NEBRASKA
GAME PARKS

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MINUTES

January 14, 2016

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission met in the 3rd floor conference room at Nebraska Game and Parks Headquarters located at 2200 North 33rd Street Lincoln, 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 January 4, 2016.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M.; the Commissioners introduced themselves. Members present were Lynn Berggren, Broken Bow; Bob Allen, Eustis; Rex Fisher, Omaha; Kent Forney DVM, Lincoln; Norris Marshall, Kearney; Dr. Mark Pinkerton, Beatrice; Mark Spurgin, Paxton; Dick Bell, Omaha; and Mick Jensen, Blair. Chairman Forney advised this meeting was being held in conformance with the State Open Meeting Act and the act was available for review on the table in the back of the room.

Minutes of the meeting held October 23, 2015 were reviewed.

> Motion by Dr. Pinkerton, seconded by Mr. Bell to approve the minutes. Voting aye: Allen, Bell, Jensen, Berggren, Fisher, Marshall, Pinkerton, Spurgin, Forney. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Minutes of the special meeting held December 10, 2015 were reviewed.

> Motion by Mr. Berggren, seconded by Dr. Pinkerton to approve the minutes. Voting aye: Allen, Bell, Jensen, Berggren, Fisher, Marshall, Pinkerton, Spurgin, Forney. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Financial vouchers for October, November and December were reviewed.

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

<u>Begin Director's Report:</u>

Director Douglas asked Michelle Stryker to give a brief report on the SCORP survey

which revealed that trails are the number one item respondents felt are important followed by fishing access, campsites, outdoor swimming and beaches, etc.

Director Douglas reported on the turkey transplant of wild turkeys from the Pine Ridge area in Nebraska to Montana, commenting that Nebraska has been the recipient of some Big Horn Sheep from Montana in the past.

Director Douglas also shared deadline information on the Deer Hunters and Waterfowl surveys currently underway. Response has been very good, with 14,500 deer hunters and 2,800 waterfowl respondents so far. He also advised the Commissioners of a series of Deer meetings to be held across the state in upcoming weeks.

Announcements included: The annual Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic will be held in Kansas City, MO this year February 19-21. The next Commission meetings will be held February 25 and 26 at Pheasant Bonanza near Tekamah.

Director Douglas concluded his remarks by thanking Commissioner Mark Pinkerton for his years of service and welcoming incoming Commissioner Dan Kreitman.

End Director's Report

Nebraska Game and Parks employee Gerald Mestl was present to be recognized for 35 years of service to the Commission. Fisheries Division Administrator Don Gabelhouse presented the award.

Nancy Kile representing Millennium Pioneers was present to voice concerns related to the expansion of the uranium mining facilities in proximity to Fort Robinson State Park. She provided information and left handouts with the Commissioners requesting the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission take a position in opposition to any uranium mining expansion efforts. Chairman Forney thanked her for her presentation and advised the Commission will consult with staff regarding recommendations.

Chairman Forney read the recommendation to hold a public hearing at the February meeting to consider amendments on Chapter 4, Wildlife Regulations, Section 001, General Regulations Governing Wildlife Species.

> Motion by Dr. Pinkerton, seconded by Mr. Bell to hold the public hearing at the February meeting. Voting aye: Fisher, Marshall, Pinkerton, Spurgin, Allen, Berggren, Jensen, Bell, Forney. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Chairman Forney opened the public hearing at 1:33P.M. to consider amendments to Chapter 4, Wildlife Regulations, Section 001, General Regulations regarding Wildlife Species; Scott Taylor reviewed staff recommendations providing for the transportation of harvested elk by allowing for the transportation of the de-boned meat and the head of the harvested Elk to a check station, rather than the entire animal, revisions to trap

checking regulations calling for traps to be checked for fur bearing animals every 24 hour hours, clarification of types of traps, and provisions for trapping using dog proof traps at Branched Oak and Yankee Hill Recreation Areas before December 15. No person or organization testified, The public hearing was closed at 1:50 P.M. A discussion amongst the Commissioners and staff followed until Jensen asked to call the question.

> Motion by Mr. Jensen, seconded by Mr. Berggren to reject the staff recommendations as presented and have staff revisit this after more input from the public and come back at a future date. Voting aye: Marshall, Pinkerton, Jensen, Spurgin, Allen, Bell, Berggren, Fisher, Forney, voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Michelle Stryker reviewed staff recommendations to approve grant awards for the FY 2015 Land and Water Conservation Fund Stateside Assistance Program.

> Motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Dr. Pinkerton to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Pinkerton, Jensen, Spurgin, Allen, Bell, Berggren, Fisher, Marshall, Forney, voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Michelle Stryker reviewed staff recommendations to approve local outdoor trail projects for federal funding from the FY 2016 Recreational Trails Program apportionment and unobligated funds from previous years.

> Motion by Dr. Pinkerton, seconded by Mr. Fisher to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Jensen, Spurgin, Allen, Bell, Berggren, Fisher, Marshall, Pinkerton, Forney, voting nay, none. Motion carried.

Jim Swenson reviewed his presentation of the Wedding Events Plan with the Commissioners, highlighting the current and potential venues at the various state parks for their consideration.

Chairman Forney shared his final comments as the Commission Chair thanking the Director, Commissioners, Game and Parks Foundation and Staff.

Election of the 2016 Commission Officers

> Motion by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Berggren on a slate of Officers made up of Mark Spurgin as Chairman, Rex Fisher as 1st Vice Chair, and Dick Bell as 2nd Vice Chair. Voting aye: Spurgin, Fisher, Allen, Bell, Berggren, Marshall, Pinkerton, Jensen, and Forney, voting nay, none. Motion carried.

Incoming Chair Spurgin thanked Chairman Forney for his leadership, thanked Mark Pinkerton for his service, and welcomed Dan Kreitman as a new Commissioner. He highlighted some of his goals for the coming year.

Closing comments were offered by the Director and the rest of the Commissioners, reflecting on the accomplishments of the agency in the past year.

Motion to adjourn.

> Motion by Dr. Pinkerton, seconded by Mr. Bell to adjourn the meeting at 3:01 P.M. Voting aye: Fisher, Marshall, Pinkerton, Jensen, Spurgin, Allen, Bell, Berggren, Forney, 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 January 14, 2016.

James N. Douglas, Director