

Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee

August 9, 2014 meeting

Meeting called to order @ 9:00 AM by Chairman Terry Laymon

Roll call: 16 of 20 members present

Members: Bud Dankers, Terry Laymon, Eric McGhee, Paul Conners, Steve Wyckoff, Stathi Kristells, Mike Dabrowski, Matt Lacombe, Mike Zoli, Dan Villwock, Max Lehman, Steve Allaire, Jeff Godi, Ryan Peters (for Dan Cleary), Erv DeWeerd, Brandon Yuchasz **Absent:** Ed Retherford, Mark Curtis, Dan Cleary, Bruce Bahr, Leonard Kaanta

DNR Waterfowl Workgroup: Barbara Avers, David Luukkonen, Terry McFadden, Nik Kalejs, Joe Robison, Don Avers, Brian Piccolo, Jeremiah Heise, Mark Mills, Bill Scullon

DNR staff & guests: Russ Mason (WLD), Dan Prince (LED), Mike Richardson (WLD), Bruce Barlow (WLD)

Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee mission: *To provide feedback to the DNR-Wildlife Division on existing and proposed waterfowl regulations and wetland management issues. CWAC members must present views and concerns which represent stakeholders from their areas of the state and disseminate information learned at CWAC meetings back to those stakeholders.*

M/S Zoli/Wycoff: To approve March 2014 minutes. Passed

John McNamara and Bud Dankers were recognized for their service on CWAC and received plaques & gifts.

Bill Scullon announced that the Michigan Waterfowl Association has dis-banded and that Leonard Kaanta has stepped down from the CWAC.

Wildlife Div. Chief Russ Mason: Discussed upcoming teal season. Discussed 2 hen mallard limit. Potential projects to improve habitat. Also, brought issues concerning how wildlife issues are managed, either through science or political.

Law Enforcement Div. CO Dan Prince: 23 new officers in final training. Potentially another class in January ~40 officers. Possibly 50 to retire within next 18 months.

Dave Luukkonen: gave the Mississippi Flyway update. No changes to duck framework except 1 canvasback. Considering liberalizing goose regulations.

Potential change to regulation process is in the works. Potential to change zone splits in 2016. Possible increase in (Federal) duck stamp price to \$25.00.

Dave Luukkonen: Canada goose populations and considerations. Overall Canada goose population is stable and above expected

Barbara Avers: Duck populations and considerations. Discussed Michigan harvest numbers. Habitat conditions mostly good to excellent across flyway. Total population 49.2 million, 8% above last year and a record high. Pintails and scaup only species not above LTA. Michigan mallards similar to last year and 36% below LTA.

Considerations for seasons:

M/S Kristells/Yuchasz: To have North Zone Duck Sept 27-Nov 23 (58 days), then Nov 29-30 (2 days). Passed 16 yes

M/S Wycoff/Lehman: To have Middle Zone Duck Oct 4-Nov 30 (58 days), then Dec 13-14 (2 days). Passed 15 yes, 1 no

M/S Lehman/Godi: To have South Zone Duck Oct.11-Dec.7 (58 days), then Dec 27-28 (2 days). Passed 16 yes

M/S Villwock/Lehman: To have Middle Zone Regular goose Oct 4-Dec 25. Passed 16 yes

M/S Lehman/Allaire: To have South Zone Regular Goose Oct 11-Dec 7 and Dec 27-28. Passed 16 yes

M/S Conner/Lehman: To have Late goose season Jan 10-Feb 7(29 days)
Failed 8 yes, 8 no

M/S Villwock/McNamara: To have Late goose season Jan 17-Feb 14 (29 days)
Passed 12 yes, 3 no, 1 abstain

M/S Connor/Laymon: To have Muskegon GMU goose Oct 15-Nov 12, then Dec 3-21. Passed 16 yes

M/S Wycoff/Villock: To have Allegan GMU goose Nov 1-Jan 3. Passed 16 yes

M/S Lehman/Zoli: To have Saginaw GMU goose Oct.11-Dec 7 & Dec 27-Jan 26
Passed 16 yes

M/S Dabrowski/Lehman: To have Tuscola/Huron GMU goose Oct.11-Dec 7 & Dec 27-Jan 20. Passed 16 yes

M/S Wycoff/Villwock: To have Snow & Ross's same as regular goose and late goose in each zone with a 20 bird limit. Brant same as regular and late goose in each zone with a 1 bird limit. White-front geese same format as 2013 with a 1 bird limit. Passed 16 yes

Break for lunch. Thanks to MDNR for lunch!

Group discussion of duck bag limits.

M/S Villwock/Zoli: To accept federal framework for bag limits as presented. Passed 15 yes 1 no

Barb Avers presented the early teal season information with links to the information at the DNR website concerning the experimental season.

Nominations for secretary:

M/S Wycoff/Yuchasz: To nominate in-coming member Dan Dykstra for secretary. Failed 10 yes, 6 no

Moved to close nominations.

M/S Wycoff/Lehman: To leave the secretary position open with DNR staff to record the minutes: Passed 16 yes

Steve Wycoff discussed Scientific Fish & Wildlife Act passage. Vote is near and Steve requested that we contact our representatives to assure passage.

M/S Villwock/Dabrowski: Next CWAC meeting March 7, 2015, location TBD. Passed 16 yes

Meeting adjourned at 1:49

Respectfully submitted

Bud Dankers, Secretary