Jim Van Dale relating to the marine fisheries funding.

Councilman Burke asked to have the minutes from June be held over until next month so that they could be revised regarding 7:25-5.22 of the Game Code. He asked for more details of what was discussed regarding this proposal. Director Chanda added that the minutes are a summary of the meeting and not a transcript, though there have been occasions where more details are given in certain areas. Councilman Burke noted that he'd like to see more details for the record, indicating that someone looking at these records years from now would have more information on what occurred, adding that the vote may have been influenced by the comments that were made.

At this time, roll call was completed. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that if the pending appointments to Council were made, there would have been more members present today. She asked Assistant Director Herrightly to check on the amount of persons needed for a quorum, since members have not been replaced, but he noted that there is a requirement to have six of the 11 appointed members present.

The minutes from the June 16, 2009 meeting will be tabled until August due to a lack of a quorum, and to allow for the requested revisions to be made.

Chief Tony Petrongolo reported for the Bureau of Land Management. He noted that 116 acres have been added this past month, making for a total of 324,372 acres in the wildlife management area system.

He noted some interesting initiatives that have begun to be implemented over this past month. One is the Global Warming Solution Fund, which is a ten state cooperative that requires permits for energy production. Ten percent of the monies received by New Jersey as a part of this program go to the NJDEP for forest stewardship and tidelands preservation. Chief Petrongolo added that this would allow consultants to be hired over the next four years to do forest stewardship plans for WMA's.

Chief Petrongolo noted that it is usually difficult and time-consuming to get permits from the Pinelands Commission to do habitat management and ecological restoration projects on WMA's. As a result, critical, landscape-level projects are rarely initiated in this region. However, since 1982 the Division has had Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Pinelands Commission to do minimum amounts of work without a permit. Currently, work is underway to revise that MOU to have it include the entire Natural and Historic Resources Section of the DEP and to permit landscape-level habitat work without a permit. The Pinelands Commission has expressed interest in allowing us to develop and implement our own stewardship plans on State land under which critically needed, landscape-level habitat restoration projects could be accomplished in the Pinelands for the first time in decades. There is a target date of December 1, 2009 to have this MOU developed.

Work began on improvements at the Ken Lockwood Gorge this past month. Included will be road restoration, water quality improvements to reduce run-off, handicapped docks and improved parking. Chief Petrongolo added that this property was acquired in 1948, and the road has always been a problem. There were plans done 15 years ago, but there was never funding available to implement them. This current project will cost approximately \$250,000 and allow improvements to be done without affecting the character of the Ken Lockwood Gorge. Chief Petrongolo did note that it was overlooked that the Natural Lands Council was to be consulted before this project began. We have

apologized to them for this oversight. The Natural Areas Council was immediately provided with a set of plans for the project and we met with them on-site to discuss any concerns. Most of the major aspects of the project were found to represent an enhancement of the Council's goals for the Natural Area and only minor revisions were requested. They will be sending a letter to Assistant Commissioner Cradic that they are in concurrence with the plans for work to be done.

Councilman Wolgast asked who the Natural Lands Council was. Chief Petrongolo described that they are a volunteer council that was formed in the 1960's. They make recommendations to the Commissioner of DEP regarding plans for the management of the State's Natural Areas System. He added that the Division has five natural areas in the WMA system. Director Chanda added that after three years of planning, the Division felt the best move was to move forward with plans for improvement at the Ken Lockwood Gorge, however there still may be groups who oppose some of the plans that are in place. Chief Petrongolo again noted the improved parking that will be available, and the safety factor to pedestrians walking along the roadway portion that has been closed. Director Chanda advised the Fish and Game Council that the Natural Lands Council members were each sent a letter as well as a package of information on the project when the error was discovered that they had not been notified of the work to be done. Director Chanda along with Chief Petrongolo noted that there are not any known rare plant species at the Ken Lockwood Gorge.

Director Chanda asked Chief Petrongolo about the agricultural lease program that was pending. Chief Petrongolo noted that the farm auctions would be held July 21, 2009 at Pequest, July 22, 2009 at Assunpink, and July 23, 2009 in the Southern Region. There have not been too many registrants so far, but the deadline is until 5:00 pm the day before each auction.

Councilman Burke asked if the Salem Canal boat ramp project was on hold, and Chief Petrongolo confirmed that it was. Councilman Burke asked if this was due to artifacts being found at that area, but that was unknown.

Chief Petrongolo asked Acting Chairwoman Vreeland if she had received any feedback from fisherman about the Ken Lockwood Gorge project, noting there had been some back and forth information over the past three years. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland suggested that a sign be put up advising of the project and the work being done.

There were no reports from the Federation and Agriculture Committees.

Legislative Liaison Paulette Nelson reported for the Legislative Committee. She noted that Bill S 976, which would change the perimeter for bow and arrow hunting around and occupied building was amended on the floor, and is now identical to the matching Assembly Bill A 595. Bill S 2055, which would regulate the operation of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes and certain other vehicles and off-road vehicles has come out of the Budget and Appropriations Committee and is being monitored. She did not expect that the Legislature would be back in session until after the election in November.

Chief Timothy Cussen reported for the Bureau of Law Enforcement. He noted that CO Jordan Holmes, who recently graduated from the Morris County Police Academy, has begun his field officer training with CO Kuechler in the Essex, Hudson and Union County area. He will be assigned to the lower Warren, upper Hunterdon County patrol area.

CO Brian Tomlin will be graduating from the Gloucester County Police Academy this Thursday evening. He will have a few weeks off before beginning his field officer training program.

Chief Cussen noted the recent retirements of Captain Tod Eisenhuth and Lt. Greg Honochevsky, both from the Southern Region. Chief Cussen noted that they had a combined 50 years of experience between them. They are waiting for approval from the Governor's Office to be able to replace their positions.

During this report period, officers reported a total of 7,212.5 hours of service. They can be further broken down to 1650.5 for marine resources patrols, 1570.5 for fishing patrols, 728 for wildlife management area patrols and 272 for endangered and non-game species patrols.

A total of 8,831 field inspections were conducted, resulting in 600 summonses, 50 written warnings and one criminal arrest. The summonses were further broken down to include 240 fishing, 117 marine resources, 114 wildlife management area and 32 striped bass violations.

Councilman Wolgast asked about getting approval from the Governor's Office to fill vacant positions. Chief Cussen noted that prior to his retirement, former Chief Mark Dobelbower worked to get approval to move forward to hire 13 Conservation Officer III's and fill nine promotional positions. There are still two CO III exemptions that were granted and have budget monies in place that the Department will not allow to be filled. There is a possibility that promotions may be allowed, but they would occur on a case by case basis and would have to be approved by the Governor's Office. Chief Cussen indicated that he has started the steps necessary for getting this approval, but at this point is not sure if it will happen.

Chief Lisa Barno reported for the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. She noted that the Fish Code is through the Governor's Office. It was received one day too late to make the August 7, 2009 Register, and will be published in the August 17, 2009 Register instead. The public comment period will run through October 15, 2009. Chief Barno asked the Council to consider changing the October meeting to the 20th. This will be discussed further at the August 11, 2009 Council meeting.

Chief Barno distributed a photograph from the Northern Community Park Pond in Bordentown Township. Bordentown Township recently dedicated the pond to the late James T. Oross, who worked for the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, and for many years attended their annual Fourth of July fishing derby for the Division. The sign indicates "he was a great inspiration to all of us, dedicating and sharing his time, talents, and knowledge with all our Derby participants".

Personnel have been busy these past two weeks working at Maskell's Mill Pond in Salem County. This is a 35 acre lake that is being drained, and staff are doing a fish salvage, with some staff working 6:00 am until 10:00 pm days. This project should conclude at the end of this week. The bass are being transferred to Harrisonville Lake. Chief Barno noted that even though the field sampling season has started, it is on hold until this project is completed.

Chief Barno reported previously that snake head fish were found in Stewart Lake, and added that they are now in the Woodbury and Big Timber Creeks. They may be coming through tidal fish gates from the Mapleyard Lake in Pennsylvania and travelling along the river system to New Jersey waters. They have also been reported in the northern part of the Delaware.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked about the landlocked salmon. Chief Barno noted that the Division's website will be updated shortly, and that an angler reported catching a 4.5 pound landlocked salmon at Lake Aeroflex. She noted that there has been quite a bit more activity over the last several months, and feels that the word may be getting out about the availability of this fishing opportunity.

Councilman Burke confirmed that the date of the Fish Code public hearing would remain the same. (note: September 8, 2009, 7:00 pm, Central Region Office, Assunpink WMA).

Chief Barno noted reports in the Star Ledger of herring being taken from Lake Hopatcong and transferred to the Round Valley Reservoir. Some people were saying that these should have been swapped with bass from Round Valley. She noted that these herring were purchased from a private vendor and put into the Round Valley Reservoir, and they are working on educating the public on this matter.

Assistant Director Larry Herrighty reported for the Bureau of Wildlife Management. Changes to the Game Code have been updated and e-mailed to the attorney today. He anticipates that it will be published in the Register in early September.

A copy of the bear tally report and a report on Northern bobwhite quail was distributed. It was noted that the report would be published in Fall hunting issue of the Fish and Wildlife Digest.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted that in the spring of 2008, there was a switch in how bear reports were generated. The bear tally report written for the New Jersey Emergency Management System (NJEMS) is on the date the call comes in, which could have thrown off the numbers compared to the Bureau report previously used which generates a monthly report based upon the date of the incident. He has asked them to change the report so that it uses the date the incident occurs. Councilman Wolgast mentioned that this current report comparing this and last years information does not compare to the May-June report from last year, and Assistant Director Herrighty felt that this could be the reason for the discrepancy. Councilman Wolgast also asked that the Bureau of Wildlife Management reports for August through December 2008, and January through April 2009 be sent to him again. He noted that there is misinformation coming out in the press, and he would like to see the data again to be sure of what was being reported and if it was being reported correctly or not.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted an incident in Vernon where a bear knocked down someone who was at their car. This was categorized as a Category One incident, since there was contact with the individual, and a trap was put at the sight. After speaking with the person initially, staff felt that this was not a predatory attack, since there were no scratches or ripped clothes on the individual. The individual's story has changed several times since the initial report, with him now saying he had kicked the bear, and it drew blood and he had a ripped shirt. When asked for the shirt he said it had been thrown away. The matter is still being investigated. Assistant Director Herrighty added that if the bear is caught, it will be euthanized airing on the side of safety. There was also another bear in the area that had chased some children into a house, and a trap has been set for that bear.

Assistant Director Herrighty referred to the monthly report, noting that work continues on the herbivory project being done by Principal Biologist Sue Predl. The contract with Dr. Zimmerman of Stockton State College continues. He has been studying the regeneration of Atlantic white cedar.

Director Chanda and Assistant Director Herrighty recently met with Senator Karrow to discuss deer ranching. One of the concerns of the Division is the possibility of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), and the Division has not issued any additional deer ranching permits. He noted that several individuals have received summonses for transferring deer in New Jersey. There has also been some activity by these deer ranchers to seek support from sportsmen's groups to allow the transfer of deer. Councilman Wolgast noted that it is important for the Division to continue with getting Legislation passed to ban

baiting for deer. Assistant Director Herrighty added that his staff continues to edit the document. This matter was further reviewed.

Assistant Director Herrighty distributed an article on Northern bobwhite quail that will be printed in the Fall issue of the Fish and Wildlife Digest. He briefly reviewed this for the Council, noting the work done by the University of Delaware. He noted that the article brings up the possibility of closing the season. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland added that the trap-neuter-release (TNR) program information and the affects on the quail population should be included with this, and he noted that house cats are mentioned in the article. Councilman Wolgast added that the New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance gives talks and says that the Division, specifically the Endangered and Non-Game Species Program supports TNR, and the Division does nothing about it. He felt that we would be protecting the quail from hunters, when the science is clear on the affect of feral cats on birds. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that the Animal Rights Alliance is not giving an accurate account of the Division's policy, but Councilman Wolgast felt that nothing was being done about it. Director Chanda advised that the Endangered and Non-Game Species Committee has Dr. Wolgast's information, and while their representative was not here today, he felt that they, along with this Council and staff need to take a formal position on feral cats. Councilman Wolgast added that if there is an issue of a discharge of firearms ban in an area, the Division is there, but with this issue which he feels is worse, there is nothing done. He added that the Chief of the Endangered and Non-Game Species Program said that there was no place to put a feral cat colony where migratory passerines will not be impacted. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that if the cats are not taken care of, they become part of the food chain for coyotes. Councilman Wolgast noted that there is an article in the current Journal of Wildlife on coyote predation on cats. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked about the feral cat colony at the Round Valley WMA. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that the group trapping them report there are now only two left and signs have been put up advising visitors not to feed the cats. Efforts to trap these cats continue.

Staff has been working with Pheasants Forever. They met with representatives of the Hunterdon County Federation, as well as a Rutgers graduate student who has developed a map of a habitat area in Groton. This student will also be working for the Division as a seasonal on fisher, which is a protected game animal. Councilman Wolgast asked about wild pheasants at Six Mile Run. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that there was not as much grassland there as they originally thought, but Councilman Wolgast added that it has a tremendous diversity of habitat. Division staff have talked to staff from the Division of Parks and Forestry and they are interested and supportive of a habitat program. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that he had also talked to them about Liberty State Park, where there is still a population of wild pheasants. Pheasants Forever was having problems with getting wild birds from Wyoming and Montana due to avian influenza and other diseases, and this may be a source for native wild birds.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted that there were two more Monday's left to do the chick count at the Rockport Game Farm. Assistant Director Herrighty reported that there have been 55,000 chicks hatched so far.

The Atlantic Flyway Council meeting is next week, but staff from New Jersey will not be going. One of the issues that could be discussed is New York's desire to increase the bag limit of Atlantic brant in the area of the Hudson River where the plane came down due to a bird strike. Research Scientist Paul Castelli and Principal Biologist Ted Nichols have prepared a document noting concerns for a long term population reduction in the Flyway if this is approved. Councilman Wolgast asked about the letter Councilman Puskas had asked be sent regarding Canada geese, and Assistant Director Herrighty noted he has spoken to a counterpart on this and a letter will be sent tomorrow. Research Biologist Castelli

has also advised the Technical Committee that the farmers are having increased problems from the geese.

Councilman Burke asked that the harvest per hunter information be e-mailed to him. Also, the harvest by County information was not in the binders they received of the deer season, and he asked that that also be sent. Lastly, he had asked for a five year comparison by season for the deer harvest in the Pinelands zones, and was still waiting for that information. Assistant Director Herrightly will also be sending him information from the Federation's deer committee. Councilman Burke noted that he was asked to be on that committee, but was not able to attend the last meeting, but will plan to be at the next one.

Chief Jim Sciascia reported for the Bureau of Information and Education. He noted that Paul Ritter provided a handout summarizing the results of the spring trout season promotion at the last meeting. Chief Sciascia briefly reviewed the results, which showed the postcard and the email did not appear to have a very significant impact on getting anglers who did not buy a license in 2008 to buy a license for the trout season this year. However, there was a significant impact observed in the number of 2009 trout stamps purchased by anglers who had a 2008 license but no trout stamp and received a postcard or email during the promotion.

The promotion analysis also appears to show that the e-mail notification may be just as or more effective than the post card mailing. He also noted that the radio advertising may be encouraging anglers to purchase their license before the e-mail or postcard notifications go out. Questions will be added to the upcoming New Jersey angler survey to try and identify angler recall and response to promotional efforts, including the radio spots.

There was a late spring trout season email sent to anglers which was part of the original promotion had not purchased a 2009 license or trout stamp. A copy of the text was distributed to the Council. Chief Sciascia noted that the results of this should be available at the next meeting.

The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) promotion to encourage lapsed anglers to buy a license has concluded and results should be available in two to three months.

Warm water fishing and Fall trout season promotions are planned for summer and fall.

License sales and trout stamp sales are still tracking ahead of sales for the same time last year. Chief Sciascia added that at this point there is an increase of 15,000 privileges and an additional \$265,000 in income.

Outreach to promote turkey hunting opportunities was also discussed. An e-mail was sent to 7,000 hunters who did not purchase turkey permits in 2008. Recipients purchased more than 600 permits for a 9% response rate.

Outreach has also begun to promote the new archery hunting opportunities in New Jersey. An email sent to hunters who had no IELS archery hunting license records was distributed by Chief Sciascia to the Council. He advised there were approximately 10,000 hunters in this category with e-mail addresses who received the email. One of the objectives is to encourage those who are interested in archery hunting but need hunter education certification to sign up for available courses.

To accommodate the demand for classes the scheduling of summer hunter education classes has been increased and classes are filling. Classes will be added to meet the demand as needed. Surveys are

being done at classes to see if any of the students had received the e-mail notification of the new archery opportunities. Chief Sciascia noted that hunters who had archery licenses before the electronic license sales system was in place may not be reflected in the hunter education course schedule, but could be reflected in any increase in archery license sales for this season.

Hunter education course graduates are up by 20%, with 1,669 students compared to 1,389 at this time last year. Course completion certificates are also up by 21%. Chief Sciascia noted that the increase at this point is not due to the new bow and arrow hunting opportunities in New Jersey. Although we may see an additional increase by the end of the season due to the changes in archery regulation, he felt much larger increases in hunter education participation and archery license sales will occur next year as more hunters become aware of the crossbow and Sunday hunting opportunities.

Advanced instructor training on crossbows is being done this weekend with assistance from crossbow manufacturers. All members of the Council are invited to attend. Classes will be Saturday at 10 am at the Pequest Education Center, and Sunday at 10 am at the Assunpink Conservation Center.

The Outdoor Expo planned for this October at the Assunpink WMA has been put on hold until next year. Limited funding, low sponsorship and the ability to build the event were the deciding factors. The \$5,000 grant that was received can be held over until next year, and an additional grant of \$5,000 will also be available in 2010. The Heritage Festival that has been held in the past at Pequest will continue and be expanded to include more activities. It is scheduled for September 26, 2009.

Chief Sciascia noted several fairs the Division will be attending. The Freedom Fest Fair at the Horse Park of New Jersey, which is adjacent to the Assunpink WMA was held last week. Upcoming events include the Sussex, Hunterdon and Warren County fairs.

Councilman Wolgast asked if students taking the archery field course with crossbows will be allowed to use a shooting stick or some other form of support. Chief Sciascia advised that was being allowed and students have already shot with supports at hunter education classes. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that at a recent class, four of the 30 students in attendance qualified with a crossbow.

Assistant Director Herrighty noted a recent e-mail that the Division received stating that Cabela's would not ship a crossbow to a customer in New Jersey because of it being illegal. Cabela's was contacted and they are now aware that New Jersey has approved the use of crossbows and the statute prohibiting the shipment of firearms, but not pertaining to crossbows was provided to them by Chief Cussen. Their legal department will review their current policy.

Old and new business was discussed. Assistant Director Herrighty noted that last month Councilman Wolgast had asked for an update on the bear studies being done by East Stroudsburg University. He advised that there are still no final drafts available. Councilman Wolgast asked if there was a due date on the contract for work, but Assistant Director Herrighty noted that there was no contract. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked if this was the dumpster study, and Assistant Director Herrighty noted one study was on population estimates in study areas and aversive conditioning, and a second was an independent study done by Rutgers on the effect of the bear proof trash cans that were obtained through a grant. Councilman Wolgast questioned if they were paid for their services, and Assistant Director Herrighty advised that East Stroudsburg was paid for the analysis of the bear hair, and a graduate student who we weren't funding was doing the aversive conditioning study. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland added that no comment has yet been received from the Acting Commissioner on the letter sent regarding the Comprehensive Bear Management Policy. Councilman Wolgast noted

that with the lawsuits that are pending, the data from these studies was needed, since Council may be involved with those lawsuits. There was some additional discussion on this pending information.

Councilman Burke noted that the cool, wet Spring resulted in lush habitat and vegetation which should be good for the deer, but could be detrimental to the turkeys. He noted the visible infestation and damage of gypsy moths when driving through the pines.

Councilman Wolgast made available information on the upcoming Become an Outdoors Woman program that will be held in September 11-13, 2009 in Cape May. He reviewed some of the workshops and programs planned for that event. He added that they are hoping for some new participants, with past attendees being held to the end of the list in order to allow for this. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked to spread the word through the various Federations, and Councilman Wolgast noted the scholarship opportunities available through the Federation.

The August 11, 2009 Council meeting will be held at the Central Region Office at 10:00 am.

Chief Cussen noted a gentleman who was present who would like a copy of the amendments to the Game Code. Assistant Director Herrighty advised that they should be on the Division's web page, as well as an article in the current Digest that was available in the lobby. He noted that the change to the boundaries of deer management zones 19 and 23, as noted in the article, was not approved. All other information in the article should be accurate. The gentleman also noted he has been hearing about a salt water fishing license, and was advised to see Federation Representative Rob Winkle after the meeting for further information.

The public comment period was opened. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland advised those speaking that they would be limited to two minutes. Councilman Burke was asked to be the timekeeper.

Barbara Metzler from Brookside addressed the Council. She stated that she wanted to ask about the about the status of the feral cat initiative, but since she could not ask questions, she would just comment. She stated that there are so many feral cats since people don't spay or neuter their cats. She also said that rather than simply manage the numbers for feral cats, people should practice human care and keep their cats inside, saying the cycle can be stopped using a human approach which may include keeping their pets inside. She noted her neighbor's cats, which are not feral, are in her yard all the time looking for something to kill. She felt that the problem of cats killing birds was not limited to feral cats. She asked for guidance on OPRA to obtain information on the Division's feral cat initiative.

