

**Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Commission Meeting Minutes
Goodland Elks Lodge
1523 Arcade, Goodland, Kansas**

~~Subject to
Commission
Approval~~
*Approved 1/6/11
with correction*

*Wednesday, October 13 - 11:00 am MDT - Tour Arikaree Breaks, South Fork and St. Francis
WAs*

Thursday, October 14 - 8:00 am MDT - Tour Sherman SFL and Smoky Gardens

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

The October 14, 2010 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission was called to order by Chairman Kelly Johnston at 1:30 p.m. at the Goodland Elks Lodge, Goodland, 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).

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

Sheila Kemmis – The agenda in the briefing book has been revised from the agenda sent out in the mail. Jerry Hover is unable to be here, so Commissioner Shari Wilson will be presenting item five under General Discussion, and Linda Lanterman will be presenting item two under the Public Hearing this evening. We have also added items seven, eight, and nine to the afternoon general discussion and moved item 10.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE August 12, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

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

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tom Halstead, USDA Wildlife Service, Manhattan – We are requesting an exception, or exemption, to use firearm suppressors for APHIS WS employees conducting official duties. Beneficial examples: prairie dog control in Logan County (around black-footed ferret introduction site) and deer management at various statewide airports (have MOU with FAA). Letter of support from USFWS Mike LeValley, partner on Logan County project with KDWP

was presented (Exhibit C).

Chairman Johnston – What method would we have to use to get this passed? Amy Thornton – We could make an exemption, but we'd have to meet federal criteria, and it could be for individuals also. Need to amend a couple of regulations to make this exemption. Chairman Johnston – Regulatory process would take how long? Thornton – General discussion in January and bring draft in March. Mark Rankin – Covered under statute 1033 (listed several regulations that could, or would, need to be changed depending on what is allowed); 115-16-5 (d) animal damage; methods of take and allow suppressors, for anyone doing animal damage work. Under federal regulations, need suppressor, and would have to go through a different procedure. Debra Bolton – What is different from the person who asked to use suppressor on coyotes while bowhunting? Rankin – This would not affect general hunting, only damage control. Thornton – They would need federal permit. Halstead – We have a statewide nuisance permit. When we deal with deer, it is a case-by-case basis for the airports. Chairman Johnston – Will that work? Halstead – Sounds okay to me. Rankin – It can be written into big game permit; for small game, it will need to be written into 115-16-5. Commissioner Sebelius – Isn't there a safety issue; how would you cover notification factor without being able to hear the gun? Halstead – Don't foresee using it anywhere else, but could. Commissioner Shari Wilson – Is this method of last resort? Halstead – They are expensive, so we only use them where we see it being most effective or for being more discreet. Commissioner Shari Wilson – Airport people know, but public doesn't necessarily know when you are doing damage control on an airport? Halstead – Correct. Chairman Johnston – Is there a potential safety hazard to your people if not wearing safety orange? Commissioner Lauber – Don't see you doing it during firearms deer season. Discretion is the best way. Suppressor doesn't mean silent like in movies, it just makes it more quiet and peaceful. Halstead – Efficiency is the most important issue. Chairman Johnston – Not indicating opposition, just concern with safety. Halstead – In context, we are removing 20 deer a year. Commissioner Robert Wilson – It would help with prairie dogs because they are not hearing the shots. Halstead – Efficiency, trying to help landowners who don't want prairie dogs because of problems with toxicants. Commissioner Shari Wilson – It is not groups like yours that have permits already, but opening it up to individuals I need to hear more about. I am concerned with opening a door to other public. Chairman Johnston – Consider that when we have language available. Halstead – We are a federal agency, and we'll coordinate with KDWP. Our employees go through federal training; if you want to open up to other people, that is up to you. Commissioner Lauber – I'd like to see this move forward for animal nuisance. Thornton – Would you like staff to come forward with language and information? Chairman Johnston – Yes.

Paul Babcock, Hoxie – (read parts of letter regarding concern with unregulated magazine capacity of semi-auto centerfire rifles – Exhibit D). I am asking you to consider taking steps to limit rounds to three for semi-automatic rifle magazines. Chairman Johnston – Do our laws have no limits? Mark Rankin – Three shots on migratory birds is federal restriction, no other restrictions on any other game. Chairman Johnston – Could consider doing that for next year, too late for this year. Commissioner Lauber – As a kid we could put 21 .22-caliber shorts and then traded for rifle that held 15. There could be people out there with extended magazines, but I don't see this as something to change. Babcock – As a hunter education instructor, I feel it is necessary to have a limit on rounds in the magazine. Commissioner Lauber – How would you eliminate those, with plugs or what, the 1022 has cylindrical clip? Babcock – I'm asking for a limit on big

game calibers, not small game because more power and more likely to cause a fatal wound. Commissioner Robert Wilson – It would be restricting a small amount of equipment, mostly illegal caliber already. I don't see a need to address that. Commissioner Bolton – Why would you need more than four bullets while out deer hunting? Commissioner Lauber – I only have three in my gun, easier to unload the gun when I get into the vehicle. Don't know of anyone who has shot that many times. Semi-automatics that are used to hunt deer may have 10 rounds, but I don't think it is an issue. There is no real need to carry more than three, but legally it would have to change the regulation to handle that. Commissioner Meyer – I agree three rounds is plenty. I will limit small number of people, let's go ahead and regulate it. Don't see this as more complicated, so I think this is something we should do. Chairman Johnston – I don't think the Commission is agreeing to change it. I suggest general discussion at next meeting. Doug Phelps, Manhattan – This would affect a small percentage of people, from personal experience, but I also know people who have emptied the clip into a deer. I concur with Paul. We have an issue and need to start stressing to hunting public.

Chairman Johnston – Like to recognize former Commissioner John Mickey who is here today.

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 E, F). Handed out CI requests handout discussed at an earlier meeting. The revised FY 2011 budget submission includes two major items for supplemental authority. The first item is for an amount of \$3.8 million to construct a new water supply line to the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area funded from the Wildlife Fee Fund (WFF) using matching federal aid funds. The second item is for an amount of \$473,000 to connect the Pratt Operations Office to the City of Pratt sewer plant funded from WFF, Park Fee Fund (PFF), and Boating Fee Fund (BFF). For FY 2012, we requested a budget of \$66 million, of which \$6.6 million is from the SGF. The budget request provides operation expenditures of \$56 million and capital improvements of \$9 million, which includes \$1.5 million from SGF for parks capital improvements, which is in addition to the FY 2012 budget allocation and is considered to be an enhancement. The request includes the use of just over \$1 million from the Road Fund, transferred from KDOT and \$170,000 from the Cabin Revenue Fund (CRF) to support the current operations of the Parks division. The FY 2012 enhancements include: minimum pool agreement for Webster Reservoir; creation of a KDWP marketing program; Lovewell Reservoir entrainment reduction project; acquisition of new amphibious backhoe for Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area; expansion of aquatic nuisance control program; and operating funds and 1.0 FTE for Parsons Wildlife Area. The state budget rules require KDWP to request vehicle replacements as an enhancement and we are requesting the replacement of 40 vehicles: 5 are for Parks, 15 for Law Enforcement, and 20 for Fisheries and Wildlife divisions. The status of the two major special revenue (fee) funds continues to be monitored by the department. If the requested enhancements are approved, the estimated fund balance in the PFF at the end of FY 2012 will be \$136,476 or 2 percent of requested expenditures. For the WFF, the estimated ending balance will be \$2.5 million or 9 percent of requested expenditures. In addition, expenditures from this fund

will exceed revenues by approximately \$4 million. KDWP has maximized the use of the CRF and the estimated ending balance at the end of FY 2012 is \$5,623. Chairman Johnston – What is status of Parsons Ammunition Plant? Thornton – Received 518 acres from the Army and expect another 480, for approximately 1,000 acres. Expect another 2,000 but there is a law suit on the property, which we are trying to get excluded so we can continue with negotiations. Chairman Johnston – Open next fall? Thornton – Already led special youth hunt and plan others this fall on the 1,000 acres. Secretary Hayden – Have special deer hunts scheduled on the property. Commissioner Shari Wilson – The federal fee fund has 2010 actual and sportfish restoration lists? Koerth – We had to break out federal fee fund for SMART.

B. General Discussion

1. South Fork and St. Francis WAs - Cris Mulder, public land manager, presented this update to the Commission (PowerPoint - Exhibit G). I am stationed at Norton Wildlife Area and work out of the Norton Area Office. Areas of responsibility include Norton Wildlife Area, Sheridan State Fishing Lake (east of Hoxie) and the St. Francis and South Fork Wildlife Areas (Cheyenne County). On the tour yesterday of the Arikaree Breaks we saw the South Fork and St. Francis wildlife areas. St. Francis is 3 miles west and 2 miles south of St. Francis. South Fork is 12.5 miles northeast of St. Francis. St. Francis was acquired in 1972 has 480 acres: 240 acres of short grass rangeland, 160 acres riparian habitat, 65 acres cropland, and 15 acres water (Republican River and two sand pits). Hunting opportunities are mostly turkey and whitetail deer with limited pheasant and quail hunting. They are small areas, so upland birds get pushed off area with hunting pressure. Also, there is some opportunity for waterfowl hunting. Area management includes managed grazing and noxious weed control (primarily Canada thistle). On 65 acres of cropland, we have established food plots, planted by a farmer we contract with locally. The remainder of the cropland remains fallow. There are two sandpits on property, one on the north and one on the south side of the river, that provide some fishing opportunity. South Fork was acquired in 1991, and it includes 1,000 acres and the Republican River, which runs through the southeast area. The habitat is diverse, mostly short grass and breaks, some croplands and wetland slews -- 636 acres of shortgrass rangeland and breaks, 231 acres of cropland, 85 acres of riparian habitat along the Republican River, and 48 acres of CRP grass. Management strategies are similar to the St. Francis area. A planted tree break runs along the county road. Food plot establishment is contracted through a local farmer and are good areas for turkeys. We plant sunflowers for insects and cover for upland game. The Water for Wildlife program started in early 2000s, and Kent (Hensley) installed a concrete tank, well and solar power unit, which has been updated a little by creating a shallow depression and sealing it with bentonite to provide a water source attractive to doves. Management challenges include littering and off-road drivers, which distract from aesthetics and destroys habitat. Leonard Hopper, retired biologist who is now a temp, is really helping us out there taking care of noxious weeds. The rewards are what our constituents experience when they visit the areas. It gives us a great deal of satisfaction as a manager and as a department. Commissioner Meyer – I want to thank Cris for interesting tour.

Kent Hensley, public land manager presented a talk on Sherman Wildlife Area (PowerPoint – Exhibit H). I am stationed at Cedar Bluff and have been managing Sherman for 15 years. It is located on the north fork of the Smoky Hill River, 10 miles south and 2 miles west of Goodland.

Sherman is a dry lake, so it's not really a state fishing lake. Petition was made to purchase property in 1961. The dam was built in 1965, and it was opened to fishing in 1967. The hydrology of the area has changed, and the lake has only filled once (last in 1994). The river has only flowed in three or four times. We get two years of use when the lake fills before it is dry again. We did a study and found that 2,400 acre feet of water was seeping through the dam, and 700 acre feet were evaporating, which is a lot for a lake that is only 236 acres. The positive aspect is that Sherman acts as upstream spring for Smoky Gardens, which is a county lake and we try to manage the fishery there. We raised the height of the spillway, and talked about breaching the dam and managing flows by leaving gate open to help out Smoky Gardens, but there has been no water for 15 years, so management is directed toward terrestrial species. Since inception, there have been seven managers on the property, and we are fortunate to have the assistance of Leonard Hopper, a seasonal worker, who managed the area in the past before the reorganization. When Leonard retired in 2003, he came back as a temp to help manage the area. Management strategies include: food plots which we do ourselves (5-6 8-acre food plots); solar and windmill water developments (overlooked in western Kansas), solar unit funded by Water for Wildlife. We have applied for five and gotten all of them. We utilize windmill for dove hunting. We are also battling Canada thistle, and have worked 8-10 years to get it under control. Then we get water and have to start over again because water brings in seeds. It's almost eradicated right now – down to only 3-5 acres. The grass has been grazed 8-10 times in early intensive program -- 35-90 days with two-animals per acre. We see a good responses the following year. Fire isn't used out west much. We burned 450 acres. Had some wild fires started by lightning or electrical. We're working on a burn plan for some smaller burns. We did a survey in 2007/08 and found out that a majority of use was from hunters and non-consumptive use was minimal. Hunting accounted for about 65 percent in 07 and 80 percent in 08, mostly in November/December, days and weeks with high use. Demographics of Sherman hunters included 66 percent from Kansas (30 percent CO, expected higher), not surprisingly most are from Sherman County. A lot of the use is in November by archery hunters. This is one of few places in the county to set up deer stands. We direct management to pheasants and deer. Francis Wachs WA is managed by Michael Zajic, and we see mostly nonresidents using that area. In the future we plan to maintain food plot/habitat for deer and pheasants; Canada thistle control; continue to minimize vandalism such as littering and off-road use; and improve hunter/harvest satisfaction and success. Commission Bolton – How do you control Canada thistle? Hensley – Mostly by chemicals. Commissioner Meyer – I am often asked why we grow weeds, but I keep trying to educate the public. Babcock – Smoky Gardens is good place to camp. John Mickey – Still stock trout in Smoky Gardens? Hensley – It is dry too, since Sherman is dry. Secretary Hayden – Do we have any water rights at Sherman? Hensley – Can't answer that. How aggressive are we at getting walk-in near there? Hensley – Josh is very effective at that.

2. The Arikaree Breaks - Josh Williams, wildlife biologist, presented this update to the Commission (PowerPoint - Exhibit I). Private lands biologist from Colby with responsibilities in Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace counties. Our tour was blessed with having Tobe Zwiegardt along to talk about the history of the area. We visited Three Corners and South Fork (showed pictures of tour). Two fundamental aspects: soils and hydrology. I am not a geologist, but will try to explain how breaks were formed. First there was the settling of clay particles (Pierre Shale), late Cretaceous; elevating the Rockies (Ogallala Formation), Tert. Pliocene; loess deposition

(Sandborn Formation), Pleistocene; carving the breaks (through water and wind erosion), in present time. History of landscape, 40,000 acres of this aggressive terrain; very dry, many dams to catch any water; arid climate with mean temperature of 52°F, High of 111°F and Low -28°F, 160 day gs, with 18" annual precipitation; mostly mid-short warm-season grasses. Current land use is grazing; 5-6 landowners on 40,000 acres, no ability to water efficiently out there and aggressive terrain makes it very hard to fence. Not beneficial for most of the wildlife species so there is minimal disturbance. Roughly 2-7 miles of water pipes to feed water tanks, mostly gravity fed with a few windmills in the bottom. There are few options for wildlife enhancements because of minimal ground disturbance, large parcels, decreased burning opportunity and uneven grazing because of lack of water. Elevation is 3,317 feet, lowest point in Colorado, visited Mount Sunflower, highest point in Kansas at 4,049 feet. There are 19 rare plant species isolated to that drainage. Terrestrial wildlife species include: mule deer; white-tailed deer; coyotes, kangaroo rat, black-tailed prairie dog, burrowing owl, golden eagle, ring-necked pheasant, wild turkey, prairie falcons, bald eagle, American kestrel, western meadowlark, ferruginous hawk, rock wren, and greater prairie-chicken. Commissioner Shari Wilson – Add my thanks for the last two days of tours, were instructional and fun, appreciate time and effort spent to put this all together.

3. Lake Atwood Renovation and Fishing Opportunities in NW Kansas - Dave Spalsbury, fisheries biologist, presented this update to the Commission (PowerPoint-Exhibit J). I take care of Sherman County (Smoky Gardens) which is currently dry; St Francis Keller Lake (4 acres) with improved shoreline access; St. Francis WA north pond (2 acres) which has limited access by trail, St. Francis WA south (1/4 acre) pond which has easy access; and Colby-Villa High (2 acres) with channel catfish as primary fishery. The other lakes/ponds are managed for largemouth bass, sunfish and channel cat fishing. I'm here to talk about Atwood Lake. I have been assisting for two years and before me, it was Lynn Davignon who worked with the City of Atwood for many years. Engineers were called in to confirm permeability of lake bottom. We covered bottom of lake with ash, which was finished in 2008. The top of the seal was reached in April 2009 (bottom of rip-rap). Summer rains filled the lake in July 2009, and it looks like lake holds below seal, but leaks out of rip-rap, so overall it was fairly successful. Fishery reestablishment was done prior to July 2009 inflow. An immediate fishery was established with 1,980 adult fathead minnows, 552 adult bluegill, several green sunfish hybrids, and 276 half-pound channel catfish. An influx of undesirable fish species occurred during July 2009 inflow which necessitated stocking a full complement of sportfish: largemouth bass, flathead catfish, bluegill, saugeye and palmetto bass. Annual fish population sampling initiated during fall 2009. Progress showed common carp remain abundant, but little recent production was noted. No crappie or shad sampled, but common carp are detrimental. We received fish from lakes down south and stocked lake with intermediate catfish, bluegill, saugeye and wipers this year. Black bullhead abundance remains low. Did standard sampling, fall netting and electrofishing, and found good numbers of largemouth bass, high numbers of minnows, channel catfish, sunfish and saugeye stocking successful. Our challenge are common carp, 8-12 inches long, which are causing water quality and clarity problems. We keep hammering on them to get rid of them and not seeing very many small ones, which is good. Small number of bullheads and no crappie, so that is good. In the future, we'll continue to monitor water levels and do whatever we can to maintain water levels, even using water well if necessary. We'll work to increase diversity by introducing brush and rock piles. Commissioner Lauber – How big is the seal? Spalsbury – Same size as the lake, about

27½ acres.

4. CWD Update - Shane Hesting, wildlife biologist, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit K; PowerPoint – Exhibit L). CWD is not a virus or bacteria. It is a prion protein and is always fatal. We collected 2,738 samples, and all but five were tested at K-State. We employ 60-65 contractors to collect samples. Paul Babcock is one of those collectors, and we appreciate that. We collected road kills and depredations and picked up four more positives doing that. There were 15 positive deer found in 2009: nine-Decatur County; two-Rawlins County; one-Thomas County; one-Sheridan County; one-Graham County; and one-Logan County. Disease is staying in northwest, but spreading east and south. We sampled 460 deer from all other areas in the state. I get calls weekly, but not all are CWD. I tell them to be careful and not jump to conclusion before they are tested. We're also testing in Finney, Smith and Lyon counties. Kansas wildlife rehabilitators have been asked to voluntarily stop rehabbing fawns. General consensus is that it is a good thing to prevent disease spread, and we've had very few complaints or concerns from rehabilitators. To date, there is no evidence suggesting natural transmission from cervids to domestic livestock (experimental-yes), nor is there any evidence of CWD transmission to humans. Prion is basically cancer research. It may still pass through system, but still have contaminated environment. Possible vaccine being developed in Canada at the University of Saskatchewan (Scott Napper, VIDO-InterVac and Peter Yim and Scott Adams, PREVENT). It will be two years before injection form and four years before oral form is available. Not sure if diseased prions will pass through individual animals without causing damage, or if shedding will be infectious and other population questions.

5. Kansas Coalition for Children in Nature – Executive Order – Commissioner Shari Wilson presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit M, PowerPoint – Exhibit N). I am filling in for Jerry Hover this afternoon. No one has spent more time and effort on this topic than he has. It is a statewide effort to get kids outside. While putting the presentation together, I started thinking about all programs doing this right now, and there is always one agency involved -- KDWP, through a variety of programs and divisions. This has been a national issue for 5-8 years -- seeing kids not going outside and a decrease in use of public lands. There are more than 1,800 organizations involved in ~~Kansas for Children in Nature (KCN)~~ the *No Child Left Inside* Program, with 14 in Kansas now. I hope KDWP will become one of them. The Kansas Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, Jerry very involved in this and gave a framed print of Bill of Rights to all commissioners. In one or two generations, we have changed considerably. *Last Child in the Woods*, by Richard Louv brought ideas together in his book. Who will care for the outdoors in the future? There are about 77 grassroots programs in the state, including Kansas Green Schools Program, more than 300 schools integrating curriculum including OWLS; Archery in the Schools, 170 schools participating, 335 trained teachers; ECO-Meets, nine each year, high school program, hard to grow because of demand for teachers' and students' time; OK Kids, 10 years old, popular and depends on partnerships; g2g Outside (Got to Go Outside), centered in Wichita area, but hope to grow it, geared toward younger parents because they didn't spend time outside, no schedule or plan, different way of growing up; goPLAYkansas.com based online to help parents get kids outside; School Gardens skyrocketing just as popular or more than recycling, KACEE received grant to help teachers with this; National EE (environmental education) Week, older students teach younger students; Take Me Fishing; Aquariums in

Schools; and a new program, Kansas WildLifer Challenge, based online but different, we'll hear a report in January from Wildscape. At the Wetlands Education Days in Great Bend at new education center, second graders learned about plants and animals. Kansans for Children in Nature (KCN) convened by former Governor Sebelius; managed by a Conveners' Group consisting of 10 member organizations with three working groups. The draft plan is done and has eight goals in three categories: In early childhood – 1) from birth, kids engage in outdoor learning and nature play which involves parents, early childhood educators, and the health community; K-12 – 2) Kansas Environmental Literacy Plan will help kids learn about and appreciate the environment, 3) outdoor learning spaces at schools will become an integral part of K-12 education, 4) schools will have resources to implement green school projects and curriculum, and 5) increase physical activity and outdoor experiences in schools and on public lands; Community – 6) develop facilities and programs that encourage outdoor activity, 7) increase collaboration between community organizations and schools for outdoor programming and service learning, and 8) increase access to parks and other public lands. Need to present plan to Governor before January 10, then work on plan to make sure it doesn't just sit on a shelf. Sheila has list of web links or you can contact me. Showed KCN website (<http://kcn.ksoutdoors.com/>) and listened to some of song written by Kelly Hunt for KCN (on website).

