



JUNE 2022 MEETING MINUTES Game, Fish and Parks Commission

June 2-3, 2022

Best Western Ramkota Hotel

1400 8th Ave NW, Aberdeen, SD

CALL MEETING TO ORDER 1:00 PM CT/ 12 PM MT

Chairman Russell Olson called the meeting to order at 1 pm CT at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Aberdeen, SD on June 2, 2022. Commissioners Travis Bies, Stephanie Rissler, Russell Olson, Jon Locken, Julie Bartling, Robert Whitmyre, and Chuck Spring were present. Public and staff were able to listen via SDPB livestream and participate via video conference or in person with approximately 72 total participants via zoom or in person.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Chairman Olson called for conflicted of interest to be disclosed. *None were present.*

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2022 MEETING

Chairman Olson called for any additions or correction to the May 5-6, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>. Motion by Whitmyre with second by Bartling to APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 5-6, 2022, REGULAR MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER SALARY DAYS

Chairman Olson called for additional salary days. Rissler requested salary days for attending the Spirit Mound Trust Group with PWF. Motion by Whitmyre with second by Bies to APPROVE THE REQUESTED SALARY DAYS. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motioned by Bartling, seconded by Rissler to ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. Motion carried unanimously. Motioned by Bartling, seconded by Rissler to EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION. Motion carried unanimously. Motioned by Bies, seconded by Locken to NOMINATE WHITMYRE FOR THE OPEN VICE-CHAIR POSITION, Motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION *(continued)*

BUDGET

Director Petersen presented the FY2023 department budget to the Commission. Director Petersen clarified that SDGFP has 6 budget units or program areas that make up the Department's overall budget. As an informational item Director Petersen reviewed the three GFP budget units where budget setting authority resides with the Legislature; 0601 Administration, 0620 State Parks and Recreation, and 0621 State Parks and Recreation – Development/Improvement.

Director Petersen reviewed the three budget units where the budget setting authority resided with the SDGFP COMMISSION: 0610 Wildlife – Info, 0612 Wildlife Development/Improvement – Info, and 0622 Snowmobile Trails – Info. The Commission and Director Petersen discussed the budget levels that were part of the Department's original budget request and the budget levels that have been amended to include the statewide 6% salary packaged, additional targeted salary adjustments, and adjustments for captive insurance premiums on state buildings and structures. Motioned by Rissler, seconded by Whitmyre to APPROVE FY2023 FOR THE PROGRAM UNDER THEIR CONTROL AT THE LEVELS LISTED BELOW. Motion carried unanimously.

0610 Wildlife - Info			
<i>Division of Wildlife Operations</i>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
Personal Services	\$ 5,362,664	\$ 17,827,007	\$ 23,189,671
Operating Expenses	\$ 14,604,821	\$ 22,872,000	\$ 37,476,821
Total	\$ 19,967,485	\$ 40,699,007	\$ 60,666,492
0612 Wildlife - Development/Improvement - Info			
<i>Division of Wildlife Capital Development</i>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,707,675	\$ 3,086,725	\$ 4,794,400
Total	\$ 1,707,675	\$ 3,086,725	\$ 4,794,400
0622 Snowmobile Trails - Info			
<i>Snowmobile Trails Program</i>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
Personal Services		\$ 457,770	\$ 457,770
Operating Expenses		\$ 961,729	\$ 961,729
Total		\$ 1,419,499	\$ 1,419,499

LICENSE LIST REQUEST

As an action, Director Petersen presented a license list request from RMA Specialties out of Cheyenne WY. RMA Specialties provides taxidermy supplies and requested GFP’s list of licensed SD taxidermists. Motion by Whitmyre, seconded by Bies TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST AT THE FULL FEE OF 10 CENTS PER NAME. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM – 2:00 PM CT / 1:00 PM MT

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.

Rob Roeber of Redfield, SD discussed flooding at Cottonwood Lake.

