

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
July 7-8, 2016

Chairman Petersen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CST at the RedRossa Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Cathy Peterson, MaryAnne Boyd Barry Jensen, H. Paul Dennert, Gary Jensen, Russell Olson, W. Scott Phillips, and Jim Spies were present. Secretary Kelly Hepler was present along with approximately 25 public, staff, and media.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Chairperson Peterson called for conflicts of interest to be disclosed. None were presented.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Peterson called for any additions or corrections to the June 2-3, 2016, minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by G. Jensen with second by Olson TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2-3, 2016, MEETING WITH MINOR REVISIONS. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Commissioners Phillips and Peterson each requested two additional salary days and G. Jensen, Spies and Olson each requested one additional salary day.

Motion by Dennert with second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS AS REQUESTED. Motion carried unanimously.

License List Requests

Chris Petersen, Administration Division Director presented a license list request for resident small game licenses within South Dakota excluding Mitchell Alexandria, Letcher, Plankinton, Ethan, etc. from Precision Reloading of Mitchell, South Dakota to be used in the distribution of postcards for the marketing of reloading supplies and equipment.

Motion by Spies with second by Olson TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST. Motion carried unanimously.

Department Land Acquisition Priorities and Guidelines

Secretary Hepler provided history on the development of department guidelines and priorities for land acquisitions including the recommendation to add a Commissioner to be part of process prior to the decision making portion of the process at Commission meetings.

Paul Coughlin, Program Administrator and Al Nedved, Assistant Director provided the Commission a comprehensive land acquisition priorities document similar to what was provided several months ago with the addition of Parks & Recreation priorities.

Secretary Hepler stated the document will not only serve as a guide for the Department, but allow us to continue to operate very transparently.

Coughlin stated the policy went out for public comment when it was specific to the wildlife division and the feedback received was positive.

Motioned by G. Jensen second by B. Jensen TO ADOPT THE AS PROPOSED AND PUT OUT FOR 30 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT FOR APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

Officer Body Cameras

Division Director Tony Leif provided an overview in regards to body camera for GFP law enforcement staff to increase safety and preserve evidence.

Conservation Officer Specialist Brandon Gust presented a powerpoint presentation explaining how video provides critical evidence. Gust noted they began researching body cameras in 2013 and have tested strict body cameras and point of view cameras with the preferred model being the Taser Axon Flex. Gust and Chris Neubeck, Field Representative for Taser provided a demonstration showing how the camera is easy to operate and sits in a buffer mode and has a 30 sec pre-record. They also detailed the video management system offered by Taser where officers categorize the video and have an app to view live feed and obtain video. The plan is to purchase cameras, train officers and implement use yet this fall. Costs will be broke down over a 5 year period contract including camera costs, warranties, secure data management and video retention.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 1:58 p.m. and concluded at 2:05 p.m. and the minutes follow these minutes.

FINALIZATIONS

Time Restrictions for State Parks

Katie Ceroll, Parks and Recreation Director presented the proposed changes to the use of parks and public lands adding the language “use or occupy” to be clear in addressing people who continue to use an area.

Motioned by G. Jensen seconded by B. Jensen TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION TO TIME RESTRICTIONS IN STATE PARKS AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Bicycle Use Restriction

Ceroll presented the recommended change to repeal the rules applying to bicycle use in Newton Hills and Lewis and Clark State Parks as it is redundant and only applies to two state parks.

Motioned by Dennert, seconded by Phillips TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION TO REPEAL THE RULE IN REGARDS TO BICYCLE USE IS SPECIFIC PARKS ARE RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Camping Registration

Ceroll presented the recommended changes to the camping registration procedures to reflect current practices with the on-line point of sale system as specified below.

~~Display of registration card.~~ Upon receipt of the daily camping permit fee, the department shall provide each camper unit with a registration card. The card shall be placed on the pad post specifically provided for that purpose or conspicuously displayed otherwise if pad posts are not provided. The receipt section of the registration card shall show the amount paid and the date and shall be signed by a department representative.

