

**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
Commission Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 20 2017  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism  
Basement Conference Room, Pratt, Kansas**

**Approved** Subject to  
**6/22/17** Commission  
Approval

The April 20, 2017 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1:00 p.m. at the KDWPT Headquarters, Pratt. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Ward Cassidy, Emerick Cross, Tom Dill, Gary Hayzlett, Aaron Rider and Harrison Williams 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 - Added Emergency Management Update, Item #1 under General Discussion and renumbered following items (Exhibit B).

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE March 23, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Discussion with member from general public earlier, told corrections made by Commission. Misspelling of name, Coffman, first name not Lucy, asked to use initials. Commissioner Ward Cassidy moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Gary Hayzlett second. *Approved*. (Minutes – Exhibit C).

**V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Rider – Contacted by constituent regarding coyote populations, talked to Matt; problems in southeast Kansas, population higher and influx of animals and looking for ways to curb that. They suggested bounty of some sort. Coyote hunters are a dying breed. In last 20 years, access not what it used to be and don't want dogs running through property. Increasing population is causing ranchers to have problems with cattle being harassed and calves being killed. With budget concerns not sure if that would be route to go, but might look at night vision or something along those lines. Commissioner Hayzlett – In past years the county offered the bounty if they had it in their budget; had bounty for years in Kearney County. Chairman Lauber – In past you could go to the courthouse and get \$2, not much incentive today. Couple of problems I see, not sure bounty sends appropriate message we want to see and hear. It is true coyote populations are greater and causing significant damage, but in other areas a balance and comfortable with that. From sociological perspective, not sure I like the bounty idea. Matt Peek – Coyote problems best handled on case-by-case basis rather than within county. The department

helps fund an extension specialist out of K-State and you can refer them to Charlie Lee and he will work with them on depredation. Various problems with coyotes, but small number offending and those can be removed, and next group of animals may not cause the same problems. Chairman Lauber – A good friend of mine's father who was a pilot and right after World War II, state of New Mexico gave him an award for helping to control eagles. They were causing problems in sheep country and there was a bounty. Bounties are an old thing; not sure we want to go that way. Peek – With year-long season that helps and I would disagree that coyote hunters are a dying breed. Coyote calling has increased in popularity. The opportunity exists to find people who are willing to come in and trap and hunt. Commissioner Dill – We don't have statistics or measurements do we? Peek – Indices show increase in population. Commissioner Cassidy – What does mange do to the population. We have a lot of mange in my area. Peek – It's variable. When mange comes through the animals may come into barns in the winter and around houses trying to stay warm. Small effect in Kansas, but more up north. Only coyotes that reproduce when mange comes through are those that don't have it because pups born of coyotes with mange die. Will work its way through the area and persist at lower density eventually.

## **VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

### **Welcome to Pratt**

Keith Sexson – Snacks and drinks furnished by office employee group. Introduced local dignitaries and talked about lake and baseball, softball and soccer fields. Appreciate relationship we have with these people.

County – Joe Reynolds, Commissioner – In 1905, the county deeded 12 acres to wildlife and parks area we have today. I didn't know that before. Appreciate all you have done for us.

Appreciate county and city people, this office is vital to our area, helps with overall community.

City – Doug Meyer, Vice-Mayor – Thanks for management of wildlife and parks. We don't take this office for granted, want to keep it in Pratt. Thanks for being here.

### **A. Secretary's Remarks**

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Robin Jennison, Secretary, presented this update to the Commission. I have three handouts (Exhibit D). Should put an asterisk on the report this month, Kyle (Jackson) reported last month on new license system and money collected goes into a suspended account and takes time to get into the right accounts. Made estimates in March, not all money in proper place yet. Park fee fund (PFF) continues to respond well, significant increase over last year, 10 percent ahead. Note PFF balance reduction, trying to increase balance. In governor's budget get EDIF money and Governor took \$500,000 of EDIF money this fiscal year, in January in his budget, expected to take money from EDIF and had to quit with \$480,000 left, still \$20,000 short. Add \$400,000 to balance and that is where we operated in the past. Steady in Cabin fee fund in last few years, paid off debt to Wildscape, now get 90 percent of revenues from cabin rentals rather than 25 percent. Downturn started in January. PFF graph similar to past several years. We hope we will not be affected with EDIF money in FY18 and FY19, slightly below last year and if we can mirror that the rest of the year we will be in same place as we came into FY17; no talk of taking money right now, but could lose that \$500,000 again next year if state budget doesn't improve. Wildlife fee fund (WFF), \$1.1 million is what we believe would have been put in there, have money just not in correct place, \$13.2 million last year; \$12.4

million year before; have \$9 million balance as of end of March. New on this report, other numbers are cash balance in WFF federal, where PR and DJ money flows into, \$590,000; we can run those funds in negative throughout the year, but have to be positive at the end of the year; may have to use WFF to bring those balances up if we need to. Keith Sexson – In early days in grants we spent the money and then get reimbursed from PR/DJ and wildlife grants. In old days, reimbursements would go back to fund they came from, WFF. Legislature decided they wanted separate accounts to show federal fee funds, so added line item; process the same but reimbursements went back into WFF federal. When SMART came along, established separate fund for every grant. On last page, each line represents a different federal fund where we get reimbursement. Don't spend fee fund money before we can get a reimbursement; grants are 25 percent wildlife funds and 75 percent federal funds and we maintain a negative balance and in theory bring it back to zero at the end of the year. What has happened for instance in 3418, Pittman Robertson fund generally runs in the negative, in FY11, had budget issues and took monies from WFF federal and put money in WFF and set us to zero as we started the process, don't have all of reimbursements in at the end of a fiscal year because not all of the monies are reimbursed and have to balance from WFF; as reimbursements take place on previously closed grants we try to pay back that WFF federal account. Juggling finances and trying to get back to having a balance in there. Technically it all works out. Most of you know PR dollars that have come in have been healthy as result of firearm and ammunition sales, \$12 to \$13 million a year, and \$5 million a year on fishing side. Taken advantage of those funds to run our programs and don't let any of that money revert back to the feds. Negative figures mean waiting on reimbursements. Jennison – When SMART went live at beginning of FY 11 had to populate these funds with money. Had to go in and make an educated guess on how much money had to go into that and since then some adjustments were made. One year we did bring up and by end of federal fiscal year at end of October, may not have enough to get funds back up until then. Coffman – Federal funds? Jennison – Making commission aware of how we do those funds. Coffman – Renewable grants? Jennison – Federal funds used for those grants, specific to grant. Coffman – Do you read them? Jennison – No, but somebody does. Commission Harrison – Explain PR/DJ funds? Jennison – Monies collected from hunters and anglers, calculation based on number of hunters/anglers (guns, ammunition and fishing equipment); does not come from taxes other than what hunters and anglers pay. Chairman Lauber – Spend on specific projects? Jennison – Audited every three years to make sure spending money appropriated.

2. 2017 Legislature – Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission. On legislative break, comes back May 1. Have 15 to 16 bills on website, track 120. This is the first year of two-year cycle. Three big things left to accomplish before they leave. Signed budget, have to do FY19 and FY20. Seven department initiatives, three signed by Governor. SB 24 – department initiative designating channel catfish as state fish. SB 25 – remove requirement for public hearing and have dynamic pricing of cabins. Provisions were added to another bill we were not comfortable with. It made it through Senate but not House. SB 26 – vessel fee cap increase, signed by the Governor and we will come back with proposal for the commission sometime in the future. SB 77 – would rename bison herd at Mined Land WA in Crawford County as the “Bob Grant Bison Herd,” on general orders; the companion bill is HB 2098, which passed the House early in the session, on consent calendar and will likely be passed when they come back. SB 162 – dangerous regulated animals (adding nonhuman primates and wolves); had hearing in House but didn't go anywhere. SB 240 – came in late in session,

championed locally, authorizes purchase of 1,100 acres in Sherman County from Pheasants Forever, land is adjacent to Sherman County WA, on Senate general orders. HB 2191 – department initiative relating to licenses, permits and stamps to clarify suspended license means paper license; stuck in conference committee, but signed by the Governor April 7. HB 2192- renaming Lake Scott SP to Historic Lake Scott SP, signed by the Governor. HB 2193 – boating safety had a hearing, but didn't go anywhere. HB 2199 – would have allowed counties to regulate conservation easements, no hearing this year, similar to other bills introduced previously. HB 2207 – requiring written permission for persons hunting, shooting, fishing, furharvesting or pursuing bird or animal on private property; opposed by department in that form, amended and sent to House floor and re-referred to committee. HB 2208 – transferable landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-own-land big game permit; attempted to add to cabin fee bill and scuttled everything to get rid of it. HB 2276 – was companion bill to dangerous animals Senate bill 162. HB 2363 - concerning state surplus property, we opposed as several of our public lands were listed as surplus; didn't go anywhere. Commissioner Rider – Transferable deer permit didn't go anywhere, dead for this year? Tymeson – Not yet, never dead until end of session; successful in stopping it twice. Coffman – Governor signed some bills on April 7, 2017? Tymeson – He signed three, SB 76 on April 5, HB2191 on April 7, and HB 2192 on March 28. Commissioner Williams – Come to the microphone when asking questions.

## **B. General Discussion**

1. Emergency Management Update – Major Dan Heskett, Law Enforcement assistant director, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit E). Department personnel have always responded to emergency calls on our managed lands and waters; however, in 2005, two crews went to Gulf Port, Mississippi to assist with Hurricane Katrina. Shortly after that, retired Colonel Jones tasked me to set up emergency management system with connections to Kansas Department of Emergency Management (KDEM). Set up by retired Captain Rob Ladner, Topeka. We supplied information on our resources, from state park locations that could set up shelters and hospitals, agency offices which could be used for command and operation centers, heavy equipment for debris removal and wild land fire suppression to water and land based search and rescue capabilities including K-9s and law enforcement. None of list would amount to anything without employees who are willing to drop normal job duties and assist citizens of Kansas or in the nation. Dedication displayed in March of this year when resources and personnel helped fight uncontrolled prairie fires; declaration of emergency by the Governor which mobilized KDEM, which in turn contacted Captain Jason Sawyers. He requested resources and personnel from multiple divisions. Resources began trying to fight the fires, 21 separate fires at one time. Response was true testimony of agency employees: 54 from department, with six from parks; 24 from public lands; one from wildlife division; and 24 from law enforcement (named all, listed in Exhibit E). List includes those who reported under Emergency Management Directive. Quote by Neil deGrasse Tyson: “Even with all of our technology and the inventions that make modern life so much easier than it once was, it takes just one big natural disaster to wipe all that away and remind us that, here on Earth, we are still at the mercy of nature.” I plan on giving my crew (law enforcement) a challenge coin during break and you are welcome to interact with them if you wish.

2. Tourism Update – Linda Craghead, assistant secretary of Parks and Tourism

divisions, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit F – Earth Day and Faces of Kansas flyers; Kansas sunflower seeds for planting; Kansas map; and publications). It's been a busy first part of calendar year with a lot of new things going on. Did website redesign, travelks.com; doesn't have a lot of verbiage, inspire by pictures and photography to capture desire to travel to Kansas. Other thing we have done is make it responsive, don't have to maintain two separate websites; incorporated separate mobile site for phone now. Persona focus, 10 different, hunting, fishing, outdoor activities, family activities, bird watching who have a whole different desire than those that hunt and fish. We also have incorporated Crowdriff, only eight people on team, work with 105 counties and municipalities in those counties and interact and get fresh photography on regular basis. Try to capture what, have multiple galleries on website, for instance sunset gallery, and has comments from constituents; capture best friend telling you what to see and do in Kansas. Also, hunting gallery, lot of turkeys right now, pictures don't automatically go in, we search by hash tags hunt KS and go through and identify pictures we are trying to promote and incorporated in state park site also. Enables us to communicate with that person, social aggregator pulls all of them into one site and ask permission to use on website, send note to show they are on travelks website, which they share on Facebook and twitter. Now team of eight becomes hundreds of thousands to inspire people to come to Kansas to hunt, fish, experience a sunset, etc. Started a travelks app and working closely with other agencies in the state; Cargill wanted something and millennials want apps to know where they are at in conjunction to something. If you go to app store and search for Kansas tourism this app will come up and is free to the user and if you have your locator turned on it will put up food, etc., in the area, it is geo-located. Information comes from our website, laid out in different format on website, easier to find things in the area you are. Can go offline and information is there for those with poor signal; also video accessible. Working on major campaign to get people engaged, #noplacelikeks is the motto agreed on across the state. Encouraging people to use a hashtag and picture with most likes for the month will get used in digital advertising nationally and internationally. Professional photographers don't like it but most people do. Kicked it off with an Instameet event, an opportunity to share (Instagram) photos for example. Went out and looked at Instagram to see who the major influencers were, the ones with the highest number of followers, and did an event on Easter Saturday and had over 70 people present, partnered with City of Lindsborg and had Jim Richardson, National Geographic photographer, came and talked about how to use your phone as a key tool in photography efforts; took them to Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, Coronado Heights, took them around town, and many of them went out to the state park and promoted those things. We had eight VIPs with heavy following and had specific things we wanted them to capture so they could message out to their followers. Had over 3.5 million followers with those 70 people and they are excited and ready for the next one. Utilized Kansas bucket list campaign, successful, over 300 communities nominated, via social media, for top 70 communities and narrowed to top 10. Have responsibility to promote Kansas as a whole, every town, no matter their size. Keying all information for every new restaurant, hotel or attraction would be impossible for our small team; work with communities to key that information in, to upload into our system. Found we were missing a lot of information so working on implementing an aggregator to connect with city/community websites, link to those sites and pull information in; excited about time savings. Implemented dashboard to analyze data all the time to show if trending up or down, concerns or items to be noted. It is maintained on website and can be utilized by our partners or entire agency. Gave bag of publications to you (Exhibit F): Visitors guide, work with Meredith Publications on that; Kansas! Magazine produced quarterly with over

