

**Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Commission Meeting Minutes
Mankato Community Center
214 N High, Mankato, Kansas**

Subject to
Commission
Approval

***9:00 am meet Concordia – Tour Talmo Marsh and Jamestown WA before meeting; break at
4:00 pm for 5:00 pm cookout and tour Lovewell SP Trailer Cabins (during evening recess)***

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

The August 12, 2010 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission was called to order by Chairman Kelly Johnston at 1:30 p.m. at the Mankato Community Building, Mankato, Kansas. Chairman Johnston and Commissioners Debra Bolton, Gerald Lauber, Frank Meyer, Doug Sebelius, Robert Wilson and Shari Wilson were present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND GUESTS

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

Presentation – Dick Koerth – Getting the new SMART system up and going has been a challenge and there are two people who helped tremendously to make sure the new system went into effect (consistently over 100 hours on their time sheets) and they are Cindy Livingston (presented award and had her photo taken with Secretary Mike Hayden, Assistant Secretary Dick Koerth and Commission Chairman Kelly Johnston) and Shannon Swafford (who couldn't be here today).

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Johnston – Under General Discussion, add item 5, bighead carp, which will be brought up by Doug Nygren.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE June 24, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Robert Wilson moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Debra Bolton 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 finalized FY 2011 Omnibus Appropriation bill included provisions to reduce State General Fund (SGF) funding for state employee longevity payments, but still requires the department to finance the payments in the full amount. The amounts budgeted by the department for death and disability insurance through KPERS were also reduced. The state economic condition continues to impact the receipts to the SGF. For FY 2012, current projections are a deficit of \$216.8 million in SGF because of the phase out of the \$788.6 million in federal stimulus funds included in the FY 2010 and FY 2011 budgets. Another concern is that FY 2010 receipts were \$98.6 million less than the revised April 2010 estimate. This means that the FY 2011 budget is also negative since the ending balance for the year was estimated at \$1.4 million. The FY 2012 SGF allocation for the department allows for zero growth, the same amount as approved for FY 2011. This is good given the state's economic condition. The FY 2011 approved budget includes an additional \$527,244 from the Park Fee Fund (PFF), which was not included in the agency request and continues for FY 2012. The FY 2012 SGF allocation does not allow for capital improvements at the state parks unless they are financed by reductions in operations at the parks, but does provide for the continued use of \$1 million from the State Highway Fund to finance state park operations. KDWP is required to submit a reduced resources budget equal to five percent of the FY 2012 SGF allocation or approximately \$250,000. At this time, the required expenditure reductions for that amount have not been determined but will need to be included in the September 15, 2010 budget submission. The wildlife “side” of the agency has adequate funding, however, issues such as salary and increases to expand programs are impacted by reduced availability of SGF. As the FY 2012 budget is developed, the Commission will be informed of major concerns or issues. Staff met Monday to start to determine what items to include in those reductions.

B. General Discussion

1. Glen Elder SP - Kurt Reed, parks manager, presented this update to the Commission (PowerPoint - Exhibit D). Mike Nyhoff, Public Lands regional supervisor at Hays and Scott Waters our fisheries biologist will also be speaking. Glen Elder reservoir was constructed from 1965-1969 for flood control on the Solomon River -- to save lives and protect property. We had large floods in 1989, 1993, 1995 and 2010. Managing partners include: US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) under the Department of Interior (DOI) and KDWP. BOR manages the dam and water control structures and the department manages for fish, wildlife and recreation. At the reservoir is Glen Elder State Park, wildlife area and area office. The office offers a full-service concept -- one-stop shopping, information, public service, safety and point-of-contact. Introduced staff (who stood if they were present) - Aaron Deters, district wildlife biologist; Chris Lecuyer, wildlife area manager; Toby Marlier, assistant wildlife area manager (not here); Lisa Silsby, office manager (not here); Elwyn Mein, assistant park manager and ranger; Ron Sutton, facilities specialist; and Shane Cathey, natural resources officer. There are also up to 22 seasonal employees, volunteers, and AmeriCorps workers. Volunteer group partnerships include: Waconda Heritage Village Inc., which is a co-manager of some facilities; Waconda Lake Association, consisting of area businesses; Pheasants Forever (PF); Quail Unlimited (QU); Wild Turkey Federation (both KWTF and NWTF); Ducks Unlimited (DU); Big Brothers/Big Sisters

(worked with celebrity youth and women's hunts); bass clubs; Community Corrections; and individuals. Celebrities come out annually for the youth and women's hunt and are a big public contact. Current projects: Parks 2000, gave us the full-service office where it is now; campground improvements, including electrical systems and concrete pads; boat ramp improvements, limited on space to pull boats out of water quickly for safety purposes; courtesy docks; and cabins. We appreciate Commission support on cabins, also appreciate work with Greenbush and Corrections; have first ADA designed cabin; next cabin will be two-bedroom and possibly two to three additional cabins after that. BOR ADA upgrades include: five CXT vault toilets and one heated one, camp pad extensions, signage and parking designations, and hard surfacing part of nature trail. On campsite upgrades, we made one restricted use with sidewalks and extensions on concrete, added long-term camping, and a reservation system. We addressed visitor needs based on demand and involved visitors in surveys to make sure our services meet standards and use surveys to support needs. Glen Elder Marina provides fuel, slips and concession. We added a fish cleaning station which is expensive to maintain, but has had heavy use this year. CXT toilets are made of concrete and will withstand 250 mile/hour wind and will act as a small storm shelter. Two projects completed are: Hopewell Church relocated to park in 1994 and the Waconda Springs replica. Both donated by Waconda Heritage Village and involved very little time on our part other than approving and overview; cost was almost \$300,000. In 2010 we realized 33 percent increase in revenue, 20 percent increase in visitors. We are still looking for dedicated funding source for parks and emphasize the need for additional staff. Future opportunities: additional cabins, reservations online, refine campsites, additional utility campsites, shade for some of those sites, and convert 20 percent of agriculture land back to native grass. One of our premier programs is the youth and women's hunt.

Mike Nyhoff, Region 1 Public Lands supervisor (Bruce Taggart's old position) presented this program to the Commission - I was the Glen Elder wildlife area manager for 22 years. Glen Elder is also known as Waconda Lake with 12,500 acres of water, 12,500 acres of wildlife area and 1,451 state park acres. The area also has two refuges - Cawker City and Granite Creek. It is a BOR reservoir. We have facilities on wildlife areas like vault toilets, camping areas, boat ramps and parking areas. On the wildlife area, our primary focus is on upland game, mainly pheasants, and we do tree sheering, maintain brome grass, trees and forbs. People/hunter management includes refuge, hunting and special hunts. We do card surveys on pheasant harvest and most don't get any birds and some may get one bird. Opening weekend is biggest success, but ratings from 2003 to 2006 were between poor and fair because of poor numbers of birds. We decided to provide better hunting, and in 1989 we instituted pheasant hunts in the state park. These are special access hunts in the park and refuges and are granted by drawing only. In 2010, pheasant hunts included eight mentor hunts on the park and seven mentor and seven open hunts on the refuge. The hunts were open to anyone in the beginning, but now youth and youth and mentor only, however we have a lot of people over 15 who have never hunted, so now our mentor hunts include novice hunters who are over 16 and have not hunted before. We have goose hunts in pits built by Norton Correction facility. We hold nine a year on the park -- eight open on refuge and eight mentor -- and we provide the decoys. Four mentor/novice duck hunts and four open hunts on the refuge. We went to open hunts on deer recently. We have 11 open archery hunts on the park and one mentor firearms, seven open archery on the refuge, and two mentor firearms. Our special hunt program has a long history, and we fill up hunts every year. It is a good program. Results show that open hunting is rated poor to fair but now 60 percent to 80 percent of special

hunts are rated good to excellent and hunters are now getting 1.1 to 1.9 birds per each. Several wildlife areas have mentor/youth hunts, and we set aside an area at Walnut Creek to provide public land area for beginning hunters to not reduce opportunities on the entire property. The wildlife area is 12,500 acres and 80 percent is open to unrestricted hunting. We have over 100,000 acres of WIHA in the surrounding counties, and mentor/novice area is less than one percent of total hunting acres in the area. Compared to 2008 and 2009 hunts on the mentor/novice area and individuals harvested 89 birds last year; waterfowl hunting is up; and 230 doves were harvested. Our goal was to change age structure of hunters. We had a large increase in number of hunters under 15 and more in 16-19 and 20-24 age groups. Rating was 1.9, below fair; to 2.7, which is below good, but is a measureable improvement. In 1998, the first celebrity hunt, we had seven kids and after that we have had professional ball players, soap opera stars, politicians and others and now we have 60 kids a year. We hunt in the morning and trap shoot in the afternoon. Three years ago we started thinking about returning soldiers and wanted to do something for them and contacted Fort Riley and the Kansas Army National Guard and got some of the soldiers to come back and hunt also.

Scott Waters, district fisheries biologist present this portion of the program to the Commission – I will talk mostly about Lovewell since we will be going there later. There have been reports of a lot of fish being released into the canal. The water flows from Harlan County Lake in Nebraska into the Republican River and stores in the Superior Canal then flows into the Courtland Canal. When it leaves Lovewell, it flows out into White Rock Creek and back into the Republican River where it ends up in Milford Reservoir. A quick understanding of the amount of water: from 1994 to 2007, the peak was in 2000 with 66,000 acre feet (an average of 30,000 acre feet a year). The estimated amount of fish being lost, if you mounted two nets at the dam and ran 12-hour sampling periods throughout the entire irrigation season, and sampled 25 percent of the time water was being released; you would find 98 percent of young of the year shad (4 million in 2005), a few adult crappie and walleye. A total number of 3 million were released in 2006 and 6 million in 2007. We saw a lot of shad coming out. The two others are crappie and walleye, and we had a big year class in 2005 and many of them were lost. On walleye, we lost about 7,400 last year. Without knowing how many fish are in the reservoir, it is hard to know how many we are losing; but we used rotenone figures and compared to those caught, from 2005 to 2007; 50 percent down to 20 percent and back to 50 percent of shad were lost. Not many white bass coming through now, but crappie went from 90 percent to 95 percent lost to 50 percent to 60 percent. There are a lot of fish being lost from the reservoir and we are looking at options to reduce that loss. If it works on Lovewell, we may be able to expand it to other lakes. Options include: mitigated fish stocking, which would cost \$370,000 to \$910,000 a year; alteration of dam operations, most fish are lost at sunrise and sunset, we could reduce water releases at those times, which would not be feasible for irrigation district; different types of screens (\$2 million), which are very affective but costly; behavioral barriers might work but need to be tested first to see what types and what sizes are effective; and the last option is a fabric mesh self-cleaning screen which is basically a net and cost is \$130,000 and appears to be the best option. We hope to see benefits, keep fish and keep fish out of irrigation pipes.

Jerry Hover – Presented plaque to honor Kurt Reed for 33 years of service, 17 at Glen Elder. He has really made a difference for today and tomorrow (photo with Secretary Mike Hayden, Kurt Reed, Jerry Hover and Chairman Kelly Johnston). Kurt Reed – Thank you, as part of the family

who take care of the resource, I consider my career as training for the next venue.

2. Lesser Prairie Chicken Petition - Ed Miller, environmental scientist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit E). The Threatened and Endangered Task Committee (T&E Task Committee) consisted of seven members, three from the agency and four from outside: Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey; Mark Eberle, Fort Hays State University; Elmer Finck, Fort Hays State University; Dan Mulhern, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and James Larson, Tom Mosher and myself from the department. In this case, the Task Committee was asked to review a petition submitted by the Kansas Ornithological Society and six Audubon chapters to list the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species in Kansas. The first part of this process involved a determination of whether the initial petition warranted a full review. In 2009, the petition to list the lesser prairie chicken as a Kansas Threatened Species was preliminarily reviewed by the Task Committee and found to warrant further review. This year-long process led to a decision from the Committee to recommend that the lesser prairie chicken remain unlisted in Kansas. This recommendation is provided to the KDWP Secretary. The full review process of the Task Committee included investigating scientific literature, reanalyzing the lek data, conducting four informational meetings, and questioning an ad hoc committee of nine prairie grouse experts. The majority decision (5-2 vote) of the T&E Task Committee was that the lesser prairie chicken remain unlisted. If continued decline of habitat and population is noted in the next few years, a subsequent review of the lesser prairie chicken should be conducted at the upcoming five-year review of the Kansas T&E lists scheduled to begin in 2013. In summary, after doing the full review and consulting nine experts who have research or management experience regarding prairie grouse biology, the Task Committee recommends that the lesser prairie chicken should remain unlisted. Commissioner Johnston – Question on (b) statement; it stated it is not clear that the overall population is stable? Miller – That is because of the decrease and increase of numbers, it is hard to determine if it is weather related or habitat loss, and it would take more time to analyze that. Commissioner Johnston – You are not sure which it is? Miller – Data set includes variable amounts of data. Commissioner Johnston – On question (d), it says, “... there was a reluctance to recommend that listing because of the possible offsetting and negative effects to conservation efforts on private land from curtailment of hunting or perceived intervention in land management options”. Why is there a reluctance to list them? Can you be more specific on concern of private landowners? Miller – There is quite a bit of management going on for the species because you are still able to hunt that species and we feel the habitat will curtail if hunting is not allowed. Mike Pearce – Where are feds at now in this process? Miller – We hope they come up with funding to continue through the process this fiscal year or next, to finish the review process and continue through.

3. Big Game Permanent Regulations - Lloyd Fox, big game wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit F). All permanent regulations dealing with big game will be discussed together at this meeting and will be discussed once or twice again and if needed brought back for general hearing in March or April. The regulations are brought forward at one time in general discussion and include: 4-2, 4-4; 4-6; 4-11 and 4-13. KAR 115-4-2, big game; general provisions is moving forward on photo check system. KAR 115-4-4, big game, legal equipment and taking methods contains the following items: specific equipment differences for hunting various big game species; specifications for bright orange colored clothing, which must

be worn when hunting during certain big game seasons; accessory equipment such as calls, decoys, and blinds; shooting hours; and special restrictions on the use of horses or mules to herd or drive elk. KAR 115-4-6 defines boundaries for the 19 deer management units in Kansas. KAR 115-4-11 describes the application procedure and priority drawing procedures when the number of applicants exceeds the availability of authorized permits. KAR 115-4-13 creates permit types that includes: white-tailed deer, either-sex permit and white-tailed deer antlerless-only permits for residents of Kansas. These permits are valid statewide and during all seasons with equipment authorized for that season. Possible changes for discussion include: in 115-4-13, consider multi-tag combo permit system to allow hunters to take an either-sex deer plus an additional tag limited to an antlerless white-tailed deer. Inquiries have been received about changes in our regulations which would facilitate the recovery of wounded deer such as a radio tracking device or other techniques such as handlers (regulated individuals) with trained dogs to assist hunters. There are now laser range finders that fit on a bow, but regulations don't allow that and it may come up later on. In 115-4-11 might consider permanent regulation on application dates; currently handled within two separate exempt regulations, KAR 115-25-9 for residents and KAR 115-25-9b for non-residents. Consideration may be made to standardize the application periods in KAR 115-4-11. Input from the Commission, public and department personnel will be requested during the upcoming deer hunting seasons. Commissioner Lauber – The combination permits being considered; do we want to increase deer harvest? Fox – I won't get into that too much because it will be brought up later tonight, but considering combination permit which would include two tags and would stimulate whitetail antlerless harvest. May not make them available in some areas or in certain years; would allow department to authorize those, application done through Secretary's orders on types and numbers. Commissioner Lauber – Many politicians want to harvest more, but usually don't hear that from biologists. Do we want more harvest from biological standpoint, but don't know what answer is, or not committed to an answer? Fox – Not committed, need to look at trends and hunter harvest. In 2000 and 2001, we were harvesting over 100,000 deer, and we allowed game tags, and large percent of deer hunters bought multiple tags. Now less than 50 percent buy any antlerless tags, so decrease in amount of hunters taking antlerless deer. In Nebraska, this happened and they gave each hunter an additional antlerless permit. Need to see how many more permits this puts into the system and it is already a complicated system. Chairman Johnston – What is the time frame on this? Fox – Two workshop sessions, 25-9 which sets deer seasons and Secretary's Orders which sets numbers will be done at March meeting. Chairman Johnston – There was a suggestion that the department might allow dogs to be used to track wounded deer, during special circumstances or every hunter? Fox – The assistance established in other states; some states hunt with dogs, but not proposing that here; more like New Jersey, licensed individuals, not the hunter, a dog handler assists the deer hunter, but is not connected other than through an agreement. Dog is specially trained and kept on lead to help track and find wounded animal. Chairman Johnston – How does it work in New Jersey, do they have a directory? Fox – Yes. Chairman Johnston - Hunters can hire them? Fox – Yes, on a fee basis. The department is not recommending this, but brought up by individuals outside the department on ways to reduce loss of animals that have been wounded. We will bring this back later if you would like us to. Commissioner Lauber – Would we sanction dog handlers? Fox – You would need to direct us to do that if we wanted to, something like a nuisance animal damage control permit. Individuals would need to be approved to be a deer tracker with the aid of a dog and have a list within the department. Not suggesting use of dogs to directly hunt deer. Mike

Pearce – On two-for permit for this year, you mean 2011 season? Fox – Yes, and this will be discussed later tonight. Chairman Johnston – We will listen to staff recommendations on whether we want dog handlers or not and hear much more about how it will be done. Fox – The individual who contacted me did not come to this meeting.

4. Introduction of New Farm Bill Voluntary Public Access – Jake George, private lands coordinator, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit G). The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) is a competitive grants program authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill. The deadline for grants is August 23. Grant is set up as block grant, no match involved; 100 percent from farm bill and money in lump sum up front or at end of each year. We would have up until end of three-year funding period to spend the money. Staff are working on a grant proposal and will be shipping it up to our federal aid folks for review. Program objectives: maximize participation by landowners; ensure that land enrolled in the program has appropriate wildlife habitat; provide incentives to strengthen wildlife habitat improvement efforts on land enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), supplement funding and services from other federal, state, tribal government, or private resources that is provided in the form of cash or in-kind services; and provide information to the public about the location of VPA-HIP land. No problem maximizing funds, want continued support in next farm bill legislation. Additionally we will open options for enrollment to longer-term leases and up front payments, which will allow us to do 10- to 15-year enrollments in FISH and WIHA. If someone does decide to pull out before agreement is up, don't have to divert funds back to USFWS. Hope to add 10 percent of what we currently have in WIHA access; and add access for canoes and kayaks on FISH properties. Continue to improve format on atlases, downloadable files for Garmin system and digital information that can be downloaded on Google Earth. Continue to improve how we notify people that this land is available. Work with farm service agency on properties enrolled in CREP and our interest in signing them up. There is \$16.667 million available for this first year, with \$2 million per year and no less than \$75,000 per year.

Commissioner Robert Wilson – Public access for fishing? George – Currently we have fishing, but adding canoeing and kayaking where they don't have to be fishing. Secretary Hayden – Great number of absentee landowners, some programs require landowner and tenant to both agree on cost sharing before eligible to sign up for CRP or others, what about this one? George – it is a contractual issue, and we'd deal with it the same as we do WIHA -- by signing it, they say they have ability to sign that. I don't know if any federal witness that says we need both tenant and landowner. Secretary Hayden – What are we going to do in long-term cases if tenant leaves after five years? George - We can set off on state taxes to get the money back because money belongs to state after we get from the federal government. Secretary Hayden – What concerns me is after they receive long-term payments up front they change practices or whatever to make land virtually unhuntable? George – We can limit amount of crop land, like CREP rotation, and grant a 25 percent additional fee at the end if they stay in the entire period. We can maintain huntable cover or they would be in default of the contract. Secretary Hayden – What about summer fallow, one year wheat stubble, next year green wheat, how would you deal with suitable land? George – We look at the entire crop land limits within property as a whole. Chairman Johnston – Have we ever had a 10- to 15-year lease in Kansas before? George – Only five years before, and they are annual payments, not up front payments. Chairman Johnston – Could you possibly split payment over the years rather than up front? George – We can't compete with private leases; deal with

contractual issues, worth it for them to not have to put that effort into it to get up front payment. Get people interested who have not been in past. Commissioner Lauber – Do title work to do due diligence, get landlord involvement, reaffirm annually, on small tracts with small payments, but talking about big dollars, have problem with tenant, minimum cut off where we do due diligence. Commissioner Sebelius – Need to record the leases. Commissioner Lauber – Concept is good, but need due diligence.

