

**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 18, 2015
Fort Hays State University – Robbins Center
One Tiger Place, Hays, Kansas**

Approved Subject to
8/20/15 Commission
Approval

The June 18, 2015 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1:00 p.m. at FHSU Robbins Center, Hays. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Don Budd, Gary Hayzlett, Roger Marshall and Aaron Rider 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 – There have been multiple versions of the agenda; the current one is on the handout table. The latest additions include 2016 Turkey Regulations to General Discussion and Aquatic Nuisance Species to the Workshop Session.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE April 23, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Gary Hayzlett moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Commissioner Aaron Rider second. Approved. (Minutes – Exhibit B).

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Titus Plomaritis – Presentation and request to allow falconers in Kansas to hunt like on the video (video presentation on TV). Video illustrates the method of falconry showing birds of prey (diurnal and nocturnal) vs. blacktail jackrabbit (nocturnal quarry) and shows that the blacktail is not frozen or disoriented by the light (handout - Exhibit C).

Chairman Lauber – What is it you are asking us to do? Plomaritis – Hunt hares 24-hrs a day with hat light and use UTV like coon hunters do. Lauber – Have a coyote hunter who wants to hunt coyotes at night; falconry is not a large group and requires a lot of commitment; want staff to weigh-in first, but personally don't have any problem with it. It does open the door for the unlawful hunters. Tymeson – Are you limiting to just the hare? Hunting outside normal hours, use of light and use of vehicle we would have to think about. Do you know of any other states that allow this? Plomaritis – Texas does. There is no prohibition in federal falconry laws; the problem is when you hunt small game within a state. Flight of hawk is controlled by the light. It is safer to hunt the hawks at night, takes away top ten problems with hunting falcons in the day. Commissioner Budd – Who is in charge of falconry now? Tymeson – It is the Wildlife Section.

My suggestion is to have Kevin take a look at this with the Wildlife Section and come back with some recommendations. Plomaritis – I hunt right now under depredation permit on farmers who have called me. I shut off the light if she is on the wrong prey. Commissioner Budd – What is number one unintended target? Plomaritis – The cottontail. Chairman Lauber – We will have law enforcement and wildlife review this and come back with something.

Ken Kreif – Recently attended a course out in Utah, thank you for readdressing looking at aquatic nuisance species.

Steve Wood, Hays – Thanks for making crossbow process work in Kansas; it works very well. I think Lloyd Fox would have data on that.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Secretary's Remarks

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Robin Jennison, Secretary, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibits D, E). I will make a couple of comments about state fiscal status before I talk about the agency. It was an historic legislative session with significant issues to deal with. The Governor passed reduction in income taxes two years ago and deficit for budget this year, finally passed budget and taxes. Budget envisioned to have \$50 million cut of budget with vetoes and allotments throughout the year. This will likely not affect the wildlife side of the agency, but Tourism and Parks receive some EDIF funds, and this may affect them. We came out fairly well, but we did lose transportation money late in the session, which could affect maintenance in the parks. Agency fiscal state: May Park Fee Fund is down because of several reasons that Linda may address. Current year is well ahead of previous years. We bottomed out in Park Fee Fund, but that was above the highest point it was in previous years (low point above high point in previous year). Some changes in revenue and significant changes in management that contribute to the Park Fee Fund graph. FY2014 was not a good year for Wildlife Fee Fund, sales from a variety of licenses, but returning to normal; best revenue so far since 2011. Commissioner Marshall – More turkey sold in April? What accounts for large increase? Jennison – That is when the deer permit applications come in and we have to return those funds when they are not successful in the draw. Cindy Livingston – That is nonresident deer permit applications.

2. 2015 Legislative Update – Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission. This is the end of first year of two-year cycle for the legislature so the bills that didn't make it through this year, unless they were gutted, are still alive for next year. This has been a long and crazy year from perspective of keeping up with the bills. I track about 120 bills a session, about 15 on our website, the rest affect employees, but not constituents in a direct manner. I follow firearms bills because our constituents typically have firearms. SB45 – Kansas is the sixth state to allow concealed carry without a permit, signed by Governor beginning of April. SB46 – Identification of domestic cervids, dealt with marking deer that entered or left premises alive, passed and was signed by Governor end of March. SB50 – Dealt with bed and breakfast tax valuations, didn't go anywhere but is still alive for next year. SB59 – dealt with magistrate judges and their jurisdiction, flipped into another bill at end of year. It clarifies that magistrate judges could have jurisdiction over Wildlife, Parks and Tourism trials and charges,

signed by Governor in HB2111 in May. SB97 – Dangerous regulated animals, attempt to water down current law to have contact with animals weighing less than 25 pounds, passed Senate, still alive in House and is alive for next year. SB112 – dealt with citations issued by law enforcement, changing wording from “shall” to “may” issue citations; a minor tweak, but deal with a court case in Douglas County; passed Senate, rolled into other bills, bill did not pass. SB 112 was gutted so have to start over with that bill. SB114 – dealt with electronic licenses, so a person won’t have to forfeit phone or other electronic devices that contains license, did not make it, also gutted bill. SB120 – started out as land purchase exemption in SE Kansas, ultimately legislature agreed somewhat with strip pit purchases, but overall purchase reduced from 320 acres to 160 acres without legislative approval; passed. SB132 – another dangerous regulated animals bill, but tightened the law on possession, did not get a hearing. SB134 – noxious weed law amendments and added agency to advisory council; did not go anywhere. SB169 – department initiative that would designate channel catfish as state fish, we are one of four states without a state fish; did not go anywhere. Commissioner Marshall – What committee was responsible for that? Tymeson – Senate Committee on Natural Resources; concern with wasting time on state symbols. SB178 - Valuation of agricultural land, not on our website, several attempts to raise property tax on agricultural land, coming out of Johnson county area, did get a hearing, but bill didn’t go anywhere. SB190 – provision in state prohibiting someone to operate a sailboat unless they had a boater education class, there can’t be two people on the sailboat at the same time, this would allow for instructor on boat nearby and would be an exemption, passed Senate, had hearing in House, but didn’t go anywhere, amended into SB274, as far as I can tell original bill is still alive for next year. Commissioner Marshall – Department supporting that? Tymeson – In beginning bill was allowing sail clubs to give classes and certificates, but those wouldn’t have been of any value at the national level and we worked through that part and department supports current form. SB 268 and SB 269 both came out of Sedgwick County. SB268 – would have allowed an exemption for stream maintenance in Kansas nongame and endangered species act, bill had a hearing in March. SB269 – to remove eastern spotted skunk from state threatened list, also had a hearing in March. Neither of these two went anywhere. SB274 – is the gutted bill I told you about, where sailboats were added that didn’t pass. HB2029 – dealt with identification of domesticated cervids, moved from senate bill 246. HB2087 – regulation of firearms dealers, essentially said couldn’t have a tax bill to regulate firearms dealers out of business. HB2074 – Concealed carry statutes from last year, people with juvenile convictions that put them on the federal level prohibited them from obtaining a conceal carry permit. Both of those went into conference committee report on HB2231 which ultimately passed late in the session. The concealed carry one basically set it back to what it was two years ago. HB2116 – official state fish bill, where we submitted first and it didn’t go anywhere. HB2117 – phase in boater education like hunter education, over period of time, a department initiative, had a hearing in House Ag and Natural Resources and didn’t go anywhere. HB2155 – not on our website but dealt with charitable gaming and raffles, amendment to constitution in November that allowed charitable raffles on the ballots so legislature came in to set up some ground rules, followed because of NGO partners that do charitable raffles; prior to that I think most people just turned a blind eye to it. HB2168 – companion to SB50 on taxes at bed and breakfasts, got below line on House general orders, but didn’t go anywhere. Several department bills got lumped together in HB2177 at the end of session, all of the bills that our department was trying to get through, SB112, SB113, SB190 (first two were law enforcement bills and third one was sailboat bill were all lumped together); this bill also included the antler bill (HB2341) which threw ten years of

confiscated and forfeited antlers from criminal cases into limbo. Senate did not accept the conference committee report and bill was killed. Antler provision was so aggrieved to North American Model of Conservation, several of our partners helped us out with that as well. HB2293 – dangerous regulated animals, also was an attempt to tighten down that law. HB2327 – Make meteorite state rock, didn't go anywhere, and could have been used to promote the state. HB2341 - Antler bill we talked about. At end of year several bills that dealt with budget funding and provisions versus classified versus unclassified caused consternation with employees, unclassified have no civil service protection, which did pass allowing supervisors to make some determinations as positions come open; and KPERS final salary, which didn't go anywhere. Constitutional right to hunt fish and trap was introduced but didn't have a hearing, expect big push next year. Commissioner Budd – How much support did that agricultural taxation bill get? Tymeson – It got a lot of talk, but not a lot of support. Commissioner Budd – How did it get there? Tymeson - Anyone can introduce a bill in committee, but this is the first time in 16 years I saw one not be accepted. It is a rural/urban divide on taxes, several attempts to raise real property taxes on agricultural land. Chairman Lauber – Regarding antler bill, could we donate or sell antlers we have? Tymeson – In general, or one particular set? Chairman Lauber – Donate the ones we have, those that are deemed to have value, I don't feel people would be so pushy on this then. Tymeson – Retroactive is not just on one set of antlers. Jennison – That has been the policy of the agency on some antlers, we have always had a mechanism to release at auction. This particular case was a unique thing, time came for auction and wanted to know what we wanted to do with it, we decided not to sell any antlers to not be accused of trying to get under legislature. We are going to divest ourselves of those antlers and Kevin is going to take care of those, and go back to agency policy prior to this. Chairman Lauber – Since that is no longer an issue need to sell those valuable sets of antlers. Commissioner Budd – Is antlers all you sell? Kevin Jones – No, other confiscated items as well. Commissioner Budd - Two sales a year, Kevin? How much do you make? Jones – Had bidding war at last auction on one set; it is other surplus property as well as antlers; \$2,000 to \$2,500 is average on antlers. Money goes toward purchasing of law enforcement equipment. Michael Pearce – Kevin, are auctions open to the public? Jones – Yes. Pearce – What is done to notify public of when and where? Jones – Through auction house and news releases on it. Pearce – Are department people allowed to buy things? Jones – At the auction, that is open to the public. Jennison – Todd told me information folks will put on website and publish in magazine as well.

B. General Discussion

1. Wildlife Fees - Robin Jennison, Secretary, presented this item to the Commission (Exhibit F). Late this spring, a committee was assembled to begin discussing the potential to increase our revenue fees by raising prices on some of the department's issuances. This discussion is necessary for several reasons. First, hunting and fishing license fees have not been increased since 2002 and deer and turkey permit fees have remained the same since 1984. The situation that has developed the last few years if that we have more appropriation than we are bringing in, we have not kept up with inflation, and the uncommitted reserve in our Wildlife Fee Fund (WFF) has begun to shrink. Politically the timing is right to discuss increases, hard to discuss in first term of administration, but in second term. There are great programs that need to be amped up, for instance walk-in hunting, especially with the mood of the legislature in not allowing us to buy property. What we can provide through public hunting land has paled to what

we can do with WIHA, over one million acres. Leases have not changed significantly since that program started, for us to be able to continue to meet access issues we need to recognize that. We are seeing more landowners trying to get into commercial hunting endeavors, while I support that it is not the business we are in, we want to provide access, so we need to make a larger commitment to WIHA. With that in mind committee sat down and began to look at our fees and began to make comparisons to other states, so we will bring those to you at the next meeting. Looking at the timeline we will workshop this at the August 20 meeting and take some action at the public meeting on October 22. Knowing that Commissioner Dill was not going to be here I did inform him of this discussion and one of the questions he asked was for additional data from other states. Bringing up today, let us know what you want other information included in our presentation. Mike Miller leads the committee and there are eight or nine people on the committee. We will have something to bring before the Commission in August. Commissioner Marshall – Hope it shows net revenue generation and how you are going to spend it. Pearce – Out of list, which are you most interested in? Jennison – I am going to say we have looked at increases on everything on the list, whether we go there or not is yet to be seen. General hunting and fishing licenses is one we need to modernize, 2002 was last time we adjusted those and the cost of doing business had increased and that is a long time to go without some adjustment. Our Pittman-Robertson funds were going up and there was concern if we had enough WFF to match that; maybe that is why we began to cut into the balances of WFF, it was going up because of all of the gun and ammo sales; with that going back down not as much concern with that. About five years you were seeing general high-end hunting and fishing licenses increase, probably one of the reasons we have been able to go so long is because of the diversity of opportunity in Kansas, we are not relying on upland game like pheasant and quail like we used to. Chris, what year did we start ramping up nonresident deer licenses? Tymeson – In 1995, first nonresident deer and in 2003 the legislature increased the cap from five percent to twenty percent. Jennison – Had that not taken place we probably would have had a fee increase. About 70 percent of revenue income is coming from nonresidents now. Pearce – (*couldn't hear complete question*) Some of things on list are residents and nonresidents? Jennison – Some are just modern-day increases and combo licenses; no real benefit other than saving one processing fee, talking about multi-year license. There are a variety of things the committee is talking about beyond fee increases, modernization of the structure. Commissioner Budd – I think six bullet points are great. The two that stick out to me are: nonresident deer licenses that are not being sold, nonresidents are not meaning to break the law, but are not aware they need this; that should increase revenue. The other one is the multi-year license, in the age of convenience, a five-; ten- or fifteen-year license along with the lifetime license would be great. Jennison – We have to be real careful when we do multi-year licenses because to get Pittman Robertson or Dingell-Johnson funds we have to make sure that is making a similar amount invested that we would with our annual licenses or it doesn't qualify. We are having those discussions on what sort of break would still qualify. Todd, PR is \$42 or something like that right now? Workman – To qualify for the program it has to be within 5.18 percent, can't dip below that or can't count for number of years you want to. Commissioner Budd – My thoughts are, in the age of convenience people are interested in not having to go a license every year and if you buy a five-year license at today's rate you have to consider everything goes up so do you really have to give them a deep discount; probably not. Jennison – Looking at automatically charging people for their licenses, we have looked at affinity cards and that has never worked out, haven't found anyone willing to do anything for us, they only want to help themselves, so looking at automatically charging someone's credit card and maybe giving

them a break. We have got to get a mechanism where it is easy for someone to get their license and they have it multiple years. We are not there yet, but will soon be there and our constituents will demand that they can have their license on their phone. At the point they do that the convenience to get that license and we don't have multi-year mechanisms in place, the churn problem that we have now will be exacerbated, because no one will buy their license until the first time they going hunting or fishing. We need to find modern techniques to sell multi-year licenses and make them easy to get. Commissioner Budd – Something different than ten years ago, especially in the last four is the walk-in hunting (WIHA) was increasing every year so you are taking the dollars and giving them more for their money; giving them more opportunities to hunt. Jennison – We hope so. Commissioner Rider – Surprised I don't see turkey tags on here, they are only about \$52 for two tags; neighboring states are at about \$190, I know Missouri and Arkansas are that way, look at that. Tymeson – There are a lot of variables on deer, everyone required to have a hunting license except landowners. We have looked at turkey tags, pay \$75 for hunting license and \$52 for tags, you are still at \$125 versus Missouri; we have done some comparisons and discussions. These bullet points are highlights of the last meeting. Commissioner Budd – A nonresident landowner does not need a hunting permit? Tymeson – A landowner on their own property, resident landowners don't either. There are a number of issues associated with that need for the hunting license as well as the deer permit, some other states have it all-in-one license; they are not buying hunting license because they are not sure they need it. We feel there is loss of revenue, more of a law enforcement issues rather than a revenue issue; something we discussed in this group. Chairman Lauber – Need recommendations and comparisons to surrounding states. Be sensitive to the common man but need to maintain and enhance services without revenues at a more stable source. Pearce – Robin, who is point person? Jennison – Mike Miller. Tymeson – We will firm up some recommendations for August, because of timing of regulations.

2. 2016 Turkey Regulations – Jeff Prendergast, presented this item to the Commission (Exhibit G). I'll be talking about 115-25-5 and 25-6, spring and fall turkey regulations. The department sold 74,609 carcass tags, the largest number ever for the spring turkey season. We are currently collecting harvest data, but it typically averages between 30,000 and 35,000 and expect it to be in that range again. Last fall we sold 12,976 carcass tags, about 750 less than the previous year; that was after the reduction in tag allotment. Fall harvest is typically between 5,000 and 7,000 birds, but numbers haven't been run for several years with the lesser prairie chicken issues going on that pulled my predecessor's time away. The drought has had variable affect on us, depending on what portion of the state you are in; in the east where weather conditions have been better, production has been up in that eastern one-third; in the western one-third, moisture is typically a limiting factor and has reduced production because we have not had adequate vegetation to support nesting and brood rearing activities. I don't have production data this year, but the heavy rainfall received in late May and early June is somewhat concerning. Heavy rainfall is not good for production due to the thermal abilities of young chicks; however this will help us recover some of our vegetation and should provide some opportunity to get some chicks on the ground. In 2012, we adopted an adaptive management strategy, using spring harvest success to guide recommendations on the number of carcass tags to allow. The staff will meet next month and come up with recommendations for the 2015 turkey bag limits at the next commission meeting. This spring was the first year that youth had a weekend so we had season structure changes this year; the first weekend of April is the youth/disabled hunt, the second

weekend is archery-only and the firearms starts the Wednesday after the second weekend; that was put in place in order to encourage hunter recruitment and increase youth participation. This year we sold an additional 1,000 youth carcass tags, a 10 percent increase, over last year; hopefully that will continue to increase. Chairman Lauber – Being a fall turkey hunter, I noticed the increase of birds in fall 2014 and harvest limitations in southeast part. Will you know what the mature toms versus jake harvest numbers for the 2015 season soon? Isn't that what determines harvest for the fall? Prendergast – Yes, I will have that in August. Chairman Lauber – If numbers continue to go up it would be good to allow greater harvest. I still have constituents who feel they have lost a week; in 2016 firearms turkey is a week later. Some people say it only happens when certain days of the month fall on weekends. Appreciate need for youth hunt, but not sure I appreciate the need for a special weekend for archery. I think they are able to compete with the firearm hunter and the birds become call shy and would like to consider dropping that. Consider giving weekend to youth, but move firearm season back. Not sure how much time we need to review that, but should consider that. Tymeson – We are locked in for this fall season, we are discussing the 2016 season. Jim Stanford, Stafford – I would like to see if the state could get away from printing game tags on the computer and making them only available at license outlets, I think there is opportunity for more than two tags to be printed from the computer. I would challenge commission and staff to look at that. Commissioner Budd – Is that a flaw in our system? Tymeson – Not sure about that, there is potential for someone to make a photocopy of it. That is a discussion we have been having internally, that is a fraud issue. Chairman Lauber – I think the possibility is there, not sure we want to make licenses harder for people to obtain. Tymeson – Battle between accessibility of permits. Stanford – Too easy to circumvent the law, not sure how you would catch someone unless the game warden actually saw them with a stack of them. Tymeson – Not limited to just turkeys and we will discuss that.

Break

3. Tourism Update - Linda Craghead, assistant secretary Parks and Tourism, presented this update to the Commission (showed website). Kansas bucket list campaign is user generated and is on the website. We have administrative section where we can go to pull some of what is being posted which saves us a lot of time; pulling information from Facebook, twitter, instagram, etc. and brings it directly in so we don't have to log in and search those sites. It brings it into one spot and we go through and identify the top-user generated pictures and upload those onto our website, so now we have integrated user-generated photography into our TravelKS.com. The hash tag is an identifier which identifies the picture with a tag, like a filing cabinet, so a user can go out to #KSBucketList and tie it to that site. You can also do that with #KSStateParks, #KSFishing, etc.; we can use this social aggregator to get all of the information we want from whatever is used. It is an extremely busy time of year for state parks and tourism industry right now. We hosted a group of travel writers from the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) in southeast Kansas earlier this month as well as the Society of American Travel Writers, who just left. The Great Lakes writers were primarily from the northeast, about 40 from across Canada and the U.S. The earned media we are already generating is terrific to see and it doesn't cost us anything. We also want to appreciate an article in the Hays paper to recognize our outdoor kids' day. We had international folks here, a competition with U.S. travel who offered a prize package for people who booked travel in the English speaking European nations. That package for 10 travel agents was for Kansas and Oklahoma. It was amazing to hear the stories

and see the video done by these travel agents on their experience; we were actually able to get Schlitterbahn, the tallest water slide operating just so those folks could experience it so this month has been action packed. You can't pay for earned media, the experience they get and the stories they write is ten times, one hundred times more valuable than any paid ad we could ever put in place. Can't commend team of KDWPT enough, pulled off Cabela's National Walleye Team Championship event at Milford; everybody pulling together brought in 185 two-person teams into Kansas. That will be featured on Americana Outdoors, NBC Sports, the Pursuit Channel and other regional networks. Kansas fishing and earned media we don't have to pay for, they are coming in and showcasing our state. Thank you everyone who helped make that happen. Currently working on visitor's guide for 2016, ad sales and listings will cut off this Friday, and that will be published January 2016 and ready for distribution. We will be producing another Kansas State Park Guide this year and an additional Outdoor Guide, so if you know of someone who wants an ad in there to let the Tourism team know. We have rescheduled Kansas Capitol Campout for July 10 and 11, love to see some of our Commissioners there; a great opportunity to promote outdoors to kids and people who don't traditionally camp. One of things we want to note, expanding retail market for our magazines to 29 Orscheln's stores and 4 Hy-Vee stores who asked to be picked up, they pursued us; we already have Dillon's stores. Another indication that the publications we are producing are top notch. Getting ready to kick off exciting campaign in state parks and I am going to let Linda tell you about that. Busiest time of year for tourism and state parks right now.

4. State Park Updates – Cedar Bluff and Webster – Linda Lanterman, parks division director, introduced these presenters to the Commission. Always a team effort to make success of state parks with help of Fish and Wild Division; archery ranges, fishing clinics, youth hunts, and shooting ranges, one successful one at El Dorado and one going in at Hillsdale; helps us with visitation and activity in our state parks. We are starting a campaign, a selfie post card which says “#MyKsStatePark is:” (Exhibit H), in conjunction with 100th anniversary for the National Park Service find your park theme. We will start handing those out next week at the Country stampede. We want people to write on them and upload them on Facebook and Twitter; we will be using this theme through this year and all of next year because the 100th anniversary is next year. My team sitting out here are Rick Martin, Regional Supervisor Smoky Hills; Troy Brown, Regional Supervisor for High Plains; and we are going to showcase two state parks today. We are flooded, several state parks in flood stage, but are still open for business; we are taking care of the areas that are flooded, Perry, Tuttle, Milford, Cross Timbers, Fall River, El Dorado, Elk City, the list goes on, but we are addressing that. There are some areas don't have enough water. We have Chris Smith from Cedar Bluff State Park and Zach Kesler from Webster State Park to present today.

Chris Smith, Cedar Bluff (Presentation – Exhibit I) – Reservoir came about due to Dirty 30s, the severe drought of the 1930s and early 1940s. As a result of damage to the farms and agriculture the government looked at feasibility of putting in a reservoir for irrigation. In 1941 feasibility study halted because of World War II; in 1944, Flood Control Act of 1944 of Missouri River Basin came out to develop multi-purpose water resources and construction began in late 1940s finishing in 1951. Primary purposes were irrigation, flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife, and municipal uses. Almost immediately took on flood waters and was full on June 21, 1951. By 1968, Cedar Bluff opened doors to more recreational opportunities and we continue to keep up

with changes in technology and trends. Today Cedar Bluff offers 138 utility campsites, six rental cabins, a group campground, a variety of primitive camping opportunities with annual revenue consistently around \$340,000 to \$350,000 a year. Visitation varies based on water levels, but variety of opportunities keep people coming out; we are 22½ feet low right now, but people are still coming out. Designed for water-based activities too, such as fishing, water sports, and recreational boating; which have all been a part of Cedar Bluff since day one. From the beginning management has made water activities available no matter what the elevation of the water. I can't think of a single time when we haven't had a boat ramp available to get people on the water. Public interests varies, but the lake is available for everyone to enjoy; sometimes hard for us to meet all of the demands and expectations. With campgrounds and amenities, we feel we meet the needs; we are creative and try to meet changes in technology. We have primitive campsites, campsites with amenities, to primitive improved campsites which are reservable, to two-utility campsites with 50 amp breakers (upgraded from 30 amps), on up to three full-utility sites; which stay booked and full almost year-round. We host numerous other recreational activities; have horseshoe pits and other amenities for get-togethers. Can ride a bicycle, but also have full BMX track, have five modern restrooms and shower house facilities in two separate areas, and several playgrounds. Fishing is popular activity, and we have a pond for the kids, "Pa's Pond", where we focus fishing day activities and OK kids programs. We have shelters available and rental cabins that were once shelters. Our cabins generated \$50,000 in revenue last year. Trail use is growing for hiking and biking, one-mile interpretive loop and four-mile unimproved section on public land portion of the property. Agave Ridge Trail recently recognized by the authors of the Kansas Trail Guide as one of the top ten trails in the state of Kansas. Throughout the year we host many events: had major bass tournament, equestrian trail rides, Holiday in Lights celebration, and OK Kids. We work with other agencies and other divisions to make those events happen, including the fisheries division, Pheasants Forever, Sternberg Museum and the AmeriCorps Program. People who come out every weekend are the ones that make Cedar Bluff State Park possible. Their investment of time, money and tradition is a secondary investment to the kids who will carry the tradition on into the future.

Zach Kessler, Webster (Presentation – Exhibit J) – I have been at Webster since 2002, as park ranger and started manager position in 2006. Similar in inception to Cedar Bluff, the Flood Act got it rolling. Town of Webster in 1952, started work on reservoir in January 1953 and Webster dam was completed in July 1956 at an approximate cost of \$7 million; became state park in 1965. Major changes in last ten years include: reservoir level and visitation fluctuation, a new office, two new shower houses, a new playground, a new cabin, new campground and restoration of Coyote Trail. Reservoir fluctuation is a big deal because of irrigation; in December 2006 the lake level was at 28.81 feet below conservation pool and annual visitation was 109,000 visitors that year. In 2009, Webster reservoir reached conservation pool and visitation was over 195,000. In 2012, visitation reached the highest mark in ten years, at just over 224,000 visitors. In 2006, we got a new office, money from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR); we are fortunate to be a Bureau reservoir as we get a lot of money from them for different projects that some state parks don't get. In 2009, BOR replaced our shower houses because they weren't ADA compliant; now they are fully enclosed and are ADA accessible. The old ones were shelters made into shower houses. In 2011, we got a new playground through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which replaced an old playground made of wood that the staff was always repairing. The new playground was installed by park staff in the High Plains region. Before 2012 we had

one kit-built cabin which was built in 2004 and we got the new Blue-wing cabin, which was built by Corrections, and is located within walking distance of our other cabin. The Hill Top campground was built in 2012. Once the lake filled in 2009 we didn't have enough utility sites to meet demand; we had 77 sites and added 16 at Hill Top. In 2009 and 2010 campgrounds at capacity on weekends May through July and in 2011 got money from BOR to build the new campground. KDOT came out and helped us do all of the trenching for electrical and waterlines and staff completed all of the utilities (wiring, plumbing and water) at considerable savings; if we had to contract it out it would have cost three times what it did. When the lake came up in 2009, flood debris damaged the trail and in 2009 we were able to get money to purchase equipment to clear the trail and add interpretive posts (just over 30 stops along the trail). In 2014, revenue was \$229,143 and visitation was 188,286 people. One of the most popular special events we have is the OK Kids day. In 2014 we had over 80 kids and in 2015, around 160, and we also have a lot of area schools that bring classes out for field trips and we also make several classroom visits each year. Working on memorial pickle ball/basketball court being built by seasonal employee's family, who are donating labor and money at Eagle's Landing campground. We have had silent donors who have given money for archery targets and we are building an archery range later this summer.

C. Workshop Session

1. Park Regulations - Linda Lanterman, Parks Division Director, presented this regulation to the Commission. Update you on pricing needed for state parks. With new reservation system contract signed (with same company) doing some dynamic pricing, like we did with the cabins, lowering in slow times and increasing in high times. No specifics today, but we will continue that process in the campgrounds. Instead of looking at paying a utility fee, a camping fee and a prime fee we are going to price by sites (one fee per site) and remove frustration of campers. They will still need vehicle permit when they check into the park. We hope to reduce conflict of having to have a prime site and utilities one, two and three, each with different prices and daily camping \$8 daily fee; and roll that all into one fee for each site. Before reservation system comes live next year we will be coming before you with those fees. Going to modern standards of pricing, like Robin said earlier. We want to move into dynamic pricing like other systems are doing and we want to be ahead of everyone else across the nation and be competitive.

2. Fishing Regulations - Doug Nygren, fisheries section chief, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit K). Have reference document where we list special length and creel limits that are different than statewide regulations on a lake-by-lake basis. Federal reservoirs and larger lakes are usually the ones that generate the most controversy. At Melvern, add 35-inch minimum length and five/day for blue catfish, and change to an 18-inch minimum length limit for spotted bass and sauger; at Clinton add 35-inch minimum length and five/day for blue catfish, and change to an 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass, a new population that we are trying to get established; at Elk City add 35-inch minimum length and five/day for blue catfish; at El Dorado remove 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass which would take it down to statewide 15-inch length limit, and on blue catfish change to 25- to 35-inch slot-length limit with five/day and no more than two fish 35-inch or longer, which is success story and we feel we can now begin to allow some harvest, promote

harvest of some of the smaller fish, but protect brooders; at Tuttle Creek, John Redmond, LaCygne and Pomona change blue catfish to five/day creel; statewide for blue catfish is ten/day in a combination of blue and channel catfish. Bone Creek reservoir has asked for an 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye with a two/day limit; Winfield City Lake (the largest PL 566 lake built by Federal government, a nice sized lake) wants to add an 18-inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass to protect this new population There are several smaller impoundment changes as well, but we don't anticipate any controversy arising from any of the state fishing lakes or community lakes. Chairman Lauber – On Melvern, what is the reason for raising the length limit on sauger? Nygren – Because of confusion, there is walleye in there as well and makes it easier on people on identification. Chairman Lauber – Is that common in all the other lakes where sauger and walleye are? Nygren – I think managers try to manage those species similarly because they are look-alike species. We want to change recommendation on set lines, current regulations asks that you attach the setline to an immovable object and anglers tell us that often times where they want to fish does not have an immovable object and they would like the ability to sink an immovable object and attach a setline to that. The proposal is to allow them to put in an object that weighs 25 pounds, which would prevent it from floating around the lake like a free floating jug line in order to place setlines in more desirable locations. We want to make sure in the process of moving the setlines around they are not moving water that could contain invasive species so we want the floats to be constructed in a way that they cannot hold water when being moved from one lake to another. We have another item that was not in the briefing book, a proposed change to 115-7-10 (d) (Exhibit L). We are having some conflicts in Wichita at the fish ladder that was constructed on the Arkansas River near Lincoln Street dam which has a chute in the middle that where boats can go down and a ladder on each side where fish can work their way upstream; dual purpose for boating access and fish to get upstream so we have reconnected the river. There is not a fish ladder in the country that allows people to fish in the fish ladder, it is intended to give fish an opportunity to move from point A to point B. We did pass a regulation that says you can't fish in the fish ladder, but we are getting calls from the public as well as issues from law enforcement officers and fisheries biologists asking us to look at regulation and make one that might be more enforceable. We don't have any wording to bring forward, but at our next workshop we will try to come back with wording to make that stronger. Regulations will cover three points: prohibit any kind of fishing in, over and in close proximity to passage; allow paddlers to float thru the passage as intended; and is enforceable enough to stand up in court if we should write tickets on violators. The dam was replaced recently and it used to be immediately below the bridge and people could stand on the old bridge and fish below the dam, but when they rebuilt it they moved the dam downstream, so now we have people who can't fish from the bridge crawling out on the wing wall of the fish ladder and fishing on the other side which is defeating the purpose of keeping away; we don't want someone to back cast and snag a kayaker going through the chute; so we want to rewrite it so fishing and taking of bait is not happening in the fish ladder and we are not having conflicts between the boaters and the anglers. We will be bringing a new version of the ANS waters to the next workshop; we did have one new finding of zebra mussels this year at Lake Miola at Paola. Kreif – On weighted of setlines – they won't hold water, but are anglers aware that zebra mussels will attach to the outside? Nygren – Our intention was for movement of water at this time. Kreif – Adult zebra mussel will live for 30 days out of water.

3. Duck Zone Boundaries - Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager,

presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit M). We have two presentations today on Kansas duck zone boundaries: first I will provide an update of recent public meetings and timeline of changes to duck zone boundaries and Rich Schultheis will be giving a background of the some of the data streams we looked at in developing duck zones and season dates. We recently completed seven meeting nights to obtain input from hunters (Exhibit N), even though there were not as many hunters as we hoped we did receive some good feedback. There are some patterns, hard to separate season dates and zoning, particularly around those zone boundaries. For example, around Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area, people don't mind a week later season in the late zone however they are not favorable of giving up their November days for January days and vice versa for those later hunting season dates. Often in such debates we can group hunters by area or other demographics, but on this issue it is more difficult. It seems to be an early season versus late season preference. One result we did find, from a majority of those that did attend the meetings are satisfied with the current boundaries; however, those that attend the meetings usually have a greater interest. There are some hunters who would like to see some change and some suggestions were minor and some more extensive. Areas of interest: Marais des Cygnes is number one and Cedar Bluff, which is more difficult if you are trying to incorporate High Plains boundary over late zone dates. Federal guidelines dictate how zones are set and we have three options on how we can configure our zones with the last option being three zones with no more than one two-way split, which is what we have been operating on since 1996. We do have two other options, we can have four zones with no splits or we can have no zones with three segments. Boundaries must be contiguous and are only good for the regular duck season; don't cover things like teal season. Changes are for management so we cannot move the High Plains zone during this discussion. Once the zones and splits are selected they will be in place for the next five years, but season and bag limits can be adjusted annually. Timeline: March meeting kicked off this discussion; completed public meetings; send out hunter survey later this month to approximately 8,000 duck hunters selected from hunters who bought 2014 duck stamp; come back with staff recommendations at August 20 meeting; with public hearing October 22; with final recommendations being made to USFWS by December 1. These changes will not take effect until 2016/2017 season. Rich will give more background and then we will have further discussion.

Rich Schultheis – Information considered in process; summarize meetings and cover some issues on Quivira that there were questions about (Exhibit O). We talked about what zones are (established to divide two or more areas in the state) and how they are established; considerations like not changing harvest distribution patterns among species or populations in state or Flyway; and how zones are used across the Flyways. Primarily wanted to talk about how we structured zones in the past and the kind of information we used for that. Zones can be structured north/south, east/west, by physiographic features, climate or things like that, but in the past we have considered differences in habitat types and the birds that rely on that habitat; for example, areas of shallow wetlands may have more early season migrants, where late habitats and late season migrants we try to group those. So you see the structure of our zones as they currently are and you see places like McPherson, Cheyenne Bottoms and Jamestown connected in the early zone which are used early in the year; Low Plains late where similar types of habitat are connected and same thing in southeast. You see some odd structures because the zones have to be connected. There are three main things we think about: migration phenology, harvest chronology, and hunter surveys. Duck abundance is straight forward, we looks at trends in time

when ducks are present in different areas or habitat types; harvest chronology, when we shoot lots and ducks and when we don't and how that changes; and public input from public meetings and hunting survey that is coming up. What we try to keep in mind is our recommendation has to structure zones to maximize abundance, harvest, and satisfaction for Kansas duck hunters. The first data stream is waterfowl surveys and we are lucky enough in Kansas to conduct waterfowl surveys twice a month through migration at many wildlife areas and other important locations like nuclear power facilities and wherever we see lots of birds around; data has been collected for a long period of time from many locations across the state which is helpful for this process. We are not saying we are counting everything in the state or at that location, but we try and standardize that process so we get good comparisons between years and trends within a season; like September versus November and January or 2012 versus 1997, for example, so we are repeating the same thing. We are looking at when ducks are present and how that changes throughout the year. Showed Cedar Bluff graph and each line shows different years and average. Third week of November is pretty much when birds begin to show. On charts (Cheyenne Bottoms, Jamestown and McPherson), line is average with whiskers of fluctuation; we use these to structure seasons and zones to capture when birds are present (showed comparison chart for Norton, Webster, Glen Elder and Marion – in High Plains late zone); compared to the southeast zone which is shallow marsh properties (Neosho, Marais des Cygnes, Flint Hill NWR and Coffey County/Wolf Creek) which has later harvest chronology. Harvest encompasses abundance of birds, hunter participation, hunter success and habitat availability (like shallow water early, frozen water late). Two main data sources to rely on: harvest cards, good on wildlife areas; and USFWS parts collection survey which relies on HIP stamp where a subset of those individuals are contacted to fill out a survey (and a smaller group of those actually send in wings that we use to make sex ratios, age ratios, species composition of harvest – nationally and locally because it asks what county birds are harvested in and the day), which is for public and private lands and all types of habitat. Chart on early zone harvest chronology shows percent of harvest on date, shows that early season is important at Jamestown and McPherson; we use this to compare sites and see similar information and patterns for different areas. PCS is parts collection data. In late zone, we see bigger importance of harvest later in season, with even more steady harvest in southeast zone. Commissioner Marshall – Mean percentage of annual harvest? At McPherson, most ducks in November, but high harvest earlier; only place open? Schultheis – It has to do with opener affect of participation, most hunters hunt on opener, folks go when the season opens. Commissioner Budd – SE zone peak harvest is November 15? Schultheis – If you get rid of first couple of weeks. Commissioner Budd – Peak number of birds is around end of November? Schultheis – I would say that is pretty accurate. Commissioner Marshall – Birds coming back in January? Schultheis – Could be a little bit of everything to be honest, could be habitat opening up, but we do see it at Neosho more so than any of our other habitats. Don't have a lot of data, zone only open for a few years. Other things that matter, proportion of mallards to non-mallards, season could capture one or the other and could have significant impact on the harvest; a reminder that other factors are used to set seasons. Schultheis – This is the makeup of the total; all this shows is when we switch from mallard to non-mallard harvest. Commissioner Budd – What is biggest harvest? Bidrowski – Mallards are 40 to 60 percent and most numerous ducks hunted. Commissioner Budd – So about half. Bidrowski – Some mallards stay at big reservoirs, like geese, so numerous variety in their patterns. Commissioner Budd – See reverse migration in southeast zone. Schultheis – Question on Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), graph shows bi-weekly water survey, bars are portion of last ten years when whooping cranes are

present when ducks are present; so NWR is closed to all hunting. Caution period in late October to late November. Commissioner Marshall – Fair to say at least two weeks in that month Quivira is closed? Schultheis – If I don't have good data, I can't make general assumptions; we rely on information and data we have. If Quivira was in the early zone, which would give only 37 days to hunt and the entire overlap occurs during that early zone period. Commissioner Budd – Do you have harvest numbers compared to migration? Schultheis – We have no harvest numbers, but migration numbers are here. It is currently in the late zone and looking at that, in the last ten years there were 305 days when whooping cranes were present during what would have been early zone season. Compared to the late zone now where it is now, overlay shows 41 days to hunt. Commissioner Budd – Is everything outside of Quivira closed? Schultheis – There was one area that was closed long ago, but based on this information we are talking about the refuge only. We have no data, there is no card program, nothing to rely on for data and we have nothing to do with Quivira. Commissioner Marshall – One-half to one-third as many hunters as Cheyenne Bottoms? Bidrowski – Well over 6,000 hunters. Schultheis – Staying in the late zone means in the last ten years there were 265 days when whooping cranes were present during duck season, so that is some indication that there is some value to being in the late zone; it may mean a few more days of hunting; early season not available when cranes are present, but more open in mid-December. Some of these days could be when not a lot of birds are present. Commissioner Budd – How many birds harvested on Quivira? Bidrowski – No harvest data. Commissioner Budd – When closed on Quivira, where do hunters go? Bidrowski – An island of private land opportunities out there with Reno being the highest county. Schultheis – Based on fact that there is a lot of private land hunting going on in the area, indicates hunting is still good. Comparison of Quivira in late or early zone, positives and negatives in both and it is a trade off and this is the type of information we look at when setting seasons. Other things going on in Quivira, like rattlesnake river flow increases after irrigation ceases and more huntable acres of water available later in the season; also a lot of other users on the refuge, like bird watchers which is also a concern. Hunter surveys, asking questions on zones and seasons for the last couple of years; in southeast zone 2010 vs. 2013 asking about hunter satisfaction; and again in 2014 we asked people what they wanted for the southeast zone and whether they wanted a boundary change or not.

Bidrowski – Thank Rich for presentation, an abbreviated version of what we gave at the public meetings, with more background and history. Thank Commissioner Rider and Budd for attending some of those meetings. Received letter from Quivira regarding their preference for zoning opportunities which was attached to briefing book (Exhibit P).

Jim Stanford, Stafford – Would it be possible to this information, along with survey results published on website or email? Bidrowski – The .pdf will be on website later today and survey results are on website already under migratory bird research publications. Stanford - Is August meeting public? Bidrowski – Similar to all of our commission meetings, open for public comment as well. Stanford – Results of last year's survey? Bidrowski – Posted on website as well. Stanford – As far as the goose opener goes, in federal guidelines when is the latest geese can close? Bidrowski – The Sunday closest to February 15, which will be presented in late season briefing book item. Stanford – I found one slide interesting where mallards versus non-mallards; I work as an analyst by trade so I am interested in ways people present data; mallards represent the bulk of ducks and in looking at federal number 49.2 million mallards represents nearly 11 million of that, 22 percent, so mallards are heavily weighted. The SE zone has it right and I hope there are opportunities we can expand that zone based on survey results and data.

Bidrowski – All meetings are archived on our website. Commissioner Marshall – Can you be more specific, hope it is expanded to where? Stanford – I think SE zone should be bulk of late zone; I can't quantify my data, but I can my brain and we chase birds every day primarily in five or six counties, Reno, Pratt, Sedgwick Stafford, Barber and before that Sumner. I responded satisfied in late season, but would like to see more of January instead of early November. I would love to have SE zone come west over to Hwy 56 and down to Oklahoma border. That would offer the best hunting opportunities for everybody. Commissioner Budd – What you're your temperature do over there compared to current SE zone? Think areas you hunt are about the same temperatures as in Neosho County? Stanford – I don't study their temperatures because I don't hunt over there, but as far as season goes the later season is better for every single hunter. About a million acres of public hunting, not all conducive to waterfowl; but with only 8,000 public hunting acres at Quivira, with half of that grass and not conducive to hunting, 4,000 acres is nothing and we are talking about changing a season over 4,000 acres; 4/1000 of a percent of the million acres and it doesn't statistically hold any weight. Quivira is also limited to bird hunting only, no deer or turkey hunting so minimal opportunities at best. Commissioner Budd – Tom, have you give any consideration to moving that boundary to the west? Bidrowski – Looking at every possibility, at meetings asked if those are options they would support and to put them on a new map, so we should have quite a few options available. Commissioner Budd – What shocked me was I never realized there were so many waterfowl hunters in central and western Kansas, quiet for a long time. Commissioner Marshall – Most of hunters are not local at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira areas. Commissioner Budd – Roger, what is your thought of moving whole thing west? Commissioner Marshall – Never considered it. Stanford – Realize you are not going to make everyone happy, but based on data and migratory migration it makes sense. Commissioner Budd – You can't explain the way the early season wraps around. Bidrowski – We look at habitat types and migration patterns and that zone encompasses playas and fishing lakes in that area as well. That is the same process we will be looking at for forming new zone boundaries, group like places together with simplest boundaries. Commissioner Budd – We came from not having a lot of data, to charts that are starting to make sense, best presentation in four years, it shows what hunters want, when ducks are here, when best harvest is, etc. and now the opportunity to change the zones or not. Chairman Lauber – You have different examples for zone variations you will bring forth in August? Bidrowski – Yes, I will. Stanford – How has perception, based on feedback from SE zone, been received by general public and private landowners? Bidrowski – No easy demographic to pull out and can't make it a private versus public land, but early season hunting preference versus the late; even members within a club can't agree on how they want their seasons. Commissioner Budd – Aaron and I were there in Kansas City and there were a lot of private landowners there, no gray area, I want this or this; which is going to make their job more difficult whether season dates or boundaries because unfortunately one is hand-in-hand with the other. Data will show us what it should be. Stanford – Thanks for the opportunity to speak.

Trenton Meeds, Hooray Ranch – I represent a large hunting lodge that promotes waterfowl hunting. Is goal of changes to increase or maintain participation of current hunters and tied to success or harvest rate of those individuals? Do you tie that in with the diversity of the species? Bidrowski – Maximize harvest and provide opportunities for all Kansas hunters, realizing that those preferences vary greatly. Meeds – Is participation based on migration patterns or is peak participation because it is opening day? Bidrowski – A 74-day liberal season, so we are generally open before peak migration. Blue-winged teal and mallards are considered at Cheyenne Bottoms

for instance, have to consider all of these factors. Meeds – Boundary changes based on state or federal land preserves and impacts on multiple counties, take those into consideration on private landowners in those specific areas? Bidrowski – Quivira is perfect example, not only on the area, but large private interest around it as well as around Neosho and Marais des Cygnes. Meeds – Thanks for the time.

4. Late Migratory Bird Seasons - Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit Q). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops the frameworks for states to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. The frameworks establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within the frameworks when establishing state-specific waterfowl seasons. Late migratory game bird frameworks are published in August, after results from the May Breeding Duck Survey and other population and harvest data become available and recommendations from the various Flyway Councils are reviewed at the USFWS Service Regulation Committee (SRC) Meeting (July 29-30, 2015). The department annually establishes general waterfowl seasons, youth hunter waterfowl days and falconry waterfowl seasons during the late migratory game bird season setting process. Based on the 2014 duck population estimate of 48 percent above the long-term average and a May pond count in the Prairie Pothole Region of 40 percent above the long-term average, we will likely continue in the liberal package for the 2015-16 season. Kansas has been in these liberal frameworks since 1996. In addition, species restrictions for scaup, canvasback, northern pintails are likely to continue and only other possible change is in the increase in white-front seasons with options to either have the 74-day three goose limit, or 88-day two goose limit. General waterfowl seasons will discussed again at August 20 meeting where Commission will have final decision after reviewing included staff recommendations for 2015-16 season. Commissioner Budd – When you give staff recommendations on four known's, is data used to set these season dates is different than four years ago? Bidrowski – You have similar things to look at this year: first is the shift in calendar, the federal frameworks allows us to hunt to the last Sunday in January and this year January 31, with the exception of 2009 where Sunday fell on January 31, this is the latest season we have ever had; up to 2004 seasons when it closed January 20 by federal frameworks; that shift entire calendar later in the year. Looking at migration data, harvest survey data and also extensive public comments, hunters are more familiar with this issue and it is a hot topic. Staff has recommended the same package for the last three years, with slight differences this year with that week later; would like more November days however that would open up the split in January so that is the tradeoff we chose this year. It would also give people in late zone a more defined season; hard part at Marais des Cygnes is no stable season, four different seasons with four different season structures so they don't know what to expect each year. Commissioner Budd – In low plains late zone, last week in January is critical to those guys? Bidrowski – Highly critical, last nine days in particular for those hunting river systems and reservoirs. What we see, when we fly the mid-winter survey is first week of January iced up completely, when you start seeing spring thaws and later half of January the birds are redistributed across the landscape. Commissioner Budd – SE zone recommendation this year is the best one I have ever seen, without question because is as good of tradeoff as you are going to get and open for peak migration. I have question for gentleman from HR Ranch, is your concern on boundary; what zone are you in? Meeds – Low plains late zone? Commissioner Budd – Are you happy with that zone and season? Meeds – Yes, if I could pick dates start later and continue

two weeks later maybe, start mid-November and tack on the end. We are harvesting great numbers all the way to the end of the season. Commissioner Budd – If there is a boundary change, where would you like it to be? If we were going to change your boundaries and put you in the early zone? Meeds – No, not only as manager of operation, but as individual passionate about waterfowl, I would be against changing to early zone. Commissioner Budd – And you? Stanford – If moved to early zone absolutely against that. If I could pick, staff recommendation very similar to as close to those same dates at SE zone, which is November 14 to January 3 and January 9 to January 31, but you are asking about the boundary. Chairman Lauber – You don't want to go into early zone, but you want the season dates like in the SE zone to hunt as many days late as you can? Meeds – Absolutely, for the highest percentage of harvest. Passionate about all waterfowl, but most popular is drake mallard, those hunters that are passionate about that species are the ones traveling and spending money. If Kansas would capitalize all of those later season dates, you won't see a decrease of people migrating to those areas, you would see more hunters out. Chairman Lauber – Comfortable with dates we are recommending in zone you are in now? Meeds – Comfortable, but would like later days, but we are happy. Commissioner Budd – Any danger of changing that zone to encompass where they are talking about? Bidrowski – No, a county or county and a half away. Chairman Lauber – You wouldn't mind if you were in SE zone? Meeds – No. There was a slide on satisfaction survey, 64 percent satisfied and 23 percent dissatisfied or something like that. Bidrowski – Survey for hunters at meetings to scope some demographics and asked how satisfied they were with the current boundaries on a simplified scale; 63 percent were satisfied with current boundaries, from 100 people or so that attended public meetings; and 24 percent dissatisfied. We are trying to figure out our best recommendation and impacts on an area. Meeds – Do you have more survey information coming out? Bidrowski – Yes, hope to have an internet survey with post cards going out asking hunters to go to website; asking general demographic questions, how satisfied they are and options on boundaries (some like Cedar Bluff). We have a variety of habitat types here in Kansas, from shallow playas that are only there one or two years to nuclear power plants and river patterns. We are fortunate in Kansas to have a lot of hunting opportunities where you can hunt early teal in September and hunt all the way up to the end of January. We are becoming a destination state for people from out-of-state. Chairman Lauber – Your recommendations fit nicely, so I propose we move on because we are close to agreeing on some of this stuff. Stanford – On question on where good line would be for us, it would be across northern Harvey and Butler counties to extend that SE zone. One statement, thank you for proposing 88-day season on white-fronted geese. Have we seen feedback on impact of going from three to six Canada geese? Bidrowski – Some were happy with three, some wanted full eight allowed, but for the most part happy with six. Stanford – I'm glad you didn't go to eight.

5. Aquatic Nuisance Species in Kansas Discussion – Jessica Howell, ANS coordinator, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit R, handout – Exhibit S). Appreciate opportunity to discuss this. Aquatic nuisance species are complex to talk about. In Midwest, not on front lines, no major ports, looking at what is coming from other states that didn't take action and what actions we need to keep them out of our state. We put together a wish list of options we would like to consider. Different ways ANS are moved, considerations, and recommendations. Not necessarily things we are going to do, dependent on funding and other considerations. First topic is importations, like looking at bait, can control that and prohibited species list (115-18-10) which prohibit some species. Also, several others we have no jurisdiction over, like pet trade,

etc. Reducing species spread within the state, through organisms or through water movement; through caught bait regulations that could be strengthened, through intra-state regulations for boaters and promote clean/drain/dry. We realize there are some other pressures, like full boat ramps. Our goal is to reduce spreading of ANS species, water moves species as well as – we have regulations in place for the movement of water, and bait movement, can strengthen there, as well as boat regulations that could be strengthened. Other water movement is controlled by Dept. of Ag. and other entities. Reduce likelihood of spreading disease. Everything takes money; currently funded though WFF and some other monies. Propose increase on boat registrations or renewals to supplement what is going into WFF and ANS fund. Work with Dept of Water Resources and Dept of Ag on water movements, and ask for possible permitting fee on those. Five goals we have identified: need, actions and outcomes. Actions: strengthen communications with other agencies (Pet Trade, Dept of Ag, etc.), encourage them to dedicate staff and implementation similar to bait program. No oversight on permits issued by Dept of Ag or Dept of Water Resources, it is moving species, etc. develop protocols for their transfer permits and how the water has to be used, treat water or release in certain location. Get dedicated law enforcement staff or time to regulate those types of activities like boat inspections. Policy D20 is invasive species policy, could communicate better to our field staff on those decontamination plans; we are the agency concerned with it and we need to set by example. Work with Kansas leaders, on federal House there is Invasive Species Caucus, those involved get more funding for their states and those things would be beneficial to us. Option for boaters might be a check lane for boats so they could get away from the ramps, so they could pull of the side to clean, drain and dry; opportunity in motor boats funds possible for that. Other infrastructure might be a staff person, fish pathologists, which would be incredibly useful, have ability to test samples; could be faster than our current lab. Dedicated law enforcement (LE) staff or LE staff hours, helping with commercial bait, or rolling boat checks across the state or things like that. Also, talked about what other states are doing and other agencies, fish hatcheries could be upgraded, for instance Milford Fish Hatchery which is right below dam and Milford has zebra mussel, no protection to pond, we check periodically for that, but is a concern; working to get mechanical filtration and UV lights on there. We have four fish hatcheries that all could use some attention. Talked about policy D20 and would have to upgrade that, permanent decontamination stations at all of wildlife areas for boats, ATVs, and other equipment. We have portable units now, permanent equipment would be nice. Regulations we would like to throw ideas out on are: commercial bait regulations loophole, if commercial bait dealer, get from another bait dealer who gets from some other state or private person that has private water fishing impoundment, which is not tested for disease or villigers or things like that, want to see that changed. Focus on talk on bluegill green sunfish, change to get rid of that exemption, to any species that is caught has to be used where caught so no movement. Another regulation we would like to see clarified is; we allow triploid grass carp, want USFWS certified triploid grass carp, part of reasoning is it could create loopholes and gaps so percentage of individuals sterile is held at highest level. Next regulation is boating regulation and we want to see it state that boat plugs have to be left out when not in use. Two more items, regulation idea of something we would like to craft, prohibit water away from or onto department lands and waters, like we prohibit alcohol, don't know technical details of all of that, don't want to prevent people from bringing in to drink. In past, Commission asked us to provide receipt on one-year basis, it turns out that is expensive to do, compromise and provide stamp, a one-time issuance to provide on receipt and they would be responsible for ink and paper, we do provide duplicates. Ken Kreif – All of the stuff you discussed and what I have read in the

package reflects similar to surrounding states. Nothing new to preventing the spread of ANS. On boat plugs, may clarify, but hats off to you. Chairman Lauber – I have been boating for 40 years, have forgot to insert drain plug properly. Will freeze if winter fishing, a burdensome overkill. Dealt with bluegill and sunfish exception before and social consideration and mis-identification. Don't know how you can stop from pulling water from farm pond. Lots of good ideas but it will be an uphill battle. Commissioner Budd – Give Jessica and us a break, and asking a few more questions.

VII. RECESS AT 5:17 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:35 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

C. Workshop Session (continued)

5. Aquatic Nuisance Species in Kansas Discussion – Jessica Howell, ANS coordinator, presented this update to the Commission (continued from afternoon). Commissioner Budd – I asked for this information, a lot of good information and there is a lot going towards the wish list. On a scale from 1 to 10, what are chances of stopping ANS species spread? Howell – I can't put a number on it, but closer to 10. Chairman Lauber – Some are doable and some will create a lot of lost opportunity that will be misunderstood and won't solve the problem. We may be able to slow down zebra mussel spread. Need to look at way to fix the problem, but takes money. Zebra mussels are harder to prove how they are coming through, greater likelihood coming through boats than fish. Clean, drain and dry is having some effect on the constituents. I don't know where we go from here. Some things dealt with in the last 36 months, went one way and reversed our decision. Commissioner Budd – A lot of this is relying on funding, at end of day legislature will have final say on funding. Keep fighting the fight and encourage people to go to legislature. Commissioner Rider – Who is in charge of the advertising? Howell – I write up the ads and have them printed. Commissioner Rider – To me the biggest impact has been the advertising and literature, and people are more receptive to things the department is trying to put in place. Any dealings with zequanox they are using in Minnesota. Howell – IT is a dead bacteria, but there has been some concerns on toxicity to other organisms. Not 100 percent, treating coves in Minnesota, thought they had eradicated them, but found them again there in further tests. It shows promise for control, but not eradication. Kreif – Share with you a quick comment. My education, certified as one of the nine people west of Missouri River to train on this. As habitat is destroyed by invasive species and knowing that what we do to control zebra mussels also helps on those other invasive species; wildlife tends to disappear as well, 42 on T&E species are at risk primarily because of aquatic invasive species. Step back and look at all ANS species. My question is, raising a red flag as a private citizen. Because of what I have heard here feel my only option will be to go the legislature. We are trying to save this environment for the kids. Chairman Lauber – I have seen red flag wavers in California, any time effort to build a dam to hold the water there is an outcry to protect the species. We could button down the state of Kansas and say no boats, we could slow the spread down. I do this with certain perspective of

inevitability and not sure how much recreational opportunities and what regulations I want to impose on the public, when I am not sure how much good it will do. When you start talking about the movement of water, need to get Water Office and Dept of Ag onboard with this too, not sure legislators will back that. Our job is to provide opportunity for a lot of people. Kreif – Minnesota, state of a thousand lakes, have 26 lakes contaminated, more than that, all those downstream are also contaminated. As far as taking away recreational activity, states I go fishing in, those restrictions are there. We are not say don't go fishing or boating, but just be smart about it. Rather work with you because you are who knows how to make the system work for our environment.

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

D. Public Hearing

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

1. Early Migratory Bird Seasons - Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit U). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops the frameworks for states to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons which establishes maximum bag, possession limits and season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. September Teal seasons are set at June SRC meeting, but with blue-winged teal numbers over 8.5 million we expect no changes which would allow a 16-day season. Staff is recommending 16-day season running September 12 through September 27, 2015 in low plains; and 9-day season running September 19 through September 27, 2015 for the high plains. Recommending daily bag of 6 in aggregate (blue-wing, green-wing or cinnamon), with shooting hours one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Commissioner Budd – Are shooting hours dictated by USFWS? Bidrowski – Yes. Tymeson – In Canada the frameworks are slightly different, they allow a half hour after sunset, why the discrepancy? Bidrowski – Set each year through the Environmental Impact Statement for Sport Harvest, with the last time updated was in 1988; but they have set out their basic rules that identify possession limits and our frameworks are set in that. It has been at least since the 1930s on that, but there have been some exceptions on resident Canada goose seasons and some depredation orders on light goose.

Commissioner Roger Marshall moved to approve early migratory bird seasons before the Commission. Commissioner Don Budd second.

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

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Absent
Commissioner Doll	Absent
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes

Commissioner Rider Yes
Commissioner Lauber Yes

The motion as presented passed 5-0.

2. KAR 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley. - Lloyd Fox, big game research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit W). This regulation covers deer seasons on Fort Riley. They have basically the same hunting seasons as the rest of the state with the following exceptions: on archery season they have additional days from September 1 to September 13 and also from January 11 through January 31; on their season for youth and people with disabilities they asked for additional days from October 9 through October 12; and asked that no pre-rut season be held. The 12 days for their firearms deer season is broken into three time periods starting the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 22 to November 29, December 19 to December 23 and December 26 to December 29. Chairman Lauber – This is what they recommend and we like to accommodate them whenever we can.

Commissioner Gary Hayzlett moved to approve KAR 115-25-9a before the Commission. Commissioner Aaron Rider second.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-25-9a to revoke was as follows (Exhibit X):

Commissioner Budd Yes
Commissioner Dill Absent
Commissioner Doll Absent
Commissioner Hayzlett Yes
Commissioner Marshall Yes
Commissioner Rider Yes
Commissioner Lauber Yes

The motion as presented on KAR 115-25-9a passed 5-0.

XII. Old Business

None

XIII. Other Business

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

August 20, 2015 – Wetland Education Center, Great Bend
October 22, 2015 – Burlington Library conference room, Burlington
January 7, 2016 – K-State Alumni Center, Manhattan
March 2016 - Topeka

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)