

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 19, 2020

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Approval for the February 19, 2020, Meeting Agenda

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to accept the February 19, 2020, Wildlife Advisory Commission meeting agenda with the addition of the Officer of the Year under Old Business.
 2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from January 15, 2020 Meeting

- Before getting into the discussion about the January 15, 2020 meeting minutes, Chairman Compton made a statement that there has been some controversy with an email exchange and the January 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Chairman Compton indicated that he had some information and concerns as Chair.
- Chairman Compton added that he would like to hold approval of the January 15, 2020 meeting minutes until an executive session after the February 19, 2020 meeting.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Weinberg moved to hold approval of the January 15, 2020 meeting minutes until the executive session.
 2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.
- The January 15, 2020 meeting minutes were approved during the Executive Session with the following changes:
 1. On page 6 a typo to replace primate to primitive.
 2. On page 7 another typo to replace Chairman Michael to Commissioner Michael.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept the January 15, 2020 meeting minutes with the correction of the typos.
 2. Commissioner Michael seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

2020 Hunting Regulation Concepts Update – Presentation was given by Associate Director Karina Stonesifer.

- The official comment period ends on February 24, 2020.
- There were two public meetings held, (Hagerstown and Wye Mills). WHS appreciates the attendance of the members of the Wildlife Advisory Commission at the public meetings.
- The comments received have been very positive.
- Staff are receiving comments via email, online, and call-ins. Staff will incorporate what was received at the public meetings with the other public comments received.
- At the March 18, 2020 meeting in Western Maryland, the Commission is scheduled to conduct a final vote on the hunting season and bag-limit proposals.

2020 Legislative Session Update –Presentation was given by Associate Director Glenn Therres.

- The Commission received a list of the Summary of 2020 Proposed Legislation Wildlife and Heritage Service as of February 18, 2020. **[ATTACHMENT A]**
- Associate Director Therres provided a summary of the bills that Wildlife and Heritage Service is tracking.

- There are 31 bills being tracked by the Wildlife and Heritage Service, 14 in the House and 17 in the Senate.
- The Commission can review natural resources related bills by going to <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/>
- HB0173 was heard last week, the Department offered an amendment to clarify the intent and effect of the bill.
- Q&A Section on Legislative Report:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked if North Point State Park had a managed hunt.
 - a. Director Peditto responded that last year, North Point State Park had an archery hunt (required reservation) and a managed hunt.
 2. Commissioner Keithley asked if there has been any amendment to HB0863.
 - a. Mr. Therres indicated that he did not know if any amendments have been offered.
 - b. Director Peditto informed the Commission that the hearing is on February 26, 2020.
 - c. Commissioner Michael explained that he specifically reviewed HB0863. The Wildlife and Heritage Service issues raccoon hunting (field trial permits) and that would be prohibited.
 - d. Mr. Therres outlined that there are other issues with the bill in regards to requiring the Department to transport any injured animal as a result of those activities to a wildlife rehabilitator for rehabilitation. The Department prohibits the rehabilitation of raccoon, foxes, and coyotes because these are rabies vector species. This law would require the Department to transport animals to a rehabilitator and there is no one with the authority to rehabilitate adult rabies vector species. Also, the law would require the Department to take the carcass of any animal killed by these activities and do something with them -- the bill does not specified what that is though.
 3. Commissioner Michael asked about how often does a pet gets injured or killed by a black bear.
 - a. There were two high-profile incidents involving dogs in the past few years. There may be others that we are not aware of though.
 4. Commissioner Michael asked with the Departmental bill of HB0173 and HB1130 what process is there for the bills to be reconcile or is there a process.
 - a. Mr. Therres responded that if any Sunday hunting bills are passed then the Committee gets together and resolves the language.
 5. Commissioner Michael asked if that occurs does it go back to the Committee for a vote.
 - a. Commissioner Gulbrandsen responded that he thinks they go right to the floor after reconciliation.
 - b. Director Peditto explained that staff cannot predict what the legislature will do with it.
 6. Commissioner Weinberg asked who is pushing for HB1296.
 - a. Mr. Therres responded that I don't know who is behind the bill but the sponsor of HB1296 is Delegate Adams.
 7. Commissioner Weinberg asked if the Migratory Game Bird Committee is aware of HB1296 and the implications.
 - a. Staff have reviewed HB1296 with the Feds because staff think that it would be potential violations of the requirement for the Regulated Shooting Areas (RSA) be isolated to the land of the owner. So this bill would allow RSA to shoot ducks in public waters.
 - b. Commissioner Weinberg commented that this bill is totally unnecessary.
 8. Commissioner Keithley asked about HB0646/SB0646 Public Safety – Access to Firearms – Storage Requirements, looks like it would prohibit a person under the age of 18 from using a firearm in many instances.
 9. Commissioner Michael asked where I would locate the statewide waterfowl law. We have talked about it before historically that when the legislature tries to do a couple of days in this county or that county, with the Feds it all or nothing. If it is Sunday migratory game bird

hunting, Maryland would lose the compensatory days for those Sundays. Commissioner Michael also asked what determines that and where I can get a firm answer on that. Director Peditto read the federal language aloud.

- a. Commissioner Weinberg commented that the season would be the same number of days but for the counties that have Sunday hunting but shorter for the others because they would not be able to hunt the Sundays.
 - b. Director Peditto added, as an example - if Maryland had a 30-day season for a species, let's say AP geese and that season went from November 1st to November 30. Maryland would abandon the compensatory days, the season would still be from November 1st to November 30, and hunters in the 'no-Sunday' counties simply would not hunt on the Sundays and the others would hunt all 30 days. So, the hunters in the 'no-Sunday' counties would effectively lose the four Sunday days in November.
 - c. Commissioner Michael responded under Director Peditto scenario, if you have a 30-day season with the compensatory days, opening on November 1, it would close December 4 and no Sunday hunting. The problem is if you have some Sundays in some counties, those counties would get a 30-day season but the counties prohibiting Sunday hunting would get a 26-day season.
 - d. Director Peditto explained – the season would not change – it would still be Nov 1 to Nov 30 but the 'no-Sunday' counties would simply not hunt on those four Sundays.
10. Commissioner Wagner asked if the Department could shift the season further back – there is a certain timeframe to get all the hunting days in. The season can be moved forward and backwards within the federal frameworks.
- a. That is correct. Sunday hunting would not increase the number of the days available but it changes the dates that are available.
 - b. Commissioner Gulbrandsen added that it could take off a week in the front end.
11. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked if the Feds would consider if we said Wednesday is the new Sunday – does the Feds make a distinction as to what day of the week it is.
- a. The federal rule refers to compensatory days as Sundays so you cannot swap a different day.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – No Report – Colby Ferguson absent.

Natural Resources Police Update

- Lt. Fawley introduced Sergeant Bradley Lowe to the members of the Commission. Sergeant Lowe is station in Allegany. Sergeant Lowe will be serving as an alternate for the Commission as a representative of NRP.
- NRP is in a slowdown right now, which does not last very long. Officers are catching up on warrants and permits inspections on taxidermies and game husbandry permittees.

Old Business

- Commissioner Keithley, Commissioner Stephanie Boyles Griffin, and Lt. Fawley were communicating via email about the Natural Resources Officer of the Year Award.
 1. Lt. Fawley informed the Commission that this topic was brought up at a prior Commanders Meeting. NRP currently has a Conservation Officer of the Year Award.
 2. Lt. Fawley mentioned that the concerned with the Officer of the Year Award through WAC is that if WAC selects an officer and that officer does not match with the Conservation Officer of the Year – it is going cause some confusion because the award is the same. It would draw attention as to why two officers are getting the same award.

3. Commissioner Keithley asked Lt. Fawley if the consensus is not to pursue the award from the WAC.
4. Lt. Fawley pointed out to pursue having an award but not have two officers getting the award because it would raise questions about which one is the actually the Officer of the Year.
5. Commissioner Michael expressed that he understood Lt. Fawley's comments but the Wildlife Advisory Commission's Officer of the Year will have a wildlife focus.
6. Lt. Fawley pointed out that NRP awards are broken down in three main categories: 1. Boating Officer of the Year, 2. Conservation Officer of the Year, and 3. Officer of the Year. Recognizing the Conservation Officer of the Year in November is right during the middle of the season.
7. Commissioner Keithley expressed that the Commission is flexible when the nominations can be due and selected.
8. Lt. Fawley outlined that the NRP nominations are submitted in January and selected in early February. The awards are presented in March or April.
9. Commissioner Gulbrandsen suggested to call it something different like Distinguished Officer of the Year or something.
10. Commissioner Weinberg made the suggestion to have a certificate or plaque to the officer that NRP chooses.
11. Commissioner Weinberg questioned why the Commission has to create another award with a recipient who could be different than the one that NRP has chosen, particularly since it seems that NRP does not want that to occur.
12. Chairman Compton expressed that it seems redundant.
13. Commissioner Weinberg concluded that NRP has it already set-up to select the right officer. Commissioner Weinberg reiterated to the Commission why not recognized the officer that NRP selects.
14. Commissioner Keithley agreed with Commissioner Weinberg's suggestions.
15. Lt. Fawley informed the Commission that each area submits an officer with a formal nomination write up outlining the statistics, performance, and anything that occurred during that calendar year. It is submitted to the awards committee that is made up of 6 to 8 people and they vote on the most outstanding selection.
16. Commissioner Keithley requested that NRP add another step to the process to forward the selection to the Commission. The Commission will have further discussion about it along with the presentation.
17. Lt. Fawley accepted the request.

New Business

- Black Bear Den and the March 18, 2020 Commission Meeting in Garrett County Discussion:
 1. Chairman Compton indicated that he will not be able to attend.
 2. There is a meeting following the Black Bear Den that involves the Commission voting on the 2020-2022 Hunting Regulation Proposals and the Finalize Selections of the 2020-2021 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons. The Commission must have a quorum.
 3. Staff are happy to make an adjustment to the schedule for the members of the Commission.
 4. Chairman Compton gave the Commission a deadline of Wednesday, February 26 for a headcount for the March 18 meeting and bear den.
 5. Commissioner Wagner, Commissioner Keithley, Commissioner Michael, and Vice-Chair Gregor indicated their availability for the March 18, 2020 meeting and bear den.
 6. Staff have to work with landowner wishes so keep us informed as to any guests who will be attending with a member of the Commission.

**Summary of 2020 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 18, 2020)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 31	Title	Primary Sponsor	Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates
<u>HB0068</u>	North Point State Park - Deer Bow Hunting Season - Establishment	<u>Delegate Grammer</u>	Unfavorable Report by Environment and Transportation; Withdrawn	<u>Environment and Transportation</u>	
<u>HB0173</u>	Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting	<u>Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee</u>	Hearing 2/12 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u> 2/12/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>HB0236</u> (<u>SB0025</u>)	Hunting and Fishing Licenses - Active Military, Former Prisoners of War, Recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and Disabled Veterans	<u>Delegate Carey</u>	Hearing 2/12 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u> 2/12/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>HB0614</u> (<u>SB0460</u>)	State Government - Office of the Environmental and Natural Resources Ombudsman - Establishment (Environmental Accountability and Transparency Act)	<u>Delegate Lierman</u>	Hearing 2/19 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u> 2/19/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>HB0827</u>	Montgomery County – Agricultural Reserve – Deer Management Permits MC 06–20	<u>Montgomery County Delegation</u>	First Reading Environment and Transportation	<u>Environment and Transportation</u>	
<u>HB0863</u>	Natural Resources - Organized Hunting Contests - Restrictions	<u>Delegate Stein</u>	Hearing 2/26 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u> 2/26/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>HB0897</u> (<u>SB0353</u>)	Black Bear Damage Reimbursement Fund - Pets	<u>Delegate Beitzel</u>	Hearing 2/26 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u> 2/26/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>HB0955</u>	Snare Traps – Prohibition Against Use, Sale, Possession, Setting, Placing, or Maintaining – Alterations	<u>Delegate Hornberger</u>	Hearing 2/26 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u> 2/26/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>HB1129</u> (<u>SB0500</u>)	Talbot County - Turkey and Deer Hunting - Sundays	<u>Delegate Mautz</u>	Hearing 3/10 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u> 3/10/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>HB1130</u> (<u>SB0312</u>)	Talbot County - Sunday Hunting - Deer Bow Hunting Season	<u>Delegate Mautz</u>	Hearing 3/10 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u> 3/10/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>HB1167</u>	Hunting and Fishing Licenses - Discounts, Complimentary Licenses, and Reporting	<u>Delegate Cox</u>	Hearing 2/21 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u> 2/21/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	

