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MINUTES
January 28, 2022

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission met at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission HQ Lincoln, 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 January 13, 2022.

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. Members present: Chairman Dan Kreitman, Pat Berggren, Broken Bow; Doug Zingula, Sidney; Rick Brandt, Lincoln; Donna Kush, Omaha, Ken Curry, Columbus; John Hoggatt, Kearney; Bob Allen, Eustis and Scott Cassels, Omaha were absent.

Minutes of the business meeting held October 22, 2021 were reviewed.

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

Minutes of the special meeting held December 10, 2021 were reviewed.

Motion by Mr. Curry and seconded by Ms. Kush to approve the December 10 special meeting minutes. Voting aye: Zingula, Berggren, Curry, Hoggatt, Brandt, Kush and Kreitman; Allen and Cassels absent, not voting; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Financial vouchers for October, November and December were reviewed.

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

Director's Report

Director McCoy thanked Park Staff for hosting the meetings and the tour of Venture Parks projects yesterday.

Service awards were presented to Jim Swenson for 35 years and Randy Stutheit for 40 years of service.

Director McCoy introduced Ted LaGrange to assist in recognizing Dan Schulz of Lower Platte

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South NRD with a Prominent Partner Award of Excellence for his conservation work in partnership with the agency.

A resolution was read commending the NGPC staff from Parks, Wildlife, Law Enforcement and Communications for their invaluable and courageous assistance on firefighting teams that successfully fought four large wildfires in the western part of the state in 2021.

The Director shared that the American Fisheries Society presented an award to Fisheries Division for the NGPC's aquatic habitat program which is currently celebrating 25 years with improved access and rehabilitation of aquatic habitat at approximately 150 locations.

The Director announced the next Commission meeting will be in Nebraska City on March 22 and 23, the National Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic will be in Omaha on March 11-13 and Nebraska DU State Convention will be Feb. 18-19 in Lincoln.

End Director's Report

Chairman Kreitman read staff recommendations to call for a public hearing at the March Commission meeting to consider amendments to Wildlife Commission Order Ducks, Coots, Geese and Crow.

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

The Chair moved back to agenda item #5. Jeff Rawlinson presented two Heritage Hunter Education Awards for 40 plus years of service to hunter education to Bob Sevenker and John Niemoth.

Chairman Kreitman read staff recommendations to call for a public hearing at the March Commission meeting to consider amendments to Wildlife Regulations, Chapter 4, Section 003, Antelope, Deer and Elk

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

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 8:38 AM to consider amendments to Chapter 4, Wildlife Regulations, Section 019, Area-Specific Regulations. Wildlife Division Administrator Alicia Hardin shared that these regulations are for the new shooting range which will be located at Gifford Point WMA and the Killdeer sight in range. There were no comments received and no public testimony at the meeting. The public hearing was closed at 8:46 AM.

Motion by Mr. Hoggatt and seconded by Ms. Kush to adopt staff recommendations. Voting aye: Curry, Hoggatt, Brandt, Kush, Zingula, Berggren and Kreitman; Allen, and Cassels absent and not voting; voting nay:

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None. Motion carried.

Commission Chair Kreitman asked if anyone wanted to make any public comments during the public comment period (Item #9) on the agenda. There were no public comments.

The Chairman announced a recess at 9:20 AM and the meeting resumed at 9:29 AM.

Wildlife Division Administrator Alicia Hardin reviewed staff recommendation to rename the Twin Oaks Wildlife Management Area in Johnson County to the James N Douglas Wildlife Management Area in honor of the Commission's past Director.

Motion by Ms. Kush and seconded by Mr. Berggren to adopt staff recommendations. Voting aye: Hoggatt, Zingula, Kush, Berggren, Curry and Kreitman; Brandt abstained, Allen and Cassels absent and not voting; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Planning & Programming Division Administrator Michelle Stryker reviewed staff recommendations that the Commission approve local community grant awards for the FY2021 apportionment of the Land and Water Stateside Assistance Program. She reviewed the rules for awarding these grants and shared that out of 28 applications, six were selected to receive a total of 1.8 million dollars of funding thorough the scoring process.

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

Planning & Programming Division Administrator Michelle Stryker reviewed staff recommendations that the Commission approve ranking of local outdoor trail projects for federal funding from the fiscal year 2022 Recreational Trails Program Apportionment and unobligated funds from previous years. She reviewed the requirements and process for selection. Staff is recommending funding for six out of twenty projects.

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

Upland Habitat and Access Program Manager John Laux reviewed the staff recommendations to approve the Berggren Pheasants Plan 2.0. He shared details on how the first plan succeeded, additional needs and considerations moving into the future as well as the goals of the new plan.

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

Planning & Programming Assistant Division Administrator Hannah Jones reviewed the Fort Kearny Master Plan which was developed through a public input design charrette for the Fort

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Kearny State Historical Park (SHP) and the Fort Kearny State Rec Area (SRA) which identified projects including: a new entrance with a Visitor's Center, unique camping opportunities and updated historical exhibits at the SHP and improving the park entrance, a multipurpose building and a more pronounced trail head connection with bike hammock camping nearby at the SRA.

Communications Division Administrator Christy Firestone reviewed what the agency's the 2022 priority messages planned for the coming year.

Assistant Wildlife Division Administrator Will Inselman was present to share Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) sampling results taken during the past November firearm deer season. Sampling was conducted in southeastern and south-central Nebraska deer units, with south-central units showing higher rates of CWD. CWD was detected for the first time in Gage, Johnson, Cass and Otoe counties. Next year, staff will sample again during the firearm deer season in the Frenchman, Upper Platte, Plains, Pine Ridge, and Sandhills deer management units.

Outdoor Recreation Planner Erin Johnson reviewed the Dead Timber Redevelopment Plan, which addresses the needs of this area which is in flood plain and has suffered flood damage over the years. This plan was also developed through a public process. Much of the plan is identifying components that are sustainable and relocating infrastructure which is unsustainable at its current location. Family friendly recreational opportunities such as camping, trail development, enhanced public fishing opportunities and access, and developing kayak/canoe access points on the lake are part of the plan.

Chairman Kreitman moved to item #18 Election of Officers for 2022.

Motion by Mr. Hoggatt and seconded by Mr. Curry to elect Pat Berggren Chairman, Rick Brandt first Vice-chair and Doug Zingula second Vice-chair. Voting aye: Curry, Hoggatt, Brandt, Kush and Kreitman; Berggren abstained, Allen and Cassels were absent and not voting, voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Hoggatt and seconded by Ms. Kush to go into executive session for the purpose of updates regarding pending/active litigation involving the agency at 11:57 AM. Voting aye Berggren, Curry, Hoggatt, Brandt, Kush, Zingula and Kreitman; Allen & Cassels absent and not voting; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Kreitman resumed the regular meeting at 12:28 PM.

Motion by Mr. Hoggatt and seconded by Mr. Kreitman to leave executive session. Voting aye: Curry, Hoggatt, Brandt, Kush, Zingula Berggren and Kreitman; Allen & Cassels absent and not voting; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Adjournment

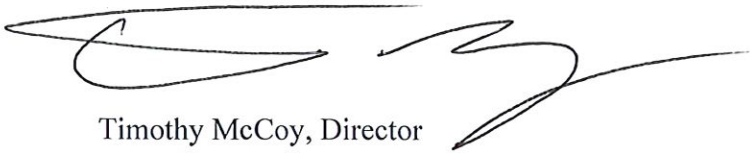
Motion by Mr. Kreitman and seconded by Mr. Zingula to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 PM. Hoggatt, Brandt, Kush, Zingula Berggren, Curry and Kreitman;

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Allen & Cassels absent and not voting; 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 28, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy McCoy', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Timothy McCoy, Director