



COMMISSION MINUTES

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

March 9-10, 2023

Matthews Training Center | Pierre, SD

CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 1:00 PM CST / 12:00 PM

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm CST at the Matthews Training Center in the Joe Foss Building located in Pierre, SD. Commissioners Julie Bartling, Jon Locken, Robert Whitmyre, Stephanie Rissler, Travis Bies, and Charles Spring were present, with Jim White joining the meeting remotely. The public and staff could listen via SDPB Livestream, participate via video conference, or in person, with approximately 128 total participants via Zoom or in person.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Chair Rissler called for a conflict of interest to be disclosed. *None were present.*

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Chair Rissler called for any additions or corrections to the regular minutes of January 2023 meeting. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>.

Motion by Bies with a second by Bartling to APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER SALARY DAYS

Chair Rissler called for any additional salary day from the commissioners. *No additional salary days were requested by the commissioners.*

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Secretary Robling provided a legislative update to the commission.

5. GO OUTDOORS SOUTH DAKOTA UPDATE

Keith Fisk, Licensing Program Administrator, updated the commission on the Go Outdoors South Dakota program, highlighting a few of the draws that have been completed in 2023.

6. NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioners were introduced to new staff.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Rissler began the public hearing at 2:00 pm. Simpson opened the floor to testimony from those in attendance on matters of importance to them pertaining to the finalizations to be considered by the Commission. The public hearing began at 2:01 pm and concluded at 2:37 pm. Full public hearing minutes follow these Commission Meeting minutes.

OPEN FORUM

Scott Simpson, Deputy Secretary, 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 2:54 pm CST.

Nick Mauris of Sioux Falls, SD addressed the commission about the Nest Predator Bounty Program.

George Vandell introduced Megan Howel, new Executive Director of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation to the commission.

Trevor Davis of Sioux Falls, SD, representing the South Dakota Bowhunters, provided testimony in favor of the archery hunting finalizations. [He experienced technical difficulties during the Public Hearing, so he was allowed to provide testimony during the Open Forum on the finalizations.]

The open forum concluded at 3:03 pm CST.

PETITIONS

7. CHANGE OF YELLOW PERCH LIMIT

Mark Ermer, Senior Wildlife Biologist, gave a presentation about Yellow Perch research and regulations over the past 30 years. This presentation was prepared to address petitions submitted over the past two months, asking for the commission to consider more restrictive daily limits for Yellow Perch. The experience with similar regulations in the past and the biological data all support the fact that restrictive regulations on perch populations in South Dakota are not warranted. The fact that our high-quality perch populations tend to be fast growing but very short lived (3-5yr) makes restrictive harvest regulations a poor management choice.

Clint Hay of Brookings, SD filed petition #179 to the commission to consider a rule change to change the yellow perch limit to ten east river and keep the limit to fifteen fish west river.

Department Position: The department recommended denying the petition.

Motioned by Whitmyre, seconded by Bies to DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE YELLOW PERCH LIMIT. The motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Locken to ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-06 TO DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE YELLOW PERCH LIMIT. The motion carried unanimously.

Nicholas Mauris filed petition #181 to the commission to change the yellow perch limit.

Department Position: The department recommended denying the petition.

Motioned by Bartling, seconded by Locken to DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE YELLOW PERCH LIMIT. The motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Whitmyre, seconded by Bartling to ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-07 TO DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE YELLOW PERCH LIMIT. The motion carried unanimously.

8. DEER DRAW STRUCTURE

Daniel Fuxa of Spearfish, SD filed petition # 175 to CHANGE THE DEER DRAW STRUCTURE.

Department Position: The department recommended denying the petition.

Motioned by Spring, seconded by Locken to DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE DEER DRAW STRUCTURE. The motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Locken, seconded by Bartling to ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-08 TO DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE DEER DRAW STRUCTURE BACK TO THE PREVIOUS DRAW STRUCTURE. The motion carried unanimously.

9. ELK PREFERENCE POINTS

Bob Brandt of Rapid City, SD filed petition # 180 to CHANGE THE ELK DRAW PREFERENCE POINTS.

Department Position: The department recommended denying the petition.

Motioned by Locken, seconded by Spring to DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE ELK PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEM.

Motioned by Whitmyre, seconded by Bies to ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-09 TO DENY THE ELK PREFERENCE POINTS SYSTEM CHANGE. The motion carried unanimously.

10. ELK DRAW STRUCTURE

Daniel Fuxa of Spearfish, SD filed petition # 176 to change the elk draw structure.

