

**NJRPA PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES  
MAY 12, 2021**

**Present:** Dina Trunzo, Bill Foelsch, Mona Cholowinski, Tim Hill, Dave Horsnall, Judith Leblein Josephs, Kat Avitt, Rick Wright, Dawn Thompson, Alexis Voli, Katie Frey, Ryan Horne, Jen Underwood, Mary Beth Wheeler, Bruce Kaufmann, Denise Lanza, Debbie Oliver, Lenny Celluro, Jen Gander, Gabrielle Bolarakis, Romaine Eaker Kelly, Janice Grasso, Pat Swartz, Janet Dellett.

**Recreation Certification Workgroup:** Senator Greenstein has sponsored S3741, which provides for the DCA to re-establish and administer the certification program for RA and RS. An Assembly sponsor is needed. Several committee members offered to contact their Assembly person and request that they sign on. The RA certification is coordinated with the NRPA CPRP exam while the RS certification is grandfathered and will eventually be phased out.

**NJDOH Public Recreation Bathing Guidelines (pending): Changes from 2020 and adjustments needed.** Member comments were provided to the department and some were considered in the preparation of the guidelines. However, there are still confusing and/or conflicting statements between the guidelines and the Executive Order. The guidelines have been distributed to the Aquatics section members. The guidelines do not take into consideration expected changes to capacity limits scheduled to be released May 19. Adam Lieb also emailed the Bathing and High Touch information with the guidelines. Sections were reviewed, (mask use, social distancing, staff protections) including the use of “should” versus “shall”. Anyone with questions can contact Judith.

**NJDOH Summer Camp Guidelines: Issues in Interpretation and Implementation.** Last year many camps registered, thinking this was informational during COVID. However, it was discovered that the registrations were actually transitioned to licensing. Many municipal camps do not qualify for licensing. It is recommended that the recreation department discuss this new effort with their local health department. The DOH website has information that conflicts with the communications sent by DOH staff. Is their statutory authority for staff to interpret the guidelines subjectively? Jen Gander and Alexis Voli will prepare a short white paper to be sent to Rick (masks, cohorts, “high risk” definition). Can a meeting be set up with DOH leadership as we did last year? There is inconsistency between the handling of camps, sports, and school attendance. Refer to the FAQ section of the statute. The Community Recreation Section will discuss further at upcoming meetings.

Alexis provided the definition of high risk –

*What is a HIGH-RISK ACTIVITY?*

*A HIGH-RISK ACTIVITY means any recreational component, sport or activity, which exposes a camper to a serious injury because of the inherent danger of the recreational component, sport or activity and which requires a high level of adult supervision at all times.*

**Review of Bills:**

S3540/A5545 – Fairness in Women’s sports Act – The bill provides that participation in school sanctioned sports be based on biological sex at birth. **Monitor**

S3546/A5568 – Monarch Butterfly Conservation - Directs DEP to study and determine whether monarch butterfly should be designated as endangered species. **Support**

S3615/A5003 – Out of State Contractors - imposes an administrative fee equal to one percent of any contract awarded to an out-of-State contractor. **Monitor**

S3630/A5524 – Requires portable anti-choking devices in schools - would require public and nonpublic schools to ensure that at least one portable anti-choking device is made available in the cafeteria, school nurse's office, and any other similar location. Provides for training and reimbursement of associated costs. **Monitor**

S3678/A5617 – Personal Flotation Devices - would require the NJ DEP, and counties and municipalities, to install a Type IV personal flotation device at each lake, pond, or river located in a public park or State forest at which swimming, boating, or ice-skating is permitted. The bill would allow counties and municipalities to draw on funds in their respective "Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Funds" in order to pay for the flotation devices and installation costs. The committee questioned the liability aspect of this requirement. **Monitor**

S3618 – Lake Management Activities - This bill makes a one-time supplemental appropriation of \$10 million for Fiscal Year 2021 to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from the General Fund. The bill directs the DEP to establish a program to use these funds for grants to assist qualified entities to pay certain costs associated with the management and maintenance of lakes for recreation and conservation purposes. The Greenwood Lake Commission, the Lake Hopatcong Commission, and local government units may apply for grants pursuant to the bill. The DEP would be required to approve any application submitted by the Greenwood Lake Commission and the Lake Hopatcong Commission, and each commission would receive a minimum grant award of \$750,000. No Assembly bill at this time. **Support**

S3725 – Summer Earn and Learn Pilot Program - This bill establishes the "Summer Earn and Learn Pilot Program" in the Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program is to ensure that school districts, charter schools, and renaissance schools have the ability to provide students access to supplemental learning assistance and paid career-building employment opportunities. It is a 3 year program and it is hoped that park and recreation departments would be partners in the job assignments. **Support**

S3727/A4706 – Requires Division of Travel and Tourism to establish the Black Heritage Trail and establishes the Black Cultural Heritage Commission. The bill came out of committee with amendments (related to members of the Commission). **Support**

S3741 – re-establishes the RA, RS certification at DCA. **Support Active**

S3755/A4766 – Requires use of annual baseline concussion testing for student athlete in grades 6 to 12. This bill revises the 2010 law. **Monitor**

SJR112/AJR215 – Establishes Women and Girls in Sports Day – February 4. **Support**

A5457/S3491 – Allows any person in the State to administer opioid antidote to a person who is located in this State. Further, any person in this State may administer an opioid antidote to a recipient who is located in this State if the person believes, in good faith, that the recipient is experiencing an opioid

overdose. The bill also provides immunity from criminal, civil, and professional liability both to any person who administers or dispenses an opioid antidote in good faith. **Support**

A5504 – Municipal community center program - Would establish the “Municipal Community Center Grant Program” in the Division of Housing and Community Resources in the Department of Community Affairs. This program would annually provide grants to municipalities for use towards the construction of new community centers. **Support**

A5547 – Forest Stewardship Plans - Would require that a grant awarded by the Department of Environmental Protection for a forest stewardship plan to a local government unit be for the total cost of the development and implementation of the plan. **Support**

A5551 – Public Trust Lands – Requires a public hearing and DEP approval for sale, lease, or exchange of property (tidal flow lands). Notice of the hearing must appear in two newspapers prior to the hearing. **Monitor**

A5553 – Prohibits release of balloons and other floating devices outdoors. Designates action as littering. Requires retailers to post signs about new law. **Support**

A5570/S1463, A5571/S2208, A5579/S1460 – all six bills provide for safer bicycling/motorist safety. Safe distance passing, fines for collisions, safe overtaking, etc. (It is likely they will all be combined). There are some differences in terms of the fines to be assessed – maximum \$400 or \$500. **Support**

AJR220 – designates October 19 as Mike “Doc” Emrick Day. Doc Emrick was the long-time announcer for the NJ Devils. **Support**

NJ SWIM – Judith asked about the status of this bill. Rick replied that there are several bills related to swim safety (A3572, A362) and one resolution (AR14) related to swim instruction for African American youth. The bills remain in committee. NJRPA has been in support of them.

**NEXT MEETING – JULY 7, 2020 – MAY BE IN PERSON PENDING LOCATION AVAILABILITY**