

**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 8, 2015
Bonner Springs Parks and Recreation
Sunflower Room, 200 E 3rd St
Bonner Springs, Kansas**

Approved Subject to
3/26/15 Commission
Approval

The January 8, 2015 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1:00 p.m. at Bonner Springs Parks & Recreation. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Don Budd, Tom Dill, Gary Hayzlett, Roger Marshall and Aaron Rider were present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND GUESTS

The Commissioners and Department staff introduced themselves (Attendance roster - Exhibit A).

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

Sheila Kemmis – At bottom of agenda – March meeting date is 26th, not 23rd. Craig Curtis and Roger Wolfe are changing position of presentation – Quail Initiative then Kaw River.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE October 16, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Sheila Kemmis – On page 10, number 6, KAR 115-2-3, presentation was made by Alan Stark not Linda Lanterman and utility prices were rounded up, they are \$311.50 for one utility, \$371.50 for two utilities and \$431.50 for three utilities.

Commissioner Gary Hayzlett moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Commissioner Tom Dill second. Approved. (Minutes – Exhibit B).

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ken Kreif – (Exhibit C) Met you in 2013 on same subject item; reenergize that discussion on zebra mussels. I was in the military and taught engineers how to operate in chemical environment; zebra mussels are the same. If you move water from one location to another not sure it is contaminated or not. You know after they are contaminated, but end up with potential of moving things around (same as combat environment). I spoke to class of 150 7th graders and shared zebra mussels and how to control them. One young man shared a story about his brother who fell off the boat and cut his feet on zebra mussels on bottom of lake. President said we all have a responsibility to take care of our environment, subject to federal actions; one thing listed was invasive species. That is what is happening here; one twist is you are not in tune with regulations on zebra mussels. From Wisconsin west they have guidelines on how to prevent

zebra mussels. One piece we should reconsider. Since 2003, this slide (handout) showed contamination since then. If we don't make sure things are cleaned, drained and dry end up with contamination. When they die they wash up on shore and cause problems on shorelines too. On USGS website shows where they can be found. We need to not bring anything wet to Kansas waters that is below a dam, don't bring upstream, can be in weeds or the water. Don't want to transfer minnows or bait from one body of water to another, when you have water, lake or stream that is contaminated but not identified yet. Moving bluegill and sunfish as bait is a problem. Bait dealers can harvest bait from water not identified as contaminated; those two things contribute to this peak. Request you take another look at those two guidelines. Commissioner Budd – Doug, do you agree? Nygren – Yes, he has a lot of knowledge, but finding something we can do about it is the problem. Commissioner Budd – How many law enforcement officers in Kansas? Kevin Jones – 70. Commissioner Budd – Could law enforcement, Nygren and Kreif work together to write a new regulation? Chairman Lauber – A lot of private waters in Kansas and we can't restrict that usage. A lot of outcry from sportsmen on social and economic impact last time we made an attempt; don't know how we can control it, other than go back and try to do what we tried to do before. Kreif – Worked with Association and they will come to a meeting in the future, as a resident of Kansas, the key to preventing the spread is to say you can't do that and educate people. I have been talking to Jessica Howell and they are bringing education into the schools. Not everybody is in position to move water, but the more we squeeze down what is okay to do the better. Not moving bluegills and sunfish and bait is a start. Chairman Lauber – Education is most effective prevention, we have rules and regulations, common baitfish movement is the response. Other states don't have as many private ponds or strong lobbying interests like we seem to have. Kreif – If you start by eliminating one source and education, then you have a good start. Seven percent of 325 lakes are already contaminated. Commissioner Budd – Don't know what the rest of the commission wants to do. Secretary Jennison – One of the first issues was that came up after I started this job; one of best practices was most restrictive laws; but had legislative issue, commission passed it one year and rescinded it the next. Commissioner Budd – Talking zebra mussels is talking Greek to a lot of people; they don't understand how dramatic repercussions could be. Work with Doug and bring solution as suggestion or information. Chairman Lauber – Prefer to discuss education at this point, zebra mussels don't react the same at different impoundments. Tried to do it the way you want, but a lot of issues came up and allowed those two species. Leave it alone and try education. Kreif – Challenge is once contaminated you can't stop it, have not found anything to eradicate it. If neighbor has a cold, you can take action and maybe not catch the cold. Eliminate one possible source. Commissioner Budd – Chris, not sure how to handle this? Chris Tymeson – If the Secretary wants to move forward it is his prerogative or if Commission wants to move forward. Secretary Jennison – Doug and I met some time ago and working on education, especially at lakes that don't have them; and possibly creating facilities to decontaminate when leaving the lake. Discussing that, not opposed to Commission bringing forward. Chairman Lauber – At one time people afraid of H1N1 virus, and government didn't declare hand shaking illegal. Concentrate on education and possibly create restrictive regulations on lakes not infested. Nygren – Continuing to improve education, not a lot of tools to stop them. Commissioner Marshall – Love to see zebra mussels halted, do we think stopping baitfish would stop it? Nygren – Have good information and education for bait dealers to educate their customers; problem is private baitfish. Currently 163 lakes don't have zebra mussels. Commissioner Marshall – Interested in action that will give us results. Commissioner Dill – What information do we have at docks? Nygren – Signs at lakes

that have zebra mussels; Jessica is designing large kiosk sign to raise awareness. Secretary asked us to come up with campaign to protect those not infested. Commissioner Marshall – Can you mark vessels in some way? Nygren – Can seal a boat, if seal broke, but would have to inspect every boat that comes in.

Tom Saragusa, Shawnee – Didn't realize tourism was part of this. My fishing license, waterfowl stamp money go to tourism? Craghead – No. Saragusa – In relation to Canadian goose, why is season closed for two days, opened on November 1, closed on November 9 for two days and opened on 12, why? Want to get rid of local geese. Chairman Lauber – Took two days of discussion. Saragusa – Talked to a game warden at Kansas City. Why closed for two days? Chairman Lauber – If closed for those two days, season can run later in the season. Saragusa – Should have started later. Commissioner Budd – Feds give number of days to hunt waterfowl. Commissioner Rider – If you have it earlier starts on weekend instead of middle of the week. Michael Pearce – The reason they opened on November 1, was to open on opening weekend of upland game, give two weekends and balance the best they could to give some late dates and give as many weekends as they could. Saragusa – Thanks, that is all I wanted to know.

Paul Bahnmaier – Complement enthusiasm of Linda Craghead for tourism. Our budget is \$4 million, \$15 million in Colorado, and \$14 million in Oklahoma (and named many others); doing a lot for a little money. Also, compliment Roger Wolfe who I worked with on signage for Kansas River. Could promote civil war history here in tourism.

Tim Donges, QDMA – Game warden situation, you said 70 game wardens. Jones – Authorized for 70 but have less; 160 law enforcement officers total in state, parks and public lands. Donges – I live near El Dorado State Park and can't get help. We have a problem. Chairman Lauber – They are park rangers at parks and utilized during firearms season to help. Donges – Why is game warden also taking care of El Dorado wildlife area at state park? Chairman Lauber – Can't get into personnel issues. Kevin Jones – This is one of the issues on the surface that seems to be easy to answer, but is not. To a great degree it depends on funding source; law enforcement and public lands paid out of wildlife fee fund; park rangers are paid out of park fee fund money and can only be used there. We are under restrictions of 40 hour FLSA weeks. Donges – We have trucks that law enforcement is driving in the parks, what do rangers do in parks in off season, why can't they come help during busy deer seasons? Chairman Lauber – Are we not covering or not serving? Donges – When we call for help and can't get it, our contact is the game warden, they are the customer service, the face of the agency. Not realistic to close the doors because out of hours, we have peak times. Chairman Lauber – We do try to focus on those times. Jones – We allocate overtime hours, but have to have money in the bank to pay, but need more revenue to increase number of officers and equipment. Donges – Cannot utilize park personnel? Jones – Diversion of funds, which is not permitted by law. Donges – At the end of the day, the customer is seeing this and so there is a decline in reporting and frustration in the field.

Tim Nedou – Senate bill, private law, clarification, Chris? Tymeson – We discussed this before, not giving personal legal advice. Statute says give priority. Nedou – A1 says landowner first, is that what we are doing? Tymeson and Jones – Yes. Nedou – Restitution bill, fines in Kansas on bigger deer, \$10,000 to \$30,000? Jones – Not aware of that. Chairman Lauber – Want funds as well as the antlers? Nedou – No, not about that. If fined this amount of money is it being made

public in papers? What a deterrent to post that, we want ethical hunters, not poachers. Nedou – Trespassing, rule on pursuing wounded animal that is not there. Jones – Three statutes, general trespass; two primarily on hunting, criminal hunting, all hunters shall have permission, however, may pursue wildlife to recover wounded or dead animals. If landowner asks them to leave must leave immediately. If hunter shoots pheasant and it crosses over, can go pick up and return to where he can lawfully be; if landowner says stop, he must leave immediately or face criminal trespass. Hunting for written permission only, can retrieve, but if landowner stops him must comply with landowner. Nedou – What happens if someone came on my land and fell down and got hurt, I am liable? I would like no trespassing to mean no trespassing, in 22 states, like Kansas to be 23rd. Tymeson – There are exemptions in all of those statutes too. Nedou – When you sell confiscated items, why doesn't Wildlife and Parks advertise that sale? Chairman Lauber – Sell in commercial, reasonable manner. Jones – We have news releases, up to paper to publish. Nedou – Email in newsletter, want to know where they are; last auction brought in \$49,000, not just published in local paper.

Jodi Perry, Carbondale – Who is in charge of controlling noxious weeds at a state park? Lanterman – Where? Perry – Pomona. Lanterman - Just did change of staff there and have a new manager. Craghead – Corp side or state park side? There is a lab on the north side that the extension has also.

Saragusa – Complement zebra mussel guy, had volunteers at state lake checking boats and gave sticker to put on boats. It really worked.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Secretary's Remarks

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Robin Jennison, Secretary, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit D). State budget has not responded to actions legislature has taken, and has fallen short so the Governor is required to make some cuts. The department lost \$500,000 of EDIF money, probably in the parks. Graph shows best; will see reduction in next two years as well. Park revenue continues to improve, in December 2011 \$80,000, last year \$190,000 due to changes you have allowed us to make; park registration, park passport system and park reservation system has helped smooth that out. We have always had a Wildtrust account (brochure – Exhibit E) so we have went through and reduced the number of funds and allows people to donate to a specific interest. I took over sending thank you notes a couple of years ago, and get quite a few funds. Mike Pearce – Possible loss of a half million, do you expect that to happen in following years too? Jennison – I think it is highly probable. Legislature tried to take some of the cabin money a few years ago; if they see funds they try to take them or reduce, so we will lose more EDIF money probably. Pearce – You have enough to operate, but you have a lot of maintenance you need to do. Do you think it is gone for good? Jennison – Yes, they want us more self sufficient. I thought we wouldn't lose general fund as quickly as we did, would have had cabin development at Hillsdale and do some other things to increase revenue if we hadn't; looking at other reasons to bring people to the parks to increase revenues. New camp sites at Hillsdale and Sand Hills. Pearce – Still looking at getting some Corps property? Jennison – Not us taking anything over. Craghead – Looking to utilize funding in partnerships.

Lori Hutfles, Lawrence – Lesser prairie chicken, do you expect same legislation from Senator Kobach this year? Jennison – I don't think so, as it has been listed a little better than some of the things people thought would happen. I would be surprised if he did. Commissioner Dill – Are we administering these Wildtrust funds? Direct fund, direct use? Jennison – Yes.

2. 2015 Legislative Update – Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission. Begins Monday, first year of two-year cycle. So far a couple of items we will likely propose, exploring different forms of licensing and technology issues. Land acquisition bills, one in Cherokee County, money from remediation funds, want exemption from rules for properties like that. Plan on proposing boater education again. Law enforcement citation and prosecutors to prosecutors. State fish and some issues on agritourism that are coming up. Some proposals to change possession of certain animals; like lions, tigers and bear issue a few years ago. Wildlife violator bill, just revised a few years ago. ATV designation change for licensing. Vendor licensing fees in southeast Kansas in particular has been \$1.00 since 2003, not enough compensation, so that may come up.

Chairman Lauber – Recognize former staff member Tom Mosher who has retired.

Break

B. General Discussion

1. Commissioner Permit Update and Drawing – Mike Miller, Magazine Editor, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit F). First drawing in 2006; deer, one elk and one antelope. In first year sold for \$49,000 with 59 applications being received; demand has steadily increased. Last year, one elk and six deer permits with 101 applications with only 99 of those eligible (due to winning in past three years) and the permits sold for \$57,515. After the permits are sold by the organization, the amount of the permit is subtracted and 85 percent of the proceeds are sent to KDWP to be used on approved projects. After the projects are approved, the money is sent back to the organization. The other 15 percent can be spent at the organization's discretion. As of 2014, we have received a total of 886 applications and \$318,923.31 has been spent on natural resource projects. There are 152 eligible applications this year. Commissioner Budd – How is it determined that there is one elk or one antelope? Miller – By statute. Commissioner Budd – In Wildtrust, could they apply? Tymeson – Funds would come to us so don't think we can do that. Commissioner Budd – In Utah a few years ago when auctioned off Governor's tags, they are very popular.

Drawing Winners (Exhibit G):

Commissioner Don Budd – (1) – #76 – Pheasants Forever, High Plains Roosters (deer)

Commissioner Tom Dill – (2) – #55 – National Wild Turkey Federation, El Dorado (elk)

Chairman Gerald Lauber – (3) – #131 – Quail Forever, Brown County (deer)

Commissioner Randy Doll, drawn by Gerald Lauber – (4) – #129 – Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wichita (deer)

Commissioner Gary Hayzlett – (5) – #21 – Kansas Alliance of Wetlands and Streams, Glacial Hills (deer)

Commissioner Roger Marshall – (6) – #13 – Ducks Unlimited, Park City (deer)

Commissioner Aaron Rider – (7) – #51 – National Wild Turkey Federation, Augusta (deer)

2. Tourism Update – Linda Craghead, Asst. Secretary, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit H – Newsletter, *Kansas!* magazine, Kansas Outdoors, Kansas State Parks). New publications in front of you (listed above). This is the first time for state park guide in magazine format. Begin active trade show season now, Denver, Omaha, Chicago and other places on the road. *Kansas!* magazine won National Magazine of the Year award; Logan Mize also won cover of the year; presented by IRMA (International Regional Magazine Association). Terrific team of people in parks, gains since FY 2012, a lot contributed to online reservation. Our entire effort is all about recruitment, retention and getting someone to return. Engage new users in new things, January 1 is first day hike, grown over last three years. Tourism completed economic impact survey, don't have numbers still compiling those. Transient guest tax (bed tax), does not come to us, but enables local communities to promote their communities. State park revenue has grown. Bed tax is .00645 percent, not a large amount, but traffic to state is growing, \$31,795,000, in 2014 increased to over \$40 million. It is a team effort and Kansas is a destination for people. When you think about New York City or Orlando, they don't get to experience places like Kansas. There were some questions about parks folks, stop by state parks and ask questions or buy a license.

3. Public Land Regulations – Brad Simpson, public lands section chief, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit I). This is the time when we start changes, but no changes are being recommended at this time. Commissioner Rider – In our management areas, do we have lists of goals for each management area? Simpson – We have broad goals by region and then narrow it down for each area, so yes we do. Commissioner Rider – Do you post that anywhere? Simpson – Not publically, but at waterfowl meeting nights some may be shared. Commissioner Budd – When an area manager gets a position, do they stay forever? Simpson – Yes, unless they decide to transfer. Commissioner Budd – Where is wildlife area manager in scope? Simpson – Below wildlife area regional supervisor. Commissioner Budd – Are we the farmers? Simpson – Sometimes, or lease it out to a farmer to farm. Commissioner Rider – About reclamation projects, who makes those decisions for our department; just property manager or are you involved in it? Simpson – That project was started about five years ago or so, meet with KDHE, I am informed and up the chain of command. It takes time to get funding to do a project so there is a time lapse there. Commissioner Rider – Referring to Deer Creek, been hearing about it continually, it caused a lot of issues and the department has a black eye; not any one person's fault, but like to stress that since we are in a difficult situation with public view; need to take a serious look and see if we should do other projects now or hold them off. Just letting you know what I have been hearing. Simpson – There was lessons learned on that project. We did have public meetings on prior projects and no people showed up, but we did not hold one for that project. We learned a lesson. Commissioner Rider – This project is hitting spots where more people used the area. Simpson – It was the biggest one, the rest will be smaller.

4. Review of Coyote hunting in Rifle Deer Season – Kevin Jones, law enforcement division director, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit J). Update from a report given a year ago where coyote hunting was the alleged activity for actions that would be illegal for deer hunting, like use of two-way radio or using a vehicle. The number of occurrences dropped significantly in the 2014 season. During the 2013 season, there were a total of 46 reports

recorded; however in 2014 only 12 occurred. No specific reason for decline; we have more vacancies in the state, mostly in western part of the state, four in 2013 and seven this year. Based on the ratio of counties per officer, full staffing is a ratio of 1.97 counties per officer; 2013 vacancies increased the ratio to 2.25 counties per officer; and 2014 ratio was 2.52 counties per officer (four officers were available to cover the 19 county area in southwestern Kansas, creating a ratio of 4.75 counties per officer). While officers did their best to cover this area, more officer time was spent traveling to reported complaints of all types and reaching the more distant areas of their patrol area within the region. It is unknown how many calls for service were completed by the Sheriff's offices. The discussion and publicity of this issue last year may have contributed by causing people to be more mindful of their activity and observant of the law. There was a significant decrease in the number of calls for service from landowners and tenants between the two years, 2013 = 13 calls; 2014 = 1 call. Weather conditions may also have been a factor. Survey results are shown on the report handout (discussed some). There are only a few counties with reoccurrence (both years). Two years doesn't show a trend, but some information, better than a year ago. I will keep track of this information to see if a trend emerges. Provided map of occurrences; no conclusions. Chairman Lauber – Does it take officers much time to complete this? Jones – Used a survey on Google drive, so not a lot of free text, doesn't take a long time. Chairman Lauber – I think it would be good to look at it another year. Jones – Recorded during rifle/firearm season. Chairman Lauber – One more year. Commissioner Rider – How much does Operation Game Thief get utilized? Jones – It is utilized, more people using local Sheriff or more direct contact with local conservation officer. Limitations on funding, it is a good tool that is under-utilized by the public.

Chairman Lauber – Numbers 5 and 6 have been switched.

6. Quail Initiative Update – Craig Curtis, Regions 4 and 5 wildlife supervisor, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit K, PowerPoint – Exhibit L). This was a program that Jim Pitman brought to me and Roger Wolfe and a way to look at quail numbers. Jim envisioned a target approach and surveys on impacts, a five-year project running through 2017. Focused approach on increased incentives, more practices with 100 percent cost share and turnkey with entire restoration on landowner property. Pat Riese is at Fall River and has coordinated this program. Two focus areas: North and South selected looking at existing populations, landowner interest, restoration potential, public land availability (Melvern, Grand Osage and Big Hill Wildlife Areas) and hydrologic units with consistent boundaries with USDA programs. There are multiple partners working with us on this project. The approach was to improve private land with technical assistance, cost sharing, and partnership with USDA and other programs; on public land continue to have quail emphasis with potential demonstration areas. The five year goal is 50 percent increase in breeding populations shown by annual whistle counts and five percent increase in suitable habitat in the impacted areas. Eligible practices include: brush management and tree removal; native grass and forb establishment; prescribed burning including patch burning; native shrub planting; strip disking; hedgerow renovation, coppicing; prescribed grazing; exclusion fence; cool season grass conversion; cover crops or crop rotation; CRP enrollment incentive; brood strips and deferred spraying; and others. On Melvern and Grand Osage we have directly and indirectly impacted 4,878 and 7,240 acres, respectively. Multiple equipment purchases have also been made as investments for quail habitat improvements. KDWPT biologists and managers have spent hundreds of man hours meeting with landowners,

developing plans, and promoting the Initiative. With several projects completed or approaching completion, active and tentative projects are making progress. 2015 looks to be a promising year for the Initiative with new habitat improvement plans in progress and many additional landowner meetings scheduled. Eligible practices on projects; landowner outreach: workshops, demonstrations on focus areas, direct landowner mailings and advertizing the program. Delivery on private lands with 5,950 acres direct project impacted, 8,320 indirectly and \$28,900 committed in North focus area; in South focus area 100 direct project areas impacted, 1,950 indirect acres and \$11,200 paid or committed. Doing brush management, coppicing, hedge row renovation, grass/forb plantings, shrub plantings, cool-season conversion, CRP management, CCRP enrollment and prescribed fire. On public land: Grand Osage 2,600 acres impacted, Melvern 2,100 acres and Big Hill 40 acres. Future plans include continued public land restorations, additional landowner contracts, continued promotion, population monitoring and population increases. Commissioner Marshall – Is it working? Curtis – Getting good contacts. We draw up a plan and landowners will try a couple of things on the list and see if they see improvement and try others. Have not analyzed whistle counts yet, but hearing a few more birds. Commissioner Marshall – When will we do whistle counts? Curtis – After five years is completed in 2017. Commissioner Marshall – What do birds like about this coppicing? Curtis – Quail have an aversion to trees. Unknown lady, Douglas County – We have a better response to Facebook in rural areas. Roger Turner – Impressed with presentation, everything you are doing is great and increase by 100 percent even better. What about predator control? Curtis – Habitat will keep them safer from predators.

5. Kaw River Access and NPS Trails Designation – Roger Wolfe, Region 2 wildlife supervisor, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit M, River water trail brochure – Exhibit N). The Kansas is one of only three navigable streams in Kansas (Kansas, Arkansas and Missouri rivers). It is 174 miles long, extending from Junction City (confluence of Republic and Smoky Hill) to Kansas City with a few access sites constructed in the 1970s and 1980s. There was renewed interest in access during the 1990's with Secretary Hayden and Secretary Williams and the Kansas River Recreation plan was developed in 1998. The goal was to place access every 10-15 miles (considered to be a day float trip), and in 2000 there were only five access sites. KDWPT has committed over \$1,000,000 to river access since 2000 and local funds and donations and donated materials have probably equaled this amount. An additional 14 access sites have been added since 2000. KDWPT was contacted in 2011 about potential projects that would fall into the America's Great Outdoors program and the Kansas River Water Trail project was identified as a potential project. The Kansas River was named the second National Water Trail in 2012. Items identified for improvement were: path finding signs, (with the help of KDOT and local communities) there are signs directing people to all 19 access sites; brochures (with the help of Tourism) and website development, which both were developed from NPS grant, website is <http://www.travelks.com/ksrivertrail/> and also can be found on the National Water Trail site at <http://www.nps.gov/watertrails/>; river navigation signs, were placed every two miles Edwardsville to Topeka and Junction City to Belvue (thanks to law enforcement and the use of the air boat); and kiosks will be placed at each access site to provide information for users and to provide community, historical and tourism information. The Green Team with Westar is providing all the materials for the kiosks. We're only two access points shy, a 19-mile stretch from Belvue to Topeka. We're working with Rossville for access along St. Mary's/Maple Hill road. We have had a float trip the last few years and dedications of structures. There is a

challenge of getting across the railroad tracks to place access sites. Working with Shawnee County for potential site at Willard; with Shawnee County and Topeka parks about upgrade to Seward Avenue ramp; and with DeSoto to upgrade and adding restroom at their site. Special thanks to the National Park Service, Friends of the Kaw and Westar Green Team. All the communities are partners in this as well as internal partners with law enforcement, parks and fisheries. ?? Are you planning on another float trip in October? Wolfe – Yes. Klataske – restrictions on air boats, sounds like a jet port. Wolfe – Have not talked about that, air boat usage is limited, usually during waterfowl season. We are doing the same process on the Ark River and are meeting with the National Park Service and Jessica Mounts on Monday to try to get another water trail.

C. Workshop Session

1. Antelope and Elk 25-Series Regulations – Matt Peek, furbearer research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit O). Not anticipating any changes, but license numbers will be decided after pronghorn survey. Archery permit numbers have increased from 110 to 380, but now are tapering off below 350, which we feel we can support. Crossbows were originally allowed for youth and disabled, increased in the beginning, but decreased back to levels of other archery equipment.

Elk (Exhibit P), testing for CWD, but not in regulation any longer so want to strike that, but no other changes to recommend. In the briefing book recommended 10 any elk and 15 antlerless elk. Chairman Lauber – What percentage of the elk is that? Peek – Less than 10 percent, plus a few road-killed and some dispersal from the Fort; fairly stable population with a slight increase. Survey is not exact enough to tell how much increase. Pearce – What is the success rate at Fort Riley? Peek – Have not tabulated this year, season is still going on; 20 elk killed this year. Chairman Lauber – Where would the Cheyenne County elk have come from? Peek – A few up in that area, some in Republic County and up and down the Kansas/Colorado line and there is reproduction in that herd.

2. Big Game Permanent Regulations – Lloyd Fox, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Q). There are six permanent regulations dealing with deer. We will bring back KAR 115-4-13 to modify antlerless whitetail first permit which is valid statewide; in KAR 115-25-9 we have taken Unit 18 out of that and that supersedes this regulation so that is confusing, so need to do that here. Commissioner Dill – Received email about allowing draw locks. Fox – Could go forward and look at 4-4, that regulation causes a great deal of heartburn in the agency, changed it and allowed crossbows in archery season and we did not allow draw locks that can be placed on compound bow. An individual with a disability could still use a draw lock; the question is should we allow it with crossbows as general archery equipment. Came up two years ago and we didn't go any further with it. If directed by the Commission we will come back with it. Commissioner Dill – I had not thought about it, but why not? Don't see a whole lot of difference. Commissioner Budd – I want you to look at that. Tymeson – It is coming up on a timing issue, it may take a minor miracle to meet publication deadlines. Chairman Lauber – Why don't we consider it next year? Tymeson – Also, publication of brochures, so we can't hold off until April. I did not turn in that regulation for change. Fox – Chris, would have to make immediate action for this year, it is not a large issue and will only affect a few people. When we open that regulation it opens other issues. Commissioner Budd –

We are not voting on this issue? Tymeson – We will only vote on 4-13. There is a process that has to be followed and 4-13 doesn't contain equipment that is in 4-4. It is a guessing game to what will come up during any given year, we single out which ones we feel we will have an issue on. If this had come up in October we could have handled it. Chairman Lauber – I recommend we do it in 2016.

3. Deer 25-Series Regulations – Lloyd Fox, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit R). KAR 115-25-9 is an exempt regulation and requires vote every year, it covers items statewide as well as seasons at two military areas, whereas 115-25-9a covers deer seasons at Fort Riley and has typically been used to address deer issues which developed during the legislative session. Looking at reducing pressure on whitetail deer through extended season and permits hunters can obtain on antlerless season. A three-day season, include three more units, 2, 8 and 16, from trend information these are adjustments. In addition, on those units we are recommending a single whitetail antlerless permit, not two. In Unit 2, five permits can be used as a result of Cedar Bluff, but drop back to a three-day season. The rest remain the same as last year. Chairman Lauber – Expect some public outcry of even more reduction in numbers allowed; perception of less deer than survey shows. Pearce – Was a better archery season in quality and numbers, and several days before Thanksgiving it cut off. What about October, pre-rut season? Fox – We have continued that in the proposal we have, utilized by a small number of people and is one of the questions I am asking on harvest survey which is going out to bowhunters now, firearms and muzzleloaders later. Pearce – What is harvest of that two-day season? Fox – Last year we estimated 1,756 deer taken and total harvest was almost 90,000 deer; small compared to extended seasons where close to 12,000 deer are taken. Pearce – When will you announce nonresident deer numbers? Fox – Secretary's Orders in March. Pearce – Projecting any changes there? Fox – Have not had discussions, but open for consideration. Commissioner Dill – In last two years never had positive comment on pre-rut, with perception that numbers are down I think it would be a benefit to stop it completely. Chairman Lauber – While I agree, did not see as many junk bills in legislature since then. Commissioner Hayzlett – Received email about increasing out-of-state fees, lower than we should be. Numbers are down in my area (western Kansas); same problem in Oklahoma and Texas. Fox – Combination of three years of severe drought, fawn recruitment down and are experiencing deer declines in western part of state and maybe Units 8, 9 and 10 as well. If we look on longer basis, asked socially to reduce deer numbers for considerable amount of time; through some of our actions deer populations went down and so now that is an issue. The proposal is an adjustment in season lengths and permit numbers. Still allowing people to hunt, while people want a big deer, key is to be allowed to hunt at all. The issue a few years ago was to reduce the number of deer, 2013 was lowest deer/vehicle accident rate since 1995. Chairman Lauber – Encourage more moderation in extended seasons; don't think it makes much difference in pre-rut season. You make best decision you can and we will be back next year to see how many deer are out there. Commissioner Hayzlett – Price of out-of-state licenses? Tymeson – There is a body of case laws that deals with disparaging fees, it is 10 to 1, \$320 and \$32.50 is about 10 to 1, if increase would have to increase for residents too. Chairman Lauber – See permit numbers lowered or increase price issue. Fox – Outside realm of deer issues that I deal with, that is in 2-1 I believe. Chairman Lauber – Perceive taking their access away, feel if we raise the price will reduce the volume. Commissioner Marshall – Two groups of people, the ones that think we have too many and those that believe there is not enough. The ones who think we have too many is car insurance

salesmen. Fox – High volume traffic areas has the highest accident rates. The most calls I get is individuals who have had an accident or mothers of individuals that have had an accident and it the most dominant social setting for deer. Commissioner Marshall – Need pictures of units to identify. Fox – Units 15, 19 and 10a are the ones with 17 days of antlerless season and hunters can use five permits in those units, which is the highest level of impact in our system. Places we are reducing to three-days and one permit, Units 8 and 16 have declines in population, Unit 18, decreased last year. Take those three additional units (2, 8, 16) and larger series that had two permits will drop back to one permit. Commissioner Marshall – To make it more simple, the only place that has one permit is? Fox – Two break downs, all hunters can buy five antlerless permits, but can only use one of those permits in units 6, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17 and the other units they can obtain and use five permits. Even though we allow multiple permits, only 37 percent bought one additional, all five only .03 percent of deer hunters. Allows landowner concerned about crop damage and dislike of deer an opportunity to not be held back from having hunters take more antlerless permits. Practically no hunters buy 3, 4 and 5 permits. Pearce – On the people that have bought permits clarification on those numbers? Fox – I have printed that out, so I will give you the print out.

Dave Weber, Doniphan County – We have a heck of a resource and hope we never devalue it. I have been deer hunting since 1982, can't remember ever getting a survey. I do surveys year around on my own, this year my population exploded, see a large number of 2 ½ and some 3 ½ and 4 ½ year old deer. I don't like to hear about estimates and don't like to hear you guess. Did spot light survey in Brown County and saw two deer in four years; on my property could take five deer off of every 160 acres. We need better data we are behind the learning curve on estimating deer. Have forest system here in the east; Missouri has an electronic harvest data system instead of guessing? Fox – We have looked at telecheck, many states are using it; many advantages but a couple of serious faults, no way to estimate non-compliance which can be significant; in surveys we look at non-response bias and it takes us longer to compute. Iowa is down to 82 percent compliance rate and goes down each year. It gives them an index to the harvest. It has some law enforcement benefits. It is somewhat expensive, but feel we get better quality data. Weber – How accurate is your data when I have never been surveyed? I can't jump on board. Noncompliance is more education and law enforcement issue and would like to see more timely data and management on current data. Why is muzzleloader season in September? Fox – First in firearm season, a few years later tried to bring in a special season and mid-September was chosen, but ran into conflicts and we made decision to start season early so it occurred before any other season. In Ohio, it is in late December and is up to the different states and result of local decisions and opinions; we looked at other options for season. From surveys the driving issue was to leave it alone, they like their tradition. Weber – Outstanding tradition of only one antlered buck a year; and firearm season is in December and allows bowhunters to hunt in the rut. Would like to see muzzleloader season open with youth season opening Saturday before Thanksgiving and ending Saturday after (a 10-day season). Also add handguns with 8 ½ inch barrel or less. I personally wouldn't care if you did away with antlerless season because of the chance of shooting shed mature antlered deer. If going to keep it, back it up and put it between Christmas and New Years for more hunting opportunities. Is there a minimum age for deer hunting in Kansas? Like to see 10- to 12-year-olds; don't feel that safe with a 5-year old with gun. Do we have minimum age on hunter education? Tymeson – Arbitrary restriction, minimum age to get certified in hunter education is 11; at that age children more receptive to retain what they learn. Weber – Can hunt, but not eligible for hunter education. Chairman Lauber

– Not an issue we grapple with very often. Weber – Number of coyotes harvested during deer season, in old days not allowed; like to see it. How many hunting deer? Fox – 120,000 people. Weber – Interested in hunting coyotes.

Tim Donges, QDMA – Biologically harvesting antlerless deer more positive if harvested earlier than later, health issue or non-issue? Fox – Pre-rut hunt has not been studied. My personal opinion is it should be studied; also see positive potentials that are there but not documented in scientific literature. Probably a good idea to remove early season if you want to reduce deer/vehicle accidents, but again no season. Antlerless season having a minimal effect; sheds can occur in seasons that ran into February, small portion of total harvest, 2- to 5-percent every year. Can hit hard for people trying to raise trophy deer. Recommend keeping pre-rut season to be able to cut back even more on January season. Donges – Has to do with tradition mainly. More button bucks harvested when you want to harvest a doe. If legislature would leave you alone and two-day season is having very little impact, I say leave it alone, a great opportunity for youth and get meat for the freezer.

VII. RECESS AT 5:12 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:30 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

D. Public Hearing

Notice and Submission Forms; Kansas Legislative Research Letter and Attorney General Letter (Exhibit S).

1. KAR 115-7-2. Fishing; general provisions – Doug Nygren, Fisheries Section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit T). Trying to make it easier for people to comply with tagging regulations on trot lines, set lines and floatlines; staff recommends that we amend to have the option of either putting their KDWPT number on the tag or their name and address; like we do with traps.

Commissioner Roger Marshall moved to approve KAR 115-7-2 before the Commission. Commissioner Gary Hayzlett second.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-7-2 to revoke was as follows (Exhibit U):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes

Commissioner Doll	Absent
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented on KAR 115-7-2 passed 6-0.

2. KAR 115-30-1. Display of identification number and decal – Kevin Jones, Law Enforcement Division director, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit V). Correct Chapter 31 to 32. Also a request was made to address the problem of displaying registration decals on sailboards. Because the surface of the board is rough textured, allowing the operator to stand on the board without slipping, decals usually do not adhere to the board. The current regulation requires that the registration decal must be attached to the front half of the top of the sailboard. In order to address this problem the recommendation is being made that in lieu of displaying the decal on the board, the operator may carry the registration decal on their person, like in a zip lock bag or something they can carry, while operating the sailboard. Because similar problems are seen with kiteboards, the recommendation is being made to include them, as well to be proactive in an amendment. Chairman Lauber – Difference between sailboard and kiteboard? Jones – Sailboard operated by sail, kiteboard by kite. Commissioner Rider – People on the sailboard have on swim trunks, they have to carry on their person somewhere? Jones – Sticker on board or on their body however they can. Commissioner Budd – They brought this to us? Jones – Yes.

Commissioner Gary Hayzlett moved to bring KAR 115-30-1 before the Commission. Commissioner Don Budd second.

Commissioner Roger Marshall moved to amend KAR 115-30-1. Commissioner Tom Dill second.

The roll call vote to amend KAR 115-30-1 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit W):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Absent
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The roll call vote on regulation KAR 115-30-1 as amended was as follows (Exhibit W):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Absent
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes

Commissioner Lauber

Yes

The motion as amended on KAR 115-30-1 passed 6-0.

Linda Lanterman - Linda Craghead mentioned first day hikes, there were seven hikes in Kansas, 178 participants who hiked 442 miles with an average of 25 hikers at each site. Lots of good feedback this year, program is growing. All participants were given a free t-shirt, most sites had coffee and hot chocolate available. One site had a TV station come out from Topeka and filmed and made the evening news. Weather was seasonal -- low to mid 30s, so it was pretty decent. Quite a few eagles were observed, which is always a highlight. One park reported that it had participants who drove over 60 miles one-way for the hike. There were 41,000 hikers nationally with 992 hikes for a total of 80,000 miles.

3. KAR 115-9-6. Vehicle permits; display – Linda Lanterman, Parks division director, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit X). Display of vehicle permits; this would delete the reference to second vehicle permit, which was removed in 2012, and because of the material of the passport permits issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, they must be permanently affixed to the outside of the vehicle windshield and the lower left side.

**Commissioner Don Budd moved to approve KAR 115-9-6 before the Commission.
Commissioner Gary Hayzlett second.**

The roll call vote on KAR 115-9-6 to revoke was as follows (Exhibit Y):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Absent
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented on KAR 115-9-6 passed 6-0.

4. Free Park Entrance and Free Fishing Days by Secretary's Orders – Linda Lanterman, Parks Division director, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit Z). Free fishing days are the first weekend in June (June 6 and 7, 2015). On Park days - two days at each park, one we all do the same is April 25 to coincide with Earth Day. The other park entrance day is left up to the events that each manager chooses at their park.

XII. Old Business

None

XIII. Other Business

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

March 26, 2015 – Kansas Historical Society-Museum, Topeka

April 23, 2015 – GPNC, Wichita

June 18, 2015 – Hays

August 13, 2015 – Wetland Education Center, Great Bend

Dave Weber - As a turkey bowhunter, go back to April 1. From standpoint of upland bird management, big component is removal of furbearers, especially nest bearers, run trapping season to March 1. Went hunting with dog at Smith Center at daylight, had information it was good around Russell, hit Walk-In hunting areas, drove 700 miles in three days, visited 53 areas, hunted five. Disappointed no hard data on quail focus areas. Need to consider pheasant focus areas. My quail numbers are good. We started program to enhance walk-in hunting areas, how many areas have taken advantage of that? Don't see any good pheasant hunting areas in the state. I see it as a major challenge we need to put in significant effort because it is not worth hunting pheasants in Kansas. Address issue of why no pheasant numbers in Kansas. Walk-in hunting is best brain child we have had in Kansas, but we have signed up cow pastures that are grazed too low. Can we enhance walk-in hunting areas and have descriptions and notations on what habitat it is from biologist who signs it up? Commissioner Hayzlett – Live in opposite side of the state, a lot of good pheasant areas, but no pheasants and due to the drought. A lot of walk-in hunting areas with good cover, but no pheasants. Chairman Lauber – We have to deal with what we have. We tried to lease walk-in hunting at a price we can afford and the best hunting property is leased at a price we can't afford. Very little we can do to offset drought. Weber – Educate next generation of landowners. We are missing brood rearing habitat. I have field trips at my farm with high school kids. My favorite quote, by Aldo Leopold, "We will have no conservation worthy of the name until food and cover for wildlife is deliberately, instead of accidentally, provided for, until abundant wildlife is the mark of the best rather than the worst."

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)