

**WEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
SATURDAY JANUARY 22, 2011 at 10:00 AM
ROOM 206, CHARLESTON CIVIC CENTER
CHARLESTON, WV**

- President Jerod Harman called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

- Report from WV DNR Wildlife Resources – Curtis Taylor reported on a nation-wide push to establish Sunday hunting. West Virginia is to be emphasized in this strategy in 2013. Curtis thanked everyone for participating in NH&F Day and invited members to the upcoming Natural Resources Commission Meeting.

- Paul Johansen reported on the hunter harvests for 2010. There was a record bear harvest. The deer harvest was down 32%, which was due to a combination of lower deer herds and a large mast crop reducing hunter harvest. Paul anticipates a more conservative antlerless seasons this fall. There was a Chronic Wasting Disease positive deer killed in Hardy County this year. Paul also reported on the results of a legislative audit on deer management. Recommendations were to consider deer vehicle collisions and deer damage in management decisions. DNR legislative recommendations will include a clean-up of the law to allow for electronic checking and allowing hunters less than 15 years of age to purchase a class N stamp without a hunter education certificate if they hunt with an adult. Paul answered some questions on the proposed elk management program.

- Bret Preston reported that we are getting some blue catfish returns in the Ohio River. There is concern that the Asian carp (silver carp) is now in the lower Ohio River and is expected to move up the river. Bret also reported on the Monongahela River Access site at Fort Martin and said another similar access was planned near Nitro on the Kanawha River. There is a lot of concern over Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS). It is found in the mid-west but has not been reported in WV yet. The crappie kill last year in Stonewall Jackson Lake was a bacteria infection. They are putting together fish health assessment kits to assist the diagnostics of fish disease evaluations.

- NH&FD committee with WV DNR – The Youth Challenge/Outdoors Skills Challenge was discussed. This year a record of nearly 1000 youths participated in the challenge. In addition a record attendance for the event

was recorded. This was a result of more advertising, good weather and participation by sportsmen groups.

- Jerod and Jim Summers reported on Spider Block projects on Burnsville and Summersville Lakes. Contact Jim or Jerod to participate in these habitat projects.
- Legislative discussion – Legislative bills to transfer captive deer management to the Department of Agriculture and its implications on wildlife management and threats to the deer herd were discussed. There are legislative discussions that are pushing the use of ATVs on wildlife management areas.
- Threats to hunting in wilderness areas – A court decision on the Manatee-Huron National Forest that restricts hunting on wilderness areas and its implications in WV were discussed.
- WVWF will sponsor two scholarships to WV Conservation Camp
- The EPA ruled to deny restricting the use of lead bullets and lead fishing equipment, but it is expected that it will be appealed in court and if so the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the American Sports Fisheries Association will intervene.
- Annual election of WVWF officers – The nominations committee reported that the slate of officers for 2011 are: President – Jerod Harman, 1st Vice President - Jim Summers, 2nd Vice President – Arthur Mullins, 3rd Vice President – Dana Brown, Treasurer- Bob Wines and Secretary – Jim Evans.