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MINUTES  
August 28, 2020

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission met at the Peter Kiewit Lodge at ET Mahoney State Park Ashland, 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 August 13, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. Chairman Kreitman 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 COVID-19. Members present: Chairman Dan Kreitman, Pat Berggren, Broken Bow; Bob Allen, Eustis; and Doug Zingula, Sidney; Jim Ernst, Columbus; Scott Cassels, Omaha; Rick Brandt, Lincoln; and Donna Kush, Omaha. John Hoggatt, Kearney, was absent.

Minutes of the business meeting held June 19, 2020 were reviewed.

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

Financial vouchers for June and July were reviewed.

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

#### Director's Report

Director Douglas presented Roger Kuhn with a 35-year service award.

At the Director's request, members of the Nebraska Chapter of Back Country Hunters and Anglers shared information about their organization, which provides volunteer assistance in maintaining/improving publicly used properties. They would like to work with Nebraska Game and Parks on future projects where they can be of assistance.

The Director also shared information that Saturday, September 12 has been chosen as the postponed free park and fishing day.

Due to the need to move on with a scheduled public hearing, the Director later concluded his Director's Report by giving a COVID 19 update after the first public hearing.

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 9:25 AM to consider amendments to Chapter 4 Wildlife Regulations Section 004, Threatened and Endangered Species. Wildlife Division Administrator Alicia Hardin reviewed staff recommendations. There were no public comments and the public hearing was closed at 9:38 AM.

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

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 10:12 AM to consider amendments to Administration Regulations, Chapter (I) Section 006, Rules relating to fees for licenses and permits and deployed military permits. Deputy Director Tim McCoy reviewed staff recommendations. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed at 10:20 AM.

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

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 10:21 AM to consider amendments to Chapter 4 Wildlife Regulations, Section 001 General Regulations Governing Wildlife Species. Wildlife Division Administrator Alicia Hardin reviewed staff recommendations. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed at 10:28 AM.

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

The meeting was recessed for a ten-minute break and resumed at 10:39 AM.

In the interest of time, Chairman Kreitman advised that the following items on the agenda would be postponed: Land Owner Deer Survey Preliminary Results, Environmental Report, Berggren Plan Update, Critter Moment, and Commissioner Committee Reports.

Chairman Kreitman also combined and read the staff recommendations to call for the following public hearings at the October Commission meeting: to consider amendments to Fisheries Commission Order C06, Sport Fishing, to consider the creation of Wildlife Commission Order C02 Wild Turkey, and to consider amendments to Wildlife Regulations, Chapter 4 Section 002 Wild Turkey.

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

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 10:41 AM to consider amendments to Chapter 2, Fisheries Regulations Section 006 Sport Fishing. Fisheries Administrator Dean Rosenthal reviewed staff recommendations. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed at 10:46 AM.

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

**TIME OUTDOORS IS TIME WELL SPENT**

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Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 10:48 AM to consider amendments to Wildlife Commission Order, C14, Mountain Sheep. Wildlife Division administrator Alicia Hardin reviewed staff recommendations. There was no public comment and the public hearing was closed at 10:51 AM.

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

City of Chadron City Administrator Greg Yonker and Chadron Police Chief Tim Lordino were present to present the Chadron Deer Management Plan, which was created in collaboration with Nebraska Game and Parks wildlife staff to address the issue of an over-abundance of deer within the City of Chadron causing damage. Chadron City Council Resolution adopted the plan and the City is requesting Game and Parks approval.

Motion by Mr. Berggren and seconded by Mr. Zingula to approve the Chadron Deer Management Plan. Voting aye: Kush, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Ernst, Allen, Brandt and Kreitman. Voting nay: None. Motion carried

Parks Division Administrator Jim Swenson reviewed staff recommendations to approve hunting in various State Parks and State Historical Parks.

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

Budget and Fiscal Division Administrator Pat Cole reviewed the staff recommendation to approve the agency's biennium budget request.

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

The drawing was held for the Big Horn Sheep Lottery tag. The winner was Matthew Ogden from Grand Island, NE. He was very excited when he was notified that he won.

Motion by Mr. Berggren, seconded by Mr. Cassels to go into Executive Session at 11:27 AM to discuss personnel issues. Voting aye: Cassels, Ernst, Allen, Brandt, Kush, Zingula, Berggren, and Kreitman. Voting nay: None. Motion carried. Regular session was resumed at 12:18.

Motion by Mr. Allen seconded by Mr. Berggren, to leave executive session. Voting aye: Ernst, Allen, Brandt, Kush, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels and Kreitman. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

The Commissioners discussed the location of the next meeting, which was scheduled to be in Sidney. Commissioner Cassels requested that Ogallala be considered instead so that the Commissioners might have an opportunity to interact with the Lake McConaughy Advisory Group. The Commissioners agreed that this would be a good idea so staff will be working on those arrangements..

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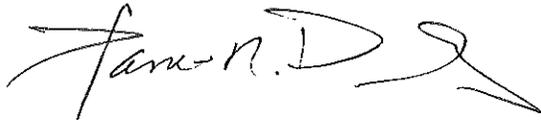
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Director Douglas requested that the Commissioners also look at their schedules and consider dates as well as potential locations for the 2021 Commission meeting schedule which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mrs. Kush to adjourn the meeting at 12:24 PM. Voting aye: Allen, Brandt, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Ernst and Kreitman. 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 August 28, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James N. Douglas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

James N. Douglas, Director