

**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 1, 2013
Woodson County Community Building
713 S Fry, Yates Center**

Approved Subject to
10/17/13 Commission
Approval

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

The August 1, 2013 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1:30 p.m. at the Woodson County Community Building, Yates Center. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Don Budd, Tom Dill, Randy Doll, Gary Hayzlett and Robert Wilson were present. Roger Marshall was present via Skype.

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND GUESTS

The Commissioners and Department staff introduced themselves (Attendance roster - Exhibit A). Chairman Lauber welcomed Representative Larry Hibbard and new commissioner Gary Hayzlett from Lakin. Also, former Mayor of Chanute Jim Chappel and Dan Stitt, Mayor of Hamilton were recognized.

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

IV. APPROVAL OF THE June 27, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Doll – Clarification: on page 17, 18, 19 and 20; 115-15-1, underlined was what was stricken? After discussion decided underlined was agency recommendation. Commissioner Doll moved to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Dill second. **Approved.** (Minutes – Exhibit B).

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bill Douglas – On coyote issue – we need to get organized and we are trying, but we're grateful you listened to us. Secondly, Jan Marr, a disabled hunter from Coyville who couldn't be here, asked me to talk about why outfitters are not licensed in Kansas. He feels private ground is being taken out of local hunters' hands. Outfitters should be paying a fee; he thought they should pay up to \$5,000 for this license. I thought they were licensed. Ethically, his suggestion makes sense. Thanks on behalf of coyote hunters. Chairman Lauber – At one time outfitters were licensed, finally we couldn't win with one legislative group pushing for economic development and one

group paying for it. We have required outfitter to have permits on public lands. Have economic interests that collide; issue will come up from time to time, but it's not easy to address. Tymeson – We did have a statute that regulated guides and outfitters. It started in 1993 or 1994, proposal in 2000/2001, we did not regulate ethics just minimum standards, and it didn't provide consumer protection. That is Attorney General's (AGs) office responsibility. People on both sides, once we started regulating more heavily, the legislature began reducing the number of species we regulated; then only big game and waterfowl and finally regulation was done away with completely. A lot of issues intertwined in that. Commissioner Budd – Have had this discussion publically and privately. People in House and Senate supersede what we can do, so I encourage you to get in touch with your legislators. I would champion that.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Secretary's Remarks

Secretary Jennison welcomed Commissioner Hayzlett. Thank Bill for his comments, shows impact of what this agency does. We are different than federal government.

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Secretary Jennison, presented this update to the Commission. Last year was a decent year for agency. In FY2011, parks ended up with just over \$400,000 in reserve; this year there was \$1.9 million in park fee fund. Governor allowed us to pay off cabin debt last year, and we have \$900,000 in cabin fee fund. With online registration for camping and holding positions open, parks employees have stepped up. Did take hit on general tax support that parks got; we have embraced that and we will phase in to make parks self-sufficient. We just didn't plan on doing it this soon, but will work on it. Had worst two years back to back with drought and blue-green algae, but record revenues were made. Making repairs on deferred maintenance. Because of gun and ammo sales, PR funds for wildlife fee funds expanded. There was \$3 million more available this year than last year; with certain amount of time to obligate it and spend it. We have held tourism harmless over last few years, EDIF funds were not cut so they are status quo. Still do not have final numbers for FY2014 so waiting to do our budgets, doing two-year budget, know what our bottom line will be for 2014 and 2015. What will impact us the most, appropriations committee attempt to limit number of FTEs we had, were going to hold all agencies to April 2013 numbers, and we had not replaced a lot of employees at that time, had 15 to 20 FTEs not filled; hoped to get parks up to full staff. Governor vetoed the FTE requirement; however, legislature had taken money out of budget and couldn't change that. It will impact wildlife side too even though no tax support there. We may have to hold off on replacing people who leave this year.

B. General Discussion

1. Tourism Briefing - Linda Craghead, Assistant Secretary of Tourism and Parks, presented this update to the Commission. She recognized Jim Zaleski, Tourism Director for Labette County. He was very helpful with the Governor's Fishing Classic. Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) rest stop has a new kiosk near the Topeka exit, can't keep enough travel guides out there, have asked for the opportunity to do that at all KTA stops. Starting fall TV campaign in September, this year will run in-state-only campaign to help keep people in Kansas to recreate.

Becky Blake is currently on road show, the second year, making stops in Garden City, Wellington, and Columbus week of July 8; this week in Oakley, Concordia and Atchison. Average attendance is about 20 people at each location. It is an educational road show. If you follow blog on travel, you'll see blogs on where they are. We continue to work with Fermata on Byway Interpretive Plan and Ecotourism Plan, which we hope to have ready for public review by October 1. We're working with KDOT on byways bike/hike plan; evaluation is trying to figure out how that can happen. We have a group (RDG) biking each byway in September and October to see how it can be done. Working with communities to establish hospitality training for local front line workers (restaurant workers, convenience store workers, etc.) to learn what there is to do in their area and pass that information along; this training will be free. Have implemented online (travelks.com) an impact calculator for industry to calculate economic impact to their area if they host an event (such as Governor's Fishing Derby). This is a free service. Hosting publisher and executive editor of *Midwest Living*, as a direct result of our media tour in Chicago this spring. Preparing for Americana Road Show in Augsburg, Germany from August 24 to September 2. Partnered with Wichita, Kansas City, Dodge City, Great Bend and the Flint Hills Tourism Coalition to raise an additional \$6,000 for that effort. Draft format of sizzle video to be used in Germany to show what we have to offer in Kansas (shown on screen).

With respect to state parks, Robin did great job of recognizing the team efforts. *Introduced Alan Stark, area supervisor, Linda Lanterman, division director, Kim Jones, Cross Timbers and Adam Murray, park ranger.* In better cash position than we were, but team continues to evaluate business practices and programs to enhance state park experience. Working closely with Miss Kansas. Her platform revolves around state parks and wildlife. She will speak later. State park downloadable park ranger app available (7,000 have been downloaded so far); fishing is number one activity, overnight stays and reservations, hunting, hiking and boating are top five listed. All regulations that deal with agency are available on that app. RFP put out for lodge at Clinton SP and have one candidate. Secretary Jennison, Department of Commerce and Department of Administration will be reviewing that. Chairman Lauber – Resort at Clinton in state park, will be separate entrance or will people have to have state park permit to go there? Secretary Jennison – Not looking at park permit requirement, but we have not dealt with that yet. Chairman Lauber – Cost not issue, more of a convenience issue. Secretary Jennison – More discussion once we find a developer. Chairman Lauber - Sale or lease property? Secretary Jennison – A sub-lease; we have 50-year lease from Corps. Commissioner Budd – Who decides? Secretary Jennison – Not involved in process, they consult with me only; Department of Commerce and Department of Purchasing and Contracts will pick the developer. Commissioner Budd – Will it ever come before this commission? Secretary Jennison – No, other than to keep you informed of what is going on. Craghead – *Welcomed Chris Hammerschmidt, state park manager from Elk City.* Soft opening of new shooting facility at Hillsdale this weekend.

2. Big Game Permanent Regulations - Lloyd Fox, big game biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit C). All big game permanent regulations will be discussed at this meeting, looking at public comments and see if further review is necessary. KAR 115-4-2. Big game; general provisions. A photo check deer registration system and other items are part of this. No comments from staff or public were received on this regulation last year and no change or further review is proposed this year. KAR 115-4-4. Big game; legal equipment and taking methods. Extensive modifications of this

regulation were done last year. Major changes included changes to allow centerfire rifles and handguns, crossbows as archery equipment, and additional accessory equipment. Hunters have not had an opportunity to experience how these changes will influence their deer hunting experience. Procedures were created in KAR 115-25-9a that will allow the department to measure the effect of the change concerning addition of crossbows as archery equipment. No additional requests have been received from the public for modifications and no change or further review is proposed this year.

KAR 115-4-6. Deer; firearm management units. No changes in deer management unit boundaries are currently being discussed within the department, or have been requested by the public.

Changes in the management unit boundaries complicate trend analysis of hunter participation and harvest of deer. Sub-division of units increases the need for larger sample sizes and more expense to obtain adequate information. No change or further review is proposed this year.

KAR 115-4-11. Big game and wild turkey permit applications (drawing system and preference points). The second Friday in July is deadline for resident applications; the nonresident application deadline is last Friday in April. Other permits can be bought until day before the season ends.

KAR 115-4-13. Deer permits; descriptions and restrictions (explains what antlerless deer are). Last year the permit system was modified to create a nonresident deer permit with two tags, one being restricted to an antlerless white-tailed deer. This change was made to encourage non-resident hunters to harvest antlerless deer in the areas they hunt at similar rates to the way resident hunters take that class of deer. The result of that change will be monitored this year and no change or further review is proposed this year.

3. Deer 25-Series Regulations - Lloyd Fox, big game biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit D). Annual adjustments are made in the season dates and this process initiates the discussion of potential changes for 2014. The recommendations follow the traditional season structure. The number of whitetail antlerless only permits that may be used in each unit will also be evaluated after additional data becomes available. Season dates suggested for deer hunting during 2014-15 are as follows: Youth and Disability, September 6-14, 2014; Early Muzzleloader, September 15-28, 2014; Archery, September 15, 2014 – December 31, 2014; Pre-Rut whitetail antlerless only (new this year), October 11 and 12, 2014; Regular Firearms, December 3-14, 2014; Extended whitetail antlerless only, January 1-11, 2015; Special Extended whitetail antlerless only, January 12-18, 2015; and Extended Archery (DMU 19), January 19-31, 2015; 148 days where deer can be pursued. Consideration will be made on inclusion of DMUs where an extended firearms season will be authorized after additional data becomes available. Effects of factors like mortality due to hemorrhagic disease and fawn recruitment influenced by the drought will be considered. Nine WAs (eight units) allow additional whitetail antlerless only permits. We will bring back in workshop and final vote in March. Chairman Lauber – Minimum number of pre-rut seasons were mandated? Fox – Two-year pilot program I believe; not sure. Will be handled the same way as rest of harvest, contact 33,000 hunters and get usable reports from about 20,000 hunters and that is what we will base our decision on. Chairman Lauber – In pre-rut season, some units don't have large numbers of deer available, could see political problem down the road and controversy. Fox – That is part of process we go through on other whitetail antlerless only seasons also. Chairman Lauber – Do they have index for how they measure success? Fox – That is a difficult human dimensions question. Chairman Lauber – Spawned by feeling we have too many deer and idea of getting

more antlerless deer shot. Not sure it is a big issue, but will have to figure out what to do down the road as some areas don't need more harvest. Commissioner Budd – Have you ever done survey on how many bucks are being harvested and where herd is that is over 150 inches? Those that come to Kansas want to hunt big rack deer, if hurting the herd don't want to do that. Do we have survey information? Fox – Yes, ask what category of deer they took; species, sex, antler class, dropped antlers, fawn or what. Commissioner Budd - Disproportionate number of males that have dropped their antlers? Fox - When ran check station, we examined animals, go to locker plants or surveyed hunters, results the same; less than five percent are adult males, some years as little as one percent. Your second question: What is happening with overall trophy status of deer in Kansas? Weakness is that we don't have a procedure that allows us to obtain samples, no active system where we measure antlers; have passive system, see number and size of deer going to Pope and Young, Boone and Crockett and our own trophy deer award system. Size is holding up pretty well. The number of trophy animals taken is staying strong even though we have increased number of hunters, we're not seeing decline. On our website there are four spreadsheets for firearm typical and nontypical, and archery typical and nontypical; for mule deer and whitetail and shows date animal was taken. The last six to eight years have been good years for deer hunting. We have a wonderful resource in the state and that allows us to make occasional mistakes and they recover.

Dan Stitt, Greenwood County – Personal opinion if pre-rut season, enabling poachers to go out and look for big deer; opening up Pandora's Box. Traffic starts about a month before the season, so think it is a mistake. Chairman Lauber – This was not a Wildlife and Parks initiative. It came out of legislature, and we were able to hone it down, mandated for at least two years. Not sure much affect one way or the other and don't believe extended whitetail season will either. Law Enforcement will have to be more vigilant during this time. Representative Larry Hibbard – Happened before I got up there. Have a lot of individuals who are meat hunters. When shoot button buck do they lose buck tag for that year? Fox – No. Chairman Lauber – Tender to eat, based on statistics not hurting trophy deer, but may hurt gender ratio. Fox – Close to even harvest ratio in Kansas and have for a number of years. We're just giving hunters more options. Hunters frequently select larger deer, young of year deer taken seems to be disproportionate; running well, not being demanding; hunters are selecting what they want to shoot. Mike Pearce – Unit 19 October season, how many years? Fox – Four or five years? Pearce – Percentage of harvest? Fox – Small percent, don't know exactly; hard to even detect that season was going on from harvest survey. Deer there are still being taken with archery equipment. That is why we canceled that and went with two-day season; use it or lose it. Pearce – Because of legislative involvement? Fox – No, we implemented it to help curtail vehicle accidents in that area. Pearce – Hunter orange requirement for all firearm deer seasons? Fox – Restricted to equipment type during that time period, unlike January season where all permits revert to WAO firearms; not during this two-day season. Hunters can use there either-sex permit, but don't expect them to.

Break

C. Workshop Session

1. Fishing Regulations - Doug Nygren, fisheries section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit E). Discussion on reference document, and this is the official workshop for changes for next year. We are recommending some minor changes on lakes in this area. We

do have length and creel limit changes for the Grand Osage Wildlife Area, which is the old army ammunition plant down by Parsons. We want to change largemouth bass to 13- to 18-inch slot limit. Not much concern from anglers when there are no changes on federal reservoirs. We do have a proposal to add four new lakes to float fishing areas: Elk City, Fall River, Glen Elder and Lovewell reservoirs for next year. At Howard-Polk Daniels Lake there should be slot length limit on largemouth bass only, did not intend to add spotted bass. Add Meade to trout Type 2 waters from November 1 to April 15; starting January 1. At the last meeting we had a presentation by Jessica on the fish ladder and canoe passage on the Ark River in Wichita and it has been a tremendous success. It has been a high profile addition to the city, but is causing new conflicts. People are trying to fish on fish ladder when people are trying to canoe or kayak down it. This is our first experience with a fish ladder and we looked at other states and can't find one that allows fishing at the ladder because the fish stack up there and are vulnerable. We want to add an amendment that says no person may fish by any method or collect bait within fish passage, fish ladder or fish way. That will reduce the conflict, and they will still be able to fish below the dam and other locations immediately below the fish ladder. I have actually observed fish moving upstream, so it is doing its job and a lot of people canoeing and kayaking there. Chairman Lauber – Has there been fishing in the ladder? Nygren – Closed by posted notice now, but there was in the beginning. Adding it to the reference document will make it more permanent. Chairman Lauber – Ever thought of increasing floatlines on other lakes? Nygren – Could, but would affect lakes privately owned. Dan Stitt – What about floatline fishing on Fall River? Nygren – Fee involved and have to view, unanchored floating lines. Stitt – Limit on number? Nygren – Eight. Have this on eight lakes now and haven't had any user conflicts so far on these floatlines. Jim Zaleski, Labette County tourism and President and CEO of Parsons Chamber of Commerce – Asking you to expand bass pass to limit of five instead of two, this would match creel limit. We can work with four fish. Challenge is running tournaments on lakes with special length limits. There are 341 lakes, rivers, strip pits and ponds, 35 of those lakes are 100 acres or greater. We are addressing 16 lakes that are 350 acres or greater where we want to change the bass pass limit to five fish. Current bass pass allows two fish over 15-inches but under the special length limit. If we had to only weigh in fish 21 inches or longer 18 inches or longer, at end of day with 25-30 anglers, we'd only be weighing in three to four fish. With bass pass expanded, we could have a real live weigh-in tournament, not a paper tournament. Not going to pull anyone from out-of-state with paper tournaments. From perspective of tournament fisherman and tourism; we want to spur discussion. Commissioner Budd – How many tournaments in Kansas each year? Zaleski – A lot, 24 for American Bass, Kansas State Federation holds several and dozens of small bass clubs that hold five or six a year. No bass brought in at end of tournament, paper only. Want to bring up to par. Nygren – Bass pass created a few years ago to help tournaments be more successful on lakes that have over 15-inch length limit. Anglers can bring in five fish, but only two could be short fish. Black bass pass costs \$12.50 and sell 500-600 a year; not a huge number that have utilized it. Not needed on 15-inch lake, but when 18-inch or a slot limit in place it helps. It is a season, no short bass in heat of summer when mortality would be high. Accept that they could eat legal fish, but most are released. There will be some mortality not related to heat of year. We don't allow the bass pass from June 15 to August 31. Don't know if changing the number will have a biological impact, taken care of that by limiting to cooler time of year. We have not discussed this, would like input from secretary and commission. Chairman Lauber – Paper tournaments are more complicated. Convinced not only social pressure, but honest effort to keep fish alive as long as they can, don't think any effect if four or five fish because will be

released at end of tournament. Zaleski – If there is mortality the angler loses a pound at weigh-in and must keep in creel. Two fishermen caught fish over 18 inches last week at Bone Creek. Bass pass would allow us to care for fish at higher level. Commissioner Budd – If selling 600 bass passes, add additional fish, if 1,800 fish and if 10 percent mortality that is 180 fish. Increase exposure to revenue and exposure to Kansas. Commissioner Doll – If all fish brought in have true weigh-in at end? Zaleski – Bring in people from out-of-state. Weighed, measured and certified on the water now rather than brought in and able to see other guys' fish at the end. Chairman Lauber – Live weigh in is much better; 10 percent mortality is huge, just because we increase from two to five, hook mortality would be the same, catch 20-a-day, but would be able to keep five instead of two. Commissioner Budd – What is downside? Nygren – Options available that other anglers wouldn't have on same lake at same time. Put specific weigh-in regulations in place. Minimized mortality on how tournaments are run. Commissioner Marshall – Consider using barbless hooks instead of treble hooks? Zaleski - Have 6,000 lures with barbs on them; don't see that change being made. Chairman Lauber – Not sure that would be conducive to what we are trying to accomplish, may go backwards. Nygren – There have been benefits in cold water fisheries, most research shows no excessive mortality, not have anything to do with what we are talking about here; we are talking about stress mortality, not hooking mortality. Don't know of any other states requiring that. Commissioner Wilson – Bass would throw lure if barbless. Didn't catch a lot of fish, the guy who won only caught three fish; not every boat in tournament will catch limit of bass; lot of other factors in that. Secretary Jennison – Would be willing to consider, but have not discussed with fisheries guys. Agency has component for tourism now; use to promote state, but will not harm natural resources. Chairman Lauber – Like to see reviewed to see if any issues. Nygren – Have report of when bass pass was first implemented. To have anything in place for next year would have to be voted on in October. Chairman Lauber – Like to get ball rolling and at least explore it.

2. Parks Regulations – Linda Lanterman, parks division director, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit F). We had a beginning balance this year, and we expect two more months of pretty good revenue; but slow months have set costs and have to prepare for those months. Our intent or desire is to establish a posted notice program that would allow for public input and align state parks with rest of fisheries and wildlife side of business. Other changes may include changes in fees; 2012 utility increase and doing away with second vehicle permit. We want to be strategic on pricing and funding. I gave you a handout on fee structure in cabins (Exhibit G). We stay at 50 percent occupancy or above; however the two obvious at Perry and Wilson at 90 percent. We have two more cabins going into Wilson, but will recommend an increase weekend prime season only – its \$95 at Wilson, and we'll make it \$115. Clinton is at \$115 and it is new. At Perry, fee structure is \$65, not new but modern cabins that KDOC put together, increase to \$85 during prime season weekends only, not affect during the week. Would like to be able to reduce those as needed, be more competitive on those fees. Commissioner Doll – What is number next to main part? Lanterman – Number of cabins. Commissioner Doll – How often booked? Lanterman – Generally, 365 days occupancy. Commissioner Dill – Two more cabins at Wilson; any more or limited area for placement? Lanterman – Look at occupancy. Don't have any at Meade or Elk City right now. Commissioner Doll – No debt service? Lanterman – Paid off. Craghead – Two cabins at Wilson were paid off, too. Commissioner Dill – Estimated cost? Craghead/Lanterman – Depending on site preparation, about \$45,000. Have expenses of 25 percent to 30 percent. Craghead – Building statistical database, getting actual cost

per cabin is difficult because utilities are not set up for each cabin separately. Be responsive to business demands and run more like a business. Because of verbiage in current state statutes, wanted to set up to, but not to exceed, wanted to be able to offer sales; but can't at this point. Commissioner Doll – Do you know how much you have to run for? Lanterman – Not all of them have their own meter, will be able to know at Clinton; will never have water values. Know what it costs to clean and we can do at a lower rate with camp hosts. Commissioner Doll – Goal is to break even. Lanterman – We need to make a little bit. Craghead – Have a business plan in place that will be effective, want to be self-sustaining; paying attention to operating costs. Commissioner Doll – Try to carve out your costs from data. Craghead – Compliment Assistant Secretary Workman on trying to get worksheets together for us. Lanterman – Brings in a different group, seeing high use of cabins. Looking at occupancy rates and trying to move to other areas. Doing well at Wilson. Commissioner Doll – Thought we didn't have any budget authority? Craghead – Right, but do have to set rates for these cabins. Have to be competitive. Commissioner Budd – If no debt service, revenue stream of 100 percent, 30 percent expenses where is 70 percent going? Lanterman – Ten percent of revenue stream still goes to Wildscape. Commissioner Budd – Forever? Tymeson – For 16 more years. Commissioner Budd – Sixty percent goes into account. Lanterman – Pay for mattresses, etc. Craghead – Cabin Fee Fund, portion out some to parks that have cabins. Lost significant state support, part of overall park operations. Commissioner Budd – How much is maintenance? Commissioner Budd – How much is net per year? Secretary Jennison – Only paid off a year ago and no numbers for electricity or utilities so can't really tell you those figures; before paid off 75 percent was going to Wildscape; so barely have a full year and have five or six cabins that were in process so don't have a full year of service on those. Trying to establish average of what electricity costs. Rates were set by Legislature's Rules and Regulations program, in hindsight I think we shot a little low and makes it difficult to react, so trying to see what we have to have to make them pay. Running extremely high occupancy rate on weekends, feel need to increase to see what we are making or not making. Good questions, and same questions we have. Commissioner Budd – Making sure fees we are raising them to is sufficient. Lanterman – Can make cabin registration 365 days in advance. Will start getting rentals for next summer in a few months. These two areas have high occupancy and we may have to come back again. Commissioner Doll – You need more flexibility to deal with day-to-day and month-to-month. Net 60 percent, what kind of revenue is that to department? Lanterman – Roughly about \$1 million a year. Commissioner Marshall – When someone makes reservation for cabin or camping spot, is high cancellation rate? Lanterman – Not very high, but some because of blue-green algae problems. Chairman Lauber – There are cancellation penalties. Commissioner Marshall – What is fee? Lanterman – One night rental. Commissioner Marshall – Need more cabins. Commissioner Wilson – Onset of building of cabins, understanding was this would be bigger than WFF and that is huge for us. Lanterman – Only have 115 cabins, and we were looking at over 150. Craghead – Would still like to get there. Encouraging us to be self-sufficient a lot sooner than we wanted to be, so can't build more right now. Commissioner Wilson – Hope we build more cabins. Lanterman – Need consensus? Commissioner Doll – What is recommendation? Lanterman – Wilson and Perry, \$115 and \$85 for prime weekends. Chairman Lauber – No objections.