~~All campers must reserve a campsite prior to occupying the site in the park. Reservations can be placed either by using the on-line service at camps.com or by calling 1-800-710-2267 or using the park reservation hot phone. Campers must be in possession of their confirmation information for that site. Individual campgrounds may have additional check-in procedures that the campers must follow~~ Self-registration may be used at any campground. At campgrounds using this **a self-registration** system, the department shall post camping fees and provide registration forms for campers to complete. Each camper shall insert the correct fee in the envelope provided with the form and insert the envelope in the security box provided. The camper shall display the **provided** registration **slip** card as described in this section **on a provided site post or in a conspicuous place.**

Any camper unit desiring to extend occupancy of a site beyond the nights for which the camper unit is paid, up to the limits set in § 41:03:01:15, shall reregister at the entrance booth **may extend the reservation** by 4:00 p.m. on that last day and pay the camping fees for the additional nights desired, **only if the site is available for the duration of the extended stay,** except at Custer State Park where a camper shall reregister **extend the reservation** by noon on the last day. **A Camper staying on a Same-Day reservation site located at Center Lake in Custer State Park and the Yankton section of Lewis and Clark Recreation Area must extend the reservation prior to 12:00 AM (Midnight) on the last registered night's stay.**

Motioned by Olson, seconded by B. Jensen TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO CAMPING REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Length of Camping Stay

Ceroll presented the recommended changes to the length of camping stay as specified below.

Nonprofit youth groups with adult supervision may reserve a designated group camping area for up to 45 14 consecutive days nights.

A person may reserve an available campsite at any state park, recreation area, or lakeside use area for up to 45 14 consecutive days nights. Once the person has occupied the campsite the 14th night, they must remove their camping unit from the state park, recreational area, or lake side use area, by check-out time the next day, for at least one night, before reserving that site, or another site, at that location.

Motioned by Boyd seconded by Dennert TO FINALIZE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE LENGTH OF CAMPING STAY AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Sage Grouse Hunting Season

Program Administrator Chad Switzer and Senior Wildlife Biologist Travis Runia presented the recommended changes to the sage grouse hunting season as specified below.

1. Change the season dates from the Wednesday and Thursday prior to the start of the firearm antelope season to a two-day season beginning on the third Saturday of September.
2. Offer 40 resident-only hunting permits available through a limited drawing. Applicants will need to have a small game or combination license to be eligible for the drawing.
3. Permits remaining after the first drawing will be available to resident and nonresident hunters on a first-come first-serve basis.

Motioned by B. Jensen seconded by Olson TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE SAGE GROUSE HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED.

Fall Turkey Hunting Season

Switzer presented recommended changes to the fall wild turkey hunting season as detailed below.

1. For limited draw units, offer 105 less resident one-tag licenses for Prairie Units compared to 2015.
2. Dissolve the West River Prairie Unit and align fall units with spring unit boundaries where licenses will be allocated. For 2016, this will include Unit 30A (Gregory County); Unit 50A (Mellette County), and Unit 53A (Perkins County and that portion of Meade County north of US Hwy. 212).
3. Change the name of Unit NE1 (Northeast SD) to Unit 48A (Marshall and Roberts counties) and retain the same geographic area open for fall season.
4. Remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit.

Motioned by B. Jensen seconded by Phillips TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE FALL WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the fall turkey hunting license allocations with changes for multiple units and the elimination of units where no licenses were allocated.

Motioned by Dennert seconded by Spies TO FINALIZE THE NUMBER OF FALL TURKEY HUNTING LICENSE ALLOCATED FOR EACH UNIT AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Antelope Hunting Season

Deputy Director Tom Kirschenmann presented the recommended change to the antelope hunting season as detailed below.

1. Add language in administrative rule which clarifies that if no licenses are allocated for a specific hunting unit, that unit is dissolved for the purposes of designating areas open to hunting under the provisions of codified law which describes reduced fee licenses for landowner on own land licenses.
2. Remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit and substitute with the cumulative number of single and multiple tag licenses.

Motioned by Olson, seconded by G. Jensen TO FINALIZE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the antelope license allocations with no changes for any units thus the same number of license will be allocated for 2016 as was 2015.