Julie Johnson of Mina, SD thanked the commissioners and staff for the work done on the Mina Lake Spillway. The Mina Lake HOA is planning on holding a formal dedication in the near future.

Open forum concluded at 2:09 pm CT.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION (continued)

GO OUTDOOR SD UPDATE

Ross Scott, Wildlife Director, and Keith Fisk, Programs Manager, updated the Commission on the status of the Go Outdoors South Dakota program.

2023 ONLINE APPLICATIONS

Keith Fisk, Programs Manager, updated the Commission provided an update on the 2023 online applications.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Lisa Bragg, Vice-President of Southwick Associates, gave report of the Economic Impact Study.

R3 UPDATES

Shala Larson, R3 and Relevancy Manager, gave an update on R3 initiatives within the state. She shared that a HuntSAFE Instructor conference took place in April where there were many instructors present. The main concern expressed by instructors was creating incentives for the next generation of instructors to get certified and begin teaching. Larson also shared that the statewide R3 Strategic plan is finalized and will begin implementation. Youth Conservation Camp was underway the second week of June and Becoming and Outdoors woman will take place at the end of August and NeSoDak at Enemy Swim Lake.

FISHING SOUTH DAKOTA MARKETING PLAN

Nick Harrington, Communications Manager, provided an update on Fishing South Dakota, which is a campaign focused on increasing fishing license sales. Harrington stated that nonresident efforts were successful in the

spring, which were centered around fisheries features from across the state with regional fisheries supervisors. Harrington explained the current focus is on resident anglers, including showcasing educational resources and opportunities including an education program called "Fishing with Your Friends" that is currently full across the state.

PETITIONS

MUZZLELOADER DEER SEASON & USE OF MAGNIFIED SCOPES

Director Kirschenmann, Wildlife Division Director, presented the petition received from Joe Murano of Aberdeen, SD, requesting the use of magnified scopes during muzzleloader season. Motioned by Whitmyre, seconded by Bies to DENY THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Bartling to ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-09 TO DENY ABOVE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

EARLY FALL SEPTEMBER GOOSE SEASON – RESTRICTION ON NON-RESIDENTS

Director Kirschenmann, Wildlife Division Director, presented the petition received from Charles Rokusek of Sioux Falls, SD, requesting that non-residents may not hunt early fall Canada Goose in the counties that make up the Region 3 of the Game, Fish & Parks and are in the Southeast part of South Dakota. Motioned by Bies, seconded by Bartling to DENY THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Whitmyre, seconded by Locken to ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-10 TO DENY ABOVE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

SMALLMOUTH BASS SIZE LIMIT ON MISSOURI RIVER

Director Kirschenmann, Wildlife Division Director, presented the petition received from Travis Tschumper of Sioux Falls, SD, requesting implementing a size limit on smallmouth bass between 12-16 inches and one over 21 inches on the Missouri River (Oahe, Sharpe, Francis Case, Lewis & Clarke, and below Lewis & Clarke down to the Nebraska border.) Motioned by Locken, seconded by Rissler to DENY THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Bartling, seconded by Rissler to ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-11 TO DENY ABOVE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

ANGOSTURA CONCESSION PROSPECTUS AUTHORIZATION

Sean Blanchette, Concessions Manager with the Parks Division, provided the Commission a status update on the forthcoming prospectus for the Concession Lease opportunity at Angostura Recreation Area. The current lease is set to expire on 12/31/2022 and the Parks division is currently developing a prospectus for the opportunity. Blanchette shared those outstanding issues need to be resolved with the owners of the two timeshare cabins that exist in the Resort complex as well as an issue with the information included in the appraisal completed in the fall of 2021 that must be resolved prior to issuing a prospectus. Parks staff will return to the Commission at the July meeting to request authorization to issue the prospectus, which will still provide ample time to receive and evaluate responses and have a recommendation for the Commission for a new lease prior to expiration of the current agreement.

PROPOSALS

ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON

Andy Lindbloom, Senior Wildlife Biologist, provided a presentation on the current antelope population status and justifications for recommendations to minimize antlerless harvest to meet population objectives sooner than later.

Chad Switzer, Program Manager, discussed the recommended change from “any antelope” licenses to “antelope” licenses for the archery and firearm seasons, thus allowing the Commission flexibility in determining tag type for such license. Chad discussed the recommended change to modify current administrative rule for mentored antelope licenses to be valid in any open firearm hunting unit west of the Missouri River for private land only. Justification for recommendations is to minimize antlerless harvest to meet population objectives sooner than later in the primary antelope range.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Adjust the maximum number of licenses available in administrative rule from no more than 4,115 to 8,000 one-tag "any antelope" licenses and from no more than 600 to 3,000 two-tag antelope licenses.
2. Add Campbell County to Unit PRA-63A (Potter and Walworth counties).

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the recommended changes adopted by the Commission.

41:06:23:01. Antelope hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses. The antelope hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day for 16 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday closest to October 1, unless prohibited in the unit descriptions in §§

41:06:23:02. No more than 8,000 ~~4,115~~ one-tag ~~"any antelope"~~ antelope licenses, no more than 3,000 ~~600~~ two-tag antelope licenses, and no more than 50 "special antelope" licenses may be issued to residents for the antelope hunting season. No more than 50 "special antelope" licenses may be issued to nonresidents for the antelope hunting season. If a person applies for a "special antelope" license, the person may not apply for another antelope license until the third lottery drawing. A successful "special antelope" applicant may not apply for a leftover "special antelope" license.

41:06:23:02. Open units -- Exceptions. The following is a description of the open units: (28) Unit PRA-63A: Campbell, Potter and Walworth counties; If no license is allocated for a specific hunting unit, that unit is dissolved for the purposes of designating areas open to hunting, as they pertain to the archery antelope season, and areas open to hunting under SDCL 41-6-19.3.

Motion by Bies, seconded by Spring to APPROVE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION. Motion carried unanimously.

ARCHERY ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON

Recommended changes from last year:

1. Change "any antelope" antelope licenses to one-tag antelope licenses.

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the recommended changes adopted by the Commission.

41:06:24:01. Archery antelope hunting season established -- Open area -- Number and type of licenses available. The archery antelope hunting season is open in those areas of the state with an antelope season and in the portions of Custer and Pennington Counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District, except Custer State Park, with access permits from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day beginning on the third Saturday of August through October 31, except during the antelope season. An unlimited number of "any antelope" one-tag antelope licenses may be issued for this season. The access permits may be issued by lottery drawing.41:06:23:01.

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Rissler to APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION. Motion carried unanimously.

[Commissioners requested minutes read buck only tags.]

ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON – HUNTING UNIT LICENSE ALLOCATIONS

Recommendations of following page.

Motioned by Bartling, seconded by Locken to APPROVE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS. Motion carried unanimously.