Department Position: The department recommended denying the petition.

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Locken to DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE ELK DRAW STRUCTURE. The motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Spring, seconded by Bartling to ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-10 TO DENY THE ELK DRAW STRUCTURAL CHANGES. The motion carried unanimously.

11. CORSON COUNTY DEER UNIT

Matthew Skjoldal of Meadow, SD filed petition # 185 to split Corson County deer units.

Department Position: The department recommended denying the petition.

Motioned by Bartling, seconded by Spring to DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE CORSON COUNTY DEER UNITS. The motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Whitmyre to ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-11 TO DENY THE DEER UNIT CHANGES TO CORSON COUNTY. The motion carried unanimously.

12. PADDLEFISH SNAGGING

Aaron Olson of Sioux Falls, SD filed petition # 186 to allow for paddlefish snagging and archery tags below the Fort Randall dam.

Department Position: The department recommended denying the petition.

Motioned by Whitmyre, seconded by Bartling to DENY THE PETITION TO ALLOW FOR PADDLEFISH SNAGGING AND ARCHERY TAGS BELOW THE FORT RANDALL DAM. The motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Locken, seconded by Bartling to ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-12 TO DENY THE ALLOWANCE OF PADDLEFISH SNAGGING AND ARCHERY BELOW THE FORT RANDALL DAM. The motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSALS

13. WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON

MOURNING DOVE HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:40:01

Department Recommendations: None.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

DUCK HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:16

Department Recommendations: None.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE – CHAPTER 41:06:50

Department Recommendations: None.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:18

Department Recommendations: None.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

COMMON SNIPE HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:17

Department Recommendations: None.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

TUNDRA SWAN HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:16

Department Recommendations: None.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

GOOSE HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:16

Department Recommendations: None.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:49

Department Recommendations: None.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

GOOSE HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:16

Department Recommendations: None.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:16

Department Recommendations: None.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

SPECIAL CANADA GOOSE HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:16:08

Department Recommendations: None.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS – CHAPTER 41:06:16Department Recommendations:

1. Increase the 2,000 3-day temporary nonresident licenses to 2,100.
2. Increase the 3,750 two 5-day nonresident licenses to 3,950.

Draft Administrative Rule Changes:

1. 41:06:16:11. Maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses -- Open units -- Dates -- License restrictions. The maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses to be issued by lottery is ~~4,000~~ 4,200 special nonresident waterfowl licenses, 2,000 early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident licenses, ~~2,000~~ 2,100 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses, 100 nonresident youth waterfowl licenses, and 10,000 spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses divided for administrative purposes as follows:
 - (1) Unit NRW-00A: the counties of Union, Clay, Yankton, Bon Homme, and Charles Mix. No more than 250 special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;
 - (2) Unit NRW-00B: all open counties not in Units NRW-00A or NRW-11A. No more than ~~3,725~~ 3,925 special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;
 - (3) Unit NRW-00C: those counties as described in § 41:06:50:02. No more than 2,000 early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;
 - (4) Unit NRW-11A: Bennett County. No more than 25 special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The season in this unit is open for 65 consecutive days beginning on the third Saturday of October and during any period that Bennett County is open in January as described in subdivision 41:06:16:07(3);
 - (5) Unit NRW-00X: the counties of Potter, Stanley, Sully, Hughes, and Lyman. No more than 750 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;
 - (6) Unit NRW-OOV: the counties of Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, and Walworth. No more than ~~500~~ 550 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;
 - (7) Unit NRW-00Y: the counties of Spink, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Grant, Clark, Codington, Deuel, and Hamlin. No more than 500 three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

- (8) Unit NRW-OOZ: statewide except the counties in Units NRW-OOA, NRW-11A, NRW-OOV, NRWOOX and NRW-OOY. No more than ~~250~~ 300 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;
- (9) Unit NRW-ST1: statewide. No more than 10,000 spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only during a Conservation Order;
- (10) Unit NYW-YW1: statewide. No more than 100 nonresident youth waterfowl licenses may be issued for the youth waterfowl season established in Chapter 41:06:49. A nonresident youth may also hunt during the youth waterfowl season with a valid waterfowl hunting license as provided for in this section.

Licenses issued under this section are valid only in the unit for which they are issued. Licenses for Unit NRW-11A include two tags for Canada geese. Each tag is valid for taking one Canada goose consistent with the provisions of § 41:06:16:09. Each goose shall be tagged immediately upon retrieval.

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Whitmyre to APPROVE THE PROPOSAL. The motion carried unanimously.

14. DEER HUNTING SEASONS

APPRENTICE HUNTER DEER SEASONS – CHAPTER 41:06:44

Department Recommendations: Remove closed area specifications to Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management property.

Draft Administrative Rule Changes

41:06:44:04.01. Closed areas. The youth deer season is closed, and licenses are not valid in the following areas:

- (1) Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (2) Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in Bennett County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (3) Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge in Charles Mix County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (4) Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and Waubay State Game Bird Refuge in Day County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge; and
- ~~(5) Fort Mead Bureau of Land Management south unit and the signed portion of the north unit in Meade County.~~

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Bartling to APPROVE THE PROPOSAL. The motion carried unanimously.

YOUTH DEER HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:63

Department Recommendations: Remove closed area specifications to Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management property.

Draft Administrative Rule Changes

41:06:63:04. Closed areas. The youth deer season is closed, and licenses are not valid in the following areas:

- (1) Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (2) Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in Bennett County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (3) Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge in Charles Mix County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;

- (4) Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and Waubay State Game Bird Refuge in Day County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge; and
- (5) ~~Fort Mead Bureau of Land Management south unit and the signed portion of the north unit in Meade County.~~

Motioned by Whitmyre, seconded by Locken to APPROVE THE PROPOSAL. The motion carried unanimously.

CUSTER STATE PARK DEER HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:41

Department Recommendations: Remove the archery only equipment restrictions from November 1-November 15.

Draft Administrative Rule Changes

41:06:41:01. Custer State Park deer hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses. The Custer State Park deer hunting season is open from November 1 through December 15. No more than 100 one-tag deer licenses may be issued for the Custer State Park deer hunting season. ~~Hunting is limited to archery equipment from November 1 through November 15.~~

Motioned by Bartling, seconded by Whitmyre to APPROVE THE PROPOSAL. The motion carried unanimously.

BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:19

Department Recommendations: None.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DEER HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:36

Department Recommendations

1. Restrict RFD-SL4 to muzzleloading rifles without telescopic sights.
2. Edit the open unit description of Lacreek Refuge to specify the refuge unit area is specified by the refuge.

Draft Administrative Rule Changes

1. 41:06:36:02. Sand Lake open units. The following is a description of the units open to deer hunting on the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge:
 - (1) Unit RFD-SL1 is open for five consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday of November. The licenses are restricted to muzzleloading rifles without telescopic sights as provided in § 41:06:04:14;
 - (2) Unit RFD-SL2 is open for five consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL1 season;
 - (3) Unit RFD-SL3 is open for six consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL2 season;
 - (4) Unit RFD-SL4 is open for seven consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL3 season. The licenses are restricted to muzzleloading rifles without telescopic sights as provided in § 41:06:04:14; and
 - (5) (5) Unit RFD-SL5 is open for seven consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL4 season.

- (6) A hunter possessing an unfilled "antlerless deer" license for any Sand Lake deer hunting unit may hunt the refuge for nine consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of Unit RFD-SL5 season.
2. 41:06:36:02.01. Lacreek open units. The following is a description of the units open to deer hunting on the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge:
- (1) Unit RFD-LC1 is open for seven consecutive days beginning on the third Wednesday of October; and
 - (2) Unit RFD-LC2 is open for seven consecutive days beginning on the fourth Wednesday of November.
 - (3) The deer hunting units within the refuge are set by Lacreek Refuge. Information is available at Lacreek Refuge headquarters and will be mailed to successful applicants.
 - (4) All Lacreek open units are restricted to muzzleloading rifles without scopes.

Motioned by Bartling, seconding Bies to APPROVE THE PROPOSAL. The motion carried unanimously.

WEST RIVER PRAIRIE DEER HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:20

Department Recommendations

1. Edit “Custer County Road 319” error to “Custer County Road 317” in Unit WRD-27A description.
2. Remove Fort Meade exception in Unit WRD-49A description.

Draft Administrative Rule Changes

1. 41:06:20:
 - (12) Unit WRD-27A: those portions of Custer and Fall River Counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 18, then easterly along U.S. Highway 18 to its junction with the Cheyenne River, then easterly along the Cheyenne River to its junction with U.S. Highway 18 and 385, then northerly along U.S. Highway 18 and 385 to its junction with State Highway 79 and continuing along State Highway 79 to its junction with the section line between section 19 and section 18, township 6 south, range 7 east, then westerly along this section line to its junction with section 13 and section 24, township 6 south, range 7 east, then southerly along the section line between section 19 and section 24, township 6 south, range 7 east to its junction with Custer County Road 101, then westerly along Custer County Road 101 to its junction with U.S. Highway 385, then southerly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with Fall River County Road 18 (Argyle Road), then northwesterly along Fall River County Road 18 and Custer County Road 333 to its junction with State Highway 89, then southerly along State Highway 89 to its junction with Fall River County Road 12, then westerly along Fall River County Road 12 to its junction with Custer County Road 319, then westerly along Custer County Road 319 317 to its junction with Custer County Road 715, then westerly along Custer County Road 715 to its junction with Custer County Road 769, then westerly along Custer County Road 769 through Dewey to its junction with the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then southerly along the South Dakota-Wyoming border to its junction with U.S. Highway 18, the point of beginning, except the portion included in WRD-27L;
2. 41:06:20:
 - (28) Unit WRD-49A: the portion of Meade County east of Interstate 90, ~~except the Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management South Unit and the signed portion of the North Unit~~, south of U.S. Highway 212, and west of a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 212 and Meade County Road 23, then southerly along Meade County Road 23 to its junction with

Meade County Road 28, then easterly along Meade County Roads 23-28, then southerly along Meade County Road 23 to its junction with State Highway 34, then southerly along Meade County Road 21 (New Underwood Road) to its junction with the Pennington County line and that portion of Pennington County west of Pennington County 160th Avenue (New Underwood Road) and north of Interstate 90;

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Bartling to APPROVE THE PROPOSAL. Motion carried unanimously.

EAST RIVER DEER HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:21

Department Recommendations: None.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

GENERAL MUZZLELOADING DEER HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:45

Department Recommendations: None.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

FINALIZATIONS

15. FIREARMS CHANGES TO STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS – CHAPTERS 41:03:01:16, 41:06:40:05, AND 41:06:20:02

Al Nedved, Deputy Director of the Parks and Recreation Division informed the commission of the proposed firearms changes to the state parks and recreation areas. (1) These changes would provide the Department the option to open portions of state parks and recreation areas to hunting during the months of September and May by means of posting, signage, and other designations. (2) Current administrative rule does not allow for hunting in any form on Oahe Downstream recreation area park lands west of SD Hwy 1806 and north of Fort Pierre. (3) The proposed rule change would allow for hunters to legally hunt park lands west of SD Hwy 1806. This would clear up the rule to coincide with what is currently enforced. Park lands include OHV and land outside the fenced shooting complex perimeter. (4) This proposal would restrict or clarify Revheim Bay Recreation Area as archery only. (5) This proposal would clarify Newtown Hills State Park, Rocky Point Recreation Area, Lake Poinsett Recreation Area and North Point Recreation Area to archery hunting and shotgun only, but with options to post certain areas for open hunting.

Proposed changes:

1. These changes would provide the Department the option to open portions of state parks and recreation areas to hunting during the months of September and May by means of posting, signage, and other designations.
2. Current administrative rule does not allow for hunting in any form on Oahe Downstream recreation area park lands west of SD Hwy 1806 and north of Fort Pierre.
3. The proposed rule change would allow for hunters to legally hunt park lands west of SD Hwy 1806. This would clear up the rule to coincide with what is currently enforced. Park lands include OHV and land outside the fenced shooting complex perimeter.
4. This proposal would restrict and clarify Revheim Bay Recreation Area as archery only.
5. This proposal would clarify Newton Hills State Park, Rocky Point Recreation Area, and Lake Poinsett Recreation Area to archery hunting and shotgun only, but with options to post certain areas for open hunting.

Department recommended changes to proposal: None

Motioned by Bartling, seconded by Whitmyre to ADOPT THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

16. FALL RIVER PUBLIC WATER SAFETY ZONES – CHAPTER 41:04:02:23

Law Enforcement Chief, Sam Schelhaas, brought a finalization to amend 41:04:02:23 which would extend the no boating zone from 100 feet to 300 feet to better align the rule with existing buoy placement. This amendment would continue to provide for adequate use of the lake while protecting boaters.

Proposed change to rule:

1. Change the “no boating zone” on Angostura from 100 to 300 feet fronting the dam which includes the 5 control gates and the canal siphon (41:04:02:23 2e)
- 2 (e) The waters within 100 300 feet fronting on that portion of the dam which includes the five control gates, and the canal siphon are a "no boating zone";

Department proposed changes from proposal: None.

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Locken to ADOPT THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

17. MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:29

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, presented the commission with the Mountain Goat Hunting Season finalization. This finalization will close the mountain goat hunting season and discontinue the sale of preference points.

Proposed change from last year:

1. Close the season and discontinue sale of preference points.

Department proposed changes from proposal: None.

Motioned by Locken, seconded by Bies to ADOPT THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

18. ARCHERY ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:24

Director Kirschenmann provided a short summary of archery antelope proposal, including the particulars of the limited number of licenses (450) available for both public and private land as well as the unlimited number of licenses available for private land. It was indicated the department had no recommended changes for the proposal.

Summary of proposed change from last year:

1. Create a private land only buck antelope nonresident archery license that is unlimited.
2. Limit buck antelope nonresident archery license valid on public and private land to 450.
3. No change to resident antelope archery.

Department proposed changes from proposal: None.

Motioned by Whitmyre, seconded by Spring to ADOPT THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

19. ARCHERY DEER HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTERS 41:06:22 AND 41:06:01:17

Kirschenmann provided background on the archery deer conversation, including the steps taken by the commission in the past to begin addressing the concern expressed by some resident hunters over too many nonresident archery deer hunters, especially the use of public lands. He explained that the commission did impose an application deadline of April 1 should a nonresident want to hunt on public land and secondly a restriction which prohibits nonresident hunters to hunt on public land with an appropriate license until October 1. Kirschenmann then explained what adjustments to nonresident archery deer hunting would include and stated that department had no recommended changes to the commission proposal.

Summary of Proposed Change from Last Year:

1. Create a private land only nonresident archery any deer license that is unlimited and a public and private archery any deer license valid statewide with 2,200 licenses available.
2. Remove the East River and West River specific licenses for nonresident archery deer.
3. Remove April 1 deadline for nonresidents to purchase archery deer license valid on public and private land.
4. No changes to resident archery and no changes to nonresident antlerless archery deer.

Department changes from proposal: Strike 1 “antlerless whitetail deer” maximum per individual to allow multiple archery antlerless licenses for municipality hunts.

Motioned by Bartling, seconded by Spring to APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PROPOSAL [AMENDMENT] TO THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Bartling to APPROVE THE FINALIZATION AS AMENDED. The motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

20. REGIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER TRAINING

Shane Bertsch, District Park Supervisor, gave a presentation on park maintenance technical training held at the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) in Yankton. Thirty-one park managers and park maintenance personnel attended the training in the following areas: welding, plumbing, electrical, construction, diesel and small engines, horticulture, and landscaping. Investing in Department employees by offering employee skills through training is part of operational excellence in the Department’s strategic plan. Staff who attended the classes enjoyed the diversity of training and practical application of park maintenance.

21. 2023 DOT FUNDING PROPOSALS

Adam Kulesa, Planning/Development Administrator, provided a short presentation on DOT Collector Roads. The presentation included a history of our partnership with DOT, a review of the projects completed with the funds from FY23 and a proposed list of projects to be completed in FY24.

22. 2023 PARKS PROMOTION – THE TRAILS ARE CALLING

April Larson, Marketing Coordinator and Rachel Comes, Volunteer Coordinator, provided a report on status of the 2023 Parks Promotion ‘The Trails are Calling.’

23. CAMPING, VISITATION, AND REVENUE REPORT

Al Nedved, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation, provided a report on the year-to-date camping, visitation and revenue totals for Parks and Recreation.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

24. DEER POPULATION OBJECTIVES

Andy Lindbloom, Senior Big Game Biologist, reported to the commission the Deer Objectives and Disease presentation. GFP collected 1,019 samples in 2022 to further evaluate Chronic Wasting Disease in South Dakota. CWD was detected in one new area (Union County) and in 23 white-tailed deer, 11 mule deer, and 23 elk. Population objectives have been established for 2023-24 across all firearm deer hunting units and will be used to guide deer license numbers and types for the next 2 years.

25. BASS & WALLEYE REGULATION TOOLBOXES

Dave Lucchesi, Area Fisheries Supervisor

Brian Blackwell, Fisheries Biologist, presented the 2023 South Dakota Walleye Regulation Toolbox, which provides a standardized set of regulations for managing Walleye populations in South Dakota. The toolbox

addresses concerns with regulation complexity and provides criteria for recommending and evaluating regulations. Five toolbox regulation possibilities are included in the toolbox, along with an experimental category.