Motioned by B. Jensen seconded by Dennert TO FINALIZE THE NUMBER OF ANTELOPE LICENSE ALLOCATED FOR EACH UNIT AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Allowance for Bird Processing Records to be Included in Shooting Preserve Records and Number of Processed Birds Allowed Per Package

Andy Alban, program administrator presented the recommended changes to exempt licensed private shooting preserves from certain records requirements for wildlife processing facilities and increase the number of birds taken on a licensed private shooting preserve that may be packaged to two without identifying plumage.

Motioned by G. Jensen, seconded by Spies TO AMEND THE PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE "AND PROCESSED BY THE PERMITTEE". Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by G. Jensen, seconded by Spies TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION TO THE PROPOSAL AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Requirements and Eligibility for Disabled Veteran Pheasant Hunts

Alban provided the recommend changes to eligibility requirements for disabled veterans to hunt pheasants to align with legislation passed in 2016 per senate bill 71as specified below

1. A special pheasant hunting season for qualifying disabled veterans may be established anytime during the ~~month~~ months of October or November upon application by a sponsoring non-profit organization. A special pheasant season for disabled veterans is valid only on private lands.
2. ~~The season length for a special pheasant season for disabled veterans is one day.~~ The shooting hours for a special pheasant season for disabled veterans are sunrise to sunset except that after the start of the regular state pheasant season established pursuant to chapter 41:06:08, shooting hours are the same as those established for the regular state pheasant season. The bag limit is three cock pheasants. No hunting license or fee is required of qualifying disabled veterans.
3. ~~A person is eligible to hunt in a special pheasant season for disabled veterans if the person is a veteran who is confined to a wheelchair.~~ Repealed.

Motioned by Boyd with second by Olson TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION THAT PERTAINS TO THE PHEASANT HUNTING SEASON FOR DISABLED VETERANS AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Jim Schaeffer, Southeast SD Deer Management Association spoke to the Commission about radio collars for whitetail doe's they provided funding for to be used in the spring to do ultrasounds and track fawns to be radio collared before they are too mobile. Stated he was recently told that they cannot use the radio tracking units and would like further information. Schaeffer also said he would like to see an increase in the fee for illegal take of trophy big game.

Steve Rounds, Oahe Marina and Resort requested the opportunity to have a spearfishing tournament on August 13th to raise funds for the Make a Wish Foundation in coordination with a community celebration to commemorate the dam on the 17th. His preference would be for a three day tournament, but would happy with one day. Rounds recommends holding the tournament above the bridge where it is less congested than below the bridge.

Director Leif explained the administrative rule 41:07:06:03 which limits places where game fish can be speared. Leif noted the rule states that upon written request the Commission can grant permission through resolution. Leif stated staff will work with Rounds to submit the request.

Rounds said concessionaires have a tough time and would like more opportunities. They work hard to get people to come out to the parks and would like opportunities such as hosting meetings and are open to ideas.

Commissioner Dennert said other states ban shed hunting during certain times of the year and inquired South Dakota regulations.

Leif said South Dakota has a rule that prohibits removal of items from GPA's which has recently been discussed and may be brought forward to the commission in the future for review. He also said sheds can be collected in the Black Hills National Forest and private lands. Leif noted disturbance factor is a concern.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Capital Campout & Outdoor University Event Review

Lynn Spomer informed the Commission on the Capital Campout and Outdoor University Event that was held June 10-11. The campout hosted 58 families providing tents and sleeping bags to family as needed. Campers participated in traditional camping experiences such as roasting marshmallows and singing campfire songs. On Saturday the campers were joined by the public at the Outdoor University which included free activities such as air rifle shooting, archery, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, campfire cooking and more.

Parks Revenue, Camping and Visitation Reports

The park revenue and camping reservation report was provided by Ceroll. The report includes a year to date comparison of revenue by line and June 2016 year to date comparison by district item. Ceroll stated they are seeing an overall increase in revenue of 10 percent, camping units 6 percent and visitation 4 percent.

Spearfish Falls Master Plan

Nedved provided details on the establishment of Spearfish Falls as a new state park that was announced during the Governors state of the state. In 2006 the Department acquired Roughlock Falls and Savoy fishing areas and immediately began improvements to clean up and provide better access. This year the Department acquired Spearfish Falls to create a place to provide the experience and protect the area. Nedved stated the Department is currently initiating master planning effort to identify opportunities by obtaining public input and cooperation as well as a vision for as a state park and role in the economy. Nedved also explained the operations plan in regards to staffing, income sources, and alternative income sources to offset operation expenses and the implementation plan to move forward with the concept. They will advertised for proposal on June 23 for 30 days and will hold an onsite visit on July 11 then work with a building committee to select a consultant. He stated it will be 6-9 month process to complete master planning effort.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

2017 Elk Raffle License

Kirschenmann presented the application submitted by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) to conduct a raffle during the 2016-2017 fund raising period. Kirschenmann explained how funds from the raffle of licenses are used for research, habitat, radio collars and more to aid in elk management in South Dakota. Kirschenmann asked the Commission to take formal action to approve RMEF to conduct the Elk Raffle for 2017.

Motioned by Spies with second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION TO OBTAIN AN ELK LICENSE TO BE RAFFLED OFF. Motion carried unanimously.

Elk Habitat Condition in the Black Hills

Mike Kintigh, Regional Supervisor provided information to the Commission on the forest ranger assessment in regards to elk habitat in the Black Hills. He explained the area is split into the area north of deadwood that is suffering from drought and having to bring in water for livestock and the central hills area with heat concerns. Kintigh stated they have received comments on widespread elk grazing in the Roubaix Lake area and that the current plan references contingency tags which are only for individual events. He noted the Crow Peak area fire may also affect contingency tags and as of now they have no impact on permittees and will create good elk habitat.

Elk Depredation

Secretary Hepler provided the Commission information on the recent visit he, Commissioner Phillips and John Kanta had with landowners in southern hills who have 150-250 elk winter on their property. He noted they discussed depredation hunts and asked if this is the most efficient way to target elk on private lands hoping to find a compromise.

Commissioner Phillips indicated landowners have different perspectives on the issue and inquired about a way to strategically remove elk noting it may require the use of staff.

Kintigh noted that it is time consuming to utilize staff, but they will make it a priority if necessary. He also mentioned other hunting possibilities and the option of donating the meat to Sportsmen Against Hunger.

Deer Fawn Collaring

Kevin Robling, Wildlife Biologist provided the Commission information on the recent deer fawn collaring and population objectives. Robling indicated the need for survival data on three age classes. He highlighted capture methods and locations noting this was the 4th year of survey. Robling also provided statewide fawn survey survival results.

Breeding Bird Atlas

Eileen Dowd Stukel, Senior Wildlife Biologist provided the Commission and update on recently completed project the SD Breeding Bird Atlas 2. Dowd Stukel explained that a breeding atlas is documents distribution of all breeding species in a specific area, identifies their habitat associations, and assess distribution changes from the first atlas. Dowd Stukel further detailed how sampling is done and how information is categorized using specific codes. She also indicated 13 species were confirmed during the 2nd atlas that was not detected during the 1st. Dowd Stukel noted the final report can be found on the GFP website and hardcopy available later in the year.

Winter Owl Banding in Central SD

Casey Heimerl, Wildlife Biologist provided information on the winter owl banding noting the 6 banding location around the Oahe Dam and the methods used to capture the owls for banding. She indicated they conducted banding captures on 8 evening in December – February resulting in 12 females, no males and 4 unknown. Heimerl stated

they will continue banding efforts by adding bandings stations and doing captures across the season. She also noted they plan to attach transmitters to track winter movements in central South Dakota to identify habitats.

West River Fisheries Management Plan Progress Report

Jake Davis, Senior Wildlife Biologist updated the Commission on the progress of the west river fisheries management plan noting work has been done on 4 of the 7 objectives. Davis provided an overview of large area that makes up the west river fisheries management area. Within the area 2 habitat access projects were recently completed with 5 new projects upcoming. Davis also highlighted several research projects specifically the creel and mussel surveys.

2016 License Sales Update

Staff Specialist Shon Eide provided the license sales report as of June 28, 2016 for all license types' resident and nonresident noting general license sales are slightly above last year due to sales of resident and nonresident combination licenses.

Eide informed the Commission on the 2016 Black Hills Elk Draw indicated everyone who utilized their preference drew a license and all tags have been distributed.

Adjourn

Motioned by Spies with second by B. Jensen TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
July 7, 2016

The Public Hearing Officer Cindy Longmire began the public hearing at 1:58 p.m. at the RedRossa Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota with Commissioners Peterson, Jensen, Boyd, Jensen, Olson, Phillips, Dennert, and Spies present Longmire indicated written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes. Longmire then invited the public to come forward with oral testimony.

Time Restrictions for State Parks

No oral or written testimony was received.

Bicycle Use Restriction

No oral or written testimony was received.

Camping Registration

No oral or written testimony was received.

Length of Camping Stay

No oral or written testimony was received.

Sage Grouse Hunting Season

No oral or written testimony was received.

Fall Turkey Hunting Season

No oral or written testimony was received.

Antelope Hunting Season

No oral or written testimony was received.

Allowance for Bird Processing Records to be Included in Shooting Preserve Records and Number of Processed Birds Allowed Per Package

No oral testimony was received.

Dave Olsen, Pheasant Phun, Inc. “Dear Sirs; This note is in regards to the letter dated June 13, 2016 about proposed rule changes for shooting preserves.

We are thankful to have a preserve license and will abide by whatever rules and laws come from the SDGFP office. It is our hope that your office might keep the paper work to a minimum for the folks who own and hold Preserve licenses, but we understand the need for good record keeping.

One issue I would like to address in this note is the fact that with the record keeping, all Preserve License holders provide you folks important info about each year's harvest, the number of clients, released to wild ratios, etc. Preserve license holders are not the only ones in the state releasing birds or cleaning birds.

There is no license needed to own and operate a hunting lodge/guide service, there is no data collected, no standard for the State of South Dakota to maintain a quality experience for our in and out of state guests. Why wouldn't the SDGFP office require all hunting operations in the state to be licensed? Why wouldn't your office want to gather the info from all hunting operations that we do as Preserve license holders?

If you are going to have Preserves that hunt off-preserve acres keep a second set of records, I would surely like to see your office make all Hunting Operations in the state be permitted to do business, inspected as we are as preserves, and keep similar records for every hunter that comes through their doors as Preserve license holders have to.

I implore your office to set fair standards for all hunting operations in the state and do not discriminate against preserve license holders when it comes to permitting, licensing, and paper work that your office requires. If off preserve hunting acres are going to be scrutinized, all of those acres state wide need to be looked at and governed with equality.

Thank you so much for your time and understanding in this matter. We are very proud of the outdoor opportunities South Dakota has to offer and we are thankful that your office partners with great operations state wide to ensure these opportunities will continue for generations to come.

Requirements and Eligibility for Disabled Veteran Pheasant Hunts

No oral or written testimony was received.

The public Hearing concluded at 2:05 p.m.

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission Governance Meeting
July 7, 2016

Chairperson Peterson called the Governance meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. CDT at the RedRossa Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Cathy Peterson, Jim Spies, Mary Anne Boyd, Gary Jensen, H. Paul Dennert, and W. Scott Phillips were present. Secretary Kelly Hepler was present along with the Division of Parks and Recreation Director Katie Ceroll, Division of Wildlife Director Tony Leif, Director of Administration Chris Petersen, Staff Attorney Richard Neill, Parks and Wildlife Foundation Executive Director Wayne Winter, Engineer Manager John Ullmann and Executive Secretary Rachel Comes.

The purpose of the governance meeting was to discuss administrative issues and provide an overview of the Department and Commission. Discussion items included handling incoming correspondence, public comments, land acquisitions, petitions for rule changes, open forum verses public hearing, Commissioner assignments to workgroups and management plans, meeting location criteria and fees for wildlife licences.

Other discussion included conflict of interest and the waiver request procedures.

The Governance meeting concluded at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary