

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
May 2-3, 2013

Chairwoman Susie Knippling called the meeting to order at 1 PM MDT in the Coolidge Room of the Creekside Lodge in Custer State Park near Custer, South Dakota. Commissioners Susie Knippling, John Cooper, Cathy Peterson, Barry Jensen, Duane Sather, and Gary Jensen were present. Jim Spies was absent and Jeff Vonk arrived at 1:50 PM. The public, staff, and media numbered approximately thirty-five.

Division of Administration

Chair Knippling called for any additions or corrections to the April 4-5, 2013, minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Cooper with second by Sather TO APPROVE THE APRIL 4-5, 2013, MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Knippling called for additional salary days. Cooper requested one and Knippling requested two additional salary days. Motion by Peterson with second by Gary Jensen TO APPROVE THE THREE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS REQUESTED BY COOPER AND KNIPLING. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Chris Petersen presented a license list request from the Aberdeen Area Convention and Visitors Bureau for a list of 2012 nonresident small game license holders to invite hunters to visit Aberdeen during hunting seasons. This would be an exception to the fee request.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Sather TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM THE ABERDEEN VISITORS BUREAU AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Petersen presented a license list request from SD Trappers Association for the 2012 resident trapping license holders. This list will be used to contact potential new members for the association and share upcoming activities. This would be at the reduced fee.

Petersen presented a list request from SD Wildlife Federation of the 2012 nonresident small game license holders to be used to survey the license holders about fees and hunting in South Dakota. This would be at the reduced fee.

Motion by Sather with second by Barry Jensen TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUESTS FROM SD TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION AND THE SD WILDLIFE FEDERATION AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Petersen presented the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Summary Report stating the salary and benefit package was adjusted according to changes made during the 2013 Legislative Session. The Report showed the request by Game, Fish, and Parks, the changes from legislation, and the FY2014 appropriation of \$77,737,716. The report included breakdowns for the Division

of Administration, Division of Parks, Snowmobile Trails, and the Division of Wildlife. The report also included a page showing the changes legislature made to the FY2013 Budget related to increases in health insurance for GFP employees and central service billings. The FY13 budget amendments increased spending authority by \$495,913 for the Division of Wildlife and requires Commission approval.

Petersen stated the FY2014 Wildlife Operations, Development/Improvement, and the Snowmobile Trails Program budgets are ready for Commission approval. The FY2014 Snowmobile Trails Program budget has 9.1 FTE and \$1,511,868 of federal and other fund expenditure authority. The Wildlife Division FY2014 Operations budget has 290.0 FTE with \$43,558,912 of federal and other fund expenditure authority. The Wildlife Development/Improvement budget is for \$2,618,000. Petersen recommended approval of the FY2014 budgets.

Motion by Peterson and second by Sather TO APPROVE THE FY2013 DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OPERATIONS BUDGET AS AMENDED TO \$42,392,371, THE FY2014 SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM BUDGET OF \$1,511,868, THE FY2014 WILDLIFE OPERATIONS BUDGET OF \$43,558,912, AND THE WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT/IMPROVEMENT BUDGET OF \$2,618,000 AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Petersen presented the April 29, 2013, License Sales Totals and shared that this time last year fishing license sales were at record levels and with the change in weather last week more than 1,000 fishing licenses were sold. This time of the year the total numbers represents about 30% of the fishing license sales for the year.

Open Forum

Kevin Forester of Sturgis provided a handout from the Black Hills Trails organization and indicated he has been in contact with Director Hofer and Superintendent Snyder after seeing the Rapid City Journal article about Sheps Canyon Recreational Complex and Trail. He indicated the Mickelson Trail is not a multiuse trail and the Centennial Trail is a backcountry trail. The Black Hills Trails group are constructing trails in the hill and work with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. He would like all trails to meet standards for users like hikers, horseback riding, and cyclists.

Nancy Hilding, President of the Prairie Hills Audubon Society (PHAS) stated she did not find any proposed rule changes that wolves in SD would be considered a varmint and she requested that all wolves shot be reported to the Department within ten days to monitor population and genetics.

Hilding expressed her concern that HB 1146, 1147, and 1148 were killed and asked everyone to listen to the testimony from legislative committee. Hilding requested all traps have identification as 41 other states require identification on traps and she realizes the trappers do not want this. There are forms of modern technology such as trail camera that trappers can use to protect their traps and lines. Why don't we have trap ID's? Is it because of a few people?

Hilding indicated PHAS does not support extending trap line checks from 2 to 3 days especially in East River. Trappers indicate that "most traps are checked daily" with

the exception is when a trapper is ill or bad weather comes in. Hilding stated that when bad weather is on the way trappers should pull their traps if they will be unable to check them.

Larry Weirkamp shared his concerns about scopes as he uses a cross bow due to medical reasons and he is over 60 years old. He wounded a bull and a doe elk using a three-dot sight on his crossbow which came with a three-power scoop that picks up more light. He believes the three-dot sight is the best on the market and is a compromise, which allows others like him, to continue hunting particularly archery hunting. He asked the Commission to consider allowing the three-power scope on cross bows that may increase the number of hunters and this is beneficial to the Department and not an unfair proposal.

Matt Rippentrop thanked the Commission for the opportunity to have a bighorn sheep tag at the Midwest Bighorn Sheep Convention and it sold for \$102,000. He thanked all parties that assisted with process that allowed for the tag. Rippentrop provided highlights from the Midwest Convention and the National Convention. The check was presented by Curt Babler to Governor Daaugard and Director Leif on April 30. A committee has been formed to develop recommendations for the use of the proceeds from the auction. The Midwest Bighorn Sheep group is currently working with the Ogala Sioux Tribe and will continue to build relationships with other tribes.

Russ Roberts of St. Onge referenced a report from Ted Benzoni and that Wyoming Game and Fish recommends a later West River Deer Season. He implored the Commission to keep the season dates as in past years as it does not benefit the herd by taking bucks during the rut. Roberts asked about the special buck recommendations he presented last month and Vonk indicated the Department is looking into some of them.

Public Hearing Minutes

Public Hearing Officer Chuck Schlueter began the public hearing at 2:04 PM indicating there were no written or email comments received about the Off-season camping rates change the Commission will consider under Finalizations on the agenda. Schlueter invited anyone present wishing to provide testimony on the proposed changes to come forward and share those comments with the Commission. No comments were received from the public and the hearing concluded at 2:06 PM.

Finalizations

Camping Permits and Rules 41:03:04

Parks Assistant Director Bob Schneider presented the proposed changes to camping permits and rules to eliminate the \$2.00 reduced camping when comfort stations are closed during the winter. Winter camping is minimal, representing less than ¼ of 1% total annual camping, but the department does incur costs, such as snow removal, to making camping available. The additional revenue will assist in covering these winter costs. A uniform year round fee will also aid in managing the park system's new 24/7 365 day reservation service.

Eliminate the \$2.00 differential in camping fees during cold weather periods when restroom and shower facilities are closed.

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

Wildlife Director Tony Leif requested to bring item 27 of the agenda "Status of deer populations" which is a PowerPoint Presentation forward prior to the Department recommendations to the deer hunting season proposals. Chair Knippling granted the request. (Minutes follow the agenda.)

Chair Knippling called a recess after the deer status presentation and following the recess Parks Director Doug Hofer requested agenda items 21 and 22 be moved forward as Regency President Greg Schjodt and Custer Resorts Manager Josh Schmaltz were present and would not be available on Friday morning. Knippling requested the agenda change. (Minutes follow the agenda.)

Hunting Season Proposals

Custer State Park Deer Hunting Season

Chad Switzer presented the dates, licenses, requirements, and restrictions for the Custer State Park Deer Hunting Season along with two recommended changes. The changes include a reduction of any deer licenses and increase the antlerless whitetail muzzleloader licenses.

1. Reduce number of "Any Deer" licenses from 2 to zero.
2. Increase number of "Antlerless Whitetail Deer" muzzleloader licenses from zero to 20.

Motion by Cooper with second by Sather TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CUSTER STATE PARK DEER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

East River Deer Hunting Season

Switzer presented the dates, areas, licenses, requirements, and restrictions to the East River Deer Hunting Season along with recommendations to offer fewer licenses. Supporting information included harvest data and tag allocations by unit.

Offer 1,050 less one-tag licenses, 1,500 less two-tag licenses, and 1,300 less three-tag licenses (overall decrease of 7,950 tags) than 2012.

Motion by Peterson with second by Gary Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE EAST RIVER DEER SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

West River Deer Hunting Season

Switzer presented the West River Deer Hunting Season dates, open areas, licenses, requirements, and restrictions along with recommended changes to adjust the number of licenses. Supporting information included harvest data, license allocations by unit, and the free landowner licenses available for 2013. Discussion included season dates for 2014, effect on the breeding season for deer, sources consulted for the recommendation, and hunter success in the limited issue units on the Hill GPA, in Harding County, and in Perkins County.

1. Adjust resident license numbers by increasing one-tag licenses by 240, decreasing two-tag licenses by 1,260 (2,520 tags), and increasing three-tag licenses by 305 (915 tags) compared to 2012.
2. Adjust nonresident license numbers by increasing one-tag licenses by 20, decreasing two-tag licenses by 102 (204 tags), and increasing three-tag licenses by 24 (72 tags) compared to 2012.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Gary Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE WEST RIVER DEER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Black Hills Deer Hunting Season

Switzer presented the season dates, open areas, licenses, requirements, and restrictions along with recommended changes to adjust the number of license in Unit BD1. Supporting information included harvest data and license allocations by unit.

Offer residents 50 and nonresidents 4 fewer "Antlerless Whitetail" deer licenses than 2012.

Motion by Sather with second by Peterson TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Refuge Deer Hunting Season

Switzer presented the season dates, licenses allocations in each of the refuges, requirements, and restrictions along with recommended changes. Annual meetings are held with Refuge staff where all wildlife issues are discussed before making recommendations. Supporting information included harvest data and success rates.

1. Adjust the start date for Unit RFD-SL1 from the Saturday before East River deer hunting season to the second Saturday of November. Start dates for all other Sand Lake units would adjust accordingly.
2. Only unfilled Sand Lake "Antlerless Deer" licenses are valid during the 9-day season starting on the first Saturday after Christmas.
3. During any Refuge Deer seasons that are restricted to muzzleloaders, make an allowance for optics that do not employ magnification as defined in 41:06:04:14 Muzzleloading Restrictions.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Sather TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DEER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Archery Deer Hunting Season

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented the dates, areas, licenses, requirements, and restrictions to the Archery Deer Hunting Season along with recommended changes. Supporting information included hunter success, harvest data, and antlerless restrictions. Kirschenmann indicated the need to change the unit identified as Blood Run to the name Good Earth State Park due to 2013 Legislation and requires opening the rules for Uses of Parks and Public Lands.

1. Only unfilled "Any Antlerless Deer" licenses are valid from January 1-15th.
2. Add Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Codington, Douglas, Grant, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Turner, Union and Yankton counties to the area where antlerless deer licenses are not valid.
3. Change the name of "Blood Run Nature Area" to "Good Earth State Park".
4. Reduce number of "Any Antlerless Deer" archery access permits for Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve from 45 to zero and Good Earth State Park from 5 to zero.
5. Increase the number of "Any Deer" archery access permits from 5 to 10 for Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve.

Motion by Cooper with second by Barry Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO ARCHERY DEER HUNTING SEASON AND USES OF PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented the dates, areas, licenses, requirements, and restrictions to the General Muzzleloading Deer Hunting Season along with recommended changes. Supporting information included hunter success, harvest data, and antlerless restrictions. These changes are consistent with archery and will limit antlerless harvest.

1. Only unfilled "any antlerless deer" licenses are valid from January 1-15th.
2. Add Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Codington, Douglas, Grant, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Turner, Union and Yankton counties to the area where antlerless deer licenses are not valid.

Motion by Sather with second by Peterson TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE MUZZLELOADER DEER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Deer Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented the dates, areas, licenses, requirements, and restrictions to the Youth Deer Hunting Season along with recommended changes. Supporting information included hunter success, harvest data, and antlerless restrictions. The changes are consistent with archery and muzzleloading seasons.

1. Add Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hutchinson and Union counties to those areas where only one license is valid.
2. Remove the youth deer restriction for Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge, and Waubay National Wildlife Refuge. This would make an allowance for the USFWS Refuge System to allow access for youth deer hunting at their discretion.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Cooper TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO YOUTH DEER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Archery Antelope Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented the dates, areas, licenses, requirements, and restrictions to the Archery Antelope Hunting Season along with supporting information that included hunter success and harvest data. No recommended changes were presented to the season. There were no antelope harvested with the five access permits.

Fall Turkey Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented the dates, areas, licenses, requirements, and restrictions to the Fall Turkey Hunting Season along with recommended changes. Supporting information included hunter success, harvest data, and license allocations by unit.

1. Offer 20 fewer one-tag licenses and 10 more two-tag licenses for resident hunters on the East River Prairie Units.
2. Offer 500 fewer one-tag licenses for resident hunters and 40 fewer one-tag licenses for nonresident hunters for the Black Hills Unit.
3. Repeal **41:06:14:04. Licenses valid for unit specified.** In those units adjoining the Cheyenne River or White River a license is valid in the adjacent unit within one mile of the common river boundary.

Motion by Sather with second by Barry Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE FALL TURKEY HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Furbearers and Trapping Seasons

Keith Fisk presented the dates, areas, harvest, and survey data for Beaver and Muskrat Trapping and Hunting Seasons, Skunk, Opossum, Jackrabbit, Fox, Raccoon, Badger, Mink, and Weasel Seasons, with no recommended changes.

Fisk presented dates, areas, requirements, and restrictions, with supporting information of harvest and survey data for the Bobcat Trapping and Hunting Season with recommended changes. Supporting information included the West River sex ratio of harvest.

1. Shorten the west river season. The west river season will open at sunrise on December 26 and will close at sunset on February 15.
2. Change the east river season to open at sunrise on December 26 and close at sunset on the third Sunday of January.

Motion by Peterson with second by Cooper TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE BOBCAT TRAPPING AND HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

August Management Take

Kirschenmann presented the dates, areas, daily and bag limits, licenses, requirements, and restrictions to the August Management Take Goose Hunting Season along with recommended changes to provide additional harvest and hunting opportunity.

1. Modify the season dates to the first Saturday of August to August 31.
2. Increase the daily bag limit from 8 to 15.
3. Add those portions west of the Cheyenne River in Pennington County to the open area.
4. Allow unplugged shotguns.
5. Modify the shooting hours to end one-half hour after sunset.

Motion by Cooper with second by Barry Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO GOOSE HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Archery Accompaniment

Andy Alban presented recommended changes to Archery Restrictions and following discussion a change was made to clarify the recommendation.

1. Amend 41:06:05:03 to limit the scope of the rule to the possession of firearms by an archery hunter.
2. Create a new rule, 41:06:05:03.01, to address non-licensee armed accompaniment in the field and to place the responsibility for adherence on the unlicensed hunter.

Motion by Cooper with second by Sather TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO ARCHERY ACCOMPANIMENT WITH CHANGES TO RECOMMENDATION. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Knippling called for a recess at 5:15 PM with meeting to resume at 8 AM the next morning. The meeting resumed at 8 AM on Friday, May 3, 2013, in the same location with Commissioners Knippling, Cooper, Sather, Barry Jensen, Cathy Peterson, and Gary Jensen present. Secretary Vonk was present along with staff, media, and public numbering approximately thirty.

Division of Parks and Recreation

Motor Vehicles on Public Land and Park and Trail Use Pass

Assistant Parks Director Bob Schneider presented the recommended changes due to 2013 Legislation HB 1220 directing the Division of Parks and Recreation and the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission to promulgate rules to permit the use of golf carts in state parks and recreations areas. HB 1220 required golf carts operating in parks to have rearview mirror, headlights, brake lights, proof of insurance, and a valid driver's license by the person operating the golf cart and allowed for a park entrance license requirement. The rule as proposed would allow operation of unlicensed golf carts only in designated campgrounds in Custer State Park and only on park roads posted 35 miles per hour or less in other parks. Schneider indicated that removing the park entrance license exemption for mopeds will result in a uniform requirement for park entrance licenses on all motorized vehicles allowed on state park roads.

1. Amend 41:03:03:02 to define the location of a park entrance license on a motor vehicle including golf carts, motorcycles, and mopeds.
2. Add 41:03:02:13 do define Exceptions to Restrictions on Motor Vehicles to meet the criteria defined in HB 1220.
3. Repeal 41:03:03:03.01(6) Park entrance license exemptions.

Motion by Sather with second by Gary Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO MOTOR VEHICLES ON PUBLIC LANDS AND PARK TRAIL USE PASS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Custer State Park Resort Master Plan

Parks Director Doug Hofer introduced the visiting former Custer State Park Superintendents Noem and Miller and current Superintendent Matt Snyder. Hofer provided history and background for the last twenty years. Custer Resorts Management and CSP staff began a year ago developing a Master Plan for future of Custer State Park Resort Concessions and presented a plan document to the Commission. Hofer shared potential funding sources and the intention to seek public input. Hofer indicated the plan is a guide with no definitive timeline at present.