Added Item

5. Big Headed Carp – Doug Nygren, fisheries section chief, gave this report to the Commission (Exhibit H – Photos). Asian carp numbers are exploding, and we are alarmed with what we are seeing with tremendous flows on the Missouri river. Jason Goeckler took these pictures last night in Johnson County, and for every silver carp you see jumping there is a big-head carp that isn't jumping. These are the perfect size for baitfish, and our concern is of people netting them and using them. The only thing preventing the fish from moving right now is dams. This will fundamentally change how we use reservoirs if these fish, which weigh 30-40 pounds, get in them. We had not anticipated a sympathy factor of people helping them over the dam, just bait factor. Three vectors for these fish getting into our waters: bait caught by anglers, bait purchased from commercial bait dealers, and aquaculture and pet industry, which we don't regulate, the Department of Ag does. We did have an impact when we put these fish on the prohibited species list, which made it illegal to possess them alive. I have asked Kevin Jones to issue warnings or tickets to get the word out. Commissioner Lauber – What about the Aquaculture industry? Nygren – The Secretary can issue a permit, Kansas Aquaculture Association has a permit for diploid grass carp getting as fry because it is hard to tell the difference between them and triploid. Commissioner Lauber – They are VHS free, can we ask them to certify bait? Nygren – We can go that route. We get all bait from McPherson and he is not getting them from a regulated source. We would need to certify and regulate that. Commissioner Lauber – Is it practical to regulate suppliers in Kansas? Nygren – Yes, it can be. He was getting fish from the Great Lakes but can't do that now. Commissioner Bolton – Are we finding them in ponds? Nygren – They are doing there best to pioneer into other areas, but farm ponds they could get in. Commissioner Bolton – Infestation in duck pond at zoo in Garden City. Commissioner Robert Wilson – Will they spawn? Nygren – They need a river or stream, cannot reproduce in small pond, but could in reservoir and could get into the river. Commissioner Shari Wilson – Seems like good opportunity to educate kids, like OK Kids, etc. I wish we had state park naturalists back. This would be a good effort for them. Nygren – Education is going to be very important. Commissioner Lauber – Is this the beginning of the end to catch your own bait? Nygren – I'm afraid so. That would be one solution to the problem. Did survey of anglers and over half of them dumped their bait back into the water. Chairman Johnston – Compare with white perch? Nygren – We've had some success at Cheney with implementing length limits and stocking programs for predator fish, and we've had winterkills. They can be caught by anglers. These (Asian carp) won't succumb to winterkill, cannot be caught by anglers and will take up to 90-95 percent of the biomass. Chairman Johnston – Sounds like a nightmare? Nygren – It is, and we don't know what our options are regulatory-wise. We want to continue education and enforcement. Chairman Johnston – As you pointed out only one commercial bait dealer, cut them off there. Nygren – We go to aquaculture meeting annually and talk to them about this. This is an

imminent threat.

Doug Phelps, Manhattan – If they get big enough to be breedable size, what time line are we looking at? Nygren – If young of year, 6-7 years, not able to spawn every year above reservoir, only in wet years, but can quickly dominate. Not seen as food fish here but are being shipped back to Asia in some cases. We could harvest some and move them. The Great Lakes are also being threatened. This is not a navigational issue, but a people issue here.

C. Workshop Session

1. Spring Turkey Regulation - Jim Pitman, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit I). I will provide an update on where we stand. This past spring's harvest was 35,000 birds, mostly in this part of the world. There is some regional variation in harvest, but in southeast Kansas success was 63 percent. Regulations broken down into four units, Unit 2 is over-the-counter and one additional game tag, Unit 3 is the same, Unit 1 is one bird only, and Unit 4 is pre-season draw only for residents. However, we are still oversubscribed every year for permits even though we freed up 125 permits through youth over-the-counter permits in Unit 4 and still received 471 applicants for the 325 permits that were available. The department wants to increase quota to 500 permits for the 2011 season.

VII. RECESS AT 3:30 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE AT 7:00 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Steve Sorensen, Kansas Wildlife Federation (KWF), Valley Center – At the March meeting in Topeka, Marty Birrell gave a talk regarding lead shot. The Chairman asked the Secretary for a status report and he said Joe could do it, but I have not seen any report. Fox – I sent Steve a copy of that report, it was prepared for Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), and WAFWA will continue with the Ad Hoc working group and will report to directors of western states at the winter meeting on public information and survey work that has been done. We are building a consistent messages relative to lead issues, continuing to compile data on recent research and national issues on this topic. Sorensen – On lesser prairie chickens, the recommendation is not to list in Kansas, but the Secretary has to accept their recommendation or he could list them as threatened and endangered. Is that going to occur; is that a final step? Secretary Hayden – I intend to accept the recommendation of the committee.

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

C. Workshop Session (continued)

2. Park Fee Regulations - Jerry Hover, Parks Division director, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit J, K). We discussed possible park fee recommendations and changes at

the last meeting. The legislature is approving \$1 million more in cuts than we make. We were on a roll to be a good year, but storms shot us down and blue/green algae in west now has been a problem. In December the new online campground reservation system will be up and will change the way we do business and the way we operate parks. All permits have \$1.50 or \$0.50 KOALS fee plus \$1 KDWP service fee; current reservation fees are $\$9.50 + \$1 + \$0.50 = \11.50 . Scenario: Person A wants to purchase an annual camping permit, plus a reservation for 7 nights, plus 7 nights' full utilities, plus 7 nights prime site:

Current costs: KOALS	ORMS costs
\$152.50 Annual Camp (\$150.+\$1.+\$1.50)	\$153.70 Annual C (\$150.+\$1+\$2.70)
70.00 3 utilities (\$9.50+\$0.50x7)	66.50 Utilities (\$9.50x7)
17.50 prime (\$2.+\$0.50x7)	14.00 Prime (\$7.x2)
<u>11.50</u> reservation (\$10.+\$1.00+\$0.50)	<u>2.70</u> ORMS
\$251.50	\$236.90

Person B wants to purchase a reservation for 2 nights with utilities on a prime site:

KOALS	ORMS
\$19.00 Camping (\$7+\$1.50+\$1.00x2)	\$16. 00 Camp (\$7.+\$1.x2)
20.00 Utilities (\$9.50+\$50x2)	19.00 Utilities (\$9.50x2)
5.00 Prime (\$2.+\$50x2)	4.00 Prime (\$2.x2)
<u>11.50</u> Reservation (\$10+\$50+\$1.)	<u>2.70</u> ORMS
\$56.50	\$41.70

Many other states with the same program, we are less than those. We hope this will entice more people to reserve sites (at \$2.70 for fees instead of \$11.50). Looking at two recommended fee changes: to increase annual and long-term camping permits. The spreadsheet comparing fees -- currently annual is \$150 plus \$2.50 for service fee. The only other state with something similar is New Mexico and they use the same price throughout the year. Resident under 62 is \$180, over 62 is \$100. Nonresidents are \$255. If purchase up to March 31, raise \$50 to \$200; after April 1, \$250. Both Kansas and New Mexico require motor vehicle permits. Colorado has one, Texas, Missouri and others do not. Prices are more in line more with western states than states east of us. On long-term camping we are proposing (one campsite for 30 days, normal is 14 days and then move): current price is \$200 for 1 utility, \$260 for 2; and \$320 for 3 and \$15 in fees. The proposal is to split prices; three parks and maybe one more that would be higher (El Dorado, Tuttle Creek and Milford), raise \$40 for each utility on all others (\$80 for those three), but fee drops to \$2.70. Looked at 30 nights, combining that \$200-\$250 annual camp, \$25 motor vehicle fee, \$400 for three utilities (on three parks); is \$505 to \$675 for 30 days, which is equivalent to private campgrounds. I have listed details on random private campgrounds, listed some that range from \$480 to \$550; Salina is \$1,200. Based on empirical data and trend analysis that is what we are presenting. Commissioner Sebelius – In season is currently \$150? Hover – It is \$150 year around, but we plan to put in that distinction. Chairman Johnston – Summarize how the proposal has changed since the last meeting? Hover – Figures are still all the same. Sorenson – On wall, utilities says \$300, it says from \$320 to \$360 in briefing book. Hover – You are correct they are \$320 now. Mike Pearce – In 2010, appropriated \$1 million more than we generate in a year, what is that? Hover – That is \$250,000 in agriculture production, but we don't make that much in a year; and they took out \$500,000 from SGF and added the same amount in PFF and they had done that previously. Commissioner Lauber – I am confused too. Appropriated or gave to us? Dick Koerth – Major shift was taken out of SGF, but put into PFF \$750,000.

Commissioner Lauber – They said if you want this money you have to make it? Koerth – Yes, that is what they said. And they added \$527,000 to PFF. In 2012, we are in same situation. Commissioner Lauber – I don't have a problem with raising the fees.

Natalie Donges, Deer Grove Private Park, El Dorado – It says \$400 with three utilities, which is right? Hover – It is \$400, my chart on the wall was off \$20. Donges -- Utility fees for me are about \$150 per site. I suggest you make certain other private parks are not close to some of your other parks that would be hurt by the lower fees. I will look into it. You mentioned long-term camping for 30 days? Hover – It is restricted to 14 nights and then they could request another 14 nights, so they can stay 28 days already. Donges - Will they have to move when they go to long-term? Hover – Only designated certain sites are for long-term, so yes. Donges – Do you make them move every 30 days or stay for 6 months? Hover – The same site, because they are not the best sites. Donges – FYI, El Dorado is getting ready to raise water and sewer rates, which will affect the park too. Hover – That is something that happens every two or three years, and I am sure we will be back again for another increase on utility rates.

Larry Olson, Kan-RVT Kansas RV Parks – No sales tax on RV sites? Hover – That is correct. Olson – That is by current Kansas law. Mike Pearce – When will this be voted on? Chairman Johnston – At the next meeting? Hover – That is our plan.

3. Cabin Fee Regulation - Mark Stock, special assistant, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit L). This is the annual review of cabin camping permit fees to adjust and add new cabins. To do that we need to project out what may be added. Listed 28 changes to fees for cabin camping. Commissioner Shari Wilson – Number 17, cabin on Kansas State Fair grounds, I wasn't aware we had one there. Stock – That cabin was originally slated to go to Cross Timbers, Secretary Hayden suggested we have a permanent cabin at the State Fairgrounds and we are just starting that partnership. The cabin will be moved tomorrow. We will use it as a booth during the state fair and it will be open for camping the rest of the year. It will be just west of scout buildings on Lake Talbot. Mike Pearce – Is there an increase on all cabins? Stock – No, just some. Commissioner Shari Wilson – Curious how much business yurts are getting? Stock – Quite a bit, for a primitive cabin they are doing fairly well.

4. Hunting/Fishing Permit/License Combination Packages - Mike Miller, information production section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit M). This is a continuation of the discussion at the last meeting. Correction on landowner/tenant antlerless permit current price, we do not get half price on landowners it is \$15 across the board. Something that seemed simple has turned out much more complicated, especially the either-sex whitetail antlerless-only combination. The combo would provide the antlerless permit at half price, making nonresidents two tags \$337.50. If the number of permits sold to general residents didn't double, the combo could show a revenue loss of close to \$300,000. When we were looking at turkey, we were not looking at the same risk there. If we offered the deer combo as an option, there would be 40,000 residents who will really like it. That's how many buy one antlerless permit now. To avoid a loss of revenue, we would recommend making the combo the only option, but that would be unpopular with hunters who only want one deer. One of the other things Task Force members supported was the concept of a multi-year hunting and fishing license for youth 16-20. It would be valid for up to five years for \$40; and a hunting license valid for up to five years for \$40; or a combination hunting/fishing license good for five years for \$70.

We are not recommending a deer/turkey combination package at this time because it has the potential to increase the number of fall turkey hunters and the turkey committee wasn't comfortable with that. Commissioner Lauber – Good incentive to younger hunters. On combinations, a majority of resident hunters view deer herd as being diminished, but I am not sure that is true. It caused me to think if we are trying to encourage statewide doe harvest, but I don't know how widely it would be received. It boils down to if Lloyd says we want to harvest more deer statewide okay, or just in units, make incentive, but the deer herd is not equal statewide. Want biology, not sure we want that as the only option. Miller – Potential danger is how many more do you need to sell to not have a loss of revenue. This turned out to be more of a deer management issue than marketing management issue. Not sure we are ready to answer that. Commissioner Lauber – In Topeka and Wichita hunters feel they are being pushed out by nonresidents. Too few deer and what do you propose to do about it, but the farmer has a different perspective. Urban and general residents represent a lot of people. Fox – We haven't completed opinion survey work to see how hunters feel on this particular subject. There is a great deal of hunter opinion on deer density and trends which may not be accurate, but it is based on a few days in the field, and may cause some groups a great deal of heartburn. We will move ahead with a great deal of care. We can be hurt financially and create social problems, but also make some people pleased with us. Secretary Hayden – What are the recent trends in deer/vehicle accidents? Fox – Relatively stable since 1997/1998, deer accidents and landowner complaints about deer damage, we receive some but not as many. Hunters appreciated whitetail either-sex any-unit approach which cut back controversy. Accidents are stable, but there are still problems. We have about 9,000 to 10,000 a year, and there are problem areas with crop damage, but not seeing huge increase in trend of deer population. We've seen a decline in the number of hunters buying whitetail antlerless permits. It was up a little last year but was in down swing four to five years before that. We wanted to stimulate some interest in those permits. Nonresidents and nonresident landowners felt price was pricing them out of pursuit of whitetail antlerless deer (\$70 plus), but we still sold around 4,000, which is down from deer game tag numbers. Price did have an influence in the number of permits being sold. Commissioner Lauber – From deer perspective, we've been out of dog house for three to four years. We had the task force and have met nonresident demand except for Unit 16, because of dynamics of land being tied up. We moved pheasant season back and I like happy emails we've been getting. Better off to encourage hunters to shoot more does with buck permit. See a potential for backlash. Secretary Hayden – What about harvest numbers? Fox – About 75,000 – 80,000 deer per year harvested. Peak was in 2000/2001 over 100,000 deer. That was the first year for the four game tags and they were available through most of the state, except DMUs 17 and 18 and dropped off after that. Secretary Hayden – When was the last time we raised price for residents? Fox – In 1982; and we raised from \$200 to \$300 for nonresidents in 2000. Tymeson – Total number of permits sold under voluntary buy? Fox – 170,000 to 180,000 purchased by about 115,000 people. Tymeson – If mandatory antlerless system? Fox – About 200,000 to 240,000. Tymeson – Projected increase of harvest? Fox – Yes, but not linier, success rates start to drop and as that happens, hunter satisfaction starts to drop. We saw that in 2001/2002, which was okay, but then complaints started rolling in. Smooth last few years on number of complaints. Most come from nonhunting society in deer/vehicle accidents, mostly in suburban counties, but all across state, Hamilton and Greeley counties have a few, but comparatively less tolerance for deer. Commissioner Robert Wilson – How do we handle crop damage issue? Fox – Landowners have a couple of options -- contact

