

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
June 2-3, 2016

Chairman Petersen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CST at the Watertown Convention Center in Watertown, South Dakota. Commissioners Cathy Peterson, Barry Jensen, H. Paul Dennert, Gary Jensen, Russell Olson, W. Scott Phillips, and Jim Spies were present. Secretary Kelly Hepler was present along with approximately 25 public, staff, and media.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Peterson called for any additions or corrections to the April 7-8, 2016, minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by G. Jensen with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2-3, 2016, MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

No additional salary days were requested

License List Requests

No new license list requests were submitted.

FY 17 Budget

Petersen provided an overview of the FY17 budget for the Department noting the salary packages which includes a 5.2 percent increase approved by the legislature. Petersen presented the Division of Administration budget at \$4,223,384 with 27.6 FTE; Division of Parks and Recreation Operations Budget at \$24,457,382 with 248.2 FTE; Parks Capitol Development Budget at \$8,748,607; the Division of Wildlife Budget at \$48,086,514 with 294 FTE; Wildlife Capitol Development Budget of \$1,772,585; and the Snowmobile Trails Budget of \$1,306,703 with 9.1 FTE.

Director Petersen indicated the Division of Wildlife Operations Budget and Capitol Development Budget along with the Snowmobile Trails Budget require Commission action and requested approval of the three budgets as presented that will be implemented July 1, 2016.

Motion by Dennert with second by G. Jensen TO APPROVE THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OPERATIONS BUDGET OF \$48,086,514; THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CAPITOL DEVELOPMENT BUDGET OF \$1,772,585; AND THE SNOWMOBILE TRAILS BUDGET OF \$1,306,703 AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on Conflict of Interest Law

Staff Attorney Richard Neill presented a powerpoint on HB1214: an act to regulate conflicts of interest for authority, board, or commission members that was passed during the 2016 legislative session. The presentation explained how the law applies to the Commissioners. The presentation specifically defined derived direct benefits, waiver requirements and penalties for violations. Additional information will be provided at the Commission Governance meeting to be held in July.

Strategic Planning Update

Staff Specialist Nancy Surprenant, Communications Director Emily Kiel and Communications Specialist Chris Hull provided an overview of the strategic planning process and timeline. Surprenant provided an overview of the planning process indicating work completed thus far and where the Department is in the planning process. Kiel provided the draft mission, vision, values that will be further defined at the upcoming planning team meeting on June. Kiel also presented the draft goals that have been crafted from the April meeting. She indicated the planning team will work to add objectives and measurable outcomes within each goal at the upcoming June meeting. Hull further provided detail as to what the plan will mean for staff and how they will fit into the goals to be a part of the agencies mission. Hull also indicated the plan will also serve as a document to drive our budget.

PROPOSALS

Time Restrictions for State Parks

Bob Schneider, Deputy Director presented the proposed changes to the use of parks and public lands adding the language “use or occupy” to be clear in addressing people who continue to use an area.

Motioned by G. Jensen seconded by Olson TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO TIME RESTRICTIONS IN STATE PARKS AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Bicycle Use Restriction

Schneider presented the recommended change to repeal the rules applying to bicycle use in Newton Hills and Lewis and Clark State Parks as it is redundant and only applies to two state parks.

Motioned by Olson, seconded by Spies TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO REPEAL THE RULE IN REGARDS TO BICYCLE USE IS SPECIFIC PARKS ARE PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Camping Registration

Lynn Spomer, program specialist presented the recommended changes to the camping registration procedures to reflect current practices with the on-line point of sale system as specified below.

All campers must reserve a campsite prior to occupying the site in the park. Reservations can be placed either by using the on-line service at campsd.com or by calling 1-800-710-2267 or using the park reservation hot phone. At campgrounds using a self-registration system, the department shall post camping fees and provide registration forms for campers to complete. Each camper shall insert the correct fee in the envelope provided with the form and insert the envelope in the security box provided. The camper shall display the provided registration slip on a provided site post or in a conspicuous place.

Any camper unit desiring to extend occupancy of a site beyond the nights for which the camper unit is paid, up to the limits set in § 41:03:01:15, may extend the reservation by 4:00 p.m. on that last day and pay the camping fees for the additional nights desired, only if the site is available for the duration of the extended stay, except at Custer State Park where a camper shall reregister extend the reservation by noon on the last day. A Camper staying on a Same-Day reservation site located at Center Lake in Custer State Park and the Yankton section of Lewis and Clark Recreation Area must extend the reservation prior to 12:00 AM (Midnight) on the last registered night's stay.

Motioned by B. Jensen, seconded by Spies TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO CAMPING REGISTRATION PROCEDURES ARE PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Length of Camping Stay

Schneider presented the recommended changes to the length of camping stay as specified below.

Nonprofit youth groups with adult supervision may reserve a designated group camping area for up to 14 consecutive nights.

A person may reserve an available campsite at any state park, recreation area, or lakeside use area for 14 consecutive nights. Once the person has occupied the campsite the 14th night, they must remove their camping unit from the state park, recreational area, or lake side use area, by check-out time the next day, for at least one night, before reserving that site, or another site, at that location.

Motioned by B. Jensen seconded by Spies to approve the proposed changes to the length of camping stay as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Sage Grouse Hunting Season

Program administrator Chad Switzer presented the recommended changes to the sage grouse hunting season as specified below.

1. Change the season dates from the Wednesday and Thursday prior to the start of the firearm antelope season to a two-day season beginning on the third Saturday of September.
2. Offer 40 resident-only hunting permits available through a limited drawing. Applicants will need to have a small game or combination license to be eligible for the drawing.
3. Permits remaining after the first drawing will be available to resident and nonresident hunters on a first-come first-serve basis.

Motioned by B. Jensen seconded by Dennert TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SAGE GROUSE HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Roll call vote: Dennert-yes; B. Jensen-yes; Gary Jensen-yes; Olson – yes; Phillips-no; Spies - no; Peterson-yes. Motion passed with five yes votes and two no votes.

Fall Turkey Hunting Season

Switzer presented recommended changes to the fall wild turkey hunting season as detailed below.

1. For limited draw units, offer 105 less resident one-tag licenses for Prairie Units compared to 2015.
2. Dissolve the West River Prairie Unit and align fall units with spring unit boundaries where licenses will be allocated. For 2016, this will include Unit 30A (Gregory County); Unit 50A (Mellette County), and Unit 53A (Perkins County and that portion of Meade County north of US Hwy. 212).
3. Change the name of Unit NE1 (Northeast SD) to Unit 48A (Marshall and Roberts counties) and retain the same geographic area open for fall season.
4. Remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit.

Motioned by Spies seconded by Phillips TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE FALL WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the fall turkey hunting license allocations with changes for multiple units and the elimination of units where no licenses were allocated.

Motioned by Dennert seconded by G. Jensen TO APPROVE THE NUMBER OF FALL TURKEY HUNTING LICENSE ALLOCATED FOR EACH UNIT AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Antelope Hunting Season

Andy Lindbloom, senior biologist provided a powerpoint presentation indicating status to project populations and population estimates from aerial surveys conducted.

Switzer presented the recommended change to the antelope hunting season as detailed below.

1. Add language in administrative rule which clarifies that if no licenses are allocated for a specific hunting unit, that unit is dissolved for the purposes of designating areas open to hunting under the provisions of codified law which describes reduced fee licenses for landowner on own land licenses.
2. Remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit and substitute with the cumulative number of single and multiple tag licenses.

Motioned by Spies, seconded by Olson TO APPROVAL THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the antelope license allocations with no changes for any units thus the same number of license will be allocated for 2016 as was 2015.

Motioned by Dennert seconded by Spies TO APPROVE THE NUMBER OF ANTELOPE LICENSE ALLOCATED FOR EACH UNIT AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Authorization for Fisheries Management on Impounded Waters Located on Private Land

John Lott, Fisheries Chief provided a powerpoint to the Commission detailing the proposal to create a new rule to provide authorization for landowners to perform fisheries management activities on created, man-made impoundments on land they own or lease.

Motioned by G. Jensen, seconded by Spies to table the creation of private fisheries management. Roll call vote: Dennert-yes; B. Jensen-no; Gary Jensen-yes; Olson – no; Phillips-yes; Spies -yes; Peterson-no. Motion failed with four yes votes and three no votes.

Lott withdrew the proposal and no further action was taken.

Allowance for Bird Processing Records to be Included in Shooting Preserve Records and Number of Processed Birds Allowed Per Package

Andy Alban, program administrator presented the recommended changes to exempt licensed private shooting preserves from certain records requirements for wildlife processing facilities and increase the number of birds taken on a licensed private shooting preserve that may be packaged to two without identifying plumage.

Motioned by Olson, seconded by Spies TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Requirements and Eligibility for Disabled Veteran Pheasant Hunts

Alban provided the recommend changes to eligibility requirements for disabled veterans to hunt pheasants to align with legislation passed in 2016 per senate bill 71as specified below

1. A special pheasant hunting season for qualifying disabled veterans may be established anytime during the months of October or November upon application by a sponsoring non-profit organization. A special pheasant season for disabled veterans is valid only on private lands.
2. The shooting hours for a special pheasant season for disabled veterans are sunrise to sunset except that after the start of the regular state pheasant season established pursuant to chapter 41:06:08, shooting hours are the same as those established for the regular state pheasant season. The bag limit is three cock pheasants. No hunting license or fee is required of qualifying disabled veterans.

3. Repealed.

Motioned by Spies with second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL THAT PERTAINS TO THE PHEASANT HUNTING SEASON FOR DISABLED VETERANS AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

The Public Hearing began at 2:00 p.m. and concluded at 2:05 p.m. and the minutes follow these minutes.

FINALIZATIONS

Black Hills Deer Hunting Season

Switzer presented recommended changes to the Black Hills Deer Hunting Season to offer 400 more resident antlerless whitetail licenses and 32 more nonresident antlerless whitetail licenses than in 2015. Other changes include modifying the Black Hills antlerless deer management units and removing language from administrative rule depicting the license type and number of license from each hunting unit.

Motioned by B. Jensen with second by G. Jensen TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION FOR BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

East River Deer Hunting Season

Switzer presented the recommended changes in the east river deer hunting season as specified below

1. Offer 4,220 less one-tag licenses, 5,075 more two-tag licenses (10,150 tags), and 1,400 more 3-tag licenses (4,200 tags) compared to 2015.
2. Establish Unit ERD-12B as an antlerless deer unit within Bon Homme County described as that portion of Bon Homme County south of SD Highway 50 and east of SD Highway 37 (see map).
3. Remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit.

Motion by Dennert with second by G. Jensen TO AMEND THE PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE SD HIGHWAY 52 WITHIN BON HOMME COUNTY. Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Dennert with second by B. Jensen TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE EAST RIVER DEER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

West River Deer Hunting Season

Switzer provided the recommended changes to west river deer hunting season as specified below

1. Adjust resident license numbers by decreasing one-tag licenses by 2,095 and increasing two-tag licenses by 3,800 compared to 2015.
2. Adjust nonresident license numbers by decreasing one-tag licenses by 168 and increasing two-tag licenses by 304 compared to 2015.

3. Remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit.

Motioned by Phillips with second by B. Jensen TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE WEST RIVER DEER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

National Wildlife Refuge Deer Hunting Season

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the national wildlife refuge deer hunting season to offer 10 less resident and 1 less nonresident any deer licenses for RFD-LC2 in Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge and remove the language in administrative rule that depicts the license type and number of licenses for each hunting unit.

Motioned by Phillips with second by G. Jensen TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DEER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Archery Deer Hunting Season

Switzer provided the recommend changes to archery deer hunting season as specified below

1. For Unit ARD-LM1, close units 39A and 45B and open units BD1, BD2, 01A, 06A, 07B, 12B, 27B, 35A, 35C, 43A, 44A (north of 273rd Street), 46A, 49A, 49B, 52A, and 53A.
2. Increase the number of "antlerless whitetail deer" archery access permits from 20 to 25 for the Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve.
3. Remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit and the number of access permits from each designated area.

Motioned by B. Jensen with second by Dennert TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE ARCHERY DEER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

General Muzzleloading Deer Hunting Season

Switzer provided the recommend changes to archery deer hunting season as specified below

1. For Unit MZD-LM1, close units 39A and 45B and open units BD1, BD2, 01A, 06A, 07B, 12B, 27B, 35A, 35C, 43A, 46A, 49A, 49B, 52A, and 53A.
2. Remove language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit.

Motioned by G. Jensen with second by Spies TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE GENERAL MUZZLELOADING DEER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Custer State Park Deer Hunting Season

Switzer provided the recommended changes to the Custer State Park deer hunting season to offer 10 more antlerless whitetail deer muzzleloader license repeal

unit CUD-ZZ1 and remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit.

Motioned by Dennert with second by B. Jensen TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE CUSTER STATE PARK DEER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Deer Hunting Seasons – Hunting Unit License & Access Permit Allocations

Deputy Director Tom Kirschenmann presented the number and type of hunting licenses in each unit for the Black Hills, East River, West River, Refuge, Muzzleloader, and Custer State Park Deer Hunting Seasons and allocations of Archery Deer Access Permits.

Motioned by B. Jensen with second by G. Jensen TO FINALIZE THE LICENSE ALLOCATIONS AND ACCESS PERMITS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Application for License

Kirschenmann presented a change to the application for license to allow the Department to make free antlerless deer license available to qualifying farmers and ranchers in designated area in accordance with current harvest management objectives.

1. Repeal language referencing licenses available after second lottery drawing from the previous year and to those counties where antlerless archery and muzzleloader licenses are restricted.
2. Make “antlerless whitetail deer” licenses available to those eligible applicants in hunting units which offer a deer license with multiple tags for antlerless deer (e.g. double or triple “any antlerless deer” or “antlerless whitetail deer” tags) in the lottery drawing for the East River and West River deer seasons (see attached map).

Motioned by Olson with second by Dennert TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSES FOR LANDOWNERS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Larry Burg, Grasslakes Conservation Club spoke to the Commission to express his organizations appreciation for the work done by former Commissioner John Cooper and the good working relationship they had.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Angostura/Shadehill Market Rent Survey Update

Assistant Director Al Nedved provided follow up on the market rent survey that was conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation for all private/exclusive use seasonal cabin permits at Angostura and Shadehill.

Nedved noted rates determined based upon appraisal were \$2,700 for Angostura trailers, \$2,400 for Angostura cabins and \$2,100 for Shadehill which is significantly higher than current rates. All permit holders were notified and given an opportunity to provide input and will be further informed through public meetings scheduled for June 6th and 16th. Permit holders also have the option of organizing and conducting their own appraisal to challenge the new rates.

Oahe Downstream Concession

Nedved provided an update on the Oahe Downstream concession indicating that after the third issuance of a prospectus to sale Oahe Marina at the reduction in price from \$641,000 to \$625,000 no proposals were received. Nedved further explained that any further attempts to sell the Oahe Downstream Concession will require a new appraisal and that the current owner will continue to operate per the terms of the concession agreement. It was also noted the current concessionaire has not provided any further indication on his plans at this time.

CHM Study Update

Nedved provided an update in regards to the concession study the department has been working on for several months with CHM Government Service to obtain a better understanding of each particular business model. The contract was recently amended a second time to include two additional concessionaires Angostura Resort and Fort Randall Marina to encompass all the concessionaries excluding Custer State Park. Nedved stated the department expects an executive summary in the next few weeks that will contain recommendations on how to move forward with concession contracts.

Parks Revenue, Camping and Visitation Reports

Director Ceroll provide the parks revenue report noting the visitation report has not been generated as time being it is only the 2nd of June. Ceroll stated the revenue comparison by item indicated an overall 10 percent increase in revenue and that the comparison by district indicated weather was a major factor. The camping unit comparison by district show a 12 percent increase with a good start to the camping season with memorial weekend.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Turkey Management Plan

Switzer provided the Commission copies of the draft wild turkey management plan noting minimal changes have incorporated since the last meeting. Major points indicated by Switzer were continued work with private landowners, offering as much public access as possible, dealing timely and effectively with landowners on depredation issues, and working with landowners and public on captive turkey release.

Motioned by Spies with second by G. Jensen TO ADOPT THE TURKEY MANAGEMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

Lott indicated zebra mussels were found in McCook Lake in addition to Lewis and Clark. Lott explained McCook is an oxbow lake, but is surrounded by sand so they have a system where they pump water into the lake and could possibly have been the source of AIS.

Regional Supervisor Emmett Keyser reported on a boat compliance check recently held with 80 contacts made with boaters resulting in 16 citations issued and 4 written warnings. Staff will continue communication and compliance efforts and increase awareness with recreational boaters. Keyser noted key points for boaters is they need to pull plug on boat and live well and keep the plug out while transporting the boat allowing time to dry out then not putting the plug back in until just prior to reentering the water.

Lott also provided an explanation of current management tools being used and research being done.

Motioned by Spies with second by B. Jensen TO ADOPT THE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Wetlands America Trust Addition to Swan Lake GPA - Clark County

Paul Coughlin, Habitat Program Administrator provided a request to acquire the Wetlands America Trust Addition to Swan Lake GPA located five miles northeast of Bradley in Clark County. The property consists of 240 acres at a cost of \$511,000 to be utilized as a game production area for wildlife habitat management and public hunting access.

Motion by Spies with second by B. Jensen TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 16-07 (Appendix A) AUTHORIZING AND CONFIRMING THE PURCHASE OF 240 ACRES IN CLARK COUNTY. Motion carried unanimously.

Wetlands America Trust Addition to Odessa #1 GPA – McPherson County

Coughlin provided a request to acquire the Wetlands America Trust Addition to Odessa #1 GPA located nine miles southwest of Long Lake in McPherson County. The property consists of 80 acres at a cost of \$84,000 to be utilized as a game production area for wildlife habitat management and public hunting access.

Motion by Dennert with second by G. Jensen TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 16-08 (Appendix B) AUTHORIZING AND CONFIRMING THE PURCHASE OF 80 ACRES IN CLARK COUNTY. Motion carried unanimously

Land Acquisition Projects

Coughlin provided an update on the pending sale of GFP property located within the City of Deadwood. He indicated that legislation passed authorizes the Department to sell two small properties in Deadwood specifically to the City of Deadwood that is

developing a visitor's center. The two properties are a currently a parking lot and the area near the location of the Wild Bill statute. The Department has received appraisals recently and is working on a sale price.

Sportsmen Against Hunger

Kirschenmann provided the 2015 Sportsmen Against Hunger Report to the Commission noting the Department has a 10 year partnership with the organization. Kirschenmann provided a summary of how organization came to be beginning with deer donations while overpopulated. He indicating most donations are received through West River, east river and archery antlerless deer hunting seasons. Kirschenmann explained the funding process noting the \$50,000 offered by GFP was only utilized for Ron Fowlers contract and the funds allocated by sportsman via the license application checkoff.

Commissioner G. Jensen noted his involvement with Sportsmen Against Hunger as the Commission liaison.

Motioned by Phillips with second by Dennert TO APPROVE THE CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR WITH AN ALLOCATION OF \$50,000 FOR CONTRACT AND CERTIFICATES IF NEEDED. G. Jensen abstained. Motion carried.

Landowners and Hunter Opinion Survey of Deer Management

Cynthia Longmire, division staff specialist presented the results of the landowner and hunter opinion survey of deer management. She explained the design and methods used to set up the survey with a sample size of 6,300 landowners who owned 100 or more acres. Questions consisted of number of whitetail deer, mule deer, statewide and regionally, season lengths and dates and habitat management. Results indicated half of the landowners surveyed have hunted in the last year and a majority of the landowners who hunted also allowed relatives to hunt their land. All landowners indicated conflicts with hunters such trespassing, damage to property and harassed livestock. And a vast majority experienced crop and property damage.

Longmire stated the hunter survey as a random sample of 4,000 resident deer applicants statewide from the previous season with a response rate of 64 percent. Questions asked of hunters pertained to how long they had been hunting deer in South Dakota, ranking of season in order of preference, rating of conditions in the areas they hunt the most, number of hunters in the field, number of deer, private land access, season lengths and dates and limited access units. Overall the survey indicated hunters are satisfied with the current system.

Sage Grouse Management Plan Update

Travis Runia, senior biologist presented a powerpoint to update the Commission on the sage grouse management plan. Information provided included challenges specifically loss and fragmentation of habitat, isolation and disease, partnerships and collaborations, and research. Runia noted population monitoring indicates levels are up to recommend opening conservative hunting for a 2 day season in Harding and Butte

Counties. He also indicated the 2007 and 2008 seasons had approximately 50 hunters resident and nonresident and that it was difficult to acquire success results.

Private Shooting Preserve Update

Alban presented the Commission statistics on private shooting preserves. Specifics included the total number of preserves by year, pheasant harvest and release records, other game bird harvest and release records for 2015 and number of preserves by size for the 2016-2017 season. Alban explained licenses are now available for a one or three year basis. He also noted one denial for a private shooting preserve was issued. He also stated harvests increased last season.

Brook Brown Boating Officer of the Year Award

Brandon Gust, presented the 2016 Brook Brown Boating Officer of the Year Award to Bryce McVicker, conservation officer stationed in Watertown. McVicker was recognized for the outstanding he has done in the field of boating law enforcement to ensure the boaters of South Dakota have a safe and enjoyable place to recreate and preserving public safety. He also serves as a department boating enforcement instructor.

2016 License Sales Update

Simpson provided the license sales report as of May 27, 2016 for all license types' resident and nonresident noting general license sales are consistent with last year.

Simpson also reported on the recent drawings for big horn sheep, mountain goat and elk licenses indicating extreme demand in specific areas. Some of those areas are elk tags in Custer State Park where only 8 licenses are available and just under 9,000 applications were received and Black Hills elk for unit 2 bull tags. Also discussed was the preference point system and comments from the public.

Adjourn

Motioned by Dennert with second by Phillips TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Appendix A

RESOLUTION 16 - 07

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) has expressed an interest in acquiring real property presently owned by Wetlands America Trust, Inc., One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, Tennessee 38120, which property is described as:

Northeast Quarter (NE $\frac{1}{4}$) and the North Half of the Southeast Quarter (N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Sixteen (16) in Township One Hundred Nineteen (119) North, Range Fifty-six (56) West, 5th P.M., Clark County, SD, containing 240, acres more or less and hereto referred to as the WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST PROPERTY; and

WHEREAS, said property is 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 purchase and after consideration of the same, the Commission approves the purchase of said property for use as a Game Production Area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that GFP is authorized to complete negotiations for the purchase of the WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST PROPERTY and execute and consummate an agreement with Wetlands America Trust, Inc., which is acceptable to GFP to acquire by purchase, at the price of \$511,000.00, the WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST PROPERTY for use as a Game Production Area.

Appendix B

RESOLUTION 16 - 08

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) has expressed an interest in acquiring real property presently owned by Wetlands America Trust, Inc., One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, Tennessee 38120, which property is described as:

North Half of the Northeast Quarter (N½NE¼) of Section Twenty-six (26) in Township One Hundred Twenty-seven (127) North, Range Seventy-one (71) West, 5th P.M., McPherson County, SD, containing 80, acres more or less and hereto referred to as the WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST PROPERTY; and

WHEREAS, said property is 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 purchase and after consideration of the same, the Commission approves the purchase of said property for use as a Game Production Area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that GFP is authorized to complete negotiations for the purchase of the WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST PROPERTY and execute and consummate an agreement with Wetlands America Trust, Inc., which is acceptable to GFP to acquire by purchase, at the price of \$84,000.00, the WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST PROPERTY for use as a Game Production Area.

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission
June 2, 2016

The Public Hearing Officer Scott Simpson began the public hearing at 2:00 p.m. at the Convention Center in Watertown, South Dakota with Commissioners Peterson, Jensen, Jensen, Olson, Phillips, Dennert, and Spies present. Simpson indicated written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes. Simpson then invited the public to come forward with oral testimony.

Deer Hunting Seasons

No oral testimony was received.

Written testimony:

Roger Wiltz, Wagner "Friends and I have hunted the same Corson Co. ranch since 1969. The ranchers have become family, and the hunt is a social event. Last year my partner didn't draw a tag. Granted, we both applied for "any deer," and I hit "any whitetail" on my second choice. Mike didn't. Now that the deer are back, please consider reinstating a third unit of "any antlerless whitetail." We want to hunt together more than kill a deer. Thanks for the consideration."

Jim Gruber, Esteline "As an avid bow hunter and land owner i can see little to be gained by going back to the additional antlerless system.. the herd has not grown much if any from the previous years.. and yet, if you deem we need to increase the harvest at least have the season end on the dec. 31st.. it does not need to run into january, and if anything all it really does is increase the road hunting antics of many who do not want to walk for anything.. and as a land owner by jan. 1st. i have had enough of that."

Areas Open for Free Landowners Antlerless Deer Licenses

No oral or written testimony was received.

The public Hearing concluded at 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary