

**Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 7, 2010
Kansas Wetlands Education Center
Great Bend, Kansas**

Subject to
Commission
Approval

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

The January 7, 2010 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission was called to order by Chairman Kelly Johnston at 1:35 p.m. at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center in Great Bend, Kansas. Chairman Johnston and Commissioners Debra Bolton, Gerald Lauber, Frank Meyer, Doug Sebelius, and Robert Wilson were present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND GUESTS

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

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

Mike Rader will present Shari Wilson's program on KACEE as she will not be here due to the weather.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE October 15, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Robert Wilson moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Frank Meyer second. *Approved.* (Minutes – Exhibit B).

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Secretary's Remarks

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Dick Koerth, assistant secretary of Administration, gave this report to the Commission (Exhibit C). The condition of the State General Fund (SGF) has not improved and continues to be an area of concern to operations of the agency, primarily the Parks Division. On November 23, 2009, Governor Parkinson issued another round of SGF allotments to further reduce agency expenditures for FY2010 to eliminate a negative balance in the SGF and provide for a zero balance. The total reduction for all agencies was \$193.2 million.

This action did not include a \$150 million shortfall for K-12 education funding and included transfers of funds from KDOT and other state agencies. For KDWP the additional reduction totaled \$434,876. The reduction was implemented by lapsing the unused balance in the SGF accounts for free KDWP permits provided to National Guard members and free hunting and fishing licenses provided to disabled veterans which totaled approximately \$260,000. In addition, \$171,991 was deleted from salaries and wages and the Parks Division will not fill eight vacant positions until mid-May, 2010. The total reduction since July 1, 2009 is \$551,670. During the Legislative Interim, the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Ways and Means Committee have conducted meetings to discuss the status of the SGF which were provided to the Legislative Committees, but did not include revenue transfers recommended by the Governor and do include certain expenditures not addressed by the Governor for FY2010. Based on the Legislative estimates, the SGF will need to find additional expenditure adjustments of \$253.6 million to be at zero balance. For FY2011, Legislative estimates provide for estimated revenue of \$5.2 billion, the same as the Governor, and expenditures of \$5.5 billion which would create a deficit of \$358.7 million in order to achieve a zero balance for FY2011. In other words based on these estimates, the amount of SGF expenditures for FY2011 would need to be reduced by 6.5 percent to achieve a zero balance in the SGF. The impact would be an additional \$362,000. The 2010 Legislative Session begins on January 11, 2010 and the FY2011 Governor's Budget Report will be Monday at 7:00 pm. It is anticipated that the Governor will address revenue measures to provide additional SGF resources to lessen the impact of additional reductions to SGF expenditures by state agencies. KDWP will need to address additional reductions in FY2011 SGF expenditures if they occur. The Department will advise the Commission as issues develop during the session. The Commission was advised at the October meeting of the need to consider increases in hunting and fishing license fees effective January 1, 2011. Since that meeting, the department has continued to review revenue to the Wildlife Fee Fund. Through November 30, 2009 revenue to the Wildlife Fee Fund is approximately \$650,000 above last year's receipts (expect \$950,000 for the year). This is primarily due to continued demand by nonresident hunters coming to hunt deer in Kansas. The department is continuing to monitor receipts and expenditures from the Wildlife Fee Fund and future projections on revenues and expenditures indicated that expenditures could still continue to exceed receipts. At some time, an increase in fees will be needed because we are spending approximately \$4 million more than we are taking in. However, we are recommending that consideration of a fee increase be delayed until the March 2010 meeting. This will allow department staff to review actual calendar year 2009 permit sales and potential revenue that could be generated by increasing fees. The department will not recommend a fee increase unless there is concern that future program expenditures could be severely impacted unless action is taken to provide adequate revenue for expenditures and a cash balance in the Wildlife Fee Fund for needs that may develop. Commissioner Sebelius – Has furlough for employees been discussed? Koerth – We have not been asked to do that. A lot of agencies don't use SGF and furloughs would impact everyone. We will do whatever the state decides to do. Legislative action, if passed, is suggesting one day a month and we will react at that time.

2. 2010 Legislature – Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, gave this report to the Commission (Exhibit D). Legislature starts back on Monday. Handout shows a number of bills

still alive in the second year of their two-year cycle. One thing going to the voters is constitutional right to bear arms, which will affect hunting. SB51, clothing requirements while hunting deer or elk was a gut and go bill. We heard from Fort Riley and they are going to pursue this through their own legislators this year. Other possible items include: licensing of ATVs; conceal and carry; Tuttle Creek west entrance reopen; renewed effort to require \$1 (license/permit charge) for Feeding the Hungry program; and an increased penalty on poaching, in particular a spotlighting issue. It is going to be a difficult year to get any bills through as the focus will be on budget. The department has an initiative to remove cabin fees from the regulatory process and have them set by Secretary's Orders to better market the cabin program and then we could change fees at a Commission meeting when needed. Chairman Johnston – Wasn't there a withdrawal of some money from the cabin fee fund? Koerth – Yes, that fund was swept last session. Chairman Johnston – Will the change you are suggesting have any impact on how often they can do that? Tymeson – No. Koerth – It might be positive. Most of the money in the budget is spent. We will use that money in our programs rather than have it go someplace else.

B. General Discussion

1. Commissioner Permit Drawing – Mike Miller, chief of Information Section, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit E). 2010 marks the fifth year for Commission Permits and more than \$135,000 has been raised on these permits. Last year the permits raised \$34,951. The drawing for Commission permits last year included one elk and six deer permits, which were issued to applying conservation organizations. As stated in the statute, there can be one elk, one antelope and up to seven deer permits issued with the limit of permits issued being seven. In 2006, permits sold for \$49,000 with 59 applications being received; in 2007, permits sold for \$26,973.56 with 119 applicants; in 2008, permits sold for \$24,200 and there were 113 applications; and in 2009, permits sold for \$34,951 with 111 applicants. After the permits are sold by the organization, the amount of the permit is subtracted and 85 percent of the proceeds are sent to KDWP to be used on approved projects. After the projects are approved, the money is sent back to the organization. The other 15 percent can be spent at the organization's discretion. Drawing:

Commissioner Doug Sebelius – (1) #83 Mule Deer Foundation National; Deer
Commissioner Frank Meyer – (2) #63 Pheasants Forever – Ottawa; Deer
Chairman Kelly Johnston – (3) #37 NWTF Bonner Springs; Elk
Commissioner Debra Bolton – (4) #91 Friends of NRA Cowley County KS 12; Deer
Commissioner Gerald Lauber – (5) #65 Oberlin Gun Club; Deer
Commissioner Robert Wilson – (6) #71 Ducks Unlimited Valley Center/Ark Valley; Deer
Commissioner Shari Wilson – (7) drawn by Secretary Hayden - #40 NWTF Mound City; Deer
Mike Pearce – Can out-of-state organizations apply for these? Miller – According to statute, they have to be located or operate in Kansas. Pearce – Once an organization is drawn can they apply again next year? Sheila Kemmis – They have to wait three years to apply again.

2. Trails Grant Update – Jerry Hover, Parks Division director, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit F). In 1992, the department began to administer the fund. Between

1992 and 1997 there wasn't any funds appropriated for it. Since 1997, it gradually increased from about \$200,000 to \$1.2 million available to the state. The program officially expired in September 2009, but then Congress went into a continuing resolution for the Federal Highway Administration (FHA). Our funds come from FHA; therefore a portion of the annual allotment is available to Kansas right now, which is about \$300,000. Congress continues to work on a new authorization. We don't know if the recreational trails will be reauthorized similar to the past, if it will change and be funded through somewhere else, or if it will go away. Because of that, our applications were down from about \$1.2 million from the average, which is \$6 million. Thirty percent of the funds have to be spent on non-motorized trails, 30 percent for motorized trails, and 30 percent for a combination of the various types of trail systems. A maximum of 5 percent can be used for administration and a maximum of 7 percent can be used for education materials. We have a statewide outdoor trails committee on board. Frank Meyer represents the Commission. We also have a person who represents the motorized trail users, one that represents the hikers, one that represents pedal-type things, one that represents bicycles, and one that represents equestrian. All applications are presented to the advisory board. A copy of the minutes of the last meeting is attached in the briefing book. They recommended projects for certain types of funding, and we prioritized them because we don't have the entire funding at this point. There may be some projects that are listed as priority one that may not be ready to start, so those may be dropped, and we may go to a priority two project to get the money allocated as soon as we have the funds available. Recommendations: Horsethief Reservoir, second phase for \$45,000; Cunningham Lions Club expansion of walking trail in city park and adding a restroom for \$75,000; El Dorado State Park for \$50,000 in Boulder Bluff equestrian area, which will complete phase two; and Perry State Park, final phase of equestrian campground for \$60,000. All of those were non-motorized, single-use projects. For category 2, non-motorized and diversified-use projects (biking, hiking, equestrian or anything non-motorized, but combined means using the same trail system): City of Chanute for Katy Trails for \$75,000 (no prior funds); City of Burden for Forest Park Trail for \$60,000 (no prior funds); City of Overbrook, phase two, \$100,000; City of Andover (no prior funds), Central Park Trail for \$11,400; City of Hutchinson, continuation of several phases connecting trails for \$160,000; City of Shawnee to purchase an electric vehicle for maintenance on the trail system, \$10,000; Tuttle Creek State Park spillway area to add a toilet in that area, \$40,000. On category 3, diversified-use motorized and non-motorized: City of Garnett for go-kart track restroom, combined with other trails \$30,000 (no prior funds); Green Recreational trail, \$100,000; and Sand Hills State Park, \$214,229. We did not have any motorized single-use projects. We plan to use about \$10,000 for education to reprint trail brochures and up to \$57,000 for administration. The grant requires a minimum of 20 percent match and many of the programs have more than that so we will meet that goal without any problem. Chairman Johnston – Commissioner Meyer you attended the Board meeting, are you in support of these recommendations? Commissioner Meyer – We have a lot of good projects that come to us, and it is very difficult to sort out which ones we will fund and how much. Also, the shortage of money is a problem. The thing we need to work on is that 30 percent has to go to motorized trails and we have a lot of money built up there, about \$1 million. The biggest objection I have, and most communities have, is the noise generated. I think if someone would come forward with a project for motorcycles or 4-wheelers and would guarantee that they would have 85db limit on the noise, I think we would be more apt to fund them and the community

would be more apt to back them. This is the consensus of the group, and I agree with their consensus. Commissioner Bolton – Did no one apply for Category 4 or did you run out of money? Hover – We did not receive any applications. Commissioner Bolton – What would be an example of a single-use? Hover – It would be limited to ATVs, for instance. Kansas Rocks project that was done several years ago was one because it was for all 4x4 slow-moving vehicles. **Consensus.** Hover – All of the projects will continue to receive the full environmental review prior to final approval.

3. Public Lands Regulations – Brad Simpson, Public Lands Section chief, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit G). This is the beginning of the annual process to review our special regulations that are adopted by reference document in KAR 115-8-1 for the individual wildlife areas and state fishing lakes that we manage in the public lands section. Some of these special regulations include: hunting equipment types; refuges; daily hunt permits; shot requirements; and things like that. This is the third time we have completed this annual review. We are in the process of looking at proposed changes and will come to you at the next meeting with recommendations.

4. Falconry Regulations – Mike Mitchener, Wildlife Section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit H). The sport of falconry is the practice of hunting with raptors. To be properly permitted in Kansas and federally practice falconry, individuals have to go through a lengthy process of learning how to properly care for and train the raptors they use in the sport. There are three classes in the falconry permit structure that have requirements with regard to age, knowledge, and proficiency. Each class of falconry allows for different numbers and more difficult types of raptors to be handled; all the way from kestrels and red-tailed hawks in the Apprentice Falconer class up to peregrine falcons and golden eagles for Master Falconers. Apprentice, General, and Master falconer classes are recognized in Kansas currently. In order to become an Apprentice Falconer, applicants must pass a test demonstrating knowledge of basic biology, diseases, care and handling of raptors, literature, law, regulations and other appropriate subject matter. The Apprentice must be mentored and receive a recommendation from their sponsor to move to the next class, which is General. After practicing falconry for at least five years, a falconer can move to the Master Falconer class. Falconry was first implemented in Kansas in about 1991. There are currently 74 permitted falconers in Kansas. The reason we are bringing this forward is because there has been a change in federal regulations. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) currently also permits falconry, so a person who wants to practice falconry has to have a state and a federal permit. The USFWS is going to get out of the permitting part of the program and allow states to be the only permit required. To do this, states must meet certain basic requirements. The USFWS published their final regulations in October 2008. Minimum standards are set forth that all states that are going to have falconry programs must have completed by January 1, 2014. The state that wishes to allow falconry must establish laws and regulations that meet the standards established by the USFWS before they end their permitting program. At that time, all federal falconry permits and the federal permitting program will end. State regulations must have: a copy of state's Apprentice Falconer exam which must cover laws and regulations, raptor biology and raptor identification, trapping methods, facilities requirements, care of raptors held for falconry, and diseases and health problems of raptors, and

training methods (we already have an approved test with the USFWS); copies of the laws and regulations governing falconry of the state and certification of laws and regulations that meet these requirements; and electronic reporting for reporting take, transfers, and loss of falconry birds is fully operational. This is currently a paper system and they are moving to an online database. Department staff has met with members and officers of the Kansas Hawking Club, which is an affiliated member of the National Falconry Association (NAFA), to review current state regulations and determine what kind of revisions are needed to make our regulations meet the new federal regulations. In general, we agree that adoption of the new federal regulations in 50 C.F.R 21.29, which went into effect on October 8, 2008, will be sufficient. There are, however, certain requirements that our staff and officers of the Kansas Hawking Club feel should be more restrictive than federal regulations. Following are some of the recommendations we are making: a lapsed permit may be reinstated at the previous level without retaking the examination in accordance with federal regulations of not having lapsed for more than five years. This is to take into account reasonable circumstances that may occur when an individual may not be able to renew permit or keep birds, such as military deployment. Apprentice Falconers can possess only wild caught kestrels, red-tailed hawks, and red-shouldered hawks. Adopt the lowered minimum age for falconry classes; Apprentice would go down to 12 years of age, and General Class would go down to 16. Currently those are 14 and 18. Indoor and outdoor falconry holding facilities need to be constructed and inspected prior to issuance of falconry permit. Falconry equipment, as outlined by federal regulations, shall be possessed by each applicant before the issuance or renewal of a falconry permit. Adopt federal regulations on types of raptors and when they can be taken, but require a valid Kansas hunting license to take raptors from the wild. No species listed as Kansas threatened or endangered can be taken. Each item of equipment used to capture raptors shall be tagged with permittee's name and falconry permit number. Raptors taken under a depredation or special purpose federal permit may be used by General and Master Falconers. Typically these raptors would be golden eagles, for example recently in Wyoming they have been doing depredation permitting on golden eagles and a lot of times falconers can capture those under those depredation orders. Chairman Johnston – The third to the last item, no species listed as Kansas threatened and endangered (T&E) can be taken, I am confused by the word taken as it compares to previous statement referring to taking raptors from the wild. Are you referring to hunting with a raptor? Mitchener – Those raptors trapped and used for falconry is what taken refers to. Chairman Johnston – So you are referring to raptors? Mitchener – Yes, there may be species listed in state, but not federally. Our feeling was that we needed to be more restrictive, if species of raptor is on state T&E list than it should not be allowed to be taken. Monty Markley, President Kansas Hawking Club – Would like to express our appreciation on being able to work with Mike and Tonya and being proactive in getting this together and appreciate your consideration. We would also like to extend an invitation to take any of you hunting with our hawks at any time. There are not very many of us, but we do have a high level of engagement in our sport. Thank you for addressing this. Chairman Johnston – Please sign the guest list. Mike, is there a separate set of regulations that governs how raptors can be used for hunting? Mitchener – Yes, for example during waterfowl seasons we set different falconry regulations and allow falconry as legal means of take for upland birds during the regular season. The only extended season is waterfowl.

Break

5. Kansas Coalition for Children in Nature (KCCN) – Jerry Hover, Parks Division director, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit I). In April, 2009 Governor Sebelius signed an Executive Order creating the Kansas Coalition for Children in Nature (KCCN) and naming the Conveners Group. The Conveners group consists of representatives from the Kansas Department of Education, Kansas Board of Education, Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE), Kansas Recreation and Parks Association (KRPA), a private individual with Outside for a Better Inside, Kansas Foundation of Agriculture in the Classroom, Kansas Dept of Agriculture, Kansas Wildlife Federation, Kansas Wildscape Foundation, and KDWP. Commissioner Shari Wilson represents the Commission on that group, Steve Sorensen represents the Kansas Wildlife Federation, and Charlie Black represents the Wildscape Foundation. The Conveners group has held several meetings and set up three different working committees: health, outdoor experiences and recreation, and environmental education. They are working constantly and many have meetings in the next couple of weeks, and the Conveners Group has a meeting on January 14. We are developing a poster for a marketing effort and hope to adopt that next week and place it on various websites, such as KDWP, KACEE, and Kansas Wildscape. KCCN is developing its own website to find out information. It is an unfunded program but does receive assistance from the various agencies for staff development, travel and those types of things. Kansas Wildscape has applied for a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help with the promotion for the Coalition and we hope that will be approved soon. There also is a part-time AmeriCorps person who is assisting with the research. We are seeking additional work group members and would like nothing better than to have 2 million signatures as part of the coalition. We hope to adopt a formal letter next week to send to 122 different foundations in Kansas to ask all of them to sign on, not for money support, but to tweak some of their grants to give toward children in nature. Also, we are working with insurance groups, and the educational community, such as colleges and universities. Two goals are to develop an environmental literacy plan, which KACEE is taking the lead on and we already have the Children’s Bill of Rights. Contact any of the members if interested in joining. Commissioner Debra Bolton – Has anyone contacted the Governor’s Children’s Cabinet? Hover – I haven’t personally, but one of our other members is working with them. Commissioner Bolton – Other groups I thought about include Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, 4-H and any early childhood programs. Just getting representation from those groups might be a good idea. Commissioner Meyer – I think this is such a vital thing for us to be involved in, and I would like to join if you are taking non-active members. I commend you and your organization for doing this. Hover – At this time I am not asking for any money, maybe later. Chairman Johnston – I applaud you on these efforts.

6. Department Education Programs –

Ross Robins, Education Section chief, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit J; PowerPoint – Exhibit K). Mike Rader will highlight the Wildlife Education Service, which includes the programs we do in the schools and our museums and nature centers, which seems appropriate since today’s venue is the Kansas Wetlands Education Center. But, I couldn’t let him

do that without giving a brief overview of the other programs we do in the department. Beginning with hunter education, one of our better known programs, we started holding courses in 1973 and the total certified is approaching a half-million. National studies have shown that hunter education has reduced hunting accidents by over 50 percent -- in Kansas even more than that. It involves more than safe gun handling; it promotes ethical behavior, and creates wildlife conservation awareness. We certify about 8,000 people every year through about 300 classes, with 1,200 volunteer instructors scattered throughout the state who organize and put on these classes. We also provide advanced hunter education courses such as bowhunting courses, advanced furharvester courses, basic waterfowl hunting, deer hunting, and those types of classes. We have five LaserShot hunting simulators scattered across the state, used not only for hunter education, but to show shot placement, zones of fire, and do as close to live-fire as possible. Combined with our Pass It On program, these LaserShot simulators see about 25,000 people a year. A new development in hunter education is our online course. Traditionally our courses are a minimum of 10 hours, but with the online course students can get on the internet, take the portion that would ordinarily be covered by lecture in the classroom and then come in for a six-hour field day where they have an opportunity to do live fire, field exercises, and gun handling. That has worked out extremely well, both for the students and the instructors. We are continually trying to increase the number of classes that provide live fire. The limitation is having the place to shoot, and we are trying to alleviate that with our shooting range grant program. We also provide ammunition and targets to instructors who wish to provide live fire. Hunter education is under a federal aid grant, and we can use our instructor volunteer hours as a match. Wayne Doyle and Monica Bickerstaff, our assistant coordinator, hold instructor workshops and academies around the state, with one coming up this March at Rock Springs. Instructors are required to attend workshops to keep up-to-date on policy procedures and to learn new skills, and we also provide an instructor newsletter quarterly. A new program is our Hunter Education in Our Schools program. We developed a video advertising the benefits of hunter education as part of the school curriculum. We put together a marketing package, and Monica took it statewide to state administrator meetings and teacher meetings and pitched the program, with some success. We have 30 schools participating. It is a win/win situation because we tie them into our volunteer instructor network, so our volunteers in the area will assist, especially with field day events. Furharvester education is required by statute, and we annually certify 800 students with hands-on courses and a new online certification course, which took the place of the old correspondence course. The new online course has taught 700 people so far. We do have volunteer instructors also to provide our classroom courses. Boater education, also required by statute, certifies 1,400 students each year. In addition to the classes, we also do about 75 programs and shows each year, reaching about 35,000 people. Boater education is available online or through home-study. Natural resource officers, especially boating officers, are a key component to this program. We have a retired personal watercraft (PWC) from law enforcement that our boating coordinator Erika Nighswonger gutted, put a play station in the engine compartment, hooked it up to the steering mechanism and the throttle and you can have a simulated PWC experience. It has been a great teaching tool for kids. You fit them to a life jacket, so they learn about them, and they learn about lanyards. It has been so popular, we actually outfitted another one. Boater education does a lot of marketing and promotion with parking lot stencils at boat ramp parking lots, banners, and billboards. Erika does instructor workshops to keep them up-to-date and provides a bimonthly

newsletter. Aquatic education is coordinated out of our fisheries section and has been for a long time. Our fisheries biologists do a tremendous number of fishing clinics, teaching anglers new skills, conduct fishing derbies to promote fishing and get anglers out, provide printed and electronic publications from Fish ID cards to fishing guides to videos, and hold fishing information nights. This program recently expanded to include advanced aquatic education, which is specialized fishing education, ranging from species, gear, water type specific fishing, to proper cleaning and cooking; and we provide curriculum for teachers to use in the classroom. We added a mobile aquarium in January 2008 that is 40 feet long, and holds 3,200 gallons. It goes to four events per year and has direct contact with about 311,000 people. We are looking at doing some aquariums in the classroom and social networking. Everybody who attends one of these events has the opportunity to fill out a card that provides us with some vital information and allows us to do some data mining later. We are looking at getting into aquatic systems education and taking groups on outdoor field trips and utilizing human dimensions and best practices to continually refine our approaches and methodologies. Becoming an Outdoors-Woman is a very gratifying program that we have done for a number of years. We have a contracted coordinator, Jami Vonderschmidt, who has been doing it for six or seven years. This year we had 120 participants, actually we say that is our maximum, but we had that many registered by July 1 for the end-of-September workshop. It is extremely popular, and we have 50 to 60 volunteer instructors to run workshops, basically instructors who've been involved since the beginning of the program who don't want to stop. We do it once a year and hold around 40 classes, with one-third hunting or shooting related, one-third angling related, one-third non-consumptive like birding, camping and biking. It is fun to see women come with an interest in a particular area and go away having interacted with some of the other things that get them excited to try that. We get 50 percent new participants every time we do this. All of these programs are successful because of department staff throughout the state who participate in every one of these programs and local programs. Also, a lot of education efforts occur with non-profit groups and nature centers outside the agency.

Mike Rader, wildlife education coordinator, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit L, PowerPoint – Exhibit M). As head of Wildlife Education Services (WES), I inherited this job three years ago from Roland Stein, and it was very strong when I got there and I am hoping it will continue. My administrative assistant at Pratt is Shelby Stevens. Chris Shrack is curator of the Pratt Education Center and Museum. Alaine Neelly-Hudlin is the Kansas City Area wildlife education specialist and property manager for the Prairie Center. Pat Silovsky is the director of the Milford Nature Center and Vanessa Avara is the assistant. Pamela Martin is the wildlife education specialist based out of this facility, the Kansas Wetlands Education Center. One of the first projects is the Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites (OWLS) which has approximately 190 active locations around the state, with about half in Region 2, and the rest scattered across the state with a fairly large concentration around Wichita. For a school that wants to be involved, there is a grant application process, with guidelines available online. Our initial grant is \$2,000, with lesser amounts for a certification grant, if you met the qualifications for the original grant. Rejuvenation grants are available for sites that have been in existence for several years and have fallen into disrepair or they want to add new things, and there are smaller grants called window OWLS grants. We send out reference materials for a reference library at each school that include field

guides and activity books, and add new books on a periodic basis, such as *Last Child in the Woods* that we added last year. George Potts is the coordinator for Regions 1, 3, 4 and 5; and Jeff Blodig serves as coordinator for Region 2, in the northeast part of Kansas. The National Archery in the Schools program (NASP), which came into the state in 2006, now has 18 trained facilitators and trained 301 teachers, with 127 schools participating in the program. Gary Keehn, a Jackson Heights high school teacher (north of Topeka), is the coordinator for this program. Commissioner Shari Wilson sends her apology today and I will try to present her report on our relationship with KACEE after I finish this report. I serve as an ex-officio member of the KACEE Board of Directors. We act as the funding entity and co-coordinator with KACEE for Project WILD in Kansas. Our staff assists with facilitation of some of the project workshops and other special events. Also I am a new member of the Environmental Literacy Planning Team that just started in the last 6 months. The Kansas ECO-Meet started at Milford Nature Center back in the 1990s, and it became a statewide program in 1999. This is a quiz bowl-type competition designed to introduce students to native Kansas plants and animals. We felt a lot of efforts we were providing at the time were geared toward younger students, and this is for junior high and high school. We held eight regional events the last two years and had approximately 600 students last year and about 550 this year. The students are awarded scholarships that are held in an account with the Kansas Wildscape Foundation, and once those kids graduate from high school and enroll in something post secondary then their scholarship money is released to them at that time. There are four activities within the competition, including an interpretation event where they put together a 5-minute skit or scenario using Kansas native plants and animals as their subject and a 30-minute scavenger hunt where the kids are given a list of 30 to 35 items to go out and find, bring back and prove to the judges. The Pratt Reference Center has over 5,000 Kansas wildlife-related items that can be checked out by Kansas educators at no charge. The only charge is the return postage back. Shelby Stevens is the contact person for this and there are many different learning kits that can be checked out for two weeks at a time. Examples include: Replitrack sets, skins and skulls kits, hunter education videos, as well as Kansas Day and Earth Day materials. We also fulfill hundreds of requests per year for KDWP printed materials, including our own publications such as Nature's Notebook, and ON T.R.A.C.K.S, which Pat Silovsky publishes. The Pratt Education Center and Museum has Chris Shrack as the curator and building manager. The emphasis of this facility is to increase public awareness and knowledge of the wildlife of Kansas and provide the history of KDWP. Numerous displays, dioramas and exhibits provide close encounters. We have two dioramas, one winter scene and a fall scene. It is a self-guided tour for the most part. Displays include a working honey bee colony, live reptiles and amphibians in protective displays, and 13 aquariums showcasing native fish and turtles. We also have rooms dedicated to prairie animals, birds of Kansas, an egg collection that was donated to the department back in the 1940s, and a law enforcement room showcasing confiscated items and history. The Prairie Center, Alaine Neelly-Hudlin is the property manager, is approximately 300 acres located in Olathe and has mixed native grassland, woodlands and riparian area and has a creek that runs through it. This location provides an outdoor classroom location, available for thousands of students in the Kansas City area. Alaine is working on a potential archery range for that area, and we have had some contact with the Archery Trade Association and some other local entities, as well as trying to establish a friends group. Alaine has also been the point of contact for WES in the Kansas City area. She has an office in the new Kansas City district office,

as well as a working office out at the Prairie Center. She is support for a lot of the educators in that area and helps with our OWLS program, working with Jeff Blodig. She is working with community recreation programs locally and in getting new community archery ranges which will play heavily in the future outdoor skills training opportunities. At the Milford Nature Center, Pat Silovsky has been the director for 20 years. It serves the northeast part of the state as a premier education facility and acts as an important location for area wildlife rehabilitation efforts. They have an arrangement with Kansas State University and when they receive an injured animal that they do medical procedures on, they bring them to Pat to be rehabilitated and she puts them back out into the wild or uses the animal in programming. Yearly visitation exceeds 8,000 with wildlife educational programming provided to more than 16,000 in the last calendar year. We did get a new building called the Starbird Education building, from a memorial account in Wildtrust from a teacher from Chapman named Eleanor Starbird. There was no stipulation for the money so we thought this would be a good use for that money. It was approximately \$130,000. The building was a \$215,000 facility. That building was accomplished with the assistance from the inmate crew at El Dorado. There are various live animal displays, some inside the old building where they have reptiles, amphibians and some small mammals, and outside she has raptors, both bald and golden eagles, several hawk species and owl species. They also assist with fishing clinics in the area. Eagle Days are coming up soon, and they get hundreds of people who attend; they coordinate with local schools, get buses and take people out to look to eagles. The Great Plains Nature Center provides quality wildlife education in the Wichita area. We have a presence there, Marc Murrell is the manager of the building and Patty Marlette is a naturalist who works as a temp. In speaking with the director, Bob Gress, he said a good average is about 150,000 visitors annually. This facility has been in operation for 14 years, with the grand opening occurring in 2000. Our regional office is associated with that facility, as well. The Kansas Wetlands Education Center (KWEC) was the culmination of years of planning and cooperation by many state and local entities. The facility was completed in early spring 2009 and experienced extensive visitation. Pam Martin is our sole representative in the facility at this time and has served as the education provider since its opening. The partnerships that made this facility possible will continue to prosper and make this one of the premier wildlife education facilities in the region.

Mike Pearce – I would like to thank the department, for seven years we have had the Wichita Eagle fishing clinic, and we have about 500 kids every year, a lot from single parent families. The job that Jessica does now, and Ken did before, is amazing. The pond is stocked, the equipment is furnished and a tremendous amount of people catch their first fish there. It is the second Saturday in June in conjunction with the Walk for Wildlife in conjunction with the Great Plains Nature Center. Who can I get in contact with to do a story on the Archery in Schools Programs? I have contacted your coordinator for the past two years and he has gone nowhere with it. Rader – You can talk to me about it. In defense of Gary he is a full-time school teacher and he does this in his off hours and he has taken school days off to provide training for us at particular schools. His time is valuable, and I apologize for him not getting back with you and I will be available wherever I can.

7. KACEE – in Shari Wilson’s absence, Mike Rader presented this to Commissioners (Exhibit N, PowerPoint – Exhibit O). As mentioned before Shari sends her apologies for not

being here. She and I worked together closely on several projects. Shari forwarded this presentation to me. The department's relationship with the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) is very valuable, in my opinion. KACEE is an organization of partners whose membership consists of approximately 200 organizations and 300 individuals. With four full-time and three part-time employees, they work with partners to accomplish the delivery and promotion of conservation and environmental education across Kansas. I brought copies of the Project WILD and Project WILD Aquatic teacher guides for you to look at during break. KACEE celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2009 and there is a long tradition of partnership between KACEE and Wildlife and Parks. They support our OWLS Program and Archery in the Schools Program. We use their network to promote our programs and will also be doing that with the Kansas Green Schools network. Shari is very involved with that. Our department helps support the annual conference, a teacher workshop in the fall and we help fund some of that. We also provide funds for KACEE to administer Project WILD for Kansas for the past two years and they were able to add a part-time staff person to be the coordinator for that program and I serve as co-coordinator, but I am just a figurehead. In FY2009, KACEE held 14 Project WILD workshops and nine WILD Aquatic workshops with just under 400 educators trained. The estimated impact is just under 12,000 students per year. Under this contract, they provide for projects WILD and WILD Aquatic as well as Project Learning Tree, Project WET (which is water education for teachers), and Leopold Education project which is a partnership with Pheasants Forever. KACEE endeavors to highlight resources provided by our department at every opportunity. They hold a lot of their events at state parks and other facilities we have. Participants go outside and get wet and dirty and do things. KACEE staff attends workshops and conferences to make presentations and exhibit materials, which enables them to present training to area teachers for these programs. As we work to build a future constituency, which includes our department. New programs include Growing Up WILD, a pre-K learning program with Project Wild (Project Learning Tree is also coming up with one soon that KACEE will be involved in); a Native Fish Workshop, which is part of aquatic education initiatives; a new push for Master Naturalist Program in Kansas, initiated in surrounding states and we are working with Ted Cable at Kansas State University, usually the state extension is the lead on this and I am not sure what Wildlife and Parks role will be on this, but KACEE will be involved; Kansas Green Schools Program, which we are helping by trying to get our employees to get their local schools involved; and Kansas Coalition for Children in Nature initiatives, which Jerry referred to earlier. KACEE values its partnership with KDWP and appreciates the time and resources given by staff and the department to support conservation and environmental education in the state.

Commissioner Bolton – Will the Master Naturalist program just be in the schools or in community like the Master Gardener and some of those? Rader – It will probably not be in the schools at all. It is actually adult education, similar to Master Gardener. Our department staff would serve as trainers once they get the program established.

8. Kansas Wetlands Education Center Presentation and Tour –
(Exhibit P, PowerPoint – Exhibit Q, R).

Curtis Wolf, Fort Hays State University – Kansas Wetlands Education Center manager, presented

this update to the Commission. I have given you a handout, a fact sheet on the education center (Exhibit S). We want to welcome you here and hope you made yourself at home. This is exactly the type of meeting we want to have here. I remember Dr. Finck, who is sitting in here, starting off a presentation asking the question, "Where are we?" and ironically that is what I have here. As you got out of your vehicles I hope you understood where you are and the significance of this place and how unique this place is for the state. Obviously you are at the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, the basin nestled between the communities of Great Bend, Hoisington, Claflin and Ellinwood. The center is located along Highway 156. We also sit along the Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway, which was established in 2005. It is a 77-mile route that starts west of Hoisington and takes travelers down to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. There will be a 5-state national byway conference here at the center in April. The first thing you hear about is the birds, because of our relationship in the North American Central Flyway, a major stop-over place for shore birds and other birds. But there are other things here, too, such as thriving mammal, reptile, insect and plant communities. It is not only about organisms but about the people. The major thing we are trying to capitalize on is eco-tourism. Historically Cheyenne Bottoms has provided that for the state and this region for economic impact for the state of Kansas and the region. Obviously, bird watching, photography, and wildlife watching are on the upswing and hunting is still a major component of this local economy. This is a great place to play the license plate game. We have been open just over eight months and we are finally figuring out what we are doing and where we are going. Our mission is to educate the public about wetland communities and the need for conservation and restoration and we do that through our exhibits, our programs, and the outreach programs. The idea of the Center was a major convergence of ideas which began with the City of Great Bend, KDWP and Fort Hays State University (FHSU). That began the partnerships rolling, and if you look through the exhibits you will see others and the importance of them. It is operated as a branch of FHSU's Sternberg Museum. There are three full-time employees from FHSU, Pam is our naturalist from KDWP, four part-time grad students who help in various aspects, and two other part-time people funded by the Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau. We have the Koch Wetlands Gallery, the Auditorium, a classroom that has our live exhibit, our wetlands gift store, an observation point and a nature trail. Since opening, we have had a little over 11,000 visitors, about 51 visitors a day, but there is a lot of variability, some days we have 100 people and some days only two. Weekends tend to be our busier times. Most of our attendance was in April. We maintained numbers through the fall at about 50 people a day and dropped in December with cold weather. We have had about 8,000 adults and 2,000 children, 80/20, which I would like to see flipped and I think will eventually once we get the programs rolling. We have had a lot of groups with meetings. We have had visitors from 48 states (42 in three months). Send someone from Maine and New Jersey our way so we can get those last two states checked off. We have also had people from 19 countries. About 80 percent of the visitors are from Kansas and 20 percent out-of-state, according to our guest book. We offer unique nature-based products in the gift store as well as local artwork, averaging sales of \$2.58 per visitor; well above the national average, which says something for our gift store manager and the products that we carry. We are loaded with potential and future plans include hiring another educator in May, holding more programs, new scheduled programs for all people, educational outreach to go to the schools, teacher resources (especially online to use before and after they come). We don't do regular daily tours at this time because we have no

transportation, but that will change soon. We are looking at upgrades for new buildings and possibly even a cabin for people to stay overnight. We will add a new exhibit that was cut from original plan from money donated by The Nature Conservancy focusing on the benefits of hunting; an observation point gazebo this spring, also paid for by The Nature Conservancy; nature trail development paid for by Ducks Unlimited, the Stumps memorial fund and Karl has the interpretive signs done; and acquire a bus or other transportation to get people out to the Bottoms. We would like to increase our volunteer program. We have a Friends of Cheyenne Bottoms group in infancy. We are redesigning our website and marketing strategy is ongoing because signage is not good. We need billboards and other highway signs. Visit our website and we also have a Facebook site that we post our events on.

Pam Martin, KDWP education/information representative, presented this update to the Commission –

I am the educator here at KWEC, and we are wild about wetlands and conveying that to the public. Ellinwood fourth graders caught and tagged monarch butterflies on the nature trail, a wonderful environment because it is on the edge of a shelter belt, so you have different types of birds from the marsh and on the other side is a canal with water in so you have the wetland component. A lot of groups came out in May for field trips from schools to special education, to organizations and clubs. We have six weeks of scheduled child and family summer programs, and in the fall had a lot of school groups, even from out of the county. We had 150 seventh graders from McPherson, and we rotated them through three different programs. Programs have dropped off for the winter. If you follow what schools are doing, standardized testing is what they are doing right now, and everything is focused on reading and math. We are looking at strategies to get them interested in science and either having us come to the classroom or having them here. With funding cuts in schools, we are looking more at outreach programs at this point. We had six summer programs with 230 children and parents. Younger kids, ages 4-7, had to have a parent present to attend, and then we had an older group, ages 8-12. We had a lot of hands-on activities that included either games or crafts. We got them outside and used live animals when we could. Thurston III is a great-horned owl who was a great hit in the Creatures of the Night program. On school programming, we did a lot of research before developing it, and we are looking at science standards and correlated topics with those standards and worked on how we could offer that here or in the classroom. The program is tailored to special needs or other topics. A wide variety of programming focused on wetlands, animals, plants and insects. First we sent programming out to all of the Barton county schools, and we received interest and have had school groups from Great Bend, Ellinwood and Claflin and several have come back several times. In December, we sent out a mass mailing to over 100 schools in surrounding counties, and already have gotten some response back, and I expect we will be very busy in April and May. There were barn owl nests over at the Cheyenne Bottoms office so, I sterilized owl pellets at home and the kids dissected them. We have held scavenger hunts in the exhibit area. The record number of skulls found in an owl pellet so far, is five. The Ellinwood kids tagged 23 monarchs when they came and their tech person did a video of it. We also put a lot of effort into family programs to get kids and their parents out here. We had one at Thanksgiving on turkeys, one at Christmas on Christmas Trees; Birding 101, and stargazing programs, which were limited to 15 because we only had two telescopes, put on by Karl Grover. As soon as the facility opened,

Wayne Doyle called and we held hunter education classes here. We hosted the field part of a hunter education class here in August with about 15 participants. The instructor set up pop-up targets in the field and had his field dog. Also, we held a waterfowl clinic. We worked on two very large outreach programs this year. We went to Great Plains Nature Center to Walk with Wildlife. There were 3,000 people there. We had an education center at the amphibian station. We went to Kansas State Fair for two days, participated in Barton County Community College (BCCC) Jack Kilby Science Day. Curtis and I gave four classes to 200 high school students, we went to the Cosmosphere teacher night, and Boy and Girl Scouts sign-up nights. You can't do better than to partner with other quality facilities such as the Great Bend Zoo and Raptor Rehab Center. They have allowed us to use their education birds (Thurston the Great Horned Owl). The Great Bend Recreation Commission, it is hard to get people out here because parents are working, so they are providing transportation to get kids here and we have had two sessions that way and also we provided some senior programming and other family programming for them. We partnered with Rob Pender of The Nature Conservancy, who is helping us with programs and resources. A few of our education goals include adding four winter programming sessions on Saturday mornings, continue summer programming, offer one family program per month on Saturday mornings, hold two events in 2010 where we use volunteers and partner with other organizations, hold at least two hunter education events, increase adult programming, and increase school programming with outreach and field programs. We get the kids out and let them get muddy and just have fun. The goal is to get the kids excited so they want to come back and as adults will appreciate what Cheyenne Bottoms is.

VII. RECESS AT 4:10 p.m. to tour facility

VIII. RECONVENE AT 7:00 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

Chairman Johnston – I would like to recognize Representative Joe Seiwert and his wife. Thank you for coming.

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

C. Workshop Session

1. KAR 115-25-7. Antelope; open season, bag limit and permits – Matt Peek, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit T). No changes to recommend for the 2010 pronghorn hunting regulations. We would like to continue to offer unlimited archery for residents and nonresidents. Firearms and muzzleloader are still restricted to residents with half reserved for landowner/tenants. Firearm and muzzleloader permit allocations will be determined

following completion of the winter aerial surveys. Deer Management Units 2, 17 and 18 are open to pronghorn hunting with the muzzleloader and firearms permits being restricted to one (of the three) unit. Archery hunters can hunt all three units. The season dates are standard with an eight-day muzzleloader season and four-day firearm season and the archery season runs on either side of those two seasons. The standard application deadline is June 11, 2010 and applications for archery permits would be available through the next to the last day of the season.

Chairman Johnston – We recently began implementing an earlier application deadline for nonresident deer, has there been any interest in moving up the date for the pronghorn application? Peek – I have not heard of any, but it is restricted to residents only so I don't feel there is a need for pronghorn.

2. KAR 115-25-8. Elk; open season, bag limit and permits – Matt Peek, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit U). We have one change to recommend to elk seasons. We would like to offer some limited draw permits valid in Units 17 and 18 in southwest Kansas. Most of the emphasis currently is on maintaining the Fort Riley herd while allowing landowners off of the post to harvest elk that may be causing crop damage or other problems. So we have a 6½ month season off post and allow unlimited hunt-own-land permits so a landowner can buy an over-the-counter permit, and this has been effective to provide incentive to have elk, but if they have problems, can hunt them. We have had some problems crop up in southwest Kansas, in particular in Hamilton County on the Arkansas River and in Ford County. Landowners in Hamilton County have experienced some crop damage and have expressed an interest in more pressure out there. They have not been successful with the hunt-own-land permits at harvesting elk. This is one way we are going to try increase pressure in the area. Permits on Fort Riley are valid statewide and we have been able to refer hunters who have been unsuccessful on Fort Riley out onto the private landscape. It is not an easy hunt on the Arkansas River so there is definitely an advantage to having more local people with permits. Under the current system, the number of people applying for the limited draw permits at Fort Riley probably drowns out the potential for the people out west to draw permits. We did have one guy draw an any-elk permit from Syracuse this year, but that is the first one. The remainder of our recommendation, including the structure and dates, would remain the same as in the past including the fact that the Fort Riley permits would maintain their statewide status.

Mike Pearce – Are you in the office tomorrow? Peek – Probably. Pearce - I will probably just call you then. Do you have any idea what the success was on Fort Riley this year? Peek – There have been 11 elk harvested that I am aware of; four bulls and seven cows. A couple of them might be off post. Pearce – Do you have any idea of how many off-Fort permits you will issue? Peek – We haven't discussed that yet.

3. 115-4 Series Deer Permanent Regulations – Lloyd Fox, big game wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit V). We brought the whole 4-series before you in August and October and are coming back with two suggestions for change. KAR 115-4-2 is big game general provisions and is the regulation where the issue is the difficulty people have had in transporting deer outside of Kansas. The deer were legally taken in Kansas, but following our regulations the deer needed to be transported with the head attached. When the individuals got to other states, because Kansas is a chronic wasting disease (CWD) positive state, some

states are prohibiting deer carcasses from being transported through their states. They will allow meat, capes, skull caps and antlers, but not the whole carcass. One of the ideas we have come up with is a photo-check option. We could maintain the same regulation we have now, allowing people to transport the whole carcass or give them an option to photo-check their deer by taking a digital photo and sending it to us and have our IT section develop a system to put that photo on and give them a confirmation number to transport. It would be the same as going through a physical check station, and they could transport the deer as packaged venison without the head attached. This is a new type of program and we expect difficulties will arise so we are bringing this for your review and comments.

Commissioner Lauber – As an example, you are talking about taking a picture with your phone and emailing or texting it to Pratt, and waiting for a confirmation? Fox – The confirmation should be automatic. It is similar to the telecheck system that works in some other states, but they are actually sending a photo of the tag and the head of the deer. That would go into our storage system and the computer would give them a confirmation number. Commissioner Lauber – Do you think the number would be around two dozen? Fox – I think it would be very low to begin with. This would allow an opportunity for individuals to transport deer back home legally following our regulation and the regulation of other states. This also cures the difficulties of either contracting or manning physical check stations. Commissioner Lauber – It is probably ethically and technologically okay, but it will take a lot of work to get a fool-proof system, and I expect extremely low usage. Fox – When an individual goes into another state with that whole carcass they were issued notices and the deer was confiscated. This first year we are proposing a system that would be in addition to our current system, and we expect few people to be involved. If we can work through the technical parts, we would like to expand it into our own version of a photo-check system. There would be some Law Enforcement advantages and advantages to having a photo bank of characteristics of deer taken in the various deer units. We look at this as something that could evolve through the years and become a replacement system for our current check system. This would be for residents and nonresidents, and they could bone the deer and transport them back to their home. More people are asking to do this from a CWD reduction of potential spread of that disease, as an alternative. Chairman Johnston – The department would expect the tag to be legible in the photograph. Fox – Correct. Chairman Johnston – I have the photo of the buck I shot on my phone and I am wondering how easy that would be to get full antler spread and a legible deer tag. Fox – They would need to take a picture of the completed tag and a picture of the head of the animal to show the species and antler characteristics, or lack of antlers, to show it is a whitetail deer. This will need to have a review to see if they are adequate for those purposes. Right now we don't have check stations and a person can transport a deer, this would be a digitalized central location. There will be a learning curve. Secretary Hayden – I think it is important to remember this is voluntary, nobody is required to do it. It just gives deer hunters another option when they are moving their deer across state lines. Mike Pearce – How many states won't allow importation of deer vertebra? Fox – I believe it is 35 states now. It is an issue we are addressing of taking deer across state lines. Pearce – How seriously do CWD biologists consider the threat of bringing skulls and vertebra from a CWD infected state to a non-CWD state? Fox – We think it is a potential problem; however, we don't have the information that says that. We know it is physically possible to move the disease by moving a carcass, not only a live animal. Also, improperly disposing of those products is a problem because the brain,

spinal cord, backbone and lymph nodes all contain the disease. Pearce – That is why those 35 states want those parts of the deer left in the states they come from? Fox – If you don't have CWD in your state, you certainly don't want it and they are taking those pre-emptive types of measurements and that is how this got started.

Commissioner Lauber – In this set of regulations, it has nothing to do with this, but permissible equipment. At this point in time it is not lawful to bring practice points or blunt arrows into a tree stand. I have had discussions with archers who would like to have those in their possession to shoot small game. I don't see any down side, and I think there is enough concern and might enhance opportunity. I would like to have it discussed and considered before next season. Fox – This is something that has been discussed in staff, especially Law Enforcement, this issue and a broader context. We don't have a specific proposal for any change in that, but we can continue to find some answers to it. That is a complicated issue. Tymeson – It is in 115-4-4, and there is a phrase in there that says you can only carry the equipment for the most restrictive permit you have. There is the arrow issue of carrying blunts or field points for a practice shot, but it is broader in how we issue our deer permits, they are now printed on little green sheets that we put in our pocket. It is a very complex issue, and it can be parted out into what Gerald is talking about, or you can take a broader approach and take language out completely. We need defer to what Kevin has spoken to his staff about and his input. If you want to move forward I would need to know tonight to vote in April to get a regulation through AG and DofA. Chairman Johnston – Commissioner Lauber would you be content to get an information presentation later this year on this subject and the various ramifications and possible consideration for the following deer season, rather than this season? Commissioner Lauber – Yes, I would like to have it explored. Sooner is better, but whatever time permits. Tymeson – I can prepare a regulation for the narrow issue of carrying field point and blunt tips, I could prepare and not vote on it and take a look at the broader issue to see where we would want to go. Commissioner Lauber – Deal with the narrow issue now and the broader issue later. If someone wants to hunt deer and shoot a turkey or a squirrel while in tree stand it enhances opportunity. The bigger issue is to use the wrong equipment. Chairman Johnston – Is it feasible to bring the narrow drafted regulation to us in time? Tymeson – Depends on AG and DofA, but I think I could. Chairman Johnston – We ask you to do so, but I am not sure we can avoid the bigger issue. Tymeson – That would be for the April meeting that we could move forward.

Fox - The other item as a recommendation for consideration is KAR 115-4-6, our deer firearm management units (DMU). Our issue was difficulties of people with a permit valid in Unit 10, couldn't pick the opposite side of that traditional border because of Unit 19. We considered various alternatives and suggest returning to the previous unit boundaries of the 18 deer management units and designate the Kansas City urban unit Sub-unit 19, which would not interfere with an individual's opportunity to pick one of those other traditional adjacent units. We have some figures showing the new boundaries, which was the old boundaries and still showing Unit 19, which would not be designated as a DMU, but as a sub-unit within those. We will bring this back for action at the next Commission meeting.

4. 115-25-Series Deer Regulations – Lloyd Fox, big game wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit W). Regulation 115-25-9 is our deer seasons, bag limit, and permits. The season structure and dates are the same as last year, just modified to fit the

calendar year of 2010 and 2011. We are attempting to move the nonresident application period back one month from May 30 to April 30, 2010. Secretary Hayden – When do we expect to have the nonresident draw? Fox – As shortly after April 30 as possible. Cindy Livingston – It would take about one month or less. Secretary Hayden – So we would have it by May 30. Livingston – We should.

Chairman Johnston – Is it correct that a nonresident who wanted to hunt an antlerless deer, unless they had drawn a nonresident license during the regular season, would be unable to buy one on January 1 unless it was a HOL situation? Fox – It is a little different from what you just described. A nonresident cannot buy a whitetail antlerless-only deer permit until December 30. They can buy and have just a whitetail antlerless-only permit, but just when we have whitetail seasons open. For example, they could buy one now for the January season. Chairman Johnston – Even if they didn't have a regular season permit? Fox – Yes, that is in place right now. There is a proposal under way to change that system. They would still be allowed to obtain a whitetail antlerless-only permit after the antlered seasons. Tymeson – Up until December 31, you have to have an either-sex permit to buy an antlerless permit, but after December 31 residents or nonresidents only need a hunting license to buy an antlerless permit.

5. Fishing Regulation Correction – Doug Nygren, Fisheries Section Chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit X). In October we passed regulations dealing with paddlefish and bowfishing for catfish and in the process of putting together the regulation summary we realized we needed to do some clean up in the language. We will be coming back with language that has already been to the Attorney General, we don't intend to change the intent of what we have, just make it more enforceable and we are going to add some language to restrict the ability to use visible light for bowfishing.

D. Public Hearing

Notice and Submission Forms; Kansas Legislative Research Department letter; and Attorney General letter (Exhibit Y).

1. KAR 115-4-11. Big Game and wild turkey permit applications – Mike Miller, chief of Information Services Section, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Z). This is the third time you have heard this discussion. We are looking at this regulation as it pertains to the Commissioner permits. The amendments would allow someone to purchase more than one elk permit through the Commission permit system. Right now they are restricted to one any elk or bull-only elk permit in their lifetime. We had an incident where a person had purchased a permit through that system and the discussion was that there may not be a very large pool of people with the resources and desire to buy these permits. If we restrict those to one in a lifetime, we may inhibit the ability to make money with these Commissioner permits. They still would only be allowed one of the limited draw permits, which would still be once in a lifetime, but this would remove that lifetime limit on the Commissioner permits. Another amendment, to enhance the value of the Commission permits, would allow someone to purchase a Commission deer permit and also be eligible to purchase or draw a deer permit through the regular system. This would be the only way a hunter could take more than one antlered deer in a season. If we make this change

a person could draw a tag or they could buy an over-the-counter permit and still buy a Commissioner permit, which would be an any-deer statewide permit.

Commissioner Gerald Lauber moved to bring KAR 115-4-11 before the Commission. Commissioner Frank Meyer seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-4-11 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit AA):

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-4-11 passed 5-1.

2. Free Park Entrance Days and Free Fishing Days – Jerry Hover, Parks Division director, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit BB, CC). The last item is the Secretary’s resolutions, for free fishing days for 2010 and free park entrance days. Under authority KSA 32-901(e), we have established two different days throughout the year, different months and different times for different parks. This has been very successful over the last 5-6 years, and it spreads out the visitation and the various programs. We have listed beside each park the dates of free admission as well a brief statement of the special activities that might occur in that time period. This way people can visit several different parks and partake in some of these events, in particular the Outdoor Kansas Kids days. Any person can enter any of above the parks free of charge during those specific days. The second item is free fishing days and under KSA 32-902(f), it allows for setting the two free fishing days and persons may fish in the waters of the state by legal means without a fishing license. Historically, it has been the first weekend in June, which is June 5 and 6, 2010. Commissioner Bolton – On these free days, what is economic impact for free days? Hover – We don’t have a definitive answer in dollars and cents. Many of these occur later in the year, and people already have purchased their motor vehicle permits. Many parents come with the children and spend one or two nights in the park, and we get additional camping revenue from that. Also, people come back a second, third or even fourth time after that because they have been exposed to it. So we have not come up with a model to identify economic impact. Commissioner Bolton – Hopefully it is positive. It brings people into the parks, and they spend money or it brings them back. Hover – We do know that since this has been occurring visitation has increased, but we don’t know if this is the reason for it.

Commission Consensus.

XIII. Other Business

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

March 11, 2010 - Topeka, Holiday Inn Holidome (no legislative lunch)
April 22, 2010 – Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center
June 24, 2010 – Herrington, Herrington Community Building
August 12, 2010 – Mankato, location TBA
Tymeson – We need to head west for the October meeting.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)

Exhibit DD – Letter from Cris Collier, President of the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau welcoming us to Great Bend.