

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISH MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, November 27, 2018
Richardson & Robbins Building Auditorium
89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware
Phone 302-739-9912, FAX 302-739-6157

ADVISORY COUNCIL

1. Edward A. Montague, Chair
2. Garrett Grier, Jr., Vice Chair
3. Raymond F. Burris
4. Neal Dukes
5. Nathan Hudson
6. Joe C. Johnson
7. Steven Kendus
8. Dale R. Scuse
9. F. Thomas Unruh

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

1. Director David E. Saveikis
2. Chief Drew Aydelotte
3. Jason Davis
4. Justyn Foth
5. Amy Marie Ottinger
6. Joseph Rogerson

PUBLIC

7 Visitors

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Montague at 7:00 pm.

Agenda Item 1. Approval of Minutes (Chairman).

A motion was made by Councilman Burris, seconded by Councilman Unruh and the Council voted unanimously to approve the October 30, 2018 meeting minutes as written.

Agenda Item 2. Loggerhead Sea Turtle Hatching at Fenwick Island State Park (Jason Davis).

Jason Davis, Wildlife Biologist, gave a presentation at the request of the Council on the unusual nesting of the federally-listed threatened loggerhead sea turtle at Fenwick Island State Park in September, the first nesting of the species in Delaware since 1973. He presented basic loggerhead biological information to include reproductive and nesting habits and the methods implemented to protect the nest and increase hatching survival that resulted in 48 of the 77 eggs successfully hatching.

Agenda Item 3. 2018-2019 Delaware Deer Harvest Update (Joe Rogerson).

Joe Rogerson, Program Manager for Species Conservation and Research, provided a preliminary deer harvest summary for the 2018/2019 hunting season through the end of the November Shotgun Season.

There have been 10,364 deer harvested to date, which is 734 (6.7%) fewer deer than the 11,099 harvested through the same point during the 2017/2018 record deer harvest season. The October Muzzleloader Season harvest was nearly identical between years; however, for the

November Shotgun Season there were 449 (6.5%) fewer deer harvested during the 2018/2019 (6,479 deer) than the 2017/2018 season (6,921). Most of the decline in harvest during the November Shotgun Season was attributed to a nearly 50% decline in overall harvest on the opening day of the season, likely due to the rainy weather hunters experienced.

The 2018/2019 deer hunting season will be the first season for which all Sundays during the deer season are open to deer hunting on privately-owned lands and select publicly-owned lands. Through the end of the 2018/2019 November Shotgun Season, 1,685 deer have been harvested on Sundays, representing 16.3% of the overall harvest to date.

Mr. Rogerson also advised the Council of the Division's efforts to collect Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) samples and biological data from deer that were harvested during the 2018/2019 November Shotgun Season. CWD samples were collected from male and female deer at five deer processing stations located across the state, with biological data collected from all male deer to include age, weight, antler points and outside antler spread.

Agenda Item 4. Directors Update (David E. Saveikis).

Director Saveikis informed the Council of an agreement between the Division and LS Power allowing the installation of an overhead electric transmission line through a portion of the Augustine Wildlife Area. Although the new power line may cause some minor displacement to the area hunting locations, hunters and wildlife will realize a net benefit from the nearby 209-acre parcel that LS Power is donating to the Division that will expand the wildlife area acreage in New Castle County.

**Agenda Item 5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
(Council).**

The Council voted unanimously to re-elect Chairman Edward Montague and Vice-Chairman Garrett Grier for an additional term.

**AGENDA FOR THE 1/29/2019 ADVISORY
COUNCIL MEETING**

The Council requested that the Division develop an agenda for the January 29, 2019 meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Kendus, seconded by Councilman Dukes and unanimously approved by the Council to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Marie Ottinger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Marie Ottinger
Recording Secretary