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## MINUTES

June 17, 2016

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission met in Room 213 of McMillen Hall at McCook Community College in McCook, Nebraska for the transaction of business. Advance public notice having been given through release to news media and official public notice published in the Lincoln Journal Star on June 3, 2016.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M. Chairman Spurgin advised this meeting was being held in conformance with the State Open Meeting Act and the act was available for review on the podium in the middle of the room. The Commissioners introduced themselves and made a statement about activity in their districts. Members present were Bob Allen, Eustis; Rex Fisher, Omaha; Kent Forney DVM, Lincoln; Norris Marshall, Kearney; Dan Kreitman, Wahoo; Mark Spurgin, Paxton; Dick Bell, Omaha; Mick Jensen, Blair; and Pat Berggren, Broken Bow.

Minutes of the business meeting held April 22, 2016 were reviewed; Commissioner Spurgin noted a correction changing "Mr. Norris" to "Mr. Marshall" on page 3 (where Mr. Marshall seconded the motion to approve staff recommendations, with the exception to set the start date of teal season on September 3).

Motion by Mr. Jensen and seconded by Mr. Fisher to approve the minutes with the noted correction. Voting aye: Allen, Bell, Jensen, Forney, Berggren, Fisher, Marshall, Kreitman, Spurgin. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Financial vouchers for April and May were reviewed.

Motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Fisher to approve the financial vouchers. Voting aye: Bell, Forney, Fisher, Marshall, Kreitman, Jensen, Allen, Berggren and Spurgin. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

### Director's Report

Chairman Spurgin announced the Director's Report and advised Director Douglas the Commissioners had completed his evaluation and determined his salary adjustment based upon the good work he has done.

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Motion by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Jensen to give Director Jim Douglas a 5.4% raise for the next fiscal year, bringing his annual salary to \$140,000.00 a year. Voting aye: Berggren, Fisher, Jensen, Marshall, Kreitman, Forney, Allen, Bell, and Spurgin; voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Director Douglas introduced Chad Taylor and Aric Riggins thanking them and their staff for the tour and hosting the Commission meeting dinner at Medicine Creek the evening before.

The Director shared information about important legislation currently in Congress, HR Bill 4818 and Senate Bill 2690, proposing changes to Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid and the positive impacts this legislation could have on project funding.

The Director reminded the Commissioners the next meeting would take place in Broken Bow in August.

#### End Director's Report

Chairman Spurgin read the staff recommendation to call for a public hearing at the August Commission meeting to address changes to Administration Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 006 Rules relating to fees for licenses and permits and deployed military permits.

Motion by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Marshall to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Fisher, Berggren, Jensen, Marshall, Kreitman, Forney, Allen, Bell, and Spurgin; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Spurgin read the staff recommendation to call for a public hearing at the August Commission meeting to consider amendments to Wildlife Regulations, Chapter 4, Section 005 Regulations related to shooting hours of upland game (not including turkey, coots, and migratory waterfowl), Furbearers, Cottontail, Rabbit, and Squirrels.

Motion by Mr. Jensen and seconded by Mr. Bell to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Jensen, Marshall, Kreitman, Forney, Allen, Bell, Berggren, Fisher, and Spurgin; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Spurgin read the staff recommendation to call for a public hearing at the August Commission meeting to consider amendments to Wildlife Regulations, Chapter 4, Section 018 General Regulations Governing Administration and Use of Property.

Motion by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Fisher to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Marshall, Kreitman, Forney, Allen, Bell,

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Berggren, Fisher, Jensen and Spurgin; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Spurgin read the staff recommendation to call for a public hearing at the August Commission meeting to consider amendments to Park Regulations, Chapter 5, Section 001.12 Permit, Motor Vehicle Entry.

Motion by Dr. Forney and seconded by Mr. Berggren to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Kreitman, Forney, Allen, Bell, Berggren, Fisher, Jensen, Marshall and Spurgin; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Planning and Programming Division Administrator Michelle Stryker gave an update on the work of the Lake McConaughy Advisory Committee in achieving their goal of completing a strategic plan for the lake by the end of this year. This committee is comprised of local citizens and organizations as well as Game and Parks staff. She highlighted the areas of focus and public comments from a recent public meeting.

Commissioner Mick Jensen introduced Kirk Dixon, the new Executive Director of McCook Economic Development Corporation who shared his excitement regarding the opportunities in McCook and southwest Nebraska. He feels the natural resources in the area, including those managed by Nebraska Game and Parks, contribute to the vitality of the area and he shared MEDC's desire to work with Nebraska Game and Parks should the opportunity arise.

Acting Wildlife Division Administrator Karie Decker gave a report on ongoing Pheasant Research, which shows trending of pheasant populations, harvest success and the effects of drought and weather on these numbers. Commissioner Bell asked Decker to share information from the Pheasant meetings with South Dakota at the next meeting.

Area resident Dale Cotton of McCook shared his concerns regarding the accuracy of pheasant counts and his opinion that there are a lot less pheasants. He feels the Commission should consider cutting back the length of the season, as well increase law enforcement during the season.

Karie Decker gave a Turkey Management and Hunting Report, highlighting high turkey hunting success across the state as well as the number of permits sold. The various sub-species present in Nebraska and the ease of obtaining permits is contributing to more non-residents buying turkey permits.

Communications Division Administrator Christy Rasmussen gave a report on the great turnouts at recent agency events, reviewed current advertising campaigns and shared how the "auto-trigger" system works in conjunction with permit sales and customer outreach.

Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Bell to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation at 9:19 A.M.

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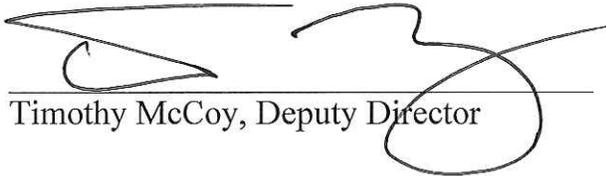
Voting aye: Forney, Allen, Bell, Berggren, Fisher, Jensen, Marshall, Kreitman and Spurgin; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

The meeting was re-convened and a motion made by Mr. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Fisher to leave executive session at 9:35 A.M. Voting aye: Bell, Berggren, Fisher, Jensen, Marshall, Kreitman, Forney, Allen and Spurgin; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Dr. Forney, seconded by Mr. Berggren to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 A.M. Voting aye: Bell, Berggren, Fisher, Jensen, Marshall, Kreitman, Forney, Allen and Spurgin; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

I hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission at its meeting held June 17, 2016.



Timothy McCoy, Deputy Director