

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission  
March 7-8, 2013

Chair Susie Knippling called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM at the AmericInn Conference Center, in Fort Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Susie Knippling, John Cooper, Jim Spies, Barry Jensen, Gary Jensen, Cathy Peterson, and Duane Sather were present. Public, staff, and media numbered approximately fifty.

Division of Administration

Chair Susie Knippling called for any additions or corrections to the January meeting or motion for approval.

Motion by Cooper with second by Gary Jensen TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 10-11, 2013, MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Knippling called for any additions or corrections to the February 7, 2013, Teleconference meeting or a motion for approval.

Motion by Peterson with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 7, 2013, TELECONFERENCE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Knippling as for any additional Commissioner salary days and Cooper requested one day.

Motion by Barry Jensen second by Spies TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAY REQUESTED BY COOPER. Motion carried unanimously.

License List Request

Director Chris Petersen presented a License List Request from Scheels All Sports for a list of resident fishing license holders for a direct mailing. This would be a full fee.

Motion by Spies with second by Barry Jensen TO APPROVE THE SCHEELS LICENSE LIST REQUEST AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

License Sales Report

Director Petersen presented the February 29, 2013, License Sales Report indicating an increase in sales of 10.5% over the February 2012 Sales Report. Resident combination license sales are out pacing last year's sales, and are attributed to an email sent to 2012 license holders reminding them their license expired on January 31 and outlining the dollar savings to purchase a combination license.

2013 Legislative Update

Director Tony Leif provided the 2013 Legislative Update indicating there were four bills about the Animal Damage Control program. A bill to allow the use of dogs to retrieve wounded animals is on the Governor's desk. The public waters bill was deferred to the 41<sup>st</sup> day and will be back in some form next year. The small game hunting and

fishing party bill is on the Governor's desk and the bill was passed to classify wolves as a varmint when delisted by the Federal Government.

Director Doug Hofer stated this was the most productive and positive legislative session for Parks and Recreation he has ever known. Seven bills were introduced and six were passed. A bill defining snowmobiles for the permitting or licensing system was passed along with a bill to allow golf carts with specific equipment and to be permitted on roads within the parks. A bill to provide bond funding to finance improvements at Angostura and Cedar Shores was also approved. The special appropriation bill for Heritage Projects introduced by the Governor was passed giving one-time dollars for a Visitor's Center at the Blood Run site, a Visitor's Center in Custer State Park, and seed money for an extension to the Mickelson Trail was passed.

#### Big Game Management Review and Resolution

Governor's Office Policy Advisor Nathan Sanderson indicated four bids were received for the review of Big Game Management in the Division of Wildlife. Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) of Gardners, Pennsylvania, was selected to conduct the review with a "solid proposal" for an independent review. Sanderson provided a copy of the RFP (Appendix A) and the proposal from WMI (Appendix B) to the Commission indicating these will be posted on the GFP Website. There were two different types of proposals submitted with two proposals for each type. One type was a survey-based review and the other was an investigative or interview based review. The WMI bid was research and interview based. The RFP requires an oral and written report on "strengths and weaknesses" and ways to implement improvements to the Division of Wildlife's big game management. The contract could be signed as early as next week and work should begin next month. The review should take about six months to conduct.

Director Chris Petersen presented Resolution 13-01 requesting Commission approval for an FY13 budget adjustment of \$131,050 in contractual services for RFP #2018 to fund the big game management review by Wildlife Management Institute. Discussion ensued about the review process happening in two fiscal years. Petersen indicated an adjustment to the FY14 Budget is not needed because spending authority for contracts can be carried forward for two years. Sanderson indicated the review is for big game management, not the ADC program, and would include the processes the Division operates with. Chris Petersen indicated the dollars would come from license fees.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Peterson TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 13-01 AS PRESENTED (Appendix C). Motion carried unanimously.

#### Open Forum

Bill Taunten of Woonsocket, SD, shared his concerns about pheasant hunting. He opposes an increase in the daily limit of pheasants, and he would like the season be extended two more weeks. He believes we should not advertise pheasant hunting if we don't have pheasants to hunt.

He has problems with predator animals and is concerned because we lost a pilot and he would like to have one to kill and trap coyotes. The state trappers are professionals and can get the six-year old coyotes or the smart ones and do a better job with coyote harvest. He uses food plots for recreation and enjoys the open country. He

would like to see hens and roosters planted in the spring and he plans to release 150 hens and 50 roosters tomorrow. Last fall he released 600 roosters and 200 hens.

Norb Berry of Turton, SD, representing South Dakota Opportunity Group talked about the proper use of assets that GFP manages and GFP should work to the benefit of every citizen in SD. Assets should be shared fairly, including motel and food industry employees. There is a shortage of housing for people coming to SD to recreate, such as hunting, especially in Spink County.

Jim Schaefer from McCook County commented on the length of the pheasant season indicating there is a biological carrying capacity and social carrying capacity of wildlife. The social carrying capacity is a push back to get the season extended and requested the expansion for the number of days pheasants can be hunted.

The Public Hearing began at 2:01 PM and concluded at 2:23 PM. (Minutes of the Public Hearing follow the regular meeting minutes.) Chair Knippling called a recess at 2:40 PM meeting resumed at 2:56 PM.

## Finalizations

Special Buck Licenses 41:06:20; 41:06:21

Tom Kirschenmann presented the proposed changes with no changes. Discussion included the social distribution of licenses including landowner allocations and East River and West River distribution of licenses. Public hearing comments were discussed and biological impact of licenses.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Sather TO AMEND WEST RIVER SPECIAL BUCK ALLOCATIONS FOR BOTH RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS TO BE 5% (576) OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S ALLOCATION OF THE RESIDENT LICENSES WHICH INCLUDED AN "ANY DEER" TAG FOR THE WEST RIVER DEER SEASON. Roll call vote: Cooper-yes; B. Jensen-yes; G. Jensen-yes; Peterson-no; Sather-yes; Spies-no; and Knippling-no. Motion failed to receive the required five yes votes.

Motion by Peterson with second by Gary Jensen TO AMEND (2) WEST RIVER SPECIAL BUCK ALLOCATIONS FOR BOTH RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS TO 4% OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S ALLOCATION OF THE RESIDENT LICENSE WHICH INCLUDED AN "ANY DEER" TAG OR 500 WHATEVER IS GREATER FOR THE WEST RIVER SEASON, AND AMEND (3) EAST RIVER SPECIAL BUCK RESIDENT ALLOCATIONS WILL BE 4% OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S ALLOCATION OF THE RESIDENT LICENSES WHICH INCLUDED AN "ANY DEER" TAG FOR THE EAST RIVER DEER SEASON OR 500 WHATEVER IS GREATER. Motion carried unanimously.

1. An individual can only possess either an East River or West River Special Buck license in any given year.
2. West River Special Buck allocations for both residents and nonresidents will be 4% of the previous year's allocation of the resident licenses which included an "any deer" tag for the West River deer season or 500 whichever is greater.

3. East River Special Buck allocations for residents will be 4% of the previous year's allocation of the resident licenses which included an "any deer" tag for the East River deer season or 500 whichever is greater.

Motion by Cooper with second by Peterson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO 41:06:20 AND 41:06:21 SPECIAL BUCK LICENSES AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Public Water Swim/Safety Zones 41:04:02

Chief Tom Kirschenmann and Assistant Director Bob Schneider presented proposed changes with no recommended changes to the proposal. There was no public comment received on these changes.

1. Repeal the current safety zone designated on Helgeson Slough in Clark County.
2. Repeal the current safety zones designated on portions of Rock Crandall Game Production Area on Opitz Lake and East Stink Lake in Marshall County.
3. Add a new safety zone designation at Platte Creek Recreation Area as a "public swim zone."
4. Repeal two current public swimming zones on Clear Lake in Marshall County.

Motion by Sather with second by Cooper TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO PUBLIC WATERS 41:04:02 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Waterfowl Refuges 41:05:02

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented proposed changes with no recommended changes and indicated the public and landowners support this change.

Remove the North Shore State Waterfowl Refuge.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Spies TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO WATERFOWL REFUGES 41:05:02 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Hunting Seasons Proposals

##### CSP Non-trophy Bison Hunting Season

Parks Assistant Director Bob Schneider presented recommended changes to the Non-trophy Bison Hunting Season indicating the fees have not been adjusted since the season began nine years ago and fees are lower than the sale price of live bison. The number of license applications has tripled in the past three years. Preference points and resident preferences should be offered similar to other big game hunting seasons. The Licensing Office will administer the licenses similar to other big game. The rule should specify the number of licenses to be issued each year and replace the current "not to exceed" language.

1. Modify preference so applicants accrue an additional point for each successive year they are unsuccessful in the draw. (41:06:60).
2. Allocate 15-non-trophy bull bison licenses and 10 cow bison licenses with 7 of the non-trophy bull and 5 of the cow licenses being allocated to residents in a first draw. Leftover licenses after the first draw would be available in a second draw for all applicants.

3. Increase license fee from \$1,500 to \$2,250 for a non-trophy bison bull and from \$1,000 to \$1,750 for a cow bison (41:06:02).
4. Add reference to non-trophy bison harvest as seasons in CSP available to non-residents. (41:06:07).

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Cooper TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE CUSTER STATE PARK NON-TROPHY BISON HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

#### CSP Trophy Bison Bull Hunting Season

Schneider presented changes to the Trophy Bison Hunting Season similar to the non-trophy season giving residents preference and preference points for unsuccessful applicants and allocating a specific number of licenses in rule rather than a “not to exceed” number. The licenses will be administered through the Licensing Office.

1. Modify preference so applicants accrue an additional point for each successive year they are unsuccessful in the draw. Change reference from “permit” and “permit holder” to “license” and “licensee”.
2. Allocate 8 trophy bison bull licenses with 2 of the licenses allocated to residents in a first draw. Leftover licenses would be available in a second draw for all applicants.

Motion by Peterson with second by Barry Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE CSP TROPHY BISON HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Chad Switzer and John Kanta presented the elk population status report prior to the elk season recommended changes.

#### CSP Elk Hunting Seasons

Kirschenmann requested the latitude to adjust license allocations for the CSP Any Elk and Special Elk Hunting Seasons at the April meeting following review of data derived from the movement of Wind Cave elk into the Custer State Park. There are no recommended changes to the CSP Archery season.

Motion by Cooper with second by Gary Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE CUSTER STATE PARK ANY ELK HUNTING SEASON WITH THE NUMBER OF LICENSES TO BE DETERMINED AT TIME OF FINALIZATION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Cooper with second by Spies TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE EARLY CUSTER STATE PARK ARCHERY ELK HUNTING SEASON WITH NUMBER OF LICENSES TO BE DETERMINED AT TIME OF FINALIZATION. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Archery Elk Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented an adjusted number of licenses for the Archery Elk Hunting Season.

Adjust the number of licenses available from 82 "any elk" and 15 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 97 licenses) to 77 "any elk" and 15 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 92 licenses).

Motion by Barry Jensen and second by Spies TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO ARCHERY ELK HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Black Hills Elk Hunting Season

Chief Kirschenmann presented an adjustment of the number of licenses available for the Black Hills Elk Hunting Season.

Adjust the number of licenses available from 395 "any elk" and 175 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 570 licenses) to 380 "any elk" and 165 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 545 licenses).

Motion by Sather with second by Gary Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS ELK HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Prairie Elk Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented the recommended changes to the Prairie Elk Hunting Season indicating the adjusted season dates were discussed and coordinated with the Nebraska Game and Fish.

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 47 "any elk" and 53 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 100 licenses) to 45 "any elk" and 51 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 96 licenses).
2. Modify Unit 30 (Gregory County) by removing that portion of Boyd County, Nebraska (see attached map).
3. Adjust the season dates for Unit 30 (Gregory County) from September 29 – October 28 and December 1-31 to September 1 – December 31.
4. Adjust the season dates for Unit 11B (Bennett County and portions of Mellette County) from September 1 to the second Sunday of October to September 1 to the Friday before the third Saturday in October.
5. Add Unit 11D (Bennett County and portions of Mellette County) with season dates of September 1 – December 31.

Motion by Peterson with second by Gary Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO PRAIRIE ELK HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

The following seasons had no recommended changes and no action was taken: Mountain Goat Hunting Season, Grouse Hunting Season, Pheasant Hunting Seasons, Partridge Hunting Season, Quail Hunting Season, Cottontail Hunting Season, Squirrel Hunting Season, Crow and Crane Hunting Season, Snipe and Dove Hunting Season, and the 2013 Hunting Season Dates.

#### Division of Wildlife

Director Tony Leif introduced and recognized Habitat Partner of the Year Award Recipient and McCook County landowner Jim Shaeffer. Leif outlined the accomplishments Schaefer has achieved making him eligible to receive the award. Jim

Schaefer expressed his appreciation for the award, acknowledged, and thanked family and friends for this achievement. Shaeffer was one of four Regional Habitat Partner recipients recognized by the Department and included Brady and Wendi Rinehart of Highmore, Richard Kovarik of Rapid City, and Larry Schuster of Eden.

#### Pheasant Habitat and Farm Bill

Mark Norton, Hunting Access and Farm Bill Coordinator provided a PowerPoint indicating the current Farm Bill expired on September 30, 2012, but was extended until September 30, 2013, everything was reauthorized; however, without funding for enrollment. There are programs such as shelterbelts, grass waterways, buffer, and pollinator habitat programs that landowners cannot enroll in. Most programs have no funding from the Federal government because apportionments have too many moving targets and it is hard to pin a number to the wall and commit to new contracts. South Dakota has received \$7 million to complete restoration work on WRP wetland easements and close easements that have been accepted. CRP has a general sign up from May 20-June 14 and most South Dakota counties will see an increase in rental rate as cropland cash rent has increased since 2010. Norton shared information about land use changes in the Corn Belt including grassland conversion and the effect on ducks, pheasants, nesting birds, shorebirds, and neo-tropical migrants. Tiling, drainage, and shelterbelt/farmstead removal also affects the landscape and habitat.

#### Spring Canada Goose Take Permit

Keith Fisk presented a PowerPoint indicating resident geese in South Dakota number about 270,000 and after public meetings the Department wants to manage for 80-90,000 geese. SDSU research showed the extensive damage geese can do to crops for a significant impact to crop producers. Last summer staff worked with 564 landowners and 1,000 complaints spending \$717,000 on goose depredation in eastern South Dakota by Game, Fish, and Parks. The population has not decreased and the next option is to utilize a US Fish and Wildlife permit this spring to take 7,000 geese using volunteer hunters. In April, 140 volunteer hunters will be permitted to hunt geese on private land. Each volunteer can take fifty geese and all harvested geese must be donated to charity and Sportsmen Against Hunger has eight processors in eastern SD that will accept the harvested geese.

#### Elk Population Status

A PowerPoint presentation by John Kanta and Chad Switzer provided information to support the elk recommendations and was presented prior to Commission action on elk seasons and rules. Research data and survey information, elk ages from teeth of harvested elk, and social concerns were outlined with comprehensive information to be provided prior to finalization of proposed rule changes.

The cow to calf ratio shows 50 calves per 100 cows and is good ratio compared with other western states. The calves counted were 4-5 months old and from across the Black Hills including Custer State Park. 2002-2012 harvest information was presented along with the hunter satisfaction table showing an increase last year to about 50%. Kanta indicated other western states would be thrilled with a 50% hunter success rate. Unit definitions were displayed showing the 2012 harvest information in

the different units and had a 73% success rate. Archery Elk had a 40% average success rate.

Kanta provided information about the ongoing sightability survey. The entire Black Hills is being flown with two helicopters to count elk and flying the subunits should conclude tomorrow. Kanta thanked staff for the work to accomplish this project and will provide a comprehensive report next month.

Kanta reported the joint effort to move elk out of Wind Cave National Park north into Custer State Park and onto Forest Service land. An initial move herded 198 elk out of Wind Cave into CSP and plans are to try again to move more elk out of Wind Cave in the next week or two.

Switzer presented information specific to proposals and shared that twelve radio-collared elk went from Wind Cave National Park into Custer State Park and these elk will continue to be monitored as they are still mingling with the CSP herd.

Switzer showed the different units and the changes in specific units and seasons that will be presented in the recommended changes.

Discussion included why "any antlerless" elk tags are sold in Unit 1 and that private landowners in Unit 1 continue to have depredation problems and "any antlerless" tags assist those landowners.

Kanta indicated the prairie units have all private landowners and landowners are accommodating the hunters. The landowners are great hosts and have indicated they would like a few less hunters, that is the reason for the recommended change in Unit 9.

#### Conservation Officer Staffing Structure Changes

Emmett Keyser indicated a review was conducted to improve officer retention especially in small communities. Promotional opportunity, recruitment to remote areas, lack of housing, shopping, the placement process, current positions, salary incentives, and organizational structure were reviewed and led to creating new CO districts, improved communications, and additional positions.

#### Ice Fishing Update

Chief John Lott stated the license sales were up 15% due to good fishing and a successful program to keep access to lakes open this winter contributed to the increased sales. Lott shared about darkhouse spearfishing in the Northeast South Dakota.

#### Black Hills Fisheries Management Plan

Chief Lott shared that the current management plan was developed in the 1990's and will be updated. Trout management includes changes at the hatchery to meet angler's expectations and that regulations were adjusted to meet management goals. Access to lakes was improved with cooperation of the Forest Service. A Statewide Plan, which is being developed, will address different areas and types of waters across the state providing plenty of opportunity for different types of fishing and anglers. Streams are included in the management plan and lakes will continue to be managed individually. Black Hills lakes and streams will have their own plan and an open house is scheduled next week to gather and share information. A draft plan should be

available in June to develop changes or recommendations for the plan and inclusion in the state plan.

#### Mountain Lion Season Update

Chad Switzer indicated 49 lions have been harvested, of which 29 are females. Of the 49 lions harvested seven had collars. Custer State Park has six mini seasons and three included one week of hunters with hounds. Three lions were harvested in CSP and two with the use of hounds. There has been little snow in the southern hills, four lions have been harvested just outside CSP, and three of those lions pass in and out of the park. Three lions were collared in the prey selection survey and two of the three have been harvested including the lion identified in the elk calf predation situation last year.

#### Open House events

The open house schedule update was presented by Emmett Keyser indicating meetings are posted on the GFP Website and Commissioners were welcome to attend all meetings especially those in their area.

Chair Knippling called a recess at 4:59 PM with meeting to resume at 8 AM the next morning. The meeting resumed at 8 AM on Friday, March 8 at the same location with Commissioners Susie Knippling, John Cooper, Cathy Peterson, Barry Jensen, Gary Jensen, Jim Spies, and Duane Sather present. Approximately twenty media and staff were present.

Motion by Spies with second by Peterson TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACTUAL MATTERS. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Executive Session

Executive session began at 8:01 AM with Commissioners Knippling, B. Jensen, Cooper, Spies, Peterson, Sather, and G. Jensen present along with Parks Director Doug Hofer, Attorney Richard Neill, Al Nedved, and Debra Ascher. The Executive Session ended at 8:43.

#### Division of Parks and Recreation

##### Sheps Canyon Lodge Fee Proposal

Parks Assistant Director of Operation Bob Schneider presented a recommended change to include the former Hill Ranch residence as a new lodge within the parks system and establish the fee to be consistent with other park lodges. Schneider provided photos of the lodge and landscape views it affords. The lodge is ADA compliant and will be available for the Memorial Day weekend.

Add Sheps Canyon to the list of areas that require a group lodging fee and establish the fee.

Motion by Spies with second by Gary Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO CAMPING PERMITS AND FEES TO INCLUDE THE SHEPS CANYON LODGE AND FEES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Lyman County/Cedar Shore Leases

Director Doug Hofer provided history of the current Cedar Shore Resort and the changes and improvements needed for the resort. The Resort, Convention Center, marina, bike trail, and road have experienced soil erosion due to water movement on the river. The city, county, state, and business operators have been working to address these issues this past year and some grant dollars are available to fix the soil movement concerns. Financing for the improvements is another big concern, especially to prospective buyers. A Coast Guard \$1 million grant and \$3 million of bonding authority from the legislature are available for the use towards the project. Several engineers are studying the feasibility of the proposed project with the end goal to have a final design and scope of work.

Dave Sweet of US Hotel ACS Ventures, LLLP, interested buyer, shared his plans for Cedar Shore Resort. He has the ability and interest to provide facility improvements to make this a destination vacation area, which will attract visitors to the area and support the increase franchise fees to make the bond payment. Al's Oasis is included in the pending purchase by US Hotel.

Concessionaire Manager Sean Blanchette indicated three major improvements include the South Dakota Department of Transportation and the City of Oacoma utilizing grant dollars to take the lead to design and improve the road to Cedar Shore Resort and Convention Center. The City of Oacoma has secured a grant requiring matching local dollars to update the sewer system. The Game, Fish, and Parks is working with an engineering consulting firm to develop a viable, affordable, and effective plan for stabilization of the marina and the existing structures.

Sean Blanchette indicated that Lyman County has a 40-year lease to Cedar Shore Resort with 28 years remaining on the lease. Lyman County is willing to amend the lease transferred from the Corps of Engineers and relinquish to GFP the land area necessary for resort operations. Finally, Lyman County also agrees to terminate the agreement as the current marina leaseholder. These steps are necessary to allow US Hotels to exercise their purchase option which expires on April 15.

Blanchette presented draft leases with Lyman County and Resolution 13-02 requesting authorization to amend and execute agreements with Lyman County.

Motion by Spies with second by Cooper TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 13-02 AS PRESENTED (Appendix D). Motion carried unanimously.

#### Cedar Shore Resort Lease Transfer

Sean Blanchette presented a draft Restated Lease for Cedar Shore Resort with US Hotel ASC Ventures, LLLP and Resolution 13-03 requesting approval and authorization to enter into a final version of the Restated Lease upon completion of the Cedar Shore Resort sale to US Hotels. The significant modifications in the draft lease include a larger franchise fee to pay off the bonds for the bank stabilization project, and the Department would have authority to directly administer the terms and conditions of the concession lease agreement.

Motion by Peterson and second by Barry Jensen TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 13-03 AS PRESENTED (Appendix E). Motion carried unanimously.

#### Lewis and Clark Marina Concession

Director Hofer indicated the Commission approved the advertising of an RFP for the Lewis and Clark Marina Concession with a stated price by the current concessionaire at the February 7, 2013, Teleconference meeting. The sale price was increased after Commission approval and Hofer provided a breakdown of the asking price. Concerns that were raised indicating there is no longer an agreement on the asking price. Hofer suggested the Commission rescind the previous approval to advertise an RFP for Lewis and Clark Marina Concession and authorize the Department to go forward with an appraisal of Concessionaire property. Discussion ensued about the appraisal process and the need to develop an RFP to ensure the marina will be a viable business providing needed services for the public we serve.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Spies TO RESCIND THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION DURING THE FEBRUARY 7, 2013, TELECONFERENCE AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE AND ADVERTISE AN RFP FOR THE LEWIS AND CLARK MARINA CONCESSION; AND TO NOW AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH AN APPRAISAL OF THE CONCESSIONAIRE'S POSSESSORY INTEREST IN THE CONCESSIONAIRE FACILITIES AND OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE CONCESSIONAIRE USED IN PROVIDING THE CONCESSION SERVICES BASED UPON THE CONCESSION LEASE AND APPLICABLE RULES. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Custer State Park Mountain Pine Beetle Project

Park Superintendent Matt Snyder shared a review of the winter 2012-13 progress. Approximately 35,000 infested trees were identified and treated. The largest concentration of beetles continues to be around the Sylvan Lake area.

In the main portion of Custer State Park staff saw 75% fewer infested trees than last year indicating efforts are working; however, there is still a lot of pressure coming from outside the park boundaries, especially from Forest Service land and to the north and west of the park. Contractors have completed work to cut trees with removal to be completed by June 1. Contracted timber sales are assisting with the MPB effort by thinning 6,000 acres. It is dry in the hills and the fire danger is already high this year.

#### Campground Reservation System

Lynn Spomer indicated reservations at Custer State Park are available for one year in advance and all parks are taking reservations for the first three weekends of the camping season. Most parks seem to fill on the first day and as of yesterday \$1 million of camping fees have been collected which is 10% of camping season. Next week the Point of Sale system will be operating with improvements to customer profiles. Lawrence and Schiller are doing a wonderful job with fifty staff available on the opening day for weekend reservations and few complaints from customers. Spomer indicated the call center representatives are getting better.

Motion by Cooper with second by Barry Jensen TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.  
Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

DRAFT

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission  
March 7, 2013

Public Hearing Officer Chuck Schlueter began the public hearing at 2:01 PM at the AmericInn Conference Center in Fort Pierre. Schlueter indicated items listed under Finalizations on the agenda numbered 8-10 were open for public comment with written comments read prior to oral testimony from the attending public. Individuals wishing to provide oral testimony are to approach the microphone, state their name, provide their name and city on the sign-in sheet, and keep comments to three minutes.

### Special Buck Licenses

Spencer Cordes, representing Dakota Safaris, of Wall, SD, wrote: " We run a commercial hunting organization based out of Wall, SD, bringing in added income for airport, motels, gas stations, restaurants, meat processors, taxidermists, etc., and the SD Dept. of revenue. These paid hunts boost the local landowner's pockets as well. In return, money that often gets filtered back into our communities.

A year ago we met with you at this same meeting and discussed our continuing and increasing problem of obtaining buck licenses for our hunters. At that time there was a proposal to add 200 West River resident and 200 nonresident licenses. The commission voted 7 to 1 to approve this proposal, leaving us thinking there was good support and that we had taken a step in the right direction.

Consequently, two months later this never got approved. We are going backwards, to the days before the Special Buck license even existed. Not so much because there aren't enough tags available, but because of the growing numbers of applicants and the chances of drawing a tag. I would hope, there could be added S.B. tags, or ultimately a transferrable landowner tag available in the future, to offset this problem. The Special Buck license is used mostly to hunt bucks, therefore not affecting the overall deer population as much as harvesting does. To us if you want more deer, issued less doe tags.

No one would gain an opportunity to trophy hunt on our private lands, even if we couldn't obtain a single license. Without a change to the current situation, I see everyone losing."

Tom Jensen of Harrisburg, SD, emailed: "I am writing to voice my full support of the "Special Buck Tag Change" proposal that will be voted on soon."

Richard Visker of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I just wanted to take a moment to tell you I support this proposal and encourage this to pass. License numbers according to the deer population is the right route."

Thomas R. Dvorak of Mellette, SD, emailed: "I would like to see the state raise their prices for special licenses and general season licenses for deer and antelope so the SDGFP could have some additional funds to run programs in the state to promote hunting in SD."

Doug Lake of Pierre, SD: emailed: "I think the special buck licenses (east/west) numbers should be increased More happy hunters. If the idea that killing bucks hurts

less or none at all. It is a place where GFP can sell tags for a reasonable fee and the population is not hurt.”

Fred Lamphere, Butte County Sheriff emailed: “I feel that you should increase the non-resident special buck tags to the number that is applied for. That extra revenue could go to WIA funds and it would create a revenue to western South Dakota with all of the non-resident hunters. Sort of like the revenue that is created with the pheasant season.”

Mark Parr of Lennox, SD, emailed: “Why are you decreasing the tags for residents and nonresidents West River and increase for East River, or am I looking at this wrong. I’m glad to hear about only 1 tag, very good idea.”

Mark Wilson of Watertown, SD, emailed: “Allow special buck tag holders to hunt public land also. Would like to know why a person can’t with this tag anyway.”

Ryan J. Gruber of Brandon, SD, emailed: “Just to clarify...the proposal is to raise the number of special buck tags available? If that’s the case then I should assume that even with the loss of habitat and increased hunting pressure, the GFP is clearly not concerned with the quality of bucks being harvested. I don’t want to become irate at this point until I understand the facts, I would assume that with the loss of non-resident pheasant revenue we’ll be seeing more of this trend (hopefully I’m drawing unfair conclusions).”

David Bechard of Pierre, SD, emailed: “You must have taken to selling and bartering of game animal against the law out of the hunting manual??? So why is it OK for GFP and others to sell and barter in game animals?? It couldn't involve money and greed could it??? Seems like the numbers of special buck tags just keep going up I wonder why that is??? And everyone wants us to teach our kids to hunt and fish and enjoy the great outdoors. Then the Gov. entities keep working against us in various and many ways. To me it points only one direction money grab. Just a couple of my thoughts. I would like this in your minutes as all my required info is here.”

Micah Mauney of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: “I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent proposal suggesting a SD resident would only be eligible for one special buck license. I am a SD resident and this is one of the biggest perks I see as a resident, that being, I am eligible to draw BOTH a west river and east river special buck license.

This proposal would mean I would have to choose between the two, and I question if this favors those that only apply for one or the other, or possibly assisting those that are only in pursuit of an east river special buck license. These statements are easily supported when reviewing the statistical draw information and seeing the lower success rate for the east river applicants. To penalize those that take advantage of hunting both sides of the state doesn’t seem right or just.

One may suggest that you can still apply for the regular draws, however, the regular draws are not guaranteed, and it is difficult to draw a license in numerous counties. By taking away the option for one to be eligible for both special buck licenses, hunting will be reduced for many hunters.”

Scott Hanisch of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: “I was reviewing the comments on the east/west river comments and having both licenses. I don’t see where that would be a problem, when it gets to the 3<sup>rd</sup> draw and there is still left over tags – sell them.”

Bill Menne of Doland, SD, emailed: "The tag should be for both east and west river if a hunter wants to apply, and hold both tags."

Paul Varcoe of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I will not be able to attend the GFP meeting in January. Concerning the special buck tags – I would like to see special buck tags made available to nonresidents for East River Deer."