20,000 subscribers; outdoors guide, print 125,000 copies, distribute 40,000 with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks magazine and Kansas! Magazine; State Parks guide; and Kansas Byways guide; and a lot of other things including making sure the legislators understand what we do. Recently we had an event, brought 10 communities together, only nine could come, and took to Meredith Communications in Des Moines, Iowa. They also own KCTV 5 in Kansas City area, produce Midwest Living, Better Homes and Gardens, All Recipes, 14 or 15 different publications they own and are looking at buying Time Magazine. We took communities there so editors could come together and find out what's special about Kansas. Phenomenal response and expect a lot of coverage. Have a meeting with our international team, we have two representatives who work for us, one from UK and one from Austria/Germany/Switzerland area; they are here looking at new product so they can "sell" Kansas. We partner with Oklahoma, important for people who work for us to understand us. They are excited about birders (they're called twitchers in Europe), we push that we are on Central Flyway for North American continent; developing programs and they are bring a group this fall to see where they want to lead expedition to bird watch, spend 10-14 days here. Another thing they are working on, worked with organization with Historical Harley dealership, we will be home to the only Evil Knieval museum with soft opening May 9; working with them to begin renting motorcycles for travel, excited about that. Finalizing details for three TV shows for upland game this fall. Putting bid in for Pheasant Fest for Wichita. Flint Hills Nature Trail, completed eight bridges along that thoroughfare, have 100 miles of trail accessible, but not finished, but plan for trail opening October 7 that Governor will be part of; will have 100 mile bike ride, 50 mile bike ride, 25 mile bike ride as well as a 100 mile relay run. Awarded bid for new marina store at Cheney State Park and installation and fuel dock and rental slips at Cheney. Working on shoreline project at Glen Elder and new shower buildings at Wilson, El Dorado and Eisenhower; 10 new 3-utility campsites at Cedar Bluff along with 40 upgraded sites. When Robin talks about park fee fund that is down not only for the reasons he talked about, but we made conscious decision to invest some money; mostly money comes from grants, LWCF, BOR and Recreational Trails grants leverage as much money as we can to do what we are doing. New campground at Prairie Dog and new water tower; have 62 new sites at Hillsdale; new shower houses at Wilson, El Dorado and Eisenhower. Linda Lanterman spoke to Congressional Committee on how federal government can improve their efficiencies, she was selected because of what are able to do at our state parks. We have Saturday as park clean up day at Fall River, Glen Elder, Hillsdale, Meade and Kaw River, still time to sign up, love to have big team to help. Working at El Dorado on Dam Music Festival, first event similar to Country Stampede at Tuttle, July 28 and 29. National Tourism week is May 7-13. Thank you for what you do in wildlife, state parks, and communities.

3. Park Regulations – Linda Lanterman, Parks Division director, presented this report to the Commission. Still working on new fee structure for state parks, counting on senate bill to go through, but it did not, hope to present next time on some better ways to maneuver our state parks into more effective future for our pricing purposes. Linda did a great job announcing what is going on in our state parks. We are on our 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year with AmeriCorps program, a federal program put in early during the Clinton administration; we put in application for another year; provides 70 volunteers in state park system and also provides disaster response; about a \$1 million program, with 50 percent match, invaluable to us. Have several members in Pratt that I put at Green Recreational Trail; gave bluebird boxes to each of Commissioners that our AmeriCorps workers here in Pratt put together. Glad you are here in Pratt; seems like we are

growing, today Casey's opened. Commissioner Aaron Rider went with me to Washington DC when I testified. It was an incredible experience, and he got a perspective of what we do on a national level, not just in Kansas borders. What we do resonates at national and international level. Thank you for coming Commissioner Rider. Commissioner Rider – Connections at state and federal level is so much more, a great experience for me as well; you did a great job.

4. Fishing Regulations – Doug Nygren, Fisheries Division director, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit G). Reference document: protecting large blue catfish at Milford, catfish committee reviewed process and come forward to add new option, add a 25- to 40-inch slot length limit and no more than 1/day 40 inches or larger creel limit; falls in line with what anglers were hoping for. Glen Elder Reservoir, change to a 21-inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass, best smallmouth bass fishery in state developing there and want to protect them. Cedar Bluff Reservoir, change to a 21-inch minimum length limit on walleye. Walleye program depends on these brood fish for eggs and this will enhance walleye initiative in western Kansas; Kirwin and Webster have 15-inch length limits; and at Norton, there is an 18-inch limit on saugeye. Marion Reservoir, reduce to a 20/day creel limit on crappie for more equitable harvest, make people feel better about an obtainable goal and no excessive harvest; Milford Reservoir, change wipers from 2/day to 5/day. Tuttle Creek Reservoir has a developing blue catfish population, so add a 35-inch minimum length limit while population develops and matures. Potential for floatline fishing at Perry Reservoir, looked at that internally and biologically, we don't see any issues allowing floatline fishing for catfish, but locals were concerned about conflict with recreational boaters. Hesitant because this is the first year of year-round floatline fishing. Recommendation, at this time is to not allow floatline fishing at Perry. Chairman Lauber – Does Marion Reservoir have 10-inch minimum length limit? Nygren – No. Chairman Lauber – Is it unusual that a lake with a 20 fish limit and not a 10-inch size limit? Nygren – Done that in several places, reservoirs that have fast growth and stock piling, sometimes bloom and bust, hard to predict what minimum length limit would do when changes occur pretty quickly. Commissioner Cross – What is the length limit on Milford wipers? Nygren – Don't have one, have 2/day creel. Change 115-7-4, people can give fish without any paper trail or documentation; it is difficult for law enforcement to enforce over-harvest of fish when all an angler has to do is state that someone else gave them the fish. In contrast, hunting regulations allow for the transfer of small and big game and we want to include something similar to that. We have two designated Type 1 trout waters at Cedar Bluff Stilling Basin and the Sandsage Bison Range and we want to change them to Type 2 waters as these locations are not being stocked with trout due to poor conditions and we want anglers to be able to fish these locations during the trout season without a trout permit. In addition, the Scott State Park Pond is currently designated Type 2 water, which requires a trout permit only for anglers fishing for or possessing trout. We propose changing the Scott State Park Pond trout stocking location to Type 1 water, which requires a trout permit to fish there during trout season. An interesting deal came up, currently it is illegal to sell gizzard shad for bait. Gizzard shad in dead form or plastic packages that have been sold in bait stores for years. Want to change regulation to say it is okay to sell gizzard shad for bait commercially if dead. Don't want live gizzard shad hauled around for fear of misidentification with Asian carp and don't want introduced into bodies of water. Change last sentence; allow "dead" gizzard shad to be sold commercially. One of biggest suppliers is Rusty's Bait out of Anthony, Kansas; a successful business that can't sell in their own state. Major change in how we manage channel and blue catfish, for many years under one regulation on

