

AGENDA - Revised
Game, Fish and Parks Commission
January 14-15, 2016
RedRossa Convention Center
808 W. Sioux Ave., Pierre, SD

Call to order 1:00 PM CDT

Executive Session

Division of Administration

Action Items:

1. Approve Minutes of the December 2015 Meeting
<http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/docs/2015/december-meeting-minutes.pdf>
2. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
3. Election of Officers
4. License List Request

Information Items:

5. GFP-sponsored legislation for 2016 legislation session

Proposals

6. Resolutions for allocations of limited-draw hunting and paddlefish licenses
7. Repeal of Dry Creek Waterfowl Refuge in Sully County

2:00 PM Public Hearing

Finalizations

8. Authorization for Terminally Ill Person to Hunt

Open Forum

Division of Parks and Recreation

Action Items:

9. Spearfish Falls Acquisition
10. Roy Lake Concession
11. Oahe Marina Concession

Information Items:

12. Good Earth State Park Development Update
13. Custer State Park Visitor Center and Resort Improvements Construction Update
14. Concession Review
15. Revenue, Camping and Visitation Reports

Division of Wildlife

Action Items:

16. Big Sioux Lake Access Site in Moody County

Information Items:

17. Land Acquisition Guidance Document Update
18. Management Plan Report Schedule for 2016
19. DNA Marker Sample of Mountain Lions
20. Winter Lake Access Program Update
21. Buck Deer Radio Collaring Update
22. Year-end License Sales Summary
23. DOW Distinguished Achievement award
24. Pactola Basin Project Update

Adjourn

Next meeting information:

March 3-4, 2016
RedRossa Convention Center
808 W. Sioux Ave., Pierre, SD

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
December 10-11, 2015

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CDT at the RedRossa in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners John Cooper, Cathy Peterson, H. Paul Dennert, Barry Jensen, Gary Jensen, Jim Spies and W. Scott Phillips were present. Secretary Kelly Hepler was present along with approximately 40 public, staff, and media.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Cooper called for any additions or corrections to the November 5-6, 2015, minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by B. Jensen with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5-6, 2015, MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Commissioner Dennert requested two additional salary days.

Motion by Peterson with second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS AS REQUESTED. Motion carried unanimously.

2016 Meeting Schedule

Chris Petersen, Administration Division Director presented the 2016 Commission Meeting Calendar

Motion by B. Jensen with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE 2016 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

License List Requests

Chris Petersen, Administration Division Director presented a license list request for preserve license lists from Prairie Sky Game Ranch and Guest Lodge, LLC to be used for marketing purposes.

Motion by Dennert with second by Peterson TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST. Motion carried unanimously.

A license list request was received from the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau to be used to promote hunting and fishing in the Pierre area.

Motion by G. Jensen with second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST. Motion carried unanimously.

Analysis of Economics Related to GFP

Chief Scott Simpson presented the Departments plan to work with Southwick Associates to produce economic contribution information. Simpson noted they will be looking at multiple licensing groups such as fishing, waterfowl, small and big game by resident and nonresident by location. In addition to utilizing current survey data there will be an email survey to minimize costs and get feedback and provide solid information to the Commission within the next 6 months.

Parks and Wildlife Foundation Update

Larry Ness, chairman of the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation presented highlights on current projects including fundraising, activities and ongoing management to the Commission. Since 2009 the Foundation has helped raise 12.1 million in contributions and pledges. The Foundation currently owns or manages 1,420 acres of land to support Department objectives including 720 acres of land near Avon for game production, 450 acres of land at the Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve and 250 acres of land at Good Earth State Park. Additionally, the Foundation manages 25 project accounts to support various GFP properties and projects statewide.

PROPOSALS

Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

Assistant Director Tom Kirschenman presented the two year recommendation for three licenses within the season dates of September 1 – December 31, 2016. Per administrative rule a minimum of one license must be an auction license. One license would be issued in unit one which consists of a portion of Pennington County and unit two would be issued two licenses, one of which will be the auction license, Unit two is will be the Elk Mountain unit that GFP shares with the state of Wyoming. This will be for two years unless there is something that would require staff to present change to Commission.

Staff continues to monitor domestic herds and update database as they are aware of changes. Staff also speak with individual owners and provide info for alternative management.

Cooper stated that a motion is not required, just a two year recommendation in 2017 unless an issue comes up in the management plan.

Authorization for Terminally Ill Persons to Hunt

Director Tony Leif provided background noting recent action in other states passing legislation to allow for the ability to grant these licenses to individuals with limited life expectancy. He also mentioned the inquiry from Verne Boer and the Outdoor Adventure Foundation. Upon research it was realized that legislation is not required in South Dakota to make an allocation for licenses for terminally ill persons to hunt. A proposal grants Secretary Hepler authority to issue authorizations to hunt without going through the licensing process. It was noted there would not be a restriction on the

number of license and they would not be part of the license pools. Requirements and Restrictions would be as follows:

1. The Secretary may authorize a resident who has been diagnosed by a licensed doctor of medicine to have a terminal illness which is medically expected to significantly shorten their life expectancy to hunt deer, antelope, and turkey.
2. A resident the age of 25 and under diagnosed by a licensed doctor with cancer, a life-threatening illness, or a disease that significantly shortens their life expectancy is eligible for authorization.
3. The person receiving such authorization would be allowed to hunt only during established seasons.
4. The person would be authorized to take no more than one deer, one antelope, one turkey.
5. Certain restrictions may be waived or additional terms or conditions may be imposed necessary to facilitate participation for the person receiving such authorization.

Motioned by Cooper with second by G. Jensen TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL AUTHORIZING TERMINALLY ILL PERSONS TO HUNT. Motion carried unanimously.

A draft administrative rule will be provided to the Commission with the finalization.

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

License Request Process

Petersen presented the proposed change to add permissive language to the rule authorizing the department to sell license lists to repeat applicants under certain circumstances. This streamline process allow the department to sell a license list to an applicant without seeking commission approval if the commission has previously approved a license list request from the same applicant for a similar purpose. License lists received from new applicants or for new uses would continue to be presented to the Commission for approval.

Peterson noted that Administration staff follow up each month on each license list request informing denial or providing approved lists.

Motioned by Petersen with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF PERMISSIVE LANGUAGE TO THE RULE AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT TO SELL LICENSE LISTS TO REPEAT APPLICANTS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

The Outdoors Adventures Foundation Directors Verne Boer and Alan Machmiller provided a presentation and overview of their program. Boer explained the mission of their foundation to provide hunting and fishing adventures for children and young and adults with cancer or other life threatening illnesses. In addition they also provide hunting and fishing adventures for combat disabled veterans under the age of 40 that are wheelchair bound caused by injury during active services or who have lost a limb during active services. In 2015 over 16 adventures fulfilled and 20 are currently planned for 2016.

Boer recently contacted GPF to address the issue concerning the inability to obtain hunting licenses for the children before it was too late.

Matt Rippentrop was present on behalf of the Wild Sheep Foundations Midwest Chapter to thank the Commission for moving forward on the issuance of the auction tag. Rippentrop also recognized the importance of the Bighorn Sheep study and provided an update on their current projects.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Town of Oacoma – Convention Center Lease Amendment

Sean Blanchette, concessions manager provided an amendment to the lease with the City of Oacoma in regards to the convention center attached to Cedar Shore Resort which subleases the operations. This an extension to the 2004 agreement that would allow Oacoma to retain rental fee to be utilized for road and facility maintenance.

Motioned by B. Jensen, seconded by G. Jensen TO ADOPT THE AMENDED LANGUAGE ON THE CEDAR SHORE LEASE (Appendix A) WITH THE CITY OF OACOMA. Motion carried.

Custer State Park Resort Company 2015 R&M Fund Summary

Snyder provided a brief summary of 2015 Repair and Maintenance projects. Josh Schmaltz, resort manager indicated they completed the year with \$150,000 overrun and plan to be even by 2018. He also summarized the major projects noting renovations to dorms and cabins at Legion and Sylvan Lakes' as well as the removal of the old boat house.

Custer State Park Buffalo Auction Results

Matt Snyder, regional supervisor and Gary Brundige, resource management specialist provided results from the 50th Custer State Park buffalo auction. The auction had 43 bidders, 16 buyers from 11 states with total sales over \$344,000. Sold about 40 fewer animals this year

It was noted next year will be an online video auction to bring everyone up to the new visitor's center. It will still a live animal auction just viewed offsite and is a lot less

stress on the animals. A sale catalog will be provided as with most sales and buyers can still see the animal prior to purchase if wanted.

Custer State Park Resource Management Plan Overview

Snyder and Brundige provided a powerpoint outlining the Custer State Park Resource Management Plan Overview. Brundige explained that the plan encompasses Peter Norbeck vision to protect and manage natural resource base while making the park available to the visiting public and promoting public use. He noted that the agency comment period has recently concluded and once those comments have been incorporated it will be open for public comments.

Revenue, Camping and Visitation reports

Acting Director Bob Schneider provided the year to date comparison of parks revenue noting it has been a great year. Schneider stated visitation was up 4 percent, camping 9 percent and revenue 11 percent. He noted outdoor recreation has shifted due to season and that a lot of the parks are open for hunting and serve as basecamps for hunters.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Franzen Addition to Hedman GPA – Day County

Paul Coughlin, program administrator provided the current land acquisition and disposal report to the Commission.

The Franzen property is 400 acres located in Day County and would be utilized as an addition to the Hedman game production area. Purchase price is determined by an appraisal by an independent contactor certified to appraise at the federal standards.

Motion by G. Jensen with second by Dennert TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 15-20 (Appendix B).

Roll call vote: Dennert-yes; B. Jensen-yes; G. Jensen-yes; Petersen-yes; Phillips-yes; Spies-No; Cooper-yes. Motion passes with 6 yes and 1 no

Discussion continues on how to balance out acquiring new land while maintaining the property the agency currently owns.

Peterson was contacted by Franzen and they are very excited to provide this opportunity.

Bighorn Sheep Auction License

Tom Kirschenmann presented the Commission with the application received from the Wild Sheep Foundation – Midwest Chapter for an auction license noting all received for the past four years have been successful.

Motioned by Spies with second by B. Jensen TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION – MIDWEST CHAPTER TO OBTAIN AN BIG

HORN SHEEP LICENSE TO BE AUCTIONED OFF. Motion carried unanimously.

Land acquisition projects

Coughlin provided information on the DOT – Big Sioux River Water Access Area located in Moody County. It is 3.5 acres of land has been advertised and will be brought before the Commission for final action at the January 2016 meeting.

Land acquisition guidance document update

Coughlin explained the priorities and guidelines process document sets out priorities into three categories: add to an existing GPA or water, points of access to public waters, and anything else that may be of significance. He will be updating the document to better identify the priorities for the agency in regards to land management to confirm if it is meeting the Department's needs, does the Department have the resources to manage at the level we would like to manage at, and does this meet the strategies/objectives of hunter access and management plans.

Bighorn Sheep Population Update

Chad Lehman, senior biologist and John Kanta, program specialist provided a powerpoint presentation on the Big Horn Sheep population noting the 6 herds established within the state. Information gathered such as harvest success by size and quality, population dynamics surveys and research is used to formulate a recommendation was presented.

Season Setting Schedule

Kirschenmann provided the 2016 season setting schedule. The current schedule shows the trend to move to a multiyear schedule unless something significant would arise. Kirschenmann indicated a few key points as follows: the waterfowl season will be determined earlier in the year in accordance to federal framework, the elk season aerial survey will be completed this winter and a full report will be provide with recommendations in March, and May will be deer season will be annual until the completion of the management plan.

EHD Disease Update

Kirschenmann provided a brief summary on EHD. He indicated we have incidents each year some areas more frequently due to drought. It was noted the spike in 2012 which are from reports received from hunters and landowners helped us gage incidents. This year a pocket of 127 reports were received by landowners in Sully County. The Department was able to submit samples to verify EHD in Pennington and Sully Counties predominately affecting whitetail deer.

The western portion of Sully county opportunity was offered a refund. 122 total licenses equating to 211 tags returned reinstatement of preference points.

Stakeholder Opinion Database Update and Demo

Kirschenmann explained how the process works to obtain information from the landowners and develop recommendations at the local level.