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MINUTES  
March 17, 2021

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission met in the Lifelong Learning Center at Northeast Community College Norfolk, 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 March 2, 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; Donna Kush, Omaha; John Hoggatt, Kearney; Jim Ernst, Columbus; Scott Cassels, Omaha arrived at 8:07; and Bob Allen, Eustis was absent.

Minutes of the business meeting held January 13, 2021 were reviewed.

Motion by Mr. Berggren and seconded by Mr. Brandt to approve the January 13 meeting minutes. Voting aye: Kush, Zingula, Berggren, Ernst, Hoggatt, Brandt, and Kreitman; Cassels-not present; voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Financial vouchers for January and February were reviewed.

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

Director's Report

Director Douglas was unable to be present, so Deputy Director Tim McCoy gave the report. Thanks were extended to the Northeast District staff who led the field trip to Grove Lake and fish hatchery the day before.

Deputy Director McCoy reviewed several grants that had been received for NGPC projects and then invited Alicia Hardin to introduce News Channel Nebraska's Andy Claussen and Ben Evers of Farm Focused who were present to share their fund raising efforts for Hunters Helping the Hungry and present a \$1,500.00 check to the Commission for the program.

A Resolution of Appreciation was read by all of the Commissioners for outgoing Commissioner Jim Ernst.

Fish and Wildlife Education Division Administrator Lindsay Rogers was asked to give a short

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update on the Diversity and Inclusion efforts being undertaken by staff.

### End Director's Report

Chairman Kreitman read staff recommendations to call for a public hearing at the April Commission Meeting to consider amendments to Wildlife Commission Orders 003 Antelope, Deer, and Elk

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

Chairman Kreitman moved to item #7 on the agenda as it was too early to start the 8:30 AM public hearing. Wildlife Division Administrator Alicia Hardin reviewed staff recommendations to approve the Looking Glass Creek Wildlife Management Area in Platte County, Nebraska be renamed to the Lee Rupp Wildlife Management Area.

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

Commissioners read a Resolution of Appreciation for Lee Rupp announcing the name change from Looking Glass Creek WMA to the Lee Rupp WMA in recognition for many years spent in conservation and efforts made as a state senator in several areas on NGPC's behalf. Mr. Rupp shared a couple of stories and expressed his thanks.

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 8:39 AM to consider staff recommendations to amend Administration Regulations, Chapter (1) Section 006, Rules relating to fees for licenses and permits and deployed military permits. Budget and Fiscal Division Administrator Pat Cole reviewed the proposed changes to include establishing a special season landowner deer permit for both resident and nonresident landowners, establishing the fees for resident and nonresident big game and paddlefish preference/bonus point purchases in lieu of draw; removing the resident aquatic invasive species registration fee and increasing the boat registration fees, and eliminating the duplicate/replacement fee on all permits except deer, antelope, elk, turkey, mountain lion and paddlefish in response to statutory changes associated with the passage of LB's 287 and 126 in 2020. There was no public comment and the public hearing was closed at 8:44 AM.

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

Chairman Kreitman opened the public hearing at 8:45 AM to consider staff recommendations for amendments to Commission Order C06 Coots, Ducks, Geese, Crow, regarding changes in dates, bag limits, and zone boundaries. Wildlife Division Administrator Alicia Hardin reviewed the proposed changes as well as comments the division and Commissioners received; none asked to be part of the

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public record. Mr. Chuck Blaha of Ord testified on behalf of what he called “a group of hunters” asking that the duck season be a week later in Zone 4. With no other public comments, the hearing was closed at 9:06 AM.

Motion by Mr. Hoggatt and seconded by Mr. Berggren to approve staff recommendations with one change to duck hunting in Zone 4-changing the season to run from October 30-January 11. Voting aye: Hoggatt, Brandt, Kush, Zingula, Berggren, Cassels, Ernst, and Kreitman. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

The meeting was recessed for a five-minute break and resumed at 9:15 AM.

Parks Division Administrator Jim Swenson reviewed staff recommendations for the Commission to approve and adopt Phase II of the Lake McConaughy/Lake Ogallala Master Plan as described in the supporting documentation that had been supported by the Lake McConaughy Advisory Committee. Jim Swenson introduced Advisory Committee members Deb Schilz, Mary Wilson, and Karla Scott to read their letter of support and share some concerns. Commissioners asked questions and addressed their remarks.

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

Parks Division Administrator Jim Swenson reviewed staff recommendations for the Commission to approve and adopt the proposed fee increases for select park activities, lodging, and rental facilities as described in the supporting documentation.

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

Parks Division Administrator Jim Swenson reviewed staff recommendations for Commission approval to increase the Parks Cash Change Fund to assist with operations and events, and to accommodate shower house coinage requirements for several park areas: Enders, Pawnee, Buffalo Bill and Rock Creek Station.

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

Big Game Manager Luke Meduna shared a Go Pro video of a project showing pronghorn (antelope) captures for collaring to track their movements.

For the Environmental Report, Fisheries Assistant Division Administrator Tony Barada shared information on aquatic invasive species, including a recent discovery that imported moss balls used

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in beta aquariums have been infested with invasive Zebra mussels and delivered to pet stores.

Wildlife Education Division Administrator Lindsay Rogers brought a confiscated moss ball and challenged Commissioners to find the invasive Zebra mussel hitchhiker that has found a home in it for Critter Moment.

Commissioner Committee reports were given by the committee chairs.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Ernst and seconded by Mr. Cassels to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 AM. Voting aye: Cassels, Ernst, Hoggatt, Brandt, Kush, Zingula, Berggren, 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 March 17, 2021.



Timothy McCoy, Deputy Director