

**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 22, 2018
Kansas Historical Society History Center
6425 SW 6th Ave, Topeka, Kansas**

Approved Subject to
4/26/18 Commission
Approval

The March 22, 2018 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1 p.m. at the Kansas Historical Society History Center in Topeka. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Ward Cassidy, Emerick Cross, Tom Dill, Gary Hayzlett, Aaron Rider and Harrison Williams were present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

The Commissioners and department staff introduced themselves (Attendance Roster – Exhibit A).

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

Sheila Kemmis – 75-year anniversary magazine update moved to presentations from general discussion; after that a presentation from RMEF, Mason Cooper will present; also under presentations added Law Enforcement presentation to Hills Pet Nutrition, Dan Hesket will present that. Add No. 8 to workshop, Coast Guard Navigation Rules that Dan Hesket will also present. (Agenda – Exhibit B).

IV. APPROVAL OF THE January 11, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Harrison Williams moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Ward Cassidy second. *Approved* (Minutes – Exhibit C).

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Thomas Baumgardner – Chronic Waste Disease (CWD), most whitetail run east and west up and down the creek lines, not north and south over the ridges, but yet a lot of CWD heading southwest. Hunted Decatur and Hoxie for 40 years and I was told whitetail would be wiped out soon, 10-15 years. How come there isn't more testing to the east of those lines? Spent \$58 to get deer tested, one positive and one negative and there should be some recourse for that. KDWPT always says it is our whitetail, if not controlling CWD they ought to give us tags when they come back positive. That is too much waste and there are a lot of bucks in that area coming back positive. Bucks will spread more than does, especially during rut. Something should be done, don't limit but take more out of that area; control it, simple math. Want to keep big bucks for people to hunt, what out-of-staters want, but at the rate they are falling there won't be many left soon. We shed hunt and found a lot of dead bucks this year. Do spot testing, better than waiting 6-8 weeks for test results; something needs to be done quicker. Think about, maybe not reimbursing, but give us a tag. Fish and Game says it is their deer, not doing very well at CWD. The way you are going is not working, the only way it will work is to kill them all, and something needs to be done. Chairman Lauber – A complicated issue, sounds easy but hard to have quick testing to administer. Not the only state fighting this, not easy disease to deal with. Baumgardner – No it is not and won't be if you keep holding back bucks that spread it faster; you hold them because you want people to come to Kansas to hunt. Eliminate more deer quicker

in order to slow it down. Chairman Lauber – Everyone want bucks and there are a million reasons; our department tries to control the resource and sometimes it is difficult. We will take your concern seriously. Baumgardner – If you don't say anything people will be sick from eating them, then hunting will be done.

Dan Broxterman – CWD is bad, went shed hunting and found six dead bucks in one area. Think about refund, we put money out to have them tested. The buck I had tested positive. The question is how to get more information out; ran into couple groups from Arkansas who didn't know anything about CWD. Most of residents don't know anything about it; one nephew who hunts at Herndon said they didn't know anything about it up there. Need to get more information out so they are not spreading it. We bone deer out in the field and don't bring bones back. On another topic, muzzleloading season moved up so early, used to be last two weeks of October and had some hot days, but now it is so early it is too hot to take care of your meat. The bowhunters speak louder, but you don't run into many of them in October and they have four months to hunt anyway. Moving season up is really hurting hunters, move back to end of October, and the last couple of years you couldn't get around heat.

Garran Allison – Support season moved back for muzzleloading, it is hot and besides that, worry about rattlesnakes too. Suggest if want to start at same time, give us a week on the other end when cooler and when crops are out of the field.

Dan Van Hoozier, Valley Falls – On iSportsmen, having problems, I go to Glen Elder and the problem is no service on phone or computer and no way to check in or out. Game wardens have told me to drive to where you get service to check in and then back to check out. I walk 4-6 miles in the woods and I am always armed, I check in and out every day and that skews your numbers; not hunting. If you could make system better and help us old guys out who are not computer literate. Also, I gave up muzzleloading because it is too hot.

Commissioner Rider – What would it take to have onsite testing for CWD? Broxterman – Developing one, but don't have it yet. Done with blood tests so can be done in the field, that would help a lot. Us taking samples and keeping track of them, blood test would still help. Have to drive around to get cell service for eDeer too. FDA has to approve it. Chairman Lauber – Used to get packet for teeth. To get field kit for testing, concern over who would pay for that, would we have to raise fees to cover those tests. Problem of 90 percent of deer hunters who were given the test didn't know what to do with it. Sounds easy, but see headaches on how to do it, harvest around 100,000 deer a year and around 150,000 to 200,000 permits out there a year. Don't know if Acme Inc would sell this or what. Broxterman – Right now more predominant in northwest and southwest and we are willing to pay the fee to have it tested, it costs \$28 to have deer tested, \$7 to have it shipped \$14 to have it tested and \$7 to have results sent back. If it comes back positive it would be nice to have another tag if not able to eat that animal. Hunters in those areas would be more than willing to buy test if it is that easy, right now have to take brain stem or lymph node. Chairman Lauber – With numbers we deal with statewide and if we try to have special accommodations in one part of the state, we would have to have statewide. Broxterman – If kit was made available I know some who would like to get it. People are eating deer with CWD and don't even know it, odds are you aren't going to get it, but do you want to roll the dice and be the first one.

Baumgardner – If there was a test out there and they found their deer positive, could leave in the field and not drag across the state instead of spreading it across the whole U.S. Disease doesn't go away for years. Chairman Lauber – As we get more proactive, trying to get a push to eliminate feeding too. Baumgardner – No feeding where CWD, okay where it is not, you have the power to do what you want; power gone when deer are gone. Sexson – If you want a quick

update on CWD Levi could address that. Levi Jaster – In regards to the test, we'd tell just as many people to throw away a good deer as bad with that test. The only good test is the one that tests the prions and that is only 50/50 accurate. A test has to be developed; hopefully it will be reasonable price-wise so hunter could do it if they want to. Discussing options on tests. We sample everywhere in the state, but getting enough samples from a particular area to actually detect it, and at a certain rate; there are five zones. Looking at it, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has come out with a document that suggests certain things that should be prioritized in trying to deal with CWD; one is reducing mature bucks, but Kansas is such a private land state and reducing bucks is a problem when people are wanting to practice quality deer management to make sure they have a lot of old bucks. The carcass ban would be a good step, would be a lot of thought with that; have to deal with not moving any carcasses, but what do we do about people coming through Kansas. Arkansas has a carcass ban for deer; people traveling through get their deer seized. We have to put careful thought into accomplishing the goals we want, but doable. Difficulty of CWD is prions don't go away; not like diseases from bacteria or viruses, after awhile it degrades on the landscape. Can't freeze them, most chemicals don't do anything on them and you have to go past the melting point of aluminum to degrade them with fire, not going to be able to do that on a wide scale. It is a tough one, but its good people are concerned because at times it has fallen on the wayside; people hate to hear doom and gloom. There have been funding cuts to labs trying to develop these tests; that is something that should be mentioned to your legislators to push for that, let them know you are supportive of funding. A difficult thing to deal with. As far as reimbursing tags, we are selling opportunity to hunt, not necessarily to kill a deer; you shot the deer you wanted. Unless we have a test that can be quickly done, what if shot in December and tests aren't done until after seasons are closed, how do we deal with that? We are discussing it and looking at options and looking at potential research work to explore other options to see what can be done, tough one and need to try to work together on this. Commission Cassidy – How does disease get transferred, deer to deer, is it dead deer, is it stuff in the soil? Jaster – Yes, all of the above; from deer to deer, does can give to a fawn, contact with dead deer, through the soil prions can be picked up by plants and go to the tips and deer eat it; a lot of different routes it can transfer. Commissioner Cassidy – Came from Colorado? Jaster – Started there. Commissioner Cassidy – Doing anything? Jaster – I think they did some reductions, not sure, but it's on the landscape and stays for a long time, even areas where they have removed the deer, left for awhile and deer come back to those areas, they test positive again. Commissioner Williams – Three to five years ago didn't Wyoming or Montana experience this and what did they do? Jaster – Tried to reduce the herd in those areas. The thing that makes it different from places like that is we have good deer density, an issue. Recommendations are don't move carcasses and try to reduce herd somewhat. We have an option in Kansas to photo-check your deer, bone it out and leave carcass there, I highly recommend that. It is a concern and that is how it spread long distances, through people transporting deer.

