

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 16, 2011

Chairman Wilson Freeland called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

**Approval for the November 16, 2011 Meeting Agenda**

- The November 16, 2011 Meeting Agenda was adopted by consensus.

**Approval for Minutes from October 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

- The October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were distributed to the Commission prior to the meeting.
- There were no changes to the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting Minutes.
- The October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

**WHS Game Program Update** – Presentation given by Peter Jayne, Associate Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service

- Mr. Jayne introduced Brian Eyler, Deer Project Leader to the Commission.
- Mr. Jayne presented the WHS Game Program Update with the focus on Chronic Wasting Disease Status in Maryland in a Power Point presentation. [ATTACHMENT A]
  1. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE). It is caused by a prion, similar to Mad-Cow Disease. There is no evidence that CWD affects humans. So far CWD has been found in mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and moose. That does not mean it does not exist in other deer species. Testing and monitoring continues across the world in many other deer species.
  2. Signs of CWD in deer: animals are emaciated, salivate excessively, tremble, stumble or are found dead. These signs are similar to other diseases so the only known testing is by taking the obex and lymph node.
  3. The transmission of CWD is not completely understood – ongoing research is expected to help answer that question.
  4. Maryland has been monitoring for CWD since 1999 and the monitoring efforts have intensified since 2002.
  5. In 2010, staff found one case of CWD in Allegany at Green Ridge State Forest.
  6. Staff created a disease management area with protocols for the public to follow. The goal is to keep CWD from spreading to other areas.
  7. Staff continue to do public outreach on CWD, continue to test for CWD, and continue to work with other states on CWD.
- Questions and Answers Section:
  1. Commissioner Lamp mentioned that he does not know much about CWD. Also, Commissioner Lamp thought that Mr. Jayne's CWD Presentation was wonderfully done. Commissioner Lamp asked given the prion being the cause of CWD, has anyone studied how to immunize the deer. Studies are being conducted.
  2. Commissioner Freeland asked if there are any captive deer herds in the cluster area of West Virginia where CWD has been found. There are captive deer herds in West Virginia but not in the area where the CWD has been found. There was a captive elk herd in that area at one time.
  3. Commissioner Plummer asked if it is state-by-state decision as to how to manage CWD. Yes, however, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has a Wildlife Health Committee that has CWD as one of their issues that the committee will watch. In some of the states management of captive wildlife is listed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

**Presentation of the Conservationist of the Year Award** – Presentation given by Paul A. Peditto, Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service

- Director Peditto thanked the guests for traveling from the Western Region to Annapolis for this presentation.
- Director Peditto added that the Commission nominates the Conservationist of the Year Award annually.
- This is the first time in the last ten years that the nominees were from within the Department. This year Rick Latshaw and Jim Mullan from the WHS Western Regional staff nominated two of their peers from the Forest Service, Mark Beals and Jesse Morgan [ATTACHMENT B]. Mr. Robert Webster, Regional Forester, provided a letter in support [ATTACHMENT C] of the nominations of Mark Beals and Jesse Morgan as the Conservationist of the Year Award. Tom Matthews (contractor for the Wildlife Management Institute and member of the Green Ridge State Forest Advisory Commission) [ATTACHMENT D] also nominated Mark Beals and Jesse Morgan for the same award. Also attending was Kenneth Jolly, Chief of Operations of the Forest Service, and Robert Webster, Regional Forester.
- Director Peditto highlighted some key components from the recommendation letters of Mark Beals and Jesse Morgan that really attest to their hard work and dedication to sustain, conserve, and manage the wildlife resources of Green Ridge State Forest along with early succession habitat on the Kirk Orchard Habitat Demonstration Area. Kirk Orchard had been dedicated to upland habitat management but the 500 acres had become overgrown. Mr. Beals and Mr. Morgan focused their attention on early succession habitat for Kirk Orchard. Kirk Orchard is now the national model for the network of people who are watching this effort.
- Mr. Mullan mentioned that Mr. Beals and Mr. Morgan offered their time, equipment, and supplies to work on the early succession habitat at Kirk Orchard; and reiterated how Mr. Beals and Mr. Morgan have successfully integrated forest management and wildlife management efforts on Kirk Orchard resulting in some of the best upland wildlife habitat in the region. Additionally, Mr. Mullan read from paragraph one of page two of the nomination letter. [ATTACHMENT B]
- Director Peditto presented the Conservationist of the Year Award to Mr. Beals and Mr. Morgan.
- Question and Answer Section:
  1. Commissioner Plummer asked what early succession habitat to Mr. Beals is. Mr. Beals highlighted that generally speaking early succession habitat is younger forest.
  2. Commissioner Bonomo asked what the size of Mount Nebo is. Mr. Mullan indicated that Mount Nebo is about 1,600 acres and staff members have about 500 acres for early succession habitat.
  3. Commissioner Bonomo asked if we have any sense of the total acreage that is supposed to be managed for early succession habitat. There was very little early succession habitat to begin with so there are around 2,500 acres just on Green Ridge State Forest, which does not include the five Wildlife Management Areas that have just been approved for early succession habitat.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update** – Presentation given by Kurt Fuchs, Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Government Relations Assistant Director

- The Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) is working on its policy development. It begins sometime around mid-summer, continues through the fall and culminates in December with the MFB Annual Convention in Ocean City, Maryland.
  1. These are some of the policies that have not been adopted. These have been deliberated by several committees.
    - a. Motion to delete a policy in support of market and bounty hunting of deer.
    - b. Resolution to allow the sale of venison that has been harvested under Deer Management Permits to local restaurants.
    - c. Resolution to simplify the deer harvest recording process.

2. These are resolutions that have come in but not deliberated by a committee.
  - a. Resolution to promote voluntary or incentive program to require hunters to harvest five doe before taking a buck and tagged on to this resolution was a recommendation to establish a bounty for deer.
  - b. Resolution to oppose chemical contraceptive for deer.
  - c. Two opposing resolutions for HB 301 that would expand the authority to DNR to suspend the hunting privileges and hunting licenses.
- Doe Harvest Challenge is down in the number of entries.
- There is policy in place to help support Maryland Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH).
- Again this year, DNR will have a booth in the exhibit hall at the MFB Annual Convention. Pete Jayne, Associate Director will be attending this year MFB for the Q&A Section.
- Question and Answer Section:
  1. Commissioner Lamp asked who opposed the usage of chemical contraceptive for deer management. There are some individuals that are part of the MFB that opposes the usage of chemical contraceptive for deer management because it is not an economical use of state funding. Those individuals feel that it is better to use the funding for the best way to gain results and those individuals believe that chemical contraceptive for deer is not cost effective. This resolution did not move forward within the board of directors for MFB.
  2. Commissioner Lamp asked about the resolution to allow deer to be sold directly to local restaurants. At this time, it is illegal to sell venison in Maryland; the idea is to make that legal. The venison will still go through the proper process for meat processing in Maryland for consumption.
    - a. Commissioner Lamp added this would promote more take of deer in Maryland.
    - b. Mr. Fuchs agreed but also the idea would be to utilize the Deer Management Permits to the best of the hunters' ability during a time when their freezers are full and this will allow the venison to be utilized as intended.
    - c. Director Peditto indicated that venison may be sold in Maryland but it must be farm-raised out of state. Also, the venison must be wrapped, certified, and confirmed taken from outside of Maryland on a certified venison farming operation. Most of the deer is from New Zealand and is red deer. From the view point of wildlife management, anytime there is commercial value associated with game that creates the fear of wiping out a species and the potential increase of illegal activity. It may even create a problem with people raising deer in their backyard, which is illegal. There is no way for staff to certify any deer as disease free.

**Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update** – no report.

**Old Business**

- Director Peditto reminded the Commission that there are three new candidates for the Wildlife Advisory Commission. All the appropriate documents were submitted by the candidates. Director Peditto is waiting for the new candidates to be sworn in.
- **Action Item for the Commission:** Director Peditto would like to have the current body meet with the new members at the February 15, 2012 WAC meeting for a transition meeting. This will give us opportunity to formally thank those who are being replaced and introduce the new members.

**New Business**

- Commissioner Bonomo apologized for having to miss a lot of meetings. Commissioner Bonomo

was assigned a huge special project that unfortunately caused her to be unable to attend the WAC meetings.

- Commissioner Bonomo noticed that at the October 19, 2011 WAC meeting there was a presentation about WMAs. Commissioner Bonomo would like to hear more of how the WMAs are functioning – maybe have WMAs presented in a lump sum to the Commission. Commissioner Bonomo has priority interest in the shore management areas for future presentations.
  1. Director Peditto indicated that these are some great suggestions from Commissioner Bonomo.
  2. Director Peditto does not recall when staff members have given a region by region overview. Director Peditto agreed to incorporate Commissioner Bonomo's suggestions for the 2012 proposed Work Chart for WAC.
- Commissioner Bonomo mentioned that she does not know the extent to which the Marcellus Shale development would potentially impact holdings of jurisdictions to the Department. Commissioner Bonomo would like to see at least a base presentation on Marcellus Shale on the core issues or updates for a future presentation.
  1. Director Peditto explained that there is a separate work group which has been charged by the legislature via the Governor to review this issue.
  2. Director Peditto will try to keep Commissioner Bonomo informed on the progress of the Marcellus Shale.
- Commissioner Plummer is involved in several hunting chat groups. Commissioner Plummer noticed some negative comments that were being discussed about some tickets being issued in Southern Maryland.
  1. Commissioner Plummer contact Captain Ingerson and Captain Ingerson responded to the situation immediately.
  2. Commissioner Plummer wanted to thank Captain Ingerson for his expedited action in handling this situation.
- Commissioner Lamp expressed a need for alternative tools other than hunting for managing deer in suburban areas. There is a need for more funding to develop these and use these other tools for managing deer.
  1. Commissioner Freeland and Commissioner Plummer indicated that they are in agreement with Commissioner Lamp's assessment that alternative tools are needed for managing deer in Maryland.
  2. Maryland is the only state in the Nation that allows the usage of chemical contraceptive as an alternative tool for managing deer. There are not many methods to use for managing deer.

**Public Comment** – no comment.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

### **Attendance**

Members:	J. Bonomo, , E. Fry, W. Freeland, J. Lamp, J. Plummer, and C. Rodney
Guests:	T. Santelli, K. Fuchs,
Staff:	M. Beals, B. Eyler, K. Jolly, P. Jayne, J. Morgan, J. Mullan, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, and R. Webster
Absent:	L. Compton and G. Fratz