

**Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission  
December 9-10, 2021**

Chairman Russell Olson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. CT. Commissioners Julie Bartling (via zoom), Travis Bies, Jon Locken, Stephanie Rissler, Doug Sharp, Charles Spring, Robert Whitmyre and Russell Olson were present. Public and staff were able to listen via SDPB livestream and participate via video conference or in person with approximately 70 total participants via zoom and in person.

**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION**

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Chairman Olson called for conflicts of interest to be disclosed. None were presented.

**Approval of Minutes**

Olson called for any additions or corrections to the November 4-5, 2021 regular meeting minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Whitmyre with second by Locken TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4-5, 2021 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

**Additional Commissioner Salary Days**

Olson called for additional salary days. Bies, Spring and Whitmyre each submitted 1 salary day (Elk Meeting), Motion by Rissler with second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE SALARY DAY AS REQUESTED. Motion carried unanimously.

**SDSU Natural Resource Management**

John Killefer, Dean of College of Ag, Food and Environmental Sciences, provided update on current projects and facilities. including ag programs specifically precision ag, precision ranching,

**Go Outdoors SD Demo**

Heather Villa, admin chief provided a demo

**onX Update**

Nick Harrington, communication manager provided an update

**OPEN FORUM**

Jon Kotilnek, senior staff attorney, opened the floor for discussion from those in attendance on matters of importance to them that may not be on the agenda. None presented.

**PETITION**

**Elk Drawing Structure**

Kirschenmann informed the Commission that the petition was withdrawn.

**PROPOSALS**

**Public Waters**

Jacquie Ermer, wildlife regional supervisor and Becky Graf, park manager, presented the recommended changes to remove no boating zones and allow for non-

motorized watercraft within the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and Waubay State Game Bird Refuge. They explained GFP and the USFWS have been in collaboration to discuss ways to increase recreational opportunities, while still meeting the objectives of the refuge system. The USFWS Refuge System recently removed restrictions to increase outdoor opportunities at Waubay National Wildlife Refuge within their mission and management responsibilities. These respective administrative rules are prohibiting the USFWS from allowing these outdoor opportunities.

### **License Agent Process**

Keith Fisk, program manager, presented the recommended change to modify two administrative rules to align new business practices with GFP's new licensing system and requirements. To adjust electronic ACH transfers, processes, and timeframe for payments and remove the use of Emergency Authorization books. He explained GFP will be launching the new licensing system on December 15, 2021. Once this occurs, license agents will be required to work within new business practices (i.e. electronic ACH transfers and different timeframes when the electronic money sweeps occur) to continue to be a license agent for GFP. License agents serve an important role for selling licenses on behalf of GFP as well as providing hunters with the ability to purchase hunting and fishing licenses outside normal business hours that GFP offices are open. As technology advances, the ability to sell paper hunting and fishing licenses is no longer needed. Customers will be able to purchase licenses online (through GFP's licensing website) or by visiting a license agent or by calling GFP's call center.

### **Camping Reservation Refund Policy**

Scott Simpson, division director, presented the recommended changes to allow for cancellation of campsites and lodging facilities without fee for a period of time after a reservation is made. After that period has elapsed, a fee of one-half of the first night's camping or lodging fees will be assessed for both types of overnight use. This rule proposal helps simplify cancellation policies and associated fees by providing one cancellation procedure for campsites, and one for lodging facilities and Custer State Park French Creek Horse Camp. Simpson further explained The Department's cancellation policy was developed at a time of lower demand for camping and lodging facilities, and the ability to resell those facilities was more difficult. The current procedure is to assess a cancellation fee of one-night's camping or \$25 for cabins/lodges effective immediately after the reservation is made. With the increased demand for camping and lodging facilities, the ability to fill those vacancies left by cancellations is much more likely. This change will also help the Department be more consistent with industry cancellation standards, and allow more flexibility of users to cancel a reservation without penalty due to unforeseen circumstances.

## **DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **Land Acquisition – Spring Creek Lot 17 Purchase Approval**

Scott Simpson provided

Motioned by Bies, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE LAND PURCHASE PER RESOLUTION 21-21 (appendix A)

### **SDSU Conservation Planning and Park Management Update**

Jennifer Cheek, presented to the Commission

**Lodging Price Structure Review**

Al Nedved provided information.

**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

**Beaver Management in the Black Hills**

Trenton Haffley, provided information.

**Deer Drawing Follow up**

Andrew Norton provided information.

**Canada Goose Depredation**

Emmett Keyser and Jacquie Ermer provided information

**Licenses Sales Update**

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division director, provided an update on resident and nonresident license sales.

**River Otter Season**

Keith Fisk provided information

**Track Wheelchairs**

Emmett Keyser provided information

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

**Appendix A**  
**Resolution 21-21**

WHEREAS, Codger's Cove Development, LLC owns real estate (Property) described as:

LOT 17, CODGER'S COVE SUBDIVISION A REPLAT OF A PORTION OF TRACT 1, CODGER'S COVE ADDITION IN THE E1/2 OF SECTION 32, AND THE W 1/2 OF SEC. 33 AND A REPLAT OF A PORTION OF TRACTS 5 AND 6, OAHE TRAILS SUBDIVISION IN THE W 1/2 OF SEC. 33, T113N, R80W OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> P.M., SULLY COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Whereas, pursuant to its wishes, Codger's Cove Development, LLC desires sell title to the Property to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (Department) for use for parks and recreation purposes; and

Whereas, the Department has evaluated and determined that the Property would serve very well as a park or recreational area, and

Whereas, the Department is authorized to purchase property for park and recreational use per SDCL 41-2-19 and desires to purchase the Property upon confirmation of the purchase by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission does hereby confirm the decision by the Department to purchase the Property from Codger's Cove Development, LLC to be used as by the parks division.