

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Quarterly Meeting
July 29, 2018
MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Natural Resources Commission was held on Sunday, July 29, 2018 at Stonewall Resort State Park, Roanoke, West Virginia. The following individuals attended:

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSIONERS

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

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Stephen S. McDaniel, Director (Presiding), South Charleston, WV
Lysti Looney, Director's Office (Recording Secretary), South Charleston, WV
Emily Fleming, Director's Office, South Charleston, WV
Paul Johansen, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston, WV
Jerry Jenkins, Law Enforcement, South Charleston, WV
David Trader, Law Enforcement, South Charleston, WV
Chris Ryan, Wildlife Resources, WV University, Morgantown, WV
Scott Warner, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston, WV
Keith Krantz, Wildlife Resources, Elkins, WV
Jim Crum, Wildlife Resources, Elkins, WV
Mark Scott, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston, WV
Sam England, Parks and Recreations, South Charleston, WV
Mike Peters, Wildlife Resources, Farmington, WV
David James, Law Enforcement, French Creek, WV

Brad DeBord, Law Enforcement, Charleston, WV
Greg Smith, Law Enforcement, French Creek, WV
Jeff Craig, Law Enforcement, French Creek, WV
Tanner Collins, Law Enforcement, French Creek, WV
Randy Tucker, Wildlife Resources, Elkins, WV
Doug Benson, Law Enforcement, French Creek, WV
Ryan Schafer, Law Enforcement, Parkersburg, WV
Greg Willemborg, Law Enforcement, Romney, WV
Cliff Brown, Wildlife Resources, Elkins, WV
Michael Spangler, Law Enforcement, French Creek, WV
Michael Lott, Law Enforcement, Romney, WV
Kevin Raymond, Law Enforcement, Romney, WV
Jeff Sweeny, Law Enforcement, Alum Creek, WV
Steve Haines, Law Enforcement, Farmington, WV
Joshua Lambert, Law Enforcement, Beckley, WV
Andrew Lyons, Law Enforcement, Beckley, WV
Brad McDougal, Law Enforcement, Farmington, WV
Dakota Chattin, Law Enforcement, Alum Creek, WV
Jerry Payne, Law Enforcement, Alum Creek, WV
Bob Clark, Law Enforcement, Romney, WV
Christopher Fitzwater, Law Enforcement, French Creek, WV
Woody Brogan, Law Enforcement, Beckley, WV
Shane Duffield, Law Enforcement, French Creek, WV
David Thorne, Wildlife Resources, Elkins, WV
James Walker, Wildlife Resources, French Creek, WV
Randall Kocsis, Law Enforcement, Farmington, WV
Randy Cremeans, Law Enforcement, Parkersburg, WV
Dustin Kolb, Law Enforcement, Romney, WV
Bradley Robertson, Law Enforcement, Romney, WV
Gab Wood, Law Enforcement, Beckley, WV
Josh Parsons, Law Enforcement, French Creek, WV
Dustin Allen, Law Enforcement, Beckley, WV

ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Larry Lawson, Belle, WV
Justin Hettick, West Virginia Bowhunters Association, Morgantown, WV
William Vandale, Charleston, WV
Camron Stover, Quality Deer Management Association, Williamstown, WV

Cory Boothe, Quinwood, WV
Brian Satterfield, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Bristol, WV
Terry Raymond, Deposit, NY
Becky Raymond, Deposit, NY
Krystal Raymond, French Creek, WV
Don Radcliff, West Virginia Bear Hunters Association, Elkview, WV
Logan Bockrath, Fayetteville, WV
Randy Blend, Fairview, WV
Lindsay Chattin, Alum Creek, WV
Holly Fitzwater, Nettie, WV
Dave Truban, Morgantown, WV
Scott Wilson, Clarksburg, WV
Jolene Kolk, Kernersville, WV
Chris Chambers, Ridgeley, WV
Renee Chambers, Ridgeley, WV
Jerod Harman, Bridgeport, WV

CALL TO ORDER

Director Stephen McDaniel called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05 p.m. Director McDaniel introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked the commissioners to introduce themselves and state the county they represent.