ANTELOPE
2021 vs. 2022-2023 Comparison

Unit #	Unit Name	2021 Resident Licenses	2022-2023 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2021 Resident Tags	2022-2023 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
02A	Pennington East	100	50	-50	-50%	100	50	-50	-50%
11A	Bennett/Shannon	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
15A	Butte NW	300	50	-250	-83%	300	50	-250	-83%
15B	Butte/Lawrence	350	200	-150	-43%	350	200	-150	-43%
20A	Corson	70	70	0	0%	70	70	0	0%
21A	Custer/Pennington Central	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
24A	Dewey	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
27A	Fall River/Custer Southwest	550	400	-150	-27%	550	400	-150	-27%
31A	Haakon	100	50	-50	-50%	100	50	-50	-50%
35A	Harding West	600	150	-450	-75%	1,200	150	-1,050	-88%
35B	Harding East	500	150	-350	-70%	500	150	-350	-70%
36A	Hughes	25	15	-10	-40%	25	15	-10	-40%
38A	Hyde/Hand/Buffalo	10	10	0	0%	10	10	0	0%
39A	Jackson	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
41A	Jones	40	40	0	0%	40	40	0	0%
45A	Lyman	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
45B	Ft. Pierre National Grasslands	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
49A	Meade North	500	300	-200	-40%	500	300	-200	-40%
49B	Meade South	500	200	-300	-60%	500	200	-300	-60%
50A	Mellette/Todd	30	30	0	0%	30	30	0	0%
53A	Perkins North	150	50	-100	-67%	150	50	-100	-67%
53B	Perkins South	400	100	-300	-75%	400	100	-300	-75%
58A	Stanley	40	40	0	0%	40	40	0	0%
59A	Sully	30	20	-10	-33%	30	20	-10	-33%
60A	Tripp	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
63A	Campbell/Potter/Walworth	20	10	-10	-50%	20	10	-10	-50%
64A	Ziebach	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
PR	Special Antelope	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
TOTAL		4,765	2,385	-2,380	-50%	5,365	2,385	-2,980	-56%

Note: An additional percentage of the number of resident licenses will be available to nonresidents based upon the following harvest strategies by management unit: Restrictive (2%), Moderate (4%), Liberal (8%)

APPLICATION FOR LICENSE

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the recommended changes adopted by the Commission.

41:06:01:12. Mentored youth big game license -- Restrictions. A resident parent or guardian may purchase no more than one mentored "any antlerless deer" license or "antlerless whitetail deer" license, and one "doe-fawn antelope" license, and one fall "any turkey" license, and one spring "male turkey" license for a designated mentored youth as provided in SDCL 41-6-81. Mentored antelope licenses are valid in any open firearm hunting unit west of the Missouri River for private land only. No youth participating in a mentored big game hunt may apply for a regular season license for that corresponding species and season.41:06:23:01.

Motioned by Rissler, seconded by Whitmyre to APPROVE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION. Motion carried unanimously.

ARCHERY & GENERAL MUZZLELOADING DEER HUNTING SEASONS

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the recommended changes adopted by the Commission.

41:06:22:01.01. Open units. The following is a description of the open units: (1) Unit ARD-ST1: statewide, excluding Custer State Park; (2) Unit ARD-ER1: all counties east of the Missouri River; (3) Unit ARD-WR1: all

counties west of the Missouri River, excluding Custer State Park; (4) Unit ARD-LM1: antlerless whitetail deer licenses will be available in hunting units that offer a deer license for antlerless deer in the lottery drawing for the Black Hills, West River, and East River deer seasons. One single tag license may be purchased for this hunting unit; ~~all areas open to archery deer hunting; excluding the following deer hunting units referenced in chapters 41:06:19, 41:06:20, and 41:06:21: BD1, 02C, 07A, 08A, 12A, 14A, 27L, 33A, 34A, 35L, 36A, 38A, 41A, 50A, 54A, 58D, 59A, 59B, 61A, and 65A;~~ (5) Unit ARD-MP1: for those designated areas within the city limits of Custer; (6) Unit ARD-MP2: for those designated areas within the city limits of Rapid City; and (7) Unit ARD-MP3: for those designated areas within the city limits of Sioux Falls.

41:06:45:02. Open units. The following is a description of the open units: 1) Unit MZD-ST1: statewide, excluding Custer State Park; and (2) Unit MZD-LM1: antlerless whitetail deer licenses will be available in hunting units that offer a deer license for antlerless deer in the lottery drawing for the Black Hills, West River, and East River deer seasons. One single tag license may be purchased for this hunting unit. ~~One single tag license may be purchased for all areas open to muzzleloading deer hunting, excluding the following deer hunting units referenced in chapters 41:06:19, 41:06:20, and 41:06:21: BD1, 02C, 07A, 08A, 11B, 12A, 14A, 27L, 33A, 34A, 35L, 36A, 38A, 41A, 50A, 54A, 58D, 59A, 59B, 61A, and 65A.~~

No action was taken.

HUNTING REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITED METHODS

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the recommended changes adopted by the Commission.

41:06:03:19. Carcass disposal for wildlife processing facilities. Wildlife processing facilities, as defined by §

41:06:03:10, shall dispose of all remaining cervid carcass parts obtained from outside this state with a waste management provider or permitted landfill. Game processors licensed by another state or federal entity shall dispose of carcasses as required by the conditions associated with their license.

No action was taken.

FALL WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the recommended changes adopted by the Commission.

41:06:14:01. Fall turkey hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses. The fall wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily beginning on November 1 through January 31. No more than 500 ~~100~~ one-tag any turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the Black Hills fall turkey hunting season. No more than 2,500 ~~400~~ one-tag any turkey licenses and 2,000 ~~35~~ double-tag any turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the prairie fall turkey hunting season.

41:06:14:02.01. Prairie units. The following is a description of the open prairie units: (1) Unit PFT-01A: Minnehaha County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow; (2) Unit PFT-02A: that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River; (3) ~~(2)~~ Unit PFT-06A: that portion of Brookings County east of Interstate 29. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow; (4) ~~(3)~~ Unit PFT-07A: Yankton County; (5) ~~(4)~~ Unit PFT-08A: ~~Those portions of Davison and Hanson cCounties within a line beginning at the junction of 403rd Avenue and 247th Street, then east on 247th Street to its junction with 413th Avenue, then south on 413th Avenue to its junction with Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to its junction with 403rd Avenue, then north on 403rd Avenue to the point of beginning.~~ A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow; (6) ~~(5)~~ Unit PFT-12A: Bon Homme County; (7) ~~(6)~~ Unit PFT-13A: Brule and Buffalo County counties; (8) Unit PFT-15A: Butte County and that portion of Lawrence County north of Interstate 90; (9) ~~(7)~~ Unit PFT-17A: Charles Mix County, excluding Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge, and Douglas County; (10) Unit PFT-18A: Aurora and Douglas counties; (11) ~~(8)~~ Unit PFT-19A: Clay County; (12) Unit PFT-21A: that portion of Custer

County east of State Highway 79 and that portion of Pennington County south of Interstate 90 between State Highway 79 and the Cheyenne River; (13) ~~(9)~~ Unit PFT-23A: Deuel County: A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow; (14) Unit PFT-24A: Dewey and Ziebach counties; (15) Unit PFT-27A; that portion of Fall River County not included in Unit BFT-BH1; (16) Unit PFT-29A: Grant County; (17) Unit PFT-30A; Gregory County; (18) Unit PFT-31A: Haakon County; (19) Unit PFT-35A; Harding County; (20) Unit PFT-41A: Jones County; (21) ~~(10)~~ Unit PFT-36A: Hughes County, excluding Farm Island Recreation Area, LaFramboise Island Nature Area, and department land from the Pierre city limits to Farm Island Recreation Area; (22) ~~(11)~~ Unit PFT-37A: Hutchinson County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow; (23) ~~(12)~~ Unit PFT-39A: Jackson County; (24) ~~(13)~~ Unit PFT-40A: Jerauld County; (25) ~~(14)~~ Unit PFT-44A: Lincoln County; (26) Unit PFT-45A: Lyman County; (27) ~~(15)~~ Unit PFT-48A: those portions of Marshall County south and east of State Highway 25 and north of State Highway 10 and Roberts County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow; (28) Unit PFT-49A: those portions of Meade County not included in Units BFT-BH1 and PFT-53A, and that portion of Pennington County north of Interstate 90, west of the Cheyenne River; (29) Unit PFT-50A: Mellette County; (30) Unit PFT-52A: Moody County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow; (31) Unit PFT-53A: Perkins County and that portion of Meade County north of U.S. Highway 212; (32) Unit PFT-60A: Tripp County; (33) ~~(18)~~ Unit PFT-61A: Turner County; and (34) ~~(19)~~ Unit PFT-62A: Union County; and (35) Unit PFT-67A: Todd County.

No action was taken.

MOURNING DOVE HUNTING SEASON

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the recommended changes adopted by the Commission. 41:06:40:05. Restrictions. Mourning dove hunting restrictions are as follows: (1) Doves may be shot only in flight; and (2) All state parks and state recreation areas are closed to dove hunting except Angostura State Recreation Area excluding that portion of the area lying east of the dam and Shadehill State Recreation Area.

No action was taken.

SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the necessary changes for consideration by the Commission.

41:06:13:05. Turkey hunting recruitment license – Open area and eligibility. The turkey hunting recruitment licenses are valid statewide, excluding Custer State Park, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset beginning on the first Saturday of April through May 31 during the spring turkey hunting seasons. A person is eligible as provided in SDCL 41-6-81.

41:06:13:06. Number and types of licenses available -- Application process. A sponsoring nongovernmental organization shall complete and apply to the department stating the name, address, and phone number of the sponsoring organization. No more than 10 male turkey hunting recruitment licenses may be issued with no more than two of the allocated licenses issued per sponsoring nongovernmental organization. The sponsoring nongovernmental organization shall be responsible for license fees.

41:06:13:07. Criteria for selection by commission of non-governmental organization. Any nongovernmental organizations devoted to wildlife management; preservation; propagation; habitat; research; hunter retention, recruitment, and reactivation; and recognized as an exempt organization under § 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code may apply for such licenses.

41:06:13:08. Application deadline. The completed application under §41:06:13:06 must be received by the department by December 31 preceding the spring turkey season.

41:06:13:09. Selection of non-governmental organization by commission. The commission shall review and evaluate the information contained in the applications according to the criteria listed in §41:06:13:07 and shall select the participants it considers best qualified. The department secretary shall notify all applicants regarding the commission's selection.

No action was taken.

DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION *(continued)*

MAY 12TH STORM UPDATE

William Collignon, Administrator, provided an update on the May 12th storms that hit Lake Herman, Sandy Shores, and Johnson's Point. He commended both staff, the South Dakota DOT, and the many volunteers for coming together to clean up the aftermath of the storm.

PARK PROGRAMMING & SUMMER EVENTS

April Larson, Marketing Coordinator, presented an update on park programming and summer events. There are many events and educational opportunities happening in South Dakota State Parks, Recreation Areas and Trails for people and families this summer.

MINA LAKE, NEWELL LAKE, AND LAKE ALVIN DAM UPDATES

Adam Kulesa, Administrator, gave a short presentation was shared with the commission regarding the status of the 3 large dam/spillway replacement projects at Mina, Newell, and Lake Alvin on the morning of Friday June 3rd. Pictures and status updates were provided for each of the three projects. No questions from the commission.

SPRING CREEK (GOOD EARTH) GOLF COURSE EXTENSION UPDATE

Al Nedved, Assistant Director, briefed the Commission on the process of issuing an RFP for extended golf course operations at Spring Creek Country Club. The South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation purchased the Spring Creek Golf Course in 2015 under a ten-year contract for deed. The Department has been meeting with homeowners' groups and public stakeholders over the last two years to gain some direction of what this property could be developed for. There is not a clear direction the Department is seeing for using the property, so it has had discussions with local golf course managers to determine interest in continued golf course operations to allow more time to study future uses. The Department is drafting an RFP for a 5-1- year golf course operation opportunity. The Department has also been in communication with the existing golf course to determine the specifics of a transition from the existing operator to a new one. This is in the form of a draft settlement agreement that will specify the conditions of sale of personal property, provision of documents that will assist with prospective bidders, and the handling of intangible property. A draft agreement has been provided to the Spring Creek Country Club, and upon execution of that agreement, the Department is prepared to issue an RFP, which will be available for 60-90 days.

CAMPING, VISITATION, AND REVENUE REPORT

Al Nedved, Assistant Director, gave a report on the camping, visitation, revenue reports, as well as seasonal staffing.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

CREP UPDATES

The James River Watershed CREP currently has over 77,600 acres enrolled with more than 14,300 acres set to expire this year. All expiring acres are eligible for re-enrollment. Over 6,800 new acres have been enrolled since January 2021. All CREP acres are open to public hunting and fishing. The Big Sioux River Watershed CREP project continues to be developed and is currently seeking public comment through June 9th on the programmatic environmental assessment. If all goes well, the state of SD will be signing an agreement with USDA this summer to formally create the BSRW CREP and enrollment will begin this fall.

AERIAL COYOTE CONTROL

Aerial Coyote Update – There were a total of 670 requests for service for coyote control from January through April 2022. For this same period in 2021 there were 821 requests for service. A total of 5,111 coyotes were removed January through April 2022 and 6,808 for the same period in 2021. Coyotes were removed via aerial services (APHIS Wildlife Services, Contract Pilots, Permitted Pilots and Predator Control Districts) and ground control by GFP wildlife damage specialists. Beyond the 151 less requests for service in 2022 compared to 2021, other challenges included employee turnover, high winds, and spotty snow conditions.

WALLEYE STOCKING EVALUATIONS

Benjamin Schall, Wildlife Biologist, reported in an effort to understand the factors influencing Walleye stocking success, twenty years of age-2 Walleye gill net catch data from eastern South Dakota lakes were analyzed to identify meaningful relationships. There is a 94% probability that stocking Walleye results in an average catch rate that is twice as high as if the lake was not stocked, and fry stockings would produce higher catch than small fingerling stockings 86% of the time. There was also a decline in age-2 Walleye gill net catch when abundance of Bluegill, Black Crappie, and White Crappie were high. However, there were not strong relationships between stocking date, lake size, lake type (natural lake or impoundment), spring precipitation, adult Walleye abundance, or temperature indices (growing degree days or winter severity index), and more research is needed to better understand the factors influencing Walleye recruitment in South Dakota lakes.

ELECTRONIC REQUEST FOR GOOSE DEPREDATION SERVICE SYSTEMS

Jacque Ermer, Regional Wildlife Supervisor in the northeast, provided summary of the Nest Predator Bounty Program. As of June 1, just over 31,000 tails were submitted by 1,348 participants. Youth under age 18 are still the highest participating age group (37%) followed by 51–70-year-old (26%). About \$190,000 of funds remain in the program. The program will end July 1, 2022, or sooner if the \$500,000 limit is reached. GFP will be monitoring the funds closely over next few weeks and will let the public know if the limit is close to being reached prior to July 1.

Jacque Ermer, Regional Program Manager, and Jim Noble, GIS Program Specialist, presented on The Canada Goose Depredation Hub. This is a new digital system for requesting services for Canada goose depredation. Landowners and operators can request for service through the online system from their computer, tablet, or cell phone. This system provides a new level of departmental organization which directly connects the stakeholder to GFP staff and enhances workflows and reporting needs for all affected cooperators.

LICENSE SALES UPDATE

Director Kirschenmann provided a briefing on the status of hunting and fishing license sales. It was described that license sales trends have not changed since the May meeting. Continue to watch fishing licenses sales from the resident side and Kirschenmann also reminded the commissioners that the report does not include limited draw activities such as elk and deer applications. Numbers still show good signs and will continue to provide updates as the summer progresses.

ADJOURN

Motioned by Bartling, seconded by Locked in to ADJOURN MEETING AT 10:27 AM CT. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Robling, Department Secretary