

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**Quarterly Meeting**  
**May 1, 2016**  
**M I N U T E S**

The quarterly meeting of the Natural Resources Commission was held on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at Twin Falls Resort State Park, Mullens, West Virginia. The following individuals attended:

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSIONERS**

Jeffrey S. Bowers  
David M. Milne  
Kenneth R. Wilson  
Byron Chambers  
Peter Cuffaro  
Thomas O. Dotson  
Gregory Burnette

**DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

Robert A. Fala, Director (Presiding)  
Lysti Looney, Director's Office (Recording Secretary)  
Emily Fleming, Director's Office, South Charleston  
Scott Warner, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston  
Jerry Jenkins, Law Enforcement, South Charleston  
Bret Preston, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston  
Chris Ryan, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston  
Colin Carpenter, Wildlife Resources, Beckley  
Mark Scott, Wildlife Resources, Beckley  
Gary Foster, Wildlife Resources, Elkins  
Todd Dowdy, Wildlife Resources, Beckley  
Keith Krantz, Wildlife Resources, Elkins  
Jim Crum, Wildlife Resources, Elkins  
Andrew Lyons, Law Enforcement, Beckley  
Chris Lester, Law Enforcement, Beckley

Woodrow Brogan, Law Enforcement, Beckley  
Sam England, Parks and Recreations, South Charleston  
Scott Durham, Parks and Recreations, Mullens  
Cody Cochran, Parks and Recreations, Mullens  
Randy Hash, Parks and Recreations, Mullens  
Sam Cowell, Parks and Recreations, Summersville

## **ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Larry Lawson, Belle, WV  
Bryan Elkins, West Virginia Bowhunters Association, Ashford  
Roger Wolfe, National Wild Turkey Federation, Chapmanville  
Perry Harvey, Buffalo Creek Watershed, Man  
Clinton Grimmatt, Logan County Huff Creek Watershed, Mallory  
Russell Brown, Logan County Huff Creek Watershed, Mallory  
Larry Mathis, Wyoming County Commissioner  
James Bailey, Two Rivers Conservation Club, Iaeger  
\*Douglas Prichard, Wyoming County, Oceana  
Robert Cooper, McGraws  
Jim Ashworth, West Virginia Bowhunters Association, Charleston  
Charles Smolder, West Virginia Bowhunters Association, Kenna  
Bruce Ashworth, West Virginia Bowhunters Association, Ripley  
Jeromy Rose, West Virginia Better Bucks, Richwood  
Bradley Toler, Baileysville Sportsmen's Club, Clear Fork  
Larry Blankenship, Pineville  
Don Cook, Pineville  
Earl Mongen, City of Mullens  
Larry Dillon, R.D. Bailey Hunt Club, Hanover  
Robert Romny, Brenton  
James Alger, Two Rivers Conservation Club, Iaeger  
Marty Lawrence, Two Rivers Conservation Club, Hanover

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Director Robert Fala called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. Director Fala welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the commissioners to introduce themselves and county they represent, asked DNR staff members to introduce themselves. Director Fala introduced and thanked Legislators for attending.

Director Fala presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Eric Workman Foundation. Bret Preston accepted the certificate on behalf of the foundation. Director Fala presented Distinguish Services Award to Gary Foster for his dedication and hard work.

Director Fala and Commissioner Burnette presented the Shikar Safari Club Intonation Officer of the Year Award to Andrew Lyons.

### **RATIFICATION OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Bowes made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2016 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission as submitted. Commissioner Milne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Perry Harvel, Buffalo Creek Watershed Association, presented an award to Commissioner Milne, thanked him for all his help. The association recommends reappointment for Commission Milne.

Russel Brown, Vice President, Huff Creek Watershed Association, stated the association was form four years ago. Recommends reappointment for Commission Milne.

Larry Mathis, Wyoming County Commission, stated Wyoming County does not have a lot in their county asking for DNR's support and asked for stocking of trout. Stated they appreciate the Natural Resources Commissioners.

James Baily, Two Rivers Conservation Club Corporation, The restoration of the white-tailed deer to the coalfield counties of McDowell, Mingo, Logan and Wyoming has been a long time in the making. We are opposed to any type of firearms deer season in the coalfield counties and stand ready to defeat any effort to have a deer rifle season. (Attachment A)

Douglas Pritchard, Smokey Coyote Club, says there needs to be a bounty on coyote. Other states have been doing for thirty years and has had good results. Stated we need

to get the coyote under control before we get elk.

Jeremy Ross, West Virginia Hunters for Better Bucks, had a good meeting with DNR staff. Better Bucks and Quality Deer Association have formed a partnership. QDA states that the petition is not a scientific survey and is requesting a scientific survey be conducted to see how the public feels on the one-buck limit.

Ed McMinn, Secretary, West Virginia Bowhunters Association the new president Justin Hedrick was not able to attend. WVBA supports DNR on Wildlife regulations and recommendation. WVBA opposes to late October season, opposed bear gun season in the five southern counties. All members in Jackson County support Sunday hunting. WVBA has DNR's back on the budget cuts and protect funding. (Attachment B)

Brad Toler, Supports no gun season in the four southern counties. Feels Turkey season should open on a Saturday, and trapping season should be extended. Does not agree with the one-buck limit presented by Jeremy Rose, West Virginia Hunters for Better Bucks Feels DNR Police Officers need and deserve at raise need to bring them up to the state police level.

Lawson, Belle, West Virginia, at the last commission meeting I received an Award of Appreciation, and i have really enjoyed it. Congratulated Commissioner Cuffaro on his reappointment and confirmation of the Senate.

### **SUMMARY of the 2016 SECTIONAL MEETING – SPORTSMEN AND LANDOWNERS QUESTIONNAIRE**

Gary Foster reviewed the summary of section meetings.  
Pages 4 – 14 are comments from individual sportsmen.  
Page 15 shows attendance, which was down this year

Pages 16 – 22 comments from meeting in the past regarding proposed regulations are included in this summary. Attachment C

Sam Cowell, Parks and Recreations Section, gave an update on the urban white tail deer hunts held on state parks. Pipestem Resort State Park had a 77% hunter participation. Cacapon Resort State Park had a 39% hunter participation, feels the turnout was so low due to the time of year hunt was held. Thanked Wildlife Resources Section and Law Enforcement Section for their help and participation. Commissioner Bowers made a **MOTION** to approve state parks special whitetail deer hunts.

Commissioner Wilson seconded. Motion passed anonymously.

### **APPROVE 2016 BIG GAME HUNTING REGULATIONS**

Chris Ryan reviewed the proposed bear hunting regulations for 2016. Commissioner Bowers made a **MOTION** to approve as submitted. Commissioner Milne seconded the motion. Motion passed anonymously. Attachment C

Chris Ryan reviewed the proposed Big Game Hunting Season 2016. Commissioner Wilson made a **MOTION** to approve as submitted. Commissioner Milne seconded motion. Motion passed anonymously. Attachment C

### **REVIEW PROPOSED 2017- 2018 Hunting and Trapping Regulations**

Chris Ryan reviewed the proposed 2017-2018 Hunting and Trapping Season regulations that will be voted on at the July 17, 2016 commission meeting. (Attachment C)

### **PROPOSED 2017 FISHING REGULATIONS**

Bret Preston reviewed the proposed 2017 fishing regulations that will be voted on at the next commission meeting July 17, 2016. (Attachment D)

### **NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE**

July 17, 2016, Canaan Valley Resort State Park, Davis WV

### **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Milne made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Commissioner Bowers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.