

**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 24 2016
Kansas Historical Society History Center
6425 SW 6th Ave, Topeka, Kansas**

Approved Subject to
4/21/16 Commission
Approval

The March 24, 2016 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1:00 p.m. at the Kansas Historical Society History Center, Topeka. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Emerick Cross, Tom Dill, Gary Hayzlett, Roger Marshall, Aaron Rider and Harrison Williams were present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND GUESTS

The Commissioners and Department staff introduced themselves (Attendance roster - Exhibit A).

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

IV. APPROVAL OF THE January 7, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

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

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Terry VanLie, Waubensee – I see a problem with Commissioners big game permit and the ability for person who purchases it having more than one antlered deer permit. I don't see anywhere in regulations that allows that. Chairman Lauber – Can with Commissioner permit. VanLie – Said something in deer/turkey permit. Chairman Lauber – One can be elk. Your disagreement is that it should not be allowed if more antlered animals are being shot? VanLie – I object to being able to get another permit. Chris Tymeson – Statute allows up to seven permits, one elk, one antelope or all deer. Department decided they could get another permit. Chairman Lauber – Only seven permits. VanLie – No objection to additional permit, just against having two permits. Why not limited to one permit? Chairman Lauber – From Commission perspective, used for fund-raising; would not be able to sell if no additional benefit to the buyer. Appreciate you letting us know. VanLie – If anyone should be able to have two permits, the landowner should. Chairman Lauber – You can control what is on your property. VanLie – I should be able to harvest as many deer as anyone else. VanLie – Do you have to allow blinds when you sign up for walk in hunting? Chris Tymeson – You would have to work that out with the biologist you enroll with.

Jesse Jordan, Kansas Bass Fishing Conservation Officer – One thing I had noticed is bass tournaments are going to other states because of length limits. Change rules because of recruitment and have a four or five bass under the length limit for pass for bass tournaments. Chairman Lauber – My recollection is we dealt with this two years ago. Doug Nygren – Have been addressing that and looking at it. ABA was organization that came to us and we asked them to collect fishing data from tournaments for us to look at. Tournament information we receive has been for the tournament, not individual anglers, hope this information will help us make a decision. Commissioner Marshall – On lakes with 18-inch length limit, you want to keep five in live well under the length limit instead of two? Jordan – On lakes with 15- to 18-inch length limit and fish in livewell are surviving, from mortality study done. Chairman Lauber – Wait until we get information from group. Nygren – Will weigh in that information and the new information from mortality study. Problem is with people upset with someone being able to do something they can't do.

Bruce Anderson, represent Kansas Federation of Houndsmen, have comments on iSportsman. Chairman Lauber – Wait until that is on the agenda.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Secretary's Remarks

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Robin Jennison, Secretary, presented this update to the Commission. I have three handouts (Exhibit C). First is on two major funds; the Park Fee Fund (PFF) is growing 4 percent. We did not project that, but if that holds up will have another breaking year in PFF. Wildlife fee fund (WFF) bottomed out in FY14 and came up a little last year. Did fee increases and are a little up from last year and on track to probably make projections. PFF on graph for comparisons, benchmark 2011 is when this administration came in, tracking \$200,000 more than projected in December. Shows continued growth. A number of years ago legislature implemented a policy, started with disabled vets so they could get a free hunting license and expanded to National Guard hunting licenses and park permits and you see those three line items there. We get \$36,000 for National Guard annual license; \$17,000 for park National Guard and \$39,000 from disabled vet and if you look at the second group of numbers, FY 2015, we ran out of money for disabled vets. At the session last year we tried to get legislature to give us permission to co-mingle that money and didn't get it done right. Already this fiscal year we have run out of money to disabled vet program and we are unable to give out those licenses. Talking to legislature and will do the fix so we can use those funds interchangeably. The Governor requested we do that first and we have spoke to budget committees and they are going to attempt to fix that. National Guard had \$12,000 left last year, so if it works out right we should be able to use those funds for disabled vets. When we increased licenses expected resistance factor and we have attempted to keep that low by offering combo packages and five year licenses and early pay discount. First four don't have comparable number, but if you do some addition you'll see no resistance factor and bodes well for WFF. State Revenue report shows revenues are not meeting projections due to a lot of reasons, in large part due to softening in agriculture and energy economies. Other states in the same shape, Oklahoma and North Dakota especially. The second document: (Exhibit D) Sheila Kemmis has

been doing an outstanding job of compiling the history of the agency. I looked back 50 years and picked out one to show you what was being talked about in the magazine and there were a couple of things. This is the 100th anniversary of migratory bird treaty with the United Kingdom who was representing Canada; and interesting to look at what the department was thinking 50 years ago. On the third page, under management, talking about “habitat management for blue wing teal in Kansas is largely in the form of providing food for the birds during the spring and fall migrations so that they may return to the nesting grounds” on next page is a current news release, and obviously 25 years ago Kansas found a way to improve duck hunting opportunities through cooperative efforts with other states in the Central Flyway and Canada and Kansas has contributed \$1 million towards habitat in Canada. If you think back to what waterfowl hunting was like in Kansas 50 years ago and what it is now and what the department has done for wetland development it is remarkable. On the second page on “Bass Fly to Cheney and Wilson Reservoirs” they loaded fish in the airplane, flew out 300 feet and dropped them in the water. Commissioner Rider – Any idea why PFF is where it is at? Jennison – A variety of things. Part of increasing balance is the cabin program was a net cash loser, the agreement we had with Wildscape, they got 75 percent of the money until that was paid off and the Governor allowed us to use expanded lottery money to pay the note Wildscape had on those cabins and we now receive 90 percent of those monies, so that helped the balance. We have also had significant increases in revenue; one reason is we used to have a two-vehicle park permit where second park permit cost less money and that was a hassle because you had to show which car had the first park permit; so we created Park Passport that someone could buy for \$15. Not at 10 percent yet, thought we if got to 10 percent, parks could be self-funded, but only at about 5 percent so far; increased revenue and also did study on energy usage at campgrounds and determined we were not charging enough to cover the cost; just some management-type things and we are promoting the parks and visitation is up. When Tourism came over, we are doing more marketing. Commissioner Dill – Do we have any idea if we are going to add additional cabins? Jennison – Talked to Wildscape and they are looking at funding possibilities. We have picked Hillsdale as next sight, but taking revenue funds to buy cabins does not work. If Wildscape and Friends Groups want to build cabins that could work. It is difficult when not sure and not room in revenue stream that you want. Commissioner Dill – On five-year permits, I bought the 5-year combo, but that flimsy piece of paper in not going to last five years. Mike Miller – We have been talking about something like senior license card. Commissioner Cross – Can you speak about resident hunt/fish combo discrepancy between 15 and 16? Jennison – Most of it is taken up in resident early purchase combo hunt/fish. This year in a different category. If you add resident combo hunt/fish, resident five-year combo and resident combo hunt/fish; about 400 below last year when computed, but did not figure in bump in lifetime permits, have sold 140 more than same time last year.

2. 2016 Legislature – Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission. Second year of two-year cycle and all legislators are up for reelection this year. This session is moving fast because of last year dragging on. School finance may keep them longer. I’m following 190 bills, or more; we have 20 or so on the website, the ones that impact constituents directly. This is March madness for the legislature too. Conference committee is meeting and may have to leave for a little while this afternoon. SB50 lumped into SB280 and deals with classification of bed and breakfasts. SB65, an omnibus bill on firearms, concealed carry and a number of other things, BB guns in schools and whether they allow it in their

schools, below the line in the House, not moving. Last day legislature meets during regular session, then break and come back April 27. SB97 deals with contact with certain regulated animals; a few years ago lions, tigers and bears were considered; this bill would weaken the contact by owners of facilities; animals less than 10 pounds and things like that; adjusted weight provisions and taking those small animals into public venues. The bill is below the line and I don't anticipate it moving. SB132 also deals with dangerous animals and strengthens that approach. SB134 noxious weed bill, add department to list of advisors. SB169 channel catfish state fish, one of four states that doesn't have a state fish; hopefully we'll have one before I leave the department. SB190 out of Lake Perry and dealt with sailboats and classifications for training. According to the law you can't have someone without boater education on a boat without direct adult supervision. This bill would allow students in a class to operate a sailboat without an adult onboard. It was lumped into a bill that didn't go anywhere last year and has come up in a couple different forms. SB249 directed at KU and Docking building and restrictions on state government, requiring leases over five years to be approved by finance. We have several of those five-year contracts, and this would slow down our process. SB268 is out of Sedgwick County by those who saw the Threatened and Endangered Species law as an impediment and SB 269 would have removed eastern spotted skunk from list; entered into MOU with SG County on that. SB274 – sailboat bill, hearing two weeks ago and has not moved. SB276 Cowley County official stone bridge capital. SB280 part of larger tax bill. SB384 amending T&E species act, detrimental to department and T&E Species Act. Had hearing in Senate and went to subcommittee, worked with KLA and came up with recovery plans and Chris Berens will talk about it later. Not happy about one aspect that we disagreed on, but have adjusted language; added bill to another bill HB2447. SB426 conservation easements and as SB384 had a lot of partners, to regulate conservation easements, coming from Kansas Natural Resource coalition; opposition strong enough to not get out of committee. SB463 not on website but would abolish Economic Development Initiatives Fund and put money in State General Fund, and that is where some of our Tourism funds come from. Had a hearing but didn't move. SB507 another sailboat bill, two weeks ago and didn't move anywhere. HB2029 identification of domesticated deer and we have talked about this previously and dealt with marking animals; SB passed so that is just left there. HB2116 channel catfish as official state fish, didn't move. HB2117 would have phased in boater education like we did hunter education at a certain date in time. Had a hearing and most of opposition was just more government regulation and it didn't move. HB2168 was also on classification for bed and breakfasts and is on House general orders below the line, clarified in SB substitute for 280. HB2177 became omnibus bill; lumped together two law enforcement bills, sailboat and antler provision, went out on Senate floor and they did not adopt Conference Committee reports so it sits in committee, egregious provision in there was antler provision. HB2293 amended statutes, adding non-human primates and wolves, so would have tightened restrictions on those species. HB2297 making meteorite official rock, didn't have a hearing. HB2341 is the antler bill and deals basically with one set of antlers an individual who is pushing for that bill to pass. It would have prioritized how we dispose of evidence in wildlife crime and how we handle items that were forfeited to the state. It had a hearing, House committee did not work the bill in Ag and Natural Resources, shifted to House Judiciary where they did not have a hearing and ran the bill out of committee and passed the next day on House general orders and on House final action 82 to 43; referred and Senate Natural Resources and had a hearing on March 3 and don't think there were the votes to get it out of committee, but as is we are keeping an eye on it. HB2479 started out as noxious weed bill and ended up with allowing counties to

come in on state properties and eliminate noxious weeds and bill the agency for it; a blank check and loss of control by the agency, a diversion issue; on Senate general orders below the line. Tomorrow is the day to have bills out of House of origin, end of the regular session, but many ways to keep bills alive by referring to exempt committees and sending them back out. HB2510 amendments to state water plan. HB2511 would have increased fees to fund water plan. First bill would have added money for boat registration, park permits, duck stamps and swept that money into state water plan fund and would have sent us into diversion, cost us about \$20 million and put \$1.2 million in state water plan. The second bill would have added \$10 to every issuance we have and shifted it to park fee fund, would have been diversion and cost department. Neither bill went anywhere. HB2547 Rep Bob Grant champion of bison herd near Pittsburg, would have named herd for him; also bill where Threatened and Endangered provisions are currently in that bill; in conference committee. HB2727 prohibited vessel registration or renewal for people in arrearage of child support; names come from Department of Children and Families, bill not moving. House Concurrent resolution 5008, right of the public to hunt fish and trap, a constitutional amendment and had to pass both Houses by 2/3 majority; goes to voters in November, passed House 117 to 7 and Senate 36 to 0; we will do news releases on it. Chairman Lauber – Is spotted skunk extirpated from Kansas? Tymeson – No. Chairman Lauber – Does it have a higher mandate of mitigation, is that why it always come up? Tymeson – Sedgwick County is critical habitat area, but in eastern part of state heard some scuttle on building watersheds in their habitat. Chris Berens will talk about it when he comes up, but we are working on a recovery plan for spotted skunk. Chairman Lauber – It is exempted from list? Tymeson – It is a listed species. Chairman Lauber – An attempt was made to remove it? Tymeson – Yes. VanLie – On noxious weed bill, you don't believe they should be controlled? Tymeson – No, our department spends annually between \$250,000 and \$300,000 attempting to control noxious weed on our properties. We object to counties coming in and billing you for it and what sort of impact that has on our fee funds. We have a tie to federal government, where we get our money, and if you lose control of those fee funds or divert those for purpose not intended than you go into diversion and ultimately lose \$20 million. VanLie – But you do plan to control the weeds? Tymeson – Yes, we do. Stuart Schrag – We spend 9,000 manpower hours controlling noxious weeds and \$250,000 to \$300,000 spent annually to control them. We do our best to control those annually and will continue to do that. Chairman Lauber – Reminds me of old saying, two things man should not see made, law and sausage.

B. General Discussion

2. LEPC RWP Update - Jim Pitman, WAFWA Lesser Prairie Chicken Coordinator, presented this report to the Commission (PowerPoint - Exhibit F). Lesser Prairie Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan. I now work for Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies as conservation delivery director. We have been implementing that plan for about two years now, since January 2014. I will talk about the program from legal status to how our plan functions and implementation figures. Lesser prairie chickens (lesser prairie chicken) are a native grouse species that occupies five states, with largest range in Kansas. In 1995, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) petitioned to list the lesser prairie chicken; in 1998 it was listed as warranted but precluded. Species on list are candidate species and started to move because of court settlement to move 250 warranted but precluded species and the lesser prairie chicken was one of them. Started to work through WAFWA to put together this conservation plan. USFWS was part

of development of that plan and endorsed it in 2013 we and began to implement plan. The lesser prairie chicken was listed in May 2014 as threatened but on September 1, 2014 the listing was vacated, judge ordered mediation and in February 2016 judge upheld his position. Need to accept or repeal ruling. Litigation had no affect on plan; it works if bird is listed or not. Through the plan, states maintain management authority for the lesser prairie chicken. It provides assurances to participating industries and landowners, like take exemptions as long as they act in compliance with the plan and follow mitigation measures. When starting to put plan together, we pulled together scientific experts and managers who were familiar with the species and its habitat and defined the scale we wanted to manage the species into the future. We delineated four areas on the landscape in range of bird with similar vegetation, climate, etc.: shortgrass in northwest Kansas, sand sage in southwest Kansas and southeast Colorado, mixed grass covers three states and shinnery oak in west Texas and New Mexico. We then looked at population data and to determine how many birds were necessary to ensure on landscape to secure species in perpetuity. The range-wide goal is 67,000 birds, which is sustainable and achievable and we were there in 2006 before the drought. Last year we were at about 30,000 birds and anticipate number going up this year as well. We decided where on the landscape we wanted to maintain those chickens, had pretty good idea of how many birds per square mile we could achieve and used that to determine number of acres necessary. We came up with four focal areas where we want to maintain 75 percent of the population with remainder in lower priority areas. Conservation agencies are using existing programs to target the species like CRP and Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative, as well as the mitigation program. Programs in higher priority areas get higher ranking on enrollment forms. Industry can use map as sighting tool to determine where to place their developments to have least mitigation and least impact on species. When a company enrolls they pay enrollment fee based on number of acres or infrastructure; then they have to follow conservation measures, liking timing restrictions. When they do impact habitat, they pay mitigation that allows them to continue operating. When habitat is impacted, we have to offset that loss with conservation on the same scale. For instance, if impact is in mixed grass in Texas, we can do conservation anywhere in mixed grass area, not just Texas. This is only for new development. Put together standard method to quantify and value habitat; basically values habitat based on average cost of applying conservation somewhere else. Funds from industry are endowed and work off interest. Majority of money back on the ground to landowners and accept applications continuously, for five years, 10 years or perpetual agreement. Fund ones that provide greatest benefit to species to ensure perpetuity. When dollars come into WAFWA, we put majority back on the ground to the landowners and have given several options for enrollment. Landowners offer up some or all of their property for five- and 10-year contracts or for permanent conservation easements. We offset 75 percent of the impacts with those contracts and 25 percent with perpetual easements and long-term management agreements. We rank offers from landowners and fund the ones with greatest benefit to lesser prairie chickens. Landowners receive payments and take exemptions. If good habitat, we pay 35 percent more than what USDA pays for similar practices and they must maintain it. In terms of administration: administered by WAFWA Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative Council; WAFWA made up of state agency directors; council from five executive directors from lesser prairie chicken states and one from an additional state in WAFWA. For Kansas, Secretary Jennison is the representative on that council, or his designee who is Keith Sexson. Update on implementation of plan: we have around 250 companies enrolled, 11 million acres, entire range is 40 million acres so we have about 25 percent. Paid about \$52 million in enrollment and mitigation fees, and have about \$60

million in bank account. Processed about 2,000 projects and about 900 with mitigation have been offset with contracts to landowners. To date, 13 contracts enrolled in 10-year projects and 105,000 acres; 1,600 acres in permanent conservation in Texas and donated to Texas Parks and Wildlife for permanent conservation, a rare situation. Large buffer of mitigation units in each of those four areas and so we have credits available, which allows industry to operate without delays. Brought brochures (Exhibit E) that explains how landowner program works. Assistant Secretary Sexson asked me to mention the fire in south central Kansas; estimate is up to 400,000 acres now. No one wants a wildfire, but it does have the potential of creating new chicken habitat, much of that country was encroached with cedar trees, so this could help in next few years.

3. iSportsman - Dustin Mengarelli, public lands biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit G, PowerPoint Exhibit H). A few Commission meetings ago we were asked to do an update on this system and how it is operating. iSportsman was set up for public lands to meet basic goals to conserve and manage, optimize wildlife and their habitats, demonstrate leadership and land stewardship, as well as optimize public access on public land for hunters, anglers and general public for recreation opportunities. Public land managers are experts in the fields of habitat management; they do prescribed fire, timber stand improvement, moist soil management, grassland ecology, plant food plots and provide public access opportunities.

We used to use a paper card system; a two part card, put in top part when arrive, bottom when finished hunting. Trouble with cards, running out of cards, or could not read them. With online system, fill out account and go in and out of system on daily basis as you hunt. New system allows us to collect data more efficiently. Real time information can be used for grant submittals and management. Also, they can see their data for the whole year. We can send out notifications like whooping cranes on an area or other reminders to all people logging into the system. When we first started, we had 13 properties spread out throughout the state, now we have 23. As of last night, we have 15,580 accounts, individuals who have checked in 50,800 times. If you can imagine 100,000 pieces of paper that you would have to match, that is a significant amount of paper. Our use rate is 80 percent mobile like smart phones, 13 percent using PCs and 7 percent using dumb phones or landlines. Constituent demographics: 77 percent Kansas residents, of 11,900, 10,600 are between the ages of 18 and 64; also have nonresident, resident disabled and nonresident disabled; with nonresidents at 21 percent. Graphs are hard to explain with PowerPoint not working, but the system allows us to pull data out real time. Some of the graphs we put together are archery deer for 2015, which shows when peak hunting was taking place. On 23 properties, 79 percent residents, 21 percent nonresidents and of those firearm hunters were 94 percent residents, 6 percent nonresidents; muzzleloader was 85 percent resident 15 percent nonresidents; and archery was 68 percent residents and 32 percent nonresidents. If you break that down by property, 93 percent of deer hunters at Clinton were residents, but only 18 percent at Lovewell were nonresidents; high and low residents ratios. In 2015, iSportsman showed harvest of 14,413 deer, more archery bucks than firearm, some crossbows and muzzleloader, but largest percentage was does harvested by firearms. Marais des Cygnes is a big area to go in eastern part of state with majority of harvest being mallards at about 75% percent. At Clinton WA, some of the information we never got before because we were primarily focused on waterfowl or deer, however 235 squirrels were harvested in last two years at Clinton, an underutilized resource that we weren't aware of. Data from Perry WA, this was first year it was

in any type of permit system other than dove harvest from card systems; this year got waterfowl data, broken down by marshes. Three most popular marshes are: Kyle Marsh, West River, and Perry no specific area came in third. Total harvest by pool showed West River first followed by Kyle Marsh, and percent harvest by pool showed West River followed by Kyle Marsh. Birds per hunter was in refuge pool, as well as Mitigation followed by Hayward, Sunset Ridge and West River. What do we do with iSportsman data? Can use information to manage and decide what habitat work has to be done; also allows managers to be in the field more doing habitat work rather than matching cards, hunter safety and education of notifications we can send out. Use information to make public lands hunting better. Can't manage what you don't measure.

Commissioner Rider – Department able to look at history or the hunter? Mengarelli – Hunter can. Commissioner Rider – Is that new? Mengarelli – Been there for a couple of months now.

Commissioner Rider – Like a hunter diary and people want to see that. Commissioner Dill – Can we use this to do hunter diary for information captured in system in the future? Mengarelli – Not statewide, only on public lands, not private lands. Commissioner Dill – Would be nice if we could do that. Mengarelli – Only touching tip of the iceberg of what system can actually do.

Bruce Anderson, representing KS Federation of Hounds – Typically state hunt at Easton, Clinton WA and lead a cast of dogs, but if that person is already has an account, if guiding somebody who doesn't have an account, does that guide have to have him set up an account? Mengarelli – For those hunts plan to create activity for cast leader to check in and out and fill out information at the end. Anderson – If guide has an account he can take that group? Mengarelli – We will ask questions at end of hunt for entire group. Anderson – Easton hunt will pull from Missouri and Nebraska. Will that be covered as well? Mengarelli – No problem as long as cast leader fills out information. That special information won't be available all the time, so you need to let me know when those hunts are so the information can be available out there. Anderson – For all sanctioned hunts? Mengarelli – As long as sanctioned event.

Break

3. Habitat First Program - Jake George, Wildlife Division director, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit I, PowerPoint Exhibit J). For last eight years I've been the WIHA coordinator, but now am the Wildlife Division director. As a private land state, 97 percent privately owned, private lands habitat improvement is a crucial tool for wildlife management. Over the years, there have been different initiatives with varying scales, target species, funding levels and durations which made marketing and delivery difficult. There has been a private lands program since 1973, Kansas wildlife habitat improvement program going on since then. We have done additional cost share in those areas. Hard to market and let them know what we had to offer. In February of 2015, the entire Wildlife Division came together for two days of discussions regarding our private lands habitat programs, a committee was formed with regional representatives who met every two months over the last year. From these efforts, the Habitat First program was born. The program is intended to create a marketable brand for the services we have to offer willing landowners throughout Kansas. The Habitat First booth I brought will be used throughout the state to show what we can offer. Our webpage underwent some changes because of outdated programs and broken links. We are going with a simplified version, which tells what we have to offer and who to contact. There is an imbedded web map where you can click on county and it shows who to contact there. Some of new supplies; gone away from invoice, now long-term management plan for the property. Have folders to present this

information, habitat hotline to get landowner in touch with correct biologist, countertop displays are going out across the state in businesses and our offices, rack cards for business cards, trade show displays like the one I brought today and promotional items like pens, notepads and dashboard calendars. As I mentioned, contracting guidelines will be specific to what they want to manage for and we have come up with a multi-year plan. One of the big things is two-page project guides, 23 developed now, one is introduction for cost-share programs, but the rest are topic specific. Each one is laid out by purpose, specifications and maintenance, and will also be available on the website. You will be seeing more as we increase management.

2016 Kansas Wildlife Habitat Conservation Award - Nominations for this award are accepted from biologists across the state, reviewed by committee, and selected based on overall habitat quality, quantity, maintenance, and enhancement on the property. Additionally, if the criteria are met, the KWHC award winner is nominated for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies National Private Lands Fish & Wildlife Stewardship Award. For 2016, Logan Martin nominated Keith and Teresa Jabben, Independence. (*Read complete nomination, included notes only here – Exhibit I*) The Jabbens own and manage 775 acres which consists of mature woodlands, native grasslands, creeks, rivers, riparian corridors and croplands. Keith is an avid hunter, but devotes more time and effort toward improving the habitat for wildlife than hunting. Many oak trees have been planted for stream bank stabilization and mast production, cool season fescue grasslands have been converted to native grasses and wildflowers. Many agricultural fields have native grass buffers and waterways to reduce soil erosion. The timber varies from oak / hickory mixes to ash / hackberry mixes and invasive cedar and hedge trees, among other species. Keith has spent a considerable amount of time working to improve these wooded areas. Another unconventional aspect of Keith's land management is his involvement in determining the crop rotations. He works with the tenants to ensure that there is always something different growing in his agricultural fields on each property. His goal is to provide diversity within each parcel to ensure a variety of food sources and cover for the wildlife. He is one of a few landowners in Southeast Kansas that has learned the benefits of cover crops and he is currently experimenting with them on some of his agricultural fields. Our congratulations and thanks to Keith and Teresa for their efforts.

Keith Jabben – Thank commission for acknowledging this. Anything to encourage habitat is good for the state and the resource. Trial and error for 40 years, sometimes end up on parallel paths, sometimes different. Would like Commission to consider, unbranched deer to be taken on antlerless tag, unique resource with quality of deer. Didn't see first spike until 1980s. Not saying all spikes are bad. If 20 percent grow up into fine deer, 80 percent don't. One property takes six-point deer, five- to six-year-old deer, another takes smaller ones. What I have noticed, not unlike bass in a pond, it is age structure that is important, can't have all mature deer, will drive each other off. Appreciate opportunity and willing to discuss that further. Coyotes are taking 35 percent of fawn crop now. Coyotes are remarkable animal and have changed over the decades, adapted to hunting deer now. Another plug, increase wildlife field officer population by 30 percent that would be prudent, doubling it would be even more prudent; found five headless deer this last year. Need to protect and enhance draw, take care of it, whether that's trees or wildlife. Thank you.

Chairman Lauber - We have three additional presenters, let all of them finish then have questions.

4. Walleye Initiative - Doug Nygren, Fisheries Division director, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit K, PowerPoint Exhibit L). Last year I brought all fisheries staff and Dr. Michael Quist, formerly K-State Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Unit, together in a summit to work on a plan that can actually moved the needle to make walleye fishing better in Kansas: More and Bigger Walleye. It would be hard for us to get people excited if we ran campaign for smaller fish. We agree length limits are a good thing, but question of what length limit is best. First walleye length limit was on Lovewell in 1988. It was implemented to provide better brood stock and improve quality of fishing. The limit was 18 inches. Kansas has great potential, in the range of walleye in U.S. we are on southern edge, similar to Florida on largemouth bass. Have long growing season and plenty of forage and we provide quality fish. Don't want to make into catch and release program, but maximize harvest. We want more and bigger walleye fillets. We spend a lot of time managing for harvest: deer 100,000 annually, pheasants 270,000, quail 258,000 and ducks 210,000, channel catfish 905,086 and crappie 1,471,245, but only 72,000 walleye with 400,000 anglers over the age of 16 across the state. We have a wide variety of angler preference and we use hatcheries, regulation and human dimension studies to craft a better plan. In Kansas, we looked at different options, but minimum length limits is the only one that makes sense.

Susan Steffens, specialist in human dimensions work – Human dimensions is only one part of walleye management, also need to consider hatcheries, regulations, population dynamics and life history characteristics. My goal is to take information from constituents and anglers to maximize experience, but realize possibilities with fishery and management goals. I provided Kansas Licensed Angler Survey last September and have provided copies. Information is specifically from this survey. The most fished walleye lakes are Milford, Wilson, Glen Elder, Kanopolis and Cheney. Walleye went down from the fourth species most fish for in 2006 to fifth in 2013. One of the ways I can take human dimensions information and talk about application is to use potential conflict indices (PCIs), from 0 which is no conflict and most agreement to 1 which is most conflict and least agreement. Results on graph show length limits and support. If you fill out survey and have question of what is level of support from one to five, looking at graphically with PCI values. The values should range from 0 to 1. Also, look at position of bubble above or below neutral line. The 15-inch and 18-inch length limits had high level of support, but 18-inch has more conflict; opposition to 21-inch length limit and slight support for 24-inch seasonal limit. People go fishing for many different reasons. One way to part out angler groups, I coded answers into specific categories, themes become apparent. Top four motivations: sustain – those who want to see naturally-reproducing fish; grow – those who want to get bigger fish; better fishing – those who want to have a good trip and better fishing, reference to quality; and eat – all about the harvest. For district fisheries biologists I provided a graph, pluses represent positive, minus is negative and H is high and L is low. When we had walleye mini symposium to look at what opposition might be. People motivated by eating or harvest do not support 21-inch limit. One of the questions was how far would you be willing to travel and the answer was 70 miles, for walleye anglers it is 91 miles. During symposium broke down into small groups and gave them crosshair of 91 mile radius, for visual on impacting waters nearby.

Scott Waters, district fisheries biologist – We discussed stocking and three length limit options 15-inch, 18-inch and 21-inch. We can also choose between creel limits of 5/per day or 2/fish per day. A little background on K-State study by Dr. Mike Quist at Glen Elder: 2,400 walleye were tagged and he found that there was a 68 percent exploitation rate. That was compared to 46

walleye populations across the county and where exploitation rates ranged from 3 percent to 55 percent with average 19 percent. More than 85 percent harvested occurred from April to June with 75 percent harvested within six months of being tagged. The walleye population at Glen Elder is experiencing growth and recruitment overfishing. Females are harvested one to two years after becoming mature. Proposing 24-inch length limit between March 1 and June 30 and 18-inch from July 1 to February 28. No length limit on tailraces, spillways, streams and rivers. At summit had biologists categorize fish into one of four categories: harvest - to achieve high population density, stock annually for put, grow and take, size toward smaller fish with goal to maximize catch/hour; trophy is new management strategy, with lower-density, but high biomass, goal is destination reservoir; stocking may be necessary; broodstock - is highest priority reservoirs for walleye egg collection; goal is not harvesting but maximize egg production; and biological control - like at Cheney we have 21-inch length limit to maximize unwanted species. Maps illustrate these four categories: stars are reservoirs, ovals are lakes and color coded red for biological, blue for broodstock, green for harvest and purple for trophy. Instead of looking at management strategies, next map shows proposed length limits: 21-inch in red; 18-inch blue, similar to past years; 15-inch in green; and 24/18 seasonal only at Glen Elder starting next year. Graph shows 50/50 on 15-inch and 18-inch at reservoirs, but more lakes prefer 18-inch. Creel limits almost all 5/day on reservoirs, but on lakes some prefer 2/day. Showed 91-mile radius on map, using Salina as center, then Wichita, Topeka, Kansas City, Pittsburg, Hays and Dodge City. A lot of opportunities across the state to catch different sizes of walleye. A stocking score sheet was done on all species. Prioritize with stocking score sheets, with first dibs to most important lakes using a number of factors like management strategy, hydrology, etc. Recommendation of committee on walleye tournaments, encourage contact between organizers and biologists; no regulation exemptions; improved on-boat care; weigh in operations improved; don't allow live-release during summer tournaments and new online reporting.

Daric Schneidwind, Milford Fish Hatchery – I will discuss the fish culture section and what we can do. Importance/needs; more information in written initiative. Importance of walleye: fine table fair, highly sought after, have economic importance, spend a lot of money for stocking and research has increased understanding on how to better utilize them; dependant on stocking; high exploitation rate, as soon as hitting minimum length limit; but relatively small harvest and catch compared to other species. On graph the line bounces around depending on sampling, but meet demand for fry generally. On fingerlings, again trend bounces around, changing dynamics on reservoirs, but ANS species created need for larger fish and we are not meeting the demand most years. Not enough room at hatchery, limited number of ponds. Some year's not good years because of Mother Nature. Intermediate, two ways to raise intermediate, 8+ inches when stocked, requests drop sharply. Without a filtration system at the hatchery, we can't filter natural food out of the water and they don't want to eat dry pellets. We hope to be back in production at Milford in 2017. A lot of new technologies out there – larva culture it in its infancy. We are in the second year of that and plan to double amount of tanks from two to four if we can work out space issues. We can rear larger fingerlings and increase intermediate production, more cost-efficient to raise 8-inch fish rather than 1-inch to 2-inch fish. Can OTC mark fish and are looking at new technologies to mark different stockings. Cost, if we build two new areas at Meade, will need three additional staff, approximately \$1 million in capital improvements to build recirculation units at Meade and Milford and at Milford possibly some temporary staff.

Doug Nygren – Next steps are to hear from public and Commission. Going on over the course of the year; already gearing up to implement larger fingerlings, hatchery improvements are budget

items. We will workshop two more times and vote in October. Will do some of this and some is just an idea at this point. Chairman Lauber – Glad this will be workshopped more than usual to give people a chance to weigh in. Commissioner Williams – Why Glen Elder? Scott Waters – The obvious choice is because K-State research was done there, a format is already laid out to try it and regulation is not permanent forever. Commissioner Dill – Also, I had negative comments on Glen Elder. What about Milford? Waters - Plan 21-inch and 2/day on Milford. Commissioner Dill – Slot on Glen Elder? Nygren – Slot not appropriate for walleye in Kansas, use slot when trying to thin out growth. Waters – A slot at Glen Elder would be more mortality. Commissioner Dill – It will have an economic impact on the lake. Waters – Around 14- to 16-percent of anglers are targeting walleye there. Commissioner Rider – The 24-inch limit would only be for three or four months? Waters – Yes, July 1 to February 28. Chairman Lauber – That is when most fish are caught.

Brad Gorsat, Marion (*did not sign in*) – Better job educating public that it is okay to turn loose the fish. Fishing the spawn should be limited. Looking at reducing wipers that are competing fish, in some lakes you are stocking too many wipers. Waters – Walleye not catch and release species. Nygren – Spawn, walleye males move in and stay in an area the whole season, females come in and out of an area. We conducted a survey at Glen Elder to determine impact during the spawn, and less than 5 percent of harvest occurred. Restricting angling during the spawn isn't going to change population much. Chairman Lauber – Won't make different in recruitment with 70 percent put into system through stocking. Nygren – Since stocking is so big, fishing during spawn won't matter much. Prepared what we need to do at hatcheries, but tough with 70 percent coming from them. Not much stocking at Marion, but plans to do that. Overall, if not stocking there is nothing to catch.

Bruce Anderson – Mortality rate at Glen Elder was 67 percent, what was the reason? Waters – Reaching 15-inch by second year, not dying, but being caught.

Mike Riley, Glen Elder – One question for lady on survey, bubble chart, how many anglers were surveyed? Susan – 883, but not total number of people surveyed, sent to 5,500, 30 percent response rate, about 1,200. Riley – 400,000 anglers in Kansas? Susan – More information in report, followed standard procedures on survey. Riley – Given Commissioners a handout (Exhibit M) on businesses affected by proposed change. Avid hunter and fisherman and volunteer to plant trees in lake and now new cubes. Wife and I own two hunting and fishing lodges at Glen Elder, so far booking for 2016 is down one-third, predominantly lack of crappie; two other lodges closed, but we are still down. With new forecast for 2016 for crappie and white bass and now new length limit for walleye at 24-inches, I will be out of business. They will go to other lakes in Kansas or stay in Nebraska, only 40 miles from there. Thank Commissioners for lowering length limit on crappie. Crappie boom was “perfect storm” but this will be economic disaster for Glen Elder, Cawker City, Downs and other small towns in area. I added Glen Elder State Park and State of Kansas also on list. To help put this in context, there are 32 businesses I listed. April, May and June is wheat harvest and a few months later is my milo harvest; I may not survive but all of those businesses will suffer. Timing of new proposed limit could not have come at a worse time, taking away only true game fish people come to fish for.

Jeff Rader, own Rader Lodge for 30 years – Like and appreciate biologists. This is huge to our business, hope starting point and compromise can be made, five businesses with new owners that will be devastated. Like to see \$5 walleye stamp to pay to hatcheries.

Ron Klataske – Relate to comments from Jake George, habitat conservation award is good, used

to present awards at county conservation districts, received one 10-15 years ago, bring back on county basis to have 105 or even 75 awards. See tremendous habitat destruction especially along waters. All USDA designed to plant new habitats. As federal and state agencies not protecting what we already have. I will be planting 500 shrubs, but it will be years before those are big enough to be of any good. Reestablish those award programs. Compliment on Habitat First program, commendable and appreciate way it is presented. Talking about create, enhance and restore, but also need to protect. Compliment on flyer on top invasive plants and should have three of these, brome and fescue and list of invasive plants regarded as good things. Glad to see old world bluestems. Left magazine (Exhibit N) with Commissioners. Get other agencies involved in controlling that.

Brad Rather, Milford – City official, but business owner at Milford. Businesses will expand from these limits, more will come to fish new and bigger fish. I will support what our fish biologist wants.

Chairman Lauber – We will have a lot of time to deal with this, realize it has a lot of issues. As it goes through the cycle hope for more and better walleye.

5. Guiding on Public Lands - Stuart Schrag, Public Lands Division director, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit O, PowerPoint Exhibit P). Historically, started a free permit program in 2012 to establish a baseline for guiding activity and impact to average user. In March 2012, had a workshop to identify regulation wording. The regulation required a permit for all guiding on department lands. Discussions also focused on free versus fee permit and also but a fee permit would require a change in statute. In the beginning was only on lands we owned, then added WIHA. A regulation was adopted allowing guiding on public lands through a permitting and reporting process as defined in KAR 115-8-24, adopted in June 2012. In 2012 only issued 24 permits with 44 sub-permittees; only 19 of the 24 reported. In 2013, 29 permits with 20 sub-permittees, only 15 reported. In 2014, 29 permits, 45 sub-permittees and 16 reported. In 2015, 25 permits, 48 sub-permittees, reports not due until July 1. Compliance is a big issue, not sure how many are actually are guiding. Inundated with emails and phone calls to prohibit this due to overcrowding, monopolizing pools and wetland areas, guides asking other people to leave and too many blinds. Comparisons with other states: Iowa and Ohio have no regulations; Michigan is similar; Minnesota is against, but has no current regulation prohibiting it; Colorado both prohibits and allows, depending on area; and several states prohibit – North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Indiana. Asking to repeal this regulation and enforce KAR 115-8-19. Chairman Lauber – Most people don't have contempt for fishing guides like they do hunting guides; abuses not as prevalent. I don't know of any proposed change that has gotten such universal support. Klataske – As we look to future of bringing in new hunters, public hunting areas are only place some people can afford to go. Garret Trentham- Any opposition from guides and outfitters? Chairman Lauber – Got one from outfitter at Cheyenne Bottoms. Schrag – Seen blogs, but never received one email. Commissioner Rider – I have heard from guides and outfitters who like this. Commissioner Dill – Most are supportive, landscape has changed and access is much more diminished. Schrag – This is public-land specific issue.

Nick Bain, Kansas City – I don't have financial resources to lease or buy property, have experienced this at Cheyenne Bottoms, a lot of dropping off and picking up hunters. All states listed up there have good waterfowl management, Arkansas in particular. Commissioner Rider –

This would include fishing guides as well? Schrag – On state fishing lakes. Tymeson – In a sense already prohibited. In effect around August, vote in June.

6. Threatened and Endangered Species Regulations – Chris Berens, Ecological Services section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Q). We are currently working through issues with HB 2577, in the Legislature that will possibly require some changes to two regulations. We may be presenting changes to KAR 115-15-3 and KAR 115-15-4 at future meetings in an effort to find resolution with those sponsoring this bill.

C. Workshop Session

1. Webless Waterfowl Regulations – Rich Schultheis, migratory game bird biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit R). May recall at January meeting discussed USFWS increase in dove season length from 70 to 90 days in Kansas and other Central Management Unit states beginning with the 2016-17 season (KAR 115-25-19). Seasons varied through 2009, when the current structure of a first segment from September 1 till October 31, and a second segment of 9 days that opens the first Saturday in November was adopted. The primary reason for two-segment was to allow for overlap between dove season and upland game bird opener because we don't have enough days to run it straight. The proposed change is for a one-segment season open for 90 days straight opens on September 1 and runs through November 29. This precludes the need for two seasons and also simplifies regulations, which often receives strong support from our hunters. Changes to the extended exotic dove season are necessary to permit extending the migratory dove season, which would then begin the day after migratory dove season closes, so would begin on November 30 and run through February 28, which is what it runs through now. No other changes recommended to other webless migratory game birds.

2. Waterfowl Regulations – Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit S). Included in briefing book are the 2016-17 waterfowl seasons and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) frameworks for September teal, general duck and goose seasons, youth waterfowl hunting days and extended falconry season. Briefing also included background material with historical season dates, hunter harvest participation. Also, season staff recommendations for 2016/2017 season. Staff recommendations: are mostly calendar shifts from the previous year except for High Plains unit first split would start on January 20, which is a Friday, historically second split ended on a Monday. For goose seasons we are recommending to move two days we have to close, since we only have 105 days available, move to January 1, where historically around November first or second week. Chairman Lauber – Basically same as last year with some shifts in calendar? Bidrowski – Correct and the two days we have to close the season for goose to fit in the 105-day limit in Migratory Bird Treaty Act. For example, last year opened for two days, overlapped with Saturday/Sunday of late season then closed for two days, this year we decided to move that to January 2 and 3 where it would be closed. Chairman Lauber – Was a significant change from year before at Cedar Bluff. Bidrowski – Yes, we are starting the new zones this season; High Plains late/early zone has changed which now puts Cedar Bluff in the late zone as well as some additional areas in north central Kansas. Commissioner Rider – Looking at duck season, closed statewide January 2 and 6? Bidrowski – Correct, basically no waterfowl hunting January 1 and 2 and goose season would pick up January 4. All duck zones would be closed for that week and

would open that Saturday for Southeast zone. Commissioner Rider – Any consideration to stagger that so there is hunting somewhere for people who like to travel? Bidrowski – Have had discussion regarding that, for early zone it doesn't make a lot of sense to have it open January 2 for late zone normally large focus is to have January 21, last nine days of the season, so in order to do that we open on October 29 and close on January 1 to capture the holidays. So that leaves just Southeast zone, looked at closing it for five days during that segment; have had five different season structures in Southeast zone so this is similar to what we had last year, so would close when most likely to be frozen because less opportunities would be available at that time. We either have to have it, if we wanted it open for all of January to take a week off either in December or November and then go back to arguments we have had for the last five years with different season structures.

3. 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 T). Same as we had last year with changes for current calendar. Shawn Stratton from the Fort is here. Changes they would like to see is no pre-rut firearm antlerless season, but would like to have four additional days for youth and people with disabilities from October 7-10 and additional days for archery hunting, September 1-11 and also January 9-31. Also, a time period when antlered deer can be taken with archery. The firearm season dates would be in three segments: November 25-27, December 17-23 and December 26-27.

VII. RECESS AT 4:48 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:30 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

D. Public Hearing

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

1. KAR 115-8-1. Department lands and waters: hunting, furharvesting, and discharge of firearms. – Stuart Schrag, Public Lands division director, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit V). Public land reference document, satisfied issues at last two meetings. Changing refuge closure dates trying to standardize and additions to iSportsman system, adding properties to that. Some special hunt areas as well, some added and some dropped categories to reduce overall size of reference document

Commissioner Tom Dill moved to bring to accept staff recommendations on KAR 115-8-1 and bring before the Commission. Commissioner Gary Hayzlett second.

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

Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Williams	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented passed 7-0.

Schrag - Agency staff has been called by the Governor to Barber County to fight fires. Coordinated effort through statewide emergency effort.

2. KAR 115-25-7. Antelope; open season, bag limit, and permits. Matt Peek, furbearer research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit X). Antelope, KAR 115-25-7. At last meeting asked to consider Clark County, a few animals there. Asked game wardens and biologists in that area and they didn't feel enough of a herd yet, so no recommendation to add hunting into that area. Will be alert for changes and landowner interest. No major changes from previous years. Archery permits are unlimited. Firearm season will be October 7-10, 2016 and open in Units 2 (126 permits), Unit 17 (48 permits) and Unit 18 (16 permits). Muzzleloader-only season shall be October 3-6, 2016. Muzzleloader permits also will be valid in the Unit 2 (36 permits), Unit 17 (10 permits), and Unit 18 (8 permits) for residents only. A total of 46 limited permits total due to weather conditions and requests from field staff.

Commissioner Tom Dill moved to bring to accept staff recommendations on KAR 115-25-7 and bring before the Commission. Commissioner Harrison Williams second.

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

Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Williams	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented passed 7-0.

3. KAR 115-25-8. Elk; open season, bag limit, and permits. Matt Peek, furbearer research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Z). Season structure and dates are standard. We are recommending 10 any-elk and 15 antlerless elk permits, the same number as allocated the past several years. An unlimited number of hunt-on-your-own-land antlerless-only elk permits and either-sex elk permits shall be authorized in units 2 and 3 and valid during any open season. An unlimited number of over-the-counter antlerless-only elk permits and either-sex elk permits shall be authorized in unit 3.

Commissioner Gary Hayzlett moved to bring to accept staff recommendations on KAR 115-25-8 and bring before the Commission. Commissioner Roger Marshall second.

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

Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Williams	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented passed 7-0.

4. KAR 115-25-9. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits. – Lloyd Fox, big game research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit BB). The archery season in all deer management units shall be September 12, 2016 through December 31, 2016; regular firearm season would be November 30, 2016 through December 11, 2016; muzzleloader season would be September 12-25, 2016 and would be valid in regular firearm season also; designated persons, youth and persons with disability permits September 3-11, 2016; and extended firearm season four options, one is DMU 18 where it is closed, two-day season January 1-2, 2017 in DMUs 6, 8, 9, 10, 16, and 17, eight-day season January 1-8, 2017 in DMUs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 14, and 15-day season January 1-15, 2017 in DMUs 10A, 15, or 19. Hunters can obtain five whitetail antlerless permits and they can use all of those in Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10A, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 19. They can only use one whitetail antlerless permit in Units 6, 8, 9, 16, and 17 and they cannot use a whitetail antlerless permit in Unit 18. Commissioner Dill – There was concern over mule deer earlier, about trying to limit either sex or antlerless only permits? Fox – That will be covered under Secretary’s Orders. Our recommendation will be to eliminate all of those in all units, either-species antlerless-only. We did some additional analysis looking at that. We are seeing a decline in mule deer in eastern counties of those eastern deer management units, but still have good mule deer populations, but decline in distribution of the species. You will still be able to take an antlerless mule deer, but you would have to take that on the either-sex-type permit, what people call the buck permit. People with hunt-own-land, muzzleloader, archery or number of firearm permits for residents. We also have 209 permits for nonresidents this year, for muzzleloader or archery, mule deer stamps, down about five percent from last year. Commissioner Dill – That will come in Secretary’s Orders? Fox – Yes. Commissioner Marshall – How much drop in harvest will that amount to? Fox – Harvest survey is running late this year; it will amount to well over a five percent decrease in harvest of mule deer by people with firearm deer permit. Reducing number of firearm for either-species either-sex for residents all in the east zone, west zone will stay the same, but east zone decrease from 600 to 500, about 20 percent of those permits wind up being used for mule deer. In east zone, high portion take a whitetail deer. Will cover more in Secretary’s Orders.

Commissioner Harrison Williams moved to bring to accept staff recommendations on KAR 115-25-9 and bring before the Commission. Commissioner Tom Dill second.

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

Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Williams	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented passed 7-0.

Secretary's Orders – Lloyd Fox - The main item is the elimination of either-species antlerless-only permits which had been running about 600 permits we were issuing that way; about 500 for residents and 100 for nonresidents. Last year we dropped down to 290 for residents and 57 for nonresidents and this year we are eliminating all of those. On firearms permit that allows residents to take either-species either-sex, leaving number the same in west zone, 1,425, the same as it has been the last couple of years; and in zone dropping from 600 to 500, a significant drop for last four or five years, dropping 100 or more each year. When we issue firearm either-species either-sex permits to residents, we use that as a base for the number of mule deer stamps we allow nonresidents, decreased from 2,025 to 1,925, reducing number of mule deer stamps from 210 to 202. Preliminary result on harvest survey, we had 3,000 less permits sold last year and 3,000 more nonresident applications than year before; sold 117,411 either-sex deer permits in 2015/2016; sold 120,794 the year before. This year harvest success rate was higher than the year before; combination is we are going to have just about a wash, the same number of deer harvested this year as from year before. Commissioner Marshall – Do you think we finally reached a point where we priced it high enough where people are not going to pay any price like we thought they would? Why did numbers drop? Fox – Numbers dropped before price increase. That is in residents purchasing licenses; nonresidents were 3,000 higher than year before, they are still knocking on the door, they still want to come because we have a wonderful deer herd. Commissioner Marshall – Did you get the feeling from people concerned about the mule deer, get any feedback, do they think we are going in the right direction? Fox – No feedback, I don't think they have seen this proposal. We will be doing much more in mule deer management, trying to do more surveys and collect more data. We understand we have limitations in data. We will be meeting with the Mule Deer Foundation, our biologists and law enforcement personnel in June to come up with additional ideas to slow or reverse the trend in shift of mule deer distribution to the west. Commissioner Marshall – You feel population the same, but distribution has changed? How much down is the eastern section, what percentage, 30 percent? Fox – Yes. Probably even more than that, it is rather dramatic. The interesting thing is Nebraska is seeing exactly the same thing, but no idea why.

XII. Old Business

None

XIII. Other Business

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

April 21, 2016 – Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita

June 23, 2016 – Fort Scott

August 11, 2016 – Great Bend

October 20, 2016 - Liberal

January 5, 2017 – Emporia (Flint Hills Technical College, Phil Taunton suggestion)

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)