



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

MINUTES  
April 20, 2021

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission met at the Holiday Inn, Loper North Room Kearney, 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 April 6, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 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; Doug Zingula, Sidney; Rick Brandt, Lincoln; Bob Allen, Eustis, John Hoggatt, Kearney; and Scott Cassels, Omaha; Donna Kush, Omaha arrived at 9:02 AM; Jim Ernst, Columbus was absent.

Minutes of the business meeting held March 17, 2021 were reviewed.

Motion by Mr. Berggren and seconded by Mr. Brandt to approve the March 17 meeting minutes. Voting aye: Zingula, Berggren, Hoggatt, Allen, Brandt, and Kreitman; Kush-not present; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Financial vouchers for March were reviewed.

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Cassels to approve the financial vouchers. Voting aye: Zingula, Berggren, Hoggatt, Allen, Brandt, and Kreitman; Kush-not present; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Director's Report

Director Douglas asked Law Enforcement Division Administrator Craig Stover to introduce Doug Pollard, the winner of the Shakir Safari Award.

The Director shared the Governor's Proclamation for the Year of Nebraska State Parks honoring the 100-year anniversary of the Nebraska State Parks. May 22 will mark the kick off Your Parks Adventures with free parks and fishing day. Nebraska Education Television (NET) will be releasing a documentary in May on Nebraska State Historical Parks. The next Commission meeting will be held in Chadron on June 10 and 11 with the Parks 100-year signature kick-off event on June 12.

End Director's Report

Chairman Kreitman read staff recommendations to call for a public hearing at the June

**TIME OUTDOORS IS TIME WELL SPENT**

OutdoorNebraska.org

Commission Meeting to consider amendments to Chapter 4 -Wildlife Regulations Section 018 General Regulations Governing Administration and Use of Property.

Motion by Mr. Brandt, seconded by Mr. Hoggatt to approve staff recommendations. Berggren, Cassels, Hoggatt, Allen, Brandt, Zingula, and Kreitman; Kush not present, voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Kreitman read staff recommendations to call for a public hearing at the June Commission meeting to consider amendments to Chapter 4-Wildlife Regulations Section 037 Mountain Lions.

Motion by Mr. Hoggatt and seconded by Mr. Zingula to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Hoggatt, Allen, Brandt, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels and Kreitman; Kush not present, voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Kreitman read staff recommendations to call for a public hearing at the June Commission meeting to consider amendments to Chapter 4-Wildlife Regulations Section 005 Game Birds (not including turkey, coots and migratory waterfowl), Furbearers, Cottontail Rabbit and Squirrels.

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Berggren to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Hoggatt, Allen, Brandt, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, and Kreitman; Kush not present, voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Kreitman read staff recommendations to call for a public hearing at the June Commission meeting to consider amendments to Wildlife Commission Orders C05 Game Birds (not including turkey, coots and migratory waterfowl), Furbearers, Cottontail Rabbit and Squirrels.

Motion by Mr. Zingula and seconded by Mr. Cassels to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Allen, Brandt, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Hoggatt and Kreitman; Kush not present, Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Kreitman read staff recommendations to call for a public hearing at the June Commission meeting to consider amendments to Chapter 4-Wildlife Regulations Section 001 General Wildlife.

Motion by Mr. Cassels and seconded by Mr. Berggren to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Brandt, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Hoggatt, Allen, and Kreitman; Kush not present, Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Kreitman read staff recommendations to call for a public hearing at the June Commission meeting to consider amendments to Chapter 2-Fisheries Regulations Section 006 Sport Fishing.

Motion by Mr. Brandt and seconded by Mr. Zingula to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Brandt, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Hoggatt, Allen, and Kreitman; Kush not present, Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

The Chairman moved to item #11 as it was not time for the public hearing. Division Administrator Jim Swenson reviewed staff recommendations that the Commission ratify

**TIME OUTDOORS IS TIME WELL SPENT**

OutdoorNebraska.org

Executive Committee approval of the Dark Skies Resolution for Merritt Reservoir.

Motion by Mr. Berggren and seconded by Mr. Brandt to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Hoggatt, Allen, Brandt, and Kreitman; Kush not present, Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 8:39 AM to consider staff recommendations to amend Wildlife Commission Orders C03, Antelope, Deer, Elk; regarding changes to permit numbers, season dates, bag limits, and areas open. Big Game Program Manager Luke Meduna reviewed staff recommendations, including an additional change that includes 16 days in January for the youth and landowner deer seasons for the take of antlerless deer. Tom Lanz of Omaha, NE testified in support of staff recommendations. Wes Sheets of Lincoln, NE testified on behalf of the Izaak Walton League in support of staff recommendations. Scott Smathers of Lincoln, NE testified in support of staff recommendations on behalf of the Nebraska Sportsmen's Foundation and the Nebraska Big Game Conservation Association. With no other testimony, the public hearing was closed at 9:23 AM.

Motion by Mr. Hoggatt and seconded by Mr. Brandt to approve staff recommendations including the change of 16 days in January for youth and landowner seasons for the take of antlerless deer. Voting aye: Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Hoggatt, Allen, Brandt, Kush and Kreitman; Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

The meeting was recessed for a ten-minute break and resumed at 9:49 AM.

Communications Assistant Division Administrator Jeff Rawlinson gave an update on the Commission's shooting range program and the Nebraska Archery in the Schools Program (NASP).

Law Enforcement Division Administrator Craig Stover provided an update on the Law Enforcement Staffing Plan. The Law Enforcement Division has conducted research comparing law enforcement staffing allocations with other states, as well as conducting surveys of Nebraska residents to assist in planning for staffing allocation needs in the future.

Planning and Programming Assistant Division Administrator Michelle Koch gave an update on the status of the Platte Republican Diversion project and our agency's effort to conduct baseline studies on Turkey Creek. She also talked about the Vision for an Ecologically Sound Platte River (VESPR) workgroup and efforts being done to understand sociological issues surrounding conservation along the Platte.

Fisheries Irrigation Reservoir Program Manager Dr. Keith Koupal provided an overview of the fishery population dynamics of Harlan County Reservoir and associated research that taking place.

Non-game Bird Program Manager, Joel Jorgensen gave a presentation titled "Whooping Cranes: past, present and future" that provided a broad overview of Whooping Crane conservation in North America. The primary wild population, which migrates through Nebraska each spring and fall, now totals about 500 individuals from fewer than 20 individuals in the 1930s. Efforts to establish

**TIME OUTDOORS IS TIME WELL SPENT**

OutdoorNebraska.org

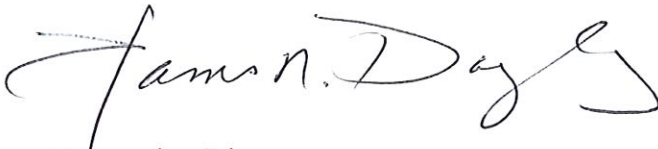
reintroduced populations have not been successful, which emphasizes the importance of the wild population and areas of Nebraska that are used during migration.

Wildlife Education Division Administrator Lindsay Rogers featured bumblebees for Critter Moment and shared information about the Nebraska Bumblebee Atlas Project.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandt and seconded by Ms. Kush to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 AM. Voting aye: Berggren, Cassels, Hoggatt, Allen, Brandt, Kush, Zingula 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 April 20, 2021.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James N. Douglas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James N. Douglas, Director