

FORT BELVOIR HUNTING PROGRAM COUNCIL (FBHPC)
13 Jan 2010
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

1. Mr. Dave Burpee, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1800 and referred the attendees to the meeting agenda, which had been provided to all.

Council representative attendance was as follows:

<u>Hunting Program Council Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>VOTING Representatives</u>			
Military #1	LTC Mike Zrimm	Vice Chairman	Present
Military #2	LTC Pete Calogero		
Military #3	LTC Ken Deal	Recording Secretary	
Military #4	LTC Greg Franks		Present
Retired Military #1	Tom Howarth		Present
Retired Military #2	Bob Foster		Present
Retired Military #3	Rufus Brinn		Present
Retired Military #4	John Peeler		Present
DOD Civ 1	Dave Burpee	Chairman	Present
DOD Civ 2	Steve Scherer		Present
Civ 1	Steve Richards		
Civ 2	Charlie Shupienus		Present
Civ 3	Ben Mahmoud		Present
Belvoir Bowhunters	Rick Atchison		Present
Director Family & MWR	Bill Parsons		Kim Mills
MWR/Outdoor Rec Supervisor	Dan Hulst		Present
DPW	Kevin Walter		Present
Game Warden	Clint Horton		
MWR Hunting Program	Kristin Mayer		Present

Other attendees included:

Stan Parmentier	Dan Van Grundy
Kevin Brown	Lennie Eubanks
Steve Allyn	Dan Hulst, MWR

2. The 9 December 09 meeting minutes had previously been distributed electronically and were approved by the Council as written.

3. Old Business.

- a. Turkey Subcommittee: Mr. Mahmoud reported no new issues. Mr. Hulst informed the group that Turkey Season LOI staffing would begin electronically before the end of January with publication in February, well before the 10 April opening date.
- b. Waterfowl Subcommittee: Mr. Brinn announced the agenda update item on the Dogue Creek dredging issue would be updated by the Post Staff, since it was no longer a subcommittee issue once referred for action. Mr. Walter of DPW informed the group the Dyke Marsh project proposal, which could possibly use the Dogue Creek dredge spoil, was in the early stages. Funding is an issue, he noted, and the Post could not foot the bill if its interest in the project were taken to mean such. The group discussed both safety and customer utilization as rationale for supporting the marina dredging project. Mr. Walters will keep the Council informed of progress.

Mr. Hulst informed the group that storage space for waterfowling subcommittee gear had been found and equipment would be moved to reopen archery range space.

The issue of waterfowlers cancelling their reserved blind spaces late or not at all, thus blocking others from using them, was discussed. Mr. Scherer pointed out that the waterfowling LOI already addresses this problem and the MWR staff would need to determine what penalties would be assessed. Mr. Hulst indicated he would examine the issue.

From the floor, it was noted the *Mount Vernon Gazette* newspaper had recently published an article dealing with the arrest of duck hunters in the nearby Dyke Marsh Hunting Area. The issue of improper hunter location and moving

blind locations was noted, with Belvoir hunters stating that should not be an issue with our program.

Mr. Scherer noted that several blinds had been damaged by ice and weather so far during the season, and there would be a need to rebuild and relocate some of them. Mr. Brinn stated hunter input on blind locations would be requested during the end-of-season waterfowling survey conducted by MWR with subcommittee input.

Mr. Walter informed the group he would be placing duck identification hand outs at the MWR hunter check out desk to assist hunters in identifying their harvest.

- c. Deer Subcommittee: The first two agenda items, road closures and mountain bikes, were passed to the Post for an update.

Mr. Walter updated the council on the road closure decision in areas W1-W6. Roads will be kept closed, but access could be requested by hunters following harvest of a deer by calling in to the hunter check station. He noted there are currently no funds available for road repair. He noted there was no need to revisit the mountain bike issue, and that more completed roads should give hunters more options next year. Agreement had been reached with Humphreys Engineering Center and Mr. Horton and the possibility of pursuing area R-3 was discussed.

Mr. Foster updated the group on the Quality Deer Management (QDM) program as being successful and desired to have that outcome noted in the Council minutes.

Mr. Walter noted that hunters were reporting downed trees across hunting area roads rather than driving around them, which led to a discussion of the need for proper reporting. There was discussion from the floor on the need to insert in the Post LOI the requirement to call the hunter check station. Mr. Hulst indicated that would be in the Turkey LOI.

- d. DPTMS Unexploded Ordnance Update: No update and no representative at the meeting for the second month.
- e. MWR Outdoor Recreation Update: Ms. Mills, representing Mr. Parsons, provided an update on the wounded warrior

proposal. She noted the staff package had been reworked to address five specific issues raised by DPW, and that both Post Safety and Mr. Horton would be requested to review the action. The package would then get a DPW chop, then legal review, then on to final approval. Mr. Burpee noted the sense of urgency needed to successfully work the action, since duck season ends 30 Jan and waterfowling largely ends 13 February.

Mr. Atchison noted the need to consider special licensing requirements, including coordination with the VA and resolution of the Federal Duck Stamp requirement. This led to a group discussion of possibilities to address this, including letter permission for those assigned as wounded warriors. Mr. Hulst informed the council that Post fees would be waived for wounded warriors, and the Council formally requested MWR continue to pursue the action, with an eye toward establishing a "standard annual cycle" that would allow disabled soldiers to hunt without special, one-time event permits of the type currently being used by the Virginia Dept. of Fish and Game and other groups. Licensing and pier blind issues will continue to be a discussion topic.

LTC Zrimm asked the MWR staff how utilization data for the hunting program was being captured, leading to a general discussion on how best to define utilization and hunter success. Mr. Walter stated approved methods do exist and he would work the issue, with Mr. Foster indicating he would like to be involved as well. Mr. Walters stated he would make a "first cut" at a utilization report that could be used by MWR.

Mr. Hulst informed the group he would be the point of contact for any input regarding LOI improvements, and encouraged the group to provide feedback to the upcoming Turkey LOI.

4. New Business

Mr. Walter requested the group consider the means by which the views of hunters could be presented, as well as how best to push information out to the community. Mr. Brinn noted that email addresses could be made available for those who had participated in the waterfowling program for that purpose. Mr. Hulst recommended attaching a copy of the Hunting Council charter to the seasonal LOIs, to inform

hunters of the Council's role. A suggestion box in the hunter check station was also suggested, as was the idea of a digital newsletter and short information blurbs in the Fort Belvoir Post newspaper.

b. Current Hunting demographics:

Qualified Ft Belvoir Hunters		
Status	Deer/Turkey	Waterfowl
Active Duty	122	19
Ret Mil	37	15
GS/NAF/FED/Contract	28	15
Civilian	167	42
Youth	7	2
Total	371	93

Deer Harvest to date: 53 Doe, 8 Button Bucks, 41 Bucks

5. Mr. Burpee set the date for the next Council meeting for 10 February 2010 at 1800 in the Archery Center classroom.

6. There being no additional new business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1852.