creel limits. It is somewhat difficult for the public to tell the difference so used look-alike approach to managing those two species, it was 10/day blue catfish, channel catfish combination. Proposing splitting them out and allowing 10/day channel catfish limit and 5/day blue catfish creel limit. If it is a catfish with more than 30 rays in the anal fin it will be considered blue catfish and those with less a channel; this gives law enforcement a way to regulate. Chairman Lauber – What is word in italics? Nygren – *Ictalurid* is genus. Reviewed 115-7-1, a request to the Commission to allow bowfish on water that have length limits in place.

Releasing a misidentified fish after being hit wouldn't be an option. Some people think archers can tell the difference. After considered this, our staff has come to conclusion that is not the right thing to do; and would like to leave regulation as it is, allow on lakes with no length limit.

Change 115-25-14. Fishing; size limits. For long time, statewide 2/day creel limits on striped bass and wiper and asked why so low. It goes back to history and production of those fish in our hatchery system. For many years at mercy of other states and would trade or try to acquire those fish from other states because we didn't have the ability to produce our own. The hatchery at Milford has perfected our techniques using our own domesticated brood stock and we feel it is time to loosen the regulations to 5/day. We can restrict to 2/day, but can do in the reference document as needed. Not trying to manage wipers caught in rivers and streams, just reservoirs. One item not in the book; taking look at process to permit commercial bait stores, currently apply annually for their permit, like to possibly make that a three-year permit. Will save vendors and us time and effort too because we have to inspect each time licensed, can inspect as needed. All fish leaving Arkansas are certified and looking at water supply, especially if using well water as opposed to someone who uses pond or creek water. May come back with some recommendations. Chairman Lauber – Bringing up youth mentor program? Nygren – Lakes around state with variety of different approaches to providing places for kids to fish and some cities have places where only children can fish. We would like to have a youth/mentor fishing pond where kids can fish and adults can accompany them. Fishing is a social activity and when kids fish with friends and family repeatedly they are more like to become long-term purchaser of licenses and supporter of our resources. Like to set up official process within our department to set up kids fishing ponds as youth/mentor ponds with strategy to provide opportunity. Similar to pond right next to our agency, create legal youth/mentor designation that would say anyone under 15 or younger; and adults fishing with them would have to have valid fishing license and would have to accompany a youth to fish in the pond. Chairman Lauber – Good idea, I have three-year-old grandson who can't hold pole all the time by himself.

Sean James, Niles – Thank Doug for Milford area, agree with length limit on blue catfish. Have a new game warden, Amanda, in Wakefield area, give her a little recognition because she is making an impact and doing a good job.

Jay Smith, Concordia – Agree with length limits at Milford. It is so popular that when I fished February 18, there were 39 other boats out chasing blue catfish on north end of lake. Blue cats draw more people to Milford than any other fish. Mentioned gizzard shad, that is good deal especially if local people producing and providing it.

Josh Failes, Salina – Been guide on Milford lake, clients from other states, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Omaha, Nebraska and Des Moines, Iowa; people are traveling to catch big blue cats at Milford, excited you are considering this proposal. Regional popularity now, but will be national in short amount of time. Commissioner Williams – Where do we rank in Kansas on blue cats; one or two in the draw? Failes – Several lakes, one is Alabama is a national lake, one east of Dallas; top 10, maybe top five. Commissioner Cross – Are most people keeping those trophy fish

or releasing? Fails – Believe most are letting them go, but a lot being kept; so both, in spring time lot of big fish being cleaned in that area. Many do put fish back, but it takes so long for those fish to get big, when handful taken off a lot of years off the lake.

James – Fishing for years out there and bigger fish population has gone down.

### *Break*

Keith Sexson – For housekeeping, rest rooms down the hall and soda vending machines in break room as well.

5. Statewide Action Plan Update – Daren Riedle, nongame coordinator, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit H). Handed out copy of statewide action plan (Exhibit I). Plan is requirement for state wildlife grant funding. Megan Rohweder talked about this plan nine 9 months or so ago. Plan has been approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. State wildlife grants (SWG) are federal appropriation that goes to each of 50 states that can be used to keep common species from declining and rare species from becoming endangered. It provides financial support to state agencies. It is a decadal plan, a dynamic action plan for the state, a broad plan that outlines what we as an agency and our partners will be doing for the next ten years as far as wildlife management in the state; provides Commission with what our outline is. For those in the public, plan is available online in pdf form for free on our website. This plan has been in place since 2005/06, had previous version of this as we have to update it every 10 years. Some of success stories from implementing these plans: collecting population data that has led to preclusion of need to list the Arkansas Darter under the Endangered Species Act; developed recovery plans for state listed species; most recently, worked internally and externally with NRCS to link the conservation issues in the SWAP plan to NRCS's EQIP or equality improvement program and provided fact sheets to NRCS employees and landowners in regards to EQIP and SWAP plan; partnering with federal, state and local entities on implementing aquatic organisms, passage of water structures, continuing monitoring of multiple species of wildlife, particularly species on federal radar, which includes Scott riffle beetle, alligator snapping turtle, Eastern spotted skunk, pepper chub and Arkansas river shiner.

6. Fees and Licenses – Mike Miller, Information chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit J). First step in discussion of a potential recommendation that came out of a committee talking about auto-renewal feature that we should have in place on our licensing system on January 1, 2018. This option would allow someone to have a credit card on file with our licensing vendor and they would get automatic renewals for anything they signed up for every year. One of the things the committee wanted to look into was providing 365-day annual licenses rather than calendar year licenses. Talked to other states that do this and it seems to be a good customer service for hunters and anglers. We haven't come up with firm list of issuances we want to do this with, but for sure hunting and fishing. So if you bought your hunting and fishing license today it would expire one year from today. We would like to have an email on hand to remind people it is coming up or about to expire. We would do the same thing on auto-renewal to see if they still want to do it or ask if the information is still current; and probably the same with the 365-day licenses. Georgia did it and ran a special where they offered a discount for somebody who went ahead and renewed before there license expired to keep people from lapsing; sent email for expiration date that said if they renew today, save "x" amount of money..

If we go to 365-day license early combo would be obsolete because it is a calendar year license. Could buy between December 15 through the end of January for \$42.50 rather than \$47.50 or \$52.50 if you buy separate during the year. This discount could provide incentive to prevent lapses and reduce churn; 365-day license would be a customer service item. This may require a change to 115-9-5, which lists expiration dates. It may also require amending 115-2-1. Oklahoma has as an option, 365-day hunting license or a calendar year license; confusing, rather provide one way. Looking at value added packaging also. Difficult to come up to package to market, talked about promo code or percentage discount based on number of issuances purchased at one time, a way to incentivize people to purchase at one time and help with churn. Chairman Lauber – In all cases, would you notify when permit getting ready to expire? Miller – Definitely on auto-renewal to be sure information on file is correct. Chairman Lauber – I have lifetime license, but a lot of guys you don't and somehow remember to buy their licenses. Also fish at resort in Missouri and have my credit card on file, but expiration dates change on that and messes that up and that is the dilemma of having a card on file. Miller – Correct. Another reason this came up is because we start reminding people about expiration dates on about December 15 and we're told that is the worst time to market, right before Christmas, and may be able to avoid that difficult time frame. Chairman Lauber – For hunting and fishing? Miller – Correct, listed variety of annual permits we might include, but we have just discussed this and come up with ideas but has to be staff input as well. Chairman Lauber – Makes sense to review. Commissioner Dill – Any update on licensing system now; still majority of calls and questions on that? Miller – Todd may have a better idea. Todd Workman – 594 total agents across the state and right now 480 of them with sales and 114 with no sales; 62 of those are considered seasonal with businesses not opened yet and 44 have discontinued selling because businesses have closed or for whatever reasons. Feel this is almost over. We have four Wal-Marts left not online out of 62; so have rounded the corner on that. Commissioner Williams – Were those Wal-Marts in southeast Kansas, that is where my calls have come from? Workman – One is in Liberal, one in Wellington, one in Salina and don't remember where the other one was. Fixes have been identified, but not applied yet. Commissioner Williams – A time frame when that might be? Workman – They are working on them every day and daily calls with Wal-Mart to update us on getting those up. Commissioner Williams - Due to their software? Workman – They have a unique security sweep and it wasn't identified that they were going to have an issue before new system was put in place. Problems identified after installed and worked on; everyone put resources to it, us, Wal-Mart and Active all worked together to figure them out and when you fixed one problem another one would come up. Their unique security had stiff protocols, stiffer than any other retailer. Commissioner Dill – Asked to revisit actual tag issue. Workman – Asked to try and fix that and have a product change request in to revert back to the way we used to do tags. Had enough public outcries that the Secretary and Keith asked me to revert back, in process of doing that; so sometime in month of June. Jennison – It was a problem for us too, it was overwhelming our offices. Commissioner Dill – Knowing it is reverting back will be good for public knowledge. LJ Coffman – Possibly you have already addressed 2016 regulation summary? Have you corrected errors? Miller – Not aware of errors. Coffman - How many were published? Miller – 295,000. Coffman – Do people pay for these? Miller – No, free. Coffman – Do they read them? Miller – If they want to know the regulations they do. Coffman - Hunter education paragraph on page 5, have you read it? Miller – We have had this discussion on this phone, yes I have read the entire publication. Coffman – You can correct everything on line at the speed of a bullet, but the fact remains there are 295,000 volumes out there somewhere. Chairman Lauber – We will take that under

consideration; make what point you have to make. Coffman – Instructed me you didn't want to read anything; primitive cabins at Prairie Dog; just want to know, have you read this? Did you do your addition; two primitive and four modern cabins, four total. Miller – Cabins at Prairie Dog State Park? Coffman – Don't want to read, do you want to do some math? Chairman Lauber – I am going to ask you to sit down. Coffman – Thank you.

7. Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine Update – Nadia Reimer, managing editor, Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit K). Publication you should all be receiving. Our agency has published magazine for over 70 years. Next year will mark our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our editorial creed has been: "To promote the conservation and wise use of our natural resources," and "to instill an understanding of our responsibilities to the land." We cover fish and wildlife, state parks in conjunction with tourism magazine. Started as a seven page typed and stapled monthly pamphlet, Outdoors With the Forestry, Fish & Game Commission, to inform Kansas sportsmen about hunting and fishing opportunities, regulation and to gain support. First covers were illustrated by Luther Hanson, a commercial artist from Greenleaf. The pamphlet was retitled in 1939 to Kansas Fish and Game and first photos were used. Ceased five years later because of inadequate staff, when came back in 1949 came back bigger and better with 26 pages; in 1960s used spot color; full color covers in 1971, was produced bi-monthly and was free, around 32,000 sent out. Paid subscriptions started July 1, 1976, single copy for \$.50, one-year subscription for \$3, two years for \$5 or three years for \$7. In 1981, retitled to Kansas Wildlife and retitled again in 1988 to Kansas Wildlife & Parks, following merger with Kansas State Parks and Resources Authority. Now 48-page full-color magazine, circulation of around 15,000 read in 47 states and three countries. Cost is \$2.75 for single copy, one year subscription for \$12, two years for \$20 or three years for \$29. Over course of 74 years taken on many changes, still worry about some of the same issues. Our recipes are more sophisticated now and greater diversity in demographics. Better representation of Kansas and outdoor community today. Used to have 10 staff, now Mike, myself, Dustin, Annie and Marc Murrell. Magazine is self-sustaining, it pays for itself. This is only a portion of what our section does, also oversee agency's news release program; produce 200 plus state park, wildlife area and general information brochures; produce annual regulation summaries and atlases; majority of agency's signage; social media efforts; field media requests; select website changes; and oversee Pass It On program among other special projects. Use a lot of freelance material and have 20 contributing writers and 15 photographers as well as staff who volunteer to author material. In 2015, thanks to contributions of many staff, received national award on deer issue, very proud of that. It commemorated 50 years of deer management in Kansas and was single most popular issue of magazine to date. Hope to bring into internet world and offer an e-version and have newsstand sales at select locations. Can't talk about magazine without talking about editors, have had seven long standing editors, with Mike Miller being longest running at 28 years. Thanks to Sheila Kemmis for maintaining historical records on the magazine.

8. Falconry Regulations – Jake George, Wildlife Division director, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit L). Have some potential changes, but more of a brief update because we can change permitting process without changing regulations. To allow additional take, potentially in Central Flyway, from 12 to 48 permits, allocated throughout the region. Of those 12, it was two in Oklahoma, and 10 in Texas; no permits were allocated for take in Kansas, and we have not previously been permitted for the take of peregrine falcons. Continue on that route

and depending on number of permits, will be some available for applications, two in the state. Coffman – In minutes, two questions with no recommendations? Could you approach legislation to have regulation change? What were two questions posed on exhibit? George – Don't understand question? Coffman – Did you read the two questions? Chairman Lauber – You are holding the meeting hostage. I try to be patient and let you say what you want to say. Have combative and confused approach to what you want to talk about. Commissioner Hayzlett – Combative and harassing and suggest we take no more questions. Coffman – Thank you for your presence here.

### **C. Workshop Session**

1. Webless Migratory Bird Regulations – Rich Schultheis, migratory game bird biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit M). Second workshop for proposed changes to Eurasian and collared doves that are not governed by those laws. Staff recommends regulation changes to allow year-round take of Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves with no daily bag or possession limit; which include eliminating the second segment of dove season open to the taking of exotic doves only in KAR 115-25-19, and instead including Eurasian Collared and Ringed Turtle Doves in KAR 115-20-2, which would allow year-round take and much broader method of take. An additional amendment to KAR 115-20-2 is needed to require a fully feathered wing on all Eurasian Collared or Ringed Turtle doves taken during the migratory dove season if birds possessed exceed the daily bag of migratory doves. Changes are also recommended for KAR 115-20-7 to apply only to migratory doves (mourning and white-winged doves). Finally, a change to the species table in KAR 115-16-3 is suggested to remove feral pigeons (rock dove), which is included in KAR 115-20-2. These will require vote which will take place at June commission meeting. I did include table with proposed changes in briefing item. Chairman Lauber – Ron Klataske sent a document for us to review (Exhibit N), while I don't always agree he has good intentions; talking about bad image being put forth with no closed season. Making point, as I understand, while not natural or indigenous they are permanent species. Not sure I agree with what he wants to do, to not have year long season. Ask you to review and respond. Schultheis – Welcome comments, not a decision we considered lightly, internally reviewed and with the commission. Made comments on devalued resource, we are seeing exponential population growth in the state and feel this is the best step to take, but appreciate his comments. Commissioner Cassidy – What is history of Eurasian collared dove, background? Schultheis – Arrived early in Florida and some talk of in California too and spreading across the U.S. See in towns and cities and spreading out, seeing them in farmsteads within 10 miles or so of a town. Not unique to Kansas, included image of what is in other Central Flyway states in briefing book. Chairman Lauber – While considered migratory, do they migrate? Schultheis – Can, but also stay put if they can. Commissioner Cassidy – They are a pest and make a mess in small towns; it is a problem and you are not going to slow them down. Schultheis – Especially in areas where you can't shoot them. This regulation will open that up quite a bit with trapping and air rifles and will not eliminate the issue. Chairman Lauber – Over in museum today, thought coot and gallinule were the same thing, but coots don't float, don't have webbed feet or pads? Schultheis – Can float and walk too.

2. Threatened and Endangered Species Regulations – Chris Berens, environmental services chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit O). We will presenting this for

vote in a meeting or two. Changes to Threatened and Endangered Species Act are due to a bill which took effect in July. Majority of changes have to do with recovery plan process, no time limit currently. Changed to within four years and after that time we cannot regulate if no recovery plan is in place as far as action permits and project development reviews. Tymeson – Note, while on the agenda for some time, through initial drafting phrase, going to Attorney General’s office and Department of Administration and once they have worked through that process have 90-day publication period because of threatened and endangered species so takes longer; will probably vote in August or October depending on government process.

3. KAR 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley – Matt Peek, research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit P). This regulation exists to better accommodate military personnel who hunt deer on military bases in Kansas. Separate from, and voted on later, than other deer regulations in order to account for unpredictable schedule of military training activities. The department works with military bases to come up with these recommendations. Smoky Hill has requested to have deer hunting seasons at the same dates as the seasons established in KAR 115-25-9. The other two bases have slight variations I covered at the last meeting. Only one antlerless-only white-tailed permit is valid on Fort Riley or Smoky Hill and up to five of those permits valid on Fort Leavenworth. Final action will occur at public hearing in June. Coffman – Is there a state law you wear blaze hunter orange? Peek – Yes, during firearm deer seasons. Coffman – Expect people to be directed by individuals to hunt with a firearm? Chairman Lauber – What is your question? Coffman - Do you have contract with publisher on hunter education manual? Chairman Lauber – Yes we do. Coffman – When does it run out? Chairman Lauber – I don’t know. Coffman - Do you want the page number? Chairman Lauber – No, I don’t. I am trying to be kind about this. Commissioner Williams – I think the Commission has been more than patient and tolerant on this. Coffman – Use same company (did not hear rest of statement). Chairman Lauber – Law enforcement is going to remove you. Heskett – Come speak to us outside.

Commissioner Rider – Earlier, I didn’t mean to say coyote hunters were entirely dying breed, I meant the running of coyotes with dogs. I know some still do that, some in my wife’s family. Running of coyotes is what I was alluding to, not overall coyote hunters are not prevalent in the state. Chairman Lauber – Good point, coyote hunting evolved from sight dog and hound sport to more of a calling sport; understand where you were coming from.

## **VII. RECESS AT 3:49 p.m.**

Keith Sexson – Hatchery guys have set up across the street and we have about 45 minutes to an hour for a tour before dinner where we have a reserved a room at the Club d’est.

## **VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:31 p.m.**

## **IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS**

## **X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Ryan Warden – At Emporia meeting I talked about tagging by waterfowl hunters. Here to talk

about tagging again and have given out items for you to take home and consider (Exhibit Q). Checked with Greyhound and they will not let you ride with dead stuff on the bus. KLETC taught us that care, custody and control of a vehicle, and the transporter is the driver not passengers. According to you not driving so we did not need tags. Called USFWS migratory game bird division, Denver, Staci Campbell said driver will get the ticket. Discovered Kansas Highway Patrol controls truck drivers and they have to take an 80-hour course, then complete 30 hours of supervised training, they have to mirror federal law, not less strict. Do we do anything like that with USFWS? Mark Rankin – Have MOU with USFWS, Region 6 based out of Denver; a year after an officer off probation we send to class taught by federal action and act under federal agent? Warden – Like sheriff's deputy? Rankin – No, not quite. Warden – Do you go to Denver to take the class? Rankin – No, one going on today in Hays, it is eight hours long; cover duties and responsibilities. Warden – See emails from Missouri Department of Conservation to me; they covered questions within handout to me. He talked about Missouri code, keeping wildlife separate or distinctly identified. They hold a three day conference with USFWS and officers assigned to MO, in entirety go over USFWS regulations. Send officers when they first come out, after a year on duty? Rankin – No, don't enforce federal law because don't have blue card. Warden – Difference is what court we go through, not laws. Where is gap between Kansas and USFWS? Appears we are sending guys after a year in enforcement, to learn about the laws to get a blue card. Rankin – Learn in academy training. Warden – Updating after 40 years? Rankin – 40 hours of training a year. Warden – How much federal law taught? Rankin – Varies by year, selection committee chooses training. Warden – MO sends to training every year. Field possession law, federal law, tagged or not, a hunter has to have his birds in possession until he gets to the truck; can't leave gun and birds in blind and go get the truck. Birds have to be separated. Spoke to two-thirds of guys in these photos, 13 of 19 people involved in these hunts. None of them said they tagged their birds and had never heard of separating birds. Second page of photos, birds separated and tagged in various ways. Which page has clearer violations, page one or two? Instead of making you answer that, first page does, taken off Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Facebook page, posted by game wardens or had game wardens in the pictures. USFWS says they monitor Facebook and other social media and piles of birds are the first violations they look for to start an investigation; watching and working these guys. Chairman Lauber – Confused on where we are going? You received state or federal citation? Warden – Federal citation with state's help, same with other two outfitters, Prairie Thunder and Eagle Head. Chairman Lauber – You believe this agency didn't instruct, follow law or train? Warden – No, believe lack of clarity in regulations and Kevin Jones giving out misinformation. Why, in five years, have we had three federal cases on waterfowl violations all on tagging violations? Commissioner Rider – Weren't only tagging violations were they? Warden – No, but tagging violations are a felony for commercial outfitters, punishable to up to six months in prison and \$15,000 in fines per instance. Commissioner Williams – Heard you speak in Emporia, just now understanding why you are here. You were cited, correct? Is your case still pending? Warden – I was and no case is not pending; can't hunt, fish or trap, or be with anyone doing it for five years, plus paid \$7,500 in fines and \$20,000 on a federal lawyer. Nine violations for tagging, storing untagged birds, transporting untagged birds, one dove over the limit; received plea agreement for shooting off bed of flatbed truck/shooting off motor vehicle, one over limit and not tagging doves. Ever tagged doves or had over two doves with a friend in a vehicle? Chairman Lauber – See never ending deal, what do you want us to do? Warden – Asked about baiting, asked about when to tag and not tag, Chris said if give examples you can end up varying

from the law, or something along those lines; page 27 of our regulations give examples of baiting birds. Try to figure out why not given examples of tagging. I have solutions for you. Is hunting over a cattle feedlot pond hunting over bait? Rankin – Yes, according to court opinions, ducks coming within zone of influence to grain in feedlot. Warden – How far away from feedlot do you have to be to hunt? Rankin – No set distance it is zone of influence, if coming off feedlot, in violation, if coming from somewhere else, no. Warden – Solution would be to put example of tag; birds have to be separated and/or tagged; keep separate until return to vehicle; tagged separately; storage of birds anywhere besides your abode; and explain that wing or head has to be attached and tagging is not required but is best practice. When guys at lodges, keep birds with them. Asked Staci Campbell if it was safe to say tagging is the best practices, he said absolutely, if on bumpy road and birds in separate piles combine, a tag will save a lot of trouble. You will continue to see me until we have some results. Chairman Lauber – Welcome to public meeting, but we will not solve this here. You have put a lot of effort into this and we will have law enforcement and legal review this to see what has to be done; I am clueless on the solution, I don't totally understand problems and violations. Warden – Initially started this issue with Facebook page, Lt. Dan Melson out of Hays, and made two phone calls to Ron Kaufman because he was in charge of media part of Facebook page; tried to make comments on Facebook about there being tag issues, they blocked the comments; sent private messages that said your job is to educate and here is your mission statement. They both continued to ignore me and banned me from the site; and comments were made that I need educated. Obviously not working together here. Chairman Lauber – No one has told the Commission anything and impossible for us to do anything. Will try to get some resolution, want to have law enforcement's input as well. Commissioner Cassidy – What are other outfitters doing, are they tagging? Warden – No, only one told me they were tagging was Prairie Thunder. Commissioner Cassidy – No outfitter you know of is following the tagging process? Warden – No. If we store birds with wing or head attached, because we thought it was the law, problem wasn't storing birds but according to who shot what; not separately bagged. Commissioner Cassidy – Nobody knows what to do to your knowledge? Warden – No. Commissioner Cassidy – Your point is basically people need to know what they should be doing. Warden – Yes, I think it is not fair to enforce a law when people don't know what the law is. Commissioner Cassidy – Did anyone else getting tagging violations? Warden – Eagle Head Outfitters is currently being indicted on multiple charges and several are not tagging. Encourage you to call Staci Campbell, USFWS, Denver and he will tell you tagging is number one issue. Commissioner Dill – Comments you brought and fact is if we can provide additional information or clarification in regulations on tagging, in my opinion would be fine. Warden – This hits closer to home. Youth age, if 16 year old buys youth deer permit they can hunt during youth season, if 17 year old can buy adult permit can they hunt in youth season because they are 17 years and younger; why do we not have a consistent age? Chris Tymeson – Slightly wrong, only get youth permit if 15 and under, so 15 and 16, not 16 and 17. Warden – At what age do you buy stamps; what age do you buy a license? Tymeson – 16. Warden – Why not consistent youth age, 16 year old can hunt in youth season, but has to buy adult tag? Tymeson – Different for federal waterfowl youth days; it is 15 or under; but we include 16 year olds in youth season for turkey and deer. Warden – Back to outfitters licenses; when leaving Emporia, officer asked how we funnel nonresidents to an outfitter. How many outfitters in the state of Kansas? No clue, because no governing body. How many hunters got left in stands overnight? How many outfitters have insurance? Chairman Lauber – Part of the problem is we tried to regulate outfitters in the past, outfitters were trying to get something cheap and went around our agency

to the legislature and began to take away enforcement opportunity. They wanted to be considered an economic development unit, not conservation unit, so figured outfitters could govern themselves. Warden – In midst of these four pages, not just here to complain. Losing nonresident sales, hunter is spending \$2,500 to come into hunting doesn't know if he is going to be with a farmer that knows nothing or a guide that knows the difference. Chairman Lauber – Part of problem I have, most of constituents don't care about outfitters, feel outfitters have caused deterioration in hunting quality for the average citizen. Our job is not to sell more nonresident licenses, our job is to protect the resources of the state. We will look at the issue on tagging and we will study it.

## **XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

### **D. Public Hearing**

*Notice and Submission Forms; Kansas Legislative Research Letter and Attorney General Letters (Exhibit R).*

1. KAR 115-8-1. Department lands and waters: hunting, furharvesting, and discharge of firearms – Stuart Schrag, public lands division director, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit S). Two proposed changes to reference document under KAR 115-8-1: section 15, daily hunt permits, basically electronic iSportsman hunts; under Region 3, add Marion Wildlife Area and Region 1 want to take out wording for Glen Elder Wildlife Area so that encompasses all of it. Possible amendment to change date from February 1, 2017 to March 23, 2017; and include, under section three of reference document, under no alcohol, to include all walk-in hunting access areas.

**Commissioner Ward Cassidy to bring KAR 115-8-1 before the Commission. Commissioner Harrison Williams second.**

**Commissioner Harrison Williams moved to amend KAR 115-8-1. Commissioner Aaron Rider second.**

Warden - Violations? Schrag – Violation of alcohol on WIHA, not a new regulation, this is something we have enforced since inception of WIHA, but established by posted notice. Any regulation that we feel is going to be long term we incorporate into the reference document instead of posted notice in the field. Tymeson – Class C misdemeanor of our regulations. Commissioner Dill – Why March 23 date? Tymeson – I turned in version of the regulation with the reference document to the Attorney General's office; February 1 was when I got first approval, but approval has to be on date we amended that document as proposed.

**The roll call vote to amend KAR 115-8-1 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit T):**

<b>Commissioner Cassidy</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Cross</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Dill</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Hayzlett</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Rider</b>	<b>Yes</b>

<b>Commissioner Williams</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Lauber</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**The motion to amend KAR 115-8-1 as presented passed 7-0.**

**The roll call vote on regulation KAR 115-8-1 as amended was as follows (Exhibit T):**

<b>Commissioner Cassidy</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Cross</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Dill</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Hayzlett</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Rider</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Williams</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Lauber</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**The motion as amended on KAR 115-8-1 passed 7-0.**

2. Waterfowl Regulations – Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit U). Briefing item included background information and season staff recommendations for the 2017 and 2018 September teal, duck, goose, youth and extended falconry seasons. The only change in federal frameworks from last year is the reduction in daily bag limit for northern pintails, from two to one. Staff recommendations and season dates similar to previous seasons with minor changes to adjust for calendar shift and moving goose split from January back to November. Staff recommendations can be found on page 5 of briefing book item. Warden – Moved split back on dark geese? Bidrowski – Correct, last year we had a two day split that ran from January 2 and 3 this year, so now nine day split, so will have opening of late zone open 28 and 29, close for nine days and open on November 8 and run to latest in frameworks, to February 18. Joshua McCormick – Talked to Tom on phone and in person. Friends and relatives from Stafford/Ellinwood area. Hunt a lot in low plains late zone; our concern is like to see more hunting days in January rather than late October and early November. Break split back from the beginning of January to the early part of December and land us more days in January. I know that we try to open duck season with goose season to be able to shoot everything. Know hunter numbers are high in November up to early December; duck number build throughout the year. We have a ton of ducks in the area in January and a lot of mallards and pintails coming back through and we can't hunt them. Like to see another week, possibly two weeks hunting time in January in late zone, because creeks and rivers there and ducks build there; and gives us a better chance to shoot six duck limit. Not trying to change early zone in refuges because we know they freeze up. Just want more time in January, two week split in December possibly; and then back open for holiday. Commissioner Rider – Move back one week and adding another week in January? Jacob McCormick – Go 74 days and right now opened up October 8 in early zone, it was 80 degrees that day, selling more tags to fair-weather hunters; late zone is October 29. If want three weeks off and split, between November and end of January, would solve problem for fair-weather hunters and us who hunt late season; best hunting in late season when it freezes. Go seven days later than October 29 in first part of November, still week before opening pheasant season, and take two weeks out of early December. In last few years still 40 to 60 degrees in early December; ducks still not here yet. Live in middle of Central Flyway; ducks might be on

refuge, but caters to people hunting public areas. This last year, I watched and saw 100,000 mallards on refuge and we didn't get to hunt them. We work so we only get to hunt Saturday and Sunday, like to hunt when birds are good. Can miss best part of duck season. Chairman Lauber – Not first time we have had variety of people wanting to amend the season, have varying opinions and can't please everyone. Unfortunately every hunter can't pick their 74 days and hunt whenever they want; Tom doesn't have that privilege. Not against looking at it and reviewing what you want, but also think hunters who hunts earlier and hunts non-mallards has some rights in the state. Suggest we follow staff recommendations, but take these thoughts into consideration. Jacob McCormick – (couldn't hear comments, something about number of days). Chairman Lauber – That won't help our ability to have more days. Bidrowski – Have a set framework, only have 74 days to work with and can have up to six ducks; we can be more conservative, but not more liberal. Commissioner Rider – White-fronts have the option. Bidrowski – White-fronts have an 88 day season. Chairman Lauber – Follow staff recommendations. Warden – When is peak population? Bidrowski – Usually around Thanksgiving statewide, depends on which area. It is a hunter preference issue, similar to when we had zone discussions. Warden - So moving it back a week wouldn't hurt? Bidrowski – It depends, arguments could be made for the front end and moving it up a week. Commissioner Williams – Everyone that has been afield has experienced this warming effect; unusually warm for last three to four years, when will that pattern break and we don't know. Jacob McCormick – Never want to hunt January. Commissioner Williams – I understand, if move around weather patterns, don't know when it will break, don't know if that would be beneficial. I like to hunt colder weather too. I like your idea and perhaps we could adjust that a little bit down the road. Jacob McCormick – Early hunters would get their season and later season guys get their season too. Commissioner Williams – Fair-weather hunters are older hunters, like to hunt warmer weather; want things different, us as sportsmen get selfish of what we want to do, keep that in mind. Commissioner Rider – Something to look at. If I had my way would have no days off in January and Tom knows that. Try to accommodate a wide variety of sportsmen. Go with recommendations for today.

**Commissioner Aaron Rider moved to approve waterfowl regulations as presented to the Commission. Commissioner Harrison Williams second.**

**The roll call vote on to approve was as follows (Exhibit V):**

<b>Commissioner Cassidy</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Cross</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Dill</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Hayzlett</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Rider</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Williams</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Lauber</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**The motion as presented passed 7-0.**

## **XII. Old Business**

*None*

### **XIII. Other Business**

#### **A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates**

June 22, 2017 – Kansas City, George Meyn Community Center

August 10, 2017 – Cheney State Park, Ninnescah Valley Yacht Club (will need special event permit for park entrance)

October 19, 2017 – Scott City, Bryan Conference Center

January 4 or 11, 2018? January 11, 2018, Milford (Acorn Lodge)

### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)