

**Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission  
October 7-8, 2021**

Chairman Russell Olson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. MT. Commissioners Julie Bartling, Travis Bies, Jon Locken, Stephanie Rissler (virtual), Doug Sharp (virtual), Robert Whitmyre and Russell Olson were present. Public and staff were able to listen via SDPB livestream and participate via video conference or in person with approximately 60 total participants via zoom and 50 in person.

**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION**

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Chairman Olson called for conflicts of interest to be disclosed. None were presented.

**Approval of Minutes**

Olson called for any additions or corrections to the September 1-2, 2021 regular meeting minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Bartling with second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE September 1-2, 2021 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

**Additional Commissioner Salary Days**

Olson called for additional salary days. Bies submitted 1 salary day (ADC Meeting), Whitmyre and Locken each submitted 1 salary day (AIS Meeting). Motion by Bartling with second by Bies TO APPROVE THE SALARY DAYS AS REQUESTED. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Public Hearing began at 2:03 p.m. and concluded at 2:05 p.m. The minutes follow these Commission meeting minutes.

**OPEN FORUM**

Jon Kotilnek, senior staff attorney, opened the floor for discussion from those in attendance on matters of importance to them that may not be on the agenda.

Julie Anderson - Rapid City, SD, (received via email due to technical difficulties) I would like to comment on the decision made by the commission at the September 1st meeting to give hound hunters more access when pursuing mountain lions. I fail to see with 103 comments against hound and trophy hunting that this amendment not only passed, but did so unanimously and without debate. You cannot expect people to understand and accept this decision without explanation. Therefore I propose a question and answer forum and a brief comment by each commissioner as to their vote, be required. All decisions made by a state agency require accountability and transparency to the public and this agency is no exception to that rule.

**License List Request**

Not submitted

### **Go Outdoors SD Update**

Heather Villa, Wildlife Administration Chief and staff from Brandt provided an update on the new Go Outdoors SD system.

### **CanAm Ticket Sales**

Nick Harrington, communications manager for GFP, shared an update regarding the Can-Am raffle. Individuals can purchase tickets for a Can-Am Defender with all proceeds supporting the Second Century Habitat Fund. To date, approximately \$250,000 has been raised to support the Second Century Habitat Fund. The raffle closes October 22 at midnight and GFP is excited to see how much money ultimately is raised to support habitat through this raffle.

### **Pheasant Hunting Marketing and Public Relations**

Nick Harrington, communications manager for GFP, shared an update regarding marketing and public relations regarding the upcoming pheasant season. GFP is currently working with the Department of Tourism to market South Dakota as a premier pheasant hunting destination, while also utilizing traditional communications platforms to continue sharing information regarding the season. GFP is currently sharing messages via email and social media regarding conditions in the field, recreating respectfully and other key information for planning their hunt.

### **605 Magazine Series on Habitat and Access**

Nick Harrington, communications manager for GFP, shared an update regarding a partnership between GFP and 605 Magazine. Through this partnership, GFP has worked with 605 to create three videos and articles. The first video was in southeast South Dakota discussing the controlled hunting access program. The second video was in northeast South Dakota highlighting the walk-in area program. The third was in Custer State Park discussing how GFP manages the ecosystem, park system and provides an incredible visitor experience. Additionally, the Outdoor Campus East in Sioux Falls also took 605 through the Hunting 101 program and assisted them in harvesting their first deer through the apprentice license. GFP will continue to evaluate these partnerships and the benefits they provide in reaching new audiences.

### **Rapid City Shooting Range Update**

John Kanta, terrestrial's chief, provided an update on the status of the Rapid City Shooting Range.

## **FINALIZATIONS**

### **Park Entrance License Sale Date**

Scott Simpson, division director, presented the recommended changes to allow some flexibility to the date in which annual park entrance licenses can be sold instead of limiting it to be October 1. Allowing flexibility with the issue date will help meet customer expectations in those years when it makes sense to issue licenses prior to October 1.

Motioned by Bies, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO SALE DATE OF PARK ENTRANCE LICENSES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Camping Fees**

Scott Simpson, division director, presented the recommended changes to camping fees adding Dude Ranch, Elk Creek, and Sheps Canyon lakeside Use Area to basic campground fees, remove Randall Creek from the preferred campground fees and adding it to the prime campground fees, and changing the CSP French Creek Horse Camp to \$36.

Motioned by Bies, second by Bartling TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO CHARGE BASIC CAMPING FEES AT DUDE RANCH, ELM CREEK AND SHEPS CANYON LAKESIDE USE AREA. TO MOVE RANDALL CREEK FROM A PREFERRED CAMPGROUND TO PRIME CAMPSITE FEE LIST. AND TO APPROVE THE INCREASED CAMPING FEE AT CSP FRENCH CREEK HORSE CAMP FROM \$31 TO \$36. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Park Check Out Time**

Scott Simpson, division director, presented the recommended changes to make checkout times for all state park lodging 11:00am for consistency to reduce confusion with customers and provide adequate time for cleaning between stays.

Motioned by Bies, second by Bartling TO MAKE CHECKOUT TIMES FOR ALL STATE PARK LODGING 11:00AM. Motion carried unanimously.

## **DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **Lewis and Clark Resort Collateral Assignment**

Parks Deputy Director Al Nedved provided background on the current Lewis and Clark Resort concession operation, the recently approved expansion as well as an explanation of the Possessory Interest at Lewis and Clark Resort. Nedved explained the necessity of the requested collateral assignment as the lender's desire to have a successor interest in the Possessory Interest in the event of a default on the part of the Concessionaire relating to its loan agreement with the lender. Nedved explained that a Collateral Assignment is currently in place with First Dakota National Bank, and due to the recent expansion, the Concessionaire is needing to refinance the operation to account for the additional costs. The Concessionaire has chosen to refinance the operation with a new lender, Elkhorn Valley Bank and Trust. Nedved requested authorization from the Commission to transfer the Collateral Assignment from First Dakota National Bank to Elkhorn Valley Bank and Trust, and for the Department to execute the agreement. Chairman Olson asked about responsibility of legal reviews of the arrangement. Nedved explained that while Department legal counsel does review the agreement, the responsibility to draft the agreement is that of the Concessionaire and the Lender

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF COLLATERAL ASSIGNMENT TO ELKHORN VALLEY BANK AND TRUST. Motion carried unanimously.

## **LWCF Projects**

Randy Kittle, provided the commission an update on Land and Water Conservation Funds and the approved projects.

### **Buffalo Round up and Trail Trek**

Matt Snyder, regional supervisor, provided an update on the annual buffalo round up and trail trek. The 56th Annual Governor's Buffalo Roundup set a new visitation record. 22,452 were in the crowd. Besting the previous record set in 2015 during the 50th of 22,078. Over 53,000 people viewed the event online through social media and directly on the SDPB website and that number continues to grow daily as viewers go on YouTube to watch the replay of the broadcast. Custer State Park worked with South Dakota Tourism to assist in the promotion of the livestream on a national level. The park estimated 1,356 animals were in the roundup and plans to sell 370 of them at the annual auction on November 6.

This year the trek had 559 participants participate in the annual 3-day bicycle ride. The weather was perfect, and riders had a great time. Our oldest rider this year was 85 and the youngest was 13 years. Overall, we had 29 states represented with South Dakota having the most riders and Nebraska coming in second. Riders enjoyed the early fall colors and cool crisp mornings. Next year's registration for the Fall Trek will open December 15. We also offer a Summer Trek with registration opening November 17.

### **Snowmobile Trails**

District Park Supervisors, Ryan Raynor and Shannon Percy, presented information to the Commission regarding the snowmobile trails.

### **Spring Creek Land Purchase**

Scott Simpson, parks division director, informed the Commission on a land purchase of one lot at the private RV park near Spring Creek to allow for a public access road.

### **Low Water Access Issues**

Scott Simpson, parks division director, and Al Nedved, parks and recreation deputy director informed the Commission of low water access issues and concerns going forward.

### **Cartegraph Update**

Heather Berg, program specialist, provided a demonstration of the asset and project management programs utilized by the parks division

### **Revenue, Camping and Visitation Report**

Al Nedved, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, provided September's revenue, visitation and camping report.

## **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

### **Newton Hills Boy Scout Land Acquisition**

Paul Coughlin, program manager provided the Commission an update on the land acquisition at Newton Hills.

### **GPA Sales Update**

Paul Coughlin, program manager provided the Commission an update on GPA sales.

**Nonresident Waterfowl Season Structures**

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division director, provided an update on current nonresident waterfowl season structures.

**AIS Program Update**

Tanner Davis provided the Commission information on the aquatic invasive species program.

**French Creek Temperature Study – held for future meeting****EHD Update**

Andrew Norton, senior wildlife biologist presented a powerpoint on hemorrhagic disease.

**Bighorn Sheep Update**

Chad Lehman, senior wildlife biologist provided information on bighorn sheep.

**License Sales Update**

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division director, provided an update on resident and nonresident license sales.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

**Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
October 7, 2021**

The Commission chair Russell Olson began the public hearing at 2:00 p.m. CT. Commissioners Julie Bartling, Travis Bies, Jon Locken, Stephanie Rissler (virtual), Doug Sharp (virtual), Robert Whitmyre and Russell Olson were present. Kotilnek indicated written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes. Kotilnek then invited the public to come forward with oral testimony. Written comments attached.

**Park Entrance License Sale Date**

No verbal comments

**Camping Fees**

No verbal comments

**Park Check Out Time**

No verbal comments

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary