

Approved 3/16/2011

NJ Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2011

Assunpink WMA
Robbinsville, NJ

ATTENDEES

COMMITTEE: Barbara Brummer-Chair, James Applegate, Joanna Burger, Emile DeVito, Jane Galetto, Rick Lathrop, Erica Miller, James Shissias, and Dale Schweitzer.

Absent: Howard Geduldig, David Mizrahi

STAFF: Dave Jenkins-Bureau Chief, Jeanette Bowers-Altman, Kathy Clark, Amanda Dey, Gretchen Fowles, Dave Golden, Amy Wells.

GUESTS: Rick Dutko (DPF), Annette Scherer (USFWS)

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. Notice of the meeting date and location were posted on the DFW website, and filed with and posted at the Office of the Secretary of State on December 10, 2010.

Minutes

A motion was made by Rick Lathrop, seconded by Joanna Burger, to accept the December 2010 minutes as presented. All in favor, no opposed, the minutes were approved.

Action Items

Members reviewed the status of pending action items and the schedule of proposed agenda items.

The Fish and Game Council (FGC) has been invited to present information on the Deer Management program, including the Community Based Deer Management Program. The date has not yet been determined.

Erica Miller gave a presentation on Lead in Wildlife to the FGC. The presentation was well received. DFW will be publishing information on available non-toxic ammunition in the 2011 hunting edition of the DFW Digest this fall.

Director's Report

Director Dave Chanda discussed the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the Fish and Game Council (FGC), Marine Fisheries Council (MFC), and ENSAC to discuss overlapping issues and provided an update on changes in departmental organization and staff.

Marine Fisheries – Bills A823 and S1122

ENSAC members discussed the letter from ENSAC to Senator Smith expressing strong concern regarding NJ Legislature's approval of the unfunded mandate associated with bills A823 and S1122 and the need to forward a joint letter from ENSAC and the FGC to the Governor noting the same.

A motion was made by Jane Galetto, seconded by Joanna Burger, and approved by the Committee to send a letter from ENSAC and the FGC to Governor Christie noting the joint opposition of A823 and S1122 which pertains to an unfunded mandate implementing a "free" saltwater fishing registry. All in favor; none opposed; the motion was approved.

The letter will be drafted and sent to the Dave Burke, FGC chair, for approval.

Feral Cat Stakeholder Process - update

Barbara Brummer noted DEP's desire to assign a DEP facilitator, distanced from Fish and Wildlife issues, to lead the feral cat stakeholder process. Because ENSAC is an advisory committee to the Commissioner, ENSAC will postpone further action and discussion on this topic while waiting for the Assistant Commissioners guidance.

Endangered and Nongame Species Rule – proposed amendments

Barbara Brummer noted the NJ Endangered and Nongame Species Rule proposal is available to the public via the DEP list serve and the NJ Register dated January 18, 2011. Written comments on the proposed rule may be submitted to the Office of Legal Affairs by March 19, 2011.

Atlantic Sturgeon – update on listing status

After reviewing the current and proposed listing status of the Atlantic Sturgeon in NJ, neighboring states and with the USFWS, ENSAC members decided it is in the best interest of the species to conduct a single species Delphi review at this time rather than wait for the results of the proposed federal listing.

A motion was made by Joanna Burger, seconded by Emile DeVito, and approved by the committee to request ENSP conduct a single species Delphi review on the status of Atlantic Sturgeon in advance of any changes to the current federal status.

ENSAC Recognition

Members noted the NJ Star Ledger article recognizing the outstanding role of ENSAC and its efforts to protect wildlife.

Nominating Committee - update

Jane Galetto noted her term with ENSAC expires in April 2011 and while she had expressed an interest in participating on the nominating committee, she did not think it would be proper to be on the nominating committee at this time.

Rick Lathrop noted the nominating committee currently consists of himself, Jim Shissias and Barbara Brummer. Members have agreed on additional criteria to be included when considering nominees and reviewed the benefits/challenges associated with new membership and the balance

of wisdom and time. The Committee will present nominations to fill the expiring terms at the March meeting.

Shorebirds

Dr. Amanda Dey, ENSP Principal Biologist, reminded the Committee that the moratorium on horseshoe crabs will continue until recovery targets are met, including 1) The Primary Recovery Target Plan for Red knots which includes Red knot population counts, stopover counts, survival rates, horseshoe crab egg densities, and horseshoe crab harvest. 2) The Shorebirds Management Plan demonstrates that more than adequate food supply from horseshoe crabs exist for shorebirds and population viability for both shorebirds and horseshoe crabs exist. The plan is subject to public comment and review/approval by shorebird and horseshoe crab ecologists and ENSAC.

Dr. Dey also reviewed Delaware Bay tag return data (by state).

NJ Roads and Wildlife Working Group

Gretchen Fowles and Dave Golden gave an update on the work of the New Jersey Roads and Wildlife Working Group that was established in June 2009 with representatives from DFW, DOT, and DLUR to address the conflicts that can arise between roads and wildlife. The main initiatives of the group are 1) baseline data collection and storage related to road kills as well as existing crossing structures that are in place, 2) establishing pilot projects to install wildlife crossing structures at key wildlife mortality hotspots and developing a standard practices guide for wildlife/road crossing structures for the state, and 3) project review in the early stages of road planning/permitting with the use of new mapping tools to aid this effort. Gretchen and Dave then went into more detail on the statewide habitat connectivity mapping now getting underway, which will target road segments for wildlife passages and lands for conservation and management.

USFWS - update

Annette Scherer, USFWS senior endangered species biologist, noted the USFWS had received a petition to list a number of bat species as a result of white nose syndrome. Species included Eastern small footed bat, long eared bat and the little brown bat as well as others.

USFWS determined the listing of the red knot subspecies *roselairi* was not warranted at this time. (This does not address the potential listing of the *rufa* subspecies.)

A motion was made by Joanna Burger, seconded by Emile DeVito, approved by the Committee to adjourn the meeting at 2:50pm.