Next to speak was Rick Del Guidice from Hamburg. He referenced some e-mails and faxes he had sent to the Council regarding the Paulinskill WMA. He has concerns because it is a wonderful habitat for fishing, especially large mouth bass fishing. He noted that in the last month, he has caught an 8 lb., a 7 lb. and numerous 5 lb. bass. He noted that a lake in the Sparta Mountain WMA has a conservation regulation limit for bass fishing, and would like Council to consider this type of protection for the Paulinskill WMA. He noted he is concerned that someone posted pictures of the fish caught at the Paulinskill WMA on the internet, and since that time many more fishermen have come the area, not obeying the regulations, and taking over the limit on fish. He's asking that they consider keeping the size limit to 15", and limiting anglers to two fish. (Mr. Del Guidice was advised that he had reached his two minutes, and was asked to finish.) He added that the Conservation Officers do a good job, but there are still people who are hiding stringers and stockpiling fish in their vehicles. Assistant Director Herrighty advised Mr. Del Guidice that his e-mail was forwarded to the Northern Region Law Enforcement Office.

Janet Pizar from Millburn was next to address the Council. She handed some information to Assistant Director Herrighty. Ms. Pizar noted that last month it was reported that OVO control was not yet EPA approved. She has done some research and stated that OVO-G (for geese) was registered with the FDA by the company that developed it, and said it was on page 2 of the information she had given to Assistant Director Herrighty. She also said she had a report from the USDA that says OVO control is EPA regulated as a restrictive use chemical only for use by licensed wildlife specialists or pest control operators, and as she suspected, it has been approved for control of resident Canada geese.

Ms. Pizar also stated that she was disappointed in the report today that Bear Saver products will be available only from Grainger, Inc. in Middlesex County. She felt it was irrational to have a vital resource not located in bear county, and found it counterproductive to only have one vendor in Middlesex County. She noted that Bear Saver is an excellent product, noting that she has met with them (Bear Saver) in the past.

Ms. Pizar had a photograph of a Division bear trap in the Lake Panorama area. She felt that garbage at that residence was not bear proofed, and if the person their wondered why they had bears on their property it was because they were luring them their. She felt that there was easy high quality food, and an easy meal. She found it hard to believe that there is no engagement as to why bears are in the human environment.

She was also confused that last month it was stated that funds for black bear management program had run out of funds for the appropriation, and supposedly the Bureau of Law Enforcement could no long get out and look to bring violations for the black bear feeding ban law, yet the Division still have has funds to put out covert traps for bears. She felt that the Division was looking to do one aspect of the black bear management plan and willing to do the most vital component. (Ms. Pizar was advised that she had reached her two minutes speaking opportunity time.)

She asked to make one last comment, and Acting Chairwoman Vreeland granted her one minute. She noted this was a procedural comment, noting that the agenda allows two sessions where public comment can be made. The first allows three minutes, but added there had been no call for public comment on anything on the agenda. She added that she found it interesting that only two minutes were allowed at the end of the meeting for comment when there were so many members of the public who wanted to come forth, and wanted to say when the public comes forth with comments they can not be censored by content, and that someone is free to ask questions, otherwise it is a violation of first amendment rules.

Councilman Burke asked to see the photograph of the trash cans and bear trap that she had brought today. He noted he did not see a problem and it appeared that it was trash day and that is why they were at the curb. Ms. Pizar stated that they were not bear proof cans, and Councilman Burke added that they had probably been kept in the garage and if they did as they were supposed to put them out on the morning of trash pick up day. He added it looked as though there was a space in the garage for them. He did not feel that there was any problem.

Ms. Pizar went on to say that this is the body that makes all wildlife management decisions, and that wildlife is held in trust for all members, and for Council not to engage them or refuse to take questions is disadvantageous to the Council. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland noted to Ms. Pizar that she was advised by Assistant Director Herrighty to put her concerns and questions in writing. Acting Chairwoman Vreeland also described that this Council receives scientific information and data from the Division, and that is reviewed and discussed by the Council. She noted other groups who make public comment, and advised that the Council does consider all aspects.

Acting Chairwoman Vreeland asked if there were any other public comments. There were none.

A motion was made by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Wolgast to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:54 pm.