Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission March 5-6, 2015

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. at the RedRossa Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners John Cooper, Cathy Peterson, Jim Spies, Duane Sather, Gary Jensen, W. Scott Phillips, and H. Paul Dennert were present. Department Secretary Kelly Hepler was present along with approximately fifty public, staff, and media. Barry Jensen joined the meeting at 2:45 p.m. and Spies left the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Chairman Cooper asked for any agenda changes and Director Hofer requested items the Mobridge waterfront license and mowing requests be presented 9:30 Friday morning and request was granted.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Approve Minutes

Chairman Cooper called for any additions or corrections to the January 15-16, 2015, minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Salary Days

Chairman Cooper called for additional salary days and Peterson requested one, Gary Jensen requested one, Dennert requested two, and Phillips requested one.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS AS REQUESTED. Motion carried unanimously.

On Friday morning, Cooper revisited additional salary days and Phillips requested five days.

Dennert made the motion TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS AS REQUESTED BY PHILLIPS and Peterson second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

License List Requests

Director Petersen presented the following license list requests for Commission consideration:

Dave Bean of DeSmet, SD, requested a list of 2014 resident and non-resident pheasant preserve license holders to market pheasant hunts. This is a full fee request.

Motion by Peterson with second by Dennert TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM DAVE BEAN AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Keith Sand of Sand Pine Pheasants Family Recreation, in Avon, MN, requested a list of Minnesota residents that purchased South Dakota pheasant licenses in 2014. The list will be used for a mailing to promote his pheasant hunting farm. This is a full fee request.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM KEITH SAND AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Patricia Myers of William-Neil Associates requested on behalf of Cabela's Inc. a list of 2014 resident and non-resident small game license holders. The list will be used to send a Cabela's catalog and post card for the S.D. Pheasant Opener. This is an annual request and a full fee request.

Motion by Phillips with second by Gary Jensen TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM PATRICIA MYERS FOR CABELA'S AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Tom Slowey, Regional Director for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation made the annual request for the 2014 list of applicants for elk licenses. The list is to be used to offer chances for the 2015 SD Special Elk tag and other prizes to raise funds that are utilized for Department elk habitat projects. The request also asks to waive the fee.

Motion by Peterson with second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM TOM SLOWEY FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Update

Director Petersen stated the Department presented the budget to the Joint Appropriations last week and the Fiscal Year 2016 budget is before the legislature for consideration and action. The package includes a salary increase for all state employees and has a zero increase in health insurance benefits for state employees in Fiscal Year 2016.

Director Hofer provided updates on Senate Bill 50 authorizing a bonding package for Custer State Park Master Plan improvements and HB1192 providing state one time funding for the Conservation Habitat Fund.

Director Leif shared the Department followed 25 bills in the 2015 Legislative Session. Legislators introduced bills involving conservation easements, hunting parties, and hunting licenses that required attention from the GFP Legislative Team. The four Department sponsored bills were successful and have been signed by the Governor or are on his desk for signature.

Chairman Cooper expressed his thanks to Director Hofer for his leadership as Acting-Secretary during the Legislative Session and thanked the GFP Legislative team for their successful efforts. Cooper then welcomed Kelly Hepler as the new Department Secretary for Game, Fish, and Parks.

Open Forum

Chris Hesla, President of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, stated the Elk Management Plan was just made available a couple of days ago and because it is a large document, he requested more time for the review and comment on the plan.

Eric Jennings of Spearfish, SD, stated he is a member of the SD Cattlemen, forest user with a grazing permit, and private landowner in Black Hills Forest. Jennings talked about importance of multiple uses of forage, grazing, and commodity and wildlife users. He reviewed elk survey comments and stated the Commissioners have large responsibility to learn about the use of resource, the forest, the health of the forest in order to be good neighbors. Jennings believes any elk herd increase should grow slowly and that the contingency license plan is an important aspect; he wants the Commission to do what is necessary to protect the resource on a scientific basis not a social basis. He would like to see GFP set up and implement a monitoring system of forage and riparian area, clean water acts, and sediment issues; base the number of elk on carrying capacity of the forest, as the last two years have been exceptional growth; and carefully gage landowner tolerance when making increasing the herd. He stated responsible management depends on science and is glad the Department is working the U.S. Forest Service to improve monitoring plans and to implement them to gage the effect on the forest.

Aaron Thompson from northern Black Hills and stated he is a member of the Spearfish Livestock Association and sat on elk stakeholder group. The plan calls for 7,000 elk of head with strong contingency plan especially for a drought and fire conditions and he wants the Commission to be able to react in equal measure to the situations. He believes it is important that the Department and Commission are willing to include the contingency plan and to be able to follow and implement it when necessary.

Dylan Dueter of Ree Heights, SD, stated he is concerned for the cow elk because if the season goes any longer into December it may risk the cows losing their calf or not breed at all.

Silvia Christen, Executive Director of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, representing ranchers statewide and in the Black Hills, thanked the Commission and Department for the opportunity of producers to be part on the taskforce. Christen requested additional time to look at plan to prepare additional comments. Christen commented on about the overall number of 7,000 and is that the right number? She stated producers think this is a big number, and that producers are concerned about the distribution of the herd. The Stockgrowers Association encourages the Commission to look at distribution of the elk herd. The plan has public input but she is concerned about the lack of input from the agriculture community, ag landowners, and grazing lessees on the Forest Service lands in the Black Hills were not part of the input and she wants to be sure they are included. Cooper acknowledged the receipt of the Stockgrowers Association comment letter.

Public Hearing

The public hearing began at 2 p.m. and concluded at 2:26 p.m. Minutes of the public hearing follow these minutes. Chairman Cooper called for a ten-minute recess following the public hearing.

FINALIZATIONS
Public Lands 41:03:01

Assistant Director Bob Schneider presented the proposed changes to Use of Parks and Public Lands to expand the restricted area located in North Point Recreation Area to include only the use of shotguns using shot shells, crossbows, and bows. The change is due to an increase in private residences and development of a private campground adjacent to the area. No public comment was received about this proposed change and there were no recommended changes to proposal.

Expand the area within North Point Recreation Area in Charles Mix County that is restricted to shotgun and archery hunting.

Motion by Dennert with second by Spies TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO USE OF PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS 41:03:01 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Waters 41:04:02

Schneider presented the proposed changes making adjustments to the no wake zones and swimming area at Rocky Point Recreation Area in Butte County. One public comment was received supporting increase efforts to protect swimmers and there were no recommended changes to the proposal.

Amend pubic water safety zones in Butte County.

Motion by Phillips with second by Peterson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO PUBLIC WATER ZONING 41:04:02 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Refuges 41:05:02

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented the proposed changes to refuges to remove the Cotton Wood Lake State Waterfowl Refuge in Sully County with no recommended changes. This change will provide additional waterfowl hunting opportunities and the four adjacent landowners were contacted and had no opposition.

