

**Pennsylvania Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Council**  
**September 10, 2024 – Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**In Attendance**

S. DeArment, P. Hentz, S. Gallagher, R. Graboski, L. Stallings, S. Acosta  
Peggy excused herself early  
Sandra arrived late

**Interviews**

Lily Casebeer—Schuylkill Center

Lily took and passed all three tests. After the interview, on a motion by SueD seconded by Robyn, all agreed to suggest to Chad that a novice permit be issued.

Sampson Metzger—Pocono Wildlife

Sampson passed the raptor test. After the interview, on a motion by Robyn seconded by SueG, all agreed to suggest to Chad that a novice permit be issued.

**The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am**

**Minutes from the July 9 meeting were unavailable.**

**Treasury**

Leah had sent a treasurer report (attached)

A PayPal savings account was discussed, but the idea was dismissed since accounts are not FDIC insured.

Sandra joined the meeting. She agreed to provide minutes for the July meeting if someone sends a link to the recording.

Sandra has been working on articles of incorporation and a resolution. These are necessary to open a CD. She will forward these documents to all. SueG will look into a free DocuSign account so all can sign the resolution via email rather than snail mail.

Rates when Leah had first investigated opening a CD were 4.25% but may have since changed. A nine-month CD may be ideal at this point.

On a motion by Robyn seconded by SueD, all agreed to accept the treasurer's report.

## **Conference**

Several people have responded to requests to help on a conference committee and/or to speak. These included Justin Brown, Len Donato, PGC biologist (woodrats), Adrienne Breaux (herps) Kelly Scarlett (volunteer management), Carol Holmgren, Sandra (establishing a 501c3)

A conference committee is needed and is the next step in planning.

## **Social Media**

Sandra suggested a conference talk by Raven Ridge on proper use of social media in education. All agreed that this center's social media postings are exemplary.

A discussion of social media use by rehabilitators followed. Concerns continue to arise over the portrayal of wild animals as pets, a lack of PPE, kissing/snuggling, etc. Particularly disturbing images of this being done with rabies vector species were discussed and all agreed these are direct violations of RVS protocols.

How to approach these problems was debated. The council has no authority and while the behaviors shown in postings may violate protocols, they do not necessarily violate law.

Sandra suggested matters be brought to the attention of Chad and others in the PGC, with the suggestion that permits be revoked, reminding all that there are public health issues to consider.

Robyn suggested continuing to issue educational information as a council to other centers.

SueG felt the council would be remiss if it did no more than continue to discuss things among its members, and felt Chad should be brought into the discussion at the very least.

Leah suggested working to educate future WCOs through Peggy's trainings, so these WCOs could monitor their permittees' social media accounts.

The majority agreed to pass concerns on to Chad.

## **Other**

Robyn informed the group that both Ayn VanDyke and Dr. John Marshall have retired from rehab after many years.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12.

The possibility of meeting in person on that date or some other date was discussed. No decision was made. Council members are encouraged to communicate with

each other by email to agree on a date and place.

On a motion by Robyn, seconded by Leah, the meeting was adjourned.

Susan Gallagher  
Recording Secretary