



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

MINUTES
June 11, 2021

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission met in the Central Building at Chadron State Park Chadron, 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 May 28, 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. Members present: Chairman Dan Kreitman, Pat Berggren, Broken Bow; Doug Zingula, Sidney; Rick Brandt, Lincoln; Bob Allen, Eustis, Donna Kush, Omaha, Ken Curry, Columbus; John Hoggatt, Kearney; and Scott Cassels, Omaha.

Minutes of the business meeting held April 20, 2021 were reviewed.

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

Financial vouchers for March were reviewed.

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

Director's Report

Director Douglas thanked the park staff at Chadron for hosting the Commission meetings and Fort Rob staff for preparing the wonderful meal the night before. He introduced Gabby Michna Chadron Chamber Director who in turn introduced a group of Chadron Chamber Ambassadors that were present to make an award to the Chadron State Park Staff for "Member of the Month".

The Director shared information on the Memorial Day weekend at Lake McConaughy since the new reservation system was implemented there. Things went very well and there were no incidents.

The Director reminded Commissioners about all the events taking place at the Chadron State Park Birthday Bash event the next day.

End Director's Report

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

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Commission meeting to consider amendments to Chapter 2, Fisheries Regulations, Section 012 Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations.

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

Chairman Kreitman read staff recommendations to call for a public hearing at the August Commission meeting to consider amendments to Commission Order, C14 Mountain Sheep.

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

Furbearer and Carnivore Program Manager Sam Wilson reviewed staff recommendations for Commission approval of the Nebraska River Otter Management Plan which was developed after the river otters were removed from the threatened and endangered species list.

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

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 8:31 AM to consider amendments to Wildlife Regulations, Section 037 Mountain Lions, to hold a harvest season in 2022. Furbearer and Carnivore Program Manager Sam Wilson reviewed staff recommendations. Comments had been received in advance of the meeting: 58 letters from non-residents/ unknown addresses and 11 letters from residents submitted in opposition and 1 letter in support of a mountain lion hunting season. There were also four groups/organizations who sent letters in opposition. The exhibit list is attached to these minutes. No persons offered testimony and the public hearing was closed at 8:47AM. Commissioners discussed the depredation by lions and the need for use of dogs prior to voting.

Motion by Mr. Cassels and seconded by Mr. Curry to approve staff recommendations. Voting aye: Hoggatt, Brandt, Zingula, Kush, Berggren, Cassels, and Curry; voting nay: Allen and Kreitman. Motion carried.

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 9:21 AM to consider amendments to Wildlife Regulations, Section 005 Game Birds (not including turkey, coots and migratory waterfowl), Furbearers, Cotton Tail Rabbit and Squirrels regarding checking requirements for a river otter trapping season, incidental take of river otters and clarifying when adults can hunt with youth during special youth pheasant releases. Wildlife Division Administrator Alicia Hardin reviewed staff recommendations. Ten letters were received prior to the public hearing-ten letters expressed support, while three were in opposition. The exhibit list is attached to these minutes. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed at 9:28 AM.

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

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Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 9:31 AM to consider amendments to Wildlife Commission Order C05 Game Birds (not including turkey, coots and migratory waterfowl), Furbearers, Cotton Tail Rabbit and Squirrels to allow for a river otter season, dates and a bag limit, and clarify when raccoon and opossum running season end. Wildlife Division Administrator Alicia Hardin reviewed staff recommendations. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed at 9:38 AM.

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

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 9:48 AM to consider amendments to Chapter 2-Fisheries Regulations Section 006 Sport Fishing regarding rules relating to Sport Fish definitions, bag, possession and length limits, snapping turtles, mussels, transport and possession, archery fishing, Paddlefish, underwater spear fishing, set lines, limb lines, ice fishing, snagging, refuge lakes, border waters, legal nets, and special areas. Fisheries Division Administrator Dean Rosenthal reviewed staff recommendations. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed at 10:01 AM.

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

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 10:02 AM to consider staff recommendations to amend Wildlife Regulations, Section 018 General Regulations Governing Administration and Use of Property, regarding the adding an additional area that the Commission will control for public access on behalf of Pheasants Forever Inc., in Lancaster County. Wildlife Division Administrator Alicia Hardin reviewed staff recommendations. Kelsey Wehrman of Pheasants Forever was present to testify in support of staff recommendations. With no other testimony, the public hearing was closed at 10:12 AM.

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

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 10:13 AM to consider amendments to Wildlife Regulations, Section 001 General Regulations Governing Wildlife Species, regarding carrying a handgun while hunting big game and turkey with archery or muzzleloader equipment, clarifying language regarding baited areas and expanding special depredation seasons to include deer, elk and antelope. Wildlife Division Administrator Alicia Hardin reviewed staff recommendations. Two letters of support were received prior to the public hearing, one from Kent Keene, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Washington, D.C., supporting of the ability for archery hunters to carry a handgun for personal protection. The other letter of support was from Scott Smathers, Nebraska Sportsmen's Foundation, Lincoln, NE, supporting handguns for personal protection, baiting regulation clarification and the special depredation season regulations.

Three people testified at the public hearing for Section 001: Steve Erdman, Bayard, NE, testified in support of handguns for personal protection and the special depredation season regulations. Jim Jelinek, Alliance, NE asked for assistance with antelope damage on his fields and supported the special depredation seasons. The agency has been and will continue to work with Mr. Jelinek on his damage

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issues and has also allowed for double the doe/fawn tags for the antelope unit in which his farm is located. David Huss, Alliance, NE proposed that landowners who receive elk tags should be subject to the same rules as the general public that get elk tags and only be allowed to harvest one bull in their lifetime. He also did not support the idea of allowing non-residents to hunt elk during a special depredation season. The Commission understands that currently only residents are allowed general elk tags, this will be taken under consideration if an elk special depredation season is ordered. With no other testimony, the hearing was closed at 10:58 AM.

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

The meeting was recessed for a ten-minute break and resumed at 11:10 AM. Commissioner Hoggatt had to leave the meeting at 11 AM.

Deputy Director Tim McCoy reviewed staff recommendation that the Commission ratify the Commission's biennium budget for FY22 and FY22 as passed by the Legislature.

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

Chairman Dan Kreitman announced that Commissioner Scott Cassels was asked to work with HR and Legal to start looking at a process for looking for a new Director. Commissioner Cassels reviewed the recommendations received on how to conduct a Director Search Process.

Motion by Mr. Cassels and seconded by Mr. Brandt to approve the formation of a Director Search Committee that will execute this process as outlined at length yesterday as a guideline to hire the next director. Voting aye: Curry, Allen, Brandt, Kush, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels and Kreitman; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Kreitman asked Commissioners for volunteers for this committee. Commissioners Zingula, Kush, Allen and Cassels volunteered. Chairman Kreitman appointed Scott Cassels as the Chair, and Commissioners Kush, Allen, and Zingula to serve on the Director Search Committee.

Park Division Administrator Jim Swenson gave a report on western Nebraska Parks improvements, which included a long list of improvements at parks and state recreation areas in the western part of the state.

NGPC Horticulturist Richard Wehmeyer presented the environmental report on the work that his team does for conservation out on the landscape. He covered projects that have been done using a variety of techniques such as prescribed fire, invasive species control, installing pollinator habitat and rehabilitation of fisheries and wetlands.

Panhandle Wildlife Education Coordinator Delaney Bruce presented Woodhouse Toads for critter moment.

Commissioner Committee Reports were tabled.

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Motion by Mr. Curry and seconded by Mr. Berggren to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel matters at 12:22 PM. Voting aye: Allen, Brandt, Kush, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Curry and Kreitman; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Regular session was resumed at 12:50 PM.

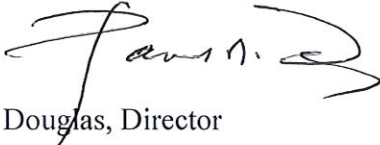
Motion by Mr. Brandt and seconded by Mr. Curry to leave the executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel matters. Voting aye: Brandt, Kush, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Curry, Allen and Kreitman; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Cassels and seconded by Mr. Allen to give the Director a 3% raise and a \$5,000.00 bonus. Voting aye: Kush, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Curry, Allen, Brandt and Kreitman; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Berggren to adjourn the meeting at 12:54 PM. 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 June 11, 2021.



James N. Douglas, Director

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING RE: MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING SEASON

JUNE 11, 2021

EXHIBIT LIST

The following constitute a complete list of all exhibits received in association with the above captioned public hearing:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------|
| 1. Public Hearing Notice | | |
| 2. Barry Hoover | Email/Unknown Address | Support |
| 3. Petro Danby | 205 W Broadway #7B Long Beach NY | Opposed |
| 4. Lesli Brice | 4221 N 91 st St. Omaha, NE 68134 | Opposed |
| 5. Helen McGinnis | PO Box 300 Harman, WV 26270 | Opposed |
| 6. Kathie Sparks | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 7. Wendy Determan | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 8. David Corbin | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 9. Jerold & Cheri Pilant | 10607 N 50 Ave. Omaha, NE 68152 | Opposed |
| 10. Mark Johns | Email/unknown Address | Opposed |
| 11. Amy DuBoise | Email/no address given | Opposed |
| 12. Romney Dickinson | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 13. Paul Circo | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 14. Patty Hopkins | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 15. Heather Vickers | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 16. Vicki Brown | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 17. Denene Turner | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 18. Susan Spencer | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 19. Judy French | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 20. Patricia Solko | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 21. Penny Knapp | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 22. Joe Medakovich | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 23. Jennifer Kellogg | Omaha, NE 68130 | Opposed |
| 24. Charles Seymour | 5116 Gate Parkway #6309 Jacksonville FL | Opposed |
| 25. Lynn Bojanski | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 26. Andrea Preister | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 27. Kathleen Rutledge | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 28. Coleen Black | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 29. Amy Gromowsky | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 30. R. Michael Gross | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 31. Jodi Hoatson | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 32. Deborah Mihalo | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 33. Michele Ferguson | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 34. Patricia Pfaff | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 35. Jim Brown | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 36. Maureen McGrath | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 37. Patricia Keiffer | Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 38. Connie Seals | Wahoo, NE | Opposed |

39. Jacqueline Williams	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
40. Roger Bullington	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
41. Val Green	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
42. Lorraine Clark Benson	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
43. Lori Umstead	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
44. Margaret Barrios	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
45. Karli Green	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
46. Deb Circo	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
47. Rebecca Richards	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
48. Leanne Whetstone	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
49. Ted Evans	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
50. Lisa Cooney	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
51. Roseann Draus	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
52. Mary Gerant	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
53. Rod Green	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
54. Cheri Christensen	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
55. Amy Rundstrom	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
56. Linda Head	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
57. Susan Fertig	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
58. Helen Erskine	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
59. Julie Ryman	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
60. Karin Priefert	501 Kent Dr. Papillion, NE	Opposed
61. Tia Williams	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
62. Madeline Smith	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
63. Jessica Nissen	708 9th Ave #124 Kearney, NE	Opposed
64. Melanie Lakey	13126 Flallon Ave. Norwalk, CA	Opposed
65. Russ Frizzell	6611 E Lovers Lane Dallas, TX	Opposed
66. Valerie Vierk	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
67. Maxwell Clark	1154 Calle Maria San Marcos, CA	Opposed
68. Justina Button	Email/Unknown Address	Opposed
69. Humane Society of the US	Washington DC	Opposed
70. Mountian Lion Foundation	Sacramento CA	Opposed
71. The Cougar Fund	Jackson, WY	Opposed
72. Prairie Hills Audubon	Black Hawk, SD	Opposed
73. Colin Croft	210087 Turkey Drive Gering, NE	Opposed

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING RE:
RIVER OTTER HUNTING
SEASON

JUNE 11, 2021

EXHIBIT LIST

The following constitute a complete list of all exhibits received in association with the above captioned public hearing:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Public Hearing Notice | |
| 2. Jon Bentley Unknown Address | Support |
| 3. Fur Takers Of America Lemoyne, NE | Support |
| 4. Scott Lickteig 64025 735 Road Auburn, NE | Support |
| 5. Jim Childers NE | Support |
| 6. Ted Howard 106 S. 24 th St Ashland, NE | Support |
| 7. Nebraska Fur Harvesters (Eric Stane) 12808 Cottonwood Lane | Support |
| 8. Jessica Power 1854 County Rd. Cedar Bluffs NE | Support |
| 9. Kate Stevens Email/Unknown Address | Opposed |
| 10. Sierra Club of Nebraska | Opposed |
| 11. Humane Society of the US | Opposed |