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MINUTES
DECEMBER 2, 2024

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission met for a special strategic planning meeting at 633 County Road S Valley, Nebraska. Advance public notice was given through official public notice published in the Lincoln Journal Star on November 18, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 PM. Members present were: Pat Berggren, Broken Bow; Dan Hughes, Venango; John Hoggatt, Kearney; Rick Brandt, Lincoln; Kent McNeill, Papillion; Scott Cassels, Omaha; Doug Zingula, Sidney; Ken Curry, Columbus and Donna Kush, Omaha. Chairman Zingula 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.

Director McCoy provided a summary discussion of the 2024 Employee Satisfaction Survey regarding marks of improvement and areas in need of increased effort. Results will be shared with staff.

Director McCoy provided an update on the draft Agency Recognition plan that was submitted to the Dept. of Admin Services for approval. It is a draft and may be modified.

Deputy Director Swenson shared a summary of the status of the Focus on the Future Plan through quarter 3 of year 2 and provided examples of accomplishments.

A discussion was held regarding agency leadership and opportunities for growth and skills development training. Past restructure efforts were discussed and future efforts will be considered when beneficial.

Commissioners Kush and McNeill gave a presentation on the economic benefits of outdoor recreation and discussed strategies for gaining more access for hunting, fishing, parks and trails, possibly through easements.

Topics to discuss with the Nebraska Game and Parks Foundation include Venture Parks wrap up, state hatchery enhancements, update on City of Grand Island efforts to develop a park near Mormon Island SRA and agency progress to gain more access (acres) for hunting.

Director McCoy discussed the upcoming 2025 legislative session with a focus on budget approval, potential increases in permit fee caps and possible changes to permit types.

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Director McCoy provided an updated business plan and fund status report. He also reported on 2024 business goals and a discussion was held on goals for 2025.

Mr. Brandt excused himself from the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Deputy Director Swenson provided a summary of accomplishments made by the agency team and current challenges. Special attention was given to accomplishments directly impacting Commissioner goals for access and opportunity.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Berggren to adjourn the meeting at 5:21 PM. Voting aye: Cassels, Curry, Hoggatt, Hughes, Zingula, McNeill, Kush, and Berggren. Brandt was absent; 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 December 2, 2024.



Timothy McCoy, Director

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