3. Spring/Fall 2014 Turkey Regulations - Jim Pitman, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit H). KAR 115-5 and 6, both spring and fall. Background: have six management units match up with six hunt units and will allow us to better utilize data. Spring

generally has over 41,000 hunters, over 10,000 hunters in the fall; spring purchased over 73,000 permits, substantial increase; 14,261 for fall. Turkey populations suffered with record low production because of drought, better production last year. Two recommendations for fall 2014 bag limits, 2013 is already set. Reduce bag from four to one, in Units 3, 5 and 6 northeast southeast and south central). A couple of years ago the department adopted a strategy to help guide staff recommendations on wild turkey bag limits during both the spring and fall seasons. Second recommendation pertains to spring turkey seasons. Over the last few years, the popularity of archery hunting has greatly increased, which has led to some conflicts between youth/disabled and archery hunters during the spring season. The department believes the number of conflicts is likely to continue increasing if the season structure remains unchanged. We are recommending a change to season dates to create a youth/disabled season that provides at least one weekend each year free from competition with other hunters and we want to give them a viable archery-only season with at least one full weekend because of its growing popularity. We don't want to open any of the seasons prior to April 1, which is when the majority of the walk-in-hunting area (WIHA) tracts open to public access. To accomplish this it is necessary to move the start of the regular season back a few days which is what the department is recommending. The proposed change would impact pre-planned events like the 2014 Governor's One-shot Turkey Hunt. Proposed Wednesday opener, we have been in contact with Governor's hunt staff, and they support our proposed season date changes for the 2015 turkey season and beyond. The current recommendation is now to leave the spring turkey season structure as it is for the 2014 season. Proposed seasons for youth/disabled, archery-only and regular seasons will be: 2015, April 1-12, April 6-12, April 13-May 31; 2016, April 1-10, April 4-10, April 11-May 31; 2017, April 1-9, April 3-9, April 10-May 31; 2018, April 1-15, April 9-15, April 16-May 31; 2019, April 1-14, April 8-14, April 15-May 31; and 2020, April 1-12, April 6-12, April 13-May 31 (For youth, start April 1 and run through first full weekend and start archery following Monday and run through full weekend, regular season would start third Wednesday).

Commissioner Doll – When going from four to one in those three areas, any feedback from hunters? Pitman – No, when numbers were dropping off we were moving in that direction, but didn't have good harvest strategy in place to move forward in pre-planned fashion and people were asking for that. Numbers are coming back, but hunt success rate is still in 40 to 50 percent range (7-8 years ago 65 to 70 percent success). Reducing bag limit won't bring turkey back alone. It will take good weather and habitat. Chairman Lauber – This is 2014 season and in Units 3, 5 and 6 it will be one bird in fall now? Pitman – Yes. Commissioner Budd – How long opened on Wednesday? Pitman – Ever since I have been in Kansas, at least 15 years, not sure exactly when. Pulled some of numbers for youth/disabled and archery during special seasons; in 2007, when season first started had 7,800 youth/disabled and 4,500 archers; in 2012, 2,800 youth and 6,800 archers; 63 percent decline in youth and 50 percent increase in archers; feel increase in archers is affecting youth numbers. Commissioner Budd – What are you looking for from us? Pitman – Supportive of us going down the path of separating youth/disabled and archery seasons and general framework of seasons. Pearce – What is success rate of archers? Pitman – About 50 to 60 percent for firearms, don't know for archery. I summarize success for hunters as a whole. Pearce – Provide what percentage shoot two birds, three birds, etc? Pitman – Yes, those who shoot four is only about two or three percent of all fall turkey hunters, those who shoot one, two or three is 15 to 20 percent. Management strategy allows us to move either way if numbers come back up. Chairman Lauber – Seems like big drop from four to one. Pitman – If only reducing from four to three, only reducing harvest by a couple of percent. Pearce – What is frameworks

for season? Pitman - For youth/disabled, start April 1 and run through first full weekend and start archery following Monday and run concurrent with youth/disabled through full weekend; substantial change would be regular firearm season would start third Wednesday (moved from second Wednesday). Commissioner Wilson – If we wanted to know something about what happened in 1970 are there any archives? Sheila Kemmis – In commission minutes if discussed at a meeting, organization structure of commissioners was different at that time and may, or may not, be minutes there, not sure they had full-time secretary. Commissioner Wilson – My point is what we are discussed has been discussed before so there has to be some history. Tymeson – April 1 for youth, archery Monday after first Saturday, language says second Wednesday after first Saturday, not really third Wednesday. Commissioner Budd – Why setting so far out? Tymeson – Not setting dates, only framework language to vote on in October, so we don't have to set each year. Commissioner Budd – How could we change it? Pitman – We discuss it every year. Chairman Lauber – Have time to come up to vote, first in general discussion, then workshop and then to public hearing; have three public meetings to pass anything. Pitman – In this case concerned with Governor's Hunt, they plan a year in advance. Commissioner Budd – If setting season dates through 2020, yet come back every year seems repetitive to change every year. Tymeson – If we take no action in the future these would be the dates. Pearce – Opening on Wednesday, these are Mondays; did not get second hand out (Exhibit I). Tymeson – Second Wednesday after the first Saturday, right now regulation says first Wednesday. Mike Martin – Talk with turkey hunters to move seasons back? Pitman – Your opportunity to do that. Martin – Warmer last year. Pitman – Changes from year to year. Chairman Lauber – At meeting at Cabelas, done this way because of upswing in archery hunters is part of reason done this way. Some years makes a big difference, some it doesn't. Provide opportunity for all three groups and make youth hunt more appealing. Unknown Person - Agree with that, bring in youth. Chairman Lauber – Second Wednesday may not work and may have to do something else in the future, see what we can do based on Jim's recommendation. No alternative recommendation to bring forward. Stitt – In 1974, 7,800 youth? Pitman – In 2007, 1974 was first spring season; looked at first special season in 2007. Stitt - What ages can they start at? Tymeson – No minimum age to hunt, youth are 15 and under. Stitt – Can you lower age limits? Pitman – There is no minimum age limit; but numbers of youth hunters is steadily trending down.

4. Youth License and Permit Fees - Mike Miller, information production section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit J). Began discussing this at last meeting; looking at what Nebraska and Missouri are doing. They significantly decreased youth permit prices and saw significant increases in numbers sold; however, they did see revenue declines, but expect those are short term. Nonresident youth under 16 can buy half price hunting license, but full price for deer and turkey permits. Looked again at nonresident youth deer permit price of \$75 rather than \$150; \$101,000 drop in revenue, if we sell 453. Looked at spreadsheet from Nebraska that showed big game permit sales, price and revenue starting in 2008. Reduced price in 2009 for 2010 season. The interesting factor was nonresident youth turkey and nonresident adult turkey; went from \$85 nonresident youth turkey, in 2008 sold 196, revenue was \$116,000; went to \$5 permit in 2010, sold 1,092, for a revenue decrease of \$11,000; but they more than made up for the loss with revenue from the sale of nonresident adult permits. Nonresident adult was \$85, sold 6,500 in 2008 and 9,700 in 2010. We are limited on number of nonresident deer permits we can sell, but could see increase in turkey. Only looking at a few years where kids are going to start hunting, then start paying adult prices; so revenue losses would be short term if you

can get these kids hunting. Commissioner Budd – Big step at getting youth involved.
Commissioner Dill – Commend you for this recommendation.

VII. RECESS AT 4:40 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE AT 7:00 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

B. General Discussion (continued)

Linda Lanterman – Introduced Miss Kansas 2013, Pratt holds Miss Kansas program each year. She is the voice for KDWP, especially the parks. Will post her travels on our website.

4. Outdoor Recreation - Miss Kansas, Theresa Vail, presented this report to the Commission. Partner, usual hobbies, I am an avid hunter. Reach out to younger women. My dad took me hunting when I was a kid, I have five brothers and none of them hunt. Found out it was time to spend with my dad alone, hard to do as one of nine kids. Ended up loving it and it is part of who I am, got inner-confidence from hunting. Encourage girls to get outdoors, not just hunting. On Saturday booked to teach eight little girls how to shoot archery. Looking forward to working more with the agency.

5. Lesser Prairie Chicken Federal Listing Update - Keith Sexson, Assistant Secretary, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit K). Since last meeting USFWS made it official that decision won't be made until March 31. Another milestone, at WAFWA, endorsed business plan to put out plan, foundation will take responsibility for that. Keeps states in driver's seat for managing a trust species. Our goal is to affect not-warranted status. Fifth version will be submitted to USFWS next week, one was business plan to provide conservation and take issue; hopefully that will be approved. The metrics for mitigation have been laid out and the Service has assured us those will be used. Chairman Lauber – Less likely to be a listing? Sexson – One hurdle is to sign up properties. Oil and gas industries are looking at signing up their properties, literally millions of acres and that will be a big jump. States feel good as we go forward and with industry supporting the plan, it looks good. Commissioner Budd – In Kansas? Sexson – It is five states and there are focal areas within each state that we are concentrating on, which will help not impact all of the acres in those states.

C. Workshop Session (continued)

5. Webless Migratory Game Bird Possession Limits – Rich Schultheis, waterfowl biologist, handed out a reference document (Exhibit L). In June, spoke about this, will amend the

possession limit on migratory birds from two times the daily bag limit to three times the daily bag limit as per USFWS and will reflect 25-19 (doves 30 to 45), 25-20 (sandhill cranes 6 to 9) and 25-21 snipe, rails 25 to 75 and woodcock 6 to 9). This was just passed June 26. Will be holding a conference call on August 29 to vote on migratory birds, has to be done before September 1. Chairman Lauber – Not controversial for sportsman. Tymeson – We need a quorum on that date.

D. Public Hearing

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

1. Late Migratory Bird Seasons – Tom Bidrowski, waterfowl biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit N, PowerPoint – Exhibit O, Survey – Exhibit P). USFWS frameworks set annually, passed today in DC. There was delayed spring in 2013 and May pond counts are up 25 percent. Total 45.6 million ducks, decrease from last year, but up from average; 13 million birds. Scaup decreased from six to three and from two times the daily bag limit to three times. We will be in liberal frameworks as in the past. There are two units in Kansas: High Plains unit, west of 283 and Low Plains, east of 283, and have one zone in High Plains, three in Low Plains. Historical data is supplied in briefing book.

The High Plains unit was initiated in 1972, the 96 days in this unit is one less than frameworks because of Migratory Bird Treaty Act limitation of 107 days. Additional days must start no earlier than December 7. In Kansas, waterfowl are counted at 38 locations once a month and this information provides population/migration trends. Regular season will run October 5 to December 2 (Monday), an 18-day split and begin again December 21 to January 26; youth season will be September 28 and 29. The low Plains unit (area east of hwy 283) was split into early and late zone in 1996 due to different habitat types and migration patterns of areas in this zone.

(discussed slides from PowerPoint)

Commissioner Budd – How did we vote on this in the past? Tymeson – As a consensus; single votes for each zone might be easier to follow along.

Commissioner Marshall moved to pass staff recommendation on High Plains Duck and Youth Unit Seasons. Commissioner Wilson seconded.

The roll call vote on High Plains Unit as recommended was as follows (Exhibit Q):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented for the High Plains unit passed 7-0.

Low Plains, Early – Commissioner Budd – Roger, alternative B still best for your zone?
 Commissioner Marshall – Tom submitting best scientific evidence he can. Some want to hunt later in season, this doesn't take into consideration the river. Bidrowski – The river is in the late zone. Commissioner Dill – Why do we have so many other options? Bidrowski – Selection of what all the seasons could be. Chairman Lauber – Is alternative B closest to staff recommendation? Bidrowski – Some freezing up and peak migration, gambling on what weather will be. Chairman Lauber – Felt Commissioner Marshall made good point at last meeting. Doll – lean towards B, either one good. Wilson – Marshall lives and hunts out there and only a week.

Commissioner Dill moved to pass Alternative B for the Low Plains – Early Duck and Youth Unit Seasons. Commissioner Wilson seconded.

The roll call vote on Low Plains Early Unit as recommended was as follows (Exhibit R):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented Low Plains - Early passed 7-0.

Low Plains, Late – Chairman Lauber – That was survey last year? Bidrowski – From 2009/2010 season, prior to SE zone, most satisfied by SE zone. Can't change zone for three more years (late smaller, SE bigger). Paul Davis, Chanute – Is any reason why early teal, is that statewide. Bidrowski – Extra harvest opportunities, can't zone.

Commissioner Wilson moved to pass the staff recommendation for the Low Plains – Late Duck and Youth Unit Season. Commissioner Hayzlett seconded.

The roll call vote on Low Plains Late Unit as recommended was as follows (Exhibit S):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented for the Low Plains - Late zone passed 7-0.

Low Plains, Southeast – Commissioner Doll – Carry over from last meeting, do right thing, had frequent communication, preferred later start, 8-10 emails for, and a couple who did not prefer that. When asked when they would like to start season, on survey two-thirds wanted later one-

third wanted early start. Bidrowski – Preferred opening day, strong indication for earlier. Commissioner Doll – Bulk of season? Bidrowski – Use poll system, season November 14 to January 26, same structure as last year, 43.2 percent. Commissioner Doll – However, department is recommending November 2; seems Alternative B would fit more of the preference? Bidrowski – No, there are a lot of variables other than just date. Commissioner Doll – Wouldn't that override all of the other variables. Commissioner Budd – Biggest concern last year, wasn't from majority of hunters, Thursday opener was majority of loud hunters. Voiced opinion to hunt something early and not conflict with pheasant season. My recommendation would have three openers (youth, November 2 and then November 16), gives more opportunity. Think November 14 to January 26 is what I would want personally, but best compromise would be Alternative B. Never knew what preference was for late season because we never had one. This will appease as many people as we can and we will have another opportunity to look at this again next year. Weather patterns are a lot different in the southeast. Jim Chappel - Thank you for coming to southeast Kansas. Lot of us had no clue what you were doing, most comments made over coffee. Didn't have time together with all of those other areas, don't like that, put together a petition (Exhibit). We never received a survey. Bidrowski – Sent out to 6,500, 3,300 this year. Chappel – Read petition and stated date they want. Pearce – How many names on that? Mike Martin – Came to Chanute in 1971, teach wildlife conservation and others (taught for 20 years). Community appreciated this and taught hunter safety too. Two students here who will provide insight on how early season will be beneficial (Lane and Colton – Went to St. Paul, all variety of ducks, our last year as youth hunters. Like early season.) Martin – Youth don't have money to go out and buy insulated clothing, hunt during pleasant weather of early season. Majority of duck hunters, youth quit when it freezes up. Scott Dirks, area chair for DU in Chanute area – hunting for 20 years, birds got still and hard to hunt last year, with split season ducks settle down and then we are able to hunt again. Paul Davis, Chanute – Kids will carry on tradition when we are gone, hunting ducks for 65 years, some good seasons, some bad. Last year, the first part of November there were thousands of ducks early, all gone when season started. Usually middle of December water freezes up and kids don't want to hunt anymore when it is cold. If no access to river no place to hunt, outfitters like late season. Sam Bates, Chanute – 43 percent want November 14, over 50 percent want it earlier than that. Tony Morgan, Altoona – Chart speaks for majority of hunters. If split, there will be birds here. Jim Keller, Pittsburg – Thursday opener last year was terrible, needs to open on weekend, like Option D. Bob Davis, Olathe – Our 40 year, migration patterns have changed, largest amount of birds stay north. Statistics for last 12 years, first mallard (shoot all ducks, mostly gadwall last year) hunted 10 times in November, one year in October, and one mid to late December. Last year did okay with really poor conditions, trends of last 40 years, opener was perfect last year, don't take away our January. In Coffey County have Wolf Creek, good field hunting, good ponds. Recommend November 14, Option B would be second vote. Unknown person, Burlington – Why was southeast zone developed in the first place? Chairman Lauber – USFWS doesn't allow zone boundary change except for every five years, personally would like to see smaller southeast zone. Unknown person – People follow trend of what season is before? Bidrowski – Hunted and liked it or what memory was. Marais des Cygnes also has a power plant and we try to make everyone happy, don't do away with late or early hunting. Mark Metcalf – Prefer late season, birds here in December and January, hunt about 25 days a year. Jorlan Shinkle – Like late season, don't take away January. Chappel – Agree with state, first week in December is when we get our ducks. We hunt ducks, not just mallards. Commissioner Budd – Glad we are here in southeast zone, my understanding is duck

meeting has been in Great Bend for a number of years. Got a glare in survey when majority say they want a late season and SE zone was created to give us a later season. Martin – Did survey a year ago, this year didn't get a survey. Lot of people did not get a survey this year, discussing survey data. Commissioner Budd – This is a random survey, don't send to everyone. Matt Morgan – Pushing for late season, 8 year old daughter, hunted below freezing season and she stuck with it. Chairman Lauber – Need to get to some type of season, like early migrants. Last year contentious and my side lost. This year at a previous meeting, a lot of discussion when we get down to ducks; asked what they would think about having an early weekend. Compared to last year, like early November weekend. Got communication from both sides. Commissioner Budd's recommendation does provide an olive branch. Commissioner Doll – Group who handed out petition, don't like Alternative B, like staff recommendation right? Jim Chappel – Yes. Commissioner Doll – What about Alternative F? Chairman Lauber – Keep as much in January as we can. Commissioner Doll – The later in season the better. Chappel – Staff recommendation with split would be best alternative. Commissioner Wilson – Mr. Chappel, how do you keep water open? Chappel – Heater and break ice. Commissioner Wilson – When starts freezing, ice doesn't stay on. Chairman Lauber – Alternative B or G has best chance to pass. Commissioner Budd – Basing this on last year's brutal meeting, number one complaint was opening on a Thursday. Alternative B is best solution.

Commissioner Budd moved to pass Alternative B for the Low Plains – SE Duck and Youth Unit Season. Commissioner Wilson seconded.

Commissioner Hayzlett – What is recommended, two-day youth shoot, trying to decide between staff and Alternative B? Chappel – Staff recommendation makes most sense.

The roll call vote on Low Plains SE Unit as recommended was as follows (Exhibit T):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	No

The motion as presented Low Plains - SE passed 6-1.

Canada Geese – Chairman Lauber – Why, when we can get eight birds, are we only increasing to six? Afraid of reaction of public? Bidrowski – Larger bag limit is harder to fill, more social than biological. Chairman Lauber – Not like geese are in trouble, so why not eight? For a long time only once did we split crane opener and dark geese, desire for later dates; have 400 crane hunters and 14,000 geese hunters. Bob Davis - Six is plenty. Pearce – What are other states in Flyway saying? Bidrowski – Eight would bring us to 8 percent to 9 percent harvest. Nebraska adopted five. Pearce – Harvest rate is 10 percent maximum. Bidrowski – Based on small bodied geese, shortgrass and tallgrass prairie populations (cackling Canada goose populations). Commissioner Marshall – Traditionally white-fronts show up, never been season this late, need to defend farmer's crops; February crop damage would be greater than November crop damage, no corn

for cattle to get on. Makes no sense to me. Commissioner Budd – What would you suggest Roger? Bidrowski – Alternative B would be close to what we had last year. Commissioner Marshall – B would make most sense to us. Commissioner Budd – You are more concerned with predation factor there, that doesn't affect us down here. Commissioner Marshall – What doesn't staff like about Alternative B? Bidrowski – Target more geese; hear more about.

Commissioner Marshall moved to pass Alternative B for Canada, White-front and Light Goose Seasons. Pearce – When are most geese harvested? Bidrowski – End around February 9 or so, most are shot in mid-December, January period. **Commissioner Budd seconded.**

Bidrowski – Point of clarification, for Canada, no change for white-fronted season. Need Alternative B on both Canada and white-fronted, to run concurrently need same for both.

Commissioner Budd moved for Alternative B on white-fronted and Canada and light to have simultaneous closing. *Discussion.* **Marshall withdrew original motion and Budd withdrew second. Commissioner Budd moved for both seasons to run simultaneously, Commissioner Dill second, with clarification of daily bag of six.** Pearce – Concern for farmer's crops or season you prefer? Commissioner Marshall – Both are true statements. Bidrowski – Conservation season would start immediately after.

The roll call vote on Canada, White-front and Light Goose as recommended was as follows (Exhibit U):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented Canada, White-front and Light Goose passed 7-0.

Falconry – Adopt federal falconry regulations with regular seasons the same as migratory game bird seasons.

Commissioner Doll moved to pass staff recommendations on Falconry Migratory Game Bird Seasons. Commissioner Wilson seconded.

The roll call vote on Falconry Migratory Game Bird as recommended was as follows (Exhibit V):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented Falconry Migratory Game Bird passed 7-0.

XII. Old Business

None

XIII. Other Business

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

August 29, 2013 – Conference Call (10:00 am)

October 17, 2013 – Hutchinson (KS Cosmosphere; tour 9:00 am - Underground Salt Mines)

January 9, 2014 – Winfield (Southwestern College)

March 20, 2014 - Topeka

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)