

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – APRIL 19, 2017

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**Approval for the April 19, 2017 Meeting Agenda**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to approve the April 19<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
  2. Commissioner Boyles Griffin seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval for Minutes from February 15, 2017 Meeting**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Gregor moved to approve the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as presented.
  2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**2017 Legislative Session Update** – Presentation given by Associate Director Glenn Therres.

- Associate Director Glenn Therres handed out the Summary of 2017 Legislation - Wildlife and Heritage Service Final List of Bills that Passed [**ATTACHMENT A**]
- Associate Director Therres provided a summary of the wildlife-related bills.
- Discussion ensued related to Sunday hunting bills.
- Discussion ensued related to the permanent funding source for the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH). The general funds allocation to the FHFH is around \$85,000. The money can only be use for the venison donations.
- Clarification on Deer Management Permit (DMP) and Sunday hunting: Before the law changed, (if a county did not authorize deer hunting on Sundays) a DMP holder was not authorized to deer shoot on Sundays. So in Baltimore, Howard, and Prince George's Counties, there was no deer shooting on Sundays during the deer season. Now, DMP holders in Baltimore, Howard, and Prince George's Counties have authorizations to shoot on every Sunday due to the new law. Anne Arundel County picked up the additional Sundays during the deer firearms season, which added three Sundays.
- Commissioner Boyles Griffin requested information on deer taken under DMP on Sundays from Deer Project Leader Brian Eyler for Baltimore, Howard, and Prince George's Counties. Deer Project Leader Brian Eyler requested that Commissioner Boyles Griffin send an email to him about the exact information that Commissioner Boyles Griffin is requesting.

**Deer Management Permit Discussion**

- Commissioner Gulbrandsen outlined the DMP meeting with MFB Colby Ferguson, Commissioner Joseph "Joe" Michael, Director Paul Peditto, and Commissioner Gulbrandsen.
- Commissioner Gulbrandsen discussed the difference between DMPs and hunting and what could be done to increase the take of deer during the hunting season by 10-percent. At the meeting, they also discussed how DMPs remained useful to farmers and discussed figuring out ways to make DMPs more effective.
- These are the initiatives:
  1. Create a database that is available to hunters and farmers to connect. This should address the point that farmers cannot locate individuals to hunt on their farms. Hunters that have limited access to land could use this database to connect with farmers that are experiencing crop

- damage due to deer.
2. Details for qualifications needed.
  3. Funding sources identification to rent a refrigerated trailer/truck needed.
  4. Identify the tools that have been effective on public lands and used the tools on farmlands...it appears that the deer managed hunts have been influencing the deer population on national and state lands.
  5. Create managed hunts on farmlands; especially, the farmlands that are close to public lands that do not allow hunting.
  6. Prioritize deer population hotspots by yield and deer data.
  7. Montgomery County Farm Bureau would like to be a pilot for the managed hunt on farmlands.
  8. Consider training inmates on processing deer for donation and/or prison food; this would allow the inmates to learn a trade.
  9. Ensure that pressure is applied on the farms and the public lands that are near the farms so the deer will not be traveling between the properties.
  10. Implement policies of wildlife management on county and local properties. There are deer management plans on many county and local properties. However, there are national properties that manage deer through the sharpshooters' process instead of opening it to hunters.
  11. Discussion ensued on funding sources and 'cracking the code' to encourage farmers to allow hunters hunt on their farms along with a dialogue on crop insurance.
  12. Action Item for this concept: MFB to locate in one county and one place, a contiguous parcel of land between 700 to 1000 acres. MFB needs to provide a list of landowners that are ready to move forward. With the landowner limited liability law, there is cooperative wildlife management agreement that the landowners and hunters could sign. DNR will provide support and law enforcement on the dates of the hunts.
    - a. Mr. Colby Ferguson agreed to relate these ideas to the county delegations.
    - b. Mr. Colby Ferguson also agreed to get some farmers on board so these concepts are implemented.
    - c. WHS staff will have staff available to explain the interworking of the cooperative wildlife agreement along with the landowner's limited liability law.

### **Break 11:35 AM through 11:45 AM**

#### **Maryland Farm Bureau** – Presentation given by Colby Ferguson, Government Relations Director

- Mr. Ferguson outlined that the 2017 Legislative Session went exceptionally well for the agricultural community.
- MFB followed around 195 bills. The MFB testified on 72 bills (52 supported and 20 opposed). In fact, 29 of the 52 bills passed.
- There is no longer a license requirement for taking groundhogs in Frederick County.
- Mr. Ferguson has been working on the 2016 Farmer of the Year nominations.
- MFB through Mr. Ferguson expressed appreciation for allowing the MFB to have a voice at the Commission meetings. Mr. Ferguson also outlined that attending the Commission meetings helped him to be more informed on wildlife management.
- Commissioner Gulbrandsen reiterated that the success of the DMP Program depends on the farmers to prescribe and implement it, so the Commission would really appreciate the cooperation of Mr. Ferguson to that end.

#### **Natural Resource Police Update** – Presentation given by Sgt. Satterfield

- NRP has been enforcing turkey baiting since the turkey spring season opened.

- NRP had 27 recruits that graduated; they are afield and busy enforcing natural resources laws and regulations.
- An NRP class will start in January 2018 with 17 cadets...NRP will have a press release announcing the January 2018 class.
  1. Some of the funding comes from hunting license sales for the NRP class.

### Old Business

- Chairman Compton reminded the Commission that the Employee and Conservationist of the Year are due to the Director's Office.
- DMPs do not need a hunting license outside the hunting seasons. The Department does not charge a fee to process these DMP. Unless they buy a license, these agents/farmers do not contribute to the funding of the agency that is issuing these DMPs.
  1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen stressed that the solutions that the subcommittee comes up with will have to go through the stakeholders' process.

### New Business

- The Commission Field Day is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup>. The Airbow and Drone Demonstration will be presented at the September meeting along with lunch. Staff will bring out tools that are used within the Wildlife and Heritage Service. Ms. Spencer will locate a DNR facility that will allow us to use these tools.
- Director Peditto informed the Commission that staff did a live stream of a black bear den along with a rescue of a bucket-head deer. Commissioner's wanted to know when we would live stream again? At this time, staff can no longer do live stream due to newly-implemented policy.

### Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

### Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, M. Goetze, E. Gulbrandsen, , and J. Schroyer
Absent:	J. Michael and R. Weinberg
Guest:	
Staff:	P. Jayne, J. McKnight, J. Moulis, J. Satterfield, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, G. Therres, and R. Walls.