

Pennsylvania Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Council
January 11, 2022 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

In Attendance: S. DeArment, P. Hentz, L. Stallings, S. Gallagher, R. Graboski, C. Eyler

Absent: E. Frankel, S. Acosta

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

On a motion by SueD, seconded by Robyn, minutes of the November meeting were approved with one change (a correction to the date).

Leah reported there has been no change to the treasury. The balance remains at \$29,831.54

I. Law Enforcement

Chad stated there is nothing to report from law enforcement as it relates to rehabilitation.

A new WCO class will be graduating in February, and additional classes are scheduled to begin afterward.

His office will begin processing permit renewals next month. They are short-staffed in Harrisburg due to COVID.

Peggy reported that many rehabilitators have been having trouble submitting materials to USFWS. Chad stated that any rehabilitators given problems by USFWS should be in touch with him.

II. Lead Toxicity Grants

Leah had received two applications for reimbursement and reported that all expenses appeared applicable for grant funds, and all receipts were supplied.

Tamarack is requesting \$658.77 for 2 eagles. On a motion by Robyn, seconded by Peggy, all approved issuing reimbursement.

Centre Wildlife is requesting \$1757.16 for 7 eagles. Robyn recused herself from the discussion and vote. On a motion by SueG, seconded by Peggy all approved issuing reimbursement.

Leah will send reimbursements.

All agreed that for future grant applications, lead testing costs should be reimbursed regardless of test results or other injuries.

III. Wildlife Health Forum

The question of who should be invited to the 2.23.22 meeting was again discussed. All agreed the first meeting should target permittees and a few other key personnel. Robyn will send SueD the list of emails she has for permittees so that SueD can work on updating it. Once this is done, an invitation will need to be sent out.

SueG agreed to be in touch with Andrew DiSalvo to confirm that he is setting up the meeting and that it will be through Microsoft Teams.

IV. State Agency Communications

Peggy reported that many Pennsylvania permittees caring for reptiles and amphibians find the PA Fish and Boat Commission lacking in communications regarding permits and renewals. Chad suggested contacting the agency's executive director and/or a commissioner, as a council.

SueG reported that the PFBC lists permitted rehabilitators on its website. She will send the link to all council members.

Chad reported that the next PGC commissioners' meeting will be January 28/29 in Harrisburg. Public comment time is limited for each individual, and he believes there will be many comments from sportsmen at this first meeting of the year.

If there are issues the council would like to bring up, the April meeting may be a better option. Chad will check on what the April meeting dates and agenda will look like and let the council know.

No further information was available on an outbreak of avian influenza in North America. SueG agreed to ask Andrew for an update when she contacts him about the 2.23.22 meeting. She will ask if there is anything he would like to communicate to rehabilitators, and if so, when might they expect information.

V. PAWR

PAWR is currently not a 501c3 organization. Peggy agreed to look into what remains to be done to make it so. She will enlist Sandra's help if needed. Leah has articles of incorporation, which she will forward to council members.

Robyn suggested setting up a Guidestar profile for PAWR. All documents could then be stored there.

All agreed to consider an appropriate mission and mission statement to reflect PAWR's purpose going forward. All agreed this should include some consideration of capture/transport permittees, educators, and other personnel connected to wildlife rehabilitation.

With no further business, on a motion by SueD, seconded by Robyn, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8 at 10:00 am. Members should plan to attend via Zoom.

Susan Gallagher
Recording Secretary