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

Colonel Jenkins stated that officers are being recognized for their outstanding performance and service during today's meeting. There are six districts offices, and each district submits their nomination for these awards. The **Boating Officer of the Year Officer** is presented to Officer Bryan Hill. The **2018 Colonel Award** is presented to Office Tanner Collins. The **National Wildlife Turkey Federation Officer of the Year** is presented to Officer Christopher Fitzwater. The **Lifesaving Award** is presented to Officer Michael Lott. The **Meritorious Service Award** is presented to Officer Kevin Raymond. Lt. Colonel Trader noted each officer receiving the award and commented on their dedication and the acts they performed to receive these awards. Commissioner Chambers congratulated the officers. Commissioner Chambers stated he is a retired Natural Resources Police Office, appreciates all the officers for their work and noted that he is very proud of each officer. Commissioner Burnette stated the officers are misunderstood, take their lives in their hands each day

they put on their uniform. Commissioner Burnette also said his was proud of these officers and thanked them for their service.

Director McDaniel asked for a moment of silence in honor of Jeff Travis, a Wildlife Resources employee who recently passed.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Bowers made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2018 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission as submitted. Commissioner Milne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

William Vandale objected to proposed catch and release trout fishing regulations. He believes these regulations are absurd. He noted Trout Unlimited only represents a small portion of the state's trout angler. He questions why the state needs more catch and release waters. He thinks the DNR does a poor job of communicating regulation changes. He noted these trout waters belong to all people not just the few. He also believes river otters are taken a toll on trout.

Camron Stover noted that the Quality Deer Management Association had started a new chapter in the Mid-Ohio Valley region. They are promoting education. He is pleased that Sunday hunting will be allowed on public lands this year. He would like to see more hunting opportunities and better access for the public and Class Q license holders. The youth of today are the next generation of hunters. He would like to see more youth hunting opportunity in the Mid-Ohio Valley. He would also like to see lower bag limit for bucks. He opposes ATVs on WMAs.

Corey Booth wants the DNR to make sure the people of Logan cannot shut down future elk hunts as they did with the controlled deer hunt at Chief Logan State Park. He does not want to see ATVs on our WMAs. He noted landowners do not pay for officers' salaries and should not be part of the deer hunter survey. He believes we are missing an opportunity by not lowering the buck bag limit. He is pleased that Sunday hunting will be allowed on public lands.

Brian Satterfield congratulated and thanked the DNR Police Officers for their work. He believes ATVs on WMAs would be a huge mistake. Law Enforcement is already spread too thin, and allowing the use of ATVs on WMAs would create a big problem. He

also feels ATVs will disrupt the elk herd before they can be established on the Tomblin WMA.

Justin Hettick stated 2017 was a good year. Sunday hunting was passed in the Legislature and the Mountaineer Heritage Season was created. He noted there were 25 people at the last Commission meeting, and they were successful in stopping the controlled deer hunt on Chief Logan State Park. He noted the decline in numbers of hunters across the Nation and commented on the need for an effective R-3 initiative. He also noted that Jakes Day Events, National Hunting and Fishing Days Celebration and similar events are not recruiting youth to into hunting and fishing. We all need to be mentors to the youth and others new to the sport of hunting. He recommended the DNR consider a free hunting day concept, so people could go hunting with a mentor.

Don Radcliff thanked the DNR for increased bear hunting opportunities, but he felt four weeks of bear hunting was an overkill. He felt the early bear season was in response to bear complaints. He thought the early season in Logan County was to address possible concerns with bear predation on elk. He does not want to see one dollar of the bear damage fund spent on elk predation.

Logan Bockrath stated his opposition to ATVs on WMAs. He said this was not the place for ATVs, and they will destroy WMAs. There is overwhelming opposition to the use of ATVs on WMAs.

Jerald Harmon stated National Hunting and Fishing Days will be September 22-23 at Stonewall Resort State Park. There are several new participants for this year's event. He congratulated Mark Scott on his promotion to Assistant Chief of Fisheries. He congratulated all the officers for receiving their awards. He opposes ATVs on WMAs and note there is no place for ATV's on WMAs. He mentioned that he received BASSs Conservation Director of the Year Award. In doing so, he noted that you do not receive such an award without help. He said the DNR contributed to this recognition, and he wanted to thank the DNR for their efforts and support.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS – HABITAT MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Keith Krantz present a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the efforts of the Wildlife Resources Section to improve habitat on WMAs during the 12 month period that ran from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

APPROVAL OF THE 2019-2020 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS

Keith Krantz reviewed the proposed 2019-2020 hunting and trapping regulations. Commissioner Wilson **MOVED** to approve the regulations as submitted. Commissioner Burnette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment A)

APPROVAL PROPOSED 2019 FISHING REGULATIONS

Mark Scott reviewed the proposed 2019 fishing regulations. Commissioner Bowers made a **MOTION** to approve the regulations as submitted. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF LOGAN CONTROLLED DEER HUNT POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER ACTION

Director McDaniel stated the Chief Logan Controlled Deer Hunt has been postponed. Commissioner Bowers asked if there was going to be a survey on the hunt. Director McDaniel stated no survey is being conducted.

DIRECTOR McDANIEL'S COMMENTS

Director McDaniel stated there are no plans for ATV use on WMAs. There is an area on Tomblin WMA that is located five to six miles from the elk area, and it is a straight up and down. It is eleven miles across the ridge, and there has been discussion about making a parking lot on top of the ridge with one road, a locked gate and trail cameras. This would give hunters with a Class Q license an opportunity for hunting. We need to work on getting people with Class Q licenses more access to hunting. We have 91 WMAs. If we want to keep ATVs off these areas, we need the public to help our officers. If you see an ATV on a WMA, take pictures send them to our Law Enforcement Section so they can investigate and post the information on social media. Social media is a powerful tool. DNR does not have the law enforcement staff to control all these areas, and we need your help.

I wanted the deer hunter survey to be a customary satisfaction survey. We recently sent out an additional 2500 surveys. The DNR will share the results of the survey once it is completed. I wanted to get options from our customers who purchase licenses, and there was no need to survey landowners.

The DNR receives a lot of bear complaints in the southern counties. There are too many bears in the southern counties.

We have request for additional public stream access. The DNR is stretched thin to maintain these sites, so if a county, local organization or individual wants to sign an agreement and maintain the access site we can work with them.

DNR sells 90 thousand trout stamps a year. We have put a lot of man hours and money into the streams we manage under catch and release regulations. We want to promote these 170 miles of catch and release streams.

The Legislature has allowed us to use our bonds for infrastructure work on state parks. During the next two and a half years, the DNR will have \$55 million dollars available to restore cabins, lodges, camping facilities, sewage plants and other improvements at our state parks.

The DNR is planning to expand trout stocking on weekends.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

October 28, 2018, Stonewall Resort State Park, Roanoke, WV

ADJOURN

Commissioner Wilson made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Commissioner Bowers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
2019-2020 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other hunting and trapping regulations for the 2019-2020 seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

**Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2019-2020
Hunting and Trapping Seasons**

Species	Opening & Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Squirrel	Sept. 14, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	
Squirrel (Youth)	Sept. 7, 2019	
Raccoon (Hunting)	Oct. 12, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	
Raccoon (Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 12, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	
Quail (Tomblin WMA closed)	Nov. 2, 2019 - Jan. 4, 2020	Tomblin WMA closed to quail hunting season
Rabbit	Nov. 2, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	
Snowshoe Hare	Nov. 2, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	
Ring-necked Pheasant (Statewide) (Hillcrest WMA)	Nov. 2, 2019 - Jan. 4, 2020 Nov. 9, 2019 - Dec. 7, 2019	
Fox (Hunting & Trapping) (Hunting at night with artificial light)	Nov. 2, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020 Jan. 1, 2020 - Feb. 29, 2020	
Bobcat (Hunting & Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	
Mink/Muskrat (Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	
Fisher (Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2019 - Jan. 31, 2020	
Beaver (Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2019 - Mar. 31, 2020	
Otter (Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	
Crow (Hunting)	Oct. 1, 2019 - Nov. 16, 2019 Jan. 1, 2020 - Mar. 7, 2020	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel/ Woodchuck/English Sparrow/European Starling/Pigeon (Hunting)	Continuous Open Season	
Coyote (Hunting at night with artificial light)	Jan. 1, 2020 - July 31, 2020	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel (Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	
Elk, Song & Insectivorous Birds, Hawks, Owls, Falcons & Eagles	No Open Season	