

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – JUNE 15, 2016

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 9:38 am.

Approval for the June 15, 2016 Meeting Agenda

- Motion
 1. Commissioner Michael moved to approve the June 15, 2016 Wildlife Advisory Commission meeting agenda.
 2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for the April 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes

- Motion
 1. Commissioner Gregor moved to approve the April 20, 2016 Wildlife Advisory Commission meeting minutes.
 2. Commissioner Michael seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Wildlife and Heritage Service Regional Operations Program Update – Presentation given by Associate Director Karina Stonesifer

- Associate Director Stonesifer provided the Commission with an update of the Wildlife and Heritage Service Regional Operations Program. [ATTACHMENT A].
 1. Regional Operations includes 56 staff in 15 offices. Staff are tasked with land management, wildlife response, outreach events, managed hunt programs, and technical support to other wildlife programs. Staff manage 61 Wildlife Management Areas totaling more than 123,000 acres.
 2. Associate Director Stonesifer mentioned that the Regional Operations Program has had several staff members retire within the last year, as well as several staff members being reassigned to fill these vacant positions.
 3. Jeff McAfee, Western Region Wildlife Response Technician, was recognized as being named the 2015 Wildlife and Heritage Service employee of the year.
 4. Regional Operations Staff are in the process of replacing Wildlife Management Area (WMA) signs. Signage will now be universal throughout all the WMAs. Signs will include a QR bar code that can be scanned with a smart phone, which will link constituents with the DNR webpage and more information concerning that particular WMA.
- Questions/Comments
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked if the QR (Quick Response) code would work through the DNR app?
 - a. Staff will follow-up with the appropriate Information Technology staff to determine if this is an option.
 2. Commissioner Michael asked if the map resources would be linked to any GIS readers.

- a. The WMA maps will be pdf based.
- b. Merlin would not work well on all mobile devices.

Hunter Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation in Maryland – Presentation given by Chris Markin – Natural Resources Biologist – Information and Education

- Chris Markin – Natural Resources Biologist with the Information and Education section – provided the Commission with an update of the Hunter Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation Program. [ATTACHMENT B]
 1. Hunting license sales in Maryland have remained static, or slightly decreased, over the last decade.
 2. Hunting and Shooting Sports Outreach Program began in August 2014, offering introductory workshops in deer, waterfowl, turkey, small game, and dove hunting, as well as shooting sports.
 3. Mentored Youth Hunt Program has been discontinued
 - a. Although the program received high ratings, the majority of participants were already hunting. The program was not bringing in new hunters.
 4. Information and Education staff are now looking at a new approach that will target new and inexperienced hunters.
 - a. Pair new hunters with experienced hunters on guided hunts for all game species
 - b. Continued Education Workshops that focus on techniques.
 - c. “Field to Table” workshops that focus on all aspects of the hunt and game preparation.
- Questions/Comments
 1. Chairman Compton commented that WHS staff should work with hunter education regional coordinators to ensure that hunter education instructors are distributing materials about WHS Information and Education Programs.
 2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked if it is possible to use COMPASS to target certain demographics.
 - a. Mr. Markin said that he is working with IT on this issue.
 3. Chairman Compton mentioned that there should be an effort to target the minority demographics with these programs.

Old Business

- Director Peditto provided an update for the Poaching Prevention Act of 2012 and the Poaching Restitution Act of 2016.
 1. Discussion amongst Commission members ensued on both topics.
 2. The Commission noted that the Governor did not sign the Poaching Restitution Act of 2016, but did not veto it, which allowed it to become a state law.
 3. Commissioner Michael offered his assistance with any cases that may come about involving these laws.

New Business

- Director Peditto asked the commission to have a certificate sent to Gary Fratz, who is resigning from the Wildlife Advisory Commission.
 1. Commissioner Michael moved to approve.
 2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
 3. All in favor – motion passed.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 am.

