

Pennsylvania Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Council
July 13, 2021 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

Absent: E. Frankel

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. Wildlife Futures

Joining the meeting for this portion only were PGC State Veterinarian Dr. Andrew DiSalvo, Dr. Erica Miller, Field Operations Manager, Wildlife Futures Program and Dr. John Huckabee, Case Coordinator, Wildlife Futures Program.

Andrew asked if there would be an interest in continuing the partnership begun through Wildlife Futures, possibly with a wildlife disease panel. All agreed, with suggestions including:

- An informal “meet and greet” session to start, open only to permittees and a few key people, with questions submitted in advance
- Two meetings per year, once before and once after rehabilitators’ busy season
- Andrew’s attendance/presentations at future conferences
- Continued use of regional personnel in maintaining communication throughout the state
- Finding a way to compile data from annual reports from across the state
- Presentations at Capture/Transport training (3.13.21 @PGC, 3.27.21 @ Fern Hollow Nature Center Sewickley, PA)
- Use of email list and PAWR website to share information, possibly in a members-only area

Andrew was asked about plans to continue COVID testing in bats, and stated his support for ending the testing as a requirement for release.

II. C/T Question

A representative from [REDACTED] had contacted the council by email prior to the meeting, with concerns over C/T personnel. However, they could not attend, nor had they given the name of CT personnel in question. SueD will work to resolve this through WIN. Sandra will reach out to [REDACTED] and explain the council’s limitations in helping, particularly if no one is willing to provide specifics.

III. Minutes, Treasury

On a motion by Peggy seconded by Leah, minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Leah had no changes to the treasury to report. There is a balance of \$29,831.54 in the account. No requests for eagle reimbursement requests have come in.

IV. Law Enforcement

Chad reported that a right to know request had come in for several years of rehab records for a university study. The request amounted to over 9,000 pages and was fulfilled.

Peggy asked about revisiting the idea of breaking down mammal permits into classes, with a separate permit to cover rabbits, squirrels and opossums. Chad suggested Peggy bring this up at any future Commissioners' meeting. He is willing to help with whatever regulatory changes this would require, though during the PGC slow season is better for him (December, January).

Operation Game Thief is working well. Statewide dispatch will likely be in place by summer of 2022. A 24-hour dispatch is being considered but nothing is certain.

Chad was asked about rehabilitators continuing to raise fawns since COVID has been found in white-tail deer. He reported that no plans are in place at the moment to limit rehabilitation.

V. Other

Sue D had visited a landowner looking to donate her property, possibly to the council, to benefit wildlife. The area is extremely remote, needs many repairs, and comes with little information on tax history. All agree it is difficult to involve the council in land donations. On a motion by Robyn, seconded by Peggy, all agreed this is not something the council should do.

Prior to the meeting, the council had received an email with many questions on urban wildlife issues from a group looking to gather information for Pittsburgh area residents. All agreed the questions should be referred to Humane Animal Rescue. SueD will pass the info to HAR.

Meeting dates for 2022 were agreed upon as follows.

January 11
March 8
May 10
July 12
September 13
November 8

Unless there is a spike in COVID cases, the January meeting will take place in-person in Harrisburg, with lunch afterward.

Sue D is also scheduling a get-together for WIN and will let the council know the date.

On a motion by SueD, seconded by SueG, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48.

Susan Gallagher
Recording Secretary