6. VPA-HIP Grant Update – Jake George, private lands coordinator, presented this update to the Commission. As discussed in August, the department could receive up to \$2 million per year from this grant. We are working on the environmental assessment and meeting with legal staff and management to go over options and goals. Hope to do this through longer-term agreements with landowners. Secretary Hayden – What about habitat improvement requirement? George – They have to allow access first and we can give financial incentives for mid-contract management that may include burning, strip disking, etc. Secretary Hayden – Talk about stream access component. George – Tom Lang, my counterpart in fisheries in Pratt helped me write the grant, which will also be for fishing, canoeing and kayak usage. Doug Nygren – Trying to get large blocks of stream stretches where landowners on both sides of the river will sign up.

7. KAR 115-25-5. Turkey; fall season, bag limit and permits - Jim Pitman, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit O). There are four hunting units which mimic spring units with permits available over-the-counter except for Unit 4. The number of permits and game tags issued for the fall 2009-2010 turkey season was 12,957 (includes 2,309 game tags). The percentage of hunters who harvested at least one turkey during the fall 2009-2010 season was 41 percent. In recent years, the turkey population in the eastern one-third of the state has declined. Moderate population declines have occurred in the northeast and south-central management units, but the most severe decline has been in the southeastern portion of the state. The primary cause of the decline has been the above-average summer rainfall that has occurred in that region in recent years. The wet weather caused nest abandonment and poor poult survival and resulted in five years of below-average production from 2005-2009. As a result, hunter success and harvest during the spring and fall seasons has declined in recent years in the southeast region. However, the 2010 production index for southeast Kansas was slightly improved from last year, so hunters in that region should notice more jakes this fall and next

spring. Turkey production has been much better in other parts of the state, and populations continue to grow in some areas. The department is concerned about the recent turkey population declines in the eastern part of the state. Fall harvest has the potential to reduce population growth and spring hunt success, but only if a substantial number of birds are being taken. The departmental turkey committee evaluated that possibility again this year and determined that our current level of harvest is not greatly influencing population growth. Thus, the department is recommending no change to season dates or bag limits for the fall season. Paul Babcock – Possible second permit in increased population areas? Pitman – We have discussed it, but would be in the spring season first.

8. KAR 115-25-7. Antelope; open season, bag limit and permits – Matt Peek, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit P). No changes for permits or unit boundaries. Sold about 250 permits, steady increase of archery permits sold; firearm and muzzleloader permit demand remains high. Pronghorn populations are doing well right now. We won't have permit quota recommendations until after winter survey information is back, but we anticipate an increase in permit numbers from last year and lower number of preference points for a hunter to draw.

9. KAR 115-25-8. Elk; open season, bag limit and permits - Matt Peek, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Q). The season structure was changed last year, which allowed landowner/tenants and general residents to buy any-elk permits over-the-counter, valid statewide except for Morton County and Fort Riley. This year, we've sold nine so far and only one general resident permit. Our plan is to come up with highway unit boundaries for next Commission meeting (around Fort Riley) rather than county lines.

10. 115-25-Series Deer Regulations - Lloyd Fox, big game wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit R). Extended firearms seasons and white-tailed deer antlerless-only (WAO) permits will be authorized. The number of WAO permits that may be used in each unit will also be evaluated after additional data becomes available. Season dates suggested for deer hunting during 2011-12 are as follows: youth and disability, September 10, 2011 – September 18, 2011; early muzzleloader, September 19, 2011 – October 2, 2011; archery, September 19, 2011 – December 31, 2011; early firearms (DMU 19), October 8, 2011 – October 16, 2011; regular firearms, November 30, 2011 – December 11, 2011; extended WAO, January 1, 2012 – January 8, 2012; special extended WAO, January 9, 2012 – January 15, 2012; and extended archery (DMU 19), January 9, 2012– January 31, 2012. The extended WAO season for 2011-12 would be 8 days if we follow the pattern during the previous year. A special extended season in DMUs 7, 8, and 15 includes an additional week of opportunities. Fort Leavenworth Smoky Hill Air National Guard season dates have also been selected. Firearm season dates for deer hunting at Fort Riley will be established in KAR 115-25-9a, which will be covered in a workshop at a later date. Plans are being made to move application deadlines to KAR 115-4-11 and establish them in a standard manner rather than as a calendar date. Consideration will be made on inclusion of DMUs where an extended firearms season will be authorized after additional data becomes available. Consideration is being made to allow hunters to purchase five white-tailed deer antlerless-only permits. The first permit would be valid statewide including on lands managed by the department. The second WAO permit would be valid except in units 17

and 18 and would also be valid at Cedar Bluff WA. The last three WAO permits would be valid on restricted DMUs 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 19. Commissioner Bolton – Complaint on date of youth season for deer, because it is too warm. Fox – The early season gives youth first opportunity and people with disabilities prefer an early season because many suffer from poor circulation. Whenever we start changing them around, we start getting conflicts with other groups. There are disadvantages in that season, as well as the early muzzleloader season (some have asked for a few days in late January after late firearms season), but are not considering any changes at this time. We would have to reevaluate the whole system before we could do that. Commission Robert Wilson – Unit 11 has increased in size? Fox – A little bit, actually what has changed is Unit 10. We have 18 Units. Unit 19 overlaps DMUs 9, 10, 11 and 14. It was changed back last year because of nonresidents with permits in DMUs 10 or 11 had few options to select an adjacent unit, so it is an overlay not a unique unit.