26. 2023 AIS FIELD OPERATIONS PLAN

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Manager, provided an update on the 2023 GFP AIS Field Operations Plan. This included specific actions regarding watercraft inspection/decontamination activities, as well as efforts by staff to eliminate the likelihood of transporting AIS during field activities.

27. GROUSE ACTION PLAN

Alex Solem, Senior Upland Game Biologists, presented the proposed Prairie Grouse Action Plan for 2023-2027. The objectives and strategies outlined in this document detailed the conservation of their habitats, surveys and monitoring of their populations, and the mitigation efforts from energy development.

28. WINTERING WILDLIFE UPDATE

Emmett Keyser, Region 3 Supervisor, provided the Commission with an update on the status of 'Wintering Wildlife'. He shared information relative to the snow depths across the state that have resulted in more than 500 total individual requests for service from primarily livestock producers regarding concerns over wildlife damage to stored feed and hay. Focused primarily in the eastern 1/3 and southern 1/4 of the state, GFP has received more than 480 of these requests for service involving primarily white-tailed deer. Staff have transported and worked in close cooperation with ag producers to erect nearly 4,000 steel livestock panels to protect stored feed and hay and are also utilizing several hundred 'short-stop feeding sites' to lure deer away from private livestock feed supplies. Landowners have also assisted agency staff by opening roads or pathways to allow staff to maintain short-stop feeding sites as well.

29. LICENSE SALES UPDATE

Director Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Director, provided a quick summary of licenses compared to last year for the period of December 15 through February 28. He also discussed the new format of the report and the attempt to provide a few more details such as graphs to depict trends over the past few years. Future reports will also include information such as the number of applications submitted for first draws of key hunting seasons to help show demand for licenses.

ADJOURN

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Bartling to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting ADJOURNED ON MARCH 10, 2023, AT 11:36 AM CT.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary



PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES **Game, Fish and Parks Commission**

March 9, 2023

Matthews Training Center | Pierre, South Dakota

CALL MEETING TO ORDER 2:00 PM CST / 1:00 PM MT

Chair Rissler began the public hearing at 2:00 p.m. CT on March 9, 2023, at the Matthews Training Center in the Joe Foss Building located in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Julie Bartling, Travis Bies, Jon Locken, Charles Spring, and Robert Whitmyre were present, with Jim White joining the meeting virtually. Deputy Secretary, Scott Simpson, indicated that written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes. Simpson opened the floor to testimony from those in attendance on matters of importance to them pertaining to the finalizations to be considered by the Commission. The public hearing began at 2:01 pm CST.

15. PARK LAND HUNTING RESTRICTIONS

No public comment.

16. FALL RIVER COUNTY PUBLIC WATER SAFETY ZONES

No public comment.

17. MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNTING SEASON

No public comment.

18 & 19. ARCHERY ANTELOPE AND DEER HUNTING SEASONS

Those who testified, testified regarding both agenda items #18 and #19.

1. Dana Rogers of Hill City, SD representing the South Dakota Bowhunters Incorporated testified in support of the Archery Hunting Season finalizations.
2. Justin Bell of Pierre, SD representing the South Dakota Landowner and Outfitter Alliance testified in support of the Archery Hunting Season finalizations.
3. Ronald Kolbeck of Salem, SD representing the South Dakota Bowhunters Incorporated testified in support of the Archery Hunting Season finalizations.
4. Justin Broughton of Sioux Falls, SD representing the South Dakota Bowhunters Incorporated testified in support of the Archery Hunting Season finalizations.
5. Jake Leibke of Garden City, SD testified in support of the Archery Hunting Season finalizations.
6. Jason Stone of Chamberlain, SD representing the South Dakota Bowhunters Incorporated testified in support of the Archery Hunting Season Finalizations.
7. Mark Viehweg of Sioux Falls, SD member of South Dakota Bowhunters Incorporated testified in support of the Archery Hunting Season finalizations.
8. Martie Haines testified in support of the Archery Hunting Season finalizations.
9. Todd Craig testified in support of the Archery Hunting Season finalizations.

10. Robert Maffey of Rapid City, SD, member of the South Dakota Bowhunters Incorporated testified in support of the Archery Hunting Season Finalizations.
11. Samuel Joseph Kezar of Lennox, SD testified in support of the Archery Hunting Season Finalizations.
12. Joel Murano of Aberdeen, SD testified in support of the Archery Hunting Season Finalizations.

OTHER TESTIMONY

No public comment.

Written comments are attached. The public hearing concluded at 2:37 pm CST.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Robling, Secretary