



Meeting Notes
Northeast Regional Advisory Panel Meeting
October 26, 2016
Meeting 5:00PM – 9:00PM
Blue Dog Hatchery

RAP Members in Attendance: Julie Johnson, Neil Bien, Taylor Anderson, Dick Pearson, Lee Schull, Bob Tiff, John Johnson, Rick Smith

RAP Absent: Bob Olson, Rick Hentges

Staff in Attendance: Scott Lindgren, Mike Klosowski, Jacquie Ermer, Mark Ermer, Tim McCurdy, Willy Collignon

Others in Attendance: Dominic Wieseler and Jody Pletan from Brotherhood Arms

Welcome, Opening Remarks, Review Previous NE Regional Advisory Panel Meeting by *Scott Lindgren, Regional Supervisor*

- Scott reviewed discussion and topics from last meeting held at Brown Co Sportsmen Club in March: Goose management, goose depredation, AMT, Day Co trespass case, mercury in lakes, fish regulation changes, NR Waterfowl licenses available in new area

RAP Members Share What is Going On in Their Area

- Neil: losing water despite some timely rains, good crops this year, migration starting, monarch migration impressive-starting to see more milkweed saved, waterfowl season not great so far, less wetlands for resting/roosting, sharptail population look good, pheasant population not good, deer seem on increase, fishing good in spots; especially walleye if know where to go

- Julie: pheasants down a little and in turn economics down too in Aberdeen area but will likely see a boost later in season; hunters are posting positive comments though

- Taylor: pheasants definitely down, seeing more deer this year than in last couple years, coyote numbers seem down and fox up, dry through Putney Slough area, duck hunting slow, lake levels down about 2ft

- Dick P: good fall hunting so far- goose and duck hunting good even though numbers down; # wheat fields down; pheasants down but not as bad as think; deer numbers way up and seem to be a lot of young deer

- Lee: turkeys getting closer to Watertown; a lot young pheasants on property; planted 7 areas with pheasant brood mix in May- fabulous; no hail; heard Codington county duck hunting not good; good deer population; Kampeska water level way down

- Bob T: pheasant population around Redfield worst ever seen; very dry Jun-Aug; motels haven't been full; deer #s are best in long time; more reports dead deer in Hand, most corn



harvest done in area; no ducks; early goose hunting was good; fishing fantastic Twin and Cottonwood Lakes, great shore fishing

- John: not seeing many pheasants even during corn harvest; sloughs dry; no ducks; good goose traffic early; quite few turkeys and young; planted brood mix same area as last year- thick but not tall

- Rick S: dry spring and June but rains came in July and Aug; too dry in spring and waterfowl didn't nest; lakes full in Hamlin from July and Aug rains; few geese showed up in Sept; no habitat around; pheasants seemed to have disappeared later summer; deer population good; good year for bees; overseeded red clover; townships are starting to get requests to vacate roads

- Questions and Comments:

- Q- what happened to the pheasants?

- Q- LOL turkey tag? Legislature provided this option for deer partly because more demand for license and landowners were getting turned down; most landowners that apply for turkey license are already getting a tag so is there a need for LOL for turkey? Bob Tiff would like to see more turkeys in his area and is willing to release on his land

- Comment: Commercial operations leasing more and more land

Presentations on Hunting/Fishing Technology:

- **Spinning Winged Decoys by Tim McCurdy**

- Decoy history, why do hunters use spinning wing decoys? do they work? 2002 study in MN; legal to use in SD; regulated in some states; Pros: less cripples, attracts, increase harvest, early season success; Cons: spook geese, late season success decreases, traditionalists

- **Trail Camera with Data Packages by Mike Klosowski**

- History, regulations, available products; data cameras- send pictures directly to your cell phone via text or email within 3 minutes (need separate data pkg); wireless camera (no data pkg needed); issues- theft, staking "claim" to area, invasion of privacy

- **Fish Finders by Mark Ermer**

- History, new products, lake mapping, GPS, combining technology all into one unit, underwater cameras; can locate fish but you still have to put line in water and get bite

- **Archery Advancements by Jody Pletan**

- Biggest technological advancement last 15 yrs... String material! (accuracy, stability)

- Less strands does make a difference- increases speed and quietness of bow

- No regulations on string material

- People taking longer and longer shots

- Cams- timing isn't as much of issue; more to do with cam design itself

- How fast is too fast?

- "Let off" poundage laws; 80% is maximum but all bows come in to dealers at 85% so have to change the bow itself to sell- the module has to be changed out... so should GFP change



the maximum??? Why do we regulate let off? fair chase; essentially turns into crossbow if no limit

- Comment- Pope & Young doesn't accept over 75% for good reason
- Arrow advancement... diameter
- Expandable blades (15yrs ago), hybrids
- **Long Range Shooting by Dominic Wieseler**
 - How far is long range?
 - Optics, range finder, bullets, and gun powder
 - Ballistic programs- cell phone apps
 - Exterior ballistics: Wind drift!! Judgement and ethics
 - Suppressors/silencers- legal; carry copy of permit/stamp
 - Rangefinders- last 10-15yrs, laser deer at 1500yds; built into binos, weapon mounted
 - Need complete competency to be long range shooter/hunter!

What Role Should GFP Play in Regulating Technology?

Discussion on Technology in Hunting and Fishing

- technology is relative to the time
- technology has brought enjoyment to many; likely increasing days of recreation
- have we changed "hunting" to just "harvesting"?
- if it's legal and not negatively impacting the resource, is it a big deal?
- hard to judge how someone else hunts or fishes as long as they are doing it legally
- will trail cameras increase harvest of trophy bucks? likely
 - will trail cameras increase days of recreation? likely
 - are data cameras aiding in the hunt?
 - have fish finders/ technology increased harvest? fishermen more likely to keep moving around until in area with fish
 - if technology increases fish harvest, will it limit or decrease opportunity? It could when gets to point when angler pressure increases to a point that we have to limit # anglers on lake because harvest is too great
 - do we have too many archery hunters? when do we restrict? Likely have more archery hunters because not successful drawing rifle tag so pick up archery tag
- has archery success increased with technology? Not really; (graph was handed out; archery license sales and harvest success since 1966); archery harvest likely increased because selling more licenses
 - advanced archery technology has made it easier to start/ shoot right out of box
- Is it ethical to shoot animal with bow at 100yds or gun at 1000yds?



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-Other technology: Drones? Computer shooting?

Summarize Meeting, Updates and Plan for Next Meeting by Scott Lindgren

-Group ran out of time to fully discuss GFP role so Scott will follow up with an email to solicit input and comments on what GFP role should be with respect to regulating technology for hunting and fishing.

Next meeting? Feb or Mar 2017

FYI: Supreme Court hearing Duerre vs Hepler, hear live on Nov 8

Adjourn 9:30pm