department about damage, NRO, biologist or bio-tech examines situation and meets with landowner and determines if removal of whitetail antlerless deer will help case, then they can issue a permit to allow landowner to take a set number of deer. Landowner takes deer and puts tags on them and reports back to the department. They may use the deer the same as a hunter, use themselves or give to another person, but they have to tag the animal. Commissioner Robert Wilson – Can they get that any time of year? Fox - Any time of the year except during firearms season. We do allow the take of antlered deer if damage is rubbing on trees or mule deer depending on situation. It is much more labor intensive than hunting program, which is the preferred method for population control. Mike Pearce – Where do we go from here? Miller – Depends on direction from the Commission. Chairman Johnston – I like youth multi-year fishing. It bothers me the tepid staff feelings on deer, and unwillingness to take firm stance recommending it, so that tells me we shouldn't do it. Tymeson – Set regulation to vote next meeting, October. I can prepare an amendment to take it out because it is in the regulation currently. If we left it in, it doesn't mean it has to be implemented. One suggestion would be to move forward and not implement it and do human dimensions work or strike it out. If you take it out there is no way to have it for next year. Make it available, but you could recommend not implementing. Chairman Johnston – Multi-year fish in same regulation? Tymeson – Yes, that is why you need to consider that. Commissioner Lauber – Prefer amendment, don't want public to perceive wrong. Commissioner Shari Wilson – How long would it take to survey deer hunters? Fox – About 5-6 months. Commissioner Robert Wilson – Prefer \$70, don't see that hurts anything. Commissioner Bolton – Like Chris' recommendation of moving forward, but not implementing. Commissioner Meyer – If going to survive and provide hunting opportunities it has to be paid for. Chairman Johnston – Move forward. Commissioner Lauber – With an amendment! Chairman Johnston – Terms of amendment, go forward with youth multi-year. Tymeson – If you only want that, then we need an amendment, or leave as is with no implementation. Chairman Johnston – We want an amendment to take out deer because I am not sure which way I would go.

5. Fishing Regulations – Doug Nygren, Fisheries Section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit N). This is the final workshop. Asking for a smallmouth bass 18-inch length limit at Perry reservoir and 18-inch length limit on sauger, saugeye and walleye. Also, asking for our regulations to comply with Missouri on the Missouri River. We are proposing four new trout locations; to expand handfishing opportunities; and a change in procedures for black bass tournaments -- combining with weigh-in and make one tournament regulation.

D. Public Hearing

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

1. Late Migratory Bird Seasons – Faye McNew, waterfowl biologist, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit P; PowerPoint - Exhibit Q, annual spreadsheet - Exhibit R; draft zone proposal for 2011-2015 duck seasons – Exhibit S; draft evaluation of Hunter's Choice Bag Limit in Central Flyway – Exhibit T). When setting waterfowl seasons we consider the best available science that will give us an understanding of waterfowl resources. We also collect data

to determine hunter preferences. However, we are restricted to the federal hunting season frameworks that are set every July. Federal frameworks and migratory bird regulations are dictated by the migratory bird treaty act of 1918. The Act gives authority of migratory bird management to the Department of the Interior. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been given the mandate to allow hunting having due regard to zones of temperature. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act implements various treaties and conventions between the U.S. and Canada, Japan, Mexico and the former Soviet Union for the protection of migratory birds . . . having due regard to the zones of temperature and to the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times and lines of migratory flight of such birds, to determine when, to what extent, if at all, and by what means, it is compatible with the terms of the conventions to allow hunting, taking, capture, killing, possession . . . Flyway councils were established in 1952, and the national council in 1953. Flyway councils may include representatives from state, province, and federal governments in Canada and Mexico, but only U.S. state wildlife agencies vote on regulatory matters in the United States. Flyway councils serve as the forum for increased cooperation in the management of migratory game birds between the states and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but also among public wildlife conservation agencies in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Establishment of the flyway councils increased state coordination and participation in monitoring, data evaluation, research, habitat protection, management, and regulation setting for migratory game birds in North America. The schedule for setting regulations is as follows: February/March – Central Flyway Council meets; April/May – KDWP Commission general discussion; late June – USFWS Regulations Committee and KDWP Commission meets; late July – waterfowl population status available, Central Flyway Council and USFWS Regulations Committee meet; early August KDWP Commission takes action. Management of all of our goose populations is guided by management plans which have been cooperatively developed by the flyways, states, provinces, the Fish and Wildlife Service and others. All Central flyway (CF) plans have a common goal of “Maximum recreational opportunity consistent with the welfare of the resource, international treaties, habitat constraints and the interests of CF states and provinces.” Goose populations are managed under guidelines established in cooperatively developed management plans. There were until recently 11 subspecies of Canada geese, and these geese have been split into 20 management units. In 2004 taxonomists split the subspecies into two distinct species. The small bodied geese are now cackling geese and the large bodied white-cheeked geese are Canada geese. In Kansas we manage two subspecies from each of the two species from four management units. The giant Canada geese of Kansas are part of the Great Plains population (GPP) which nests and winters from Saskatchewan to northern Texas. These are the geese we see in our urban areas and farm ponds during the summer. The western prairie (WPP) and Great Plains populations are surveyed during the midwinter survey, which is a nationwide survey that occurs the first week of January. Because the two populations are indistinguishable, they are managed as one population. During the 2010 mid-winter survey (MWS), 462,800 WPP/GPP geese were counted, 26 percent fewer than in 2009. The population has been well above the population goal and at times more than double. They have started causing nuisance situations in urban areas and causing crop damage. In Kansas we also manage populations of small Canada (or cackling) geese. The tall grass prairie population (TGPP) is comprised of two races; the nearly mallard size Richardson’s Canada goose and the 5- to 6-pound lesser Canada. These geese nest along the west coast of Hudson Bay north to Baffin Island and west to Queen Maude Gulf. They winter from Oklahoma to Mexico and in

between stage in North Dakota in both spring and fall. North Dakota and Texas are the two most important harvest areas for these birds. During the 2010 MWS in the Central Flyway, 417,000 TGPP geese were counted, 35 percent more than in 2009 western Kansas small bodied geese. The MWS index of short grass prairie (SGPP) Canada geese in 2010 was 290,700, 32 percent higher than in 2009. Given that populations of Canada and cackling geese are at or above population objectives and that the habitat conditions were in good condition, the service has offered the following framework for dark geese: season length of 107 days; bag limit of three Canada geese and brant geese (dark geese) in aggregate; possession limit for dark goose of two times the daily bag limit; framework dates of September 25, 2010 to February 13, 2011; and shooting hour of a half hour before sunrise to sunset. Our recommendation is to adopt the federal frameworks for season length, daily bag limit, possession limit and shooting hours. The recommended season dates for dark geese (including brant) are as follows: October 30 – November 7 and November 10 - February 13, 2011; November 10 is the crane opener. As you can see from our biweekly surveys these season dates should encompass the peak Canada goose migrations while missing the spring migration back north. Mid-continent population (MCP) white-fronted geese nest across a broad region from central and northwestern Alaska to the central Arctic and the Foxe Basin. They concentrate in southern Saskatchewan during the fall and in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mexico during winter. Kansas is quickly becoming an important wintering state for white-fronted geese. During the fall 2009 survey in Saskatchewan and Alberta, biologists counted 583,200 MCP geese, 22 percent fewer than during the previous survey. White-fronted goose federal frameworks: season length is 72 days or 86 days; bag limit is two or one respectively; possession limit two times the daily bag limit; framework dates September 25, 2010 to February 13, 2011; and shooting hours are half hour before sunrise to sunset. Our recommendation is 72 days with daily bag limit of two birds, possession limit of four birds; and shooting hours of half hour before sunrise to sunset. The recommended season dates for white-fronted geese are as follows: October 30 – November 7 and November 10 - January 2, 2011 and February 5-13, 2011. Statewide white-fronted goose covers migration. MCP and WCF light geese population includes lesser snow geese and increasing numbers of Ross' geese. Geese of the MCP nest on Ban and Southampton Islands, with smaller numbers nesting along the west coast of Hudson Bay. These geese winter primarily in eastern Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. During the 2010 MWS, biologists counted 2.6 million light geese, 4 percent fewer than in 2009. Winter indices during 2001-10 have increased an average of 1 percent per year according to the MWS. Light goose federal frameworks are unchanged and the recommendation is to adopt the federal frameworks for season length, daily bag limit, possession limit and shooting hours. The recommended season dates for light geese are as follows: October 30 – November 7 and November 10 - February 13, 2011. Duck season goals are to simplify regulations; maximize hunting opportunity, especially for young hunters; and ensure season encompasses maximum duck numbers and abundant species. The adaptive harvest management (AHM) strategy was adopted by USFWS in 1995 and is based on a system of monitoring, data analysis and rule making. Each year monitoring activities such as aerial surveys and hunter questionnaires provide information on population size, habitat conditions, and harvest levels. It is the process of learning and predicting future population size and is based on the size of the mid-continent mallard population and the number of Canadian ponds. The duck regulation packages for the Central Flyway are based on the AHM system, mid-continent mallards and ponds and are: liberal, 74 days, 6 duck daily limit; moderate, 60 days, 6 duck daily limit; and restrictive, 39 days, 3 duck

daily limit. Breeding mallards are distributed widely across North America and there are undoubtedly geographic differences in optimal levels of sport harvest. The challenge is to vary hunting regulations among flyways in a manner that recognizes each flyway's unique breeding-ground derivation of mallards. Currently, three stocks of mallards are recognized for the purposes of AHM. The USFWS continues to use a constrained approach, in which the regulatory strategy for the Atlantic Flyway is based solely on the status of eastern mallards. The strategy for the Central Flyway continues to be based on the status of mid-continent mallards. This approach to managing multiple mallard stocks remains provisional until its implications are better understood. Estimates from the 2010 waterfowl breeding population and habitat survey in the traditional survey area was 3.7 million ponds and the total pond count was 6.7 million ponds. A good number of the ducks we see in Kansas come from the areas in Saskatchewan that have very good to excellent conditions this year. Also southern Alberta is now wet and that should be good news for pintails. Total ducks were 40.9 million same as 2009; mallard 8.4 million same as 2009; gadwall is similar to 2009 at 3 million; teal are down slightly but still well above long-term average; pintail is similar to 2009; and canvasback are similar to 2009 and equal the long-term average. This year with 3.7 million ponds and 8.4 million mallards we are well in the liberal zone. Federal hunting season frameworks fit within the waterfowl resources, public desires and KDWP and flyway goals. The Kansas waterfowl hunter opinion survey was conducted following the 2009/10 waterfowl season. Sample was based on the 20 percent response rate observed during previous surveys. Sent postcard surveys to all areas: High Plains, 1,387; early zone, 2,901; late zone, 2,500; and nonresidents, 600; for a total of 7,388. Of those sent: 177 were undeliverable; 1 person was deceased; 635 returned postcards with the "I did not hunt waterfowl" box checked (18 percent); 1,032 returned a paper survey (30 percent); 1,789 answered the on-line survey (52 percent); for a total response of 3,456 (48 percent). The opener preference by zone: 20 percent wanted earlier, 20 percent wanted later, and the rest were happy with the opener. On the Hunter's Choice (HC) bag limit question: 22 percent wanted five birds; 33 percent wanted six birds and 45 percent didn't care. Asked follow up questions to understand hunter's thoughts about HC and 80 percent said it had no effect on satisfaction and only 7 percent had decreased satisfaction. When asked which option was more important to satisfaction with duck hunting, hunters preferred consistent regulations (56.6 percent); and maximum allowable daily bag limits (18.8 percent); the remainder preferred neither (10.3 percent); or had no opinion (14.2 percent). When asked how satisfied or dissatisfied the hunters were with the hunting season and hunting regulations, only a small amount were strongly dissatisfied with the number of ducks seen; the number harvested; duck season dates; number of birds in daily limit; duck zone boundaries; and overall duck hunting experience. The Central Flyway developed the HC bag limit experiment as a way to offer an alternative to season within seasons of pintails and canvasbacks. When the experiment was developed, the Central Flyway had experienced several years when the pintail and or canvasback seasons had been reduced to 39 days while the rest of the duck season was 74 days. It was felt that was a complicated regulation and that perhaps a more restrictive bag limits would be more acceptable to hunters. The HC bag limit reduced the overall bag limit from six to five and included an aggregate bag for pintails, canvasbacks, and hen mallards. The objective of the study was to evaluate whether this bag limit reduced harvest below a one bird bag and similar to a season within a season. Season within a season (SWAS) is when all states had a 39-day season for pintails and canvasbacks and the HC is when half the states had HC and the other half had SWAS. Across states, mean estimates of annual harvest per hunter of pintails and

canvasbacks were lower during periods when SWAS and HC regulations were used, compared to the period when baseline regulations were used for these species. Expected harvest of pintails and canvasbacks using HC was slightly higher than with SWAS; however, the confidence intervals did overlap, and the harvest of pintails fell within the range of acceptable harvest set by the USFWS. The number of hen mallards and total ducks harvested were less than both baseline and SWAS, which was not unexpected and there was strong support for HC and less support for stock-specific closed seasons. Implications are that there is no clear mandate and little consensus. The Central Flyway decided to not make HC operational for the 2010 season. Changes to harvest strategies on pintail, scaup and canvasback have no more seasons within seasons. Pintail population has to drop below 1.75 million to close. Duck federal frameworks and our recommendations are for a season length of 74 days in the low plains zone; 97 days in the high plains unit. A daily bag limit of six birds: five mallards (two hens), three wood ducks, two pintail, scaup, or redhead, one canvasback and six mottled ducks; with a possession limit of twice the daily bag limit. High Plains season dates of October 9 – January 3 and January 22-30 this is only 96 days since we took 9 days in our teal season. This High Plains puddle ducks season covers a good portion of the migration and the early portion of the season is critical to the playa lakes in the zone. Early zone season dates are: October 9 to December 5 and December 18 to January 2; this is similar to last year. This early zone puddle ducks season covers the migration. We have plans to move Cedar Bluff to the High Plains zone which I will discuss later. Late zone season dates are: October 30 to January 2 and January 22 – 30, which is similar to last year and this late zone puddle ducks season covers the migration. Youth seasons are: October 2, 2010 and October 3, 2010 in the High Plains unit and early zone; and October 23, 2010 and October 24, 2010 in the late zone. Bag limit is six ducks including: five mallards (2 hens), two pintail/scaup/redhead, three wood ducks, and one canvasback; five mergansers (2 hooded); 15 coots; three dark geese; two white-fronted geese; and 20 light geese. The Central Flyway has put the service on notice that next year we will be requesting a possession limit increase to three times the daily bag limit; Canada has recently adopted this bag limit. The migratory bird office supports this recommendation, however the Law Enforcement department has reservations and we will be working with them over the next year. We also requested that food banks be exempt from possession limits so that hunters can donate waterfowl similar to the way they donate deer. This year we also requested that the Canada goose limit be increased to five birds to help states with nuisance goose issues. Our request was denied for this year and the Service is requiring that we update our tallgrass prairie plan, coordinate with the Mississippi Flyway and review our surveys for Canada geese in the flyway. Hopefully the Flyway will be able to address these issues in the near future. For about two decades flyways have been requesting the option to have three zones in their low plains units and be allowed to split the season in those zones. This year the Service has granted our request. However, there were quite a few caveats that will have to be met. The next steps are: to hold public meetings and survey; hold regional meetings; meet with law enforcement; work with federal refuges; and work on an early regulation cycle.

Commissioner Bolton – Did you get call from a constituent? McNew – Yes. ***Consensus to move forward with recommendations.*** Faye introduced Tom Bidrowski as the new migratory bird specialist; he will be at the new Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms.

XII. Old Business

None

XIII. Other Business

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

October 14, 2010 – Goodland, Elks Lodge

January 6, 2011 – Lawrence

March 10, 2011 - Topeka

B. Possible Online Commission Meeting, April 2011

C. Designated Locations for Future Commission Meetings

– Ron Kaufman, director of Information Services present this program to the Commission. I'll take all three of these together. We are looking at feasibility of doing some or a portion of our Commission meetings online. We want to start the discussion tonight. Online handout (Exhibit U) is a review of thoughts I had to get us started. How far we go will depend on what the Commission wants to try. Objective of meetings are: to address ADA accessibility, facilitate communication, inform and educate public, and provide convenient public access. The Commission meets six times a year at different locations. Other ways the public can interact with Commissioners is after meeting minutes are typed and put on the internet. There are a range of options, one extreme would be streaming audio and video and some use free online service called U-Stream. Other extreme is to go fully interactive, but that's not feasible. End user is the problem. No central meeting location, but six or seven locations around state where people could go. We want to know what the interest of Commissioners is, on trial basis. Also, June instead of April is a better option for our first attempt.

Commissioner Lauber – Good idea, webcast to regional offices, like to see more public input and this would allow some of that to take place. Chairman Johnston – Agree with Gerald, a lot of people interested in what we do and why, and participation should be encouraged. Also, vote allows interactive participation possibility, but don't know what possibilities are. Possibly email a question and address during meeting. Commissioner Shari Wilson – Continue to look at it, but meetings could become very long if we are adding six locations and email questions, keep that in mind. State Board of Education streams their meetings live and archive them also and I can go online and listen later. It is not interactive, but accessible from any computer. Kaufman – Open to thousands of people if fully interactive. Commissioner Meyer – Like to interact with staff and constituents on one-on-one basis. I would hate to see no interaction. I enjoy what we do right now. Commissioner Shari Wilson – From a procedural standpoint, if all commissioners in different rooms, how do we run a meeting, if storms or other difficulties, one or two rooms could go blank, then what? Managing could be a problem, we need backup plan and something for Sheila to make sure she is getting all of the meeting. Chairman Johnston – There is interest to take some steps; we do not want to publish we are going to do something different and then have technical difficulties. Smart to do this in phases. Secretary Hayden – Public attendance is very low, look at staff assembled here and the amount of money to bring everyone. There is very little

public participation and we need to look at ways to reduce costs, is technology one of those; and increase public participation. We want to find better way to get their involvement and current format is not doing that and it is expensive to us. Need to look at more efficient ways. Another thing we should do is look at certain facilities -- like Kansas Wetlands Education Center and Great Plains Nature Center and Topeka and set certain meetings and get us a pattern. Have in facilities we want to showcase. Suggest we get standard pattern for three meetings a year and look at other three meetings as online meetings. Chairman Johnston – You summarized that very well and I doubt whether the Commission disagrees. Let's do that, same months in same locations. Secretary Hayden – I like August meeting with waterfowl in Great Bend or Wichita and March in Topeka because of legislature. Experiment in June with some kind of online, like streaming video. Chairman Johnston - Lets look at June.

Chris Tymeson – It would behoove us to set April meeting location and date.

April 21, 2011, location Wichita (other suggestions: August - Great Bend and March - Topeka).

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)