

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

GAME COMMISSION

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BEFORE: STANLEY I. KNICK, JR., President
Haley J. Sankey, Vice President
Allen J. DiMarco, Secretary
Scott H. Foradora, Commissioner
Dennis R. Fredericks, Commissioner
Kristen Koppenhafer, Commissioner
Michael F. Mitrick, Commissioner
Todd A. Pride, Commissioner
Robert C. Schwalm, Commissioner

HEARING: Saturday, January 24, 2026
1:39 p.m.

LOCATION: PA Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

WITNESSES: None

Reporter: Derek Richmond

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W. CREIGH MARTSON, ESQUIRE
STEPHEN SMITH, Executive Director
MATTHEW SCHNUPP
JASON RAUP, ESQUIRE
TIM HAYDT
RICHARD DANLEY

I N D E X

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NONE OFFERED

P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDENT KNICK: Please silence your phones and bring the January 26th Game Commission meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Please stand.

(WHEREUPON, THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IS RECITED.)

PRESIDENT KNICK: Mr. Secretary, can you do a roll call, please?

COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Knick?

PRESIDENT KNICK: Here.

COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs. Sankey?

COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Here.

COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. DiMarco?

Here.

Mr. Foradora?

COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Here.

COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr.

Fredericks?

COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Here.

COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs.

Koppenhafer?

COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFER: Here.

1 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Mitrick?

2 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Here.

3 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Pride?

4 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Here.

5 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Schwalm?

6 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Here.

7 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: All are

8 present.

9 PRESIDENT KNICK: All right.

10 Thank you. Can I have a motion to
11 approve the minutes of the commission meeting held
12 on September 5, 2025?

13 COMMISSIONER KOPPEHAFFER: So moved.

14 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

15 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you. Mr.

16 Secretary, can you call a vote, please?

17 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
18 of the stated motion, please signify by saying aye.

19 AYES RESPOND.

20 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
21 no? Motion carries.

22 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The first item for
23 consideration can be found on page two of your
24 agendas. To effectively manage the wildlife
25 resources and provide hunting and trapping

1 opportunities in this Commonwealth during the
2 upcoming year, the Commission is proposing to amend
3 Section 139.4 to provide updated seasons and bag
4 limits for the 2026-2027 license year.

5 The 2026-2027 seasons and bag limits
6 were updated to reflect current available scientific
7 data, population and harvest records, field surveys
8 and professional staff observations, as well as
9 recommendations received from staff, organized
10 sporting groups, members of the agricultural
11 community, and others interested in the management
12 of the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth. The
13 2026/27 season proposals include open Sundays within
14 the frameworks of all seasons throughout the license
15 year. Also, most seasons that previously ended on
16 Saturdays will now end on Sundays to provide one
17 additional day of opportunity. For white-tailed
18 deer, the regular firearms season is proposed to
19 shift one week earlier such that the season would
20 open the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving.

21 This change would result in
22 adjustments for numerous other hunting seasons,
23 although in most cases the total number of hunting
24 days would not change. Also for white-tailed deer,
25 minor adjustments to date structures of extended

1 firearms, flintlock and late archery seasons are
2 proposed to reduce complexity and to ensure season
3 lengths correspond to sporting arm efficiency and
4 management objectives.

5 For wild turkey, a spring gobbler
6 season bag one is proposed to offset possible
7 additional harvest due to the inclusion of Sundays
8 and ensure that harvest rates remain within
9 sustainable levels.

10 For black bear, shifting the firearms
11 bear season one week earlier is expected to increase
12 harvest vulnerability of female bears. To ensure
13 overall harvest rates remain within sustainable
14 levels, the length of the proposed archery,
15 muzzleloader and special firearms seasons in most
16 WMUs would be reduced to two days. However, in WMU
17 3D, a longer archery bear season is proposed to
18 increase harvest in response to high levels of bear-
19 human conflict in that area.

20 For elk, addition of an early October
21 firearms season segment is proposed to limit
22 crowding and maintain hunter satisfaction under
23 current and potential future increased license
24 allocations. The late firearms elk season is
25 proposed to be moved later in January to avoid

1 conflicts with major holidays.

2 For furbearers, WMU 5A is proposed to
3 be open to bobcat hunting and trapping and WMUs 2G,
4 3A and 4C are proposed to be open to river otter
5 trapping. Habitat and population data indicate that
6 these units can support sustainable harvest for
7 these species.

8 PRESIDENT KNICK: Can we have a
9 motion?

10 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: So moved.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

12 PRESIDENT KNICK: All right.

13 Is there any discussion?

14 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: I'd like to
15 say a few things. First of all, there's been
16 several comments here about lack of transparency as
17 far as this proposal is concerned. I'd like to
18 state that when we first discussed this proposal and
19 heard about it within 24 hours we put it out in the
20 public's eye, and I give all credit to Steve Smith,
21 Director Smith for doing that. He insisted that we
22 do it immediately.

23 People complained that it was only a
24 short period of time. Yes, this is a proposal and
25 there was still three months after that to discuss

1 it before it would possibly become a final decision.

2 Seven years ago, this Board moved the
3 cherished rifle deer season opener from a Monday to
4 a Saturday. The hopes at that time were to
5 hopefully stem the loss of hunters. Over the course
6 of I don't know how many years we lost over 400,000
7 hunters during the Monday opener. Since the
8 Saturday opener has been established, we still lost
9 hunters, but not near to the degree. Last year I
10 think we lost 0.75 percent of our hunters, which is
11 much, much better than the national average of the
12 lost hunters.

13 However, moving that Saturday opener
14 to the Monday - to the Saturday after Thanksgiving
15 put it right smack in the middle of the busy
16 Thanksgiving holiday and the busiest travel holiday
17 of the year. I've always been for the Saturday
18 opener, but I will say that I've always felt it was
19 the wrong Saturday.

20 We heard from our hunters that this
21 really rushed their efforts to get to camp on time.
22 In my own case, I've never made a Saturday opener
23 because I've always had family in, and in my own
24 case, I've always been family first. I thought the
25 Saturday opener before Thanksgiving was a very, very

1 viable option for our camp hunters, you know, who in
2 the past took Monday and Tuesday off after
3 Thanksgiving. This could give them the opportunity
4 to take a Thursday and Friday off before the
5 Saturday opener, same two days that they would lose
6 from work. They could get up there, they could
7 enjoy their wonderful camp experience, hunt all day
8 Saturday and Sunday and go back Sunday night or
9 whenever they wanted to without rushing the
10 Thanksgiving holiday.

11 We know for fact with 100 percent
12 certainty that every grade school, high school,
13 college, university, postgraduate school in this
14 state have at least Thursday - at the very least
15 Thursday and Friday off during that week. That at
16 least gives those students who a lot of times we
17 lose because they go away to college. They don't
18 have time to hunt. This gives them the opportunity
19 to hunt, at least on those days, as well as their
20 family, their adults who want to hunt on
21 Thanksgiving Day or the Friday afterwards.

22 Those reasons alone I felt were - and
23 there are certainly other reasons to move the day.
24 But those reasons alone I always felt strongly spoke
25 for the Saturday opener before Thanksgiving. That's

1 all I have to say. Thanks.

2 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you,
3 Commissioner. Do we have any more comments?

4 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Mr. President?

5 First of all, I'd like to thank everyone that came
6 here to express their opinion on this proposal and
7 it makes me feel good to know that we have a lot of
8 passionate people here in Pennsylvania.

9 And to piggyback on what Commissioner
10 Mitrick said, you know, we're faced with a very
11 serious thing, and it's hunter decline. I think
12 about it all the time and I see it's not just here
13 in Pennsylvania. Actually, PA is probably the
14 least, when you look at the surrounding states.
15 And, you know, trying to find ways to recruit and
16 introduce young people into hunting is such a
17 difficult task. And I can tell you that because
18 I've been doing mentoring for a very long time.
19 Time is always a factor. Sports, school, et cetera.

20 You know, Sunday hunting has
21 somewhat, you know, mitigated some of that. But to
22 be able to get people out there, get those college
23 kids, those high school kids out there, you know,
24 and everybody in Pennsylvania isn't fortunate like I
25 was growing up. I had two parents. It doesn't work

1 that way. You know, if you look at the numbers out
2 there today, it's like there's like 35 percent of
3 families in Pennsylvania are single parent families
4 and 25 to 28 percent of those families are headed up
5 by the mother.

6 So, you know, I said earlier about we
7 need to get more people to step up as mentors.
8 Well, that's number one. But number two, we've got
9 to find time to be able to get those people out
10 there and share this great privilege of hunting here
11 in Pennsylvania. And I look at this as probably -
12 you know, it varies from when schools get off here
13 and there, but the majority from Saturday through
14 that week is a lot of opportunity that we can get
15 people involved, that we can get young people
16 involved.

17 You know, one of the things I said
18 this yesterday, really, I hate to hear is, in 10
19 years we won't have hunting. Well, if we all
20 stepped up - and sometimes you got to make a little
21 bit of a sacrifice. I know it's a change and it's
22 inconvenience to this one, it's inconvenience to
23 that one. But what would you be willing to do to be
24 able to keep hunting in our future and pass it on to
25 all the young people? So that's why I'm in favor of

1 this. Thank you.

2 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you,
3 Commissioner Schwalm.

4 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes, thank
5 you.

6 PRESIDENT KNICK: Commissioner
7 Foradora?

8 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman. I just want to comment thank you for
10 all the testimony we received today. I thought that
11 was very healthy as far as the numbers and the
12 numbers that have contacted through the website. I
13 want to thank each and every one of you for your
14 comments.

15 One of the commentary today was that
16 baby boomers. So I'm a 61-year-old, 1964 born. So
17 for all of the youth that said tradition and the
18 Monday opener, I lived it. Unfortunately, times, as
19 they say, have changed tremendously. And to tailor
20 on Doc Mitrick's comment, not only are there school
21 children off that week, not only college, but - and
22 the one gentleman was spot on. It is 600 - he said
23 630 - ChatGPT says 650,000 college students.
24 There's 1.877 million K through 12 high school and
25 undergrad - or young people in Pennsylvania

1 according to ChatGPT.

2 So at a minimum they're off the
3 Saturday, Sunday and most - or some high schools
4 break Wednesday at noon, Thursday, Friday, Saturday,
5 and there are some high schools, although I don't
6 know what that number is, that close the entire
7 week.

8 Also if you ChatGPT, no scientific -
9 the second most day taken off is the Black Friday
10 behind Christmas Eve, if Christmas is during the
11 week. I've saw numbers as high as 70 percent of the
12 workforce in Pennsylvania is on vacation Black
13 Friday as well as a multitude of businesses that do
14 close the entire week.

15 So with that, that was the - what
16 I've heard from people and, you know, I just want to
17 say I hear all sides, but the thought is correct.
18 Steve and staff, I want to commend you for putting
19 the information out there. There's no good time to
20 put it out. When somebody said the first time you
21 hear an idea there's no good time. And I encourage
22 you to keep putting the data out.

23 Saturday is the right day. It's just
24 a question of what Saturday. So thank you. I
25 appreciate everybody.

1 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you,
2 Commissioner Foradora. Any more comment?
3 Commissioner Fredericks?

4 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Mr.
5 President, thank you. I'd like to again thank
6 everybody that came today with the impending snow
7 and everything to comment.

8 One thing I'd like to reiterate on,
9 unfortunately for me, I've been in this seat a long,
10 long time. I was just pointing out to Steve, every
11 executive director on that wall I've worked with.
12 So I've been at this a long time and there's one -
13 let me go back a little bit and commend Commissioner
14 Mitrick. I mean, you know, his thought process to
15 do what he feels is the best thing for hunting
16 opportunity. I want to commend him for thinking in
17 that direction.

18 I believe that Saturday is the right
19 day to open deer season. The question is which
20 Saturday. There's only so many Saturdays. So that
21 brings me to the most important part is the process.
22 I'm not going to support this today, but I'm going
23 to urge staff and Executive Director Smith to
24 dedicate the time and the resources and the
25 personnel to research this further.

1 I don't feel I have enough
2 information today as good as some of the comments
3 were on both sides of the issue. I don't feel I
4 have enough information to make a good decision
5 today. So, therefore, I'll be voting no. And I -
6 and it's important to recognize that there is a
7 process. One thing nice about seasons and bag
8 limits, it's not one and done. I'm just - however
9 the vote goes today, it's still out there for public
10 comment for three more months and it'll be finally
11 adopted up or down in April. And again, it'll be
12 reviewed by law. It will be reviewed again next
13 year, next January.

14 So it's a continual process and I'm
15 voting in favor of the process. But today my vote
16 will be no on this today. Thank you very much.

17 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you,
18 Commissioner Fredericks. Commissioner Koppenhafer?

19 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFER: I'm going
20 to echo a lot of what Commissioner Fredericks just
21 said. I think - well, I know I've had a lot of
22 people look at me recently and say, boy, what a can
23 of worms you just opened. And the beauty of the
24 process is that can of worms never goes open, the
25 dialogue never happens. Right. So that's why we're

1 here. That's why this process is in place.

2 And was seven days before meeting the
3 right day to release that info? I don't know. And
4 quite frankly you don't know either because that's
5 an opinion-based argument. We're here now and we
6 heard very passionate people on both sides. I've
7 had great conversations in the grocery store, in the
8 gym, on the street, literally anywhere I go because
9 people are fired up about this. The engagement is
10 through the roof because people care. And
11 Pennsylvania hunters care more than probably hunters
12 in just about any other state. We have more of
13 them. And obviously they - you know, they bring
14 their opinions, which is great.

15 So to Commissioner Frederick's point,
16 kind of like a steak that you want to let marinate a
17 little bit, right. Like let that flavor seep in. I
18 don't think - I don't think it's been marinating
19 quite long enough yet, and I think it needs a little
20 bit more time.

21 We heard some folks asking for some
22 human dimension studies which I think are fantastic
23 ideas. I know we've done that in the past in this
24 agency and would like to see that done again on a
25 topic that is - that's this important to

1 Pennsylvania hunters. And then as we go through
2 that process of talking to hunters, figuring out
3 what hunters want, simultaneously compiling an FAQ,
4 right. Like, I can sit here and tell you five
5 questions are going to come up repeatedly every
6 single group that you do, and I think every
7 commissioner here probably can, too.

8 So compiling that FAQ sheet and
9 getting that out as widely as we can, would be
10 appreciated on our end and engaging our nonprofit
11 partners as well to help us communicate with your
12 constituents. So that when we come back in the
13 future, we can revisit this if this doesn't pass
14 today.

15 I'm going to shift gears before I -
16 before I give up my mic, if I may, Mr. Chairman. In
17 the proposed seasons and bags, there was an addition
18 of an extended DMAP season last year. And the idea
19 was, hey, we've got areas around the state that we
20 have identified as areas where we'd like hunters to
21 concentrate their efforts because we would like to
22 see additional antlerless harvest taking place.

23 When I proposed that last year and
24 passed it, I put the contingency on there that, hey,
25 look, like this may not be the end all, be all, the

1 silver bullet everything looking for. So as those
2 final report cards come rolling in, Dr. Schnupp
3 we'll be looking to you and your staff and your
4 recommendations to say, hey, look, either that
5 worked great, let's do it again or hey, that was a
6 terrible idea. Let's shift gears and maybe look in
7 a different direction.

8 But I know that the additional time
9 for DMAP has been well received. There's been
10 questions as far as if the timing of it was correct
11 or if we could maybe do something a little bit
12 better. So if you could have those prepared for us
13 in April, that would be much appreciated.

14 DR. SCHNUPP: Understood, Kristen.
15 We'll have that as an action item to Wildlife
16 Management bureau. Appreciate that.

17 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: Thank you.

18 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you,
19 Commissioner. Any more comments?

20 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Yeah, President,
21 just want to make a couple -.

22 PRESIDENT KNICK: Commissioner Pride?

23 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Yes, thank you,
24 Mr. President. Just wanted to make a couple of
25 comments.

1 I mean, I just want to echo what Dr.
2 Mitrick had referenced regarding, you know, whatever
3 decision that we make today, it's not a final
4 decision. You know, this will be finalized in
5 April. But I also want to just kind of speak to the
6 element that I've heard today through commentary and
7 some of the things that we've heard over the last
8 week.

9 This was not a rush to judgment, you
10 know, by the agency and by us. I mean, I've been
11 here a little over three-years and Dr. Mitrick had
12 shared with me, I think, you know, the first couple
13 months about the Saturday opener. I mean, I think,
14 2022, we hadn't made the decision yet to move to a
15 Saturday opener. So we've been talking about this.

16 Many of us have asked staff to, you
17 know, run some numbers for us. We talk to hunting
18 groups and others regarding this impact. So one,
19 it's not a rush to judgment, but I also just want to
20 kind of speak to the importance, you know, of this.
21 I think most of you know that my work for many, many
22 years has been involved with, you know, teaching
23 students, both young and old, you know, fishing,
24 birding, hunting. And the move to Saturday has
25 clearly had a significant impact.

1 I had asked the staff in our break
2 earlier today to run some numbers regarding the year
3 over year change with our licenses, we had one bump
4 in 2020 around COVID. And then I just see negative,
5 negative, negative. And I think we're even going to
6 be down a little bit. And while you heard today
7 that here in Pennsylvania our numbers are down less
8 than the national average, but they're down. I also
9 heard in a couple comments earlier regarding, I
10 think the word nuisance regarding deer and this may
11 not an over exaggeration. In many parts of the
12 state and particularly in the Southeast, we have a
13 crisis with deer.

14 I mean, you all heard a number of our
15 farmers today. I heard \$200,000, \$300,000, \$400,000
16 in crop damage in the Southwest. And our Regional
17 Director, Pete Sussenbach, I've asked him each year
18 to provide to me and to us the roadkill numbers.
19 And I pulled that up earlier today. And I think
20 last year we were - not last year 2025, but I think
21 the year before, I think we're still up. We
22 continue to go up. Pete gave us a report, I think,
23 yesterday, but I think last year was 10,000 - around
24 10,000, a little over in terms of roadkill down in
25 the Southeast, and that's just what's reportable.

1 So we're probably one third to one half more than
2 that.

3 I don't know how many of you have hit
4 a deer. But you also heard me, I think, in the last
5 meeting and in the neighborhood that I live in in
6 Chester County, actually in Cochranville, not too
7 far, we had a student lose his life from a deer
8 collision.

9 So this issue that we're looking at
10 to move is not - I mean, I grew up in tradition, but
11 we've got a lot bigger things that we need to look
12 at and we're not rushing to judgment. The changes
13 that we may make we can always go back and change
14 those if we see something negatively happening in
15 that regards.

16 So I just wanted to speak to some of
17 those factors. So I apologize for delaying this
18 issue and belaboring it. But this is obviously a
19 critical issue for all of us.

20 PRESIDENT KNICK: All right.

21 Thank you, Commissioner Pride. Do we
22 have anything else? Commissioner Sankey?

23 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Go ahead,
24 Allen.

25 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: No, go ahead.

1 I knew you were trying to beat me.

2 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Always. I know
3 we all know that there's a decline in hunting
4 license sales and I think it's imperative to point
5 out that, you know, we all grew up with hunting
6 tradition, and we definitely want to share as much
7 of that tradition as we can with the next
8 generation. But the reality is that the future of
9 hunting really requires us to be innovative and
10 think outside the box. And the challenges that
11 we're facing today are not the same ones that the
12 Commission was facing in the '70s. And even since
13 then, it's just been morphing and changing.

14 And I think to not do anything, to
15 not continually try new things is just burying our
16 head in the sand and not facing the truth, that, you
17 know, this is - we're constantly dealing with new
18 and different challenges and to not do anything is
19 not going to help us. I would rather go down trying
20 new things and kicking and screaming than just
21 letting it happen. So - but I do really want more
22 information and, you know, I asked for a couple
23 different things yesterday that I think will really
24 help me better understand the situation and how this
25 might help slow the decline. And so if I can get

1 that information by April, that would be helpful.
2 Thank you.

3 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you,
4 Commissioner.

5 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I won't take
6 the time to reiterate all the things you've heard in
7 the hour - in the morning news, from everybody
8 speaking what they have, and now all of us
9 commissioners have taken an opportunity. But what
10 I'm hoping to see come out of all of this is that
11 you understand that as much as we are criticized
12 that we don't listen, we really honestly do listen.

13 And though, you know, I guess my - I had three sons
14 and I guess as they were growing up, when I said to
15 them, no, I don't think they thought I wasn't
16 listening. But they learned that some - you just
17 don't always get what suits me. But how does it
18 suit everyone else that's involved in the hunting
19 process?

20 I really commend you for - even
21 though it was only eight days or whatever amount of
22 time you had to respond, you did. And we are
23 appreciative of that response that you gave us. And
24 I hope that we can establish some kind of a
25 symbiotic relationship here where you understand

1 that we do hear and we understand that you have
2 concerns and ideas and suggestions

3 And like Mrs. Sankey just said, let's
4 give this a little bit of time, let's look at it.
5 Keep bringing that information to us. Nothing is
6 solid yet until next April - not next April, this
7 coming April and we'll see where we go from there.
8 So again, thank you very much for your input.

9 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any more comments,
10 discussion? Mr. Secretary, would you have a role
11 call vote, please?

12 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Knick?

13 PRESIDENT KNICK: Well, after
14 listening to social media, public comment and just
15 people in my area, hunters and groups, at this time,
16 I think we need to wait a little bit longer and I
17 have to vote no to this proposal.

18 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs. Sankey?

19 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: No for now.

20 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I will vote no
21 also. Mr. Foradora?

22 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: I am a no for
23 now. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I'm sorry?

25 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: No.

1 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: No. Mr.
2 Fredericks?

3 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: No this
4 time. And I urge everybody to continue with the
5 process.

6 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs.
7 Koppenhafer.

8 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFER: No for
9 now.

10 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Mitrick?

11 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Pride?

13 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Schwalm?

15 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. President,
17 there are six nos and three yeses.

18 PRESIDENT KNICK: It has failed. And
19 at this time, I would like to make a motion on the
20 amendment. And can I have a second on the
21 amendment?

22 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: I'll second
23 it.

24 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do we have any
25 discussion on the amendment?

1 DR. SCHNUPP: Mr. President, if I
2 could, one slight out of abundance of caution on
3 page seven of what would be page seven of the floor
4 amendment down at the bottom and just a quick note,
5 Scribner's error on the highlighted section at the
6 bottom for agriculture deer control as well as the
7 footnote number two. Both of those will be updated
8 for the April meeting assuming that this gets passed
9 today.

10 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Mr.
11 President, at this time, I would like counsel to
12 briefly describe Exhibit A, the amendment that you
13 just made.

14 ATTORNEY MARTSON: Yes, thank you,
15 Commissioner Fredericks. The operative - excuse me,
16 the operative difference between the proposal for
17 seasons and bags that was just voted down and the
18 amendment moved by Commissioner Knick is to instead
19 of the firearms deer opener to occur on Saturday
20 preceding Thanksgiving, the proposal moved by
21 Commissioner Knick would revert back to the Saturday
22 post Thanksgiving for the start of the firearms deer
23 season.

24 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do we have any
25 other discussion?

1 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: Mr.
2 President, not necessarily in an effort to muddy the
3 waters, but I would like to offer an amendment to
4 the amendment, if I may.

5 PRESIDENT KNICK: Go ahead. What is
6 the amendment?

7 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: Brought
8 about in discussion of, you know, which Saturday,
9 you know, for firearms deer season, it brought about
10 a lot of other good conversations as well and some
11 areas that I think personally as one commissioner
12 may be missing on.

13 And that one consideration that I
14 would like to put before my fellow commissioners is
15 to keep our small game seasons open for the duration
16 of firearms deer season as opposed to closing them
17 like we have in the past. So, for instance, if
18 approved, that would run pheasant season from
19 October 24th through December 24th, close on
20 Christmas Day, open again December 26th and run
21 through February 28th of 2027.

22 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you. Do I
23 have a second on the amendment of the amendment?

24 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: I can't
25 second that fast enough.

1 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you,
2 Commissioner Fredericks. Do we have any discussion
3 on this amendment to the amendment?

4 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Just a
5 question, Commissioner Koppenhafer. Is it just -
6 your motion is just for pheasants? You said small
7 game?

8 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFER: The motion
9 is for small game. I used - I used.

10 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Pheasants as
11 an example.

12 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFER: -
13 pheasants as an example. Correct.

14 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Thank you.
15 Just want to clarify. Thanks.

16 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any other
17 discussion? None being heard, Mr. Secretary, can we
18 have a roll call, please? On the amendment of the
19 amendment. The amendment and the amendment of the
20 amendment.

21 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Whatever you
22 say.

23 All right.

24 Mr. Knick?

25 PRESIDENT KNICK: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs. Sankey?
2 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Yes.
3 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I vote yes.
4 Mr. Foradora?
5 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes.
6 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr.
7 Fredericks?
8 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yes.
9 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs.
10 Koppenhafer?
11 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFER: Yes.
12 PRESIDENT KNICK: Mr. Mitrick?
13 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Yes.
14 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Pride?
15 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Yes.
16 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Schwalm?
17 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Yes.
18 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. President,
19 all votes are in the affirmative.
20 PRESIDENT KNICK: All right.
21 Passed, right?
22 All right.
23 Now, we need a roll call vote on the
24 overall package, because that was the vote on the
25 amendment of the amendment. We need a vote and

1 let's do a roll call vote on that.

2 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Okay.

3 Mr Knick?

4 PRESIDENT KNICK: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs. Sankey?

6 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I vote yes.

8 Mr. Foradora?

9 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr.

11 Fredericks?

12 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs.

14 Koppenhafer?

15 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFER: Yes.

16 PRESIDENT KNICK: Mr. Mitrick?

17 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Pride?

19 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: And Mr.

21 Schwalm?

22 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. President,

24 all votes are in the affirmative.

25 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you, Mr.

1 Secretary. Next on the agenda.

2 ATTORNEY MARTSON: Thank you,
3 Commissioner. The next item for consideration can
4 be found on page 11 of your agendas.

5 In order to more effectively manage
6 Chronic Wasting Disease within this Commonwealth and
7 also simplify current regulations, the Commission is
8 proposing to amend Section 137.35 to, number one,
9 eliminate the restrictions on interstate and
10 intrastate movement of high risk parts, number two,
11 eliminate the related restrictions requiring the use
12 of a cooperating processor or taxidermist, three,
13 expand statewide the prohibition against the
14 disposal of high risk parts on the landscape, four,
15 eliminate the prohibition on the use of cervid urine
16 based attractants in any outdoor setting, and five,
17 provide the executive director of the Commission
18 with the discretionary authority to establish
19 targeted restrictions the feeding of wild cervids.

20 PRESIDENT KNICK: Can I have a
21 motion?

22 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: So moved.

23 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do we have a
24 second?

25 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

1 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do we have any
2 discussion?

3 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: I just feel the
4 need to point out that this is statewide, not on a
5 WMU or DMA level or anything. We're saying if you
6 move deer, it has to be thrown away in the
7 commercial trash. So I just felt the need to
8 clarify that. And also that there will be a
9 decision tree of the feeding ban situation discussed
10 in April.

11 Correct?

12 COMMISSIONER SMITH: Correct.

13 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Thank you.

14 PRESIDENT KNICK: Have any other
15 discussion? None being heard, Mr. Secretary, would
16 you call a vote, please?

17 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
18 of the signified motion, please signify by saying
19 aye.

20 AYES RESPOND

21 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
22 no? Motion carries.

23 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you, Mr.
24 Secretary.

25 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for

1 consideration can be found on page 15 of your
2 agendas.

3 The Commission is proposing to create
4 Sections 147.681A through 147.687A to implement a
5 program to foster collaborative partnerships between
6 landowners and hunters throughout the Commonwealth
7 to manage wildlife populations that threaten
8 agricultural productivity, natural resources and
9 ecological stability. This program will create a
10 way to connect landowners with responsible safe
11 hunters to address growing conflicts between
12 landowners and wildlife and which will provide the
13 tools and access necessary to make hunters effective
14 while afield.

15 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

16 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: So moved.

17 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

18 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have any
19 discussion? None being heard, Mr. Secretary, would
20 you call a vote, please?

21 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
22 of the stated motion, please signify by saying aye.

23 AYES RESPOND

24 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
25 no? Motion carries.

1 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
2 consideration can be found on page 18 of your
3 agendas. Under current regulation, body gripping
4 traps used for beaver and river otter are restricted
5 in size to measure no larger than 10 inches in
6 height by 12 inches in width. Many readily
7 available body gripping traps do not fall within
8 these dimensions. In addition, newer round body
9 gripping traps are currently not legal simply
10 because of their shape, despite having a similar
11 diameter to the current width requirement.

12 The Commission is proposing to amend
13 Section 141.62B3 to allow traps no more than 14
14 inches from one jaw to the opposing jaw when set.
15 These dimensions better reflect the range of trap
16 sizes and designs that are appropriate for beaver
17 and otter trapping within the Commonwealth.

18 Furthermore, the proposed regulation
19 will better accommodate traps currently available
20 for use as well as those that may become available
21 with new technology.

22 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

23 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: So moved.

24 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

25 PRESIDENT KNICK: Mr. - or any

1 discussion?

2 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: Yeah, Mr.
3 President, I never thought that we'd be talking
4 about new technology and trapping in the same
5 sentence, but here we are. And I just - I want to
6 commend staff for realizing these things, bringing
7 them, you know, to our attention and allowing us to
8 - the opportunity to make these reg changes so that,
9 you know, folks are able to utilize these tools in
10 the field and do it legally. So please pass that -
11 please pass that down, Matthew. We appreciate that.

12 DR. SCHNUPP: Absolutely. I will.
13 If I could add one comment to that, I think it's
14 appropriate, and I'd be remiss if I didn't mention
15 Pennsylvania Trapper Association have been great
16 collaborators across the board for a long, long
17 time. And they really brought a lot of this and
18 more to our attention, of which we - you know, we
19 move forward the stuff that we can support and, you
20 know, biologically justify, and this is one of them.

21 And so just really want to commend
22 them as well. They're great collaborators and do a
23 lot of great stuff for the State of Pennsylvania.

24 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you. Do we
25 have any other discussion? None being heard, Mr.

1 Secretary, would you call a vote, please?

2 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Excuse me.

3 Those in favor of the stated motion, please signify
4 by saying aye.

5 AYES RESPOND

6 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
7 no? Motion carries.

8 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item can
9 be found on page 19 of your agendas. The snap trap,
10 often called a rat trap, is one of two trap types
11 that was tested and approved by the Association of
12 Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Best Management
13 Practices to target weasels. Several states allow
14 for the use of a snap trap within an enclosure,
15 often referred to as a weasel box.

16 However, under current regulations,
17 this is not a legal device to set for furbearers
18 within the Commonwealth. The Commission is
19 proposing to amend Sections 141.63 and 141.69 and by
20 providing an exception, excuse me, to authorize this
21 method of take, by defining snap trap and by
22 providing an exception that would allow setting snap
23 traps within artificial cubies outside of a water
24 course to specifically target weasels.

25 PRESIDENT KNICK: I have a motion?

1 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: So moved.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

3 PRESIDENT KNICK: I have a second?

4 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

5 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

6 None being heard, Mr. Secretary, would you call a
7 vote, please?

8 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
9 of the motion, please signify by saying aye.

10 AYES RESPOND

11 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
12 no? The motion carries.

13 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
14 consideration can be found on page 21 of your
15 agendas. The Commission is proposing to amend
16 Sections 143.203 and 143.207 to provide for a
17 simplified application structure, including the
18 consolidation of any available bonus points
19 purchased in the 2003-2004 license year and each
20 subsequent license year.

21 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

22 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: So moved.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

24 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion on
25 this? None being heard, Mr. Secretary, would you

1 please call the vote, please?

2 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
3 of the stated motion, please signify by saying aye.

4 AYES RESPOND

5 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
6 no? The motion carries.

7 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item can
8 be found on page 22 of your agendas. In an effort
9 to streamline the way antlerless deer licenses are
10 sold, the Commission is proposing to amend Sections
11 143.41, 143.44 and 143.45 to eliminate the current
12 prescriptive application schedule. The amendment
13 would maintain the current first come, first serve
14 process for obtaining an antlerless deer license and
15 would further require the Commission to ensure their
16 fair and equitable distribution.

17 The amendment also clarifies that a
18 person exercising the privileges of the license
19 exemption provided for under Section 2706A of the
20 Act is limited to one antlerless deer.

21 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

22 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

24 PRESIDENT KNICK: Second. Any

25 discussion? None being heard, Mr. Secretary, would

1 you call the vote, please?

2 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
3 of the stated motion, please signify by saying aye.

4 AYES RESPOND

5 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
6 same sign? Motion carries.

7 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
8 consideration can be found on page 25 of your
9 agendas. The Commission is proposing to amend
10 Section 141.4 to replace the current hunting hours
11 table and migratory bird hunting hours table to
12 accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal
13 hunting for the 2026-2027 hunting and trapping
14 license year.

15 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have motion?

16 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: So moved.

17 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

18 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

19 Mr. Secretary, would you call the vote, please?

20 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
21 of the stated motion, please signify by saying aye.

22 AYES RESPOND

23 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
24 no? Motion carries.

25 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for

1 consideration can be found on page 28 of your
2 agendas. On September 8th, 2025, the Act of July 9,
3 2025 became effective. In relevant part, Act Number
4 36 repealed the longstanding general prohibition on
5 hunting on Sunday within the Commonwealth.
6 Notwithstanding the passage of Act 36, Section 139.5
7 continues to restrict Sunday hunting on commercial
8 regulated hunting grounds. The Pennsylvania Game
9 Breeders Association since requested the Commission
10 to remove the Sunday restriction. The Commission in
11 its review did not identify any significant
12 justifications to maintain the prohibition.
13 Therefore, the Commission is proposing to amend
14 Section 139.5 to remove the Sunday hunting
15 prohibition on commercial regulated hunting grounds.

16 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

17 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

18 PRESIDENT KNICK: Second?

19 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

20 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

21 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: Mr.

22 President, if I may offer an amendment? Never mind.

23 Forget it. I'm sorry. I'm ahead of you.

24 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

25 Mr. Secretary, would you call the vote, please?

1 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
2 of the stated motion, please signify by saying aye.

3 AYES RESPOND

4 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
5 aye? Motion carries.

6 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you, Mr.
7 Secretary.

8 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
9 consideration can be found on page 29. On September
10 8th, 2025, the Act of July 9, 2025 became effective.
11 In relevant part, Act 36 repealed the longstanding
12 general prohibition on hunting on Sunday within the
13 Commonwealth. Notwithstanding the passage of Act
14 36, Section 135.41 continues to allow a person not
15 otherwise hunting, trapping or fishing to ride a
16 non-motorized vehicle, conveyance or animal on state
17 game lands.

18 The Commission is proposing to amend
19 Section 135.41C5 to remove this exception and
20 replace it with the more definitive closure periods
21 of October 1st through January 31st and April 1st
22 through May 31st. This change will reduce conflicts
23 with lawful hunting, trapping and fishing activities
24 occurring on Sundays during applicable open seasons.

25 The Commission is also proposing to

1 amend Section 135.41C21 to extend this same date
2 range to the fluorescent orange requirement
3 applicable to persons not engaged in lawful hunting
4 or trapping on State game lands. These amendments
5 will promote improved safety and consistency in the
6 restrictions concerning access to and the use of
7 State game lands by persons not engaged in lawful
8 hunting or trapping.

9 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So moved.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

12 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do we have any
13 discussion?

14 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: Mr.
15 President, if I may -

16 PRESIDENT KNICK: You have an
17 amendment?

18 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: - muddy
19 the waters again.

20 PRESIDENT KNICK: Go ahead.

21 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: And
22 actually offer an amendment for this one. This is
23 more of a housekeeping item so that our commentary
24 aligns with what we have as our edits on the bottom
25 of page 29. Would like to require orange for non-

1 hunters on State game lands during turkey season.
2 So request that we amend to include April 1 through
3 May 31 in 135.41C21.

4 PRESIDENT KNICK: Did we get that?

5 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: I
6 apologize. Your mic must not be on, Kristen.

7 PRESIDENT KNICK: Can you pull that
8 mic down and speak into it a little bit more?

9 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: So the
10 amendment offered is to just - it's a housekeeping
11 item so that our commentary aligns with 135.41C21 to
12 also require non-hunters that are utilizing State
13 game lands during turkey season to wear orange, so
14 that the request in the amendment would be to
15 include that April 1 through May 31 time period
16 that's - that is in our commentary in 135.41,
17 Section C21.

18 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a second on
19 that amendment?

20 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

21 PRESIDENT KNICK: Mr. Secretary,
22 would you call a roll call vote - or any discussion.
23 I'm sorry? Any discussion on it first?

24 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: We can't
25 include it right now, but I think in the future we

1 should also talk about potentially requiring people
2 who have dogs to have a certain amount of orange on
3 as well to avoid any conflicts in the future.

4 PRESIDENT KNICK: Can we add that in
5 now or -?

6 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: No, we'll get
7 to it later.

8 PRESIDENT KNICK: We'll look at it in
9 April. We can look at it for April. Yeah, we can
10 do it now. Yeah. Let's do it now.

11 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Discussion?
12 Does anyone -?

13 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Mr.
14 President, I think it's a great idea. I'd like more
15 time to consider and discuss and we can act on that
16 at a later time. I love dogs just as much as
17 Commissioner Sankey does, but kind of a snap
18 decision right now. So can we pass on that one?

19 PRESIDENT KNICK: But do we have -
20 well, we have a motion. You want to pass on it? Do
21 we have a second on it? Is anybody going to second
22 that motion? If there's no second on it, then it
23 fails. It'll just be the original with the original
24 amendment. So Mr. Secretary, would you call a roll
25 call vote?

1 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
2 of the stated motion, please signify by saying aye.

3 AYES RESPOND

4 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
5 no? The motion carries.

6 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
7 consideration can be found on page 31 of your
8 agendas. The Commission is proposing to amend
9 Section 147.556 to allow a person issued an
10 agricultural deer control harvest permit to hunt and
11 take deer with any lawful device authorized for use
12 during the regular firearm season. This amendment
13 removes the text requiring a person to use lesser
14 devices during periods of overlap with traditional
15 white-tailed deer hunting seasons, such as archery
16 and muzzleloader seasons.

17 However, notwithstanding the proposed
18 expansion, it is important to note that landowners
19 maintain the authority to restrict the use of any
20 devices and methods on their own lands.

21 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

22 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: So moved.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

24 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

25 None being heard, Mr. Secretary, would you call a

1 vote, please?

2 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
3 of the stated motion, please signify by saying aye.

4 AYES RESPOND

5 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
6 aye? The motion carries.

7 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
8 consideration is on page 32 of your agenda. The
9 Commission is proposing to amend Section 114.41 to
10 enhance the effectiveness of taking white-tailed
11 deer through the use of bait within the special
12 regulation counties while at the same time
13 simplifying the regulations for hunters.

14 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

15 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: So moved.

16 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

17 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion on
18 this? None being heard, Mr. Secretary, would you
19 call a vote, please?

20 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
21 of the stated motion, please signify by saying aye.

22 AYES RESPOND

23 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
24 no? The motion carries.

25 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for

1 consideration can be found on page 34. To
2 effectively manage the wildlife resources of the
3 Commonwealth, the Commission at its September 5th,
4 2025 meeting proposed to amend Section 147.804 to
5 allow a mentored youth under seven years of age at
6 the time of application to acquire big game tags
7 with the purchase of their mentored hunting permit.
8 This change would align the procedures for the
9 issuance of big game tags to all three age groups.
10 This amendment is now before the Commission for
11 final adoption.

12 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

13 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: So moved.

14 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Second.

15 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion on
16 this?

17 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: I have a few
18 comments I'd like to make. I've spoken to literally
19 every member of the Board about this issue as I've
20 had some serious misgivings. I was a practicing
21 physician for over 37 years and treated many
22 children under age seven. For the most part they
23 were all immature. Of course, they were immature.
24 They were children. They had not even reached the
25 age of reason at that time or at that age.

1 I understand completely that it's
2 already legal here in Pennsylvania for a mentored
3 youth under age 7 to harvest a big game animal as
4 long as the mentor is willing to pass his or her tag
5 to the mentee. I also want to say that I am fully
6 in support of R3, but I'm not convinced that by
7 allowing children under 7 big game tags that this
8 will in any way help. I believe that if a mentor
9 feels so strongly that a mentee or a child under 7
10 years of age needs a harvest big game animal, that
11 he or she can pass along at least a doe tag. I feel
12 that giving big game tags to children under age 7
13 creates tremendous potential for some significant
14 abuse.

15 I recently saw online a picture of a
16 proud father kneeling alongside his six-year-old son
17 behind a beautiful rack buck. The underlying
18 caption said this is Johnny's third buck. You mean
19 to tell me he's already shot a deer at age four,
20 five and six? Really? I've spoken to many other
21 hunters in this regard and what I felt was an
22 unbiased fashion. Other than people in this room, I
23 did not speak to one hunter who thought this was a
24 good idea.

25 Finally, I fully understand and

1 appreciate the incredible enthusiasm by the members
2 on this Board to get young hunters interested in
3 hunting, but I'm not convinced that this is the way
4 to do it. Thank you.

5 PRESIDENT KNICK: All right.

6 I have a little bit, too, and I'll
7 ask for more comment. I understand what you said,
8 Mike, but at the same token without giving children
9 a tag, we are looking at a father who might have two
10 or three children or a mentor who has two or three
11 children and they have to pick and choose who they
12 give their tag to. I wouldn't want to be that
13 parent when I have three kids and two kids sitting
14 home saying I can take you, but you're going to have
15 to sit at home.

16 I think this is a good idea. They're
17 already able to hunt and all we are doing is giving
18 them a tag. That's only my opinion. Do we have any
19 more discussion on this?

20 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: I'd like
21 to chime in if I may, Mr. President. Commissioner
22 Mitrick, I hear you and would respectfully disagree
23 with the opinion base side of your statement. As a
24 mom, my - one of my kids harvested their first deer
25 at six years old and it was a great moment. You

1 know, it was a - he did it by himself with a
2 crossbow and it was a spike buck that he was proud
3 of and I got the thing mounted for him because you
4 only ever kill one first deer.

5 So I know that there are instances
6 out there when young kids are ready, willingly,
7 able, capable of harvesting deer. And so I don't
8 want to sit up here as a commissioner and dictate an
9 arbitrary age at which it's appropriate to spit out
10 a tag with a license. Like in my opinion as one
11 commissioner that is up to the mentors. That's the
12 trust that we put in our mentors and the
13 responsibility that's on their shoulders.

14 So I - you know, I can't imagine if I
15 - if both of my kids were younger having to pick and
16 choose which one. So I think this is a great step
17 to encourage more people to mentor. You've heard it
18 over and over again today and we hear it all the
19 time, that we need to keep youth engaged and you can
20 only do that when you have mentors that are able to
21 get them out there and get them hunting.

22 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you, Kristen.

23 I have one more thing on this is I've heard that
24 well, you know what, the adult is going to use the
25 child's tag. Well, if the adult does, shame on the

1 adult, for one. But for two, probably every warden
2 out there knows, you talk to a young child, they're
3 going to tell you the truth. So if he's with his
4 parents and he's five years old and you say, hey,
5 how'd you shoot that deer or where'd you shoot that
6 deer, the kid's going to tell you the truth, you
7 know, if dad shot it instead of him. They'll find
8 out real quick.

9 So I just think we have to have trust
10 in the parent or the guardian, whoever's taking them
11 out hunting. Like I said, that's my opinion. Do we
12 have any more discussion?

13 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes,
14 Commissioner Knick. Just want to add yes, I'm not
15 concerned about the illegality of the parent.

16 PRESIDENT KNICK: Scott, we can't
17 hear you.

18 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: You can't.
19 Okay.

20 Sorry. I'm not concerned about the
21 illegalities, what was talked about. I would like
22 to see - and I voted no for this issue, not because
23 I'm against mentored youth, the last meeting. I'd
24 just like to see a more age limit defined as well as
25 eliminating as it stands now - and correct me if I'm

1 wrong, Counsel, or some commissioner, it includes
2 black bear and elk?

3 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have any more
4 discussion?

5 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Wait. I need
6 an answer to my question. Does it include - is it
7 just for -?

8 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: It's deer and
9 turkey.

10 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Only.

11 Okay.

12 The way it's written.

13 Okay.

14 So I'll strike that. I'm fine with
15 the deer and turkey. Just Commissioner Schwalm was
16 our advocate and I respect him dearly for mentored
17 youth and applaud his efforts. I'm going to vote no
18 today, but I support of all mentored youth hunt
19 activities. I just want some reasonableness around
20 the age. Thank you.

21 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do we anymore -?

22 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: I don't see
23 where it says - excuse me, I don't see anywhere
24 where it says just deer and turkey. It was my
25 understanding - my complete understanding and one of

1 the reasons I'm against it is that it includes elk
2 and bear. I mean, how would somebody feel if a two-
3 year-old won an elk tag?

4 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Mr.
5 President, if I may? Yeah. We need to clarify.
6 Counsel needs to help us.

7 PRESIDENT KNICK: Counsel, clarify
8 this for us.

9 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yeah, my
10 understanding was deer and turkey only.

11 ATTORNEY MARTSON: And that's I
12 believe the intent of the proposal which is to
13 capture those big game tags that are issued
14 automatically at the point of sale with the hunting
15 license.

16 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: But it does
17 not say that.

18 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Does any
19 change need to be made to the narrative here? If we
20 pass this, looks to me like it's going to cause a
21 lot of confusion if we pass it the way it's written.

22 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The regulatory
23 texts that's being proposed does indicate that
24 mentored youth and mentored adults would be eligible
25 to make application for a bear license, a special

1 wild turkey license and one antlerless deer license
2 as well as DMAP harvest permits within those
3 programs.

4 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: So how do
5 we remove bear and make - and make this deer and
6 turkey only?

7 PRESIDENT KNICK: Can we just do an
8 amendment on that? Want to make an amendment on
9 that?

10 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: I move
11 amend that bear be removed from the motion.

12 PRESIDENT KNICK: Can we get a second
13 on that amendment?

14 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

15 PRESIDENT KNICK: Second, Mr.
16 Foradora.

17 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: I'm sorry,
18 could you repeat the amendment?

19 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: The
20 amendment is to remove bear from the description.
21 In the original description, I guess, that we did in
22 September and voted on in September included bear in
23 the big game tag. So I - I believe, if I'm not
24 mistaken, that the wish of the Board is for mentees,
25 children under the age of seven, to be able to get a

1 turkey tag and a deer tag.

2 PRESIDENT KNICK: That is correct.

3 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Further
4 clarify again I'm going to refer to Commissioner
5 Schwalm because he sort of spearheaded this thing.
6 Is your intent for them to have one turkey tag to be
7 used in the spring or fall, one turkey tag or is
8 your intent to have them get two?

9 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Sorry. With
10 the regulations, they'd be able to get one in the
11 spring and get one in the fall.

12 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Okay.

13 All right.

14 I'm okay with that. So again on my
15 amendment is to remove bear. Elk in the original -.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Wasn't in
17 there.

18 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: - was in
19 there but bear was not, so my amendment is to remove
20 bear.

21 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a second on
22 that from Commissioner Foradora.

23 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes.

24 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have any other
25 discussion on that?

1 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yes, I have
2 more to say. I would very much like to commend
3 Commissioner Schwalm. I've been passionate on one
4 issue in this regulation and he's been extremely
5 passionate about another part of this regulation and
6 he's really reaching trying to promote children to
7 begin hunting just as soon as possible, to get them
8 into the outdoors, learn about all wildlife in the
9 act of turkey hunting, big game hunting and not have
10 to depend on a mentor to pass a tag down.

11 The intent of the regulation in
12 September was to comply with law enforcement's
13 wishes to eliminate the transfer of tags, which I'm
14 fine with. The transfer of tags apparently is a law
15 enforcement nightmare. I'm all in favor of that.
16 I'm also all in favor of children hunting. I raised
17 two of my own children and four grandchildren and -
18 pardon me.

19 Sometimes in the act of hunting
20 things don't go perfect. Sometimes things go wrong.
21 And I'm very concerned at the impact of things going
22 wrong might have on a two-year-old or a one-year-old
23 or four-year-old. And I've seen it firsthand and
24 there is a risk of something going wrong at a young
25 age and then having the opposite effect of

1 even take the vote yet.

2 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Well, I said
3 I was going to vote no, but I'm confused. I thought
4 we were just talking about the transfer of tags, so
5 I want to just - I'll give my support to this and
6 just ask Commissioner Schwalm if we can revisit this
7 sometime in the future. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: If I wasn't
9 clear, that's basically what I'm asking for, Bob.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: I have no
11 problem with discussing that and I'm very sorry for
12 anything that you have experienced that may have not
13 gone well. And, you know, I can honestly say that
14 when you go hunting, as everyone knows, that
15 anything can happen and go wrong. And I think that
16 if it's going to happen, it would best if someone
17 like you or me or a mentor is there because it's all
18 about teaching that youth about hunting and
19 conservation and to respect that animal, to do
20 everything you can to recover it.

21 So I think it's really important and,
22 you know, ideally what I was looking at to do this
23 is I just want to say that not all kids are created
24 equal. And we know that. I'm a parent. I'm a
25 grandfather. You all know that. Kids mature at

1 different ages. You know, you have kids that are
2 five years old, six years old, you can go up as far
3 as 11 to 12, and even beyond that were some of those
4 students may not be mentally prepared or mature
5 enough to do that.

6 But that's not my call. And that's
7 not anybody else's call. That's a parent's call.
8 It's a parent's call to decide when that student is
9 ready to be able to go out to hunt. And Lord knows,
10 the way things happen in this society, there isn't
11 any place better that I would recommend that you
12 send your students with someone that's a mentor
13 that's a responsible mentor. That's important.
14 When you're looking to get someone to help you out,
15 if it's not a parent, look for that, someone that's
16 going to be responsible and teach your youngster
17 what is important and how to be safe.

18 I really think that this program is
19 going to benefit us because I believe that if we can
20 get students involved before they get into school,
21 the students that are mentally prepared and are
22 mature enough, if we can get them involved in
23 hunting and conservation before they get into
24 school, and they're tied up with school, with
25 classes and organized sports and computers and TVs.

1 You heard people talk about that all
2 day, about how kids are involved in this. If we can
3 get those youngsters into hunting at an early enough
4 age before everything else takes over. And I'm
5 going to say this, and I'm giving you this from
6 boots on the ground. I've been mentoring youngsters
7 for a long time. I'm very passionate about it. And
8 I look at it this way.

9 I've taken a lot of people out in the
10 woods to hunt. Now, they have not all become
11 hunters. But I can guarantee you that they would
12 never vote against hunting. And that's why I'm very
13 supportive of this. I really think in a time when
14 we got to do everything we can to recruit people,
15 that if we can recruit youngsters of those ages -
16 and bear in mind you have an adult mentor that's
17 going to take care of that bow or take care of that
18 firearm all the way through until the engagement -
19 engaging of the harvest.

20 And I've been around a lot of - most
21 of the mentors that I'm familiar with are all hunter
22 Ed instructors. So this is a carryover. Our
23 parents, there are so many good hunters in
24 Pennsylvania that they have so much to offer. So
25 thank you very much and thank you all for your

1 comments. I respect and appreciate what you have to
2 say.

3 MR. DANLEY: Commissioners, if I
4 could for a moment before you move forward on this,
5 if you would take a moment explain. I know we were
6 talking about two different discussions here. I
7 just wanted to give clarification before we make any
8 further decisions. So I will turn it over to
9 Attorney Raup.

10 ATTORNEY RAUP: This is merely a
11 question to fully understand the motion that's been
12 made. I believe as I understand it's to remove
13 bear, and just so the Board is clear, the provision
14 relating to mentor youth allows for bear for all
15 mentored hunters, and when the age breakdown occurs,
16 it removed the ability of the under seven to receive
17 a bear license themselves. This proposal as was
18 passed in September specifically was intended to
19 allow them to make application for a bear license.
20 That is evidenced by text that you're not seeing now
21 in the subsection N that is now reserved, meaning
22 the transfer of tags for the bear license to sustain
23 the proposal, as I understand it, to amend would to
24 reinsert that transfer language back in for the bear
25 license.

1 And that's a question for the Board
2 or clarification for the Board to modify or to
3 clarify its proposal to give some direction as to
4 what its intention is as it relates to that
5 question. Are we removing bear from access
6 completely or are we reinserting the transfer
7 allowance for bear licenses only?

8 PRESIDENT KNICK: We always left the
9 transfer of bear - they always had the opportunity
10 to transfer bear licenses.

11 ATTORNEY RAUP: Correct. And under
12 the proposal that was passed the bear license
13 transfer text has all been removed along with all of
14 the rest of the text. So we would be in a position
15 to not allow the species of bear for the under
16 seven, which would involve an amendment to
17 subsection C. And is that the intent attention of
18 the proposal?

19 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: That's the
20 intent.

21 ATTORNEY RAUP: Okay.

22 Thank you.

23 PRESIDENT KNICK: How is this going
24 to work out now? You're removing bear completely,
25 or we're just letting transfer of turkey and deer,

1 what it could - or get their own turkey and deer
2 license, but bear license has to be transferred?

3 ATTORNEY RAUP: Thank you, Mr.
4 President. I believe the question as I asked it was
5 to - for clarification on the intention of the
6 proposal. As I understand it, it is to remove bear
7 hunting as an eligible species for the under seven
8 class. And that clarification, I believe, answers
9 the question that I think I and others had, and I
10 believe now the Board would be in position to take a
11 vote on that particular amendment to the current
12 proposal.

13 COMMISSIONER KNICK: Okay. All
14 right.

15 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: So for
16 clarification then, is an eight-year-old eligible
17 for a bear tag?

18 ATTORNEY RAUP: Under the current
19 proposal before it's amended, all mentored hunters
20 would be eligible to apply for a bear license like
21 any other licensed hunter. Under the proposal, the
22 underage seven class would be removed from
23 eligibility to even receive or apply for a bear
24 license. They are categorically not eligible for
25 the species.

1 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: Okay.

2 So at age eight, they would be able
3 to get their own?

4 ATTORNEY RAUP: At age seven.

5 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: At age -.
6 Okay.

7 At age seven. And the next question
8 is what about the language, it says a special wild
9 turkey license because we also just removed special
10 turkey tags earlier today.

11 ATTORNEY RAUP: Again, the original
12 intention of this proposal as - as was originally
13 passed in September was to remove all application
14 barriers to the mentored group. Meaning the
15 transfer for under seven was completely eliminated
16 making it eligible to receive in the initial permit
17 application and then the ability to apply for those
18 that were not issued with the permit itself.
19 Basically to treat them the same as a junior hunter
20 or an adult hunter for eligibility. So in this
21 particular instance, the only thing that is changing
22 is to exclude the under seven from the bear license
23 eligibility.

24 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: And we
25 should leave the special spring tag alone with the

1 idea that there may be a -.

2 ATTORNEY RAUP: I believe that that
3 is correct. That is not within the proposal to
4 amend that was discussed.

5 MR. SMITH: Commissioner, remember
6 the bag limit was reduced to one for turkey season,
7 so there would be no opportunity to purchase or use
8 a second spring gobbler tag if the bag limit is one.

9 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: I just
10 wanted to make sure we didn't need to take that out,
11 but if it's good to leave in, good to go.

12 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Can I - Bob -
13 Commissioner Schwalm, did you intend to remove the
14 eligibility for someone to transfer their tag to
15 someone under seven for bear?

16 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Yes - oh, no.
17 Primarily what we were looking at were deer and for
18 turkey.

19 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Okay.

20 So you were still going to allow
21 someone to transfer their tag to someone under seven
22 for a bear?

23 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: No.

24 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: But that's how
25 it was before. So you're removing that?

1 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: You already
2 voted on it, yes.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Yes. Yes.

4 PRESIDENT KNICK: Okay.

5 Any more discussion?

6 All right.

7 Now I need a motion for the amendment
8 - we're taking the bear -.

9 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Well, I
10 seconded.

11 PRESIDENT KNICK: We need a motion
12 for the amendment -. We have a motion for the
13 amendment to remove the bear -.

14 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Okay.

15 And I second it. I'll second it
16 again. Yes, thank you.

17 PRESIDENT KNICK: Hopefully there's
18 no more discussion.

19 All right.

20 Can we have a roll call vote, Mr.
21 Secretary, on the amendment?

22 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Okay.

23 President Knick?

24 PRESIDENT KNICK: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs. Sankey?

1 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I vote yes.

3 Mr. Foradora?

4 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr.

6 Fredericks?

7 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs.

9 Koppenhafer?

10 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFER: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Mitrick?

12 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Pride?

14 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Schwalm?

16 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: All votes are

18 in the affirmative.

19 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you, Mr.

20 Secretary.

21 All right.

22 Now I need a motion on the adoption

23 of your regulation as amended. Do I have a motion?

24 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: So moved.

25 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

1 PRESIDENT KNICK: All right.
2 Any discussion on this? Hopefully
3 not.

4 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Mr.
5 President, if I may. Other than reiterating, I'm
6 asking for cooperation from Commissioner Schwalm and
7 my fellow Board members to continue to examine and
8 think about the age restriction. Other than that,
9 that's all I have.

10 PRESIDENT KNICK: Anything else?

11 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: I'm not
12 making amendments or recommendations. I'm going to
13 qualify my yes vote.

14 PRESIDENT KNICK: All right.
15 Mr. Secretary, would you call a roll
16 call vote?

17 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: President
18 Knick?

19 PRESIDENT KNICK: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs. Sankey?

21 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I vote yes.

23 Mr. Foradora?

24 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr.

1 Fredericks?

2 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs.

4 Koppenhafer?

5 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFER: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Mitrick?

7 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: No.

8 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Pride?

9 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Schwalm?

11 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: There are

13 eight affirmative and one negative. It passes.

14 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
15 consideration can be found on page 36 of your
16 agendas. To effectively manage the wildlife
17 resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission at a
18 September 5, 2025 meeting proposed to amend Section
19 147.559 to eliminate the text prohibiting the person
20 - a person, excuse me, from using, possessing or
21 attempting to use or possess more than four
22 agricultural deer control permits for a specific
23 permit area in any permit year. This amendment is
24 now before the Commission for final adoption.

25 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

1 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: So moved.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

3 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have any
4 discussion? None being heard, Mr. Secretary, would
5 you call a vote, please?

6 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
7 of the stated motion, please signify by saying aye.

8 AYES RESPOND

9 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
10 Same sign. The motion carries.

11 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Not to
12 confuse issue - the issue any further, but I just
13 have a question. I'm not going to make any kind of a
14 move, but just to ask the question, the seasons and
15 bag limits that we adopted earlier eliminated the
16 special spring turkey license.

17 Correct? Oh, for '27.

18 Okay.

19 PRESIDENT KNICK: Good question.

20 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Okay.

21 I'm good. Thank you.

22 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
23 consideration can be found on page 38. To
24 effectively manage the wildlife resources of this
25 Commonwealth, the Commission at its September 5,

1 2025 meeting proposed to amend Section 135.101 to
2 designate the Poquessing Creek Wildlife Management
3 Area as a special wildlife management area. This
4 amendment is now before the Commission for final
5 adoption.

6 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do I have a motion?

7 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: So moved.

8 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Second.

9 PRESIDENT KNICK: Okay.

10 Mr. Pride. Any discussion? No
11 discussion, Mr. Secretary, would you please call the
12 vote?

13 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
14 of the stated motion, please signify by saying aye.

15 AYES RESPOND

16 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
17 aye? The motion carries.

18 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item can
19 be found on page 42 of your agendas. Laurel
20 Mountain Energy, LLC is offering 23.5 more or less
21 acres of land in Parker Township, Butler County, an
22 indenture to State Game Land Number 95. The option
23 price is \$80,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game
24 Fund as authorized under Section 705B of the Game
25 and Wildlife Code. This acquisition will improve

1 the manageability of State Game Land Number 95.
2 Laurel Mountain Energy, LLC is accepting and
3 reserving the oil, gas and minerals, but not the
4 right to use the surface of the property for any
5 future OGM development. Access is through existing
6 State Game Land Number 95.

7 PRESIDENT KNICK: I have a motion?

8 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: So moved.

9 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

10 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

11 Mr. Secretary, would you call a vote, please?

12 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
13 of the stated motion, please signify by saying yay.

14 AYES RESPOND

15 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Pay attention.
16 Those opposed, nay? The motion carries. We got to
17 keep these people awake.

18 ATTORNEY MARTSON: Thank you,
19 Commissioner. The next item for consideration can
20 be found on page 44. The Estate of Lewis Emanuel,
21 Marie A. Emanuel, Fred W. Carlson and Elizabeth R.
22 Krolczyk is offering 127.4 more or less acres of
23 land in West Wheatfield Township, Indiana County,
24 adjacent to State Game Land Number 276. The option
25 price is \$205,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game

1 Fund as authorized under Section 705B of the Game
2 and Wildlife Code. This acquisition will provide
3 road access to a portion of State Game Land Number
4 276 that is separated from the main parcel by Black
5 Lick Creek and consequently does not have public
6 road access. Subsurface rights were severed. Access
7 is from Mount Taylor Road.

8 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do I have a motion?

9 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

11 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

12 None being heard, Mr. Secretary, would you call a
13 vote, please?

14 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
15 of the stated the motion, please signify by saying
16 aye.

17 AYES RESPOND

18 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
19 no? the motion carries.

20 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item can
21 be found on page 46. Brian S. and Rochelle N.
22 Bartley are offering a 25-foot-wide right-of-way
23 along 315 more or less feet of existing road into
24 State Game Land Number 120 in Chess Township,
25 Clearfield County. The option price is \$15,000 lump

1 sum to be paid from the Game Fund as authorized
2 under Section 705B of the Game and Wildlife Code.
3 This right-of-way will provide administrative and
4 lawful user access from Pumpkin Ridge Road to State
5 Game Land Number 120 north and west of Hockenberry
6 Run.

7 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

8 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: So moved.

9 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

10 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

11 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER Question,
12 real quick. Tim, if you would, can you kind of
13 clarify for me why we would enter into this
14 agreement when there's other road frontage further
15 down? Like why does this make sense?

16 MR. HAYDT: Certainly. So, yes, you
17 can see Pumpkin Ridge Road, we do have road access,
18 technically in two different places. If you look on
19 the map here in the pointer, this would be the most
20 logical spot to come in. However, there is a - you
21 can see there's some water features here. There's a
22 spring located around this area where my red dot is
23 that kind of feeds down into the Bartley's property.
24 So if we were to build a road there, we would have
25 to go across that wetland feature. We've also

1 estimated the cost of building this road in and it's
2 roughly three times the amount it would cost to
3 purchase this right-of-way.

4 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: That makes
5 total sense to me. Thank you for the clarification.

6 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any more
7 discussion? None being heard, Mr. Secretary, would
8 you call a vote, please?

9 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in
10 favor, signify by saying aye.

11 AYES RESPOND

12 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
13 no? Motion carries.

14 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
15 consideration can be found on page 48 of your
16 agendas. Robert M. Ross is offering 13.4 more or
17 less acres of land in Delmar Township, Tioga County,
18 adjacent to State Game Land Number 313. The option
19 price is \$267,000 lump sum to be paid from the
20 Commission's restricted account representing
21 settlement funds from environmental damage claims
22 brought by the Commonwealth. This account
23 represents other cost sharing funds under Section
24 705A of the Game and Wildlife Code, and therefore,
25 this acquisition may exceed \$400 per acre. The

1 landowner will retain a life estate on the 11-acre
2 property. This acquisition is within the natural
3 heritage area known as the Muck, an area that
4 contains the endangered American Bittern, Marsh Wren
5 and nine other species of greatest concern. Access
6 is from Cattail Lane.

7 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do we have a
8 motion?

9 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

11 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion on
12 it?

13 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I have a
14 question, I guess, yes. I see we're getting what,
15 13.4 acres?

16 MR. HAYDT: That's correct.

17 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: And we're
18 paying \$267,000 for it?

19 MR. HAYDT: That's correct.

20 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: What's under
21 the ground that we don't see - that we're not seeing
22 or why such a price?

23 MR. HAYDT: So currently the two -
24 the two parcels that Mr. Ross owns, so one of them
25 has his residence on it. So the one with the life

1 estate here where my pointer is kind of towards the
2 end of Cattail Lane, his residence is currently
3 there. So there's that and then there's a barn on
4 the smaller parcel here out by the railroad. So
5 there's two - there are a couple of improvements on
6 the property. So that drives up the appraised
7 value. I will also say the fact that there's a life
8 estate actually decreased the value - the appraised
9 value of the property quite substantially. So this
10 - it could have been significantly higher actually
11 appraised value. So we feel like we're getting a
12 good deal for what it is and for how it appraised.
13 We feel like we're getting a good deal.

14 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Do you have
15 any idea how old Mr. Ross is?

16 MR. HAYDT: I'm sorry?

17 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Do you have
18 any idea how old Mr. Ross is?

19 MR. HAYDT: Mr. Ross is in his 70s.

20 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: What are we
21 going to do with the house?

22 MR. HAYDT: Once Mr. Ross vacates the
23 area, we will remove the house. That would be the
24 plan.

25 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: We would what?

1 MR. HAYDT: We would remove the
2 house.

3 PRESIDENT KNICK: In other words,
4 tear it down.

5 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I understand
6 what you're saying, just I don't understand the
7 business rationale for it.

8 MR. HAYDT: So again, this is in the
9 Muck Heritage area. The rest of Mr. Ross's property
10 falls into this wetland area. So we feel like it's
11 an important acquisition to maintain continuity of
12 that wetland.

13 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have any more
14 discussion? Secretary, would you call a vote,
15 please?

16 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
17 of the motion, please signify by saying aye.

18 AYES RESPOND

19 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed?
20 I will vote no. Eight yeses and one no.

21 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item to
22 consider can be found on page 50 of your agendas.
23 An 87.5 interest of 59 more or less acres of land in
24 Bell Township, Clearfield County and interior to
25 State Game Land Number 87 has been offered for sale.

1 Violet Bolen is offering a 50 percent interest. The
2 option price is \$88,500 lump sum. Blue Sky PA, LP
3 is offering a 31.25 percent interest. The option
4 price is \$62,000 lump sum. Raymond and Betty Lawson
5 are offering a 6.25 percent interest. The option
6 price is \$11,000.60 - excuse me, \$11,062.50 lump
7 sum. All of these sums are to be paid from the Game
8 Fund as authorized under Section 705B of the Game
9 and Wildlife Code. This parcel is a complete
10 interior and is in a high priority grouse area. The
11 subsurface interests were accepted and reserved.
12 Access is from Troutville Road.

13 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any - or have a
14 motion, please?

15 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: So moved.

16 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Second.

17 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

18 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: Do you
19 want to expand on this a little bit for us, Tim,
20 please? Another hefty price tag and we don't even
21 have full ownership.

22 MR. HAYDT: Sure. So I know this
23 property came up several years ago and it was only
24 maybe the 30 percent interest in the past. We've
25 managed to line up several of the other owners and

1 we're now at 87 and a half percent interest. So we
2 felt like it was worth pursuing at this time. It is
3 a complete in holding to the game land. So it will
4 effectually open up public access hunting to that
5 area and we will do habitat management work on that
6 parcel as well.

7 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: There are
8 no structures on that right now.

9 Correct?

10 MR. HAYDT: No structures. There are
11 a couple of gas wells from what I understand.

12 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: But
13 subsurface rigs were accepted and reserved, so -.

14 MR. HAYDT: That's correct.

15 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any more
16 discussion? Mr. Secretary, would you call a vote
17 please?

18 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in
19 favor, signify by saying aye.

20 AYES RESPOND

21 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
22 no? Motion carries.

23 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
24 consideration can be found on page 52 of your
25 agendas. Cordell S. and Stephanie E. Howard are

1 offering 278.9 more or less acres of land in Monroe
2 Township, Bedford County, an indenture to State Game
3 Land Number 97. The option price is \$650,000 lump
4 sum to be paid from the Game Fund as authorized
5 under Section 705B of the Game and Wildlife Code. A
6 portion of this acquisition will be subject to a 20-
7 year-life estate in favor of Mr. Howard. As an
8 indenture, this acquisition will improve the
9 manageability of existing State game lands. Access
10 is through existing State Game Land Number 97.

11 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

12 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: So moved.

13 COMMISSIONER FEDERICKS: Second.

14 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

15 MR. HAYDT: Mr. President, I'd just
16 like to formally acknowledge Mr. Howard. He
17 actually approached us about this transaction and
18 kind of interesting story. He - there was a
19 transaction where we purchased game lands next to
20 his property several years ago and he needed access
21 into his property there across the game lands. At
22 that time, it was like a handshake agreement that he
23 would contact us kind of as a first refusal
24 situation. So he actually honored that. And it's
25 almost a decade later. So I just want to

1 acknowledge Mr. Howard for coming to us with this
2 acquisition.

3 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you. Any
4 discussion? Mr. Secretary, would you call the vote,
5 please?

6 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
7 of the motion, please signify by saying aye.

8 AYES RESPOND

9 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
10 nay? The motion carries.

11 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item is
12 found on page 54 of your agendas. Daniel J.H. and
13 Beverly Lee Bode are offering 14.3 more or less
14 acres of land in Pine Grove Township, Schuylkill
15 County, adjacent to State Game Land Number 211. The
16 option price is \$215,000 lump sum to be paid from
17 the Commission's restricted account representing
18 funds from third party commitments for compensation
19 and habitat and recreational losses which occurred
20 on State game lands from previously approved
21 projects. This account represents other cost
22 sharing funds under Section 705A of the Game and
23 Wildlife Code, and therefore, this acquisition may
24 exceed \$400 per acre. This acquisition will provide
25 road access to a portion of State Game Land Number

1 211 that currently does not have public access.
2 Subsurface interests were severed. Access is from
3 Iron Horse Trail.

4 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do I have a motion?

5 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: So moved.

6 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

7 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

8 None being heard, Mr. Secretary, would you please
9 call the vote?

10 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in
11 favor, signify by saying aye.

12 AYES RESPOND

13 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
14 no? The motion carries.

15 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
16 your consideration can be found on page 56 of your
17 agendas. LaVerne Sterner, et al. are offering 30.3
18 more or less acres of land in West Brunswick
19 Township, Schuylkill County, adjacent to State Game
20 Land Number 110. The option price is \$76,500 lump
21 sum to be paid from the Game Fund as authorized
22 under Section 705B of the Game and Wildlife Code.
23 This acquisition will provide access to a portion of
24 State Game Land Number 110 that currently does not
25 have good access due to the topography. Access is

1 from Molino Road with a railroad crossing into lower
2 parcels.

3 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

4 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Motion.

5 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

6 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

7 None being heard, Mr. Secretary,
8 would you please call the vote?

9 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in
10 favor, please signify by saying aye.

11 AYES RESPOND

12 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
13 no? The motion carries.

14 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item is
15 found on page 58 of your agendas. Homer City
16 Generations, LP is offering 20 more or less acres of
17 land in Cherry Hill Township, Indiana County,
18 adjoining State Game Land Number 248 to the
19 Commission in exchange for two more or less acres of
20 State Game Land Number 248 in White Township,
21 Indiana County. The Commission is retaining one of
22 the two existing parking lots along East Pike Road
23 for continued public access. Additionally, Homer
24 City Generation, LP will provide a right-of-way for
25 public access off Allen Ridge Road. Land exchanges

1 are authorized under Section 7231 of the Game and
2 Wildlife Code.

3 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

4 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: So moved.

5 PRESIDENT KNICK: Second?

6 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Second.

7 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do we have any
8 discussion?

9 MR. HAYDT: Yeah. Mr. President, I'd
10 just like to point out there's - I know this has
11 been a longstanding issue out in the region, the
12 southwest region here, some misconceptions from the
13 public out there. We never actually had access -
14 full access from the game lands directly to the
15 reservoir. So by exchanging the second parking lot
16 there, we're not really giving much up and we're
17 getting quite a bit in return and we still maintain
18 our access with that parking lot to the actual game
19 lands. And again, we're getting public access and
20 some significant acreage in return over on the east
21 side of the dam. Thank you.

22 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion,
23 questions? Mr. Secretary, would you call a vote?

24 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in
25 favor, signify by saying aye.

1 AYES RESPOND

2 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
3 nay? The motion carries.

4 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
5 consideration can be found on page 62 of your
6 agendas. Lisa Steiner is offering 2.8 more or less
7 acres of land in Jay Township, Elk county, adjoining
8 State Game Land Number 338 to the Commission in
9 exchange for 1.4 more or less acres of State Game
10 Land Number 338 in Jay Township, Elk County. This
11 exchange will provide linkage between separated game
12 lands parcels. Land exchanges are authorized under
13 Section 7231 of the Game and Wildlife Code.

14 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

15 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: So moved.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

17 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

18 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: Can you
19 walk us through for and how this came to be?

20 MR. HAYDT: Sure. So Game Lands 338,
21 a fairly new acquisition, I'm going to say within
22 the last year and a half. Our surveying team has
23 been going out there, you know, to get the boundary
24 marked. I believe they're just about finished with
25 it. But during their survey, they actually came

1 across an encroachment from this property, from the
2 Steiners. So they have an outbuilding in the red
3 hashed area that would be fairly difficult to
4 remove. Their driveway also is basically directly
5 adjacent to what the new boundary line would be
6 there.

7 So this kind of cleans up that
8 encroachment. It gives them a little bit more
9 buffer on their driveway. And in exchange, you
10 know, we're getting enhanced access between two of
11 the game lands parcels there for hunters and for us
12 to do habitat management work.

13 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: So
14 basically a boundary line, good neighborly clean up?

15 MR. HAYDT: Correct.

16 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: Got you.

17 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any more
18 discussion? Mr. Secretary, would you please call
19 the vote?

20 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
21 of the motion, signify by saying aye.

22 AYES RESPOND

23 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
24 nay? The motion carries.

25 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for

1 consideration can become on page 64 of your agendas.
2 VFW Ecker Haupt Post 5635 is offering 0.06 more or
3 less acres of land in Lackawaxen Township, Pike
4 County, adjoining State Game Land Number 116 to the
5 Commission in exchange for 0.06 more or less acres
6 of State Game Land Number 116 in Lackawaxen
7 Township, Pike County. This exchange will allow the
8 Commission to have access along Route 590. Land
9 exchanges are authorized under Section 7231 of the
10 Game and Wildlife Code.

11 PRESIDENT KNICK: Have a motion?

12 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: So moved.

13 PRESIDENT KNICK: Second?

14 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: Second.

15 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do we have any
16 discussion? Mr. Secretary, would you call a vote,
17 please?

18 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
19 of the proposal, please signify by saying aye.

20 AYES RESPOND

21 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
22 nay? The motion carries.

23 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you.

24 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
25 consideration is found on page 66. Limerick Town

1 Center, LLC is offering 60 more or less acres of
2 land in Limerick Township, Montgomery County,
3 adjoining State Game Land Number 234 in addition to
4 377.2 acres of land in Burn Township, Berks County
5 and 176.8 acres of land in Edgemont Township,
6 Delaware County to the Commission in exchange for 55
7 more or less acres of State Game Land 234 in
8 Limerick Township, Montgomery County, as well as a
9 200 foot right-of-way across the remaining State
10 Game Land Number 234. The land in Berks County will
11 provide old field management opportunities while the
12 land in Delaware County will be the first State game
13 land in this county. Land exchanges are authorized
14 under Section 7231 of the Game and Wildlife Code.

15 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do we have a
16 motion?

17 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: So moved.

18 PRESIDENT KNICK: Do we have a
19 second?

20 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Second.

21 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion?

22 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Mr. President,
23 if I may, please. This one here is very near and
24 dear to my heart. I received a call on Tuesday by
25 some hunters and they asked me to come down and take

1 a look at this. And what a beautiful game land it
2 is. But most importantly, those hunters asked me to
3 help and I told them I would do everything in my
4 power to help them. Unfortunately, all I have is
5 what I have now and it is my vote and I'll be voting
6 no on this. Thank you, Mr. President?

7 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any more
8 discussions?

9 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Yes, I'd like
10 to say something. Earlier today in comments, there
11 was an inference made as to the honesty of the - of
12 our land acquisition team in presenting this
13 material to us. I like to say I really, really
14 resented that as I have the utmost respect for their
15 integrity and honesty. We dealt with them, this land
16 acquisition team, for eight years. We never had one
17 instance to believe that they were misleading us.
18 So that's all I'd like to say. Thanks.

19 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you,
20 Commissioner. Any more comments?

21 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Yes, Mr.
22 President. I just want to echo what Dr. Mitrick
23 just said. I mean, we have spent quite a bit of
24 time as the Board here over the past week. I had to
25 take a walk on the break that we had earlier because

1 I was pretty moved by calling into question the
2 credibility of our team here. We have spent as a
3 Board - and I've been here for over three years.
4 We've had many, many of these transactions. I mean,
5 what you just heard before, there's been a number of
6 land exchanges and, you know, we've been presented
7 with, you know, similar types of transactions. And
8 since I've been here, even, you know, being a
9 partner of the agency, work I do for almost, you
10 know, ten years, I've never seen a transaction come
11 back and be presented with we did something that was
12 not in the best interest of wildlife hunters.

13 When were we represented this - and
14 this is obviously a difficult situation here. I
15 mean, it's not the cleanest. I think we've seen
16 that. These are difficult transactions. But I just
17 wanted to, one, thank the staff for standing here
18 because we've had this - the game lands there now
19 for 66 years. Property next to this has been
20 sitting vacant in one of the highest valued counties
21 in Pennsylvania.

22 So what was presented to us, I think
23 the handout here, you know, clearly states that the
24 township in, I think, June 18, 2024, passed an
25 ordinance promoting, I guess, a heavy industrial use

1 and specifically logistics center, warehouse
2 conditional and focused on data centers. And so
3 when I watched the township meeting - and Steve, am
4 I correct in understanding that we did not get asked
5 by the township to present information?

6 MR. SMITH: I'm not aware of any -.

7 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: And so I watched
8 this at home in Cochranville. A lot of information
9 being passed around that was not correct. And so we
10 heard today, you know, a number of comments again
11 calling into question our team. The presentation
12 Dave, which you made yesterday - I heard a comment
13 about it was a marketing presentation, which it was
14 not. It was a factual presentation that was
15 presented to us, presented to the public of what is
16 here.

17 And, you know, I know you and the
18 team have, you know, worked with this developer here
19 because we were clearly going to have an impact on
20 our existing game lands if we do nothing, if we do
21 nothing. And so what you see on that on the left-
22 hand side, the bottom right - we pull this up on
23 your Google Maps. I pull it up here and maybe the
24 property looks a little different right now, but
25 what we're effectively doing is we've had a net gain

1 of 5 acres. We're swapping 55 to get 60 and we're
2 protecting that area along the Schuylkill River.

3 So we're not losing a tremendous
4 amount there. If we did nothing, we're going to
5 have a major impact. And let me just say that this
6 is my area. I live not too far away. I pass by
7 that area quite a bit. We also are now gaining -
8 which we didn't have to - we didn't have to do this
9 - two other parcels, 377 acres and 176. By my math
10 - this is not official - that's probably \$20 million
11 worth of property we're gaining. If I do my own
12 math, not officially.

13 So I commend the team and what they're -
14 what they've done with this. And again, a lot of
15 these situations are very sticky and very hairy,
16 very messy. But I just wanted to just reiterate
17 just the credibility that I have seen from the staff
18 and the hard work that you all do. So I just wanted
19 to make that point. Sorry for belaboring this
20 issue.

21 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFFER: Chime in
22 as well on this. And you know, to Commissioner
23 Pride's earlier point, it's a - this is not a clear,
24 you know, very black and white deal. But as a
25 commissioner with the fiduciary responsibility to

1 all Pennsylvanians, man, I take a look at this and I
2 see winners and losers on both sides.

3 Right? Like, I'm sure the people
4 that live in those houses next to that red hash mark
5 on Penhurst Road feel very, very differently from
6 the folks that live, you know, at the - on
7 Sweetwater Road out there that could establish first
8 State game land in Delaware County.

9 So we don't take these decisions
10 lightly. We don't take these decisions and, you
11 know, necessarily rubberstamp and move on. We
12 understand those implications and, you know, like I
13 said, winners and losers. But man, the winner side
14 is pretty heavy.

15 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any more
16 discussion? Mr. Secretary, could we have a roll
17 call vote, please?

18 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Okay.
19 President Knick?

20 PRESIDENT KNICK: No.

21 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs. Sankey?

22 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: I vote no.
24 Mr. Foradora?

25 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr.

2 Fredericks?

3 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mrs.

5 Koppenhafer?

6 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFER: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Mitrick?

8 COMMISSIONER MITRICK: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Mr. Pride?

10 COMMISSIONER PRIDE: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Commissioner

12 Schwalm?

13 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: No.

14 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: There are

15 three negatives and -.

16 PRESIDENT KNICK: The vote passed six
17 to three.

18 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next item for
19 consideration can be found on page 70. Constance A.
20 and Timothy D. Maida are offering a 25 foot wide
21 right-of-way for 2,212 more or less feet of existing
22 access road into State Game Lane Number 120 in
23 exchange for a 25 foot right-of-way for 1,587 more
24 or less feet of existing access road through State
25 Game Land Number 120 connecting separate properties

1 owned by the Maidas in Jordan Township, Clearfield
2 County. The Commission's right-of-way will provide
3 both administrative and lawful user access from
4 Frailey Road to 147 more or less landlocked acres of
5 State Game Land Number 120 west of Verona Road.
6 Land exchanges are authorized under Section 7231 of
7 the Game and Wildlife Code.

8 PRESIDENT KNICK: We have a motion?

9 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Motion.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: Second.

11 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion on
12 this? None being heard, Mr. Secretary, would you
13 call a vote, please?

14 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
15 of the motion, please signify by saying aye.

16 AYES RESPOND

17 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
18 no? The motion carries.

19 MR. HAYDT: Mr. President, I'd just
20 like to acknowledge, you know, the real estate team
21 and their dedication. This is a pretty full package
22 of real estate items for this meeting. So I just
23 want to acknowledge their dedication and also
24 significant help from our regional field staff on
25 many of these acquisitions. So just want to give

1 them kudos.

2 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you.

3 ATTORNEY MARTSON: The next and final
4 matter is on page 72 of your agendas. This is an
5 informational item only, therefore no action
6 required.

7 PRESIDENT KNICK: That is all we have
8 for today. Our next meeting will be April 10th and
9 11th. But at this time, I had Commissioner
10 Koppenhafer chair our committee for nominations and
11 elections. At this time, I turn it over to her to
12 see who our next president, vice president and
13 secretary would be.

14 COMMISSIONER KOPPENHAFER: Thank you,
15 Mr. President. Just before we hand the gavel over,
16 I would like to, you know, express my thank you for
17 your leadership and your dedication. It's been an
18 honor serving with you and I think I speak for the
19 entire Board when I say, you know, if we know Stan
20 is in the room, everybody's going to be smiling. He
21 will take the most contentious situation and find a
22 way to make people laugh about it.

23 So your humor is one of your biggest
24 assets. Don't ever lose that. We appreciate that
25 about you.

1 With that, as most of the folks in
2 this room are aware, we serve one-year terms in the
3 lead officer role for president, vice president and
4 secretary. So after speaking to my fellow
5 commissioners, slate of officers for next year lined
6 up are Ms. Haley Sankey as President, Mr. Allen
7 DiMarco as Vice President, Bob Schwalm as Secretary.
8 With that, I'll let you hand the gavel over.

9 PRESIDENT KNICK: Thank you so much.
10 And it was -. We have a vote on officers - motion
11 first on officers?

12 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: So moved.

13 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Second.

14 PRESIDENT KNICK: Any discussion on
15 the officers? None being heard, Mr. Secretary,
16 would you call a vote, please?

17 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those in favor
18 of the motion, please signify by saying aye.

19 AYES RESPOND

20 COMMISSIONER DIMARCO: Those opposed,
21 no? The motion carries.

22 PRESIDENT KNICK: Okay.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Before you
25 adjourn, I do want to also thank you for your

1 service and let everyone know that we went into this
2 year hoping that Stanley would do what Stanley does
3 best, which is communicate and keep in touch with
4 all of us. And there wasn't a week that went by, I
5 don't think, where we were talking. He makes an
6 effort every single time to make sure everyone is
7 included and up to date. And that's - it's very
8 time-consuming and it requires a level of effort
9 that I know not everyone is built for. So we
10 appreciate that. Thank you.

11 PRESIDENT KNICK: I know that you
12 will be - are going to be a great president and you
13 will lead us through the next year.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHWALM: I'd like to
15 say something, Mr. Ex-President. Thank you very
16 much for all that you've done this year and your
17 dedication and your passion. I greatly appreciate
18 the opportunity to serve with you. And I look
19 forward to working with you, Commissioner Sankey.
20 And good things are - great things are going to
21 come.

22 COMMISSIONER FORADORA: Stan,
23 Commissioner Knick, thank you for your service. I
24 know you work tirelessly and travel all around the
25 state. So appreciate all your efforts and look

1 forward to - you're still going to continue, so look
2 forward to working with you. And thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER FREDERICKS: Likewise,
4 Stanley. Thank you very much for your service. And
5 I know this has been a wild and crazy year.
6 Commissioner Sankey, you have my sympathy.
7 Congratulations.

8 PRESIDENT KNICK: I would like to
9 thank everybody for letting me serve this past year.
10 You had faith in me that I could do this. And I'll
11 tell you what it was a memorable year, a lot of
12 things from the first day with the Sunday hunting
13 'til today, this long meeting, some of these
14 decisions that we had to make where we work
15 together. We're all - like I said before, we all
16 like ice cream. Some of just like chocolate,
17 vanilla or butter pecan. We're all here for the
18 same reasons. I thank all of you.

19 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Steve has
20 something to share.

21 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Stan, I'd like to
22 recognize your service as president as well. Stan
23 would check in on me multiple times throughout the
24 week, and Stan is generally a man of few words and
25 that's okay because I am as well. So our calls

1 would be brief. He would say, everything good with
2 you? Yeah. Everything good with you? Yeah. All
3 right, well, I'll talk to you in a couple days.
4 That's where we left things.

5 But when we go deeper than that,
6 which we did sometimes, Stan often had a lot of
7 wisdom to impart, and I appreciate that. You
8 brought your perspective as a lifelong hunter,
9 Pennsylvania hunter, eight years now on this Board
10 and decades in local government, and you brought all
11 that perspective with you. And I benefited from
12 your wisdom, your experience and I think the Board
13 did as well. And we'd like to now give you a print
14 on behalf of the Commission.

15 PRESIDENT KNICK: Steve's not telling
16 you everything. There's sometimes I call and he
17 wasn't there or I text him and say, call me when you
18 get a chance. And he'd call me back and there'd be
19 hesitation. As soon as heard the hesitation, he
20 goes, what is wrong now, you know? And then we'd
21 have to figure out what we would have to do about
22 the problem that came about.

23 But it was a pleasure working with
24 you. And I know you're always available for me, and
25 I try to be available for you. It was a memorable

1 year. Thank you so much. Thank you, everybody.

2 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: Stanley, you
3 going to come up here and gavel us out one last
4 time?

5 PRESIDENT KNICK: No, you got to
6 gavel it. It's yours. Not mine anymore.

7 COMMISSIONER SANKEY: All right.
8 Meeting adjourned.

9 * * * * *

10 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 3:39 P.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings,
a meeting held before President Knick, was reported
by me on 1/24/26 and that I, Derek Richmond, read
this transcript, and that I attest that this
transcript is a true and accurate record of the
proceeding.

Date the 28th day of January, 2026



Derek Richmond,
Court Reporter