

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – APRIL 15, 2020

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. This meeting was held via teleconference and videoconference. There were 24 individuals on the ‘call’. Because of the anonymity elements of Google Meet, it was impossible to determine the identity of every participant.

**Approval for April 15, 2020, Meeting Agenda**

- There was a change in the April 15, 2020 meeting agenda to add the approval of the February 19, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Spencer sent the revised April 15, 2020 meeting agenda with the approval of the February 19, 2020 meeting minutes added before the meeting.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept the addition of approving the February 19, 2020 meeting minutes to the April 15, 2020, Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
  2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval for Minutes from February 19, 2020 Meeting**

- Chairman Compton mentioned the following changes to be made to the February 19, 2020 meeting minutes:
  1. Add the approval vote of the February 19, 2020 meeting minutes during the Executive Section to the meeting minutes for February 19, 2020.
  2. Add the 2020 -2022 Hunting and Trapping Seasons and the Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits electronic vote to the February 19, 2020 meeting minutes. The Commission voted electronically due to COVID-19.
  3. Add the March 18, 2020 meeting cancellation due to COVID-19 to the February 19, 2020 meeting minutes in the end.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Keithley moved to accept Chairman Compton’s changes to the February 19, 2020 meeting minutes.
  2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

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

- The Commission received the Summary of 2020 Legislation - Wildlife and Heritage Service as of March 31, 2020. **[ATTACHMENT A]**
- Associate Director Therres provided a summary of the bills that passed during the session, including:
  1. HB0173 Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting
  2. HB0236/SB0025 Hunting and Fishing Licenses – Active Military, Former prisoners of War, Recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and Disabled Veterans.
  3. HB0897/SB353 Black Bear Damage Reimbursement Fund - Pets
  4. SB0142 Natural Resources - Recreational License Donation Program and Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund - Revisions
  5. SB0242 Natural Resources – Wild Waterfowl Policy - Repeal
  6. SB0353/HB Black Bear Damage Reimbursement Fund - Pets
  7. SB0427 Baltimore County – Hunting – Deer Management Permits

**Natural Resources Police Update** – Presentation was given by Lt. Charles Fawley.

- Natural Resource Police efforts have been focused on Governor Hogan’s COVID-19 Executive Orders related to recreational boating, fishing, and hunting. State Parks have been visited a lot by the public so NRP officers have been busy enforcing social distancing, etc.

- During the junior spring turkey season, there was one baiting citation issued in Garrett County.
- Commissioner Michael informed the Commission of a jacklighting case. The individual received six months jail time.
- It was suggested that NRP put out a press release about the jack-lighting case. Lt. Fawley will move the suggestion up the chain of command.
- Commissioner Keithley mentioned a Prince George's county poaching case involving a Deer Management Permit that occurred in November. The judge sentenced the individual to probation before judgment and a fine of \$100.00. Commissioner Keithley and other members of the public and WAC were disturbed with the outcome.
- Commissioner Keithley recommended to the Commission to discuss a uniform way of getting Judges and prosecutors to apply restitution and other penalties. Lt. Fawley mentioned that one of the issues is that the mandatory penalties are so high that many Judges will not impose a guilty plea as a result. Commissioner Michael asked NRP for impact on convictions and/or sentencing from poaching prevention act and to have NRP report out a future meeting.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Michael tabled the discussion to the October 21, 2020 WAC meeting.
  2. Commissioner Keithley seconded.
  3. Motion passed.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update** – Presentation given by Director of Government & Public Relations Colby Ferguson. Chairman Compton welcomed Colby as “we haven't heard from him in a while”.

- Maryland Agriculture Council has been meeting to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on farmers.
- Mr. Ferguson mentioned the problem with oyster poaching and the same issue with judges putting a slap on the wrist of individuals that are poaching oysters. Mr. Ferguson informed the Commission that he has been working with NRP on the Eastern Shore and other states about this issue. Mr. Ferguson suggested getting these cases sent to a central location.
- Agriculture producers are considered essential so they are still producing.
- Nationally, producers are in a trade war with China because of COVID-19. The prices have been dropping.
- Mr. Ferguson has been getting questions about the criteria for the Farmer of the Year nomination.
- Mr. Ferguson thanked the Department for the Sunday hunting clean-up bill (HB 173) – it was ‘much needed’.

**Regulation Status Update** – Presentation was given by Associate Director Karina Stonesifer.

- Associate Director Stonesifer thanked the Commission for working with staff to endorse the 2020-2022 Hunting Regulation Proposals and the Finalize Selections of 2020-2021 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons electronically. These items are moving forward through the regulatory process.
- Associate Director Stonesifer presented the Summary of Proposed Regulation Changes.  
**[ATTACHMENT B]**
- The Commission received the Summary of Proposed Regulation Changes via email before the meeting.
- Discussion ensued about acquiring lands that potentially could have impoundments developed, matching funds after another bump of Pittman-Robertson Fund, Program Open Space funds used as matching funds, and Regulated Shooting Areas.
  1. Commissioner Michael expressed that we anticipate that Pittman-Robertson funds will spike in 2021 and 2022 from the payouts from the Federal Government to State wildlife agencies due to increased gun and ammunition buying that is happening right now. Meanwhile, our license fees are fixed, and the number of hunters buying licenses in Maryland is relatively static. He expressed concern that we might not have the 25% matching funds necessary to maximize our capture of the Pittman-Roberson windfall. He further suggested that we be ready to analyze whether we need to raise the hunting license fees, or request general funds to have enough

stateside funds to match the federal money. Either of these responses would have to be done in either the 2021 or 2022 general assembly sessions and we need to prepare for that now. (Ms. Spencer reached out to Commissioner Michael after the meeting to get clarity on Commissioner Michael's comments. Commissioner Michael provided his comments by email.)

- Associate Director Therres asked the Commission for endorsement of the proposed regulation changes.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to accept the proposed regulation changes.
  2. Commissioner Michael seconded.
  3. Motion passed with one abstained.

### **Old Business – No Old Business.**

### **New Business**

- Chairman Compton expressed the need to have the virtual meeting option for the Commission. Virtual meeting will be kept as a tool for members of the Commission to use if someone is unable to attend a meeting or partially attend a meeting or make the trip due to inclement weather in person.
  1. Commissioner Wagner suggested having the option of the virtual meeting to be sent out to the Commission for each meeting.
  2. Commissioner Boyles-Griffin indicated that the virtual meeting should not replace meeting in-person. The constituency that Commissioner Boyles-Griffin represents would prefer to have the option of in person meetings.
  3. Commissioner Weinberg commented that it is going to probably be a while before we will be able to meet in person. The rules related to this technology are going to change. The technology is going to improve because it is in demand.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.  
The next meeting will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

### **Attendance**

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, S. Keithley, J. Michael, J. Schroyer, C. Wagner, and R. Weinberg
Absent:	
Guest:	
Staff:	B. Eyler, B. Harvey, J. Homyack, T. Larney, L. O'Brien, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, K. Stonesifer, G. Therres, G. Timko

Summary of 2020 Legislation  
Wildlife and Heritage Service  
(FINAL)

<b>Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 7</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Primary Sponsor</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates</b>	<b>Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates</b>
<a href="#"><u>HB0173</u></a>	Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting	<a href="#"><u>Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee</u></a>	Returned Passed	<a href="#"><u>Environment and Transportation</u></a> 2/12/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#"><u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u></a> 3/16/2020 - 11:00 a.m.
<a href="#"><u>HB0236 (SB0025)</u></a>	Hunting and Fishing Licenses - Active Military, Former Prisoners of War, Recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and Disabled Veterans	<a href="#"><u>Delegate Carey</u></a>	Returned Passed	<a href="#"><u>Environment and Transportation</u></a> 2/12/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#"><u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB0897 (SB0353)</u></a>	Black Bear Damage Reimbursement Fund - Pets	<a href="#"><u>Delegate Beitzel</u></a>	Returned Passed	<a href="#"><u>Environment and Transportation</u></a> 2/26/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#"><u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB0142</u></a>	Natural Resources - Recreational License Donation Program and Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund - Revisions	<a href="#"><u>Senator Simonaire</u></a>	Returned Passed	<a href="#"><u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u></a> 1/29/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#"><u>Environment and Transportation</u></a> 3/17/2020 - 1:00 p.m.
<a href="#"><u>SB0242</u></a>	Natural Resources - Wild Waterfowl Policy - Repeal	<a href="#"><u>Senator Bailey</u></a>	Returned Passed	<a href="#"><u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u></a> 1/29/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#"><u>Environment and Transportation</u></a> 3/17/2020 - 1:00 p.m.
<a href="#"><u>SB0353 (HB0897)</u></a>	Black Bear Damage Reimbursement Fund - Pets	<a href="#"><u>Senator Edwards</u></a>	Returned Passed	<a href="#"><u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u></a> 2/11/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#"><u>Environment and Transportation</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB0427</u></a>	Baltimore County - Hunting - Deer Management Permits	<a href="#"><u>Senator West</u></a>	Returned Passed	<a href="#"><u>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</u></a> 3/4/2020 - 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#"><u>Environment and Transportation</u></a>

## Summary of Proposed Regulation Changes

### Waterfowl Hunting Regulations For The Deal Island and Fairmount WMA Impoundments

WHS manages several large impoundments in Somerset County: a single large (2,800 acre) impoundment at Deal Island WMA and 2 smaller impoundments (120 acres each) at Fairmount WMA. For a number of years, waterfowl hunting regulations for these impoundments have required a permit (issued by lottery) for the opening days of each of the duck season segments followed by days open to anyone without permits (mainly Saturdays in the first two duck season segments and Fridays and Saturdays in the third segment). In recent years, the number of hunters at Deal Island has increased to the point where we feel it is necessary to begin issuing permits by lottery for all the open days. In addition, we propose to change the open days for both areas to be the opening day and each Saturday of the first segment; opening day, each Saturday and the Friday after Thanksgiving in the second segment; and opening day and each Saturday of the third segment, plus Wednesdays beginning January 1 in the third segment. Permits would continue to be required only for the opening days of each segment at the Fairmount impoundments. All the impoundments would continue to be open without permits on the Youth/Veterans Days and during the September Resident Goose Season. In addition, the Fairmount impoundments will continue to be open during the September Teal Season without permits.

### Requirement To Maintain Proof Of Sex On Harvested Pheasants

A couple years ago we changed the pheasant bag limit from roosters only to either-sex. However, we did not eliminate the regulation that required pheasant hunters to retain proof of sex while transporting harvested pheasants. This change would eliminate that requirement.

### Update Crow And Blackbird Depredation Order Regulation

A Federal depredation order and associated regulations allows for control of crows and blackbirds under certain conditions. We have state regulations that follow the federal regulations. There were recent changes to the federal language that require us to update our state regulations. The changes include conditions related to the trapping of target species and procedures for handling and reporting capture of non-target species, requirements for use of non-toxic bullets and a list with examples of appropriate non-lethal control methods. These changes would make our state regulations consistent with the current Federal language.

### Update Resident Canada Goose Depredation Order Regulation

Similar to the crow and blackbird depredation order, the Federal depredation order for resident Canada geese also changed recently. The changes for resident geese allow for nest and egg addling year-round (was March-June) and lethal control for agricultural damage beginning April 1 (was May 1). These changes would make our state regulations consistent with the current Federal language.

### Clarify Regulated Shooting Area Regulations

A couple questions have arisen recently regarding regulated shooting areas (RSA) and adjacent public waters. The questions are 1) do RSA regulations apply in an offshore blind located adjacent to a licensed RSA and 2) do RSA regulations apply when a hunter is hunting from shore on a licensed RSA but decoys, downed birds, etc. are in public waters? After investigation, we have determined that RSAs do not include adjacent public waters and therefore RSA regulations do not apply there. In contrast, RSA regulations do apply when hunting (i.e., shooting) from shore on a licensed RSA. These regulation changes would clarify these situations.

### Updated check-in procedures for Deer Management Permits.

Allows anyone shooting under the authority of a Deer Management Permit to check their deer in electronically as well as maintain proof of kill electronically. Currently shooters must field tag their deer prior to checking the deer in and must record the harvest information on their confirmation log sheet. This change will allow shooters to check their deer in prior to moving the deer from place of kill without attaching a field tag as well as maintain an electronic copy of the confirmation number. This change will align reporting requirements with what is allowed during the regulated hunting season. Permit holders will still be required to submit a master log sheet and necessary paperwork during the renewal period.

### Electronic check in of road killed deer and turkeys

Allows citizens to electronically check-in a road-kill deer or turkey and obtain a confirmation number electronically. Currently anyone who wants to take possession of a road-kill deer or turkey, must contact our office or law enforcement for a paper tag. Citizens will be able to check in the deer or turkey via compass under a new roadkill option. This will cut down on staff time, increase reporting reliability and will be easier for the public.