

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 26, 2008
~~**Finnup Center, Lee Richardson Zoo, Garden City, Kansas**~~
Bethel College Auditorium, North Newton, Kansas

Subject to
Commission
Approval

I. CALL TO ORDER AT 1:30 p.m.

The June 26, 2008 meeting of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Commission was called to order by Chairman Kelly Johnston at 1:30 p.m. at the Bethel College Auditorium, North Newton. Chairman Johnston and Commissioners Debra Bolton, Gerald Lauber, Frank Meyer, Doug Sebelius, Robert Wilson, and Shari Wilson 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

Revised agenda handout available on table (revised from briefing book agenda).

IV. APPROVAL OF THE April 17, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Shari Wilson moved to approve minutes as revised, Commissioner Debra Bolton second. *Approved.* (Minutes – Exhibit B).

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Joe Cook, landowner in Unit 16 – I am concerned with the large increase in nonresident tags in Unit 16 -- 91 percent of total unit increases. There are 2,336 permits for nonresidents and the surrounding four units all have fewer permits, which doesn't make a lot of sense. That is too many tags. HB 2436 had a formula that adjusted by demand and had an adjustment factor set in. When tags were allocated, I don't think that was based on that formula. In 2006, there were 1,068, and it has doubled from then. Deer tag increases will hurt the population. In 2006, 1,168 nonresidents hunted; 967 in 2007 and after the first draw, 2,236 permits were issued. Almost two to three times as many hunters. Also, hunters can use scopes this year. I am asking the Commission or Secretary Hayden to not issue the leftover permits in surrounding units and Unit 16. Void them and don't use them. I would like you to take another look at this next year so Unit 16 doesn't get the lion's share. Chairman Johnston – Secretary Hayden can hold leftover permits and not sell them if he so chooses. Lloyd Fox – The Deer Task Force worked a couple of years to come up with a modified system. They looked at demand and deer populations and other factors

and went out with public meetings and surveys to see if proposals were in the ballpark. They looked at demand over the previous six years, considering less drive for transferable permits and less drive to have legislative issues each year. Prior to this the permits were based on number of residents that bought licenses in that area. When we look at that and deer populations, Unit 16 doesn't have the number of residents who hunt there. That number was low so we tried to adjust to meet the demand in that area. We did come back with our table of proposals and they (permit number increases) varied from 10 percent to 100 percent in DMU 16. The proposal was accepted as it is and this gives us an opportunity to look at the demand under a different system. That more than covered the demand for permits in that area, 600 permits were not issued and there are also excess permits in two of the adjacent units. We are where we thought we would be with this. Even though we had permits authorized in the past, we had a series of ways nonresidents could hunt that were not directly controlled by that number. For example, the archery permit was statewide and we were estimating where they went. Also, for a few years the landowner permits could be obtained in a different unit and used in Unit 16. It seems to be in line with the demand. The numbers we were authorizing seemed low, but what we projected is all of those things combined and we don't expect a measurable increase, it is just a more straight forward look at those numbers. Nonresidents that are getting permits in adjacent units aren't all rushing to Unit 16, only about 30 percent of applications are indicating Unit 16 as the adjacent unit they are going to hunt in. They are not using it to get into Unit 16. Chairman Johnston – Was consideration given to population trends? Fox – Legislation will allow us to do that from this point on and we can determine whether we will go up and/or down. This year based primarily on nonresident demand and to meet that, they will go up or down based on the seven factors. Commissioner Lauber – This upcoming deer season, rules changed to wrest control away from agriculture and legislative interests to manage our own deer herd. There was concern that agriculture landowners could not bring in hunters, this benefited agriculture interests, but did not benefit deer management. The fact that a lot of residents don't apply in Unit 16 is because they are frozen out, access is difficult or too expensive. This is a highest bidder type thing. Fox – Not sure how that will work its way out. Deer have become more of a commodity over the last 50 years, on private land, more lately. Commissioner Lauber – That is the most obvious circumstance. Fox – It is easier for landowners to market their land. Commissioner Robert Wilson – What is the number of nonresident permits available in DMU 16? Fox – 2,336 permits and 1,666 permits issued, 670 were not obtained. Additional people that had permits in adjacent units who listed DMU 16, 568 in all. It is about the same proportion as in the rest of the state. Cook – I disagree with what Mr. Fox says, 368 in 2007; 997 in 2008 firearms; 24 in 2007, 164 in 2008 muzzleloaders; 573 in 2007, 1,073 in 2008 bowhunters. There were 967 in 2007, to 2,234 in 2008. There are good deer there and the last five or six years the trophy bucks are few and far between. This will devastate the trophy bucks left. Chairman Johnston – What is the time line for advertising left-over permits? Secretary Hayden – For some time we did not issue left-over permits, two years ago was the first time. There have been no complaints about issuing left-over permits in previous years. Chairman Johnston – When do you plan to make the decision to sell or not sell left-over permits? Secretary Hayden – There are left-over permits in a lot of units and we hope to make a decision in 10 days or less. Commissioner Lauber – Is it safe to assume the demand has been met? Secretary Hayden – We have actually a convoluted and difficult system. We only have permits for sale one month out of the year, but if you are not familiar with our system you could miss the deadline, a number of people who have never hunted in Kansas

bought those left-over permits. I can't say demand has been met because of our complex system. Commissioner Bolton – Is the main concern a decrease in trophy bucks? Cook – Yes, you should want to manage the deer herd. You can't issue that many tags in Unit 16, it shouldn't be about marketing. Chairman Johnston – Thank you Mr. Cook. It is not fair to describe the deer management that resulted was to wrest deer management away from the legislature, but was a cooperative effort?

Mike Anderson – lifetime Kansas resident and avid sportsmen. You have done a good job of addressing deer permitting, but I was taken aback when I found out your goals was to meet demand. Deer management keeps a keen eye on deer quality, but I feel like meeting demand is adverse to quality management. Trophy quality is like a gold rush, permits available were more than adequate to meet the demand. Also, to individuals who travel all over the country hunting, our permit process is not confusing. I would like to see left-over permits not issued. Let us absorb the increase. Trophy quality is on the decline and this will precipitate that decline further. Our focus should be on quality management and demand will go away if quality goes down. Chairman Johnston – Thank you Mr. Anderson.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Secretary's Remarks

1. Parks Awards - Jerry Hover, Parks Division Director, presented these awards (Exhibit C). The 2007 Park Awards are as follows: Merit Award - Kevin Kasper, Hillsdale SP; Merit Award - Ryan Stucky, Cheney SP; Public Service Award - Beverly Kleveter, Hillsdale SP; Director's Award - Denise Nielsen, El Dorado SP (accepted by Alan Stark); 25 Year Service Award – Alan Stark; 30 Year Service Award – Rick Martin; 30 Year Service Award – Jody Swartz; Award for Valor and 15 Year Service Award - Jeff Ostlund (going to Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center); Award for Valor - Dale Schwieger, Eisenhower SP; Director's Award and 35 Year Service Award - Rick Cleveland, Lovewell SP; Team Award for Valor - Crawford State Park Rescue Team (Dave Goble and others); Outstanding Employee Award - Trent McCown, Prairie Spirit Rail Trail; Outstanding Employee Award - Linda Lanterman, Assistant Division Director. Complete narratives of the awards can be found in the briefing book.