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 am on Wednesday July 20, 2016 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, E. Gulbransen, J. Schroyer, T. Gregor, J. Michael
Absent:	S. Boyles Griffin, M. Goetz, G. Fratz, R. Weinberg
Guest:	
Staff:	R. Haley, C. Markin, J. Moulis, P. Peditto, and K. Stonesifer

ATTACHMENT A

Wildlife and Heritage Service

Regional Operations Program

WMA Mission

To conserve and enhance diverse wildlife populations and associated habitats while providing public enjoyment of the State's wildlife resources through hunting and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

Regional Ops Staff and Responsibilities

- 56 staff in 15 offices located from Garrett County to Somerset County.
- Land Management
- Wildlife Response
- Outreach Events
- Managed Hunt Program
- Technical Support to Other Programs

Land Management

- 61 Wildlife Management Areas totaling more than 123,000 acres
- Located in 18 of 23 counties
- Ranging in size from 1 -30,000 acres
- 8 of the 60 WMA's host a field office
- Land management crews range in size from 2-3 staff covering as many as 14 WMA's



Outreach and Education

- Junior Hunter Field Days
- Jakes Days
- State Fair
- Wetlands and Wildlife Field Days
- Hunter 101 Workshops
- Envirothon
- Support to the I&E program



Wildlife Response

24/7 Emergency Response

- Disease Outbreaks,
- Nuisance Animals,
- Injured Animals
 - Over 600 recorded responses
- Animal Damage Control
 - 1,665 permits issued in 2015



Black Bear Response Team

- 24/7 emergency response for:
 - Road Kills
 - Bears in homes
 - Aggressive bears
 - Livestock kills
-
- **In 2015**
 - Over 130 bear responses in the field
 - Approximately 80 of those after hours



Managed Hunt Program

- Myrtle Grove WMA Permit Office
 - Issued 2,503 permits and issued 8,092 reservations
- Gwynnbrook WMA Permit Office
 - Issued 3,666 permits and issued 11,948 reservations

Technical Support to Other Programs

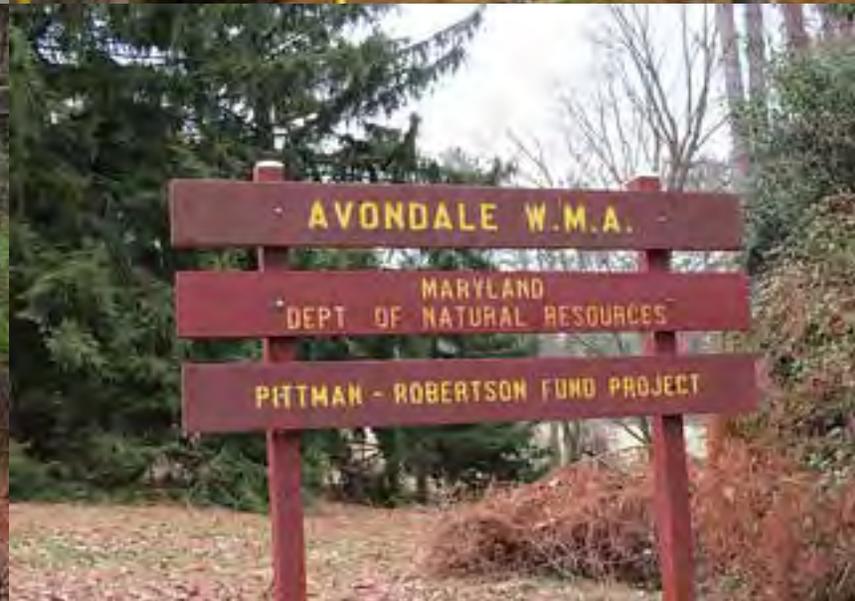


What's New

- Staff Opportunities
- Wildlife Management Plans
- WMA Branding



Out With the Old....



...In With the New

NANTICOKE RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Lower Marshyhope Swamp Area

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Questions?



