



# COMMISSION MINUTES

## South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

November 3, 2022

Heartland Energy | 432 SE 12<sup>th</sup> St | Madison, SD 57042

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 1:00 PM CST / 12:00 PM MT – 00:00:43 MARK

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Chairman Russell Olson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm CST at the Heartland Energy conference room in Madison, SD. Commissioners Travis Bies, Jon Locken, Russell Olson, Robert Whitmyre, Stephanie Rissler, and Chuck Spring were present. The public and staff could listen via SDPB Livestream, participate via video conference, or in person, with approximately 83 total participants via Zoom or in person.

### DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

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#### 1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE –00:01:15 MARK

Chairman Olson called for a conflict of interest to be disclosed. *None were present.*

#### 2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2022 MEETING –00:02:36 MARK

Chairman Olson called for any additions or corrections to the regular meeting minutes of October 6-7, 2022. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>. *Motion by Whitmyre with second by Locken to APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6-7, 2022, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### 3. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER SALARY DAYS – 00:05:28 MARK

Chairman Olson called for any additional salary day from the commissioners. Vice chairman Whitmyre expressed he had an additional salary day. *Motioned by Bies with a second by Rissler to APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS AS PRESENTED. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### 4. 2023 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE FINALIZATION

Chris Petersen, Director of Administration, presented the commission with a list of proposed dates for their approval for the 2023 Commission Meeting calendar. *Motioned by Rissler, seconded by Bies to APPROVE THE 2023 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE AS PROPOSED. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### 5. GO OUTDOORS SOUTH DAKOTA UPDATE – 00:06:59 MARK

Scott Simpson, Parks & Recreation Director, updated the commission on the Go Outdoors South Dakota program.

#### 6. NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS – 00:13:56 MARK

Commissioners were introduced to new staff.

### OPEN FORUM – FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING – 01:01:10

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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. The open forum started at 2:01 pm MT.

- Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk representing the Prairie Hills Audubon Society virtually provided comments in opposition to the Black Hills Mountain Lion season.
- Julie Anderson of Rapid City virtually provided comments in opposition to the Black Hills Mountain Lion season.
- Darrel Carter of Elk Point provided comment on the jumping Asian carp on the Missouri River and asked the commission to consider a third-rod permit.

The open forum concluded at 2:17 pm MT.

## PETITIONS – 00:38:09 AND 01:17:40 MARKS / DENIAL RESOLUTION 03:11:09 MARK

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### 7. BLACK HILLS MOUNTAIN LION SEASON

Steve Cherkas of Edgemont, SD filed a petition to the commission to consider a rule change to the Black Hills Mountain Lion Season.

Department Position: The department recommended denying the petition.

*Motioned by Rissler, seconded by Whitmyre to DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE BLACK HILLS MOUNTAIN LION SEASON. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Motioned by Spring, seconded by Locken to ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-17 TO DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE BLACK HILLS MOUNTAIN LION SEASONS. The motion carried unanimously.*

## PROPOSALS

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### 8. PET ALLOWANCE IN PARK FACILITIES – CHAPTERS 41:03:01 – 00:30:21 MARK

Department proposed changes:

1. Current administrative rule does not allow for pets in department camping facilities except under certain circumstances.
2. The proposed rule change would allow for customers to pay a pet fee and have their pet stay in the cabin or suite.
3. Pet would be defined as a domesticated dog or cat.

*No action was taken*

### 9. PET ALLOWANCE FEE – CHAPTERS 41:03:01

Department proposed changes:

1. Current administrative rule does not allow for pets in department camping facilities except under certain circumstances.
2. the proposed rule change would establish a pet accommodation fee for pets that stay at cabins, lodges, or suites.
3. Proposed pet fee only allows for domesticated dog or cat.

*No action was taken.*

## DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

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### 10. ANGOSTURA CONCESSION LEASE – 00:50:50 MARK

Sean Blanchette, Environment and Cultural Resource Specialist, stated that the agenda item would be informational as opposed to an action item as was listed on the agenda. Blanchette informed the Commission that very recent conversations with the Concessionaire relative to language in the draft concession lease have been underway. The action item will be postponed to the December Commission meeting to allow time to ensure that both the Department and Concessionaire are comfortable with the lease in its final form.

### 11. SHADEHILL AND ANGOSTURA CONCESSION CONTRACT – 00:53:16 MARK

Sean Blanchette, Environment and Cultural Resource Specialist, presented a request for the annual rate adjustments for the private, exclusive-use cabins and trailers at Shadehill and Angostura Reservoirs. Blanchette explained the past rate structures and annual adjustment procedures as well as provided a copy of the US Bureau of Reclamation Construction Cost Trends index which will be used for rate adjustments in the future. The annual change in the index equates to a rate increase of 11.3% for the permit fees for 2023. The proposed 2023 permit

fee rates are an increase from \$2,100 to \$2,335 at Shadehill and from \$2,400 to \$2,670 at Angostura. The Commission approved unanimously.

#### 12. LAKE OAHE WATER LEVELS – 01:40:23 MARK

Pat Buescher, Northcentral Regional Park Supervisor, presented information received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the current and possible future status of water levels in Lake Oahe. During Corps public meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> in Fort Pierre, they forecast that the reservoir could drop to an elevation of 1590.00' and that Gavin's Point Dam would begin winter operations on November 19<sup>th</sup>, releasing an average of 12.5 CFS. Future spring forecasts will be released in January of 2023, but until that time the Corps plans to balance the levels of Lake Oahe & Lake Sakakawea, likely resulting in rising elevations on Lake Oahe into January of 2023. The NWS predicted continued dry weather into January at this time.

#### 13. ARCHERY RANGE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PARKS – 02:01:00 MARK

Pat Buescher, Northcentral Regional Park Supervisor, presented information on Archery Ranges that currently exist in the SD Park System. Currently, the park's Division possesses 11 parks with archery ranges. These ranges often differ in size and construction but possess similar components; all ranges possess a practice range with multiple targets at various ranges, and 9 of the 11 ranges possess a field archery course developed off a trail system that offers target stations from 14 -28 stations with targets ranging from 10 – 80 yds. Future archery ranges are being discussed at Lake Poinsett and Palisades State Parks.

#### 14. LWCF & RTP GRANTS AND FUNDING – 02:08:39 MARK

Randy Kittle, Grants Coordinator, presented the grants awarded to numerous communities across the state through the Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as the Recreational Trails Program.

#### 15. Camping, VISITATION, AND REVENUE REPORT – 02:14:22 MARK

Al Nedved, Parks Deputy Director, provided documentation and reported verbally on the October 2022 camping, visitation, and revenue report.

## DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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#### 16. PUBLIC HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS – 02:23:23 MARK

Mark Norton, Hunting Access and Farm Bill Coordinator reported that GFP is leasing 1.47 million acres of private land for public hunting access in 2022 through the Walk-in Area program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Elk Hunting Access Program, Controlled Hunting Access Program, and the Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Area. The new Big Sioux River Watershed CREP project is officially active with enrollment starting in November. This will create one more option to increase public hunting and fishing access while also creating more wildlife habitat and improving water quality.

#### 17. ARCHERY ANTELOPE AND ARCHERY DEER UPDATE – 02:34:16 MARK

John Kanta, GFP continues to solicit public input on the archery deer and antelope seasons. In addition to an online input opportunity, GFP held a stakeholder group meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The stakeholder group is made up of several different hunting and outdoor groups, landowners, outfitters, and nonresident hunters. GFP will continue to take input and also hold discussions with staff over the next few weeks. GFP staff plan to bring input results and a recommendation for change to the GFP commission at their December 8-9 commission meeting.

#### 18. EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA URBAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT – 02:42:45 MARK

Dave Lucchesi, Area Fisheries Supervisor, presented to the commissioners that GFP manages 47 urban and community fishing ponds in eastern South Dakota. Stocking catchable-size fish into these ponds is a sizeable effort with nearly 7,200 fish coming from public waters and about 36,000 rainbow trout from state hatcheries in 2022. Recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) coming online at Cleghorn Springs SFH will provide a consistent source of AIS-free, catchable-size, game fish and panfish (largemouth bass, bluegill, and catfish) for urban and community ponds. GFP is working on establishing additional RAS fish-rearing facilities East River, possibly one

at South Dakota State University in Brookings. Evaluating the success of fish stockings is needed to refine practices and is currently accomplished using creel surveys, time-lapse camera images, and unmanned information collection facilities such as kiosks and signs with a QR code directing participants to an online survey.

#### 19. LICENSE SALES UPDATE – 03:01:35 MARK

Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Director, provided the commission an update on license sales, focusing primarily on small game and fishing license sales for both resident and nonresident participants. Kirschenmann also provided a quick update of hunting and fishing activities across the state, discussing elk hunting, archery hunting, local areas where fishing has been good, and pheasant hunting observations since the beginning of the season.

#### 20. SECOND CENTURY HABITAT FUND – 03:11:09 MARK

Sal Roseland, Development Director for the Second Century Habitat Fund, presented the 2022 Toyota Tundra and Alumacraft Boat raffle to the commissioners in which proceeds go towards promoting, planting, and protecting habitat in South Dakota.

## ADJOURN

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Meeting ADJOURNED ON NOVEMBER 3, 2022, AT 4:21 PM CST.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary