

**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 17, 2013
Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center
1100 N. Plum, Hutchinson, KS**

Approved Subject to
1/9/14 Commission
Approval

I. CALL TO ORDER AT 1:30 p.m. CDT

The October 17, 2013 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1:30 p.m. at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Don Budd, Tom Dill, Randy Doll, Gary Hayzlett, Roger Marshall and Robert Wilson were present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND GUESTS

The Commissioners and Department staff introduced themselves (Attendance roster - Exhibit A).

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

IV. APPROVAL OF THE August 1, 2013 and August 29, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Robert Wilson moved to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Gary Hayzlett second. **Approved.** (Minutes – Exhibit B).

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dale Meyer (Pauline) – Moved to Hodgeman County in 2007 to retire on land we inherited. There are no roads, but we have had three incidents, poaching, trespass and our shop shot up near our home (reported), only 2 square miles, but 14 individuals involved in one way or another and only three want their land in walk-in hunting. Only one has legitimate contract that meets guidelines of having public roads with immediate access to the land. Received letter from Joe Kramer, his erroneous statement said “we believe people who hunt area can hunt ethically”; not true; witnessed people shooting 600 or 700 yards trying to get deer to move out of the section lines. Shot deer and left in our yard twice; also left beer cans, pop cans and litter. It is a short 340 yards to six 1,000 gallon propane tanks and 900 gallons of fuel. Need to address this situation and safety concerns. Chairman Lauber – Two or three issues: first walk-in hunting, no access to this property, don’t knowingly lease if not access area; expect confusion on what was a private road or section line road; two – retaliatory vandalism that we can’t do anything about, have 97-98 percent privately owned land in state and can’t buy public hunting areas. Same risk would be

there if that was a private individual leasing that land. With Kansas population density, any bullet can reach some improvement on a third party property. If you could work this out with neighboring landowner, that would be preferred. We understand your problem. Meyer – With no access from public road, what they are using is private road to reach that property. Secretary Jennison – Please get with me, this came to me through the Governor's office, at least similar situation, and there was a misunderstanding about who had the access; decided to not re-enroll that particular property. Commissioner Lauber – If doesn't fit guideline, we won't re-enroll. Commissioner Wilson – Would that solve the problem if we took it out of WIHA? Meyer – Yes, would have to walk in 4/10 of a mile just to reach it and carry deer out a mile or two to reach it. Commissioner Marshall – Would like to see labels on WIHA maps that roads are on private property and are not access roads.

Andy Fanter – (passed out letter and copy of billboard sign – Exhibit C) – My biggest concern was change in dark goose season, shaved off 7 days off waterfowl hunting and 7 days off tourism. It is the middle of November before they show up in this state and middle of December for Kansas City area. The southeast (SE) duck zone is turning into a joke, everything for the mallard hunter on private land; public land, which is important for everyone, hunt in early season, private land in late season. Access has to be for everyone. Commissioner Budd – Appreciate interest, points well taken. Just because we have members who are passionate about fishing, hunting, etc. doesn't disqualify us from having same opinion as biologist, hunter or fisherman, so unfair to say we have self-serving interests. As you stated middle November before geese show up in the west and December in the east. I can address SE zone, I hunt all zones. Have south unit in SE zone, Neosho, which is a partnership between KDWP and DU (separate from Neosho WA), received about 100 calls over last three years regarding getting water in that unit; like to address those types of concerns. Private leasing is there, like to turn the clock back on that, but can't and there are tourism dollars that come with that. Would like to work with you rather than butt heads. Fanter – Go hunting on weekends at Cheyenne Bottoms, Marais des Cygnes and Neosho went from 70 vehicles down to 5 vehicles; when hunting on ice there are a few diehards; not talking about that, but days available to average hunter; 7 days off goose season when hardly any geese around. If goose season would have stayed the way it was, we would have been just fine. Hunt geese in February, as migrating back to the north. December is iffy, old goose season worked out well. Commissioner Marshall – How many hunting licenses are sold in January/February versus September/October? Sexson – Have to have their hunting license. Commissioner Marshall – Can we find that out? Sexson – Yes. Fanter – Field access is a big problem, January and February doesn't interfere with pheasant or deer seasons. November will also still have crops in fields in some places. Commissioner Budd – Thought we were talking about public ground? Fanter – I am concerned about public ground, because what happens is hunters have changed, most just want a hunting opportunity, not just mallards. Commissioner Budd – Making an argument for later west and earlier east season. Fanter – Later goose season. Chairman Lauber – Ducks versus goose seasons. Like to see less contentious, not sure good solution at this point. More we hear your opinions and people like you earlier like this the more we can come to a compromise for next year. Considering adjusting SE zone in two more years to make it smaller. Continue to bring us your thoughts. Fanter – Days are one thing; my position is what is best for economies around these duck areas? Chairman Lauber – Different thoughts both ways on that. More sensitive to needs of the common man, but understand. Commissioner Wilson – Did extensive survey on hunting, preference was third week in

November, said they wanted it later, tried to make compromise according to survey.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation presentation – Nick Prough – Appreciate time and efforts, as a fellow wildlife biologist, work with chapters all throughout the country, chapter in Lawrence who won Commissioner permit; thank you for that opportunity, applaud the Commission. Partner with quail initiative and other projects statewide and nationally; this chapter is going to use their money on the Kansas quail and pheasant initiative, priority goal of the Commission. John Hill – Want to thank Sheila Kemmis for help on that and Commissioner who pulled our name out of the hat.

A. Secretary's Remarks

Secretary Jennison – Have Marc Murrell and Mike Miller come up. HR sends certificate to supervisor and they give to person, unceremoniously. Communication efforts are as important as biologists in the field. Two folks here: Marc Murrell has been with agency 25 years and Mike Miller 30 years. People like me come and go but these guys are the backbone of the agency. Great job of communicating what is going on in the agency.

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Robin Jennison, secretary, presented this update to the Commission. Last year was decent year for agency. Request from legislature three weeks ago to tell where we could find efficiencies in our agency (where can we cut your budget). Not many states with great fiscal experience and challenges with amount of money we are operating on, particularly parks and tourism. If people contact you this is information on what we have done (handout – Exhibit D). Picked up activity at parks because Corps facilities were closed part of this month. May be able to tell you revenue numbers in January and February. In South Dakota (SD) a couple of weeks ago, reputation as pheasant hunting state; don't feel they will have the hunters they have had in the past. If you look at our revenues, seen drop in October and November; but growing on an annual basis due to diversity of opportunities in Kansas (i.e. turkey numbers are growing and deer hunters, wetlands that have been built); SD has built so much on one species.

2. 2014 Legislature - Amy Thornton, legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission. Formulating legislative package and will meet with Governor's staff within next month to finalize that.

B. General Discussion

1. Tourism Briefing - Linda Craghead, Assistant Secretary of Tourism and Parks, presented this update to the Commission. Introduce partner in our efforts, tour to Stratica (Underground Salt Museum), director of operations Gale Ferrell. Gale Ferrell – Realized I was invited to be comic relief. Opened May 1, 2007, star bonds helped us accomplish that goal, museum 650 feet underground in active salt mine. Had to invent the wheel because way too many things that had never been done, a lot of challenges. Started out with tour underground with electric tram, dark ride; and train ride. Everything has to go down a

shaft, which is a challenge, laid rails and ties three years ago for train; opened bathrooms a year ago. Something new opening November 1, the Salt Safari, the ultimate adventure for hiking, take 20 people out at a time into the dark with hardhat with light on it, a three-hour tour. Hope to increase traffic to Hutchinson to the salt museum and the Cosmosphere; excited about being in business. Come see what we are about.

Linda Craghead – That opportunity is the only one in the North American continent. Introduce some other individuals here, known for their hard work, efficiency, hospitality and thriftiness; Ryan Stucky, Area Supervisor; Mike Satterlee, Cheney SP; Brian Haug, Cheney SP; Todd Lovin, Tuttle Creek SP; and Joyce Dixon, Tuttle Creek SP. TIAK conference wrapped up last night with 180 people in attendance, talked about several different things. Had national speakers sharing trends in Kansas; shared 2013 agency results (provided copies of handouts – Exhibit E); and marketing opportunities for 2013. Had opportunity to be entertained, provided CD to Commissioners of Logan Meies, a country artist based out of Nashville who is from Clearwater. He is partnering with us to promote Kansas. Governor had Paddle on the Kaw, using the new national water trail, on September 26, had approximately 100 people on the river in canoes and kayaks. Thanks to state park and Pratt folks there were plenty of canoes to go around. Ate on the sand bar and had a great time, which was appreciated. Still space for two teams for Governor's pheasant hunt. Mike Pearce – Where is Governor's pheasant hunt? Craghead – Norton, Kansas.

2. Bass Pass Discussion – Kyle Austin, fisheries biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit F). It was proposed at the August Commission meeting in Yates Center to amend the current Bass Pass regulation to allow anglers to possess five short bass rather than the currently allowed two. Compromise is good; the current Bass Pass regulation was a compromise that we have worked out with bass clubs. Bass Pass offers two privileges, allows two short bass in addition to three fish in live well and allows them to cull fish after five fish collected. Big Hill Reservoir is the primary target for this proposed regulation change mostly due to the existing 21-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass. One tournament may not hurt, but some cumulative damage to the population may occur. If we exempt them, may have to exempt other tournament fisherman like walleye and catfish groups. Staff is currently evaluating the existing 21-inch minimum length limit to see whether the quality largemouth bass population can be maintained by changing to an 18-inch minimum length limit. Staff is not recommending any changes to the existing Black Bass Pass regulation. Chairman Lauber – May look at 19- to 21-inch limit. Commissioner Marshall – What are other fishermen in Parsons, non tournament anglers saying? Are they upset about these guys getting special treatment? Sean Lynott – Accepting of length limit we have, when changed in mid-1990s a number were not happy with change. Commissioner Marshall – How many boats? Lynott – Probably 20 boats. Austin – Roughly 225 fish would fall within that pass, cumulative effect is what we are concerned about and we tend to error on the side of caution.

Break

Linda Craghead – Two other things I forgot to mention: river trail map guide and limited edition print poster available with Kansas Wildlife and Parks magazine.

3. Antelope and Elk 25-Series Regulations - Matt Peek, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibits G, H).

Antelope – No changes to bring forward however, drought has resulted in low production rates in western Kansas over the past several years. Archery permit sales and harvest have tripled in the past 10 years, resulting in a harvest increase for all permit types of nearly 30 percent. Crossbows were allowed during archery season for youth and hunters age 55 or older in 2012, and became legal equipment for all archery hunters in 2013. Data from the small number of crossbow hunters in 2012: 12 archery hunters used crossbows and success rates may be twice as high as that of traditional bows. Permits allocated to an already stressed limited draw system have been reduced the past few years, but harvest pressure on the herd continues to increase. The department is monitoring these issues during the 2013 season, and will make recommendations after 2013 data has been analyzed. Takes eight preference points to draw a firearm permit. Firearm and muzzleloader permit allocations are typically determined following winter aerial surveys. Commissioner Dill – How many were successful of those 12? Peek – Five, almost 50 percent, archery has usually only about a 20 percent success rate. Commissioner Marshall – How many?? Peek – buck ratios are declining and hunter satisfaction declines. Chairman Lauber – Limiting factor? Peek – Killing higher number and not making up for those lost. Commissioner Marshall – If 7 percent harvested, what is good number. Peek – If 30 bucks per 100 does and only about 30 fawns, so out of 160 are yearlings and take that times the 2,500 total animals. Chairman Lauber – At one time they didn't expand their range, if we expanded numbers would they be denser or expand out more. Peek – Had decades to expand and haven't so they are where they intend to be. Spring conditions could be good and populations could pick back up. Mike Pearce – Year when poor production, how many years down the road does that show up on hunter success? Peek – Have a 20 percent yearling harvest, so it's really two years down the road where more hunters would be satisfied with taking them; so there is a delay of a couple of years. Had three years of drought and unit 18 has been impacted all three years and the other units a couple of those years. Pearce – Possibly considering further reduction in limited draw; possibly changing archery permits to a draw; and/or limiting crossbow use on pronghorns? Peek – No recommendations at this time, but looking at ways to reduce harvest, but a lot of options. Chairman Lauber – Didn't used to consider archery had much impact on resource management; but may need to reconsider that. Don't really know what effect it has had on our deer herd, three times success rate jumping from traditional bows to crossbows; don't know if other factors involved in that. Interesting when considering reducing the harvest, may have to throw archery in same mix. Elk – Regulation unchanged since 2010. No changes are recommended for season structure, unit boundaries, or basic frameworks; will come back with numbers of permits later in the year.