Matt Snyder outlined the infrastructure improvements with cost estimates that the Department identified in the Master Plan. Custer Resorts Manager Josh Schmaltz stated the resort company's goal is for Custer State Park to remain a premier state park and to rival all state parks nationwide. Schmaltz presented the Custer Resorts proposed improvements and projects in the Master Plan for each resort area.

Custer State Park Visitor's Center

Hofer indicated the two options under consideration for the new Visitor's Center in Custer State Park are located west of the Pavilion or in the meadow between the Creekside Lodge and the Campground. The State Engineer's office advertised for proposals from architect/engineers and received eight proposals and four will be interviewed by the building committee in the coming weeks. The Visitor's Center will have a theater that will accommodate a minimum of 120 people or a couple of busloads of visitors at a time and plenty of parking. The 2013 Legislature provided a portion of the funding for the Outdoor Heritage Projects which includes the Visitor's Center in Custer State Park with two years of spending authority.

Cedar Shore Resort Sale

Director Hofer updated the Commission that the agreements approved by the Commission in March were executed and on April 15 Regency Hotels exercised their purchase option at Cedar Shores. All is moving forward for the final plan and design with a goal to complete the stabilization of the marina next winter.

Greg Schjodt of Regency Hotels indicated they were excited to acquire Cedar Shores and Al's Oasis in April and retained the existing staff. Immediate improvements will be to update the lodge inside and outside. Summer reservations look good, the campgrounds need work as well as the cabins. The marina is in need of dock repair and additional equipment. Schjodt shared the possibilities for future improvements are exciting and the intention is to make this a "Destination Facility".

Good Earth State Park Land Acquisition

Parks Director Hofer indicated that is likely the state will be awarded the Forrest Legacy grant for the acquisition of the forested acres at Good Earth State park later this spring or summer. The Blood Run project now known as Good Earth State Park was listed ninth on the nationwide project list and grant dollars for the project should become available in June. The funds will be used to purchase the remaining 230 acres from The Conservation Fund to complete the Nelson acquisition. This will be an action item at the next Commission meeting.

Mountain Pine Beetle Update

Matt Snyder Custer State Park Superintendent provided an update on the battle with mountain pine beetles in the park. The efforts and methods are working and another 3,000 trees were removed in the Sylvan Lake area. Logging continues near the northwest boundary. The Forest Service has logging going on at the west boundary of the park and that will help buffer the beetle movement in that area. Areas around the resorts will be sprayed again this year and crews are working to remove and clean up piles. This winter 200 slash piles were burned after the recent snow and there are about 150 piles ready to burn along the Needles Highway which will probably not happen until next winter.

Park Revenue and Visitation Report

Director Hofer indicated visitation and camping are down just as fishing is due to cold, snowy weather in April; however, reservations are higher than this time last year, PEL sales are tracking with 2012, and revenue is up over last year due to an increased in camping reservations.

Division of Wildlife

Sturgis Remnant Highway Lot Property Disposal

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented Resolution 13-05 and photos of the acre of property owned by GFP adjacent to the City of Sturgis. This property has been appraised at \$40,000 and is no longer needed for GFP purposes and requests Commission permission to sell the property.

Motion by Peterson with second by Barry Jensen TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 13-05 AS PRESENTED (Appendix A). Motion carried unanimously.

Status of Deer Populations

Andy Lindbloom gave a PowerPoint Presentation showing the status of deer populations, types of seasons, survey data, herd composition, sex ratios, recruitment, numbers of tags, and the combined harvest since 1975.

Lindbloom indicated future projects include a survey of landowners, aerial surveys, and research projects. The challenges include loss of habitat, shelterbelts, and wetlands. Weather, predators, and losses due to EHD affect the herd and were considered in the management objectives and the 2013 season recommendations.

Elk Research and Status of Custer State Park Elk Herd

Chad Lehman provided a PowerPoint indicating the elk research project is in the third year and gave the objectives, methods, results, pregnancy rates, and mortality of cows and calves by year.

Lehman indicated fourteen elk were moved out of Wind Cave in December and an additional 389 were moved by helicopter in March into Custer State Park. It appears the elk remain in the area adjacent to Wind Cave and 26 of the elk have collars allowing staff to track their movement. Discussion included calf predation, lion harvest, pregnancy rates, cow/calf survival compared to other states.

Chair Knippling left the meeting at 9:11 AM and Vice Chairman Cooper assumed control of the meeting.

Game Production Area Property Taxes

Kirschenmann presented a list by county of the 2012 taxes the Division of Wildlife pays on Game Production Areas (GPA) of \$1,211,514.40 and showed the number acres, cost per acre, and tax paid. A chart showed GPA taxes paid from 2001 through 2012. The acres are classified as agriculture lands.

Rapid Creek Stream Habitat Improvement Project

John Carreiro gave a PowerPoint Presentation with history of Pactola and the fishing opportunity and uses the reservoir provides. The tailwater fishery is popular for trout fishing he explained how flows and discharges affect the stream. There has been a decline in the fishery and outlined the improvement area, limiting factors, and the objectives of the project.

Jake Davis shared about research projects in the Rapid Creek Basin Area that include the mark and recapture project, habitat and survival and evaluation, the invertebrate assessment. He provided history, decline and data information, catch rates, and juvenile trout recruitment and survival. He shared research techniques, the evaluation process of the stream structure, and rehabilitation efforts.

Spring Spawning Update

Chief John Lott indicated spring spawning of walleye is slow due to cool weather and provided the 2013 spawning goals that includes 83 million walleye eggs, weather conditions will improve to assist with continued efforts to collect eggs. The yellow perch and northern spawning efforts were successful. The Trap and Transfer goals were shared as well.

Fish Hatchery Operation Update

Lott shared a PowerPoint showing the old water heater and the newly installed water heater at the Bluedog Hatchery. This computerized water heater will allow fish to be raised intensively thru the winter and be ready for spring stocking efforts.

National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)

Jason Kool gave a PowerPoint Presentation with history and background of the program, equipment, GFP involvement, and the 2013 State Tournament event and results.

Human Dimensions Specialist Longmire presented information about an upcoming landowner survey in response to the request from Russ Roberts to verify hunter information on the special buck applications. Longmire indicated an Independent Contractor will randomly call and survey East and West River landowners to confirm if “Mr. Hunter” contacted the landowner to secure permission to hunt his property for buck deer. The survey results will be available late summer or early fall.

Director Hofer shared that the Lewis and Clark Marina and Restaurant has a cook for the season and is open for business.

Secretary Vonk indicated dates have been set for the Wildlife Management Institute public meetings for the Division of Wildlife Big Game Review process. A press release will go out next week with the dates and locations of the meetings in Brookings, Pierre, and Rapid City in mid-May. Commissioners will be contacted by WMI to schedule phone interviews or personal interviews on the afternoons of the public meetings.

Motion by Sather with second by Barry Jensen to adjourn the meeting and meeting adjourned at 10:24 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

Appendix A

RESOLUTION 13 - 05

Whereas, the State of South Dakota (for the use and benefit of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks) owns property described as:

Lot A of Lot H1 of the S1/2NE1/4 of Section 16, Township 5 North, Range 5 East of the B.H.M., Meade County South Dakota (GFP PROPERTY);
and

Whereas, SDCL § 41-2-29.1 provides that the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks shall sell real property owned by the state and held by the Department if such real property is no longer needed for game, fish, or parks purposes, with such sale to be conducted pursuant to the procedure more fully set out in SDCL § 41-2-29.1; and

Whereas, the 1.01 acre GFP PROPERTY was originally acquired in 1954 as a part of the Marcotte Game Production Area, was conveyed to the South Dakota Highway Department for interstate highway purposes in 1964, and later abandoned by the South Dakota Transportation Commission in 2012 as it was no longer needed for highway purposes, thereby returning the property to the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks – Wildlife Division; and

Whereas, the GFP PROPERTY is an small, isolated tract, separated from the remaining Marcotte GPA and provides no wildlife habitat management or public use opportunities for South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks – Wildlife Division; and

Whereas, the GFP Commission hereby determines that GFP PROPERTY no longer serves the purposes for which it was originally acquired and is no longer needed for Game, Fish, and Parks purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the GFP Commission hereby directs the Department to sell and transfer title to the GFP PROPERTY according to the procedures provided in SDCL § 41-2-29.1, and that the Department is authorized to execute and consummate an agreement relative to the sale deemed appropriate by the Department.