

**Pennsylvania Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Council**  
**March 8, 2022 – Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**In Attendance:** S. DeArment, P. Hentz, L. Stallings, , R. Graboski, E. Frankel, S. Acosta  
**Absent:** S. Gallagher, C. Eyer

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Call to Order**

Approval of January minutes

On a motion by Sue D, seconded by Leah, minutes of the January 2022 meeting were approved.

**Treasurers Report**

Leah reported there has been no change to the treasury. On a motion by Sue D, seconded by Peggy treasury report was approved

**Added to the Agenda**

*Sue informed the Council a request from Peggy to add an item to discuss which is not in the agenda. Request is on behalf of Red Creek and not as a council member to avoid conflict of interest, Peggy is a WIN board member.*

• **Sponsorship of C&T people**

- *C&T people are not getting the sponsorship letter needed because wildlife rehabilitator are not willing to do it, these people do not live close to a rehabber to be trained.*
- *The Game Commission needs to provide a definition of what “sponsorship means”, it is not a reference or character letter. Sponsorship is the agreement to be available to assist the trainee regardless of their location in the state. (Peggy)*
- *It is important to have people that are reputable. Process needs to be in place and background checks (Police and Game Commission). (Robyn)*
- *Sue D at WIN is doing background checks and checking references. There is a requirement to “transporters” to join WIN*
- *There should be a probation time before approval of the permit, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to obtain the permit/license as C&T (Sandra)*
- *Robyn will send an email to rehabbers encouraging to mentor, accept as volunteers C&T people. Letter cannot support WIN because three (3) of the council members are WIN’s board of Directors, it is a conflict of interest*
- *Question to Chad (Game Commission) regarding what are the responsibilities of the rehabilitator who is sponsoring the C&T person, and what is the role and process followed by WCO (Peggy & Robyn). Peggy will contact Chad; however, Sue D. will like to see the communication/message.*

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**Update on Lead Toxicity Grants**

Eagle 536. Applied for the grant, the animal was tested for lead (negative) and still at Centre Wildlife Care receiving medications as it requires a significant amount of care

Eagle 801. Blood work to test for lead (positive), received treatment and medical care

Centre Wildlife Care three checks for a total of \$597, two (2) different eagles:

- Eagle 801: \$247
- Eagle 536 Lead Test : \$45
- Lead Care II Kit :\$305

Moving forward, it is required to submit separate application per eagle, and segregate lead testing and other expenses corresponding to lead poison treatment.

On a motion by Leah, seconded by Peggy two (2) grants were approved. All approved and *Robyn recused herself from the vote as she directs the Centre Wildlife Care.*

**Proposal to recruiting new rehabilitators- Dates and location for Pennsylvania Game Commissioner's meeting – April 8 1:00P.M, Pennsylvania Game Commission headquarters-auditorium**

Peggy will submit a proposal to add a new Class of Rehabilitator, like mammal I; backyard mammals (squirrels, rabbits, opossums), no RVS or predator species (fox, coyote, etc).

Meeting is opened to the public; Sue D may join Peggy.

**PFBC list of reptile rehabilitators**

Sue D will request Sue G to send the list.

List is available in the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

Philly Metro Wildlife and Emily G got the permit.

Need to make sure that list is current and invite people to get listed in the PWRC

**PAWR 501c3 Status**

Sandra received the original submission to the Department of State, it is old and outdate

Bylaws drafted by an attorney were received by Sandra who will review

501c3 filing process needs to be reviewed and started, Sandra will take care of the process,

Peggy has requested to Sandra to take the lead in this project due to time constrains

**HPAI-any issues/discussion**

Robyn will check if the video from Avian influenza webinar

Leah suggest to have a written directive to address this issue and it will cover those rehabbers who are not utilizing the web/internet.

Sue D requested to Robyn to check with the Game Commission on any information to mail

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Wildlife Futures is monitoring by picking up animals who died or show symptoms, so far HPAI is not in PA but it is in its surroundings.

Rehabilitation clinics should close for three (3) weeks if a bird tests positive. Wildlife Futures is willing to work with rehabbers who need to have protocols reviewed.

Swabs to test from Zoetis, Peggy was approved to buy the test (Flu Detect Avian), it is rapid test (instructional video on their website)

Sue D proposes to the council to pay for swabs to cover rehabilitators

Robyn suggest to setup a grant program from the PAWRC

\$14,031 is currently in the bank account.

Pre-testing birds is necessary to avoid risks, despite that the test is sensitive to all kinds of influenza, depending on the animal further testing will follow.

There is a great risk of contamination due to C&T people, WIN people are hesitant to pick up birds.

Leah will call Zoetis as she had bought pet medications, and negotiate a discount. Is it possible to request that rehabilitators request the test directly from Zoetis under the PAWRC account?

Swabs are different than tests and the swabs take up to three (3) days to send back results.

**2023 PA Wildlife Conference**

Decide if the conference will be in-person, virtual, hybrid, and the date March 2023).

Sue D requests any ideas for topics of the conference.

Robyn to request information at the Ramada (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March 2023)

**Other updates/discussion**

Sandra bought the attention of a woman in Chester County posting inappropriate pictures (kissing RVS). The person is relinquishing her menagerie permit. The council cannot police these issues.

A recognition for Chad and Brenton. Surprise them with a letter from each one of the council members. Sandra can create the booklet.

**Next meeting May 10, 2022- Zoom/in person.** Pending

Adjourn

Sandra Acosta  
Recording Secretary