Remove the Cottonwood Lake State Waterfowl Refuge.

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

Boat transportation and Aquatic Invasive/Species-Special Management Categories Chapter 41:10

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager, Mike Smith, provided a PowerPoint Presentation on Aquatic Invasive Species coordination efforts. Emily Kiel, Communications Manager then provided communication and media efforts prior to this action item. (The information follows agenda and is under Wildlife Division.)

Chief John Lott presented the proposed changes to Special Management Categories with no recommended changes to first two modifications. Lott shared the recommended changes to proposal for the watercraft restrictions, containment waters, and water transportation restrictions.

Assistant Director Arden Petersen assisted with discussion regarding law enforcement of proposed changes and recommended changes. Discussion ensued and included transportation of unused bait to homes or campgrounds for future use,

transportation of fish from waters to cleaning facilities, and products available to assist with transportation. The finalization was deferred to the next day to allow staff to modify recommended changes to reflect Commission discussion and direction.

Chief Lott presented the modified recommended changes the next morning as follows:

- Modify 41:10:04:03 to allow trailered boats to have plugs and related devices in place or closed only at boat ramp parking areas and while being loaded or launched. In addition, they could remain in place or closed while in transit from the body of water to an immediately adjacent fish cleaning station.
- 2. Allow a department representative, instead of only a conservation officer, to require the removal of vegetation and all aquatic invasive species from a boat and move this language to 41:10:04:04 Watercraft inspections.
- 3. Not adopt proposed new rule 41:10:04:05. "Aquatic invasive species containment water." if recommended changes to the currently proposed 41:10:04:06 Water transportation restrictions are adopted, as this will remove the need to designate aquatic invasive species containment waters.
- 4. Change the title of proposed new rule **41:10:04:06** from "Water transport restrictions" to "Fish and bait transportation restrictions" (Number would change to 41:10:04:05 if not adopted, see 3 above.)
- 5. Modify proposed new rule **41:10:04:06** to prohibit the transportation of fish and aquatic bait in water obtained from a lake, river, or stream except while in route from a lake, river, or stream to an immediately adjacent fish clean station, or as authorized by the Secretary.
- 6. Remove language in **41:10:04:06** regarding the number of gallons of vegetation-free water that may be used to transport fish or aquatic bait.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Barry Jensen TO AMEND CHANGES TO PROPOSED SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Special Management Categories 41:10 amended proposed rule changes for final consideration are:

- 1. Modify **41:10:04** "**Aquatic Nuisance Species.**" to change all references of aquatic nuisance species to aquatic invasive species.
- 2. Modify **41:10:04:01. "List of aquatic nuisance species."** to remove a redundant "and" and to add Common Reed, *Phragmites australis*, to the list of aquatic invasive plants.
- 3. Modify 41:10:04:03. "Watercraft restrictions." to allow trailered boats to have plugs and related devices in place or closed only at boat ramp parking areas while being loaded or launched or while in transit from the body of water to an immediately adjacent fish cleaning station.
- 4. Modify **41:10:04:04 "Watercraft inspections."** to allow department representative to require the removal of vegetation and all aquatic invasive species from a boat;
- 5. Not adopt proposed new rule 41:10:04:05. "Aquatic invasive species containment water."
- 6. Change the title of proposed new rule **41:10:04:06**[5] to "Fish and bait transportation restrictions" (Number would change to 41:10:04:05 if not adopted, see 5 above.) This rule will prohibit the transportation of water and aquatic bait from all waters of the state obtained from a lake, a river, or a stream while allowing water from other sources such as treated tap or well water to be used to transport aquatic bait; exceptions would be for emergency response vehicles or as authorized by the Secretary for research and management activities, licenses bait dealers, etc.

Motion by Phillips with second by Spies TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES 41:10 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Petition for rule change

Director Tony Leif presented the petition received from Dr. Tom Huhnerkoch dated February 21, 2015, and the letter of response from the Department answering questions contained in the petition.

Staff attorney, Richard Neill, outlined the timeline for completing the rule making process following Commission action to finalize rule changes made at the January meeting.

Director Leif outlined the options for Commission action for petitions. Leif then presented a resolution outlining the reasons for denial of the petition for Commission discussion and consideration.

Motion by Phillips with second by Sather TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 15-02 AS PRESENTED (Appendix A). Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSALS

Archery Elk Hunting Season

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented the season dates, open area, licenses, requirements, and restrictions for archery elk hunting along with hunter success and harvest rates for the past five years. Recommended changes were to adjust the number licenses and repeal the preference point reference as this is located in another rule.

- 1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 92 "any elk" and 15 "antlerless elk" license (total of 107 licenses) to 144 "any elk" and 56 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 200 licenses).
- 2. Repeal Unit AEE-ZZ1

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Peterson TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE ARCHERY ELK HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Black Hills Elk Hunting Season

Chief Kirschenmann presented the season dates, open area, licenses, requirements, and restrictions for hunting elk in the Black Hills along with hunter success and harvest information. The recommendations include an increase licenses to meet management guidelines contained in the draft elk management plan. The recommendations provide guidelines for the use of contingency licenses. The use or need for contingency licenses will be reviewed annually and a report given to the Commission on an annual basis.

- 1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 420 "any elk" and 250 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 670 licenses) to 430 "any elk" and 500 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 930 licenses).
- 2. Allocate a pool of "antlerless elk" contingency licenses, up to 20% of antlerless licenses available in all Black Hills hunting units combined, which would be issued by GFP

Commission resolution in August if summer range conditions dictate the use of contingency licenses.

3. Repeal Unit BHE-ZZ1.

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

Prairie Elk Hunting Season

Chad Switzer presented the season dates, open area, licenses, requirements, and restrictions for hunting elk in units outside the Black Hills on private lands and public lands. Recommended changes included adjustment of licenses, adjustment to a boundary, a season date change for Unit 11C, and repeal the preference point unit as it is located in a different rule. Discussion included coordinating season dates with tribal season dates.

- 1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 57 "any elk" and 36 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 93 licenses) to 48 "any elk" and 50 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 98 licenses).
- 2. No licenses issued for Unit 30A (portions of Gregory County).
- 3. Add that portion of Jackson County south of SD Highway 44 and BIA Highway 2 to Unit 11A,B,C,D.
- 4. Change the season dates for Unit 11C from the second Sunday of October to December 31 to the second Sunday of October to November 30.
- 5. Repeal Unit PRE-ZZ1.