**Summary of 2020 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 18, 2020)**

<u>HB1296</u> (<u>SB1014</u>)	Hunting - Regulated Shooting Areas - Offshore Stationary Blinds and Blind Sites	<u>Delegate Adams</u>	Hearing 2/26 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u> 2/26/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>HB1304</u>	Baltimore County - Hunting - Deer Management Permits	<u>Delegate Brooks</u>	First Reading Environment and Transportation	<u>Environment and Transportation</u>	
<u>HB1436</u> (<u>SB0426</u>)	Baltimore County - Hunting - Nongame Birds and Mammals	<u>Delegate Brooks</u>	First Reading Environment and Transportation	<u>Environment and Transportation</u>	
<u>SB0025</u> (<u>HB0236</u>)	Hunting and Fishing Licenses - Active Military, Former Prisoners of War, Recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and Disabled Veterans	<u>Senator Simonaire</u>	First Reading Environment and Transportation	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 1/23/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u>
<u>SB0086</u>	Natural Resources - Fishing and Hunting Rights	<u>Senator Simonaire</u>	First Reading Environment and Transportation	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 1/23/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u>
<u>SB0114</u>	Natural Resources - Nuisance Organisms - Pilot Projects and Northern Snakeheads	<u>Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee</u>	First Reading Environment and Transportation	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 1/23/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u>
<u>SB0142</u>	Natural Resources - Recreational License Donation Program and Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund - Revisions	<u>Senator Simonaire</u>	First Reading Environment and Transportation	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 1/29/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u>
<u>SB0242</u>	Natural Resources - Wild Waterfowl Policy - Repeal	<u>Senator Bailey</u>	First Reading Environment and Transportation	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 1/29/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	<u>Environment and Transportation</u>
<u>SB0243</u>	Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting - Migratory Game Birds	<u>Senator Bailey</u>	Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 3/4/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	

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<u>SB0312</u> (<u>HB1130</u>)	Talbot County - Sunday Hunting - Deer Bow Hunting Season	<u>Senator Eckardt</u>	Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 3/4/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>SB0353</u> (<u>HB0897</u>)	Black Bear Damage Reimbursement Fund - Pets	<u>Senator Edwards</u>	Favorable Report by Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 2/11/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>SB0414</u>	State Finance and Procurement - Chesapeake Bay Watershed States - Expenses and Contracts (Quit Polluting My Bay Act of 2020)	<u>Senator Kramer</u>	Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 3/5/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>SB0426</u> (<u>HB1436</u>)	Baltimore County - Hunting - Nongame Birds and Mammals	<u>Senator West</u>	Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 3/4/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>SB0427</u>	Baltimore County - Hunting - Deer Management Permits	<u>Senator West</u>	Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 3/4/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>SB0460</u> (<u>HB0614</u>)	State Government - Office of the Environmental and Natural Resources Ombudsman - Establishment (Environmental Accountability and Transparency Act)	<u>Senator Elfreth</u>	Hearing 2/19 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 2/19/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>SB0491</u>	Regulation of Invasive Plants - Bamboo - Prohibitions	<u>Senator Kramer</u>	Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 2/11/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>SB0500</u> (<u>HB1129</u>)	Talbot County - Turkey and Deer Hunting - Sundays	<u>Senator Eckardt</u>	Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 3/4/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>SB0866</u>	Resident Hunting Licenses and Stamps - Members of the Armed Forces	<u>Senator Edwards</u>	Hearing canceled	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u>	

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<u>SB0930</u>	Natural Resources - Resident Canada Geese - Restrictions on Shooting in Charles County	<u>Senator Bailey</u>	Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	<u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u> 3/4/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	
<u>SB1014</u> (<u>HB1296</u>)	Hunting - Regulated Shooting Areas - Offshore Stationary Blinds and Blind Sites	<u>Senator Eckardt</u>	First Reading Senate Rules	<u>Rules</u>	

2020-2022 Hunting Regulation Proposals from the March 18, 2020 Cancelled Meeting Due to COVID-19.

- Motion:
 1. Chairman Compton moved to advance the proposals as presented in the documents that the Commission received on March 16, 2020.
 2. Vice-Chair Gregor seconded.
 3. Motion passed. Results: 6 voted yes and 3 did not vote.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.
The March 18, 2020 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. The April 15, 2020 meeting was scheduled to be held via Google Meet/Handout.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, E. Gulbrandsen, S. Keithley, J. Michael, J. Schroyer, C. Wagner, and R. Weinberg
Absent:	S. Boyles Griffin
Guest:	L. Fontaine, and R. Kindler
Staff:	C. Fawley, T. Larney, B. Lowe, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, K. Stonesifer, G. Therres