Ken Kreif, Derby – Trying to keep Kansas waters from more contamination of zebra mussels, impacts pocket book and costs thousands of dollars, Council Grove had contamination in their water supply; billions spent annually on dealing with zebra mussel infected waters, they can clog water pipes and boat motor intakes. They attach to anything in water, female can lay one million eggs a year and have razor-sharp shells that can cut dog paws, cut fishing lines, hands and feet and KDWPT puts out a warning to wear shoes in water. Because they filter water and eat plankton they are linked to blue green algae, and compete with fish for food. They are bottom feeders take in toxins and pass to fish or diving ducks eating them which are passed to people eating those fish or ducks. Zebra mussels are most injurious invasive species in U.S. and have been added to the Lacey Act making movement across state lines a violation and a Class B misdemeanor. The adults can live out of water for up to 30 days and veligers can live up to 24 days. In 2003, was first contamination at El Dorado and since then 34 bodies of water have been

contaminated and is on the rise; Kansas has nine reservoirs and 51 state lakes not contaminated. Other states list Kansas as high risk state because no boat inspections. Kansas Governor is part of Western Governors Association and that group went to U.S. Dept of Interior and asked for support with funding at boat launches; if governors want to curtail the spread others might want to pitch in and help curtail spread. Think about these three recommendations and make part of your efforts: 1) 2006 study done and concluded 400 to 900 microscopic eggs could be in bilge of boat leaving a water area, why take the risk, recommend boat plugs out when boat being transported so water is expelled; 2) moving bait fish from one body of water to another you never know where they might be, instead of moving bluegill and green sunfish in lake water, move in container filled with tap water or well water; and 3) education is most important key to preventing and curtailing spread, several years ago working on effort to bring zebra mussel prevention into the schools, recommend continuing that effort. Future consideration of these recommendations would be appreciated.

Chairman Lauber – Getting inquiries and recommendations for night time predator hunting with use of artificial light (Exhibit E), a million new gadgets and a big push to use it. Don't think will hurt resource, but could be nightmare for law enforcement because they would be hunting coyotes and not deer according to them. I understand and see both sides. Any time you have an industry that produces this much consumer goods there will be a push to put it into use. The support will get louder and all we can say it is because our spread thin law enforcement personnel don't have more issues to deal with.

Also have a letter from a woman in Belleville (Exhibit F), brother took family dog out for a walk and there was a coyote hunter in the area, not using spotlight, but moonlight, he was using a rabbit call and called in the dog and the dog was shot and killed. She has asked for no hunting after dark. There is two sides to this issue and as a Commission we will have to deal more with this at a later date, not on agenda right now. Need to reflect on this to provide sporting opportunity, but not have other consequences. Sexson – We have heard same comments, staff has been looking at that from law enforcement and furharvester perspective, not going on deaf ears, but is complicated, how to allow for certain things with potential illegal take on the other side. We are looking at that and at some point will come forward and address it with the commission.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

Presentations

75-year Anniversary Magazine Update - Mike Miller, chief of Information Production Section and magazine editor, presented this update to the Commission. Call attention to display on table at back, brainchild of Nadia, 75th year of magazine in print, started in 1938, but from 1944 to 1949, at the request of the war department, the magazine was not in print. We put together an anniversary issue, wish we had copies, but printer was having problems, we have examples of how it was laid out in the back. Went through 458 issues and pulled out snippets and put in scrapbook-type format and think you will find it interesting. There was only one reason we could do that, because Sheila Kemmis put a lot of effort in archiving and scanning all of our magazines so we had pdfs we could use. You will find it interesting and it is a fun historical aspect of the magazine, but is also chronicles our agency. In 1938 it was typewritten and mimeographed on paper with a line art cover and was mailed out to small circulation of Kansas residents; by 1940 it was a magazine on slick paper with black and white photographs. We are going to make those archives available on our website and people will be able to look at each one of those issues. Went from circulation of 70,000 subscribers in 1970s when it was free, now to 15,000 to 20,000 and subscription fees pay for production. Not a lot of people work on this magazine, Nadia is managing editor, Annie works on circulation and fulfillment and Dustin Teasley is graphic

designer and he did the work up and design of this issue; we are proud of it and it is a fun trip down memory lane. Robin Jennison – Like to dovetail on what Mike said and encourage everyone to look at display. I grew up reading the magazines and gained a great appreciation for it over the last couple of years having an opportunity to look at the old additions; it chronicle this agency. As I travel around the state I hear complaints about the agency, but I have never had anyone complain about our magazine, the opposite is true, everyone loves it and love the photos. Changed a lot over the years, better under Mike's purview. Mike's staff has a presentation they want to make. Nadia Reimer – While going through archives we noticed that Mike came on 1989, and I counted that he has overseen the production of 173 magazines, 143 without my help, When I think about all of the writers, photographers and changes in staff, Mike has made it better and spent 29 years as editor. *Gave Mike an award, MVE award (most valuable editor)*. Chairman Lauber – I echo what Robin says, no one ever complains about the magazine.

RMEF Presentation – Mason Cooper – I am current regional director for RMEF and I would like to introduce Jordan Brown, he will take my place as regional director for Kansas and Missouri, and I will be moving closer to family and friends in South Dakota as their director. I want to thank the commission for your support, appreciate the commissioner's tag and the money we have been able to raise for RMEF in partnering with you. Thank everybody for support and elk herd here in Kansas. *Presented plaque for Partner in Conservation Award.*

2017 Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project Award Presentation - Joe Larscheid, AFS presented award to Doug Nygren. Doug Nygren – Joe is representing the fish administrators section of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), he is the chief of fisheries in Iowa, and we want to welcome him. Larscheid – Pleased to be here, on behalf of the administration section of the AFS, pleased to present the 2017 Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project award to KDWPT for bathymetric mapping of Kansas reservoirs project. The sportfish restoration program award is intended to highlight importance and effectiveness of program and recognize excellence in the categories of fisheries management, research and education. The sportfish restoration program obtains revenues from a federal excise tax collected on fishing tackle, boats and motor boat fuel and revenue is returned to the states to enhance fisheries and boating activities. This is a true user-pay, user-benefit program. The program was created in 1950 and expanded in 1984 and has provided \$8.3 billion nationwide. KDWPT allocation for 2017 for nearly \$5 million, for entire program period, 1950 to the present, \$131 million for Kansas, a critical source of revenue. The fisheries administrative section recognizes the critical importance of this program for state agencies, but also knows that there is ongoing scrutiny from legislatures and people paying user taxes. This award program helps identify and showcase outstanding fisheries projects from across the U.S. and generates appreciation and continued support for the program. Thank you for allowing time for background of the program. Kansas division personnel used commercially available sonar gear and open source statistical NGIS software to collect data and create bathymetric maps showing with depth contours and locations of habitat enhancements on 57 popular Kansas impoundments. This provided useful data for the average angler, who can go to a website to look at maps and find out where to fish and look at where habitat enhancements are and besides that these maps provided very accurate estimates of bathymetric data - how much water is in the lake. This is critical when we go to renovate fisheries and control aquatic vegetation. One of the exciting things Iowa and Kansas has started doing is low dose rotenone projects where we renovate part of the fish community for gizzard shad and grass carp and sometimes yellow bass and not affect the other sportfish in system, such as largemouth bass and walleye; it takes accurate data to do that. You have to use precise concentrations to target what you want to kill and not kill the other species and this allowed Kansas to go forth with that project. It took two years to get mapping done. It is a very efficient and wise use of sportfish restoration dollars. AFS applauds these extraordinary efforts and again wants to congratulate KDWPT bathymetric map of Kansas reservoirs project. Doug Nygren – We have had over

25,000 of these maps downloaded since we put them up on the website (Exhibit G – example of maps). I'll have Ben Neely come up; he is brain child of whole project. Ben Neely – Joe, thanks for coming to present this award. This was an opportunity to try and help the anglers, to improve access, and improve angling success. A lot of innovation in this we did with free software and a \$500 depth finder. It was a matter of going out and making it happen with time. We wanted to give anglers the opportunity to see what is going on under the lakes. This gives opportunity to find breaks, best places to fish, gives us opportunity to identify boat ramps, where to augment habitat and allows us to give fairly precise bathymetric data. When working with projects that rely on chemical concentrations as low as 7.5 parts per billion that ends up equating to about 20 gallons in 500 acre feet and getting accurate and precise measurements is helping us fine tune management strategies and helping to ensure we have good fishing for years to come.

Recognition of Fisheries Division Employees of the Year Awards - Doug Nygren, Fisheries Division director, presented these awards. Recognizing some outstanding employees, we were going to do this at last meeting, but only Aaron Andrews was able to make it because of the weather. We have biologists, researchers and culturists. Honor two other folks, (*read nominations* – Exhibit H) Ben Neeley is the winner of the 2017 outstanding work in research and management of Kansas aquatic resource. He is willing to think outside the box, which was instrumental for bathymetric maps, and serves on several committees in and out of state. Richard Sanders is the 2017 outstanding district biologist and division employee winner. He is a high quality example of service to the agency, exemplary since 1983, and he efficiently completes duties with a can-do attitude. Chairman Lauber – Thank you Doug, Ben and Richard.

Recognition from Public Lands to Fire Department - Dustin Mengarelli, Public Lands regional supervisor, presented this award. Like to make this acknowledgement: we have many partners who are hunting-, habitat- or recruitment-based organizations and we would like to recognize one of the groups we work with often, but rarely acknowledge. In the early morning hours of October 17, 911 called the Jefferson County dispatch and reported two young men were stuck in the mud at Kyle Marsh. They were on their way to hunt ducks in the west unit, but got stuck up to their waist in mud; unable to free themselves they called for help. District 11 fire was dispatched, after assessing the scene and a couple of attempts to reach them by ATV and walking. A plan was concocted. A rope was tied to the hunter's dog, Otis. The hunters coaxed the dog to them and they were able to tie the ropes to themselves and be physically pulled out. Otis was able to make the trip three times. On behalf of the Perry Wildlife Area, and Public Lands Division staff and KDWP we would like to recognize the Jefferson County District 11 Fire Department for their special efforts in assisting our constituents, as well as continued partnerships.

Presentation from Law Enforcement to Hills Pet Nutrition – Dan Heskett, Law Enforcement Division assistant director, presented this award. *Introduced new law enforcement colonel, Jason Ott.* There are commonalities in professional athletes to allow them to perform the way they do, proper medical attention, nutrition and diet. Our professional athletes, our K9s require the same elements. In 2002, Jason Sawyers and Jason Barker started devising a plan to start a K9 unit. The majority of initial start-up costs were raised through private donations from companies and individuals. One of corporations that stepped up was Hill's Pet Nutrition. They were asked if they would sell the department pet food at a reduced price and they said no; they donated it at no cost and have continued to do so for 15 years. Since inception of our program, we have added K9 teams, now up to nine teams. The cost of dog food has not decreased and they have saved the agency thousands of dollars. *Presented award to Kathy Reeves, Hill's Pet Nutrition representative.* Heskett – The plaque says “In recognition of Hill's Pet Nutrition for 15 years of dedicated and continued support of the K9 program of the Law Enforcement Division of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and Tourism, September 1, 2002 to September 1,

2017". We cannot express our appreciation enough for the support your company has shown to us; there are no words to explain it.

Break

A. Secretary's Remarks

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Todd Workman, assistant secretary, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit I). The Park Fee Fund (PFF) is up 15.07 percent, because of a robust July. The Cabin Revenue Fund (CRF) is up \$70,000 for FY18; the Wildlife Fee Fund (WFF) is slightly down, not quite one percent. We analyze month-to-month and year-to-year; deviations could be when deposits hit the bank, which could be \$250,000 to \$500,000. In March of last year, low last year because it was launch month for online system and a lot of deposits were held up so that might not accurate depiction, still even with last year. PFF line graph shows same trends for last three years and well above other years. WFF balance reflects fee increases and is trending higher. Cabin revenue and net revenue balance, third line is Wildscape and how much money we pay them yearly, we pay them about \$100,000 a year, which is 10 percent of gross revenue from cabins each year. Commissioner Rider – Go into detail of what fee increase money was used for and how agency has benefited from that? Workman – Not in charge of those programs, but all of that money has to be used for wildlife related programs. Sexson – All goes to wildlife and fisheries programs; we enhanced WIHA acreage and rates, enhanced private lands Habitat First program, research programs like deer and lesser prairie chickens for instance, fisheries programs that Doug has talked about, and shooting range activities as well; it is a wide range of things we were able to bolster and gives us matching funds in order to make use of all of the PR/DJ funds; we also have CI and public lands projects, a myriad of things, but all oriented towards fish and wildlife programs. Commissioner Rider – Goes against my grain to raise prices and want to make sure users are getting something back from that. Jennison – The philosophy we adopted, there was significant revenue on an annual basis as a result of those fee increases and the agency will grow into that revenue, in the future those funds will be weighted heavy towards capital improvements, a number of CCC dams that need repaired, repairs at Pratt office and some water issues at Pratt in the future; some things that are one-time-only expenditures. Looking at a graph that is the metric we are looking at on how to deal with decreasing number of hunters; since 2012, dropped 12 percent of deer hunters; 20,000 hunters overall buying licenses and the graph shows a steel drop off. If you add back in senior licenses we have sold since we started lifetime senior license program, it brings it back to 115,000; went from 105,000 to 85,000, but that was only a bandaid. The trend is that when hunters my age quit hunting, it will drop off significantly, in about 10-15 years; we are not any different than any other state. Hunters and anglers have been funding all of the conservation work and that is not going to work long term. Workman – One particular project is at Woodson, a FEMA disaster, project is well over \$1 million and we still have to come up with 25 percent of that money. When we inspect dams now if there are big trees we are pulling them then we have to bring in engineers to calculate impacts. We asked the fish and wildlife side to prioritize based on engineering evaluations which ones they wanted to do first, but we can spend a lot of money to get those back up to grade. Commissioner Cross – WFF balance, in 2018 it starts off at \$17 million in July, why so much higher than other years? Workman – Starting in April and running through July there is an influx of money coming in with nonresident deer applications.

Workman – I would like to ask law enforcement Colonel Jason Ott to come up and say a few words. Jason Ott – Replacing Kevin Jones, 20 years of law enforcement, former employee of the agency for three years in investigations unit. When opportunity came to come back to the agency I did because this is the best group of people I have ever worked with. I look forward to attending your meetings and answering your questions. Chairman Lauber – Welcome aboard.

2. 2018 Legislature – Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission. Year two of two-year cycle so bills alive last year are potentially still alive this year. Coming up on last week of regular committee meetings. Next week legislature will be on the floor and running bills, break Friday and come back for conference committees, then three week break, then back for veto session, which is usually 10 days, but last several years much longer. This year we don't have a prediction, but there was school finance presentation last Friday, so a lot of discussion, and expect that to dominate the rest of session. Bills with movement: SB 25, department initiative last year, deals with cabins and using dynamic pricing to set those fees, amended in Senate to add camp sites, passed Senate as a conference-able item. SB 301 is a guide bill designed to register guides, not regulate them; if offering hunts for sale and guiding you would have to have a registered business, didn't make it out, but exempt bill because introduced in exempt committee so deadlines don't necessarily apply. SB 307 is about amusement rides, group came together to work on this, bill that passed last year had unintended consequences on agritourism and county fairs with amusement rides; the group sent back to legislature to loosen some of restrictions, passed Senate, House introduced substitute which contained most of the parts of the Senate bill and is moving on House floor, below the line which means work it next week, if passed then go to conference committee for differences to be worked out. SB 330 was our initiative dealing with fee limitations; many of our fees are at their cap. The way the statutes and regulations work is regulations set a cap on fees and the commission by regulation sets fees and we have reached cap on hunting and fishing licenses and in order to grow the agency to stay financially viable that cap will have to be raised and fees adjusted. We went from 2003 to 2015 without a fee increase on those items and the department introduced the bill to raise the caps, bill had a hearing, went to Senate floor and didn't reach deadlines and was stricken from calendar. SB 331 designates two new state parks, Flint Hills Trail State Park and Little Jerusalem State Park, which is owned by The Nature Conservancy and would come under agreement with our agency and we would manage it. The Flint Hills Trail, formerly Flint Hills Nature Trail, would move into the agency just like Prairie Spirit Rail Trail and we would manage as a state park. The bill passed Senate 26-14, went to House, attempt in House committee to strip Flint Hills Trail which failed, was an addition to the bill which would create an advisory council and an amendment that related to confined animal feeding operations; there are setbacks, a concern of linear park versus geographic centered park. Passed out of House committee, been on floor for a couple of weeks and may go above the line tomorrow. SB 447, the department requested introduction of a bill to purchase land in Kingman County, did not get a hearing and tomorrow chance so bill is dead for the year. HB 2042 and 2145 are firearms bills, we don't necessarily support or oppose any of those bills we follow them because they impact our constituents; these deal with conformity to federal law when it comes to domestic violence and there are tons of amendments attempted on those so we follow them. Both are in conference committee, there was an attempt to change concealed carry permits from 21 to 18, went through House, but Senate struck that. HB 2460 dealt with firearms safety education in the schools, a proposal that if you were going to have firearms education in schools, in grades 1 to 5 use Eddie Eagle from the NRA, 5-8 could be Eddie Eagle or hunter education and 9-12 would be hunter education. It looked like bill was going to move forward, but after national incidents it was pulled from the calendar and likely won't go anywhere this year. HB 2452 was on limiting the duration of conservation easements; there were hearings, but it didn't move anywhere. Watching HB 2526 passed House today and is going to delay our regulatory process, which has a significant impact on our agency. There was testimony on the floor today about delaying regulations by six months and stronger economic analysis of regulations and the impacts if over certain thresholds; the director of budget could veto or stop a regulation from moving forward. That is problematic when talking about time constraints that we work our regulations through and using real time data on deer permits and deer harvest to come up with numbers. Regulations take six to nine months, which is how long we plan as a staff; Levi is crunching deer numbers in

January and February to come up with regulations to get ready to go in March so nonresidents can draw in April. If there is a delay in that process that can have a significant impact on both the agency and the resource. It passed out on House in general orders today in final actions tomorrow and then we will see where it goes in the Senate. HB 2558 relates to expiration of controlled shooting areas season, pushes it back from March 31 to April 30; passed House and Senate and is on way to governor for signature. HB 2650 is state symbols, the things we use to teach our children to be proud of our state and use to promote our state. Finally, these have seen some action, it started with kid's coming to talk about having a state rock, mineral and gemstone and we requested a state fish at the same time. The bill would designate the state rock as greenhorn limestone, state mineral as galena, state gemstone as jelinite amber, which is only found under Kanopolis Lake and we added the state fish; passed House easily went to Senate and they modified it to greenhorn limestone rather than limestone and was an attempt to change state fish. We have a lot of discussion over the years about this and it is appropriate because Seth Way came up with idea for channel catfish propagation and that is used all over the world today, a fitting tribute for Mr. Way who was our hatchery manager for nearly 40 years; on way to conference committee so likely will have a state fish. There was a bill on property tax that dealt with motor vehicles and vessels that would have increased the percentage of property tax on vessels from 5 to 5.5 percent if over \$50,000; came up for hearing and was pulled from calendar. HB 2743 deals with transferable deer permits, department continues to oppose that, discussion in House Agriculture and did not move out of that committee. HB 2764 deals with some of our employees; it transfers law enforcement individuals in public lands, parks and law enforcement to a different retirement system out of KPERS to Kansas Police and Fire. Chairman Lauber – The bill on registering guides, do we have an opinion on that? Tymeson – We were neutral, we have had a lot of discussion over the years and 19 years ago we regulated guides, then we didn't. You have broad ends of the spectrum where people want to regulate them out of existence and some that don't want regulation. This proposal simply requires them to be registered and we would maintain that registry on our website so people know if registered or not. It provides a penalty of a Class C misdemeanor, which is up to a \$500 fine. Chairman Lauber – The continued abuse, this does not solve and it would still be our fault. Tymeson – This does not solve any issue it just tells a landowner if they have a registered business or not. Chairman Lauber – Who is promoting this? Tymeson – It is coming from a particular senator. There was testimony, some outfitters wanted far end of spectrum and want to regulate guides and some wanted no regulation. This is not regulation, simply registration. Doug Phelps, Manhattan – On guide registration, does that include landowners, or would they be exempt? Tymeson – There was an exemption in there for landowners, which again makes it difficult, but I think that was stricken out when it passed out. Hard to keep up with all of the bills at this time of year and I wasn't there for part of the testimony where they worked the bill, I was there when it was sent out of committee. Commissioner Williams – Is there a fee for that registration? Tymeson - \$100 annually is what is in the bill. I can't tell what fiscal impact will be, no way to know who has an operation going now.

B. General Discussion

1. iSportsman Update – Dustin Mengarelli, public lands regional supervisor, presented this update to the Commission (PP - Exhibit J). Developed in 2007 by Applied Sciences & Information Systems Inc, out of Virginia Beach, Virginia. They are a natural resources firm and Kansas was first state to use as a state agency; there is a testimony to Mike Nyhoff on their webpage. Essentially iSportsman was initiated for military installations; Fort Riley has had it for numerous years before we started. Besides Kansas, there are 15 air force bases, 23 army installations, one national wildlife refuge and Indiana DNR signed a contract and should be coming online in September; Iowa asked us for information as well as other states looking at it. In public lands we talk about “you can't manage what you don't measure” so our goals are to

optimize public access for hunting, angling and other public recreation; land stewardship; habitat infrastructure; public health and safety; and marketing for opportunities and values. Program started September 1, 2014 with 13 initial properties and have added properties each year and added iWIHA program last fall. Value is harvest data that replaces harvest cards and is valuable for managers as it pertains to species harvested, locations and dates harvested, which helps managers determine how productive a pool or area is. We also look at hunter activity and hunter use and surprises that come out of data. Managers are looking at birds per hunter, hunter trips, harvest data by pool, birds per hunter and hunter tips. *Talked about graph figures.* Value at regional or state level is more important, we can look at hunter use, where and how often; number of hunters and can deal with crowding issues and safety and compare properties regular to seasonal use, when they are hunting; which we have never known before and can use figure management priorities. Use information to do a lot of grant writing; community buy-in is big and shows what we do for them; new properties can be managed differently; and special hunts or limited hunts can be added. In 2014/15 had 6,400 user accounts with 13,000 check-ins; 10,000 in 2015 and 41,000 check-ins; and so on with gain each year; totaling 134,000 check-ins in four-year period. Number of hunter days by activity on i-Sportsman areas; waterfowl hunting is number one on public land properties. When you look at properties Cheyenne Bottoms is the leader in waterfowl hunter days; Milford is number one in all activities when combined. This shows us we need to put more money into Cheyenne Bottoms, anything we can do to help improve that. For waterfowl hunting it ranks, Cheyenne Bottoms, Marais des Cygnes, Neosho and Milford. Number of hunters is Cheyenne Bottoms, Milford, Marais des Cygnes and Hillsdale. Number of hunters by activity: waterfowl is number one, 43.7 percent and upland bird is number two; more upland bird and dove hunters than deer hunters, which is the opposite of what we thought. Number of hunters per property, Cheyenne Bottoms, Milford, Marais des Cygnes and Hillsdale, which is smaller and has less wetlands than some of our other properties, but is close to urban populace. Comparison of hunters to hunter days by activity: waterfowl, archery deer has higher number of hunter days, but has less hunters and firearm deer has more hunters, but less days and upland bird is a lot more hunters than days by percentage. Number of days hunted per hunter: Milford leads with 4.3 days per season and then a group that falls between 3.5 to 3 days, the lowest are special hunt properties and are only hunted through special hunt draws. Residents vs. nonresident hunters: a misconception is that we are overrun with nonresident hunters, according to this data we are not; for every nonresident waterfowl hunter there are 3.3 resident hunters; hardly any nonresident dove hunters coming to our properties; upland is one nonresident to 2.1 residents; firearms deer is residents and archery deer is 1:2.5 and small game is mostly residents again. Number of resident to nonresident hunters when compared to properties: Cheyenne Bottoms is 2.16 resident to nonresident ratio, Glen Elder has a lot of upland bird hunting 1.32 and property in iSportsman system with more nonresident hunters than residents is Lovewell and we assume that is because of proximity to Nebraska. Hunter days hunted compared to activity, based on top three properties, Hillsdale, Milford and Cheyenne Bottoms: archery deer hunting at Milford is highest one, also furharvesting and waterfowl hunting based on number of day each individual is hunting. If you look at light goose, firearms deer hunting Hillsdale is higher. Hunter activity crossover: compares all of hunting types (archery deer, firearms deer, upland bird hunting, waterfowl and dove), 81.49 percent are only hunting one species/activity on all of properties and 14 percent hunt two. Made some comparisons of crossover activities from September 1 to the present and compared waterfowl hunting to small game hunting; waterfowl to dove; and waterfowl to upland; and firearms deer to archery deer; the biggest crossover is firearms deer to archery deer hunting. Number of states: Hillsdale brings in 18 states, Cheyenne Bottoms brings in 40 and Milford brings in 38. iWIHA uses limited access, while increasing incentives, to pay more for higher quality properties and improving quality of hunt. Started November 10, 2017 with two properties, in Osage and Atchison counties, which received significant use as soon as they came online without any advertizing; currently have five tracts coming available the beginning of turkey season and

multiple contracts in the works. This is limited to 19 counties around urban centers that have limited hunting access; paying more and getting quality tracts closer to people. Without iSportsman or iWIHA these tracts would not be available at all. iSportsman has been beneficial and able to look at state and regional level to see what is going on. Waterfowl hunting is huge on public land because there is not that many opportunities on private land and are in process of projects/contracts with Ducks Unlimited and other NGOs for wetland development at many of our properties. Surprisingly, overwhelming majority of public land users are hunting one thing. More emphasis needs to be focused on high-use properties. There is so much we can do that would not be available if we didn't have this system. Commissioner Dill – Are there fees to organization? Mengarelli – Maintenance fees associated with new development. Commissioner Rider – Do any of the area managers post iSportman data to their area site? Mengarelli – Not that I know of. As we have expanded program it is hard to compare some of that information and we need to make sure we are comparing apples to apples, at point where we can start releasing some information to the constituents, maybe annual reports; but we don't want to spoon feed constituents, hunting is hunting, it's not shooting. Van Hoozier – Are you eventually going to include fishing resources as well as hunting? Mengarelli – There has been some talk about that, but I don't know. Van Hoozier – People tell me they get upset when they have to go to the boat ramp fishing and they don't have to check in, but if go to same boat ramp duck hunting or going up river to squirrel hunt, they do. Do anything about increasing ability for me to get to your website from parts of Kansas where I can't get service? Or at least allow me to check-in before I leave home when I am going to be there for 2-3 weeks camping and then check-out when I get back? About a third of the days I hunt I am not in compliance because I can't check into iSportsman. Another third of those days I am just out walking and it counts in your data as a hunt and it never was, but I don't want a law enforcement officer seeing me in the woods with a firearm. Mengarelli – If not hunting, don't check in. Van Hoozier – Worried about running into law enforcement officer who might question that. Mengarelli - I can't give you legal advice, but legal to carry a firearm anywhere in the state. Van Hoozier – You were talking about getting high quality on different lands and I will be able to check-in and know how many people are going to be on that area, because I might opt to check in someplace else to not fight the crowd. Mengarelli – Some of information is limited through the system itself, what they can and can't do. Looking at limited access and how much is good access to have quality hunts. Check in morning or night before and it is essentially yours or your group's. Van Hoozier – It shouldn't be that difficult to have been able to check-in on a date certain and check-out on a date certain rather than do it day-to-day. Mengarelli – That is incorrect, the system is set up for daily check-in and check-out that is how it is programmed and how it works. Van Hoozier – If camping, can't do that if no cell service, so on those days I am not in compliance so for every one of those days. I would like to be but you have not provided that possibility for me. Mengarelli – We have had some issues with people not being able to check-in or check-out at certain properties, but in the big picture it is not an issue because you can drive a little way and get service. Most people have learned where that service area is so they can get in and out of the system. Van Hoozier – You are making it more difficult for me as a camper who comes into an area for 17-24 days and I have to drive a half mile each morning and night to check in and out; if you do that 15-17 times, it takes a lot of time and money to do that. No problem at Perry, but when I camp at Glen Elder there is. There should be some type of way to check-in and check-out at a later date. I want to be in compliance. Mengarelli – At Glen Elder we had 1,000 people checked in and out successfully. Van Hoozier – At Glen Elder you know about one deer I shot, but not the other one because I could not get service, so your data is skewed. It may be an anomaly, but we all want to be in compliance. Chairman Lauber – Think about it and consider what you can do; it is unfortunate, but we can't amend everything because of this. See if there is a way to address this in the future and figure out something, can't solve it here today.

2. Upland Birds – Jeff Prendergast, upland game biologist, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit K). Too early to tell you how fall hunting will be, but will give you background information on how and why we set game bird regulations. Inquiries about changes to the season dates and bag limits for upland game birds are not uncommon. There is a common misconception that reducing harvest or changing regulations to be more similar to other states will improve our populations in Kansas. Several principals drive the harvest of upland game animals. 1) Hunter harvest has little biological relevance to the populations of upland game birds because pheasants, quail and prairie chickens are short-lived species that produce a lot of offspring. As such, populations are governed primarily by annual production of young, not by the survival of adults. This is why we often observe drastic population fluctuations from one year to the next. The prime example of this was the dramatic increase observed from all time lows in 2013 to the 20-year high we observed in 2017. 2) Considering pheasants the sexes are easily identifiable and the species are polygamist, meaning a single male will breed multiple females. By limiting harvest in males this protects females and further maximizes the potential for reproduction. Males have been shown to breed as many as ten hens and our post-season surveys have never indicated sex ratios of less than one cock per three hens. While the sexes of quail and prairie chickens are not easily identifiable on the wing and populations are still primarily governed by annual production of young we can support sustainable populations while allowing hen harvest. 3) Hunters self-regulate when upland game bird populations are perceived to be low, those that participate spend less time pursuing birds. You can easily observe this trend in pheasant harvest graph provided in briefing book where the hunter effort follows the total harvest, thus harvest pressure is already being reduced during times of scarcity without the need to alter regulations. There have been research efforts to examine impacts of changing harvest regulations. In one study neighboring counties in Minnesota and Iowa showed very similar population trajectories despite sometimes drastic differences in harvest regulations, including complete closure of a season. Looking at pheasant crow survey and bobwhite whistle survey you can see recovery that has occurred in last three years after both species hit record low populations; pheasants have returned to slightly above average and quail have reached modern day highs, despite established regulations. Because of limited biological importance of the timing of hunting season the department has maintained season structures to accommodate the most preferred options for Kansas pheasant and quail hunters; the second Saturday in November to January 31, initiated in 1982 and prior to that the seasons varied annually. Changing the season dates can be very controversial. Historically when changes have been made they have been met with strong resistance, both in changes to opening and closing dates. The latest alteration attempted was in fall 2006, upland bird season opened one week earlier; it lasted three years and was strongly opposed. A 2007 survey indicated the strongest preference was to open second Saturday of November and close January 31 and for pheasants and quail to have concurrent seasons. These preference revolve around hunting traditions and agricultural concerns. No recommendations for changes. Chairman Lauber – We need those talking points on little cards. Prendergast – Have common misconceptions brochure for upland game birds and some of those are in there. Chairman Lauber – Send to all of the commissioners.

C. Workshop Session

1. Webless Migratory Bird Regulations – Rich Schultheis, migratory game bird biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit L). Chairman Lauber – Are coots considered webless, have web-like things on their toes? Schultheis – No, they are lobed toes. No changes to federal frameworks this year and staff is recommending no changes. There are some follow-up issues as a result of some changes we made last year. We are recommending KAR 115-20-7 be revoked as a result of that. This regulation contains taking methods, legal equipment and possession of migratory doves and was adopted in 2009, during process of establishing our exotic dove season. When we removed exotic doves from regulations last year we can now defer

to federal regulations that are in place for those migratory doves, which are mourning doves and white-ringed doves. Thus this regulation is no longer necessary. The only requirement is that doves are only taken in flight, if this action is taken. Chairman Lauber – Federal regulations allows me to shoot a dove in a tree? Schultheis – Yes, that is correct.

2. Waterfowl Regulations – Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit M). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops frameworks within which states are able to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons; these establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within these frameworks when establishing state-specific migratory game bird seasons. Briefing book item was provided and the only change from last year is increase in daily bag on northern pintails from one per day to two.

3. KAR 115-29-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley – Levi Jaster, big game research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit N). This is regulation sets military subunit seasons, changes are usually due to deployment and to avoid conflict of military operations and hunting seasons. Smoky Hill has requested to have deer hunting seasons same as the statewide seasons. Gave you another handout with the dates (Exhibit V). Fort Riley has requested additional archery days starting September 1, 2018 through September 16, 2018, and from January 2, 2019 January 31, 2019; additional days of hunting opportunity for designated persons (i.e., youth and people with disabilities) from October 6, 2018 through October 9, 2018, which is in place of pre-rut antlerless firearm season that they don't want; and firearm season dates of November 23, 2018 through November 25, 2018, which coincides with troop time off, and December 15, 2018 through December 23, 2018, same number of days. Fort Leavenworth has requested the same seasons except for firearm season November 17, 2018, again same number of days; an extended firearm season for the taking of antlerless-only white-tailed deer from January 1, 2019 through January 13, 2019; and an extended archery season for the taking of antlerless-only white-tailed deer from January 14, 2019 through January 31, 2019. Commissioner Dill – Is this the first time Smoky Hills has had this change that covers through same Thanksgiving period? Jaster – Their choice is for opportunity when they have time off, to include Thanksgiving. Sexson – Is that different from what they have had? Jaster – Have to look that up. Tymeson – They have switched around several times over the last 20 years and sometimes it has corresponded with our season. Commissioner Dill – There is not a lot of active staff on duty, it is more of training facility. Tymeson – It shifted a little earlier in previous years, shifted back and now shifting one more time.

4. Public Land Regulations – Stuart Schrag, director, Public Lands Division, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit O). Talking about changes to the public land reference document under KAR 115-8-1; under age restrictions, adding wording designating “weekends and holidays only” to Hillsdale Wildlife Area in Region 2, open to anybody during the week to allow more access. Under boating restrictions, no motorized boats, add Neosho Wildlife Area stating motorized watercraft permitted only during the waterfowl season, and no motorized watercraft allowed in pools 4A and 4B and no out-of-water propeller-driven watercraft permitted any time, basically no airboats, which mirrors the regulation that covers Cheyenne Bottoms. Under no gasoline engine powered boats, add Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area Olsburg Marsh in Region 2 to provide various types of waterfowl access; Tuttle Creek would then have a walk-in marsh, non-motorized and gasoline powered boat marshes. Under Daily Hunt Permits, for Region 1 add Talmo Marsh and for Region 2 add Blue Valley Wildlife Area. As Dustin pointed out the two wildlife areas in iWIHA program under daily hunt permit section. Chairman Lauber – Has there been an airboat used that caused this to be a factor? Schrag – Airboat regulation has

in the books for some time to include state fishing lakes so this would mirror that regulation on Neosho.

5. Antelope and Elk 25-Series Regulations – Matt Peek, research game biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit P). Third time I have presented this series of regulations. No significant changes planned for pronghorn this year. Allocations are: Unit 2, 122 firearm and 34 muzzleloader permits; Unit 17, 44 firearm and 10 muzzleloader permits; and Unit 18, 14 firearm and six muzzleloader permits. Standard season dates.

6. KAR 115-25-8. Elk; open season, bag limit, and permits – Matt Peek, research game biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Q). Establish August 1 through August 31 firearm season to better address damage situations. Permits valid in Units 2 and 3 will be open with the exception of Unit 2a, Fort Riley, which is not open during that August season. We are recommending limited draw permits, 12 any-elk and 18 antlerless elk permits for Units 2 and 3. The herd on Fort Riley is doing well and this is up three any-elk permits from what it has been in recent years. Permits, up three antlerless elk permits, from 15 up to 18. Chairman Lauber – Unit 1, no permits there? Peek – That is the buffer zone around Cimarron National Grasslands. Elk were reintroduced there years ago and they come back on there to calf. We communicate with personnel there and defer to them on whether there is enough elk or not. We haven't had hunting there in recent years. Chairman Lauber – The remaining Unit 3 is because most elk in that area are potentially problematic and it is good biology and public relations to let them be harvested. Peek – Right. It is good policy to let landowners determine how many elk are in those areas. Some large herds and landowners pretty protective of them. With so much private land we give them the option to maintain the herd at a level they are willing to tolerate.

7. KAR 115-4-6. Elk; management units – Matt Peek, research game biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit R). The proposal is to move the northern and northeastern boundaries from Tuttle Creek and what was the Green/Randolph Road down to Barton Road to allow hunting along Highway 24. There are some elk that stay between Green/Randolph and Barton roads permanently and this allows those elk staying in that area to be hunted by any general resident with over-the-counter permits. Right now, within Unit 2, only the limited draw and over-the-counter permits to landowners can be used in that area. This will move that northern part up and move it into Unit 3. Chairman Lauber – Above Barton Road is Unit 2 or Unit 3? Peek – The dotted line on map is current boundary to current Unit 2 and it currently runs along Tuttle Creek Road, we are proposing to move boundary closer to Fort Riley, to open up from just landowners to general residents to be able to hunt with over-the-counter permits. Some of these landowners have harvested their elk and still have elk on their property that they would like to allow other people to hunt. Chairman Lauber – Above Barton Road would be considered Unit 3? Peek – Yes, that is correct. Chairman Lauber – We vote on this next time? Tymeson – We vote on the boundary regulation in June

8. Coast Guard Navigation Rules – Dan Heskett, assistant law enforcement division director, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit S). Continuation from a couple of other commission meetings as a result of an audit conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard in Spring 2017 on recreational boating safety program. We were found in noncompliance on two issues. One we have already resolved and the other involves our language in our current regulation and law on navigation rules. The Coast Guard strongly recommends we adopt Title 33 CFR Part 83 by reference as our regulation. The only change is I have provided summary to reduce the CFR to some of the language as it would appear in our publication pertaining to boating recreation safety laws. There is some language in the CFR that deals with barges, in my career only one instance dealing with a barge on Kansas River on a dredge. There is a lot of language that deals with the length of vessels. It talks about the operation of a self-propelled vessel that is 12 meters

in length, shall carry on board a copy of these rules and regulations. A 12-meter vessel is 39.37 feet. We have 92 vessels registered out of 87,000 vessels that meet that 40 feet or longer requirement. I am paring this down to the vessels that fit under that 12-meter category because those vessels have to carry these CFR rules with them anyway. Most of those vessels will have seasoned boat operators that will know that code of federal regulations. I have provided a breakdown of some of those rules as they pertain to us in the state of Kansas. There is some other good language in the CFR that we want to maintain because we have dealt with issues such as sea planes landing on El Dorado and Perry and we were handicapped because we didn't have anything specific to address those situations and this CFR does address those situations. Chairman Lauber – Can a sea plane land there? Heskett – Yes. Chairman Lauber - Can a wheeled plane land on the ice? Heskett – It basically says a sea plane so the plane would have to be capable of landing on the water by the definition of a sea plane. I have been working at El Dorado and seen a sea plane land in the middle of the reservoir. Commissioner Harrison – Last year you put on an annual law enforcement recognition day and Commissioner Cross and I attended and we enjoyed ourselves and we want to know if any plans for that this year. Heskett – First attempt at Game Warden Appreciation Day held in May, it required 46 officers, proposed as day where we could bring in equipment and set up events for activities kids could participate in, provided free hot dog lunch for 500, which we didn't quite reach. I had done the planning on the first one and turned it over to our command staff if they wanted to continue that. Not much interest in trying to do it again this year, but after speaking with you on this we are. Spoke with Captain Larry Hastings in Wichita and he and I are going to try and plan another one for possibly the second Saturday in June. We hope to hold each year on that date and rotate around the state to bring in different venues. Captain Hastings had a good idea to set up on Arkansas River across from the Hyatt Regency and set up stations where kids can ride on our boats. We are going to try to plan one. If anyone knows a company or individuals that would like to help sponsor this have them get with me.

VII. RECESS AT 4:13 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:30 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Rider – Contacted by a guy who hoped to make licensing process easier, get licenses on smart phones; make it so we could get hunting and fishing license on our driver's license possibly. Appreciated his comments on making things easier for law enforcement and hunters. Chairman Lauber – Now driver's licenses are good for 6-8 years, so that would not work. Workman – Have first meeting on new licensing for May 1 and 2, current vendor has capacity to do eLicensing so moving forward.

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

D. Public Hearing

Notice and Submission Forms and Legislative Research letter dated March 7, 2018 (Exhibit T).

1. KAR 115-25-9. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits – Levi Jaster, big game research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit U, season spreadsheet – Exhibit V). Everything is the same as it was last year with a later start for archery and muzzleloader season, September 17, a week later. From earlier comments, it is a little later, but

may not be as early as they would like. The only other change is extended antlerless season in DMU 12, Chautauqua Hills, was shifted to the long season from the mid-length season, January 1 to 13; in response to landowners with deer damage, also our surveys show a density of deer there. This will give them the opportunity to harvest deer and reduce the herd. Chairman Lauber – The date on the muzzleloader-only season is because of way the calendar fell? Jaster – Yes. Commissioner Dill – I’ve heard this request for the last three years, we have had extremely warm temperatures and muzzleloader hunters want to move their season to middle or last part of October. I don’t want to wear hunter orange when I bowhunt, but the reality is that it is way too warm that early. Didn’t know how much discussion we had on that or we just set it. Chairman Lauber – It is warm and unpleasant in some cases. When we dealt with muzzleloader season and tried to sandwich it in somewhere the bowhunters didn’t like it and they felt requirement to wear blaze orange was not fair. Everyone wants the first weekend in November, but unintended consequences no matter where you move it. Jaster – I can look at the data from the last couple of years and see if we can move it. Chairman Lauber – It would be good to have the department look at that, but may be tougher than meets the eye. Commissioner Dill – Do we have any statistics for archery hunting and how many deer are taken in the first two or three weeks of October? Jaster – Yes, as part of harvest survey we ask for what deer they harvested and what season as well as data of the kill. Commissioner Dill – Agree with Gerald to have you look at that data and if insignificant those weeks then we could move it and possibly move archery season later too.

Aaron Popelka, KLA – Gave you written testimony (Exhibit W). We feel one-day doe season is not enough and want two weeks in all units. If you look at weather on the first it was extremely cold and no one wanted to hunt; and you are encouraging folks to trespass because they want to fill tag before sundown. Give folks an opportunity and give landowners a chance to invite hunters onto their property to hunt. Accidents with deer are at a record high across the state for last five years. Will work with Commission to do this, but our members want to continue to have control. Asked brother for example of damage on our farm, 50 acres of corn; he said 15 bushel an acre decline, \$2,250 over 50 acres and we plant 1,000 acres of corn. We are asking for longer doe season, prefer two weeks, but at least a week. Chairman Lauber – I understand that if we lead down this day will lean on legislature. The one-day hunt is a symbolic overture, because those areas with one-day hunts most people feel the populations have decreased and maybe should have no season. Areas with stable or increased populations we have given them two weeks. Deer damage is not uniform, but in area with one day, biologically the resource doesn’t need any extra days. Popelka – Our farm is between 7 and 8, west of Highway 181 you can have five tags and six days and just across the highway it is one tag and one day and in reality, in Rose Creek area there are a lot of deer. Biologists say we need to maintain doe population or you are going to injure buck population. Our folks would disagree with the fact that the deer aren’t there. Chairman Lauber – Appreciate how one side can be five permits and the other side one, but we didn’t pick units out of the blue. We have taken an antlerless doe season and taken it from two days and added a third day, which was mandated by the legislature and is only now starting to get much participation there, because of weather issues. Biologists would say population does not need further thinning. My father was a rancher and he thought one deer was one too many. Jaster – Deer populations are spotty, farmers with a lot of ground and good habitat can have a lot of deer, versus the area around it with minimal deer because of the habitat. In cases with too many deer causing damage we would prefer to work with the individual landowner to help them rather than making a broad sweeping change. Chairman Lauber – Out of respect for your organization, review this before next year and see if there is some way we can make it appear to be less restrictive, whether biologically correct or not, that is what your constituents think. Popelka – With one day you are encouraging risky behavior in some of these areas and that is troubling too. We would prefer two weeks, but would take somewhere in the middle. Chairman Lauber – If we analyze numbers may discover harvest is insignificant and adding more time may

not make a difference in the numbers. Commissioner Dill – In those units with one day, they were probably allowed two antlerless tags earlier? Jaster – Those with one day only get one doe permit; they have one either-sex tag in earlier season. Average hunter in Kansas, if you look at deer harvest, 70 percent of individuals kill one or less deer a year; control is not the number of tags it is the season length and whether or not you include a weekend. Chairman Lauber – Since some of these areas are only authorizing one tag if we had time on other end it may not make any real difference to the population. But these are also the areas we get a lot of pressure to stop antlerless seasons because the number of deer have declined. For every person saying we have too many deer there are those that contend there is significant reduction. We have tried to respond by leaving a little bit of opportunity, four days outside of regular firearm season to harvest does and we have opted to give three-fourths in warmer weather during pre-rut so they have a greater chance of being filled. You see our point too and we see yours. Look for accommodating posture in the middle. Popelka – That is all that we ask. Robin Jennison – Appreciate Aaron and KLA coming to our commission meeting, I have encouraged you and Farm Bureau to come for years. This is most appropriate forum to deal with these issues, to meet with our commission, you understand this issue better than the legislature does. Important for this agency and commission to understand your viewpoint because they are important partners as we manage the natural resources. Thank you for coming and hope you will come more often because they represent a considerable number of people we deal with and have significant influence in the legislature and this is best forum to deal with these issues. Aaron, thank you. Chairman Lauber – I concur with that. My preference would be to have KLA and/or Farm Bureau have some input at every meeting. When broadcast, I don't totally buy-in to all of it, but for our non-agriculture constituency to see your position makes it easier for us when both sides of an issue contact us.

Commissioner Gary Hayzlett moved to approve KAR 115-25-9 as presented to the Commission. Commissioner Harrison Williams second.

The roll call vote on to approve was as follows (Exhibit X):

Commissioner Cassidy	Yes
Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Williams	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented passed 7-0.

2. Secretary's Orders for Deer – Levi Jaster, big game research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Y). Similar to last year, some tags have open availability such as statewide archery, white-tailed deer with any weapon, hunt-your-own-land and muzzleloader any species tags. Mule deer for residents stays the same again. Big change is units and number of antlerless tags available in them. Unit 12 goes to long season in January, but number of tags stays the same. Big changes come in nonresident permit quotas: Pawnee Unit 5 was increased to 707 tags from 656, a 51 tag difference; Osage Prairie Unit 11, now 3,253 was 3,109, increase of 144; Unit 12 increased to 2,132, was 2,076 an increase of 56; Flint Hills Unit 14 1,939, was 1,856, an increase of 78; Red Hills Unit 16, 2,103, now 1,795 a decrease of 308; and Cimarron Unit 18, 233 was 304, decrease of 71. These changes result in no net change in total number of permits, just shifted around in response to deer numbers and demand. Chairman Lauber – We

generally meet nonresident demand based on few leftover permits, by shifting will that reduce leftover permits even more? Jaster – Yes, the units that had a decrease were from units that had an average amount of leftover permits the last four years and shifted to units that had demand and a deer population that could sustain the changes. Chairman Lauber – Among the nonresident block, deer numbers and access controls whether we meet the demand or not? Jaster – Yes.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

April 26, 2018 – Chanute, Chanute Memorial Auditorium, Alliance Room (3rd Floor)

June 21, 2018 – Wichita (designation of national water trail), Great Plains Nature Center.

August 2, 2018 – Medicine Lodge, Gyp Hills Guest Ranch

October 25, 2018 – Colby, Colby Community Building

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:04 pm.