

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission

**Will Meet at 10:30 AM
On Wed., June 15, 2022**

**C-1 Conference Room
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building**

Meeting Agenda:

Approval for the June 15, 2022, Meeting Agenda

Approval for Minutes from April 20, 2022 Meeting

Wildlife and Heritage Service FY22 and FY23 Budget Update (Tim Larney)

Wildlife and Heritage Service Administration Update (Tim Larney)

Break

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (Colby Ferguson)

Natural Resources Police Update (Captain Shawn Garren)

September Meeting Discussion (Group)

Old Business:

New Business:

Public Comment:

Choptank Electric Presentation (Matthew Tefteau or Valerie Connelly)

Adjourn

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

**The Proposed Schedule for the 2022 meetings
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

January 19th	Google Meet
February 16th	Google Meet
March 16th	Google Meet
April 20th	Google Meet
May 18th	No Meeting
June 15	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
July 20th	No Meeting
August 17th	Google Meet
September 21	TBD - Google Meet or No Meeting or Field Day
October 19th	Google Meet
November 16	Google Meet
December 22	No Meeting

***PLEASE NOTE THAT MEETING DATES ARE HELD
ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH***

Note: Unless notified otherwise, all meetings will be held via Google Meeting. When meeting in person, the meetings will be held in the C-1 Conference Room Department of Natural Resources - Tawes State Office Building beginning at 10:30 AM. Available parking is located at the Navy Stadium Parking Lot.

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THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2022

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

Approval for June 15, 2022, Meeting Agenda

- Motion to Approve the Agenda:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to accept the June 15, 2022, Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
 2. Commissioner Keithley seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from April 20, 2022, Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to accept April 20, 2022, Meeting Minutes.
 2. Commissioner Keithley seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Choptank Electric Cooperative Presentation – Matthew Tefteau gave the presentation.

- Mr. Tefteau said that Choptank Electric Cooperative has been working with the Department of Natural Resources on a hunter outreach to Don’t Shoot the Lines (DSTL). The replacement of these lines is costly. Of particular concern are fiber optic lines that are more susceptible to damage than regular power lines.
- Mr. Tefteau encouraged the Commission to visit the Choptank Electric Cooperative Website under Resources at <https://choptankelectric.coop/DSTL>.
- Chairman Compton advised adding this message to the Hunter Safety Education Course Guide would be helpful.
- Mr. Tefteau indicated Choptank Electric Cooperative produced a one-page document about DSTL.
- Commissioner Keithley recommended putting warning signage up on poles for the hunters.
- Commissioner Wagner suggested the DSTL message should be added to the hunting guide and the DNR website.
- Director Peditto agreed to add the DSTL message to the 2022-2023 Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping.
- Mr. Tefteau thanked the Commission members for their input.
- Staff also agreed to put the DSTL message in the press release for the dove hunters.

Wildlife and Heritage Service Administration and Budget Update – Associate Director Timothy Larney gave the presentation.

- Associate Director Tim Larney gave an overview of the Administration Program and the Budget. [ATTACHMENT A]
- Fiscal Officer Caryn Getsinger handles most of the WHS budget process, expenditures, and grants management.
- WHS has 29 separate permit categories. Each one of the permits is on the DNR website at <https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/Licenses/home.aspx>.
- Q&A Section:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked if volunteer hours could be used towards Pitman-Robertson (PR) Fund.
 - a. Mr. Larney pointed out that the volunteer hours must meet PR federal standards.
 - b. Mr. Larney mentioned that WHS is being more aggressive in capturing volunteer hours.

- c. Ms. Getsinger added that most of the hunter safety instructors are volunteers. Therefore, those hours are counted.
2. Commissioner Keithley asked what the dollar amount for the matching dollars was. There was discussion that some of the General Fund will go towards Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3). WHS will likely be required to support the venison donation program with their limited general funds since the new law requires the Department to establish a venison donation program, but no new funds were appropriated specifically for the program.
 - a. The current GF language from DBM did not include any guidance or requirements language.
 - b. The match percentage is 25 state for 75 federal.
3. Commissioner Keithley asked about the permit revenue of \$175,605; do we have the cost of processing these permits?
 - a. The staff has not analyzed that information.
 - b. There are two full-time wildlife permit coordinators whose salaries and fringe are not covered by the revenues generated.
4. Chairman Compton asked if the vehicles WHS ordered were replacements or actual new ones.
 - a. Out of the 16 vehicles that WHS is getting, 10 are replacements, and 6 are new vehicles for staff.
5. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked if WHS knows why there is more than a 15% bump in Special Funds going from 5,109,198 to 5,891,883.
 - a. The FY23 budget amounts are projections.
 - b. WHS hopes revenue will continue to go up to support the projections in the presentation.
 - c. If the amounts are appropriated, then WHS may spend it.
6. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked if the number of blind sites is typical.
 - a. The new digital model created more places to hunt because it is more accurate and allows a finer view of the landscape.
 - b. Staff are issuing around a third more offshore blind sites through the virtual model.
 - c. Some individuals do not want the virtual model to stay in place. This is unfortunate and would set us back substantially.
 - d. WHS' goal is to create a self-service portal for the issuance of the offshore blind site. The offshore blind site self-service portal will still have a lottery system, but the constituent can select the offshore blind sites directly, without staff involvement.
7. Commissioner Wagner mentioned that those individuals who do not like the online registration claim that non-residents and non-hunters were buying up the offshore blind sites to keep people from hunting. Commissioner Wagner asked if there was any truth to that.
 - a. Individuals participating in the offshore blind site must have a Maryland hunting license.
 - b. A person must complete and pass the hunter safety course to have a hunting license.
 - c. There was no evidence to demonstrate that there are non-hunters buying hunting licenses to buy up offshore blind sites.
 - d. The staff having these virtual meetings are being asked real hunting questions.
 - e. Non-resident hunters cannot purchase offshore blind site licenses.
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) is being proposed in Congress and would underwrite in a PR-like model, conservation of America's species of greatest conservation need.
 1. If it passes, RAWA in Maryland could generate up to \$18 million dollars annually.
 2. RAWA will be federally reimbursable just like PR, requiring a 25/75 match.
 3. RAWA will focus on species and their habitats in the State Wildlife Action Plan.

Natural Resources Police Update – Captain Garren gave a presentation.

- Captain Garren responded to the request to separate citations, such as DWI, from traffic violations; unfortunately, that cannot be done.
- Captain Garren outlined the NRP activity for May of 2022. The total of NRP statewide citations and warnings is 6,970. There were 8% wildlife violations, 26% boating, 18% public lands, 30% fisheries, and 18% traffic violations.

- Captain Garren informed the Commission that State Parks requested that NRP enforce more traffic violations coming into the parks due to issues that Park Service has been experiencing.
- Chairman Compton expressed that the Commission appreciates NRP efforts. The Commission understands that traffic violations are part of NRP duties. Still, the Commission would like to see wildlife issues enforced since the users who support DNR in a substantial way except to see fish and wildlife conservation and regulation on the ground. There are other law enforcement agencies who can handle traffic but none who handle game warden responsibilities.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – No Report.

Old Business

- Black Bear Pick-Up Skull Discussion:
 1. Staff have been working on a Black Bear Pick-Up Skull process. WHS and NRP staff have reached an agreement on a model that allows this option without creating a significant risk of abuse.
 2. Commissioner Keithley expressed he is affiliated with Bucks-Bears-Stags, Maryland’s Official Record-Keeping Organization for measuring white-tailed deer, black bears, and sika. There have been several pick-ups of skulls that people would like to register. Staff responded that the process is simple: the person with the skull will make an appointment with a team member to ensure that the skull wasn’t taken illegally. If everything is in order, the person gets a tag.
- Commissioner Jenkins expressed he wants WHS to establish a sika deer tag for residents and non-residents with associated fees because sika deer is a unique species.
 1. Chairman Compton requested this discussion be tabled for the next meeting. Chairman Compton would like a blanket restructuring of the hunting license fees.
 2. The new game mammal biologist Jonathan Trudeau will be tasked with compiling a Sika Deer Management Plan with some survey work as a basis for the plan and input from the public.
 3. WHS does not have the legislative authority to establish fees, so any new stamp or change in existing stamps will require a bill passed by the legislature.

New Business

Public Comment

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, using Google Meet.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, S. Keithley, T.J. Jenkins, J. Schroyer, and C. Wagner
Absent:	T. Gregor
Guest:	M. Tefteau
Staff:	S. Garren, C. Getsinger, B. Harvey, T. Larney, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, and K. Stonesifer

Wildlife Advisory Commission

Wildlife and Heritage Service Administration Program Update June 15, 2022



Administration Program Staff

- **Caryn Getsinger; Fiscal Officer**
- **Erica Mitchener; Administrative Specialist**
- **Tina Jarvis; Wildlife Permits**
- **Connie Roberts; Wildlife Permits**
- **4 LTC; Wildlife Permit Assistants**
- **Tim Larney; Associate Director**



What We Do

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



Wildlife

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



Permits (5,314 in 2021)

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

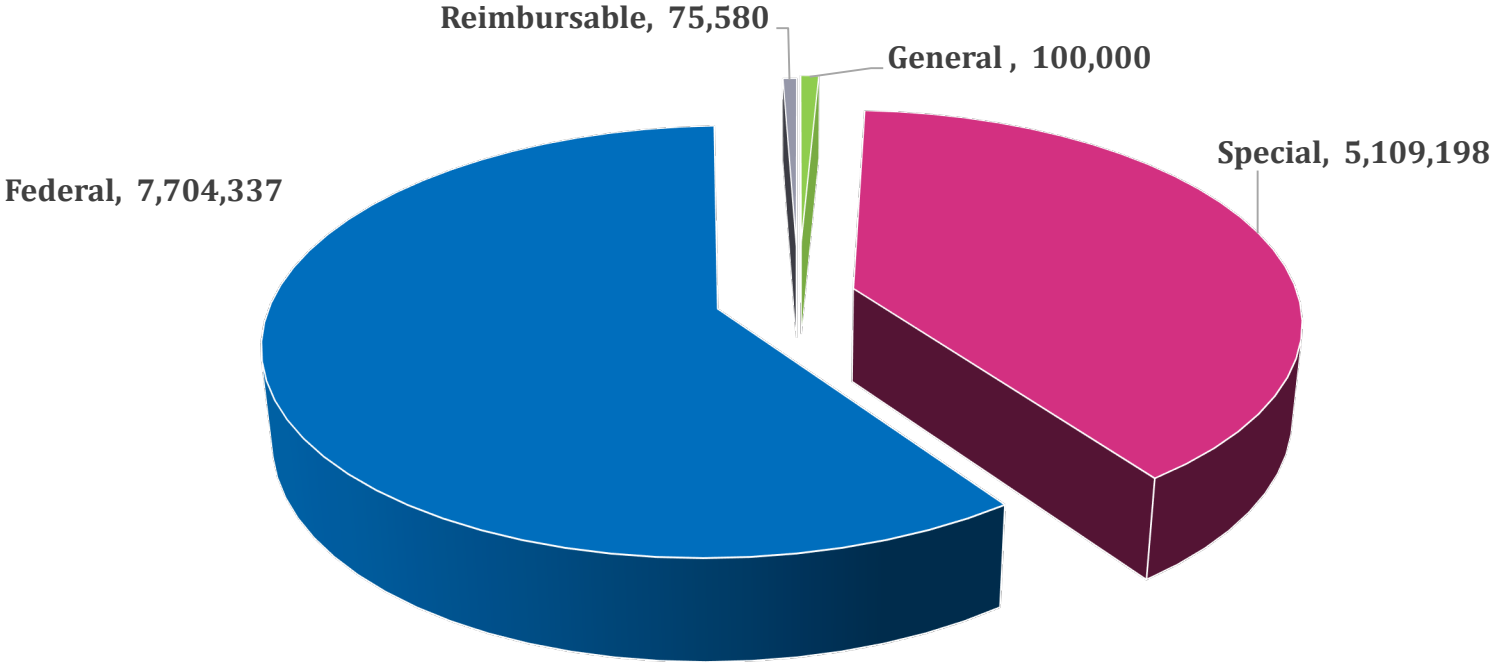
Permit Revenue

- Shoreline Blind Sites = \$85,765
- Wildlife Permits = \$89,840
- **Total Permit Revenue = \$175,605**



As of June 13, 2022

FY22 Budget = \$12,989,115



WHS Administration Program



• Classified Salaries	\$7,922,876
• Contractual Salaries	\$854,175
• Communications	\$196,749
• Travel	\$62,830
• Fuel and Utilities	\$61,424
• Motor Vehicle Operations	\$962,293
• Contractual Services	\$1,686,424
• Supplies and Materials	\$456,336
• Equipment – Replacement	\$24,992
• Equipment – Additional	\$453,750
• Grants	\$110,000
• Fixed Charges	\$197,266

FY22 Appropriation

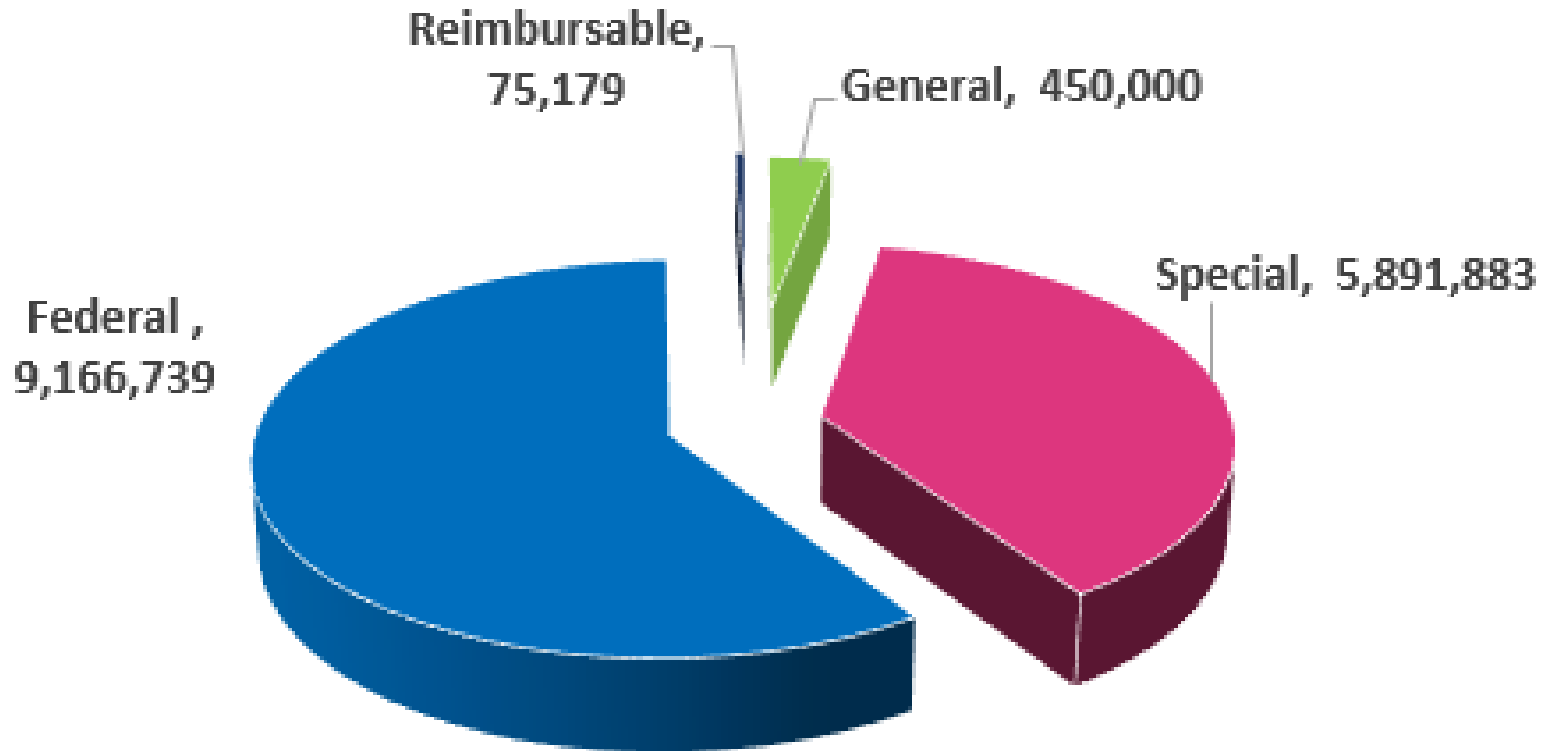
ACTIONS TAKEN TO CAPTURE MORE FEDERAL FUNDS IN FY 23

- **Use of land acquired with POS funds as match**
- **Additional equipment purchased for WMAs**
- **Increased staff for work on grant eligible activities**
- **In-kind match with volunteer hours**
- **Outside match from partners**

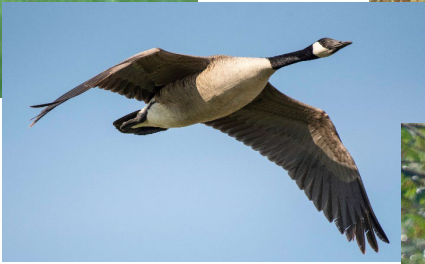
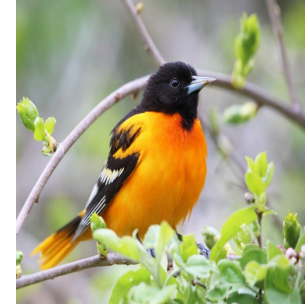
WHS Administration Program



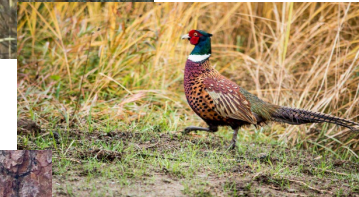
FY23 Budget = \$ 15,583,801



WHS Administration Program

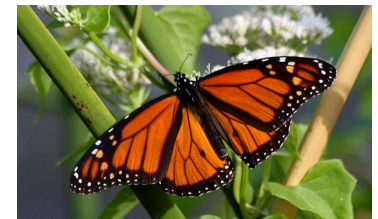


Funding



**Serve
the
Public**

**Staff
Support**



WHS Administration Program