C. Workshop Session

1. Big Game Permanent Regulations - Lloyd Fox, big game wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit S). This will cover all 4-series at one time, including: 4-2, photo check system; 4-4, 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. May want to look at plugging, because companies such as Savage have a circular clip, which is hard to limit; 4-6 was cleaned up last year; 4-11 big game and turkey application, looking at bringing all of the application dates into that one; 4-13, deer permit descriptions seem to be working all right. 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.

2. Potential Regulation Changes to Address Aquatic Nuisance Species – Jason Goeckler, aquatic nuisance specialist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit T, PowerPoint – Exhibit U). Ron Kaufman was unable to be with us today so I will try to wear two hats. This is still in the workshop session, so we are looking for ideas for consideration. Non-indigenous aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are the cause of significant ecological and socio-economic problems for water users in North America. ANS have spread beyond historic ranges and have adversely affected infested waters by threatening the integrity of these water resources. As the introduction and spread of ANS continues, the associated problems intensify and create a wide variety of problems for water users. ANS can be transferred both through natural and anthropogenic means. The introduction and spread of ANS by humans can result from a variety of activities, including escapes from aquaculture facilities, aquarium release, stocking activities, ballast release, and angler escape or release. KDWP's mission says we are responsible for: protecting and conserving fish and wildlife and their associated habitats while providing for the wise use of these resources and providing associated recreational opportunities; which causes a baitfish/ANS conundrum. We need to wisely protect and conserve Kansas' natural resources from ANS while providing recreational opportunity, and we need to decide if wild-caught bait

could be a vector for ANS spread. We did a survey of anglers to determine who uses live bait, where anglers get bait, what species of bait are used, the impact of collection on listed species, recognition of Kansas baitfish, and support of KDWP actions. The majority of Kansas anglers use live fish as bait. Seventy-one percent purchase their baitfish, 68 percent release unused baitfish, and they have trouble identifying common Kansas fish. Problems arise from bait bucket transfer when undesirable fish, invertebrates, plants, or pathogens become introduced. The discovery of an aquatic species in waters where it was previously absent has been attributed to bait bucket transfer on several occasions. Kansas' aquatic ecosystems have already been invaded by ANS such as zebra mussels, white perch, Asian carp, hydrilla, Eurasian watermilfoil, and purple loosestrife, most of which could be spread by sportfishing activities. Beyond bait bucket transfer, ANS can be spread by recreational boater movements. We believe the most notable species that may be spread by boaters is the zebra mussel. The fouling behavior of the adult zebra mussel coupled with the planktonic larvae allows for its spread on boats and in water. Raw water that is transported in the holding tanks of boats (livewells, baitwells, and bilges) is a vector of great concern and has been evaluated in Kansas. As a natural resource agency, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) is greatly concerned with the risk ANS pose to the natural environment. To protect the natural resources of Kansas and to prevent the spread of ANS through public uses of these resources, KDWP should address the spread of ANS by recreational boaters and baitfish collection, transport, and use. Currently, KDWP has regulations (K.A.R. 115-18-10, 115-8-12, 115-20-3, and 115-8-6) that could be used to curb the spread of ANS. Compliance with these regulations is limited and special emphasis to clarify and improve the aforementioned regulations and the addition of new regulations may be necessary to effectively manage ANS in Kansas.

We have been monitoring Asian carp for last few years. Most of have seen video of 10- to 20-pound fish jumping in the boat. But when they are small, they can be mistaken for other fish. Small Asian carp and bighead carp look very similar to gizzard shad. With the high rainfall this spring, the Asian carp spawned and there were a lot of small fish in places on our rivers. We are very concerned about baitfish collection because the only way they can get into our reservoirs is if someone takes them. We stepped up effort of outreach campaign, including press releases and personal interviews with several newspapers – one of the stories was picked up by Associated Press. We used temporary employees in uniform to go to starred locations and checked and maintained signs. Information was distributed, like “don't dump” stickers and others. We don't want these in our reservoirs, and there is a question if our regulations are adequate, (read 115-8-6). The majority of fisherman are bringing bait in, so we are considering clarifying this regulation to have broader reach. The goal is to encourage compliance through dedicated enforcement. The bottom line is use bait where you catch it (read KAR 115-18-12), many anglers are dumping baitfish at end of day and we need to prohibit release of aquatic baitfish. We also need to make sure commercial folks are providing a clean product, 71 percent are purchasing bait. Diseased bait fish can also be a problem, carrying things like fish lice and VHS. Kansas is open to these types of things coming in. Regulations 17-1, 17-2, 17-3, clarify “native or naturalized” and possibly provide species allowed and certified disease-free-only allowed. We need standards for bait shops on ANS positive waters. In the future, we may consider certification for all aquatic imports (stocking, pets and imports), and movement of invasive plants and water. We'll continue with outreach promoting the “clean, drain, dry” messaging and the signage. Information staff

contacted Brush Art to see what it would cost to do a successful outreach program, and they said \$377,000. Information Services Division director Ron Kaufman, said the division will support ANS outreach from within available resources; marketing budget of \$100,000 for 2012. I'd like to thank Region 2 staff, temps, Chris Steffen, statewide LE staff and anglers of Kansas for keeping this message going. Commissioner Lauber – How close is department to giving us recommended language, and are we ready to stop the movement of bait? Secretary Hayden – We plan on bringing proposed language to the January meeting if we can get it developed by then. Commissioner Sebelius – How far up Kansas River are the carp? Goeckler – One adult found above Bowerstock Dam. Chairman Johnston – I've been contacted by a flathead catfish fisherman who captures perch and uses them for bait on other areas. Goeckler – The problem is our anglers' poor ability to identify species. Perch don't look like Asian carp, but we are looking at holistic approach. Part of whole issue is bucket biologists who think they know better than us. We will consider your suggestion. Commissioner Shari Wilson – I would like to go on one of those field trips. It is a serious thing.

VII. RECESS AT 5:00 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE AT 7:00 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

D. Public Hearing

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

1. KAR 115-25-6. Turkey; spring season, bag limit, permits, and game tags - Jim Pitman, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit W). We sold 66,000 permits this spring, an increase of 2,000. Regulations are 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 for residents only. Unit 4 was still oversubscribed with applications for the 325 permits that were available. The department wants to increase quota to 500 permits for the 2011 season.

**Commissioner Debra Bolton moved to bring KAR 115-25-6 before the Commission.
Commissioner Shari Wilson seconded.**

The roll call vote on KAR 115-25-6 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit X):

Commissioner Bolton **Yes**

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-25-6 passed 7-0.

2. KAR 115-2-3. Camping and utilities fees – Linda Lanterman, assistant Parks Division director, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Y). Jerry couldn't be here, and he is retiring in December, so this would have been his last meeting. He has worked for the department for 14 years, and we will miss him. Looking at two recommended fee changes: to increase annual and long-term camping permits. Annual camping permits, if purchased up to March 31 will be increased \$50 to \$200; those purchased from April 1 through September 30, will be increased to \$250. On long-term camping we are proposing an increase of \$40 per utility: from \$200 for one utility to \$240; from, \$260 for two to \$300; and from \$320 for three to \$360. The proposal is to split prices; three parks (El Dorado, Tuttle Creek and Milford) would be higher, raise \$80 for each utility on those to \$280; \$340; and \$400.

Commissioner Frank Meyer moved to bring KAR 115-2-3 before the Commission. Commissioner Doug Sebelius seconded.

Commissioner Shari Wilson – When was the last time camping fees were raised? Lanterman – Nothing for last three years. Chairman Johnston – When this was discussed at last two meetings, we were trying to balance impact of increases between annual camping permits versus long-term camping permits while keeping in mind private market costs. Has department's proposal changed since then? Lanterman – No.

Natalie Donges, Deer Grove RV Park, El Dorado – I'll make one last appeal. The fees are still not high enough for my area. The state park openly competes with private owners. Two workers moved from my park on October. Both used \$125 electricity by themselves, big 50 amp RVs, add that to my \$275 and that is \$425. I feel that long-term campers who are just working there should not get off-season rates. Chairman Johnston – The \$100 is a 67 percent increase and there were concerns, compared to other permits, that it was disproportionate for recreationists. I am not happy with the \$100 increase. Commissioner Doug Sebelius – I share that, but I am changing my mind because in comparison to other states we are cheaper than them. Need to go with prevailing wisdom. We know the State General Fund will not make up difference. We keep seeing budget dollars getting stolen from some place else and parks takes the worst hit. I will vote in favor. Commissioner Bolton – Not happy that it isn't higher or lower? Chairman Johnston – Happy that it is that high; need greater emphasis on greater increases in long-term camping. Commissioner Lauber – We're not interested in wasting electricity. Don't we pay for what we use? Lanterman – We pay higher rate based on highest month. Commissioner Lauber – I am sympathetic to Natalie, but I'm only willing to do 25 percent increase. We have to raise fees or we don't have any money. Chairman Johnston – What would happen if this regulation was defeated? Secretary

Hayden – We would lose all of 2011. If no action is taken tonight, it would be 2012 before anything could be done. Commissioner Robert Wilson – How do they keep trailers from freezing in your court? Donges – The use heat wrap around water and sewer lines and electric heaters under trailer, and we allow them to skirt their trailer. Commissioner Bolton – I’m sympathetic, but may have to visit this issue again next year.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-2-3 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit Z):

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-2-3 passed 7-0.

3. KAR 115-2-3a. Cabin camping permit fees - Mark Stock, special assistant, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit AA). This regulation establishes fees for cabin camping permit fees. Each year we look at cabins we plan on adding. Currently have 94 cabins, mostly in state parks, but some on public lands. I won’t read the proposed changes unless you have questions.

Commissioner Shari Wilson moved to bring KAR 115-2-3a before the Commission. Commissioner Frank Meyer seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-2-3a as recommended was as follows (Exhibit BB):

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-2-3a passed 7-0.

4. KAR 115-2-1. Amount of fees - Hunting/Fishing Permit/License Combination Packages - Mike Miller, Information Production Section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit CC). We originally proposed a combination deer permit, but after looking at the potential for revenue loss if the combo was an option, we revised our proposal. After comments from the Commission at the last meeting, we have brought a proposal the Revenue Task Force members supported to establish a multi-year hunting and fishing license for resident youth age 16-20, valid for 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. In light of discussion

from previous meetings, we have three amendments on the deer combination package at this time because it has the potential to increase the number of turkey hunters. There is an amendment that requests striking the combination deer permit proposed in section (a)(9) and amends (a)(2) to add language to the resident hunting license, and to (b) resident fishing license and (c) resident combination hunting and fishing license, adding “one-time purchase, valid from 16 years of age through 20 years of age”.

Commissioner Frank Meyer moved to bring KAR 115-2-1 before the Commission. Commissioner Shari Wilson Bolton seconded.

Commissioner Gerald Lauber moved to amend Amendment Number One by striking (a)(9) combination deer permit from what was proposed KAR 115-2-1. Commissioner Debra Bolton seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-2-1 to amend was as follows (Exhibit DD):

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-2-1 passed 6-1.

Commissioner Gerald Lauber moved to amend Amendment Number Two by reducing fees in subsection (a)(10) on nonresident antlerless-only deer permits from \$75 to \$50 from what was proposed in KAR 115-2-1. Commissioner Shari Wilson seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-2-1 to amend was as follows (Exhibit DD):

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-2-1 passed 7-0.

Commissioner Robert Wilson moved to amend Amendment Number Three by adding language that reads “one-time purchase, valid from...” to subsection (a)(2) from what was proposed in KAR 115-2-1. Commissioner Shari Wilson seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-2-1 to amend was as follows (Exhibit DD):

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-2-1 passed 7-0.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-2-1 as amended (all three amendments) was as follows (Exhibit DD):

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-2-1 passed 7-0.

5. KAR 115-7-1. Fishing legal equipment, methods of taking and other provisions – Doug Nygren, Fisheries Section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit EE). This permanent regulation establishes legal fishing equipment and methods for sportfish and for nonsportfish. The proposal would restrict hand fishing within 150 yards of any dam under (a)(5)(G).

Commissioner Debra Bolton moved to bring KAR 115-7-1 before the Commission. Commissioner Frank Meyer seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-7-1 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit HH):

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-7-1 passed 7-0.

6. KAR 115-7-8. Bass fishing tournaments – Doug Nygren, Fisheries Section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit FF). This permanent regulation sets weigh-in procedures and requirements for black bass fishing tournaments utilizing the tournament black

bass pass. The proposal is to revoke KAR 115-7-8 and add to KAR 115-7-9.

Commissioner Frank Meyer moved to bring KAR 115-7-8 before the Commission. Commissioner Doug Sebelius seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-7-8 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit HH):

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-7-8 passed 7-0.

7. KAR 115-7-9. Weigh-in black bass tournaments not using tournament black bass pass – Doug Nygren, Fisheries Section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit GG). This permanent regulation sets weigh-in procedures for all black bass fishing tournaments, except those using the tournament black bass pass. The proposal, in conjunction with the revocation of KAR 115-7-8, would make the regulation applicable to all weigh-in black bass tournaments and would rename regulation and take out “not using tournament black bass pass” and also remove that statement in (a).

Commissioner Debra Bolton moved to bring KAR 115-7-9 before the Commission. Commissioner Robert Wilson seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-7-9 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit HH):

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-7-9 passed 7-0.

8. KAR 115-18-20. Tournament bass pass; requirements, restrictions, and pass duration – Doug Nygren, Fisheries Section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit II). This permanent regulation establishes the tournament bass pass. The proposed amendments would allow culling for black bass even after the daily creel limit is reached during weigh-in black bass tournaments. Add statement under (a) “or who wants to cull black bass after the daily creel limit has been met” and remove “registered and permitted” and add “weigh-in”.

Commissioner Frank Meyer moved to bring KAR 115-18-20 before the Commission. Commissioner Shari Wilson seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-18-20 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit LL):

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-18-20 passed 7-0.

9. KAR 115-25-14. Fishing; creel limit, size limit, possession limit, and open season – Doug Nygren, Fisheries Section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit JJ). This exempt regulation establishes statewide limits and open seasons for fishing in Kansas. The proposed amendments relate to hand fishing, trout waters and updates to the reference document (Exhibit KK) related to length and creel limits for specific bodies of water. Proposed amendments to the table include: 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 and proposed four new trout locations.

Commissioner Robert Wilson moved to bring KAR 115-25-14 before the Commission. Commissioner Frank Meyer seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-25-14 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit LL):

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

The motion as presented KAR 115-25-14 passed 7-0.

XII. Old Business

None

XIII. Other Business

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

January 6, 2011 – Dole Institute of Politics, Lawrence

Secretary Hayden - Ron is working on streaming audio available on website. Commissioner Bolton – Will we promote that? Secretary Hayden – Yes. Tim McCulloch – Outbound only at this time. Commissioner Lauber – What about three set locations a year, is that something we need to do or can staff make the recommendation? Secretary Hayden – Will look at that. Want March still in Topeka. We plan to go back to buffalo lunch when statehouse is complete. We want the August meeting in Great Bend and get guidance for Wichita meeting. Commission Lauber – When most hunting issues come up? Is there more interest in October? Doug Phelps – April is when big game regulations come out. Secretary Hayden – Are we going to make April in Wichita a permanent location? We don't have to decide now.

March 10, 2011 – KDWP Region 2 Office, Basement Conference Room, Topeka

April 21, 2011 - Great Plains Nature Center, Auditorium, Wichita

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)

Exhibit MM – Letter to Chairman Johnston from National Bobwhite Technical Committee thanking him for attending meeting and Chairman Johnston's and Joe Kramer's opening comments, as well as thanking Jim Pitman for his involvement.