



2200 N. 33rd St. • P.O. Box 30370 • Lincoln, NE 68503-0370 • Phone: 402-471-0641

MINUTES
March 20, 2020

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission met in the Cottonwood Room at the Hall Student Union, Central Community College Hastings, NE 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 March 5, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M. Vice-Chairman Berggren advised this meeting was being held in conformance with the State Open Meeting Act and the act was available for review on the table at the back of the room. He also reviewed the precautions being taken to maintain social distancing due to the Coronavirus COVID-19. Sheri Henderson took roll call: Members present were: John Hoggatt, Kearney and Pat Berggren, Broken Bow. Members: Bob Allen, Eustis; Jim Ernst, Columbus; Scott Cassels, Omaha; Rick Brandt, Lincoln; Doug Zingula, Sidney were present via telephone conferencing. Dan Kreitman, Wahoo joined the call at 8:09 AM; Dick Bell, Omaha was absent.

Minutes of the business meeting held January 22, 2020 were reviewed.

Motion by Mr. Hoggatt and seconded by Mr. Brant to approve the January meeting minutes. Voting aye: Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Ernst, Hoggatt, Brandt, and Allen; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Financial vouchers for January and February were reviewed.

Motion by Mr. Ernst and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the financial vouchers. Voting aye: Berggren, Cassels, Ernst, Hoggatt, Brandt, Zingula and Allen; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Director's Report

Director Jim Douglas shared that we had prepared a Resolution of Appreciation for the City of Hastings, but the Mayor was not present to receive it. He also thanked the Hastings Community College and their staff for allowing us to use their conference room facilities.

The Director also shared information from the Governor's Executive Order, which allows public agencies to have teleconference and video conferenced meetings like today. He is suggesting to look at cancelling the meeting at Niobrara in April to reduce staff travel and that the Commissioners will be polled for alternative dates.

Director Douglas asked Deputy Director Tim McCoy to update the Commission on the Bureau of Reclamation Master Lease Agreement. They have granted a one-year extension and the agreement now stipulates the BOR will deal with the cabin owners directly.

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The Director also gave a mountain lion season update and suggested that the Commissioner Ad Hoc Committees may want to consider having telephone conference calls in lieu of in person meetings due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 social distancing recommendations.

End Director's Report

Vice-Chairman Berggren read the staff recommendation to call for a public hearing at the April Commission meeting to consider amendments to Commission Order C03, Antelope, Deer, Elk.

Motion by Mr. Brandt and seconded by Mr. Hoggatt to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Cassels, Ernst, Hoggatt, Kreitman, Brandt, Zingula, Berggren, and Allen; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Deputy Director Tim McCoy reviewed the staff recommendation for Commission approval of a land trade with Andrew and Carol Muller to exchange the 160±acre tract known as South Twin Lake Wildlife Management Area in Brown County for the 140± acre tract in Rock County known as Peterson Lake. Staff recommends designation of the acquired tract as the Peterson Lake WMA.

Motion by Mr. Zingula and seconded by Mr. Kreitman to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Ernst, Hoggatt, Kreitman, Brandt, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, and Allen; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Waterfowl Program Manager Mark Vrtiska was present to share an update on proposed changes to waterfowl zones. Staff has received initial input from hunters and proposed some changes, which went out for a second round of input. Staff is still waiting on some second round responses. They will bring more information forward at the next meeting for the Commissioners to review. The proposed changes have to be submitted to the USFWS for their review and approval prior to going into effect the fall of 2021.

Vice-Chairman Berggren opened the public hearing at 8:36 AM to consider amendments to Commission Order C06, Coots, Ducks, Geese, Crow, regarding changes in dates and bag limits. Waterfowl Program Manager Mark Vrtiska reviewed staff recommendations, which are mostly calendar date adjustments. There was no public present to testify, but three emails were received with comments from Chad Padolak of Columbus, Marv Rief of Grand Island, and Richard Severson of Omaha for the Commissioners consideration. Vice-Chair Berggren closed the hearing at 8:50 AM.

Motion by Mr. Hoggatt and seconded by Mr. Cassels to accept staff recommendations with amendments to Zone 2 and Zone 3 in Ducks and Coots to move the season dates in Zone 3 to Oct. 24, 2020-Jan 5, 2021 and the High Plains to Jan 6-Jan 27, 2021 and the Zone 2 High Plains days to Jan 6-Jan 27, 2021. Voting aye: Hoggatt, Kreitman, Brandt, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Ernst and Allen; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Berggren opened the public hearing at 8:51 AM consider amendments to Parks Regulations Chapter 5, Section 001 General regulations governing the administration and use of state park property, regarding language clarifying the regulation of alcohol in park areas owned or controlled by the Commission and the prohibition of the possession of alcohol at Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala State Recreation Areas. Deputy Director Tim McCoy presented staff recommendations. There was no public comment, but three letters of support were introduced into the record as Exhibits 2, 3, 4 by Vice Chairman Berggren. They were letters of support from the

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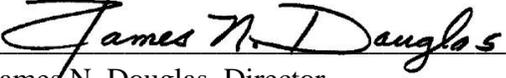
Keystone Lemoyne Fire and Rescue Department, the Lake McConaughy Advisory Group and William Billings of Ogallala. The hearing was closed at 9:05 AM

Motion by Mr. Zingula and seconded by Mr. Ernst to adopt staff recommendations. Voting aye: Kreitman, Brandt, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Ernst, Hoggatt; and Allen. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Hoggatt and seconded by Mr. Zingula to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 AM. Voting aye: Brandt, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Ernst, Hoggatt, Kreitman, and Allen; 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 March 20, 2020.


James N. Douglas, Director