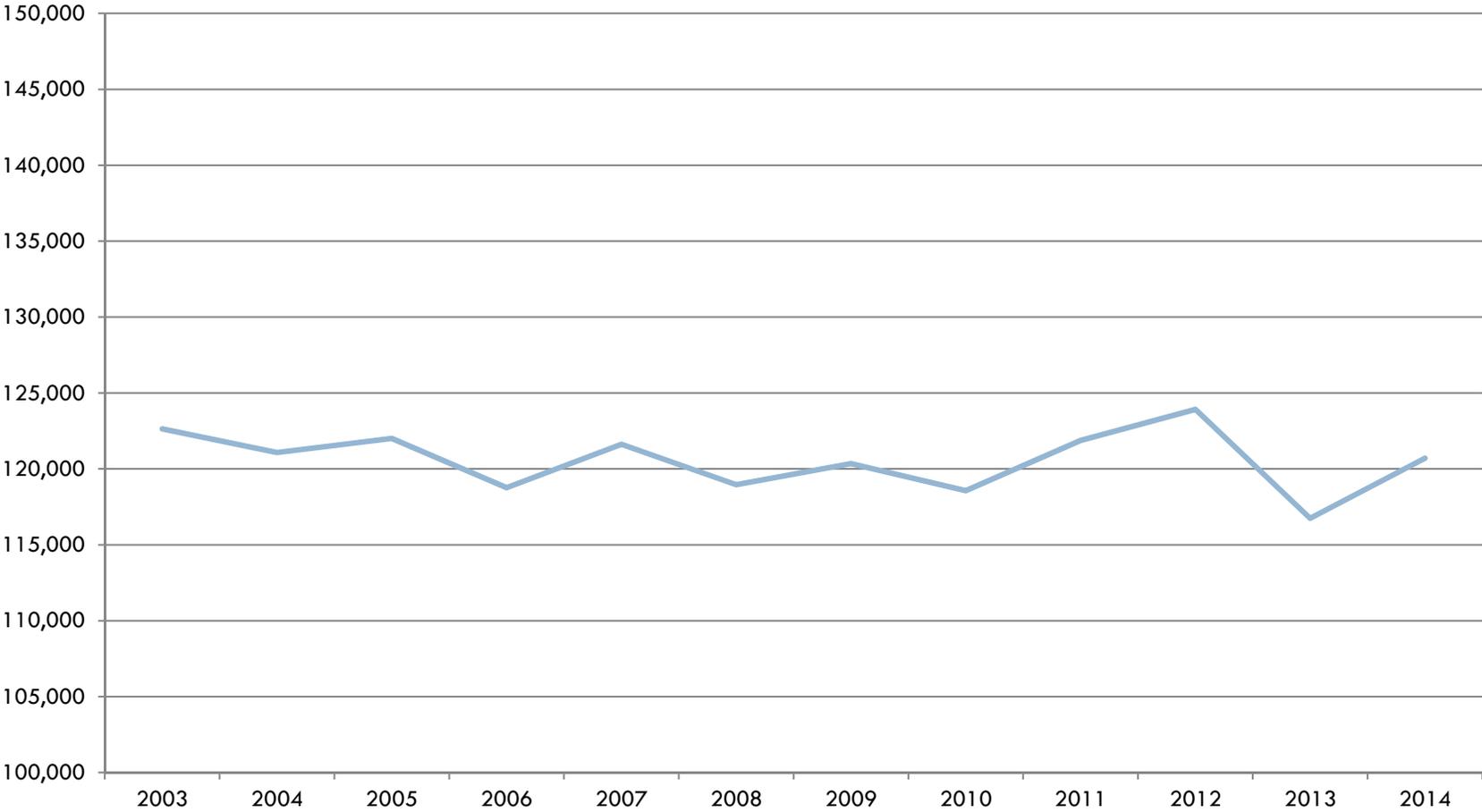


HUNTER RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND REACTIVATION IN MARYLAND

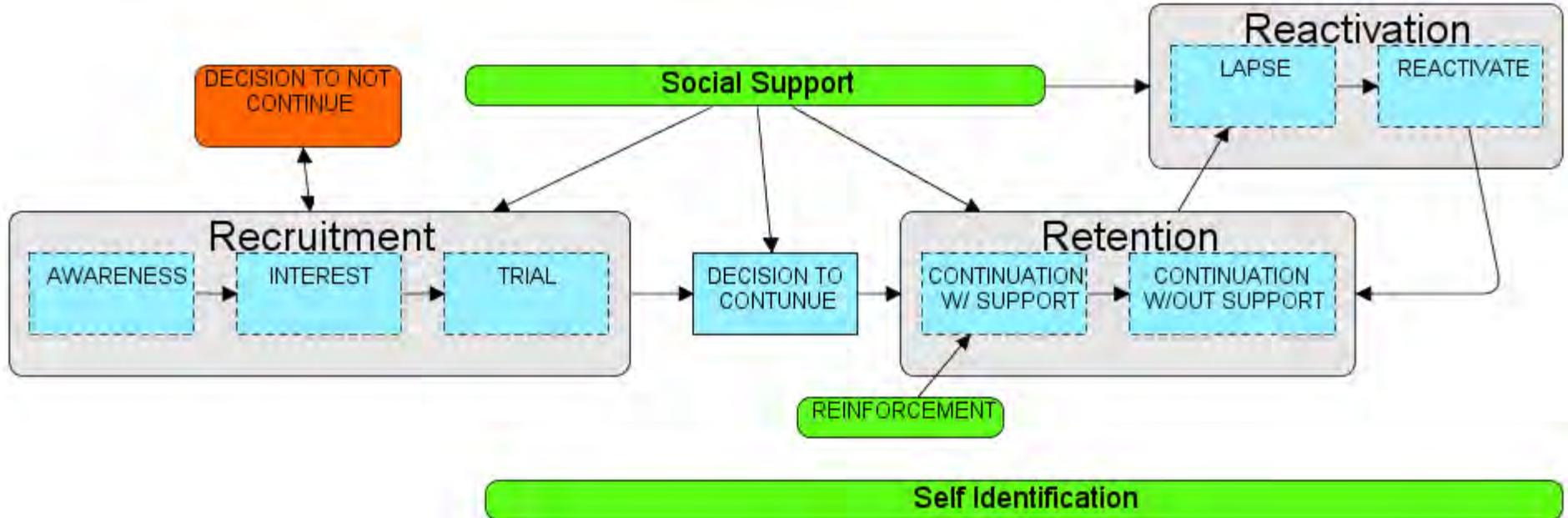
Chris Markin



Hunting Licenses Purchased In Maryland



R3 Model



National Hunter Statistics

- ▣ 89% male / 11% female
- ▣ 94% White or Caucasian
- ▣ 55% older than 45 years of age
 - *45-54 represented 23%, largest group*
- ▣ 53% 1 or more years of college
- ▣ 38% Rural
 - *becoming more suburban*
- ▣ Mostly middle class
 - *64% household income of \$50K or more*

Hunting and Shooting Sports Outreach Program

- Program rolled out in August 2014

- ❑ 23 workshops
- ❑ Over 500 participants

- Types of workshops

- ❑ Deer Hunting 101
- ❑ Waterfowl Hunting 101
- ❑ Turkey Hunting 101
- ❑ Small Game Hunting 101
- ❑ Dove Hunting 101
- ❑ Shooting Sports 101



Follow Up



- Surveyed all past participants
 - 85% rated the workshop excellent
 - 13% attended a Hunter Education Course after the workshop (57% had already attended)
 - 27% purchased a hunting license after the workshop
 - 33% hunted post-workshop for the species detailed in their specific workshop
 - 75% felt the workshop aided in their hunting experience

Mentored Youth Hunts

- 85 participants
- 94% have hunted prior
- 99% have a hunter in their family
- 91% learned from a male relative



New Approach

- Field to Table
- Wild Game Tastings
 - ▣ New Demographic
 - ▣ Cater to trends
 - ▣ Re-think where and how we promote



**I ♥ EATING
LOCAL FOOD**

New Approach

- Continued Education Workshops
 - ▣ Focus on techniques
 - ▣ Beyond the hunt



New Approach



- Mentored Hunts
 - ▣ Pair participants with experienced hunters on guided hunts for all species
 - ▣ First time license buyers that have not harvested that particular species
 - ▣ Limit to 18 and older
 - ▣ Statewide



Thank you for your time!

Questions or comments?

Chris Markin

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