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

Custer State Park Any Elk Hunting Season

Switzer presented the season dates, licenses, requirements, and restrictions for hunting any elk within Custer State Park. Switzer indicated the last three years have a 100% success rate and the recommended change is to increase the number of tags from four to eight and to remove the preference point unit as it is located in another rule.

- 1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 4 "any elk" to 8 "any elk" licenses.
- 2. Repeal Unit CUE-ZZ1.

Motion by Peterson with second by Spies TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE CUSTER STATE PARK ELK HUNTING SEASON (ANY ELK) AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Special Custer State Park Antlerless Elk Hunting Season

Switzer indicated the Custer State Park antlerless elk season was closed in 2011 and there are no recommended changes to the season and no action is needed.

Custer State Park Early and Late Archery Elk Hunting Seasons

Chad Switzer presented the season dates, licenses, requirements, and restrictions for the early archery elk season in Custer State Park with no recommended changes. No action was required.

Custer State Park Non-Trophy Bison Harvest

Matt Snyder presented the season dates, licenses, requirements, and restrictions for the non-trophy bison hunt in Custer State Park. The recommended change is to modify the dates to allow additional time to reduce stress and allow the animals to settle down following the Buffalo Roundup and handling for testing requirements.

Change the season dates from 49 days beginning the first Saturday in October to 47 days beginning the fourth Monday in January.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Sather TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO CUSTER STATE PARK NON-TROPHY BISON HARVEST AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Custer State Park Trophy Bison Bull Harvest

Snyder presented the season dates, requirements, and restrictions for the eight licenses with no recommended changes to the harvest. This is a tool to remove overmature bulls that meet eligibility requirements for Boone and Crockett awards. No action was required.

Mountain Goat Hunting Season

John Kanta and Chad Lehman provided the mountain goat population status and management report prior to recommended changes and report information is later in minutes.

Chief Kirschenmann provided the season dates, open area, licenses, requirements, and restrictions for hunting mountain goats indicating the season was closed in 2007. Kirschenmann indicated the recommended changes are to open the season with two licenses and adjust the season dates to coincide with the Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season.

- 1. Offer 2 "any mountain goat" licenses.
- 2. Change the season dates from the first Saturday of October October 31 to September 1 December 31.

Motion by Dennert with second by Spies TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Hunting party size restriction

Director Leif stated in the legislative update that this item came from possible legislation and the sponsor withdrew the bill to allow consideration by the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission.

Andy Alban presented the recommended change to the size of a party to hunt with background on the current rule. The recommended change will clarify current rule.

41:06:04:02. Size of party limited. No more than 20 persons may cooperate <u>possess a bow and arrow, crossbow, or firearm, including a muzzleloading firearm, while cooperating</u> as a group party in hunting, except when hunting jackrabbits or predators <u>a predator/varmint. The provisions of this section do not apply to a person who is only carrying a concealed pistol, provided the person possesses a valid concealed pistol permit as provided in SDCL Chapter 23-7.</u>

Motion by Peterson with second by Barry Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO HUNTING REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITED METHODS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Cooper called a recess at 5:22 p.m. on March 5 with meeting to resume at 8 a.m. on March 6 at the same location. Meeting resumed at 8 a.m. with Commissioners Cooper, Peterson, Barry Jensen, Spies, Sather, Gary Jensen, Dennert, and Phillips present. Secretary Hepler was present along with approximately thirty media, staff, and pubic.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION Mobridge waterfront lease

Director Hofer provided a PowerPoint Presentation with information on the history of Title VI of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 and contained photos of private property adjacent to Title VI lands in Mobridge. Hofer shared the 2007 statewide policy, Authorized Uses of State Land Acquired by Title VI of Water Resources Development Act of 1999 as amended, used for the management of Title VI land transferred to the Department in 2001. The Department manages roughly 90,000 acres of Title VI property and the policy was developed for management of this land. Hofer provided highlights of the policy for considering secondary use of the Title VI property.

Hofer provided a timeline for the development of the Schirber Addition in Mobridge, which borders Parks Title VI property; a summary of mowing and use requests received by the neighboring property owners; and the Department's response to each individual request received. The presentation also highlighted similar conflicts in other locations as well as statewide implications and issues. Hofer indicated that the Department continues to address these issues as they arise and respond to them in accordance with the Department's Title VI land management policy.

Hofer provided a draft license agreement to the Commission for consideration which addressed a very small portion of a patio in the Schirber Addition which encroaches in Department property. Hofer indicated the proposed agreement would allow the portion of patio to remain for a one-time fee of \$250.00. The License Agreement provides the Department the latitude to revoke the license at any time if it deems its existence restricts public use of the area; and is not transferable to any third party. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH ROGER THORSTENSON OF SELBY, SD, FOR A ONE-TIME FEE OF \$250.00 PAYABLE UPON EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT (Attachment B.) Roll call vote: Dennert-no; Barry Jensen-yes; Gary

Jensen-yes; Peterson-yes; Phillips-yes; Sather-yes; Spies-yes; and Cooper-yes. Motion carried with seven yes votes and one no vote.

Lewis and Clark Marina lease closing

Concession Manager Sean Blanchette stated the appraisal required by the financial institution for prospective buyer, Chris Donlin, for the Lewis and Clark Resort and Marina Concession Agreement was completed. The personal property details and negotiations for the final transfer of property from Russ Marsh to Chris Donlin is being finalized. Blanchette believes the sale closing will be scheduled and completed by end of the month.

Mobridge waterfront mowing requests

See information under Mobridge waterfront lease.

Parks Revenue and Camping reservations

Director Hofer indicated parks revenue for January and February are up fifteen percent due to campground reservations that include Memorial weekend. Custer State Park reservations are up twenty percent and include reservations for the three weeks around the Sturgis Rally.

Miscellaneous updates

Hofer provided updates on the mountain pine beetle project in Custer State Park; the selection of the architect/engineer and construction manager at risk for the Custer State Park Resort bonding projects; and the construction schedule for the new visitor center for Custer State Park.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Elk Management Plan adoption

Chief Kirschenmann handed out the updated Elk Management Plan indicating this is an adaptive plan for the management of elk in South Dakota and a work in progress. The plan has a purpose and lays out goals and strategies to meet objectives. Development of the plan included the public, the stakeholder group, the Regional Advisory Panels, social media, and an internal and public comment period all of which provided edits and adjustments to the most current version of the plan presented for Commission consideration. The management plan was a product of the WMI process and the stakeholder group was a good part of the process. Kirschenmann outlined the final edits, the strategies, depredation management, habitat, and population objectives.

Discussion included the contingency license numbers, the antlerless season for additional harvest in drought situations, and the use of depredation licenses when needed. An extended comment period to review adjustments to the plan was requested during the open forum. That request was agreed upon and the final adoption was deferred to the April meeting.

Land Acquisition Report

Paul Coughlin provided information on two land acquisitions that included 6.64 acres of property in Pennington County with possible Commission action in April; and an 80-acre tract in Bon Homme County for a Game Production Area with possible Commission action in April or May.

Aquatic Invasive Species coordination and communication

Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Mike Smith, presented a PowerPoint outlining the development of the 2008 AIS Management Plan and the experts and agencies involved. Smith included the objectives of the plan, prevention, monitoring strategy, risk assessment, regulations, inspections, and enforcement.

AIS Management includes regulation, classification of bodies of water, and the delisting process for a body of water. Smith shared information from the boater survey including where boaters are coming from, where they get their AIS information, and how often they clean their boats.

Emily Kiel outlined the components of the prevention and outreach plan to provide increased awareness to the public about AIS in South Dakota. This year there will be specific messaging to targeted audiences using social media such as Facebook, Twitter, email, and a radio blitz across the state to educate resident and nonresident anglers and the public about AIS and regulations. Dakota Country Magazine will have an ad, and other fishing publications in local areas across South Dakota will have information to educate the public on AIS and regulations. Digital media with KELO-land TV will be used to retarget internet users reminding them of AIS concerns, prevention, and awareness. The <u>Conservation Digest</u> for March-April will be completely dedicated to Aquatic Invasive Species information and education.

Smith contacted interested parties involved in developing the 2008 plan and they showed interest in participating in updating the plan and presented a six-month plan of work.

Black Hills fisheries management plan updates

Geno Adams indicated the draft plan Black Hills fisheries management plan is now in the comment period until March 26 with open houses scheduled. The plan was scheduled for Commission consideration and action at the May meeting.

Elk population status and management

Andy Lindbloom gave a PowerPoint presentation that included the history of elk in South Dakota, harvest data, age classification data, fall herd composition surveys, cow/calf ratios, sex ratios, aerial surveys, survival monitoring, population growth, research updates, elk migration strategies, and population objectives.

John Kanta continued with the presentation by providing population objectives by unit and the suggested amount of population change by unit. Kanta provided the elk harvest success rates for ten years, harvest locations, and the 2015 season recommendations. Kanta included the Custer State Park, archery, and prairie season harvest and success rates before outlining the 2015 recommended season changes.

Mountain goat population status and management

John Kanta gave a PowerPoint Presentation on mountain goats in South Dakota showing their unique features, habitat, history, and population status.

Chad Lehman provided information about the 2006 transplant of nineteen mountain goats from Colorado. Lehman then provided an update on the twenty-one goats brought from Utah in 2013 indicating a survival rate of 100 percent. Lehman shared the spring and aerial count survey results, which were used to estimate the population. Lehman presented the harvest information from the 2006 season and the recommendation for the 2015 and the 2016 hunting season. The recommendation will be for two years due to the development of a multi-year season setting schedule. Discussion ensued about the opportunity, preference points, and license fee.

Big game action plan update

Chief Kirschenmann shared that 37 of the 43-point action plan from the WMI review were either completed or have begun in 2014. The Elk Management plan and population status reports were part of the action plan update today. Kirschenmann then updated on the evaluation and implement identified adjustments to elk herd composition surveys as part of the action plan update. Kirschenmann indicated the statewide Deer Management Plan process is scheduled to begin after the adoption of the Elk Management Plan.

Deadwood bighorn sheep introduction

Chris Hull played the documentary video he created about the trip to Alberta, Canada to capture and transport twenty-six bighorn sheep to a new habitat area near Deadwood.

John Kanta provided information on the logistics of the bighorn sheep transfer from Canada indicating twenty-four ewes and two rams were relocated. Funds from the bighorn sheep auction tags were utilized for the project. All sheep had blood drawn for disease testing and each received four vaccinations before loading into trailers for the trip to South Dakota.

Chad Lehman shared the objectives for the two-year SDSU Graduate Project to evaluate this herd of sheep from Alberta, Canada.

Non-resident waterfowl work group update

Director Tony Leif updated the Commission with an outline of the meetings and indicted some public did attend the non-resident waterfowl work group meeting. Leif shared that 427 comments were received from 391 different email addresses indicating that the public is interested in this issue. The work group developed a set of recommendations and staff will be looking at the recommendations to determine how they fit in current rules and if any adjustments need Commission consideration and action. The Commission will see the full set of recommendations, all materials presented to the work group, and all of the public comments at the April meeting. This information will be posted on the website i dedicated email address to submit comments.

Director Leif indicated recommendations would be presented to the Commission at the May meeting which would begin the rule making process and written testimony would be accepted from that time until the June 4 Public Hearing at which time oral

testimony would be accepted before final action. Leif indicated there are no statutes requiring the Commission to accept public testimony before that time.

2015 License Sales Report

Scott Simpson indicated license sales are similar to last year with Senior Combination licenses are up fifteen percent this year, resident annual fishing licenses are down, and nonresident small license sales are up due the strong end to the 2014 pheasant season, non-resident fishing license are strong. Simpson provided some online percentages and trends for the big game applications.

Cooper revisited the June meeting sharing options to include governance and additional public opportunity for comment on non-resident waterfowl.

Motion by Sather with second by Gary Jensen TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Appendix A **RESOLUTION 15 - 02**

WHEREAS, Dr. Tom Huhnerkoch of Lead, South Dakota, submitted a petition by email transmission to the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks on or about February 21, 2015, requesting that the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission (a) repeal certain provisions of the January 2015 amendments to ARSD Chapter 41:06:61 (Mountain Lion Hunting Season), specifically, subsections (4) and (5) of ARSD § 41:06:61:06 which allow dogs to be used for mountain lion hunting year round outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District on privately owned land with permission of the owner or lessee of the land with an exception which allows pursuit of a mountain lion by dogs that originates on private land to cross over or culminate on property owned by the Office of School and Public Lands or the United States Bureau of Land Management other than the Fort Meade Recreation Area; and (b) restore former subsection (4) of ARSD 41:06:61:06 which provided that except for those specified hunting intervals in Custer State Park that allow the use of dogs, no person may hunt mountain lions with the aid of dogs, traps, or bait; and

WHEREAS, all members of the Commission have been furnished with and have reviewed a copy of said petition; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that a copy of the petition was served on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council by email transmission on February 23, 2015, and by depositing the same in the U.S. Mail addressed to said persons on that same date: and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that SDCL 1-26-13 requires that within thirty (30) days of submission of a petition the Commission shall either "deny the petition in writing (stating its reasons for the denials) or shall initiate rule-making proceedings in accordance with SDCL 1-26-4"; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised and is of the opinion that a hearing on the petition is neither statutorily required nor necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed and carefully considered the requirements and procedures set out in SDCL 1-26-13 and the contents of the petition, including the reasons advanced by petitioner in support of his petition; and

WHEREAS, the use of dogs for hunting mountain lions is a legitimate form of recreation and commonly practiced method of mountain lion hunting in the United States; and

WHEREAS, mountain lions found in South Dakota outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District provide opportunities to hunt and the harvest of mountain lions on private lands can help reduce actual losses and perceived threats of mountain lion depredation on domestic livestock; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan that was adopted by the COMMISSION at its January 2014 meeting clearly states that the DEPARTMENT and COMMISSION will not manage for the establishment or perpetuation of a population of mountain lions outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District; and

WHEREAS, the allowance for hunting mountain lions with the aid of dogs conforms with the South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the allowance for hunting mountain lions with the aid of dogs conforms with the broad objectives of the DEPARTMENT and COMMISSION to provide recreational opportunities and reduce the potential for wildlife depredation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby deny the petition for the reasons hereinabove stated in this resolution, which said resolution as adopted by the Commission shall constitute the Commission's written denial of the petition and reasons therefore.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the petition, a record of the Commission's discussions concerning same, and this resolution be made a part of the minutes of the Commission meeting at which this resolution is adopted; and further, that the Department be and is hereby authorized and directed in compliance with SDCL 1-26-13 to serve a copy of an extract of that portion of the Commission minutes which pertain to the Commission's discussion of the petition and its adoption of this resolution, including a copy of the resolution, on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council with copies also to be provided to the petitioner, Dr. Tom Huhnerkoch of Lead, South Dakota.

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission March 5, 2015

Public Hearing Officer Scott Simpson began the public hearing at 2 p.m. at the RedRossa Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Cooper, Peterson, Barry Jensen, Jim Spies, Gary Jensen, Duane Sather, H. Paul Dennert, and W. Scott Phillips were present. Written and email comments received prior to the meeting were provided to the Commissioners for consideration and will be reflected in the minutes. Oral testimony was limited to five minutes and each person provided their name, city, and state on the sign-in sheet at the microphone.

Public Lands - North Point Recreation Area firearm restriction

No written and no oral testimony was received.

Public Waters - Belle Fourche Reservoir water safety zone

No oral testimony was received.

Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD, emailed: "I support efforts to protect swimmers from adverse effects of motor boats, by designation of "public swimming zone(s)."

Refuges - Cottonwood Lake in Sully County

George Ammann of Traverse City, MI, emailed: "Remove Bullhead Lake refuge as well, as Wildlife experts wanted to last year..."

Boat transportation requirements and Aquatic Invasive Species Oral testimony;

Paul Lispto of IWLA and strongly support the proposed changes and MO clean boat event does lots of education and awareness to public about AIS.

Ken Gentleman in plaid shirt. A lot of knowledge needs to be share to prevent the spread of AIS and opposes the proposal of bait transportation changes. Bait dealers uses treatments and transport minnows to Angostura and need transport bait in containers larger than five gallons to keep minnows alive. He talked about other states AIS guidelines. He believes everyone wants to prevent AIS he just doesn't want to throw out the bait. Education is important and referenced a good video, he believes if the public is not behind these changes the changes are a waste.

Jim Sherman of Sturgis, SD, stated he submitted letter and supports what Ken said. It is upsetting to have mussles etc in sd and he believes he should do everything he can to prevent the spread of AIS. When he buys bait at Pine Haven he can buy 2-8 dozen bait and keep for a month He doesn't want to kill the bait and uses chemical to treat water and turns it blue to show it is treated water. Need to have a plan as to what to do when boat has AIS before rules are in place. HE wants boat inspections to keep boats from other states to bring it in.

Written testimony:

David Hulkonen of Vermillion, SD, emailed: I agree with the steps required to stop invasive species..."

Bob Arndt of St. Bonifacius, MN, emailed: "...Invasive Species is a big deal and it is not going to go away. We do need to protect our waters, I am surprised that has taken S.D. this long to deal with the issue at hand...I don't think any slack should be cut(the 5 gallon thing). People need to be told that we need to make changes for the betterment of S.D. waters."

Dave Zabel of Glencoe, MN, emailed: "...I hope anglers understand how important it is to stop the spread of these hitchhikers. Any progress making anglers aware of the harm these hitch hikers can do will help them want to do their part."

Mark Porter of Brookings, SD, emailed: "...I'm all for educating the angler but I think the cart is in front of the horse this time. Although coming from another state or even a border lake is a set up for these rules.

Everett Moore of Winnebago, NE, emailed: "So we put our bait and fish in 5 gallon pails and dump our live wells. We move to another body of water and pour the water back in our live wells. How does this help? I think this is overkill. Most likely we are done fishing after pulling out of Lewis and Clark or below the dam anyway. I presume this doesn't apply one you get below the Big Sioux as SD stops there."

Tom Jones of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I'm fine with this..."

BJ Schneiderman of North Sioux City, SD, emailed: "I totally understand the "invasive" concern and support the changes..."

Dennis Welch of Council Bluffs, IA, emailed: "I would be in favor of these changes."

Tina House of St. Paul, MN, emailed: "This would be an inconvenience since there are no cleaning stations on many of the lakes. Also costly because we have baitwells."

John Binkly of McCook Lake, SD, emailed: "...I think the proposed rules are an overkill to slow the spread of AIS. They are overly complex & confusing...They would be very difficult to enforce and do not stop the spread of AIS...nature and wildlife belongs to the citizens and should be easily enjoyed..."

Joshua Steidl of Watertown, SD, emailed: "...I agree with the in laws SD GFP wants to put in place and think they should do so before it is too late..."

Jeremy Johnson of Brookings, SD, emailed: "In general I am not a fan of the proposed changes...I cannot see how anglers are a significant contributor to this problem."

Ken Vander Ziel of Rock Valley, IA, emailed: "I feel it should be a requirement..."

Dave Saenger of Watertown, SD, emailed: "...I think it's a great idea..."

Sidney Wagner of McCook Lake, SD, emailed: "I support the proposed rule changes to stop the spread of AIS to other bodies of water."

Mark Stevens of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I'm all for it."

Craig Eugene Hansen of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...I fully support and recommend the new regulations be put into action as soon as possible."

Steve Dill of Remington, VA, emailed: "...If these new rules will help with the health of the game fish population in SD water, than I am all for it."

David Jacobs of Canton, SD, emailed: "I am not opposed to the proposed regulations. However, I believe the new regulations should come with a requirement that the GF&P be required to provide more fish cleaning stations..."

Kelan Lechner of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: "As an angler, these new proposed rules seem more then reasonable to protect our waterways..."

Mike Laing of Avon, MN, emailed: "I don't have a huge problem with the changes..."