Secretary Hayden presented a 15 Years of Service Award to Jerry Hover.

2. 2008 Legislature - Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, gave this report to the Commission (Exhibit D). Eight bills passed legislature and were signed by the Governor: **SB 157**, requiring the department of wildlife and parks to purchase vessel liability insurance; **SB 267**, failure to comply with a wildlife and parks citation (Commissioner Sebelius helped get that bill passed); **SB 474**, controlled shooting areas, field trials; contained an amendment that exempts residents from needing a hunting license to shoot prairie dogs; **SB 475**, Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry, Inc., split from national chapter; **HB 2587**, hold over from last year, creating the wildlife and parks nonrestricted funds; **HB 2657**, limitations on motorboat exhaust noise, two years ago bill passed and enforcement action last summer resulted in people bringing their own bill forth -- 92 decibels measured three feet from back of vessel; **HB 2748**, tagging of

big game and wild turkey, required all turkeys to be tagged with carcass tag, can set by regulation now; and **HB 2923**, substitute bill, sub-Veteran's assistance, state employee benefits for active military duty, free hunting and fishing licenses for disabled veterans, effective January 1, 2009. The rest were not passed. Steve Sorensen – What do asterisks mean? Tymeson – Those are all the bills I track.

3. 2009 Budget Update - Dick Koerth, Assistant secretary of administration, gave this report to the Commission (Exhibit E). The Commission has been provided reports on the status of the FY 2009 budget. Included in this report are the actions taken by the Legislature and the governor pertaining to the Omnibus Appropriation Bill for FY 2009. Attached are tables with the final approved FY 2009 budget for KDWP. In addition, the report contains preliminary information on the development of the FY 2010 budget for the department. The Omnibus Appropriation Bill provided additional funding and positions. An amount of \$400,000 from the Wildlife Fee Fund was added to repair flood damage at the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area. The bill provides funding to replace ten park vehicles; funding was provided earlier to replace 21 vehicles for Law Enforcement and Fisheries and Wildlife personnel. It should be noted that the bill also allows KDWP to retain 31 replacement vehicles for use as determined by the Secretary. In addition, the bill provides 2.0 additional FTEs (a criminal investigation position and an IT position) for a total of 6.0 new FTEs for FY 2009. Although not included in the Omnibus Appropriation Bill, the Legislature did appropriate an amount of \$75,392 from the State General Fund to reimburse KDWP for annual hunting and fishing licenses issued to Kansas disabled veterans (similar to the National Guard program – licenses are available until money runs out), effective January 1, 2009. A major initiative included in the Bill authorizes KDWP to obtain land at the former Parsons Army Ammunition Plant (PAAP) in Labette County. The bill authorizes the department to obtain an option, by December 1, 2008, to acquire the property at no more than appraised value within one year of the date of the property being offered for sale by the responsible local authority. In addition, we must verify that the local authority has reimbursed the State of Kansas for an economic development grant (\$750,000) received by the local authority for access improvements to the PAAP. The preparation of the budget for FY 2010 is still in process. The Department is concerned with the rising costs of fuel and other supplies essential to agency operations, as well as the impact of the new state pay plan to salary costs. Given the distinct funding divisions that we must operate with and the status of those funding sources, the FY 2010 budget will be “lean” and provide only for existing services. It is intended that the FY 2010 capital improvement budget to be submitted on July 1, 2008 will continue basic items and use non-wildlife funding sources to the maximum possible. We are pulling money requested from the State Water Fund, two projects. The department will again request that park capital improvements be financed from Expanded Lottery Act Revenue Funds (ELARF) and that this source be considered as a dedicated funding source for park capital improvements. We have reached a point where expenditures for wildlife-related activities are exceeding receipts. This has been an ongoing development for several years, and the balances in the various wildlife funds have been able to sustain the current level of services. For FY 2010, we will be eliminating any new enhancements or programs from the agency budget request. In addition, due to rising costs for fuel and other items such as fish food, the level of funding available may require reductions in services such as fish hatchery production or law enforcement. It should also be noted that the State has initiated a new pay plan for state employees which will take five years to fully

implement -- the total fiscal impact is not known at this time. KDWP has had a period of growth in the level of services provided. The WIHA program has been expanded, additional public land has been obtained, facilities have been improved, and additional staff have increased the level of service provided to the public. For FY 2010, we will attempt to maintain the status quo without any fee increases for wildlife-related services. The level of funding for the Parks Division is projected to be stable. We have not yet received the FY 2010 State General Fund allocation, but we are assuming that it will not be less than the approved FY 2009 amount. The SGF is down \$50 million which is not a good sign going into a new budget. The Park Fee Fund has an adequate balance and revenue projections are estimated to be able to provide current services with some increases for utility and seasonal employee costs. No new employees will be requested at this time. Commissioner Shari Wilson – What will happen to the RAPS plan? Koerth – The requested \$100,000 was an attempt to get us involved in that activity. Sorensen – What is the difference between WFF and WFF federal? Koerth – There was not a difference five years ago, but the Division of Budget changed that. WFF federal is the DJ/PR funds. Sorensen – Why the flip flop of \$5 million between those two funds? Koerth – Capital improvements, there is a lag in getting those completed. Sorensen – Why no difference in BFF and BFF federal? Koerth – Fewer projects. Sorensen – Don't see \$5 million difference in capital improvements, when total expenditures are only \$6.7 million. \$1.5 million is road maintenance. Koerth -- \$18.2 in 2008, \$6.8 in 2009. Sorensen – Why no water plan money? Koerth – That was Alma. Sorensen – What is the purchase price of Parsons Ammunition Plant? Koerth - \$3 million. Sorensen – How many acres? Secretary Hayden – 3,000 to 3,800. Sorensen – There is talk of cuts to the federal budget and talk about losing NRCS biologists, even discussions of sale of public lands. Koerth – We sold 14 acres in Shawnee County next to Interstate 70 to buy Region 2 office. There was a \$1 million cut, allocation will be tighter, costs have gone up (fuel, etc.). On NRCS employees, if that program is discontinued those people will be discontinued, but nothing has been decided yet. It is in a state of flux. There are no plans to terminate those employees.

B. General Discussion

1. Spring Turkey Season (KAR 115-25-6) - Jim Pitman, wildlife research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit F). At present time, there are four turkey hunting units in Kansas and an initial turkey permit can be purchased over-the-counter for all units except Unit 4 (southwest Kansas). Also, we sell second turkey game tags for certain hunting units. Hunters can currently purchase a game tag for use only in Unit 2 (eastern Kansas) or Unit 3 (central Kansas). A total of 325 permits are now issued for Unit 4 through a pre-season drawing, however, the hunt was still oversubscribed as 399 applications were received. Results from the most recent spring harvest survey (2007) reveal that the department sold 64,096 permits (43,990 initial permits and 20,106 game tags). The 2007 total was a record and marked the 11th consecutive year of record permit sales. Of the 43,990 permitted hunters, an estimated 42,265 actively pursued turkeys and harvested just less than 33,000 birds during the 2007 season. Approximately 62 percent of active hunters harvested at least 1 bird (one of the highest success rates in the country). Only 18.5 percent of all active hunters (7,800) filled both their initial permit and a game tag during the spring 2007 season. During the four seasons prior to spring 2008, the numbers of hunters and their harvest have stabilized around 40,000 and 32,000, respectively. However, when the spring 2008 hunter survey data are tabulated, it is expected that

a decline in success and total harvest will have occurred, most notably in southeast Kansas. Survey results for the eastern half of the state indicate that the turkey population has declined over the last 3 years. This decline is due primarily to three consecutive years of average (2006) or poor (2005 and 2007) production. The decline in turkey numbers has been the most dramatic in southeast Kansas. Portions of southeast Kansas received almost 15 inches of rain in less than 48 hours during late June 2007. At this time the department is not considering any changes to spring turkey regulations. Spring harvest of male turkeys has little impact on subsequent populations. Thus, restricting spring harvest in an attempt to address population declines is not a sound biological approach. The department turkey committee will be discussing fall regulations to determine if harvest restrictions are warranted in the fall. Chairman Johnston – Why don't we allow over-the-counter licenses in Unit 4? Pitman – Harvesting high percentage of birds out there, we want to move slowly in that direction, but are concerned about those populations.

2. Cabin Fee Regulation (KAR 115-2-3a) – Jerry Hover, Parks Division Director, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit G). Commission will probably see this bill annually as we add cabins. Proposed Cabins for 2009 are: Eisenhower; Crawford; Milford; Kanopolis; Pomona; Scott; and Prairie Dog. We will bring this back in August as a workshop item again. Chairman Johnston – How much feedback and/or complaints does the department get from private motel owners? Hover – Very minimal. We work with local areas and don't undercut local motel prices. One exception is Milford, where the surrounding areas are quite a bit higher. There is potentially a risk to be seen as competition to private enterprise. Sorensen – Is there a cost benefit ratio of cabins already put in? Hover – It is figured on a cabin-by-cabin basis - when we put it in and the type of cabin. Current cabins are being constructed though the Department of Corrections with the help of Wildscape. We had 60 percent occupancy the first year, following years, 75 percent. We are looking at an average 5-7 percent pay back. We perform a business plan on each cabin before we do it. We have one at Webster that is not meeting its goal because of lower water levels and lower visitation. Secretary Hayden – At Cross Timbers we put in three cabins three years ago. I did a Performa, and they will be paid off by Halloween of this year, about 3 ½ years. They are some of the higher performing cabins, but they are also in a remote area.

Break

C. Workshop Session

1. KAR 115-20-2 - prairie dog legislation - Joe Kramer, Fish and Wildlife Division Director, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit H). Chief Counsel Chris Tymeson mentioned that the 2008 legislature passed a prairie dog bill that would allow Kansas residents to take prairie dogs without a resident hunting license. Nonresidents will still be required to have a nonresident license. The amendment to KAR 115-20-2, a new letter (h) would say "A hunting license for the taking of prairie dogs will not be required for Kansas residents." Commissioner Meyer – What was the reason, do they believe prairie dogs are a nuisance? Kramer – I believe so -- they referred to prairie dogs, gophers and moles. Commissioner Sebelius – Do we have to do this? Tymeson – We are adding prairie dogs to gophers and moles. Commissioner Shari Wilson – This just says they no longer need to have a license. Chairman Johnston – Mr. Tymeson, does

that say may or shall comply? Tymeson – Shall -- we have to.

2. Late Migratory Bird Seasons – Faye McNew, waterfowl research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit I). Late season waterfowl seasons include duck and goose. We're still waiting for frameworks. The northern U.S. prairies are in a drought, but prairie parklands have good numbers. The boundary change for our zones we request was denied, so we have to wait until 2012.

3. Fishing Regulations – Tom Lang, fisheries, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit J). We won't talk about changes to the reference document at this time. Currently jug fishing (by means of a free floating device) is not a legal method of take for Kansas sport fish. Free floating jugs are allowed in some surrounding states. Our Fisheries Section goals include increasing fishing opportunity and success. Staff has looked at the biological aspects of allowing free floating jug lines on our large reservoirs and has concluded that we do not have evidence of any potential negative impact to channel catfish, blue catfish, flathead catfish or wiper populations. Staff recognizes the need to provide increased angling opportunity and increased success. With this in mind, staff recommends amending Regulation 115-7-1 to include float fishing using free floating devices as a legal method of take with the following stipulations for a three-year pilot project. Float fishing will be allowed only on eight reservoirs: Hillsdale, Council Grove, Tuttle Creek, Kanopolis, John Redmond, Toronto, Wilson, and Pomona. Float fishing shall only take place during daylight hours from July 15th through September 15th. All floats set in a body of water shall be under the immediate supervision of the angler. Immediate supervision shall be defined as the angler being on the water within visual contact of where the floats are set and readily available to identify floats to a law enforcement officer. Floats will be removed from the water when fishing ceases. To stay consistent with current setline regulations, an angler may use no more than eight setlines or eight float lines (one line per float) with not more than two hooks each. A float fishing permit will be required of all participants at a cost of \$2.50 (\$0 for the permit and a \$2.50 KOALS transaction fee). By issuing this permit, the Department will be able to survey float anglers and assess this method of angling during the three-year pilot period. Floats may only be "closed-cell," made of plastic, wood or foam material, which do not hold water -- to help ensure that zebra mussel infested water is not transported to other water bodies. Metal or glass floats are prohibited. In addition, floats must be marked with the owner's name, address and KDWP float fishing permit number. Commissioner Lauber – What prompted the eight reservoirs? Lang – Wide use. Chairman Johnston – There are two large reservoirs near Wichita, Cheney and El Dorado, was conflict part of not choosing those? Lang – Yes, on the blog the biggest opposition to that was on those areas. Chairman Johnston – Do Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska allow night time fishing? Lang – We will find out before the next meeting. Chairman Johnston – Do they have jug fishing equipment with them at all times? Lang – Arkansas does. Chairman Johnston – This is more restrictive than neighboring states, except Nebraska. Do you intend jug lines to be taken out at night? Pearce – This will be workshopped again, not voted on until October? Lang – Yes. Pearce – Will it be in affect for 2009? Lang – Yes, in 2009. Tymeson – Fishing regulations take affect January 1, start fishing changes in April, two workshops for additional opportunity for public comment. Not a legal requirement. Commissioner Lauber – Having none closer to sizeable population areas is unfair. Chairman Johnston – Fair number of people in Sedgwick County who will be

upset with that, but when we have many people on areas during peak times, I think this is a good idea. Commissioner Lauber – The blog is not a good example of positive and upbeat thinking. Lang – Had about half and half and some members of our staff pointed out this is high for any item we have put on our blog. Chairman Johnston – Constant supervision by owners would be less at night.

4. Park Regulations – Jerry Hover, Parks Division director, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit K). KDWP regulations that directly impact state parks are reviewed annually. The public hearing is scheduled for August. The department finds the regulations to be appropriate and do not conflict with other department regulations or laws pertaining to the department and, more specifically, to the Division of State Parks. The review also indicates that no regulation should be deleted; however, a few regulations may require changes and one addition may be recommended. The changes (and associated renumbering) may include: KAR 115-2-3 – raise utilities by \$1.00 each (currently 1 utility 5.50; 2 utilities 7.50; and 3 utilities 8.50); KAR 115-2-5 - remove trail access pass from Sand Hills state park and add it to requiring a motor vehicle permit instead (appropriate vehicle parking lots are constructed and a new, modern campground will be opened to the public in 2009); KAR 115-8-9 – long-term camping allows a camping unit on one designated camping site for a continuous period up to 6 months (a maximum of 10 percent of total camp sites) without having to be removed from the campsite or from the park for 5 days; KAR 115-8-10b3 – on pets, add the words “private” before cabin to allow pets in privately-owned cabins on department-controlled lands. Commissioner Meyer – Why don’t we allow pets? Hover – Mainly for health reasons and additional dirt, hair and pet dander. We will provide a kennel and are adding mobility impairment. No changes are recommended for KAR 115-9-6 and KAR 115-18. Commissioner Sebelius – Why raise utilities? Hover – These have not been reviewed for some time and costs have gone up considerably. We don’t have to provide utilities, that is an amenity. Commissioner Bolton – I still wonder if \$1.00 is enough. As a camper, that is less than I am used to paying. Hover – If those costs continue to rise we will look at that again. It is a reasonable increase. Chairman Johnston – Do we allow smoking in our cabins? Hover – No, not inside public buildings. As of today, the stampede is this week and all is going well. We are happy to report that 90 percent of our cabins are rented for the upcoming holiday. Flood waters are receding, Elk City has partial campgrounds open, and Fall River will open next. They opened their utility building yesterday. Parks are doing well considering amounts of rain and flooding that have occurred.

VII. RECESS AT 5:00 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE AT 7:00 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

D. Public Hearing

Kansas Legislative Research Department and Attorney General's office comments (Exhibit L).

1. KAR 115-25-1. Game Birds; open seasons, bag limits and possession limits - Jim Pitman, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibits M, N). Changes to the upland bird seasons that took affect in 2006 were met with what appeared to be much dissatisfaction. Following the 2006 hunting seasons we conducted a survey of landowners, hunters, and all of the employees from our divisions of fisheries and wildlife and law enforcement. The total number of surveys sent was approximately 20,000. Results from that survey revealed that the most preferred options were a pheasant season starting on the 2nd Saturday in November, a concurrent opening date for pheasant and quail, and a concurrent closing date of January 31 for both species. We also evaluated timing of milo harvest using data collected by the Kansas Agricultural Statistics service over the last 5 year period. Those data indicate that on average 12 percent more milo has been harvested by the 2nd weekend of November compared to one week earlier. That difference is 17 percent for the northwest region of the state. Because the timing of upland bird seasons has little biological relevance, we are recommending some changes to the upland bird seasons to better satisfy public preference. We are not recommending a change to any of the opening dates for 2008 because at this point many people already have travel plans and lodging reservations. However, we are recommending that the opening date for chickens in the east and northwest units be moved to the first Saturday in November starting in 2009. We are making this recommendation to create a unique opener for chickens in hopes that more interest in chicken hunting could be created. The chicken opening date in the east and northwest units was one week prior to the pheasant opening date for many years up through 2005. We are recommending that the closing date in the east and northwest units remain January 31. We are also recommending that no changes be made to season dates in the southwest unit which starts the third Saturday in November and runs through December 31. A possible amendment would open the prairie chicken season the third Saturday in November statewide and close the eastern part of the state, amending subsection (a) and the dates in subsection (c). For quail we propose a closing date of January 31 starting in 2008 and a statewide opener on the 2nd weekend of November starting in 2009. We are also proposing that the youth weekend be moved back to the 1st Saturday in November. There are two possible amendments, one amendment re-alphabetizes subsection (e) to (f) and the other amendment would create quail zones with the opening date in the west zone starting one week later on the 3rd Saturday in November. On pheasants, we are recommending that the opening date be the second Saturday of November and run through January 31 starting in 2009. The pheasant youth season would be the first weekend of November starting in the 2009 season.

Commissioner Lauber – Mr. Pitman has done a good job at responding to emails and questions, but I have a variety of issues. Let's focus our discussion on greater prairie chickens right now. I don't think hunting will have much impact on the species. One could see how greater prairie chicken (GPC) could be listed as a threatened and endangered species and at that point we are dealing with irrational emotions and ideas. We should consider ceremoniously demonstrating we are concerned about this vanishing resource. Good article in the Wichita Eagle, but didn't make

me feel good about this. We could send some type of message about prairie chickens and there are some possible amendments. People want us to do something. Commissioner Shari Wilson – One thing we talked about in the past are impacts on prairie chickens and most of us agree that habitat is the bottom-line issue, hunting may have something to do with it. Populations are moving to bigger cities and getting farther removed from what we grew up with. If education is part of the answer, what are we doing to talk to the people moving to the cities and are going to be the majority and those running the state legislature? I have gone back and forth on what is the best thing to do here. I am concerned with sending the wrong message. How do we reach more people through education efforts to help with habitat issues and to support us when we go for funding. Pitman – I know how to improve the habitat, but to get to the people out there is the issue. You need to change range management. I understand you are under pressure to do something but stopping a season where there are no chickens is not the answer, habitat is. Commissioner Shari Wilson – We are talking about regulation because that is the only avenue we have. It would be easier and more effective if we had other options. Trying to encourage more funding for those habitat programs. I'm not sure regulating our way out of this is the way. Pitman – I am not sure either. We are affecting only a few thousand acres. We need landowners to buy-in to those programs. Commissioner Lauber – Not sure the department can do any more to fix the wrong problem -- annual burning and woody encroachment. Article in paper was well written and read by many farmers, but they tried to explain it away. We should give into this one on a political standpoint. Commissioner Robert Wilson – I looked at this from a broader perspective, at other states -- birds are very limited or nonexistent. Probably the same problems as us. Surrounding states have a limited season. If you check places that had prairie chickens in the past, they have done something to try and help the problem or just glossed over it? I don't know. Pitman – Other state are in the same situation we are here. Chickens used to occur in Indiana and Ohio so they closed the season and they still went extinct in those areas. Commissioner Meyer – To shorten the hunting season and say it is going to fix the problem is wrong. Landowners will say that was the problem and not change their ways. Pitman – I agree with that. Chairman Johnston – What about the impacts of the new farm bill and beneficial affect on lesser prairie chicken and quail and CRP. Is there any new information on likely impact on acres of CRP in Kansas? Pitman – I can tell you how many acres are expiring, but there may be another sign-up. We will lose 49,000 acres this fall. Big losses in 2009 and 2010 where we will lose 400,000 acres each year. Chairman Johnston – Proposals on pheasant and quail were prompted by dissatisfaction and the survey that was done, but the survey asked no questions about prairie chickens. Is that correct? Pitman – Yes. Chairman Johnston – What is the genesis of the idea that we should move the prairie chicken (PC) opener from the third weekend to the first weekend in November? Pitman – I don't feel there are any biological implications and from talking to prairie chicken hunters that is what they prefer. The first weekend in November is an ideal time to hunt, it is just not ideal for pheasants and quail because there is over 1 million acres of WIHA opening November 1. Chairman Johnston – The reason offered in the briefing book was a hopeful idea that we could recreate old hunting traditions in the Flint Hills. Isn't that pretty unrealistic? Pitman – It is not going to be what it once was, but there is still people who would like to have that opportunity. Interest in chicken hunting is much less than quail and pheasant hunting. Chairman Johnston – There is an early 30-day long season for PC in the Flint Hills, correct? Pitman – That is correct, it starts September 15, but doesn't have as long of tradition as the first Saturday in November had prior to the changes. Chairman Johnston – If all these

changes are adopted the department and outfitters will be advertising opportunities to out-of-state hunters to come to northwest Kansas and hunt PC, quail and pheasant at the same time? Pitman – That could happen, but there is not a big draw for prairie chicken hunting. Chairman Johnston – It doesn't happen now, but if we allow quail and pheasant on second weekend in November and prairie chicken on the first, that market will open up and it has never been open before. Pitman – It has been open before. We used to open prairie season the first Saturday in November and pheasant season the second Saturday in the northwest unit. Chairman Johnston – But for 30 years quail was not open at the same time. Pitman – East of 281 it was. Commissioner Lauber – Interested if Mike Pearce got feedback from article? Pearce – Educated people will say habitat is the problem. I talked to biologists and people in North and South Dakota. I talked to bird hunters and those who have never hunted prairie chickens. I never had anybody who suggested hunting was the problem, but these were all biologists going on biological fact. Chairman Johnston – The proposal we are working on is to expand the season. Sorensen – Expanding harvest and seasons, this is not expanded from three years ago and is the same as it was five years ago and would still be at the same rate now if we hadn't changed it. On loss of CRP acres, 24 million acres of CRP opened to landowner haying and grazing on 50 percent of the field and can only stock at 75 percent of rate. Some wildlife benefits, but speculation is that a lot of CRP will be put down. The solution is for the department to lease the entire Flint Hills and only allow burning every three years, which we can't do financially. Mr. Lauber indicated concern about state restricting burning in the state. I think in the next five to ten years, the EPA will put some bans on that because of airborne particles in Topeka, Kansas City and Lawrence. What you need is less burning in the Flint Hills and more in the southwest. We don't need to put a band-aid on this. If we are going to tell hunters they are the cause, I would be disappointed that is the wrong message to be sending. Also, I wish the department would properly spell prairie chickens with a hyphen as called for by the American Ornithological Union and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Chairman Johnston – Chris, I need to seek your guidance on how to handle this. We considered all three of the first three items at the same time; if we wish to vote similarly as we did at the past meeting we need a motion to bring all three regulations forward. Tymeson – We have to take one regulation at a time, so we would need a motion and a second on each regulation as well as any possible amendments if there are any. I will address Steve's last point on hyphenating prairie chicken, I have argued that point with the people who handle our regulations and lost. Therefore it is not hyphenated in the regulations. *Chairman Johnston called for a motion on KAR 115-25-1.*

**Commissioner Frank Meyer moved to bring KAR 115-25-1 before the Commission.
Commissioner Debra Bolton seconded.**

Commissioner Kelly Johnston moved to amend KAR 115-25-1.

Tymeson – That would be to strike language on and after 2009, which would change the season from the third weekend to the first weekend and in section (a) which modifies the boundary. That is one amendment or you could break it into two amendments. Chairman Johnston – I would like to consider them separately. Commission Johnston – I would like to move item two first. Commissioner Lauber – That is the dates? Item one is the no-hunt zone? Chairman Johnston – Correct. Tymeson – Item one contains both the date and closure, so I suggest breaking the dates

away as the first amendment. Commissioner Bolton – I need clarification on that. Chairman Johnston – As clarified by Mr. Tymeson there is information relative to the opening dates in proposed amendment one as well as two. I would like consider separately the subject of no-hunting-zone which is exclusively in section 1. For purposes of this motion we are going to combine those elements of one and two that talk about opening dates for prairie chicken. This would keep the opening day on the third weekend in November statewide.

Commissioner Gerald Lauber seconded.

Commissioner Lauber – I’m not sure that closing a certain area that doesn’t have many chickens, at this point, makes much difference. I think this is a band-aid, but I don’t see the Secretary, Keith and Dick coming up with enough money to lease the Flint Hills. I have had a lot of constituents who want prairie chicken season shortened dramatically. Commissioner Bolton – The amendment goes counter to the recommendations of the staff, correct? Chairman Johnston – Correct. Commissioner Bolton – A yes vote would ask for the amendment and a no vote would say no to the amendment. Chairman Johnston – Correct. Chairman Johnston – Those portions that consist of the first three lines of the first amendment and the last three lines are what is part of this motion along with number 2. Sorensen – Are those recommended amendments available in print? They are not in the briefing book. Chairman Johnston – They are on the table of handouts. Commissioner Meyer – I stand by my previous statement that doing the wrong thing will not correct the problem. It will send the wrong message and possibly enhance the problem. Commissioner Robert Wilson – This is not forever and we could come back and change it again later. Chairman Johnston – I prepared a two-page handout containing the substance of my comments on prairie chickens as well as quail (Exhibit O) and they are available on back table. Commissioner Shari Wilson – I want to clarify one more time the issue of the possible closure of some counties is not a part of this amendment? Chairman Johnston – Correct.

The roll call vote to amend KAR 115-25-1 on dates was as follows (Exhibit P):

Commissioner Bolton	No
Commissioner Lauber	Yes
Commissioner Meyer	No
Commissioner Sebelius	Yes
Commissioner R. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner S. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Johnston	Yes

The motion to amend KAR 115-25-1 passed 5-2.

Commissioner Kelly Johnston moved to amend KAR 115-25-1 to include no-hunt-zone in section 1 (Exhibit N) that is underlined and boundary does not follow county lines, but follows highways and differs from past discussions. Commissioner Doug Sebelius seconded.

Mike Pearce – You said the amendment that Chris drafted that you voted on; something tells me that wasn’t his idea. Who instructed him to do that? Chairman Johnston – I requested the amendment. I did not request the language we are currently considering, but I suggested possible

amendments to address the issues. Pearce – I have another question for the entire Commission. This was taken at a straw poll at the last meeting and things have changed dramatically and everybody seems to be on the same wavelength. Is there an open meetings issue here? Chairman Johnston – Not to my knowledge. Commissioner Lauber – No. Pearce – Thank you. Chairman Johnston – Just to address your open meetings questions in a little bit more detail. I had asked Secretary Hayden to have this comment that I have distributed included in the briefing booklet and because of considerations of open meetings issues and what a meeting would constitute that was recommended against by Mr. Tymeson and that is why it wasn't part of the briefing booklet and why it wasn't available until today. Commissioner Meyer – I can assure you there is no open meeting conflict here whatsoever. I heard nothing of it before today at this meeting.

The roll call vote to amend KAR 115-25-1 to include no-hunt-zone was as follows (Exhibit P):

Commissioner Bolton	No
Commissioner Lauber	No
Commissioner Meyer	No
Commissioner Sebelius	Yes
Commissioner R. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner S. Wilson	No
Commissioner Johnston	Yes

The motion to amend KAR 115-25-1 failed 3-4.

Sorensen – On the second to last paragraph that you provided in your write-up you talked about the opening of greater prairie chicken season the week before the pheasant season would create a problem with how a pheasant hunter is going to distinguish between a hen pheasant and a prairie chicken. Are they going to get smarter by the third weekend in November? Chairman Johnston – No. Sorensen – So what you are saying is we shouldn't have any concurrent season where chickens and pheasants overlap? Chairman Johnston – That is not what I am saying, no. Sorensen – You say if we open all three seasons on the second Saturday of the month that pheasant hunters are going to have a difficulty telling hen pheasants and prairie chickens. But on the regulation they are all going to open the third Saturday of the month in those same areas and therefore the hunters are going to have the same problem. Commissioner Lauber – I think Chairman Johnston was concerned that during the prairie chicken season there may be some inadvertent harvest of hens. Sorensen – We can't be talking about chicken hunters because we don't have pheasant hunters out there. Chairman Johnston – I'm not sure if you are asking a question Steve, I would be happy to address my intent if that is what you are looking for. My concern was for that potential for inaccurate identification enhanced by the prospects of that happening when we have thousands of nonresident hunters in the state on opening day some of which could have that difficulty. So it is much more of a problem on opening day of pheasant season, in my mind and wouldn't be of the same degree on the third weekend when the out-of-state pheasant hunter numbers have dropped substantially. Commissioner Meyer – On the subject of confusion there is very distinct differences between a hen pheasant and a prairie chicken and you hunt in different areas and if you are not being successful on pheasants then you move into prairie chicken territory expecting to see prairie chicken. If a person's eyesight is so

poor they can't tell the difference then they are not going to hit anything anyway.

The roll call vote to approve KAR 115-25-1 as amended was as follows (Exhibit P):

Commissioner Bolton	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes
Commissioner Meyer	Yes
Commissioner Sebelius	Yes
Commissioner R. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner S. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Johnston	Yes

The motion to approve KAR 115-25-1 as amended passed 7-0.

2. KAR 115-25-1a. Quail; open seasons, bag limits and possession limits - Jim Pitman, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibits Q, R). Covered during first item. Chairman Johnston – There is one possible amendment that was drafted.

**Commissioner Shari Wilson moved to bring KAR 115-25-1a before the Commission.
Commissioner Robert Wilson seconded.**

Commissioner Kelly Johnston moved to amend KAR 115-25-1a to establish a bifurcated opener in the state of Kansas – Eastern Zone second weekend in November and the Western Zone the third weekend in November.

Chairman Tymeson – There is actually the amendment and a drafting error, where it says subsection (d) twice and I am surprised the Department of Administration and the Attorney General's Office didn't catch my mistake. If you don't mind rescinding your motion and making that clarification and then move to your substantive amendment. Commissioner Kelly Johnston – Very well. On the back page there are two subsections (d) and Mr. Tymeson has corrected one to describe it as subsection (e). Tymeson – (e) to (f). Chairman Johnston – I don't believe the amendment has been seconded so I will amend the motion.

Commissioner Johnston – Amended motion to make it clear that that change on the second page is not part of the current motion on the table.

Commissioner Shari Wilson seconded.

Chairman Johnston – I would add, beyond what I have already stated, that it is the function and role of the Commission to decide what shall be the proper regulations on hunting seasons and not the people we consult in polls. While we have, and are, going to make a number of changes tonight in response to the sentiments of hunters, landowners and businesses that we should take into consideration that I don't think the Commission's analysis should be what the results of the poll were. Clearly the department has recommended that the Commission create an opening day for quail season in the western part of the state, which we have not had in 29 years and I have asked the question before of Mr. Pitman, but I don't think there has been any analysis or

conclusions offered to what will be the impact of that regulation in terms of additional harvest. The opinion of the department and Mr. Pitman has been clear that there will be no biological impact on health of the population, but beyond that you have not offered any other numbers or percentages. Is that correct? Pitman – There is no way to do that. Commissioner Shari Wilson – Do we have to vote on the first part of the amendment, the technical change? Chairman Johnston – I removed that from my motion so that is part of the general motion to bring this before the Commission. Tymeson – You made your motion and then I requested that you rescind your original motion and bring the technical amendment forward first. I thought you had done that and Shari had seconded that. Commissioner Shari Wilson – That is what I thought I was doing. Chairman Johnston – I was confused then and I tried to make that part of the original motion. Since that was clearly the intention of the second, perhaps we better start all over. Tymeson – I think that would be okay if you rescind your motion and Shari would rescind her second then we could start with the underlying motion to bring the regulation forward at that point. **Rescinded.**

Commissioner Kelly Johnston moved to amend KAR 115-25-1a to make the technical numbering change, striking one subsection (e) and making it (f). Commissioner Shari Wilson seconded.

The roll call vote to amend KAR 115-25-1a as recommended was as follows (Exhibit S):

Commissioner Bolton	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes
Commissioner Meyer	No
Commissioner Sebelius	Yes
Commissioner R. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner S. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Johnston	Yes

The motion to amend KAR 115-25-1a passed 6-1.

Commissioner Kelly Johnston moved to consider KAR 115-25-1a possible amendment, not including technical changes, which creates a bifurcated quail season with eastern zone opening on the second weekend in November and the western zone opening the third weekend in November. Commissioner Robert Wilson seconded.

Commissioner Lauber – We are starting the season later in the area that has more quail at this point, or at least on the up swing. I understand what you are trying to accomplish, but I am not sure I want to do any more band-aids. Sheila Kemmis – You understand the Yes accepts the amendment and No does not.

The roll call vote to amend KAR 115-25-1a as recommended was as follows (Exhibit S):

Commissioner Bolton	No
Commissioner Lauber	No
Commissioner Meyer	No
Commissioner Sebelius	No
Commissioner R. Wilson	Yes

Commissioner S. Wilson No
Commissioner Johnston Yes

The motion to amend KAR 115-25-1a failed 2-5.

The roll call vote to approve KAR 115-25-1a as amended was as follows (Exhibit S):

Commissioner Bolton Yes
Commissioner Lauber Yes
Commissioner Meyer Yes
Commissioner Sebelius Yes
Commissioner R. Wilson Yes
Commissioner S. Wilson Yes
Commissioner Johnston Yes

The motion to approve KAR 115-25-1a as amended passed 7-0.

3. KAR 115-25-1b. Pheasants; open seasons, bag limits and possession limits - Jim Pitman, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit T). Covered in item 1.

Commissioner Frank Meyer moved to bring KAR 115-25-1b before the Commission. Commissioner Shari Wilson seconded.

Chairman Johnston – Jim, out of curiosity, what has been the experience of the Commission with the respect to having pheasant season extend into February? Pitman – I would have to go back and look at the season date. Pearce – It ran until February 15. Pitman – I know it has been done, but I don't know what year. 1982 was our highest harvest year. I can get that information for you. Chairman Johnston – Before we consider this again I would like a review of the success or failure of that experience and any modernization of that based on new data of why we should or shouldn't do that. Pitman – Okay.

The roll call vote to approve KAR 115-25-1b as presented was as follows (Exhibit U):

Commissioner Bolton Yes
Commissioner Lauber Yes
Commissioner Meyer Yes
Commissioner Sebelius Yes
Commissioner R. Wilson Yes
Commissioner S. Wilson Yes
Commissioner Johnston Yes

The motion to approve KAR 115-25-1b as amended passed 7-0.

Pearce – Can I ask what just happened here? For the fall of the 2008 season, what are the seasons going to be different than what we had? Tymeson – No changes. Chairman Johnston – Quail will

close January 31. Pearce – Everything else is for 2009? Chairman Johnston – Correct and the only changes to the department’s recommendations were prairie chicken opener is the third weekend in November. Pearce – Statewide? Tymeson – Yes. Chairman Johnston – The early season is still there. The southwest unit still closes December 31.

4. KAR 115-25-9a. Deer; additional considerations - Lloyd Fox, big game research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit V). Three components: 1) to establish the hunting season at Fort Riley for a later date than the traditional hunting seasons and an amendment that would change the archery season; 2) additional antlerless either-species deer permits in DMU 3; and authorize an extension in the special antlerless-only season in DMUs 7 and 8 in north central part of state in northern portion of those two units, it would be a seven-day extension in the season. The dates on the firearms season would be November 28-30; December 19-23; and December 27-30. The number of permits we have for antlerless-only either-species in DMU 3 is 100 for residents and 20 for nonresidents which has already been established by Secretary’s Orders. The third part defines the boundaries of that unit and additional seven days. The amendment would allow for an archery season to run September 1-21 (on Fort Riley), and the regular archery season would begin at that time.

**Commissioner Debra Bolton moved to bring KAR 115-25-9a before the Commission.
Commissioner Shari Wilson seconded.**

**Commissioner Robert Wilson moved to amend as recommended KAR 115-25-9a.
Commissioner Frank Meyer seconded.**

The roll call vote to amend KAR 115-25-9a as recommended was as follows (Exhibit W):

Commissioner Bolton	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes
Commissioner Meyer	Yes
Commissioner Sebelius	Yes
Commissioner R. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner S. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Johnston	Yes

The motion to amend KAR 115-25-9a passed 7-0.

The roll call vote to approve KAR 115-25-9a as amended was as follows (Exhibit W):

Commissioner Bolton	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes
Commissioner Meyer	Yes
Commissioner Sebelius	Yes
Commissioner R. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner S. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Johnston	Yes

The motion to approve KAR 115-25-9a as amended passed 7-0.

5. Early Migratory Bird Seasons - Helen Hands, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit X). According to the frameworks, we are dealing with the teal season for this regulation and the hunting season would be between September 1 and September 30, 2008, not exceeding: 1) 16 days if the blue-winged teal breeding population is above 4.7 million; or 2) 9 days if the breeding population is between 3.3 - 4.6 million, with a daily bag and possession limit of 4 and 8 teal, respectively. We still do not have a breeding population number. For the High Plains Zone we recommend a bag and possession limit of 4 and 8, respectively, with the following season date possibilities: a 9-day season running September 13 through September 21, 2008; or a 16-day season running September 13 through September 28, 2008; or an 8-day season running September 13 through September 20, 2008. Based on past seasons we will probably be recommending the 8-day season which allows us to have two days of youth hunting and an anticipated liberal package 97 days of duck season, which brings us to a total of 107 days, which the maximum number of days allowed according to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In the Low Plains Zones a bag and possession limit of 4 and 8, respectively, with the following season date possibilities: a 9-day season running September 13 through September 21, 2008; or a 16-day season running September 13 through September 28, 2008. We recommend that we adopt maximum shooting hours, ½ hour before sunrise to sunset for all seasons. Chairman Johnston – Given the manner in which this regulation has been briefed, you described several season date possibilities. Why is this phrased as “or” on the seasons and what should the Commission action be? Hands – The number of days of hunting is determined by the May breeding population survey which has been completed, but the analysis has not been done so we don’t have a breeding population estimate as of now. Last year we had a breeding population of 6.7 million which is higher than the cut-off point for a 16-day season so we are anticipating a 16-day season in the low plains. We could have 16-day season in the High Plains, but we will opt for the 8-day to get the 2-day youth hunt and 97-day regular duck hunting season. Chairman Johnston – So you are recommending that we adopt this regulation with these variables. Hands – Yes, we can’t really do anything other than that at this time. Sorensen – If they don’t offer the liberal season, and offer the moderate season, then could you go with the 16-day teal season? Hands – Yes. *Commission consensus.*

6. KAR 115-25-19. Doves; management unit, hunting season, shooting hours, and bag and possession limits – Helen Hands, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Y). Dove seasons were set annually by the Commission like teal season until 2003 when we established a regulation. At the time we authorized a season for mourning doves, white-winged doves, Eurasian collared doves, and ringed turtle doves and all four species were hunted during what was called the mourning dove season. What we are trying to do with this recommendation is do away with the bag and possession limit for Eurasian collared doves and ringed turtle doves during the September dove season. However, if take of these exotic doves causes the dove bag to exceed 15, then the exotic doves must be transported with a fully feathered wing attached. Secondly, we would like to initiate a new hunting season for Eurasian collared doves and ringed turtle doves of November 20 through February 28, with no bag and possession limit for these two species during this season. Shooting hours would be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset and Eurasian collared doves and ringed turtle doves must be transported with a fully feathered wing attached. Although harvest of these exotic doves likely will remain

low, they are monitored on Christmas Bird Counts and their numbers are increasing steadily since 1998 -- from 14 (in 1998) to our last count in December (2007) of 3,142 -- 1,000 of those in the Scott City 15-mile-diameter Christmas Bird Count area. Harvest is unlikely to increase substantially as a result of the proposed changes because densities of these two species are fairly low throughout Kansas and most of these doves occur in cities and towns where shooting is not permitted. However they are gradually expanding out of those towns. Commissioner Shari Wilson – Explain how the new season would interact with the current more limited season. Hands – During the split mourning dove season there would be a daily bag limit for mourning doves and white-winged doves which are both migratory birds with season dates and bag limits established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Eurasian collared doves and ringed turtle doves are not regulated so our recommendation is to shoot as many as you want. If aggregate bag is more than 15, you must transport them with a fully feathered wing attached. Commissioner Lauber – These exotics don't migrate the same way? Hands – Yes, they are here late in the season and I have heard of fledglings seen in November. They seem to start their breeding season earlier and breed later than the mourning doves.

Commissioner Shari Wilson moved to bring KAR 115-25-19 before the Commission. Commissioner Debra Bolton seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-25-19 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit Z):

Commissioner Bolton	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes
Commissioner Meyer	Yes
Commissioner Sebelius	Yes
Commissioner R. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner S. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Johnston	Yes

The motion as presented KAR 115-25-19 passed 7-0.

7. KAR 115-25-21. Snipe, rails, woodcock; management unit, hunting season, shooting hours, and bag and possession limits – Helen Hands, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit AA). Currently the hunting seasons for Wilson's snipe, rails (Virginia rail and sora), and American woodcock with teal with early migratory bird seasons and set them annually. Federal frameworks and Kansas hunting seasons for Wilson's snipe and rails have not changed for at least 19 years, and the American woodcock season frameworks have not changed since 1997. Kansas' hunting seasons for American woodcocks have only changed due to calendar drift. We propose to establish a state regulation for Wilson's snipe, rails, and woodcock hunting in Kansas. Parameters for the Wilson's snipe hunting season would be the same as they have been since 1989 or earlier and the woodcock hunting season would be the same as they have been since 1997. For all of these species we are recommending shooting hours of ½-hour before sunrise to sunset and a season open statewide. If you approve this regulation you would not have to annually approve a hunting season for these species.

Commissioner Frank Meyer moved to bring KAR 115-25-21 before the Commission.

Commissioner Robert Wilson seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-25-21 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit BB):

Commissioner Bolton	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes
Commissioner Meyer	Yes
Commissioner Sebelius	Yes
Commissioner R. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner S. Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Johnston	Yes

The motion as presented KAR 115-25-21 passed 7-0.

XII. Old Business

Chairman Johnston – I had an informational question. At the previous Commission meeting we discussed the status of the investigation of the shooting of the mountain lion in Barber County. Has there been any additional information obtained on that subject? Kevin Jones – We haven't received any information back from lab on the DNA analysis. We have conducted some additional interviews and are wrapping up the investigation side of it from potentially charges being filed. To my knowledge that has not been taken to the county attorney's office yet.

XIII. Other Business

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

August 14, 2008, Hoisington Activity Center, Hoisington (morning tour of Cheyenne Bottoms Wetlands Center - under construction)

October 23, 2008, Tonganoxie High School Auditorium

Tymeson – It helps for both Sheila and I to plan for publication of the regulations. Chairman Johnston – Recommendation for January?

January 8, 2008 (legislative session starts on 12th), Emporia (last time was 2002)

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Frank Meyer made motion to adjourn, Commissioner Debra Bolton second.
The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)

Exhibit CC – Parks Division Annual Report