Scott Jamison of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "...I believe I see the proposal for Special Buck is to increase the number of licenses, which is a huge improvement and I appreciate the effort to do that."

Robert Garrity of Fort Pierre, SD, emailed: "I'm not sure I have any solutions but I do see a problem since GFP started managing the deer herd to produce more trophy bucks. Prior to this effort I had little problem getting a license which usually was an any deer license. I haven't been able to get a buck license in five years either in the Black hills or the prairie seasons. At least in the Black hills I have always put in a second choice but haven't got it either even when the deer were over running the area. I currently have 5 preference points for the Black Hills without getting any license. East river is almost as bad but I have been able to get some left over antlerless tags."

Another suggestion I would make is to have a combination deer and turkey license when the two seasons are on at the same time. It would be nice to have a turkey license while hunting deer but it is very disappointing to get the turkey license and not the deer."

Russ Roberts of Saint Onge, SD, emailed: "I feel that the proposal to limit hunters to either a West River Special Buck license or East River Special Buck license but not both in the same year is a very good step in the right direction. It will help to spread opportunity out for everybody in a state that allows hunters to take way more bucks per year (up to five) - per hunter than any state around us, because of all the different seasons each hunter can get a buck license for. I would however like to see the quota of West River Special Buck licenses stay at least where it is at, 500 resident and 500 non-resident licenses. These licenses, in particular the non-resident Special Buck tags have a quota that is much lower than applicant number. Because these licenses are good only on private land and you are supposed to provide a landowners name and number that you have permission to hunt in the application process, why are we taking opportunity away from hunters that actually create good landowner/hunter relationships. If the process is working correctly that hunter has to secure permission from a landowner to hunt before applying. If that hunter does not draw a license and a hunter from the regular West River draw just shows up unannounced and expects to hunt, what kind of landowner/hunter relationships is South Dakota promoting? I don't think the answer is good for hunter or landowner."

Jerry Koster of Yankton, SD, emailed: "To satisfy residents, the number of non-resident special buck tags should be reduced, Example 1000 tags are made available, 750 residents apply non-residents get to draw for the 250 left. I live here, pay taxes here, but didn't draw a special buck tag. Some out of stater did, that's just not right!"

Roger Heupel of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: "Are you going to change the deadline of one of them so a person can apply for the second one if you don't draw the first one?"

Marvin Jobgen of Dakota Safari of Wall, SD stated he supports the information in Steve Cordes letter read earlier. The proposal currently shows West River will lose 40 licenses and his operation is an every other year hunting opportunity for interested

hunters to get a license and often times they want to come every year rather than wait a year. This makes it hard for business and he does not want to reduce licenses and wants the 500 for residents and 500 for nonresident. This issue is frustrating for him and his business and reducing tags is not the answer for him.

Russ Roberts of Western Gateway Outfitters stated in western SD and spends lots of time, miles, and dollars to get hunters to come to South Dakota benefiting local communities. He wants base number of licenses and 500 is plenty low and SD has more opportunity than any other state. Hunters are scheduled two years out to run his operation, wants a base figure of 500 licenses and would like to see it increased not decreased.

#### Public Water Swim/Safety Zones

No written or oral comments were received.

#### Waterfowl Refuges

Derek Schiefelbein of Pierre, SD, emailed: "The need and reason for all these waterfowl refuges has past. The Waterfowl commercial hunting is mostly all gone. Save the main refuges on Oahe. Okobojo. Dry Creek. Mailshack. Nystroms. None of these 4 need to be as big as they are. The rest can go away on Lake Oahe. Lake Sharpe and Francis Case could also be looked at a little. The areas are too large.

Climate change and migration pattern change is an issue. Birds are staying north longer, this has been the pattern for the past 10-12 years. Having 300,000 ducks here (for 3 months) all in the same refuge is a disaster waiting to happen. They won't leave or move, even when they should. We don't want to have another bad die off like we did 2 years ago. 8,000 dead after getting into bad grain because they are starving and won't migrate. The birds need to keep moving."

Alan Lein and Steve Petersen of Chamberlain, SD, emailed: "We would like to submit this email in support of the proposal to remove the North Shore State Waterfowl Refuge. This will provide some additional opportunities to enjoy waterfowl hunting in this area. Most of these proposals try to limit or restrict public access, so it is a nice change to see improved access to waterfowl hunting."

No oral testimony was received.

The public hearing concluded at 2:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary