

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – JUNE 16, 2021

Chairman Lou Compton called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. This meeting was held via teleconference and videoconference. Chairman Compton asked for a roll call of individuals who were on the “call.” Unfortunately, because of the anonymity of Google Meet phone-only participants, it was impossible to determine the identity of every participant.

Approval for June 16, 2021, Meeting Agenda

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Michael moved to accept the Wildlife Advisory Commission June 16, 2021, Meeting Agenda.
 2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from April 21, 2021 Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept the April 21, 2021 meeting minutes as presented.
 2. Commissioner Wagner seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Wildlife and Heritage Service Administration Update and FY21 and FY22 Budget Update –

Presentation was given by Associate Director Glenn Therres.

- Associate Director Therres gave a presentation on the Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) Administration Program. [ATTACHMENT A]
- Caryn Getsinger is WHS's new Fiscal Officer. She has been with WHS since April of 2021 and is a welcome addition to the team.
- Chairman Compton thanked Associate Director Glenn Therres for his public service and his professionalism in dealing with the Commission for more than 40 years.

Natural Resources Police Update – Presentation was given by Sergeant Bradley Lowe.

- Sergeant Lowe thanked Commissioner Michael for speaking at the NRP Fallen Officers Ceremony on May 18, 2021.
- NRP will be holding Operation Dry Water in July.
- Cadet recruitment was extended to June 29, 2021.
- Sergeant Lowe outlined NRP activity for May. NRP issued 913 citations and 1910 warnings statewide. There were a total of 25 wildlife violations, 1030 boating, 460 public lands, 872 fisheries, 439 traffic enforcement.
- The breakdown of the wildlife actions is as follows 14 law violations and 11 wildlife regulations.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – Presentation was given by Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Director of Government Affairs and Public Relations Colby Ferguson.

- Mr. Ferguson indicated farmers are busy with planting and early harvest season.
- MFB has started its policy-development process with all the counties. MFB wants further discussion on the wildlife damage non-lethal deterrents. MFB is looking into a cost-sharing program to be set up in the future. MFB will loop in DNR.
- MFB is in the process of scheduling a follow-up meeting with the Governor in July. The MFB met with the Governor in early March.
- The MFB Wildlife Committee will be having a farm tour at the Wye Research and Education Center on July 20, 2021, in person to see what does and does not work for wildlife deterrents. WHS staff will attend.

- The MFB is moving ahead with the Black Vulture Permit through USFWS that would allow farmers to obtain a depredation permit. The farmers will be under that permit to limit the take of young calves by black vultures.
- Mr. Ferguson explained the behavior of the black vultures and how the black vultures impact livestock. These birds target newborn livestock.

Old Business –

- Chairman Compton commented that the “WHS Vacancies and Pittman-Robertson (PR) Fund Discussion” with the Secretary went well. Chairman Compton thanked the WAC, especially Commissioners Michael, Keithley and Weinberg, for all the effort and for paying close attention to this issue. The Chairman was happy to learn that the hiring freezes for all WHS staff were cleared and the unit was moving forward with the process to fill vacancies.
- The Commission reinforced their interest in moving forward with WHS to leverage the new-hires to fill critical roles, capture the increase in PR funds and expand “R3” opportunities in Maryland.
- Chairman Compton reminded the Commission members to submit nominees for the Employee, Conservationist, and Farmer of the Year to Ms. Spencer by June 30. Ms. Spencer received one nominee for the Farmer of the Year.

New Business –

- Chairman Compton asked the members of the Commission - with the COVID restrictions being lifted as of July, does the Commission want to continue having virtual meetings or have meetings in-person or the option to have both.
 1. Chairman Compton pointed out that he was hesitant at the beginning with virtual meetings but it has been a very efficient way of doing business. Chairman Compton acknowledged the importance of having in-person meetings for particular purposes.
 2. Commissioner Schroyer agreed with Chairman Compton’s comments. Commissioner Schroyer expressed that he thought the virtual meetings were more productive. Commissioner Schroyer added he is flexible.
 3. Commissioner Wagner concurred. Unfortunately, Commissioner Wagner has never been able to attend a field day. Commissioner Wagner supported having a hybrid structure of meetings.
 4. Director Peditto outlined some important elements to this discussion. With the absence of staff being at the Tawes State Office Building, other entities are using the conference rooms as offices. Staff would need to locate other places to host our meetings once staff receive approval to do so. There is a conference room at the Gwynnbrook WMA Office the staff controls the scheduling. Additionally, the Gwynnbrook WMA Office is centrally located.
 5. Commissioner Michael suggested that the Commission should decide what meeting will be held in-person based on the agenda items because some presentations are given better in person. Keep in mind, there are members of the public that attend these meetings.
 6. Commissioner Gulbrandsen pointed out that there is value in meeting a few times a year in person. However, it is valuable to meet in different places so the Commission could see what is going in that particular area.
 7. Commissioner Boyles Griffin supported Commissioner Gulbrandsen's suggestion that when the Commission meets in person that it would be a good idea to meet at different locations as long as it is not too much work for Ms. Spencer and other staff to manage.
 8. Chairman Compton wanted to get the thoughts of the Commission on this topic. At this time, there will be no vote on this topic. Chairman Compton thanked the Commission for their input in the preparation of the new norm for us.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

The next meeting will be on August 18, 2021, virtually.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, S. Keithley, J. Michael, J. Schroyer, and C. Wagner
Absent:	
Guest:	C. Ferguson
Staff:	C. Getsinger, T. Larney, B. Lowe, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, H. Spiker, and G. Therres



Update to Wildlife Advisory Commission June 16, 2021

- Budget, Procurement, Inventory
- Federal Aid Coordination
- Personnel
- Wildlife Permits
- Regulations
- Legislation



Program Staff

- Glenn Therres, Associate Director
- Caryn Getsinger, Fiscal Officer
- Tina Jarvis, Wildlife Permits
- Connie Roberts, Wildlife Permits
- Errica Muriel, Admin Specialist

Wildlife Permits

Tina Jarvis

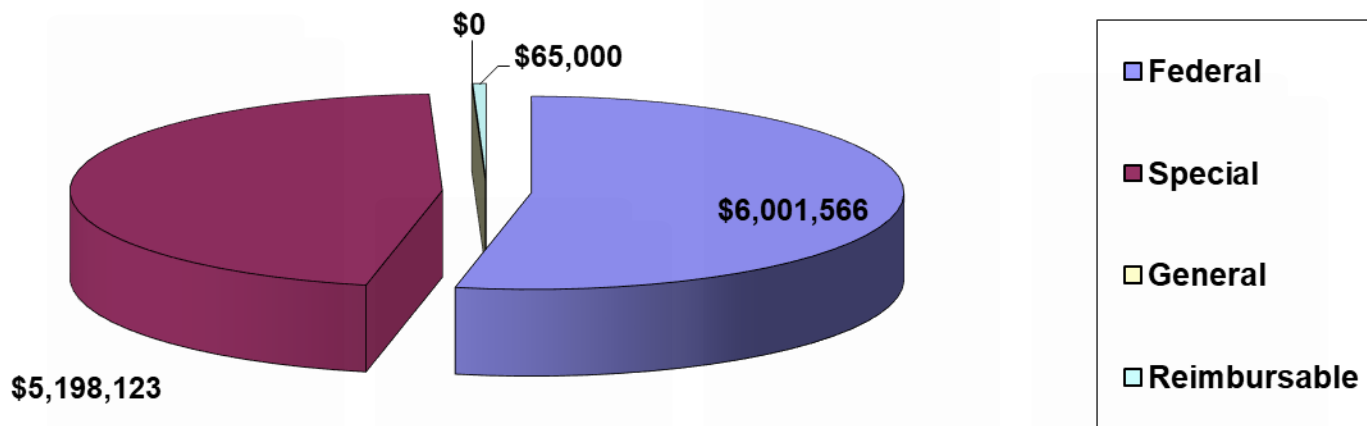
- Shoreline Blind Sites
- Endangered Species
- Scientific Collecting
- Regulated Shooting Areas
- USFWS special permits

Connie Roberts

- Falconry
- Game Husbandry
- Captive Reptile and Amphibian
- Wildlife Rehabilitation
- Taxidermy
- Wildlife Damage Control Cooperator
- Waterfowl Guide and Outfitter

- Shoreline Blind Sites = \$128,162
- Wildlife Permits = \$113,935
- Total Permit Revenue = \$242,097

FY21 Budget = \$11,264,689



State Special Funds – FY21

Wildlife Management & Protection = \$4,287,771

Chesapeake Bay & Endangered Species = \$400,000

Migratory Game Bird Fund = \$410,748

Upland Wildlife Habitat Fund = \$1,000

Deer Stamp Account = \$100,000



Federal Aid – FY21

Pittman-Robertson = \$5,258,734

State Wildlife Grants = \$600,000

Section 6 Endangered Species = \$49,000

White-nose Syndrome Grant = \$50,000

Other = \$10,000



Federal Funds – FY21 Amendment Request

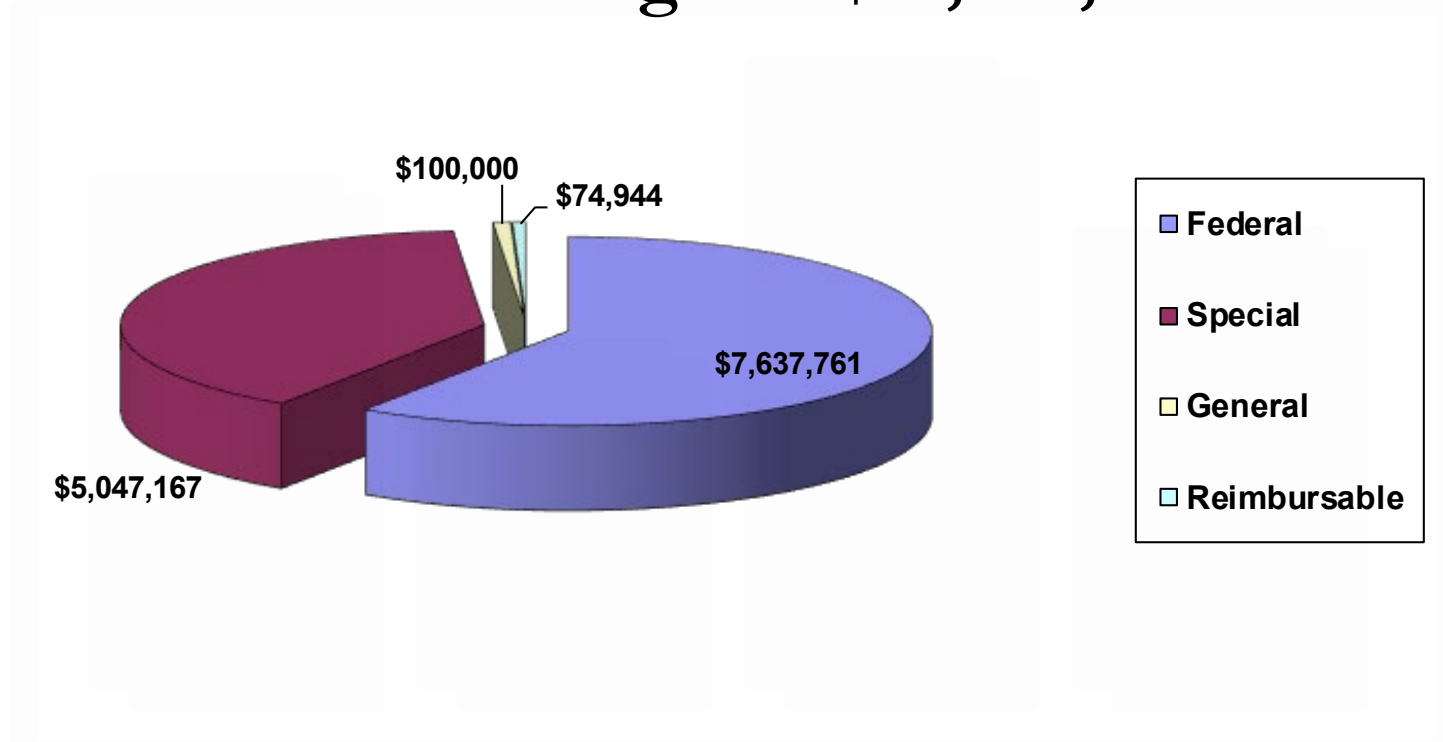
Pittman-Robertson = \$2,000,000

State Wildlife Grants = \$500,000

Resulting in \$8,501,566 new federal fund budget



FY22 Budget = \$12,859,872



Actions Taken to Increase FF

- Use lands acquired with POS funds as match
- New Hunter Outreach and Education grant
- Increase staff work on grant eligible activities
- In-kind match with volunteer hours
- Outside match from contractors
- New Competitive SWG grants

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WHS Administration Program



Funding

Staff
Support



Serve
the
Public

THANKS

I am retiring at the end of this month.

It has been a pleasure working with WAC over the many years of my career.