4. Lesser Prairie Chicken Federal Listing Update - Keith Sexson, Assistant Secretary, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit I). LPC listing and submission of range-wide plan, submitted final plan on September 18, 2013 were to have letter to us by now, but shut down has postponed that. Expect letter any day now. Expect them to endorse our plan and will begin to set up measures in plan. Jim Pitman and 25 or so biologists from the five states will meet in Dodge City to move the guidelines forward. First meeting of LPC Enterprise Council will meet in Wichita at the end of the month. Date for listing is mid- to late-March. Our plan is only plan that addresses the threat for warranted and not listed. Chairman Lauber – Have 50 percent chance of avoiding listing? Sexson – Yes, 50/50 chance; if not warranted or not listed still have to go forward with plan and work with industry to deliver conservation measures to keep species from declining. Hope to fully implement the plan to meet our goals. Chairman Lauber – In our state

not had any decline? Sexson – Kansas has had expanding populations and range; drought caused us to have half the birds we had last year, so that doesn't look good to someone on the outside; but we recognize impacts of drought. Chairman Lauber – Every state affected working on their own plan? Sexson – No, this is a joint plan. There are four eco-regions (mixed grass prairie, sand sagebrush, shinnery oak and shortgrass/CRP mosaic) and dealing with them throughout the range. Chairman Lauber – Who is pushing on the other side of this issue? Sexson – Center for Biological Diversity, no new petitions, going by court order and USFWS has to do something by 2014. There may be others who feel like they should be listed; states are most proponents for not listing. Commissioner Marshall – What county has majority of birds? Sexson – Not one county more important than others. Commissioner Marshall – Understand we have conservation plans where we are offering some type of award for farmers not to graze land. Sexson – Exactly, have brush control, especially eastern red cedar, grazing plans, burning plans and to maintain grassland conditions that would be favorable to chickens. In that plan grazing plans are a part of the incentive package; landowners who manage the land according to the package would be awarded accordingly. Commissioner Marshall – Where is money coming from? Sexson – Funding will come from the impacters (industry) like oil and gas, wind and transmission involved. Oil and gas industry most interested at this time and they are on board with the plan. Chairman Lauber – If unsuccessful and I am a landowner in one of these areas, will I have new burn restrictions? Sexson – General agricultural practices will not be impacted or prohibited even under listed scenario. On flip side when trying to manage for that species or increase species, then have to work with private landowners and provide incentives to manage property to do that, like tree removal; particularly on existing rangelands; also new grass on crop areas. Mike Pearce – New thing for Kansas, with grassland and prairie bird, is there another species that is already gone before us that shows an example, like Gunnison Sage Grouse? How will impact oil and gas, grazing or farming; what can we tell people? Sexson – Feel this might be a model for the sage grouse plans, which are mostly on public lands like Bureau of Land Management, particularly with mineral extractions. The way we have set up eco-regions, if development outside of focal areas, no concern, but where they do impact they have to mitigate for losses and that is where payments come into place. Pearce – Has this been done with any other species or pioneering for other species? Sexson – I think it is a pioneering kind of thing; don't know about Atwater prairie chicken species in Texas, that species has been listed for a long time. On cutting edge from standpoint of state agencies standing up and saying this is a state trust species and states should be able to manage this species. Chairman Lauber – If successful in our own plan, agriculture would be considered an impacter by urban person. If not successful could be mandated without financial incentive, if not successful in keeping species from being listed. Sexson – Can't disagree with that.

C. Workshop Session

Mixed up order...

2. Deer 25-Series Regulations - Lloyd Fox, big game biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit J). KAR 115-25-9, make annual adjustments are made in the season dates and this process initiates the discussion of potential changes for 2014. Discuss again in January and vote in March. The recommendations follow the traditional season structure. No change in season structure as proposed this year. Full year color calendar provided. Youth and

Disability, September 6, 2014 – September 14, 2014; Early Muzzleloader, September 15, 2014 – September 28, 2014; Archery, September 15, 2014 – December 31, 2014; Pre-rut WAO, October 11, 2014 – October 12, 2014; Regular Firearms, December 3, 2014 – December 14, 2014; Extended WAO, January 1, 2015 – January 11, 2015; Special Extended WAO (DMUs 7, 8, 15, 19 and 10a), January 12, 2015 – January 18, 2015; Extended Archery (DMU 19), January 19, 2015– January 31, 2015. Total of 148 deer hunting days, 40.5 percent of the year, 21½ weekends and fairly liberal system of seasons. Establish seasons on Fort Leavenworth subunit: November 22 and 23, November 27 - 30, 2014, December 6 and 7, 2014, December 13 and 14, 2014, and December 20 and 21, 2014. The proposed dates for the firearms season for deer hunting at the Smoky Hill Air National Guard subunit has changed and need to make correction in briefing book, they chose November 25 through December 26, 2014. Firearm season dates for deer hunting at Fort Riley will be established in KAR 115-25-9a which will be covered at a later date. This regulations has units that have multiple WAO permits and looking at which units will have them and how many. Commissioner Dill – This is second year of pre-rut season? Fox – Just completed first year, this will be second year; we were mandated for two. Commissioner Dill – This is where I get most comments from people who are upset that we are doing this season again, they don't understand it was mandated by the legislature. Commissioner Budd – This chart is easy to read, could we include this chart in regulations? Commissioner Dill – Find this very useful and easy to look at. Chairman Lauber – Might incorporate into what you already put in regulations. Fox – This is the calendar that goes out to those completing the end of the year survey, for 4-5 years now. Mike Miller – We can include that calendar. Commissioner Marshall – Any feedback on success of last weekend? Fox – Conservation Officers and area managers provided input and it appears that very little activity went on during this two-day period. The prior three years we had the photo check and, as a rule, only get one to three deer taken during that weekend, was an archery season; this year had 19 deer taken, was an early firearms season. Not a lot of impact. Some public areas got a few hunters; saw none on walk-in areas that we checked. Not a large number of complaints, biggest issue was archery hunter's not wearing blaze orange. We will have better information in February when we do the harvest survey. Commissioner Marshall – Didn't have impact the legislature thought it would? Fox – No, don't expect it to. Commissioner Wilson – Lloyd, appreciated article you did on deer in Kansas Outdoors magazine, it was really enjoyable, thank you. Natalie Donges – Representing QDM – Need to educate hunters why taking does earlier rather than later in the year (pre-rut season). It helps having does removed in over-populated areas.

1. Big Game Permanent Regulations - Lloyd Fox, big game biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit K). Have five regulations we are not bringing forward; the only permanent regulation we are going to discuss is 115-4-15. This regulation describes procedures for measuring and scoring certain species of big game to determine a restitution value when these animals are killed in violation of department regulations or state law. The measuring and scoring procedures follow the general techniques of the Boone and Crockett Club (B&C) and Pope and Young for the various species. A potential problem in the wording of the current regulation was detected, which could cause confusion on the definition of an antler point. The new wording for section would be: "Point" means a projection on the antler of a deer or elk that is at least one inch long as measured from its tip to the nearest edge of the antler beam and the length of which exceeds the width at one inch or more of length. Chairman Lauber – If an inch long and fat it is a point? Fox – If it is longer than it is wide. I will make some diagrams and send

them around. Commissioner Budd – If take 150 point whitetail what is penalty? Kevin Jones - \$2,500. Commissioner Budd – If penalties are smaller than cost of hunt not gaining anything. Jones – Restitution is different than penalties, which is in statute. Fox – Nationwide review of restitution was done last summer; Kansas has highest restitution rates. Commissioner Budd – That is a good deal.

Andy Fanter – Why not just adopt Boone and Crockett system? Fox – By state law required to develop this system and Boone and Crockett has copyright issues. Jones – We used B&C formulas, with permission, and we developed our own language to write our regulation.

3. Parks Regulations – Linda Lanterman, Parks Division director, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit L). Recommend changes to KAR 115-2-3 to increase utilities by \$1.50; which would change the current pricing to: one utility - \$9.00; two utilities - \$11.00; three utilities- \$12.00. Analysis of utility usage at state parks was conducted and current utility rates are rising. We are also looking at recreational vehicle long-term camping permit fees. Current pricing per month, except at El Dorado, Milford, and Tuttle Creek state parks, is: one utility \$240.00; two utilities - \$300.00; three utilities - \$360.00 – recommendation is to increase the monthly fee by \$30.50. Current recreational vehicle long-term camping permit price for month at El Dorado, Milford, and Tuttle Creek state parks is: one utility \$280.00; two utilities - \$340.00; three utilities - \$400.00. The recommendation is to increase the monthly fee by \$30.50. Fees are a fragile basis. Commissioner Marshall – Are we sure this covers our utility fees. Lanterman – We have to be ahead of rising prices. Commissioner Marshall – My home bill is more than \$10 a day. Lanterman – Only have a meter in one location, don't segregate fees by location. Chairman Lauber – Have no way to break out high users, buy contracted minimum amount of power. Some may overpay and some may get a bargain. Lanterman – We charge an extra \$2 for prime sites that are over 50 amp sites. Secretary Jennison – Cannot charge actual cost in Kansas unless you are a utility so we do an average. Linda is trying to not lose money on totality of campsites. Natalie Donges – I also just got back from Tourism conference and TIAK was fun. Linda is on the right track in the parks. We meter and we don't charge more than utility company charges us. Westar is raising rates by 3.5 percent; El Dorado is raising water rates by 8 percent, county raising sewer rates. We look at big RVs, too. Your rate increase will not affect them; the cost is in pulling the RV to the location. Haven't gone up since January 2010, but I need to raise rates and so do some other RV businesses. We did see \$500 more a month in utility bills, same amount of customers, but increase in rates and now these increases. Lanterman – Our demand charge increases. Commissioner Marshall – How much do one of those big campers use? Donges - \$100 a month or \$3.33 a day for just electricity. Overnights use about \$3.60 a day. Since they are held accountable they use less. Water bill increase of \$40 more a month and we have 43 sites. Suggest it goes up higher. Commissioner Marshall – How much more? Donges – On long-term consider raising them up. I charge \$275 a month for long term camping. Lanterman – We are higher, El Dorado would go up to \$430. Donges – I am at \$425 with utilities. Lanterman – We are watching that. Commissioner Dill – That is a 12 percent increase so it is a healthy increase. Commissioner Marshall – We have to be self sufficient. Lanterman – Working on it. Fanter – Overseas they charge boats by the foot, so you might think about, the bigger the RV the higher the rate.

VII. RECESS AT 4:02 p.m. (supper at Cosmosphere)

VIII. RECONVENE AT 7:00 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

D. Public Hearing

Notice and Submission Forms; Kansas Legislative Research Letter and Attorney General Letter (Exhibit M).

1. KAR 115-2-1. Amount of Fees. - Mike Miller, Information Production Section chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit N). We discussed reduced pricing for resident and nonresident youth big game and turkey permits at the last two meetings. Chairman Lauber – The only thing being changed is youth. Miller – Biggest change will be that we have never had price breaks for nonresident youth. Chairman Lauber – Youth are still figured into available permits? Miller – Yes and if limited still have to go through the drawing.

Commissioner Don Budd moved to pass KAR 115-2-1 as presented. Commissioner Roger Marshall seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-2-1 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit O):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented for KAR 115-2-1 passed 7-0.

2. KAR 115-7-10. Fishing; special provisions. – Kyle Austin, fish management specialist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit P). The fish passageway on the Lincoln Street Dam on the Ark River in Wichita was put in to help move fish up and down the river. It also allows canoers and kayakers to travel downstream. However, it is causing some user conflicts. People are trying to fish and collect bait on passageway when people are trying to canoe or kayak down it. We want to add an amendment to the regulation that says “no person may fish or collect bait within a fish passage, fish ladder, fish steps, or fishway.” Commissioner Marshall – You are going to clearly mark it? Austin – That is correct. Commissioner Dill – Is

that the only fish ladder we have? Austin – Yes. Commissioner Dill – Any future ones? Austin – Yes, nothing on books, but will be looking at it. Mike Pearce – It has been posted since we did the story on it. Austin – They are aware of it right now.

Commissioner Tom Dill moved to pass KAR 115-7-10 as presented. Commissioner Robert Wilson seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-7-10 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit Q):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented for KAR 115-7-10 passed 7-0.

3. KAR 115-25-14. Fishing; creel limit, size limit, possession limit, and open season. - Kyle Austin, fish management specialist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit R). Our fishing reference document is contained within this regulation, and we have a number of changes, basically tweaking some bass and channel catfish regulations on community lakes and a few state fishing lakes. We have bass length and creel limit changes for the Grand Osage Wildlife Area, 13- to 18-inch slot length and five per day creel limit on largemouth bass. We do have a proposal to add four new lakes to float fishing areas: Elk City, Fall River, Glen Elder and Lovewell reservoirs for next year; currently eight lakes are included and this will bring the total to 12. Asking for approval of amendment to add Meade State Fishing Lake to Type 2 trout waters, to require possessing trout permit while fish for trout from November 1 to April 15. Chairman Lauber – Currently Type 1? Austin – No designation right now. Chairman Lauber – Type 1 is you have to have a trout permit whether fishing for trout or not? Austin – That is correct, Type 2 is while fishing for or possessing trout.

Commissioner Don Budd moved to bring forward KAR 115-25-14 as presented. Commissioner Dill seconded.

Chairman Lauber – Amendment is department amendment? Austin – Correct. Chairman Lauber – Is any part of this a list of designated waters for aquatic nuisance species? Austin – That is part of that regulation as well. Chairman Lauber – Curious if any changes to that? Amy Thornton – Not at this time.

Commissioner Robert Wilson moved to amend KAR 115-25-14. Commissioner Gary Hayzlett seconded.

The roll call vote to amend KAR 115-25-14 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit S):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes

Commissioner Doll	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion to amend passed 7-0.

The roll call vote on regulation KAR 115-25-14 as amended was as follows (Exhibit S):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion for KAR 115-25-14 as amended passed 7-0.

4. KAR 115-25-6. Turkey; spring season, bag limit, permits, and game tags. - Jim Pitman, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit T). Voting on spring only; fall season did not make it into the briefing book, hopefully will bring two recommendations forward for fall 2014 bag limits at next meeting. 2013 is already set. Increase in archery season days is potentially conflicting participation in youth/disabled season. We've seen an increase of about 60 percent in archery participation and a drop of about 50 percent in youth participation. Staff is recommending a separation of those seasons. We had to look at timing of WIHA contracts, scheduled events, such as Governor's Hunt and others, so this would not take effect until 2015 to allow time to plan. In this recommendation, youth/disabled turkey season would start April 1, and the archery-only season would start on the Monday after that first weekend. That would give youth/disabled a weekend of their own without competition. The archery-only season would run through start of regular season, which would be the Wednesday following second Saturday in April. That would also give archers a weekend without competition with firearm hunters; youth/disabled season would run concurrent with archery season to start of regular season. The big change would be that the regular season would start a week later in four out of seven years, depending on how the calendar fell.

Chairman Lauber – Be prepared for backlash, growing number of archery hunters only represent 15 percent of turkey hunters. Perception is they are receiving priority as far as timing, since birds get call shy. Listen to suggestions made during this next year and be prepared to respond and educate the public. Commissioner Marshall – In 2014 youth and archery open same weekend; in 2015 each would have their own weekend? Pitman – In 2014 no change from what it is now, current language says second Wednesday in April, the new language says the Wednesday following the second Saturday, which some years will be second Wednesday, some years the third. Chairman Lauber – Out of consideration to Governor's One Shot Turkey Hunt, is why the season hasn't been changed for 2014. Pitman – Yes. We worked with coordinator and she was supportive of what we were doing for 2015. Commissioner Dill – Like colored calendar Lloyd had, would like to see something like that in regulation for turkey. Chairman Lauber – The

concept is we want to manage turkeys for hunter satisfaction in the spring season, and that means a certain percentage is not jakes? Pitman – That is one of primary triggers, along with resident hunt success at 55 percent. If success is lower, we recommend reduction. If great than 60 percent, we recommend an increase. Chairman Lauber – In certain areas turkey appear to be on the rebound. Pitman – They have, which makes this appear odd in terms of timing, but at same time turkey numbers were bottoming out in 2007 and 2008, but the harvest adaptive management strategy was not in place yet. If we had it in place, we would have made this recommendation two years ago. Even with better production in last few years we are still far below where we were at in 2007 and 2008. Chairman Lauber – We are below where the population peaked, but I am seeing more turkeys in southeast than I have in a long time. Significant decrease going from four to one; but if success rates get back to 55 percent then increase fall harvest? Pitman – Sixty percent is the trigger. The whole thing is adaptive and this is year one, so the whole thing can change in two to three years. Chairman Lauber – Why don't we change from four to two, your point is nobody ever filled three and four? Pitman – To have significant reduction in harvest, we have to drop from four to one, which reduces fall harvest 20 percent to 25 percent. If we dropped from four to three, we'd see maybe only a two or three percent reduction in harvest. Chairman Lauber – Wanted to make sure could change if they rebound. Pitman – Make as liberal as we can while maintaining certain level of success. Mike Pearce – Did you say archers make up about 15 percent of the turkey hunters? Pitman – That number came from the hip. There is about 6,000 archers and 42,000 hunters. Pearce – Are you talking about people who hunt with a bow, or people who take advantage of early season? Pitman – People who hunt with a bow. Pearce – Keith or Robin, this is one of the few times in 30 years of covering department hunting recommendations that you said hunting was detrimental to a game bird population; but at same time telling U.S. government that hunting is not detriment to the lesser prairie chicken population. Jim explained to me that quail have a 20-30 percent survival rate until the next year, on turkeys it is closer to 50-70 percent, lesser prairie chickens 40-50 percent. Speaking as a sportsman, my concern is about how that would be portrayed by outside groups. I have been here when you told the Commission we don't need to close the prairie chicken season in the Flint Hills. I believe what Jim says as factual, but when dealing with outside entities perception is reality. Do you have any concerns about what a precedence this sets? Sexson – I don't have a problem with that, I feel we can explain turkey versus upland birds. Pitman – The difference is in biology of turkey versus upland game birds; that is the reason we permit turkeys rather than have a daily bag, which allows us to adjust harvest when we need to. Commissioner Marshall – Expand on that a little. Pitman – In terms of affects of harvest between turkey and quail, for instance; likelihood that turkey will survive to next breeding season is much higher than a quail in the absence of that harvest. Vast majority of quail are going to succumb to natural predation whether you hunt them or not and that is not the case with turkeys. We normally have a good carryover of adults, which produces good productivity and provides more adults in the population. Commissioner Marshall – It compares apples and oranges. Pitman – It is. Commissioner Marshall – The number one killer of quail is nature and the number one predator of turkey is man. Pitman – It is, the difference is biology. Chairman Lauber – Make public aware the season date changes are coming up.

Commissioner Tom Dill moved to pass KAR 115-25-6 as presented. Commissioner Roger Marshall seconded.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-25-6 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit U):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Wilson	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented for KAR 115-25-6 passed 7-0.

XII. Old Business

None

XIII. Other Business

Commissioner Dill (others concurred) requested change of meeting times from 1:00 to 4:30 or 5:00 and start again at 6:00 or 6:30. Secretary Jennison – We can try and see how it works out. Will work on that for March meeting, too late for January meeting.

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

January 9, 2014 – Winfield (Southwestern College)
March 20, 2014 – Kansas History Center, Topeka
April, 2014 – GPNC, Wichita
June, 2014 – possibly Pittsburg

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)