David Carlson of Yankton, SD, emailed: "...I would like to see some adjustments to the proposals to help prevent continued spread of AIS in my waters, while allowing anglers in AIS containment water bodies to save their bait from one fishing day to the next..."

Jim Moore of Lewistown, ID, emailed: "...I feel I am one that is usually supportive of the departments/governments efforts to work for the protection of the resource, but there is also too much regulation..."

Cory Brummels of Norfolk, NE, emailed: "I think that would be a good rule/reg."

Terence L. Kramer of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I believe that the proposed new rules regarding aquatic invasive species would cause a minimal inconvenience for fisherman and would help protect South Dakota waters that do not contain aquatic invasive species from being contaminated."

Jeff Eidenshink of Harold, SD, emailed: "...I understand the need to prevent the spread of invasive species. I have seen what can happen when you don't. But the term "leaving a body of water" is really too nebulous in my case. It could imply "every time you leave the water" and in my case, and I am sure others, I am not truly leaving body of water if my intention is to continue to fish on Lake Sharpe..."

Joe Long of Aberdeen, SD, sent an email with questions about and suggestions for the proposed rule changes.

Dennis R. Somers of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I have read the basic information on the rules, and believe that they are responsible and should be adopted."

Mike Schnetzer of Yankton, SD, emailed: "...I do not fully agree with the proposed rule due to the fact that the zebra mussels...can live in a humid area...even in the absence of water for an extended period of time..."

Richard C. Sweetman, of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I strongly support the proposed rules."

Kermit Born of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: "A good start, but not enough..."

Brian Heidbrink of Brandon, SD, emailed: "...I am in favor of putting rules in place to limit the spread of invasive species..."

Paul Wermerson of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I agree with all the ideas except for the live well issue..."

Joe Griebie of Brownton, MN, emailed: "It is my feeling that no water from one lake be transported off of GFP controlled land. It could contaminate other bodies of water, do #2 should be restrictive as #3."

Joe Carmody of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I support your efforts to contain Al species. Your proposal is reasonable."

Clyde Millie of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "Most fisher men leave fish in the livewell till they get to the cleaning station then drain there livewells. As far a s the boat its self I haven't had the plug out of mine in 8 years. It don't leak there is no reason to take it out. I think the livewell drain is a good thing. On the big walleye & salmon boats the seepage in the boat isn't that necessary to drain."

Tom Glesener of Apple Valley, MN, emailed: "I see no issues regarding the proposed new rules..."

Jerry Miller of Brookings, SD, emailed: "All good except those of us who fish in the same spot for several days but camp or stay off property adjoining GFP launching spot. I empty live wells every night but don't pull plug till I am done fishing for that weekend."

Paul J. Oster of Ipswich, SD, emailed: "I am in favor of the proposed AIS regulations..."

Michael Holtzen of Yutan, NE, emailed: "I agree with the proposed new rules of transporting fish or live bait lake to lake..."

Steve Shadle of South Sioux City, NE, emailed: "The only concern I would have is being able to transport fish in the live-well to the campground or fish cleaning station..."

David Hansen of Dell Rapids, SD, emailed: "...I support the proposed new rules." Edward Slocum of Eagle Butte, SD, emailed: "These are all great rules!..."

Greg Hepper of Huron, SD, emailed his concerns and issues.

Joe Montgomery of St. Paul, MN, emailed his concerns about draining hoses in boats and motors.

Joe Vollink of Boyden, IA, emailed: "Pry the dumbest law the dnr has ever come up with..."

Jim Boyd of LeMars, IA, emailed: "I support and appreciate these new rules on evasive species..."

Roy D. Jesse of Hemingford, NE, emailed: "I believe that these new rules are a step in the right direction..."

Jim Erb of Volga, SD, emailed: "I can only say what's taking so long. We need to do this now if not sooner to protect our fisheries and keep them healthy..."

Keith Lindsey of Pierre, SD, emailed with suggestions for AIS rule changes.

Bob Swisenberg of Hooper, NE, emailed: "It will no doubt be inconvenient but if that is what it takes to keep our fisheries then we should abide by your rules..."

William W. Bosch of Spearfish, SD, emailed: "I support the proposed new rules for draining boats."

Jim Labertz of Brookings, SD, emailed: "The proposed rules seem like a reasonable request to a potentially serious problem..."

Gregg Beckman of Buffalo, MN, emailed: "Here in Minnesota we've also incorporated AIS rules for fishing. I would urge you to consider reciprocity between states on this licensure, so that MN boaters fishing in South Dakota that already have a MN AIS registration would be accepted under South Dakota statutes."

Lorne Harms, of Watertown, SD, emailed: "To me I think yeah sound like good rules to me..."

Larry Russell of Chamberlain, SD, emailed: "I am in favor of being proactive on this matter, and generally support your goal and proposals..."

Joe Bazin of Topeka, KS, emailed: "I applaud you efforts..."

Chris Mayer of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "How about including in these new rules an exception to the rules, (the Exception Being) allow anglers to bring their own (potable) water from their homes or city water, or water that is provided by fish cleaning

stations to transport their fish. Another thing to consider is: Prohibit the use of lake water in live wells and bait buckets <u>period</u>."

Solomon Kleinsasser of Crooks, SD, emailed: "...I feel the regulations propsed are overreaching and intrusive, and will result in hard feeling and animosity towards GF&P officers..."

Paul Aufenkamp of Aberdeen, SD, emailed that he does not support to drain all livewells and remove all plugs from boats when leaving a body of water; he does not support the requirement for those who transport harvested fish or bait (in water) to use no more than 5 gallons of water in a container to do so.

John Culp of Claremont, SD, emailed: "Most of SD anglers leave their fish in the live well for transportation and drain them when they get home!! Where do you people come up with these ideas...dumb idea!!!"

Gregg Yonkovich of Aberdeen, SD, emailed; "...I don't agree with any of the proposals."

Keith Christianson of Volga, SD, emailed: "I dislike the first two proposals..."

Arland Johnson of St. Tamov, NE, emailed; "I will support any new laws to help keep A.I.S. from spreading on any waters I fish, but be practical."

Kevin Laurila of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "...I'm in favor of these changes 100%..."

John Scott of Rosemount, MN, emailed: "I support these proposed rule changes." John Scott of Rosemount, MN, emailed: "...A courteous fisherman always drains his boat and removes weeds from the trailer, etc. The more people that can be persuaded that this is the proper thing to do, the better the outcome. Essentially, I believe this will ultimately achieve the same goal. AIS will not be stopped by regulating water transport, nor will it be by doing the right thing when we leave the launch. However, regulating water transport comes at an enforcement cost whereas education has only a campaign cost. I imagine a campaign would be launched in either scenario..."

Jerry Dalen of Esterville, IA, emailed: "Being from Iowa which has already implemented these same regulations, I'm ok with it. It takes more effort to remember to drain the livewell's out and to have a cooler or pail along to put your fish in once off the water and before leaving the property..."

Steve Hatt of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I think it is a good idea to have everyone drain their live wells before they leave the lake..."

Felix Recek of Omaha, NE, emailed: "doesn't rule two violate rule one? Also you need to install more cleaning places..."

Robert Fox of Madison, SD, emailed: "I applaud the new rules!..."

Thomas McClintick of Box Elder, SD, emailed: "...I applaud your efforts in attempting to take a measured, common sense approach to this aquatic invasive species issue..."

Adam DeHaan of Lakeville, MN, emailed: "The proposed regulations seem reasonable and prudent..."

Gregg Hedtke of Becker, MN, emailed: "...I do not agree with the rules in MN, so I find yours just disagreeable..."

Thomas E. Brady, of Spearfish, SD, emailed: "These proposed rules are reasonable, easy to comply with and necessary."

Mick Breske of Vermillion, SD, emailed: "...The regulation is an excellent idea and will help keep the unwanted species of water critters from spreading..."

J. C. Moore of Erie, CO, emailed: "I agree with the proposed rules, and I'm glad to see them..."

Tim Roberts of Spirit Lake, IA, emailed: "While the goal of limiting the spread of AIS is laudable it, in my opinion is too little too late..."

Scott Pretzer of Pierre, SD, emailed: "I fish exclusively on Lake Oahe/Lake Sharpe and don't agree removing my plug will prevent the transfer of AIS. If I traveled to other water, my opinion would change."

Wayne Kerian of Cresco, IA, emailed: "We will do whatever you reurie to keep this problem at bay..."

Gener Burrish, President of the Pickerel Lake Conservacy, of Sioux Falls, SD, wrote a letter indicating they are "please the Commission is taking steps to contain AIS...We support your proposal that call for draining livewells, removing all plugs, and prohibiting transports from contaminated waters..."

Randy Adams of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...Myself and most of the anglers that I know that fish Angostura transport live bait from our homes to the lake and back. Live bait these days is either expensive or a lot of work to come up with. I would not like to take 4 to 6 dozen minnows to the lake and have to throw half or more away at the end of the day. Is there any way an angler can bring his own water to transport his bait back home?"

Tom Yseth of Brookings, SD, emailed: "Saw no problem with the rules...Needless to say the regulations outlined are appropriate."

Richard Palko of Omaha, NE, emailed: "I agree with the necessity of the new regulations to attempt to prevent invasion of unwanted species..."

Wayne Paulson of Mitchell, SD, emailed: "I am in favor of these new rules to protect other SD waters. It just seems common sense to me."

Tom Jirik of Amery, WI, emailed: "The proposed new rules are usable and very practical...We can definitely live with these new proposals as they are simple and effective."

Grant James Kallevig of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "...Although good in theory, these changes are rather pointless in practice..."

Ron Clause of Sioux City, IA, emailed: "I fish a lot in South Dakota and would not mind draining my livewells, but I would not want to pull my drain plug to the boat every time. It is too easy to forget, that's also why I have a bilge pump."

Bob Winter of Yankton, SD, emailed comments regarding the proposal that included "...Perhaps it is possible when more information is available that the proposed rules would only be needed at certain times of the year..."

Curt Tesch of Rosholt, SD, emailed: "I, like many resident anglers, prefer to transport their fish home alive in the livewell..."

Jerry Kane of Lincoln, NE, emailed: "I agree with the AIS proposals."

Allen Schlenker of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "...While I degree, we need to take care of our waters, I don't believe the proposed rules will be effective, efficient or cost effective..."

William Blickensderfer of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "After reading the proposals for A. I. S. I ws physically sick for a moment. These proposals would change angling as we know it. I am against said proposals..."

James Bernard of Bismarck, ND, emailed: "I have been practicing these same rules for some years now, I always pull plug on boat and livewells and baitwells prior to leaving cleaning station area. I do not feel it is a inconvenience, most states have similar instructions at the water access points and it seems to be coming an issue on many bodies of water. I always check my motor and trailer for vegetation and drain boat and live well. It does not take a lot of effort or time."

James R. Sherman of Sturgis, SD, wrote a letter stating "This letter serves as an objection to the A.I.S. proposal as it is stated on the GFP website..."

Darwin Westphalen of Sheldon, IA, emailed: "...I think these are great rules to follow to help protect all of our waters..."

Paul Wear of Omaha, NE, emailed: "I support the reasoning for the changes and for the major impoundments; they don't impose a issue..."

Ron DeBoer of Hawarden, IA, emailed: "Not sure I understand your thought process. Why are you so concerned about the live well water, coming away from a body of water? Shouldn't you be more concerned with what water is in a boat coming into a body of water? After the close of season for fish cleaning stations, if you have to travel any distance the live well is the easiest way to transport your catch. Please consider this issue."

Al Howey of Bellevue, NE, emailed: "All for these rules. If we don't we won't have a good fishing future."

Gerald Fox of Breckenridge, MN, emailed: "Minnesota has the same rules; also remove any water grass on boats and trailers."

Barry Schmocker of Lincoln, NE, emailed: "I think the proposed rules to prevent the spread of invasive species is very reasonable and I do not see anything in the proposal that should be a great burden on most anglers..."

William Lehtola of Lake Norden, SD, emailed: "...I think the new proposed rules for aquatic invasive species sound like a fair way to help control this threat to our state waters."

David Vogel of Pierre, SD, emailed: "Are you going to check all boats coming to the state to fish? What will this cost us local anglers who do not travel all over the state to fish? You might have to really clamp down on tournament anglers. Got to be careful about the one size fits all regulations. We already have lots of that crap coming out of Washington."

Royal "Mac" McCraken of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...In conclusion, I am aware that Aquatic Nuisance Species are an issue, and we all must do our part in resolving this issue. However, I believe this problem needs further discussion/remedies/solutions on this proposed rule."

Mike Van Cleave of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: "Please remove the part that says remove all plugs from boats when leaving water... You could just say all water has to be removed from livewells and all drain plugs for the bottom of the boat must be pulled out."

Arland Johnson of Tarnov, NE, emailed: "I will support any new laws to help keep A.I.S. from spreading on any water I fish, but be practical."

Dan Mortimer of Clear Lake, SD, emailed: "Your proposed rules are backward. Check boats entering the lakes not leaving. Draining livewells after fishing will not stop invasive species. Are these rules working in states that have added them. NO. Have rules for boats entering lakes not leaving."

Steve Harrington of St. Michael, MN, emailed: "...My suggestion would be to protect your natural resources at all costs..."

James Stratton, Douglas County Commissioner, Alexandria, MN, emailed: "I sit on the Minnesota State AIS committee and I feel that this is really needed to get ahead of the curve. We use the Drain Dry and Clean method here. When I come over to fish I also use the bleach to live well method. It just gives me one more way to ensure that if there is anything I missed it will be killed..."

Troy Wehking of Slayton, MN, emailed: "Being from MN I support these new laws..."

Daryl Russell of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: "I support most of this..."

Pat Prickett of Mitchell, SD, emailed: "...Wouldn't a more effective and easily followed rule be all bilges and live wells must be completely empty before backing boat in the water?"

Frank Jerrick of St. Croix Falls, WI, emailed: "I's a Wisconsin resident. Your new rules should be a minimum."

Ray Otterson of Kindred, ND, emailed: "Personally I think there should not be any lake water leaving a lake whatsoever..."

Mike Leonard of Carroll, IA, emailed: "Sounds reasonable to do what you can to preserve a very valuable state commodity at a small price of inconvenience. Pull plug in boat and live wells and put fish on ice. We will do our best to help this new change."

Monty Summa of Pierre, SD, emailed: "These rules should be for internal lakes only and not for the Missouri river water."

Barry Stotz of Bowdle, SD, emailed: "...Would it be possible to have the proposed rules in effect from mid Spring until early Fall when cleaning tables are open? If that was the case, I would have no problems with the proposed changes..."

Dr. Dana C. DeWitt of Yankton, SD, emailed: "I would ask that the state make these rules only if they have scientific, factual, statistically backed data that proves the proposals cure or prevent the problem that they are attempting to address."

Tom Warrant of Lakefield, MN, emailed: "I think the proposed rules are reasonable and easy to comply with...I support the proposed rules, if anything they could be more stringent."

Doug Traub of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "The rules are not too much to do to stop the spread of unwanted species..."

Howard Anderson of Omaha, NE, emailed: "I agree with all of the new rules re: the draining of live wells and plugs as soon as the boat leaves the water. I do not keep any fish so the other rules do not pertain to me at this time, however, I agree with all of the new rules."

Jody Wendte of Crofton, NE, emailed: "I live on Lewis and Clark Lake and generally dock my boat where there is no fish cleaning facilities. My concern is keeping fish fresh prior to cleaning when one uses a boat ramp with no fish cleaning facilities and has several miles to drive to get to home or cleaning site to properly package fish and dispose of carcasses."

Vernell King of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "What a bunch of insane ideas..."

Bob Souter of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "The proposals should help slow the spread of invasive species..."

Kory Kooima of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "Thanks for sharing the new proposal to help stop the spread of AIS. While we know the likelihood of stopping this migration is unlikely, I appreciate that our state is making efforts to slow this process..."

J. Dwight L. Corbeil of Detroit Lakes, MN, emailed: "Thanks for the chance for input. The only thing I would recommend is to allow transport of fish in a cooler with ice in milk jugs; no "non-contained water" is needed in the cooler just the ice jugs. I would prefer not to be restricted to only transporting fish in an open 5 gallon pail."

Brian Van Zee of Robinson, TX, emailed: "As a South Dakota angler and fisheries biologist, I think the new regulations regarding water draining and preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species are a good idea."

Allen Curtis of Lincoln, NE, emailed: "Look fine to me. Already practice them." Randy Stattelman of Clinton, MN, emailed: "I think all 3 new rules are good ones to help prevent the spread of invasive species."

Corey Culp of Brandon, SD, emailed: "I used to live in Minnesota and there they provide hoses so that voters can also wash down their boats to get rid of any stuff that might be clinging to your boat. The rest is a great idea, however, it's an honor system, and you get not only in staters but a lot of out of staters who don't follow the rules. What we really need is to come up with something environmentally friendly that will kill the son of bitches but not harm the fish and the water and people. It would be a good challenge to send to some of these schools that we have, to let them try and create something so the state doesn't have to pay for it."

Jerry Jordan of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I hope you are planning on having some type of container to put unused bait in. If not, you will have people dumping their bait in the lake. The overall plan is good. I hope it works."

Tim Danforth of Watertown, SD, emailed: "You are making these changes too difficult and good honest fishermen will break the law..."

Russ Bartunek of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "We should also consider all non-resident boats entering SD to have a certificate of cleaning. The state should be able to set up such an arrangement with car wash sites."

Dane Nielsen of Custer, SD, emailed: "I understand and would agree to do whatever new rules you decide to help with the SD fisheries."

Bruce Langendorfer of Wahpeton, ND, emailed: "these changes are necessary to attempt some type of control of ANS."

Dennis M. Jones of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "Good ideas."

Glenn Larson of Watertown, SD, emailed: "These new rules are good and make sense to me..."

Florian Zins, Flasher, ND, emailed: "These are good proposals..."

Ron Manz of Crescent, IA, emailed: "That is what we do. We do fill a bucket from the hydrant for the cleaned fish."

Bill Wussow of Glenwood, MN, emailed: "I think it is extremely important that these changes be enacted..."

Jeff Miles of Mankato, MN, emailed: "I think its great idea to enforce these rules...I'm all for it."

Jon Jessen of Ree Heights, SD, emailed: "Sounds good to me!"

Perry Lewis of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "As one who fishes these waters regularly, though inconvenient, I believe these new rules should be implemented and are reasonable."

Leroy Benson of Fergus Falls, MN, emailed: "I have read your recommendations and agree with most of them..."

David Reed of Madison, SD, emailed: "I know it will take some getting used to doing, but it is a small price to pay to protect our waters. It would be nice to have more cleaning stations."

Jeff Lage of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I am upset, frustrated as well as cognizant of the issue at hand regarding, ANS..."

Keith Bauman of Yankton, SD, emailed: "The biggest concern is wasting live bait...I don't see an issue with draining live wells or pulling the plugs before you leave the water..."

Jeff Olson of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I commend you in taking action in this area of concern..."

Betty Backus of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...I urge you as commissioners to vote for the aquatic invasive species part of the law, but unless you have inside information on the reason for the bait transportation regulation, please vote no for that regulation."

Jill (Laurel) Behnke of Britton, SD, emailed: "I think that in order to keep other bodies of water healthy, these new rules should be implemented..."

Jerry Hanten of Webster, SD, emailed: "...I feel the proposed rules are fine but they do not address the complete issue..."

Scott Guffrey of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "When I first read that the South Dakota Game, Fish, & Parks Commission was adding Phragmites to their aquatic invasive species list, I thought it to be a duplication to what the South Dakota Weed & Pest Commission has already listed. There does seem to be some duplication of efforts by the two commissions as well as the SD Department of Game, Fish, & Parks and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture...Over all I support the proposed rules..."

The Public Hearing concluded at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary