

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission  
November 7-8, 2013

Chair Susie Knippling called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM Central Time at the Ramkota RiverCenter located in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Susie Knippling, John Cooper, Jim Spies, Barry Jensen, Cathy Peterson, Duane Sather, and Gary Jensen were present. Department Secretary Jeff Vonk was present along with media, staff, and public numbering approximately fifty-five.

Chair Knippling indicated there would be a change to the agenda to include an Executive Session on Friday morning concerning contractual matters.

## **DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION**

### **Approve minutes**

Knippling requested any additions or corrections to the October 2013 minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Cooper with second by Gary Jensen TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Additional Commissioner Salary Days**

Chair Knippling called for any additional salary days and Spies requested one for the Sportsmen's meeting in Watertown November 5.

Motion by Peterson with second by Sather TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAY REQUESTED BY SPIES. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Sportsmen Against Hunger**

Chair Knippling stated the need to appoint a replacement to the Sportsmen Against Hunger Board and indicated Gary Jensen has agreed to serve.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Spies TO APPOINT GARY JENSEN AS THE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER BOARD. Motion carried unanimously.

### **License List Requests**

Director Chris Petersen presented a request from the SD Wildlife Federation Camo-Coalition for a list of the 2013 resident fishing license holders to send a letter soliciting free membership with information educating the public about access onto water over flooded private lands and the Legislation that will affect it. This is a reduced fee request.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM THE SD WILDLIFE FEDERATION CAMO-COALITION AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Bond Authority Approval Resolution 13-13**

Director Petersen presented Special Resolution Number 13-13 to authorize the Commission Chair and Department Secretary to enter into the Tenth Lease Supplement with the South Dakota Bonding Authority for a wastewater treatment system at Angostura Recreation Area and the shoreline stabilization project at Cedar Shore Resort pursuant to House Bill 1030. This is for \$4.5 million in Revenue Bonds to be issued around the end of November.

Motion by Spies with second by Peterson TO AUTHORIZE THE SPECIAL RESOLUTION NUMBER 13-13 AS PRESENTED (Appendix A). Motion carried unanimously.

### **License Sales Report**

Director Petersen presented the October 29, 2013, License Sales Totals Report showing year-to-date sales are down 3.5%. The sales year ends on December 15<sup>th</sup> and nonresident sales will continue to grow until then.

### **Parks and Wildlife Foundation Report**

Spencer Hawley, President of the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation reported on the successful relationship of the Foundation with the Department. The Foundation changed directions in 2008 and became a financial supporter to the Department and hired Dick and Sue Brown as Resource Development Directors. The Foundation Board and Resource Development Directors have secured \$7,127,000 in cash and pledges, with an additional \$300,000 in non-cash projects. The Development Directors have two years remaining on their contract. The Foundation provides support on more than thirty projects, manages 2,700 acres of land, and oversees four Conservation Easements under the direction of Executive Director Wayne Winter.

Hawley requested Commission approval to continue funding the Department support for the Resource Development of the Foundation for up to \$50,000 for an additional year. The Foundation has made a commitment to raise \$3.1 million for the Outdoor Heritage Projects in 2014. Cooper commented positively on the mission and vision of the Foundation, the Browns, and their partnership with the Department.

Motion by Peterson with second by Cooper TO AUTHORIZE GFP SECRETARY VONK TO SIGN AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE SD PARKS AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION FOR CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF GFP PROJECTS AND WOULD OBLIGATE THE DEPARTMENT TO A MAXIMUM OF \$50,000 FOR A ONE-YEAR PERIOD. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Open Forum**

Gary Hoscheid, of Pierre, SD, representing the Pierre/ Fort Pierre Chapter of Pheasants Forever stated their support of the land consolidation at Medicine Creek Knoll Game Production Area into a larger piece of land for hunters and outdoor enthusiasts, this change will make remote areas of the GPA more accessible. He indicated the Chapter would like to contribute \$15,000 towards to the purchase of this property.

Public Hearing Officer Schlueter read an email from Jeff Olson stating “I feel WMI did a good job on the external review of big game management. They pointed out many areas of improvement. I feel it would be a good idea to have an external team in place to make sure these valuable changes are made. One suggestion they made was to send GFP leadership to training but they did not suggest where. I contacted them and they had three suggestions: The National Conservation Leadership Institute, the Management Assistance Team of AFWA and the National Conservation Training Center.”

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Public Hearing began at 1:54 PM and concluded at 2:31 PM. (Minutes follow the minutes of the regular meeting.) Chair Knippling called for a recess and meeting resumed at 2:49 PM.

## **FINALIZATIONS**

### **Fish possession limits 41:07:03**

Wildlife Director Tony Leif requested the Lake Oahe fisheries update be presented prior to this finalization and Chair Knippling granted the request (see information item below.)

Director Leif presented the fish possession change that was requested in five petitions prior to the October meeting. The petitions requested the increase of the walleye possession limit from the current two times the daily limit to three times the daily limit. The Commission took action by making the petition a proposal thus allowing for consideration and public comment.

Leif indicated the Department is not advocating for this change, it is a request from the public and is a social issue, and will abide with the decision of the Commission.

Motion by Cooper TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL. The motion died for lack of a second and therefore failed.

### **Fishing regulation 41:07:01; 41:07:03**

Adams presented the proposed changes to the fishing regulations with no recommended changes to proposal and includes returning the daily limit of walleye on Lake Oahe to the statewide limits of four walleye per day with only one over 20 inches and return to the two-day possession limit.

1. Add 41:07:01:18 “Felt Soled Waders Prohibited”.
2. Modify 41:07:03:02. “South Dakota-Minnesota boundary waters.” by changing the possession limit for yellow perch from 15 fish to 30 fish, twice the daily limit.
3. Modify 41:07:03:03. “Daily, possession, and length limit restrictions on special management waters – additional restrictions described.” by:
  - a. Adding East and West Heritage GPA ponds to the list of waters with a 15” minimum length limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass.
  - b. Removing current walleye limits of 8 daily, of which at most four can be 15 inches or longer in length, and 24 in possession, and applying statewide harvest restrictions for walleye to Lake Oahe.

Motion by Gary Jensen second by Barry Jensen TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO FISHING REGULATIONS 41:07; 41:07:03 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Spearing 41:07:06**

Geno Adams presented proposed changes to spearing with no recommended changes to proposal indicating the first two changes were to simplify rules and increase opportunities to spear for rough fish.

1. Modify 41:07:06:01. "Spearing of rough fish in inland waters." by including the South Dakota-Minnesota boundary waters in this regulation and modifying the title to reflect this change.
2. Repeal 41:07:06:01.2. "Spearing of rough fish in South Dakota-Minnesota boundary waters."
3. Modify 41:07:06:03. "Areas open to spearing of game fish – Additional permit required." by:
  - a. Removing subsection (7) which allows game fish spearing in certain waters in Eastern South Dakota.
  - b. Adding South Island Land and county designations for North and South Island Lakes to subsection (8) which allows northern pike to be taken in inland waters of the state except those managed for muskies.
  - c. Removing verbiage that allows the director of the Division of Wildlife to temporarily open areas to game fish spearing for special events and instead state that the Commission may open areas temporarily for all anglers by resolution.

Motion by Sather with second by Peterson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO SPEARING 41:07:06 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Bait 41:09:04**

Will Saylor presented the proposed changes to bait with no recommended changes to the proposal. Discussion included bait licenses and inspections for compliance.

1. Modify 41:09:04:02.02 "Species that may be taken as bait for commercial use." to allow emerald shiners and spottail shiners to be taken and sold by any licensed resident bait dealer or sold by any licensed nonresident bait dealer.
2. Modify 41:09:04:02.04 "Species that may be taken as bait for noncommercial use." to allow golden shiners, emerald shiners, spottail shiners and dead gizzard shad to be transported away from the water from which they were taken to be used as bait.
3. Modify 41:09:04:03 "Waters closed to taking of bait." By modifying:
  - a. "Waters closed year-round to commercial and noncommercial taking of bait." to add the exception of that portion of Lewis and Clark Lake and the Missouri River above Gavins Point Dam in Yankton and Bon Homme Counties for the non-commercial taking of bait.
  - b. "Other Waters." to include Lake Yankton in Yankton County and Lakes Byron and Mud in Beadle County.
  - c. "Waters closed year-round to commercial taking of bait." By removing Lake Yankton (Cottonwood) in Yankton County.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Sather TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO BAIT 41:09:04 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Hunting, fishing, and trapping license fees 41:06:02; 41:07:01**

Director Leif outlined the actions taken by the Division to balance expenditures with revenue in the current Fiscal Year and for Fiscal Year 2015. The fee changes were

made considering the Consumer Price Index and after identifying areas for reduced spending without affecting services and programs as well as maximizing use of federal dollars. Leif indicated last time many of these fees were adjusted was nine years ago, and there has not been a need since then because license sales have been stable or increased and fee increases were not necessary. The nonresident small game license was increased last year and will not change this year and it was suggested last year to look at resident small game fees. License fees have declined this year and steps have been taken with self-imposed cuts for this fiscal year and the proposed fee increases are necessary to continue offering the same level of services and programs currently provided.

Leif explained that the cost of health care for the Division of Wildlife employees are mandated by state legislature and the State of South Dakota is self-insured; and because the Division does not receive general funds from the State the entire cost of health insurance is picked up by the Department because we abide with state policy on salaries and health care benefits. Discussion included what if the fees were not raised; and the appreciation for the cuts that were identified; and the efforts to increase utilization of federal dollars and federal grants.

Director Leif presented a recommended change to the proposal to change the description for the age requirement of the resident small game license as the junior combination license is less expensive.

Change the description of the resident small game license from "Sixteen years of age and older" to "19 years of age and older."

Motion by Cooper with second by Spies TO AMEND PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE RESIDENT SMALL GAME LICENSE TO BE 19 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Resident fee changes: Annual Fishing \$25-28; Senior Fishing \$10-12; One-Day Fishing \$7-8; Paddlefish Tag \$20-25; Combination \$50-55; Junior Combination \$25-27; Senior Combination \$35-40; Annual Small Game \$30-33; One-Day Small Game \$10-12; Canada Goose Special Season Tags \$11-15; Tundra Swan Tag \$11-18; Spring Turkey 1-tag \$21-25; Spring Turkey 2-tag \$26-35; Fall Turkey 1-tag \$11-15; Fall Turkey 2-tag \$16-20; Any Deer 1-tag \$36-40; Any Deer + Antlerless Deer 2-tag \$46-50; Antlerless Deer 1-tag \$16-20; Antlerless Deer 2-tag \$26-30; Special Buck \$156-175; Any Antelope \$36-40; Any Antelope + Doe/Fawn \$46-50; Doe/Fawn 1-tag \$16-20; Doe/Fawn 2-tag \$26-30; Any Elk \$156-175; Antlerless Elk \$106-116; Mountain Goat \$256-280; Bighorn Sheep \$256-280; Mountain Lion \$26-28; Furbearer \$25-30; and the optional preference point fee on big game licenses will be \$5.

Change the description of the resident small game license from "Sixteen years of age and older" to "19 years of age and older."

Nonresident fee changes: Annual Fishing \$60-67; Family Fishing \$60-67; One-Day Fishing \$14-16; Three-Day Fishing \$32-37; Paddlefish Tag \$20-40; Game Fish Spearing \$5-10; Spring Light Goose \$46-50; Early Fall Canada Goose \$46-50; Tundra Swan \$16-25; Spring Turkey 1-tag \$86-100; Spring Turkey 2-tag \$101-125; Fall Turkey 1-tag \$76-90; Fall Turkey 2-tag \$86-100; Antlerless Deer 1-tag \$56-80; Antlerless Deer 2-tag \$81-120; Special Buck \$506-560; Antelope Doe/Fawn 1-tag \$56-80; Antelope Doe/Fawn 2-tag \$81-120; Furbearer \$250-275; Predator/Varmint \$35-40; and the optional preference point fee on big game licenses will be \$10.

Motion by Cooper with second by Gary Jensen TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING LICENSE FEES 41:06:02; 41:07:01 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Camping permit fees 41:03:04**

Assistant Director Bob Schneider handed out photos of the nearly completed horse camp at Sheps Canyon located on Angostura Reservoir. This area may very well be used during the West River Deer Hunting Season in the next few weeks. Signing for the initial phase of the horse trail will begin this month with riding opportunity available by spring. Schneider outlined the different the camping fee classifications, explaining that a range of camping and fee options are provided to accommodate the diverse needs and desires of campers. The fee increases are needed to cover growing costs of operations in the state park system. The proposed camping fees are similar to neighboring states and below the national average for comparable services.

1. Add Sheps Canyon Horse Camp to the list of areas that require an equestrian campground fee.
2. Adjust the daily camping and lodging fees as follows:  
41:03:04:03. Camping permit fees. The daily fee for the use of a campground site by one camper unit is as follows:
  - (1) Custer State Park modern campground fee, \$18.96 21.00. Campgrounds included are Game Lodge; Sylvan Lake; Grace Coolidge; Legion Lake; Stockade North; Stockade South; and Blue Bell;
  - (2) Modern campground fee, \$11.38 13.00. Campgrounds included are Fort Sisseton, except during the Fort Sisseton Festival (see subdivision (6) of this section); Union Grove; Platte Creek; Swan Creek; Fisher Grove; West Whitlock; Indian Creek; Pease Creek; Okobojo Point; Cow Creek; Buryanek; and West Pollock;
  - (3) Custer State Park semimodern campground fee, \$17.06 19.00. The campground included is Center Lake;
  - (4) Basic campground fee, \$9.48 11.00. Campgrounds included are Burke Lake; Shadehill-Llewellyn Johns Memorial; Bear Butte Lake unit; Lake Hiddenwood; Sand Creek; East Whitlock; Tabor; North Wheeler; Spring Creek; Oakwood primitive area; Lake Carthage; South Shore; Whetstone Bay; South Scalp Creek; White Swan; Walth Bay; and Amsden Dam;
  - (5) Custer State Park French Creek natural area, \$5.69 7.00 for each person;
  - (6) Use of a campground site at Fort Sisseton during the annual Fort Sisseton Festival, \$16.1125.00. Program participants and Festival campers are exempt from paying the camping fee;
  - (7) Equestrian campground fee, \$11.38 13.00. Campgrounds included are Bear Butte Horse Camp and Sica Hollow Horse Camp. However, at Lewis and Clark Horse Camp, Newton Hills Horse Camp, Oakwood Lakes Horse Camp, Pease Creek Horse Camp, Pelican Lake Horse Camp, and Union Grove Horse Camp, and Sheps Canyon Horse Camp the camping fee is \$13.27 15.00;
  - (8) Camping cabin fee, \$35.07 40.00. Campgrounds included are those in all state parks and recreation areas where camping cabins are located. However, at Lewis and Clark Recreation Area, Pierson Ranch Recreation Area, and Chief White Crane Recreation Area the camping cabin fee is \$39.81 45.00. At Custer State Park the camping cabin fee is \$44.55 50.00;
  - (9) Nonprofit youth group camping fee, \$0.47 0.50 for each person or \$5.71 6.00, whichever is greater;
  - (10) Preferred campground fee, \$13.27 15.00. Campgrounds included are Oakwood Lakes; Angostura, including Shep's Canyon; Lake Vermillion; Lewis and Clark, except those campsites designated as prime waterfront campsites; Newton Hills; Snake Creek;

Palisades; Roy Lake; Lake Herman; Lake Poinsett; Walker's Point; Pickerel; Shadehill-Ketterlings Point; Sandy Shore; Lake Cochrane; Farm Island; Lake Louise; Lake Thompson; Mina; Chief White Crane, except those campsites designated as prime water front campsites; Pierson Ranch; North Point; Oahe Downstream; Big Sioux; Hartford Beach; Richmond; Springfield; Rocky Point; West Bend; Randall Creek; and South Pelican;

(11) Prime campsite fee, \$15.17 17.00. Sites included are: all campsites furnished with sewer, water, and electrical service; Lewis and Clark campsite numbers 117P to 161P, inclusive; 163P; 164P; 166P; 213P to 223P, inclusive; 317P to 334P, inclusive; and 384P to 409P, inclusive; and Chief White Crane campsite numbers 111P to 145P, inclusive;

(12) Primitive lodging campsite fee, \$20.85 23.00. The campground included is Fort Sisseton State Park;

(13) Custer State Park group camping area fee, \$5.69 7.00 a person for overnight use with a minimum fee of \$113.74 140.00;

(14) The group lodging fee at: Mina Lake State Recreation Area is \$160 185.00 and Shadehill State Recreation Area is \$185 a night for the first 8 persons age 12 and over plus \$17 for each additional person age 12 and older; Lake Thompson State Recreation Area, Palisades State Park, Sheps Canyon State Recreation Area, and Newton Hills State Park is \$240 a night for the first 12 persons age 12 and over plus \$17 for each additional person age 12 and older;

(15) Custer State Park, French Creek Horse Camp fee, \$21.80 26.00;

(16) Oahe Downstream Group Lodge use fee is \$37.92 40.00 per night for nonprofit youth groups year-round and for nonprofit groups and government agencies from November 1 to March 31, inclusive, and \$118.49 125.00 per night for all other groups year-round. The use fee for all groups except nonprofit youth groups is \$118.49 125.00 from April 1 to October 31, inclusive.

An additional charge of \$3.79 4.00 a unit is made for campground sites with electricity.

Motion by Spies with second by Peterson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO CAMPING PERMITS AND RULES 41:03:04 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Picnic shelter, firewood, park facility fees 41:03:04**

Schneider presented the proposed changes with no recommended changes to proposal.

1. Increase the fee to reserve a picnic shelter from \$18.96 to \$20.00 a day;
2. Increase the fee to purchase a bundle of firewood from \$4.00 to \$5.00; and
3. Adjust the fee to use certain park facilities and authorize fees for new services and facilities.  
41:03:04:13. Park facility use fees. The fee for the use of the following state park facilities is:
  - (1) Fort Sisseton or Pierson Ranch picnic shelter with kitchenette, \$50 per day;
  - (2) Fort Sisseton south barracks, \$125 per day 300.00 for a period beginning 10:00 am Friday and ending 6:00 pm Sunday;
  - (3) Fort Sisseton event tent -- on site, \$150 per day (must be rented for a minimum of two consecutive days); off-site, \$750 1,000 per day plus \$2.00 per mile transport fee for set up over 25 miles.
  - (4) Fort Sisseton grounds for outdoor wedding, \$125 when park benches are used.
  - (5) Lewis and Clark catamaran dry slip storage, \$300 for a period beginning May 1 and ending September 30. For seasonal slip rental beginning on or after July 15, the fee is \$60 plus \$2.00 per day. Temporary slip rental is \$5.00 per day.
  - (6) Angostura catamaran dry slip storage, \$150 for a period beginning May 1 and ending September 30. For seasonal slip rental beginning on or after July 15, the fee is \$30 plus \$2.00 per day. Temporary slip rental is \$5.00 per day.

Motion by Sather with second by Spies TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO PICNIC SHELTER, FIREWOOD, PARK FACILITY FEES 41:03:04 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

## HUNTING SEASON PROPOSALS

### Spring Turkey Hunting Season

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented the Custer State Park Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season dates, licenses, requirements, and restrictions along with harvest, success rate, and average days hunted for the past five years. There are no recommended changes to the 2014 season and no action was taken.

Kirschenmann presented the Spring Turkey Hunting Season dates, licenses, requirements, and restrictions. The recommended changes included fewer licenses in the prairie unit, change the name of Blood Run to Good Earth where needed, and to establish a unit and licenses for persons with disabilities under a similar format to the West River Deer Hunting Season at Oahe Downstream in Stanley County. This disability season request for turkey hunting came from the National Wild Turkey Federation.

1. Convert license types in 10 units from 2-tag "any turkey" licenses to 2-tag "male turkey" licenses, convert license type in 8 units from 2-tag "any turkey" licenses to 1-tag "male turkey" licenses, and adjust the number of licenses in 5 units. Overall, these changes and adjustments result in 186 fewer licenses and 2,976 fewer tags for resident hunters. For nonresident hunters these changes result in 15 fewer licenses and 207 fewer tags.
2. Establish Unit PST-58B: Stanley County, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Land and the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area from April 5-30 (see attached map). Allow 4 resident "male turkey" licenses and 1 non-resident "male turkey" license to persons who use a wheelchair for mobility.
3. **41:03:01:16. Restrictions on use of firearms and bows -- Exceptions.** Uncased firearms and bows are prohibited in all state parks, state recreation areas, state nature areas, and state lakeside use areas with the following exceptions:
  - (5) From October 1 to April 30, inclusive, uncased firearms and bows are authorized for licensed hunters in all state parks, state recreation areas, nature areas, and lakeside use areas during established hunting seasons with the following restrictions:
    - (a) Uncased firearms and bows are prohibited the year around in all established campgrounds, designated day use areas, and at Beaver Creek Nature Area, Lake Herman State Park, Spring Creek Recreation Area, Spirit Mound Historic Prairie, Bear Butte State Park east of State Highway 79, Oahe Downstream Recreation Area except for a hunter who possesses a valid deer license for Unit WRD-58D as described in chapter 41:06:20 or a valid turkey license for Unit PST-58B as described in chapter 41:06:13, and Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve and Good Earth State Park Blood Run Nature Area except for a resident hunter who possesses a valid archery deer license and an access permit as described in chapter 41:06:22 or except for a resident hunter who possesses a valid archery spring turkey license and an access permit as described in chapter 41:06:13;
4. **41:06:13:04. Application requirements and restrictions.** The following applies to all applications for license and licenses issued under this chapter:

(5) ~~Good Earth State Park Blood Run Nature Area~~ is closed to spring turkey hunting except for ten turkey licensees who possess a valid spring turkey archery license and an archery turkey access permit. Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve is closed to spring turkey hunting except for ten licensees who possess a valid spring turkey archery license and an archery turkey access permit. The access permits may be issued by lottery drawing. Each access permit is valid from the first Saturday of April to April 30, inclusive.

Motion by Peterson with second by Cooper TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Spring Light Goose Hunting Season**

Chad Switzer presented the season dates, open areas, limits, requirements, and restrictions for the Spring Light Goose Hunting Season along with harvest information for the past five years. Switzer indicated the population estimate is 15-25 million birds and the Department has no recommended changes. Discussion included the number of shells in a shotgun and no action was taken.

## **DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **Angostura and Shadehill Seasonal Cabin/Trailer Fees**

Concessions Manager Sean Blanchette presented the seasonal cabin lot fees at Angostura and trailer and cabin lot fees at Shadehill for the past ten years showing the fee increases, based on the Consumer Price Index, for the 79 units. Blanchette requested approval to increase the Angostura fees by \$10 to \$820 and the Shadehill fees by \$5 to \$425 for the 2014 season.

Motion by Spies with second by Gary Jensen TO APPROVE THE FEE INCREASE FOR THE ANGOSTURA CABIN LOT FEES TO \$820 AND SHADEHILL CABIN AND TRAILER FEES TO \$425 FOR 2014 AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Angostura Sewer System**

Blanchette provided an update on the sewer system project at Angostura indicating the system has been bid and Quinn Construction of Rapid City was awarded the contract. The project is scheduled for completion by April 1, 2014, and a letter was sent to all trailer owners indicating an individual connection stub was included in the construction costs and will be amortized as part of the bond package. This will eliminate anticipated upfront costs to the trailer owners. The trailer owners will pay an annual waste water system assessment fee of approximately \$900 for the waste water system in addition to their annual trailer rent.

### **Cedar Shore Shoreline Stabilization Project**

Al Nedved provided an update of the Cedar Shores project related to shoreline erosion and soil instability. Some of the problems have been with the resort shortly after it was built, but others were a result of the 2011 flood event. The project includes addressing damage occurring along the George S. Mickelson Drive that serves the

resort and several private residents. This is causing the shoreline to erode and jeopardize the road and trail. The trail has been closed in certain sections as a result of the erosion. DOT has taken the lead on design for the road protection part of the project. There have also been issues with soil movement that is causing damage to the area adjacent to the resort and marina. Professional consultants have installed instruments to detect subsurface movement and have determined that action is necessary to preserve the resort facilities. The recommended solution is to build a drilled shaft wall adjacent to the marina and to put holes 50-60 feet into the ground to the bed rock and fill with reinforced concrete to make a very strong retaining wall that will be level with the ground along with tie backs. The Department of Game, Fish, and Parks is administering the design and construction of the projects surrounding the resort and marina.

An Environmental Assessment is required by FEMA for \$4 million of mitigation funding available for this project. Additional funding will come from the bonding package approved by the 2013 Legislature, a Coast Guard grant, DOT, and the City of Oacoma.

### **Custer State Park Visitor Center**

Donovan Broberg presented an update on behalf of ARC, the design firm for the Custer State Park Visitor Center. Broberg indicated they looked at several potential sites near the Game Lodge, but felt that those sites would add too much congestion to the immediate Game Lodge campus. A better alternative exists at a site near the group campground location just east of the Game Lodge area near the intersection of Highway 16A and the Wildlife Life Loop Road. This site has been selected as the preferred location for the Visitor Center. The Grace Coolidge Creek flows into a pond at the site and the creek divides into a small meandered offshoot of the creek that rejoins downstream a short distance creating interesting features to the area. The design will be driven by traditions of the park and include education and interpretive exhibits promoting the wildlife in the area and adventures of being in the park.

Chairman Knippling called a recess at 5:07 PM with meeting to resume at 8 AM the next morning. Meeting resumed Friday, November 8 at 8 AM. Commissioners present were Knippling, Cooper, Spies, Barry Jensen, Peterson, Sather, and Gary Jensen. Department Secretary Jeff Vonk was present.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Barry Jensen TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. Motion carried unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive session began at 8:01 AM with Commissioners Knippling, Cooper, Spies, Barry Jensen, Peterson, Sather, and Gary Jensen present. Secretary Vonk, Parks Director Doug Hofer, Attorney Richard Neill, and Executive Secretary Debra Ascher were present. Director Hofer provided background and information regarding a concessionaire contractual issue. Executive session concluded at 8:36 AM.

## **Good Earth State Park**

Director Hofer indicated HDR, a consultant out of Sioux Falls, is working on design work for the overall layout of the park including the Visitor Center at Good Earth State Park. The ability to access the park in northwest corner was proposed in the original Master Plan but until recently land has not been available to make this connection. Louise Evenson has offered to sell twenty acres to the Parks and Wildlife Foundation to facilitate a road into the park. This week the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation agreed to enter into a purchase agreement to acquire the twenty acres for the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks.

## **Park Revenue and Visitation Reports**

Hofer presented the 2013 Visitation Report for the State Parks System that shows an increase of 1.7% over 2012. New counters were installed this year at park entrances to improve accuracy of visitation reports. The visitation numbers do not include Lake Side Use areas, the Mickelson Trail, or the snowmobile trails.

Camping Units are up 3.1% from 2012 or about 7,000 campers, October use was down in the western South Dakota due to the October 4 blizzard and the shutdown of the federal government; however, camper use was strong in October in eastern South Dakota and the parks should see several thousand more campers in November and December during the hunting seasons.

Revenue continues to show growth of 5.9% for the calendar year with approximately half of this growth due to the policy change to allow for camping reservations at Custer State Park and lodges statewide a year in advance with payment due when making the reservation. This revenue will still be deposited in the same fiscal year as in the past and will not affect our budgeted revenue anticipated.

## **October storm impact and cleanup**

Parks Assistant Director Bob Schneider indicated over four feet of snow was received in some areas of the Black Hills with high winds on the prairie on October 4-6. The Parks Division assisted Lawrence County Emergency Management with Sno-cats in Boulder Canyon, Nemo, Terry Peak, and Spearfish Canyon; and assisted Black Hills Power and Light with downed power lines. Staff transported 59 citizens to a shelter in Lead, logged 106 hours in three days, and worked with volunteers from local snowmobile clubs to clean up snowmobile trails from downed trees.

Shadehill Reservoir got 24 inches of snow with 70mph winds that destroyed 30% of their trees and was without electricity for 20 days resulting in a significant loss of October revenue. The reservoir elevation has risen 3.7 feet and is the first time the dam has spilled over in October.

Parts of Custer State Park had no power from Friday through Monday, no buffalo died, and currently there are no signs of loss of big game animals. Several visitors were stranded until roads started to open Saturday afternoon; and flooding has caused quite a bit of damage.

High winds and a tornado that was about a half mile wide hit the Adams Homestead and Nature Area on October 4. The majority of damage was in the northwest part of the Nature Area where eight of the sixteen miles of trail were blocked

by downed trees. These trees were cleared by October 12 in time for a major Cross Country Event.

Wildlife Assistant Director Emmett Keyser indicated it is not uncommon for GFP to receive a call from Emergency Operations Center to take advantage of our specialized equipment that is valuable in these situations along with trained and experienced staff. It was a challenge to get to facilities in the blizzard conditions.

Fisheries staff camped out at the Cleghorn Hatchery to make sure the generator and hatchery remained in operation and no fish were lost. The McNenny Hatchery suffered substantial damage to raceway covers and loss of trees on the grounds however, no fish were lost.

Conservation Officers and other staff assisted with transportation needs; were concerned about hunters stranded in the Black Hills; and assisted with the effort to account for and clean up after lost cattle. Estimated damages for the Wildlife Division are: \$30,000 in repairs for The Outdoor Campus West; McNenny Hatchery raceway covers around \$450,000; and Curlew Dam at around \$200,000. Administration Director Chris Petersen indicated the State submitted around \$38 million in damage claims to FEMA with approximately \$800,000 from the Department.

Switzer indicated some turkeys were lost in the blizzard and no collared elk or mule deer appear to be lost; and no other wildlife loss has been reported from staff or the public.

## **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

### **Partridge allowed for release**

Switzer shared that the Department has received requests to release different species of partridge and has determined there is no biological reason to retain the terms Chukkar and Hungarian within the rule; therefore, recommends removal of the terms from rule.

Delete the word "chukar" and/or "Hungarian" from rules 41:09:02:04, 41:09:02:06.01, and 41:09:01:03.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Spies TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO PRIVATE SHOOTING PRESERVES AND CAPTIVE GAME BIRDS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Sully County land acquisition**

Paul Coughlin provided history and background on the Medicine Knoll Creek Game Production Area along with Resolutions 13-14 and 13-15 requesting Commission approval to complete negotiations for the exchange and purchase of two tracts of property with Ricky and Barbara Leesman of Blunt and Gary Schmitgen of Pierre to consolidate holdings at the Medicine Knoll Creek GPA in Sully County. The Pierre/Fort Pierre Chapter of Pheasants Forever supports this and as stated in the Open Forum is willing to contribute \$15,000 towards this purchase.

Motion by Cooper with second by Spies TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS 13-13 AND 13-14 AS PRESENTED (Appendix B and C). Motion carried unanimously.

### **Land acquisition update**

Coughlin indicated an addition to the Chain Lake GPA in Brule County may be coming to the Commission in the next couple of months for the 160-acre inholding on the GPA. The funds for this addition will come through the Tony Dean's Acres NAWCA grant.

### **Transplant of mountain goats**

Switzer shared that 22 mountain goats have been transplanted and released on the Needles Highway and provided details and photos of the project. The goats will be monitored for survival, one ewe did not survive. The 2012 population estimate was around 200.

### **Elk management opinion survey**

Human Dimensions Specialist Dr. Cindy Longmire provided an update on the elk management survey that was sent to 4,133 individuals; 2,000 were elk license applicants and 2,133 were identified as possible landowners. Currently there is a 26% return response rate. The second mailing will be a card to thank applicants for returning the survey and/or remind them to return the survey. The third mailing will contain the survey about a week later to those who have not responded. The questions are about wildlife values, elk population and tolerance expectations, and social tolerance for big game. The results will be used to assist the stakeholder group and staff with developing an elk management plan.

### **Lake Oahe fisheries update**

Geno Adams provided a Power Point Presentation overview of information compiled this summer on the status of the fishery, and will answer questions raised during the public hearing. The rainbow smelt hydroacoustic survey showed lower numbers of smelt. Numbers of warm water prey fish including shiners, white bass, and others have a big influence on predator fish and this year showed it is the 6<sup>th</sup> highest prey fish abundance in the last two decades. The walleye population surveys indicate a very good abundance of walleye in Oahe, with a lower number of 20-inch walleye; and 15-inch walleye are incredibly high. The 2009 year class will be over the 15-inch size for next year. The 2013 creel information indicates a record harvest in June and record low harvest in August when the prey fish were providing plenty of food for walleye which does affect catch rates.

Discussion included perceived impacts, literature supporting the impacts, social concerns, fishing pressure on smaller fisheries, resident versus nonresident perspective, catch rates, harvest, and satisfaction.

### **Changes in the lakes in Northeast SD**

Mark Ermer provided a PowerPoint Presentation showing the changes in lake sizes in Northeast South Dakota during the past 25 years indicating in 1990 there were 35 lakes for 65,434 acres of managed waters in Region 4. Today there are 95 lakes with 139,186 acres of managed waters in Region 4. Walleye stocking since 1986 has increased significantly as 26 lakes were managed in 1987 with 59 lake side use areas, and today there are 155 lakes actively managed with 125 lake side use areas.

Secretary Vonk shared with the Commission that the presentation Mark Ermer made today was given to a group of 67 citizens in Watertown earlier this week. Vonk indicated in the 2013 Legislative session HB1135 was the non-meandered water bill that he agreed in Senate Committee to work with the Non-Meandered Waters Group to find a compromise. Vonk gave history and background of this issue and all the Department's work on this effort in preparation for the upcoming Legislative session.

Chair Knippling called a recess at 10:32 and Keyser indicated the Waterfowl Access trailer was parked outside and invited the Commissioners to walk through it during the recess. Meeting resumed at 10:53 and Commission Cooper did not return.

### **Statewide Fisheries Plan**

Fisheries Chief John Lott gave a PowerPoint presentation on why the Statewide Fisheries Plan is being developed, the structure of the plan, inventory of waters in South Dakota, programs provided for and included in the plan, strategies, support programs, performance measures, management areas and types, the different levels within the plan, and public participation in developing the plan.

### **Big game management review response plan**

Wildlife Director Tony Leif presented the Big Game Management Action Plan in response to the Wildlife Management Institute Big Game Management Review. Leif expressed his appreciation for the guidance from WMI that will improve the management of big game in South Dakota. The response plan included forty-three points of action with staff responsibilities and timelines in four specific areas: population monitoring, management plans, communications, and the commission recommendation process. Implementing this plan in a timely manner is important as well as a balance of staffing needs and the need to prioritize work.

Secretary Vonk indicated he presented this plan concept to the Governor. Vonk envisions that as the action plan items are completed they will be reported to the Commission and shared with Department's liaison in the Governor's office.

### **Pheasant Habitat Summit update**

Secretary Vonk invited the Commissioners to the Governor's Pheasant Summit in Huron on December 6 indicating 230 individuals have already registered for the Summit and he outlined the event.

### **Miscellaneous updates**

Director Leif indicated the Bighorn Sheep Group met and will be meeting again soon on how to utilize the funds acquired thru the bighorn sheep auction tag sale. The December Commission meeting will have the bighorn season recommendations and update.

Leif indicated the elk hunting season has 15 days remain for those with a cow tag and harvest/success rates appear to be similar to past years.

Knippling reminded the Commission of the upcoming winter WAFWA meeting in January.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Peterson TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.  
Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 11:51 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

Appendix A

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION No. 13-13**

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A TENTH LEASE SUPPLEMENT TO THE LEASE DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1984, WITH THE SOUTH DAKOTA BUILDING AUTHORITY TO INCLUDE A SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT FOR THE CEDAR SHORE RESORT AND A WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM FOR THE ANGOSTURA RECREATION AREA.

The South Dakota Building Authority has requested that the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks execute a Tenth Lease Supplement to the Lease dated February 1, 1984, to include a shoreline stabilization project for the Cedar Shore Resort near Oacoma, South Dakota and a wastewater Treatment system for the Angostura Recreation Area near Hot Springs, South Dakota. The request by the South Dakota Building Authority is based upon the expectation of issuing a taxable series of Revenue Bonds which will relate to the Lease Supplement for these projects.

The form of the proposed Lease Supplement is attached hereto and provision is made for the determination of rents under the formula heretofore established by the Authority and heretofore accepted by the Department. The Authority anticipates sale of the Revenue Bonds and, therefore, requests the execution of the Tenth Lease Supplement.

***THEREFORE, Be It and It Is Hereby Resolved by the Game, Fish, and Park Commission of the State of South Dakota as follows:***

That the Commission Chair and Department Secretary be and they are hereby authorized to execute, acknowledge, and deliver in the name and on behalf of the Department the Tenth Lease Supplement between the Department and the South Dakota Building Authority to include a shoreline stabilization project for the Cedar Shore Resort near Oacoma, South Dakota and a wastewater Treatment system for the Angostura Recreation Area near Hot Springs, South Dakota, by executing the Tenth Lease Supplement.

All prior resolutions and other acts or proceedings of this Commission which are in any way inconsistent with the terms of this Resolution are hereby amended to the extent necessary to give full force and effect to this Resolution.

Adopted and approved this 7th day of November, 2013.

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair Susie Knippling

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey R. Vonk, Secretary, Department of Game, Fish, and Parks

Appendix B

**RESOLUTION 13-14**

WHEREAS, the State of South Dakota (held by and for the use and benefit of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) owns an interest in real estate described as:

SE1/4 of Section 22, Township 113 North, Range 75 West of the 5th PM, Sully County, South Dakota, containing 160 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as GFP PROPERTY A, which is valued at \$511,600.00; and,

NE1/4 of Section 17, Township 113 North, Range 75 West of the 5th PM, Sully County, South Dakota, containing 160 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as GFP PROPERTY B, which is valued at \$261,200.00; and

WHEREAS, Rickey Leesman and Barbara Leesman (LEESMANS), Blunt, SD, own an interest in real estate described as:

SW1/4 of Section 14, less the East 86 feet thereof, in Township 113 North, Range 75 West of the 5th PM, Sully County, South Dakota, containing 154.8 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as LEESMAN PROPERTY, which is valued at \$511,600.00; and

WHEREAS, Gary Schmitgen (SCHMITGEN), Pierre, SD, owns an interest in real estate described as:

NW1/4 of Section 14, less the East 690 feet thereof, in Township 113 North, Range 75 West of the 5th PM, Sully County, South Dakota, containing 118.2 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as SCHMITGEN PROPERTY, which is valued at \$261,200.00; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota law (SDCL 41-2-29.2) provides that GFP has the power, authority, and duty to trade or exchange real property owned by the State and held by GFP if the GFP Commission shall first determine that real property more suitable to GFP purposes may be obtained by an exchange, provided the parcels of real property to be exchanged are of equal value; and

WHEREAS, GFP and LEESMANS desire to exchange interests in GFP PROPERTY A and LEESMAN PROPERTY, and the GFP Commission having determined that LEESMAN PROPERTY is more suitable to GFP for GFP purposes than GFP PROPERTY A, and that GFP PROPERTY A and LEESMAN PROPERTY are of equal value (\$511,600.00 as determined by a qualified appraiser); and

WHEREAS, GFP and SCHMITGEN desire to exchange interests in GFP PROPERTY B and SCHMITGEN PROPERTY, and the GFP Commission having determined that SCHMITGEN PROPERTY is more suitable to GFP for GFP purposes than GFP PROPERTY B, and that GFP PROPERTY B and SCHMITGEN PROPERTY are of equal value (\$261,200.00 as determined by a qualified appraiser); and

WHEREAS, South Dakota law requires that the conveyance of GFP PROPERTY be approved and executed in the manner provided by SDCL 5-2-11.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the GFP Commission hereby takes final action on and approves the above referenced exchanges of the above described parcels of real property and hereby directs GFP to take all steps necessary to effectuate the exchange of GFP PROPERTY A for LEESMAN PROPERTY, and GFP PROPERTY B for SCHMITGEN PROPERTY, under procedures mandated by statute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GFP Commission does hereby ratify and confirm the Department's designation of the LEESMAN PROPERTY and SCHMITGEN PROPERTY being acquired pursuant to the exchange authorized by this Resolution for utilization by the Division of Wildlife for the purpose of game production and, further, does hereby expressly designate and classify the LEESMAN PROPERTY and SCHMITGEN PROPERTY being acquired pursuant to the exchange authorized by this Resolution for use as a game production area.

Appendix C  
**RESOLUTION 13 - 15**

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) has expressed an interest in acquiring real property presently owned by Rickey Leesman and Barbara Leesman, Blunt, SD, which property is described as:

East 86 feet of the SW1/4 of Section 14 in Township 113 North, Range 75 West of the 5th P.M., Sully County, South Dakota, and hereafter referred to as LEESMAN PROPERTY; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks has expressed an interest in acquiring real property presently owned by Gary Schmitgen, Pierre, SD, which property is described as:

East 690 feet of the NW1/4 of Section 14 in Township 113 North, Range 75 West of the 5th P.M., Sully County, South Dakota, and hereafter referred to as SCHMITGEN PROPERTY; and

WHEREAS, said properties are to be acquired by and utilized by GFP as a Game Production Area; and

WHEREAS, SDCL 41-4-1.1 requires that before GFP acquires and purchases property, GFP must notify owners of land located adjacent to the property sought to be acquired by publishing notice of the same once in each legal newspaper of the county in which the property to be purchased is located; and

WHEREAS, GFP has published the required legal notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of action by the Commission authorizing the intended purchases, which notice included the time and location of the meeting at which Commission action is expected and by giving notice of instructions for presenting oral and written comments to the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed any and all comments that may have been received relative to the intended purchases and after consideration of the same, the Commission approves the purchase of each of said properties for use as a Game Production Area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that GFP is authorized to complete negotiations for the purchase of the LEESMAN PROPERTY and execute and consummate an agreement with Rickey Leesman and Barbara Leesman, which is acceptable to GFP to acquire by purchase, at the price of \$17,100.00, the LEESMAN PROPERTY for use as a Game Production Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that GFP is authorized to complete negotiations for the purchase of the SCHMITGEN PROPERTY and execute and consummate an agreement with Gary Schmitgen, which is acceptable to GFP to acquire by purchase, at the price of \$92,300.00, the SCHMITGEN PROPERTY for use as a Game Production Area.

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission  
November 7, 2013

Public Hearing Officer Chuck Schlueter began the public hearing at 2 PM CT at the Ramkota RiverCenter in Pierre, South Dakota. Written and oral testimony would be accepted on the items listed on the Agenda under Finalizations. Schlueter read testimony received prior to the hearing and the attending public provided oral testimony to the Commission.

#### Fish Possession Limits

Lyndon Limberg of Gary, SD, wrote: "I am writing in regard to your proposal to increase daily possession limit to 3 day limit. Myself and a lot of SD residents feel the 2 day limit is adequate and will protect our lakes from over harvest. I realize fishermen from Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota where they have fished out their lakes would like to haul more fish home in their coolers. And resorts & bait shops and the state want more revenue. But let's preserve our great natural resources Canada has gone to a conservation license where the possession limit is 4 walleyes. Please have possession limit at a 2 day limit."

"The following SD residents are opposed to increasing the daily possession limits from two day limit to three day limit. We feel this will endanger the fish populations and is only being done for greed for revenue and so that more fish may be taken out of state by non-residents." This statement has sixteen signatures and a copy is attached to these minutes (Appendix A).

Terry Green of Mitchell, SD, called and left this comment: "This is totally absurd to consider a larger possession limit" and he wants his grandchildren to be able to fish. Out-of-staters will take all the fish and the Oahe limits should go back to where it was. He believes there should be no fishing when the fish are spawning. He and his kids love to fish and we need to protect all reservoirs."

Wayne Schneider of Mitchell, SD, emailed: "I don't think you should raise the possession limits to 12. I think 8 is enough. I don't think that is a deal breaker on whether or not people come to fish. If you are going to do that you should have two licenses and charge more for that one... Please leave the limits as are or lower LFC to 3 fish per day."

Kerry Stiner of Burke, SD, emailed: "I am not in favor of going from a 2 day to 3 day possession limit on walleye or any fish. I think it is designed for out of staters and not for the benefit of the fisheries or South Dakotans. Thank you for your time."

Todd Meier of Kennebec, SD, emailed: "I don't think we need to have 3 days possession. I am for lowering the limit to 3 per day."

Craig Jones of Mitchell, SD, called indicating he was opposed to increasing the possession limit to three times the daily limit and thought that some of our Missouri River reservoirs were already overfished."

John Thompson of Mitchell, SD, emailed: "I oppose the proposal to increase the possession limit in inland waters for all fish species. As a resident fisherman I can see that this would not benefit the fishing or fishermen in South Dakota. Our glacial lakes are now experiencing quality fishing; to increase the possession limit would damage the

quality of the fish. The Missouri river system especially Frances Case and Sharp (most of the time) are examples of poor quality walleyes. The fishing pressure on those waters (when the size limit is on) makes it hard to get a limit. This proposal would do nothing but harm the fishing in South Dakota. Therefore, I oppose the proposal.”

Laura Vanden Berge, of Platte, SD, Executive Director of the Platte Area Chamber of Commerce emailed: “We support SD Missouri River Tourism’s petition to increase the possession limit for walleye to three time the daily limit, or 12 fish, statewide.”

Haden Merkel of Mobridge, SD, Executive Director of Mobridge Area Chamber of Commerce emailed: “I support SD Missouri River Tourism’s petition to increase the possession limit for walleye to three times the daily limit, or 12 fish, statewide.”

Lois Ries of Pierre, SD, CVB Director, Pierre Chamber of Commerce emailed: “I support SD Missouri River Tourism’s petition to increase the possession limit for walleye to three times the daily limit, or 12 fish, statewide.”

Mary and Larry Snyder of Lake Andes, SD, emailed: “My husband and I own and operate Circle H Motel in Lake Andes, S.D. and we DO NOT think increasing the walleye limit is a good idea unless Lake Francis Case gets fingerling walleyes replenished annually to keep up with the fishing pressure. Right now the fishing limits are very good due to the flood of 2011 but that won’t stay good indefinitely. Every year our motel and bait sales increase due to the people population increasing and the lack of clean water east of us in Iowa and also in Nebraska. If you increase the fishing limit the walleye population will slowly decrease and our business will suffer immensely. We are very much in favor of more motel and bait sales. Just don’t wreck a good thing that we have now.”

Bill Waeckerle of Akaska, SD, emailed: “I support the Walleye possession limit changes.”

Larry Gillies of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: “I support SD Missouri River Tourism’s petition to increase the possession limit for walleye to three times the daily limit, or 12 fish, statewide.”

Jeff Olson of Rapid City, SD, emailed: “I do not support raising the possession limit on all fish throughout the state from two to three days. Our waters are too diverse to take this single handed approach for all species and bodies of water.”

Steve Elkjer of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: “Increasing the limit to 3 times the daily limit will definitely increase tourism. Fishermen will stay longer in Chamberlain, Pierre, Milbank, etc. I would stay longer in Lake Preston.”

Ken Dulik of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: “I’m still not sure why party fishing from a boat had to be added into that regulation change, but if the possession limits for fish are increased, I think you need to seriously consider decreasing the daily limits or you are going to have to figure out how to raise and stock lots more fish. Once the resource is depleted, people will buy less licenses and then the GFP will really be in trouble. It shouldn’t be about the killing and keeping of wildlife, it should be about the experience of getting out in the field and having the real chance to catch the big one. Minnesota went the other way several years ago and reduced the possession limits. Daily and possession limits are now the same. I doubt they are selling less licenses because of that change but I bet there are more fish for others to catch.”

James and Charlotte Selgeby of Reville, SD, wrote: "This letter is to argue against increasing possession limits on South Dakota fishes. In a lifetime of working in fisheries research I have seen the devastating effects of over fishing in the greatest lakes of the world and even the oceans. Not only are fish stocks depleted but users often lose their livelihoods. We in South Dakota are blessed with fertile waters that support large fish stocks which grow quickly. Nonetheless, over harvest is a constant threat..."

Vince Assmus of Plankinton, SD, called and have these comments for the Public Hearing on November 7 regarding fish possession limits. "Would just as soon not increase the fish possession limits. Pierre resorts have same people staying and shipping out fish on weekends with their family and are already catching their limits. He would like Game and Fish manage the fish not tourism."

Roger Wiltz of Wagner, SD, emailed: "I fish our Missouri River impoundments 2-3 times a week. I know Francis Case especially well. The fishing pressure on all the reservoirs, especially Francis Case, is heavy. A 3-day possession limit of walleyes is not in our reservoir fisheries best interest. Keeping four more walleyes is killing four more walleyes. If anglers want to be "meat" fishermen, they should be satisfied with catfish/white bass/smallmouth bass. The Ontario possession limit is four fish. They know what pressure they can bare. Please don't succumb to money interests and greed. Catch & release needs more consideration."

Calvin Walsh of Hermosa, SD, emailed: "I disagree that increasing possession limits would not negatively affect walleye populations. It would be my guess that the people petitioning for this are guides, outfitters ETC. catering to nonresident clients. These guides fish every day and know where the fish are and how to harvest them and take a huge number of walleyes in a season, while most of us local fishermen practice catch and release. Allowing them to harvest 50% more would definitely have an impact. Catch and release should be encouraged instead of, (come to SD and take home large limits). They would not be petitioning for this if they did not believe it would bring more clients in for longer periods. Let's preserve our walleye populations, so the average family can take his boat or rent a boat, and go catch some fish. Encouraging a larger harvest does not improve the fishery."

Curt Koepp of Waubay, SD, emailed: "The need for an increase in license seems to be an attempt to spend more money. If inflation is 20% why hasn't our wages gone up, why hasn't social security been increased? The only 20% is from someone who wants to spend more. Sell some of the desks the GFP sit behind and get them out working you won't need so many people and can save money that way. I live in the NE part of SD and have never seen a warden anywhere but in the parking lot of their office. We can't even fish in our own lakes because of lack of ramps due to high water and overcrowding (to many out-of-staters). If you want to raise them that's fine, quit selling our fish and game to others and look at being more efficient with what you have. Bigger spending is not the answer."

Michael Johnson of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "The purpose of this letter is to express my opposition to the increase in the statewide possession limit for all species from 2 times the daily limit to 3 times the daily limit. This proposed change will be devastating to small fisheries in Western South Dakota where I live, and could be detrimental to fisheries statewide if implemented."

Richard Hilgemann of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: "I think the rate increases most notably in hunting/fishing licenses is a bad idea. I noticed you cited a 20% inflationary increase as one of the causes. Well I didn't get a 20% increase in wages in that time period, I learned to live with a smaller purchasing power. Yet you want to take more from me/all outdoorsmen to pay someone else more; and cover increases in their health care benefits. When my health care costs go up I have to pay for them and now I will have to pay for State workers' increases as well?"

Kalan Lechner of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: "I have read & agree with the pending rules proposals."

Gary Allen of Chamberlain, SD, called and indicated he is a guide and hotel owner, who is in favor of the proposed increase in the possession limit to three times the daily limit. He thinks it is a great idea for SD and that we should at least try it for 3-4 years.

Karen Kern of Pierre, SD, emailed her regrets in not being able to attend the meeting.

Chuck Berdan of Belle Fourche, SD, emailed: "I oppose the proposal to increase the possession limit of all fish in inland waters species. As a resident fisherman I can see that this would harm the fishing in South Dakota by putting more pressure on our fish."

Kelly Koistinen of Spearfish, SD, emailed: "I have been a resident of SD for 45 years. I started hunting and fishing at an early age. Consequently, I have lived, hunted, and fished here my whole life. In that time, I've bought a hunting and fishing combination license every year, plus multiple tags for deer, elk, antelope, mountain lion (since its inception), etc. My point being, my interests are invested in this state for a long long time, with a lot of money over the course of those years. Also, during this time [I] have dealt with increases in fees, different possession limits, and increases and decreases in the number of tags. Personally, I want to continue to hunt/fish with my kids and family for the rest of my life. But, with all the increases in hunting tag fees constantly, changes in possession limits to benefit the nonresident people, and increases in the camping fees consistently, how can I afford to keep hunting and fishing in SD. My interest in SD hunting and fishing are way more important than those people who file these petitions from out of state to come here and take home our SD wildlife and fish!... Camping, hunting, fishing, it's a SD tradition. We need to continue with that tradition, think about South Dakotans first..."

James Lindley of Chamberlain, SD, emailed: "Please go to this link and read the comments: <http://www.keloland.com/newsdetail.cfm/gfp-to-consider-hunting-fishing-camping-fee-increases/?id=155639> None for, all against. I am also against raising the walleye possession limit besides the hunting, fishing license increases. I think the department should focus on decreasing expenses"

Doug Dobesh of Spearfish, SD, emailed: "So another round of fee hikes coming our way. I believe that I read that the increases will generate \$2,000,000 in revenue for the Wildlife Division alone, and that most if not all of that is going to pay for salary increases and health care costs. Seems to me that there might be a few too many people employed in that Division if it takes that much money to cover those costs. Justifying no increase in license fees for out of state pheasant hunters causes me to believe that the Tourism Department and Office of Economic Development might have

some influence over that decision. After all, we certainly wouldn't want to offend those who visit our state for a few days out of the year when we can have those who live here permanently and pay taxes all year long shoulder the burden. I wonder when it was that we became a state that caters to out of state hunters at the expense of those who reside here all year long. Imagine the pay hunting services and game preserves had something to do with it. Parks director Doug Hofer said he's seen only one public comment so far about the camping fee increases. I certainly hope that he isn't thinking that that means the public is endorsing these fee hikes. More than likely it means that the public realized a long time ago that their comments fall on deaf ears and that bureaucrats are going to do what they want, the public be damned. Please vote your conscience."

Chuck Berdan, of Belle Fourche, SD, emailed: "...South Dakota has a great hunting and fishing heritage. Our resident hunters are continuing to be pushed out by non-residents, fee hunting, and non-resident land acquisition and leasing. I constantly hear that we are losing our resident hunters well some of the reasons are listed above and raising the price of resident licenses is another reason there gets to be less and less resident hunters. For this and many other reasons we need to keep resident license fees where they are and put the burden on the non-residents using resources that belong to the people of the state of South Dakota..."

Rick A. Walton, Belle Fourche, SD, emailed a letter authorized by the CNSC Board of Directors and Membership stating "The Center of the Nation Sportsman's Club is one of the largest sportsman's clubs in the State of South Dakota with over 700 members. We have worked very hard to further and pass along our outdoors heritage to our future generations.

After discussion by our Board of Directors and subsequent vote by the General Membership, I have been tasked with writing to you and expressing our total opposition to any increases in Resident license fees.

We have monitored this very closely over the years. For most of that time, South Dakota had by far the highest Resident license fees of any of our surrounding States, and had by far the cheapest non-resident fees in the area. In recent years, some States have increased their fees to lessen that gap, but our resident fees are still on the higher end. We strongly feel that any increase in resident fees is unjustifiable. While these fee increases may seem modest to you, to the average South Dakota sportsman, they can have a large impact, especially to those who are also buying tags for younger hunters."

Gary Dykstra of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I would like to go on record as opposing these fee increases. Our state showed a surplus during the past fiscal year and it seems to me that perhaps you really ought to request some one-time funds from the legislature as opposed to passing along your increased costs to the taxpayers."

Bryan K. Roth emailed: "I'm not in favor of increasing the fishing possession limit from two to three times the daily limit. SD has a great resource in our fisheries and allowing an additional days limit is not necessary. Great fisheries limit the removal of these resources for reproduction and the enjoyment of everyone to catch, keep what they can and release the rest."

Oral testimony:

Ken Edel of Rapid City, SD, expressed his opposition for the three day possession limit and believes this is speculation by hotels and tourism. People really come here to catch fish and will take more home. Lake Oahe was good and many anglers are content with limits on Lake Sharp and this change is unnecessary. Black Hills fisheries cannot take the pressure or a 33% increase of harvest and he referenced specific lakes that may be affected with this change. This is reckless regulation, and we are in a rebuilding phase in the Missouri River and need to conserve. All fisheries are vulnerable and cannot take the pressure and to keep additional harvest will make a difference. He would like to see the harvest information on Lake Sharpe after the past summer. The three-day license fee increase will have SD the highest license fee in neighboring states this is not the right. He does not believe there will be a huge economic impact from this proposal and does not think this change statewide is good and it is purely speculation. He is concerned for sound biological data for this decision. Tourism could put packages together to increase business and he urges a no vote on this proposal.

Robert Sukut of Rapid City, SD, stated that he belongs to several fish clubs and has residence in Mobridge. He fishes Canada, ND, and SD and he fishes a lot. He opposes the three possession limit and saw results from the limits on Oahe this year. He believes this is nothing more than a way for tourism to get people to stay longer. Canada allows an angler to take only a one-day limit home. MN fishery is not as good as SD and he was lucky to catch a couple of day when there. He is concerned about what happened in Lake Oahe and kept few from Oahe. He opposes the three day possession limit especially in the Black Hills. He wants catch-and-release on Orman Dam, Angostura, and other BH lakes to let them recover and become better fisheries.

John Poncelet of Pierre, SD, member of the SD Missouri River Tourism and owner/operator of the Governor's Inn indicated that not everyone wants to stay one more night but some travelers would like to stay one more day. The impact would not be big and biologists indicated it would not be a big impact on the fishery. He supports the proposal.

#### Fishing Regulations

No written or oral testimony received.

#### Bait Fish

No written or oral testimony received.

#### Spearing

No written or oral testimony received.

#### Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping License Fees

Eric Reisenweber of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I think that the \$5 charge in order to add a preference point is absurd. I understand that there are increases in costs each year on a global scale, but I think there are other ways to help offset those expenses. For starters, increase non-resident licenses. It is far cheaper for non-residents to hunt here than for us to hunt in other states. ...Many people apply for several licenses every year, and each year, licenses across the board are more and more difficult to draw. I

guess it all boils down to who can we take the next dollar from. I don't want to come off as all negativity, but I think its time to take a step back and look after the residents for a change.”

Don Mackey of St. James, MN, emailed: “...This move is just another move to stick it to the hunter both resident & non-resident. Charging \$5 or \$10 for someone who doesn't draw a tag in a drawing that has a high probability of NOT being drawn doesn't seem fair....”

Brian Ballard, of Yankton, SD, emailed: “I am writing this in response to the upcoming proposal of increasing various tag fees including the proposal for the fee for preference points. I understand the rising cost of inflation because I too experience this myself. However, I think that our current fees are plenty high the way it is. If you compare our resident fees with a lot of other states, we are consistently higher in many of the licenses. You say this is being driven by the increase cost of healthcare. Well, guess what, I experience that every year myself yet cannot vote myself a pay increase to cover these costs. If you want to keep this costs down, then change your plan like the rest of us have to. If you have a problem with healthcare costs, then write your congressman and do not pass these increases off to the middleclass who are having a hard time making it anyway. Perhaps you need to cut back employees or eliminate programs or not build million dollar structures when you don't have enough money to cover your healthcare costs. It is absolutely ridiculous to increase already high fees. More and more, you are making the sport of hunting and fishing a rich man’s sport.”

Joe Bak of Beresford, SD, emailed: “...I don’t like the proposed changes to the preference point system and I like it the way it is...”

Dean Hyde of Pierre, SD, emailed: “Please do not use increased game license fees for the purpose of providing health care for GFP employees. Use any increase in hunting or fishing license fees to manage wildlife only! The \$5.00 fee was adopted by the legislature for hunter access and depredation. GFP employee health insurance should be provided utilizing other funds than that reserved for wildlife.”

Del Bartels of Phillip, SD, emailed: “If enough hunting licenses were issued, then depredation would be far less of a problem. This would result in the same or greater amount of licenses, with less overhead for the GFP. Depredation assistance should not be available to landowners who do not allow FREE hunting on their land to reputable hunters. Please put me down as opposing any raises to hunting and fishing costs.”

Ryan Gab or Rapid City, SD, emailed: “Given the current pheasant counts, I would hope some of the fees associated with license increases would go to reinstating a state funded CRP program. I am disappointed this was apparently not discussed according to the current GFP News email update.”

Tim Burchkhard of Brookings, SD, emailed: “...This is all about \$, the increase in health care is due to greed. By insurance companies, hospitals, and drug companies, by going along with it all you are doing is encouraging greed and fraud. ...Follow your own advice, “Just say no”.”

Robert Foote of Whittier, CA, emailed: “I am floored to see the crazy fee increases that you are imposing on your out-of-state hunters. I can only rationalize that you must think that those of us that come to hunt must be rich! I would like for you to know that I save all year long to come and spend a few days hunting. Unfortunately, we that come to hunt have to pay for a lot more than just your hunting license fees.

PLEASE look at these increases more closely and if you must, let's PLEASE be reasonable!!! I know you surely know and understand what is reasonable."

Jim Gruber of Estelling, SD, emailed: "While I can understand the want to increase fees to sustain the current level in the GFP dept., I disagree with any increases at this time. We have all seen the decrease in hunters and the lack of interest displayed by the next generation of sportsman and women. I just do not see why we would help add to it by increasing and placing more burdens on the working stiff who struggles now to make ends meet. It is a two way door, yes you can increase fees, and sustain the current level in GFP, but at the same time you are driving down the number of participants. Perhaps it is time for state govt. to pull in its belt, just like all Americans have had to do. Sacrifices are hard to make but we all have to, including govt. I continue to say, you keep squeezing the middle guy and less fortunate out of the picture, and ultimately it will hit home. If every dept. in game and fish cuts back some, a lot can be gained in the future. But, once people quit hunting or fishing, they very seldom start again."

George Tokarczky of Burke, SD, emailed: "The nonresident fees should be substantially increased. They flood in from Minnesota because they have fished out their lakes and will soon fish out the lakes in N.E. SD."

Terry Kohrt of Lennox, SD, emailed: "You picked a very poor time to try and increase your revenues from these activities. Pheasant numbers a poor at best with the loss of habitat, weather issues, and do not look to improve any time soon. Whitetail deer numbers are still poor due to a number of factors including lack of habitat, Blue tongue, mountain lions, etc. Mule Deer, Elk and Antelope populations aren't good either. Your rate increases are nothing more than a slap in the face to sportsmen of SD. Charging for preference is gotcha choice for not doing a better job of maintaining a quality hunting experience in SD, especially when numbers are down on everything. I usually by a combination license, even though I don't seem to get out fishing at all anymore. If you choose to push these rate increases, I will definitely not buy a combination license again."

Chris C. Biehn, emailed: "I am not opposed to gradual fee increases for deer hunting. I would hate to see South Dakota ramp up their fees like Iowa did a few years ago and destroy my desire to hunt out west. I look forward to deer hunting in S.D. every year and have been doing so for rifle and muzzle loader in both the West River and East River zones 12 years now. It is a great family event for my son and I, and hope that as his sons get older, we will be able to continue this tradition. We have made solid contacts with ranchers in the West River region and have made great friends with them. Right now I consider the fee perfect for me with the two tag system you have employed. I am a die-hard deer hunter and love venison above all other meat. Again I would like to thank the GFP for allowing non-residents the opportunity to hunt in South Dakota. Please consider my response to not trying to price out the nonresidents. I believe we bring in quite a bit of cash flow for your state in hotel fees, food, and gas."

Wayne Baker of Hermosa, SD, emailed: "It appears to me you are already to high on fishing license rates . North Dakota is much cheaper now. I can go to Ontario and buy a license for about the same price as the South Dakota non resident license, and fishing is twice as good."

Nathan Olson of Vergas, MN, emailed: "As a non-resident hunter, I travel to South Dakota to shoot 3 antlerless deer a year. I choose this license because it is already too expensive for me to purchase an any deer tag, I am more successful in getting a license, and I am more successful in actually filling my tags. In addition, I know the GFP likes to have antlerless deer taken out of the population, so I am more than happy to do my part. Now the Commission wants to double the license fee for an antlerless tag. I think this should be re-evaluated. If GFP really wants more antlerless deer taken out of the population, than the 2-tag and 3-tag antlerless licenses should stay at the same price (or better yet, the price should be reduced) and then possibly more hunters would purchase these tags and help control the deer population like GFP would prefer. Please do not raise the price on the antlerless deer tag licenses."

Gene Sandmeier of Akaska, SD, wrote: "...I am hoping you leave nonresident antlerless tags at the same price or if you must raise them go from \$80 to \$90, otherwise we will lose nonresident hunters as well as not harvesting female deer. I do understand that increases at times are necessary, however, across the board increases sometimes overlook what you are trying to accomplish."

Patricia Abdouch of Pickstown, SD, emailed: "Unless I missed it in your fee increases I didn't see anything in it for the businesses. It would be nice if you would consider businesses that are still writing the license and take us into consideration on your license fee increases and increase the fee we are able to charge. Most license are paid with credit or debit cards and the fee they charge for using the cards far exceed the \$2.00 we are able to charge having us lose money on all nonresident annual hunting and fishing license. Plus the employee writing the license has also to be paid by us out of the \$2.00 that we get."

Aaron Miller of Pierre, SD, emailed: "After reading the public notice, I have a couple of comments. There is no line item/description for the "game fund" within the department's Current Year Revenue or Expenditures included on the central accounting system so I am not clear as to what the "game fund" is. The notice states this fund would be replenished by the proposed increases to allow for a spending base of \$10 million. There is no explanation in the public notice stating what this \$10 million game fund is used for, which would seem to be a matter of public interest by those who are providing funding for the "game fund".

Also I am not clear whether the "current level of service" provided by GF&P includes the "spending cuts implemented during the current fiscal year"? In other words, is the public being asked to accept the fee increase to fund and sustain a level of service that has already been diminished/cut? Or are these increases intended to restore services that have been diminished/cut?"

Shawn Pliska of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "No to increase hunting and fishing fees, here are my reason why. The big game in the Black hills is down 60% over the last 7 years, I am sure you know the reason why. South Dakota resident are already paying more then all of the bordering states to doing the same thing."

Oral testimony:

Chris Hesla of Pierre, SD, SD Wildlife Federation spoke to the fee and preference for licenses. The organization was evenly split on support and opposition and they realize everyone expects all of the same services and understands that fee

increases will keep the current services. They believe nonresidents enjoy the same services and do not bear as much of the cost. The Federation support salary increases for GFP staff, additional officers, and additional purchase of land for hunting by GFP. They support looking at all big game and manage accordingly. Consider looking to have one buck tag per hunter in a combination of seasons. Stop the unlimited buck licenses for the archery system and wants it managed as other seasons. Special buck should be managed according to population. Black Hills elk license is the most sought after tag by SD sportsmen and believes there is a need to look at preference points system for Black Hills elk. Many of these tags go to landowners as they get a bull tag every year and he made suggestion for changes.

#### Camping Permit Fees

Tom Blue of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I would ask the Commission to do whatever it can to keep those opportunities available for everyone in the state today and in the future by keeping fees as low as possible... If the Commission prices camping fees outside what all of those families can afford, they will not have the opportunities that we should all enjoy by being residents of SD. If the Commission has to raise more income to cover other costs, please focus those increased revenues more on what is not traditionally, basic "camping". Possibly charge more for the extras such as electricity, and/or charge more for large campers, motor homes, and similar styles of camping that the more affluent can afford and won't even care about. Please keep camping available for all South Dakotans, regardless of financial means."

Steve Haas of Hermosa, SD, emailed: "small increases in fees should be well tolerated. Park entrance fees, campground charges, and licenses still seem to be our best entertainment bargain. I wonder about the lodge fees however. We've rented the lodge at Shadehill, I think for 4 of the last 5 years for 5-8 of us, the 3rd week of pheasant season, we started at \$ 270 for 2 nights--then 300 --then 370 and then this year at \$390; an increase of almost 50%. (We had to cancel this year for medical reasons and do appreciate we got 365 back.) What seemed like a good deal initially is starting to look very expensive especially if only 4 or 5 can make the trip. I'm not sure I can get my out of state relatives to try again next year even if the price doesn't go up.

Picnic Shelter, firewood, park facility fees

No written or oral testimony was received.

The public hearing concluded at 3: PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

Appendix A

S.D. Game, Fish & Parks Commission  
523 E Capital Ave  
Pierre, S.D. 57501

10-18-2013

The following S.D. residents are opposed to increasing the daily possession limits from two day limit to three day limit. We feel this will endanger the fish populations and is only being done for greed for revenue and so that more fish may be taken out -of state by non-residents.

Lyndon Limberg

Mr. L

Rubak Lundberg

Brenda Sime

Walter Eggertson

And Hart

Alta

Larry Eip

Duane Rescher

Chris Schofer

Alvin Schmieding

Kathleen Limberg