

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources



Commission Meeting

MINUTES

December 1, 2023 | 8:30 AM (ET)

In-person: #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

Livestream: [YouTube.com/FishandWildlifeKY](https://www.youtube.com/FishandWildlifeKY)

Call to Order and Welcome (Video 5:28) – Chairman Clinard

Invocation (Video 7:14) – Zach Couch, Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator

Pledge of Allegiance (Video 7:48) – Laura Burford, State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator

Chair's Remarks (Video 8:03)

Commissioner's Remarks (Video 8:19)

Commission Members in attendance (Video 13:50) – Greg Cecil, Dr. Karl Clinard, Jerry Ferrell, Brian Fisher, Dr. Robin Floyd, Paul Horn, Josh Lillard, Doug Morgan, and Ralph Swallows.

Action Items

- Minutes from September 22, 2023 quarterly meeting (Video 14:13)
 - Ralph Swallows made a **motion to accept the minutes as written**, seconded by Brian Fisher. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Quarterly Financial Reports (Video 15:05)
 - Lisa Cox, Director of Administrative Services, presented the quarterly financial reports. Greg Cecil made a **motion to accept the quarterly financial reports as written**, seconded by Ralph Swallows. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
 - Prohibit hunting of wild pigs in Kentucky (Video 17:42)

- Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, proposed amending [301 KAR 3:030](#) to remove wild pigs from the list of species with year-round seasons. Landowners incurring damage from pigs will retain rights to shoot them under authority of KRS 150.170.
- Ralph Swallows made a **motion to accept this proposal as written**, seconded by Greg Cecil. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Yes: Brian Fisher, Yes: Ralph Swallow, Yes: Greg Cecil, No: Josh Lillard, Yes: Jerry Ferrell, Yes: Paul Horn, No: Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried by majority.***
- Recommendation for legislative change on commercial guide licensure authority (Video 34:20)
 - Deputy Commissioner Gabe Jenkins and Legislative Liaison Jenny Gilbert explained that as an agency, we lack the authority through statute to establish an outfitter license or tier system.
 - Brian Fisher made a **motion to direct the Commissioner's Office to present to a legislative member the Commission's desire for statutory change to create an outfitter license and modify the commercial guide license**, seconded by Paul Horn. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Create new "special agency fundraising permits" (Video 49:00)
 - Deputy Commissioner Brian Clark presented a proposal to promulgate a new regulation 301 KAR 5:210 (and amending 301 KAR 5:022 and other regulations as necessary), which would allot a limited number of special permits for elk (2) and special bonus permits for bear, deer, and wild turkey (3 each), to be used in bonus drawing packages for raising revenue to help meet KDFWR's operational funding needs and provide customers with special hunting opportunities.
 - Chairman Clinard asked for the Kentucky Premium Big Game Permit Package to say one elk of either sex as specified in the Kentucky Elk Prize Package.
 - Josh Lillard made a **motion to accept as written on pages 11 and 12 with the correction of adding "elk of either-sex" to the Kentucky Premium Big Game Permit Package**, seconded by Jerry Ferrell. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Add provisions for special hunting regulations on designated WMAs (Video 1:02:34)

- Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, proposed amending 301 KAR 3:010 – Public use of Wildlife Management Areas. This amendment would create a new section applicable to properties suited to more restrictive uses of firearms than statewide regulations, include restriction of deer hunting to archery and crossbow only, and shotgun used with shotshells as the only firearm allowed for use, allow .177-.25 caliber air rifles for small game, and prohibit target shooting with rimfire or centerfire rifles or single-projectile shotgun ammunition.
 - Dr. Robin Floyd asked that muzzleloaders be allowed for small game. Paul Horn asked for the department to specify which type of muzzleloaders can be used. Staff clarified that single projectile firearms would not be permitted on such properties.
 - Brian Fisher made a **motion to accept this item as written on the agenda**, seconded by Josh Lillard. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Elk Hunting – Season & permit recommendations for the 2024 season (Video 1:08:52)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, proposed amending 301 KAR 2:132 – Elk hunting seasons, permits, zones, and requirements. This amendment would allow the pooling of points for Elk Restoration & Elk Voucher-Cooperator Permits (both permit types already have the same elk permit-earning values) and modify the Loyalty Redraw provision to reflect “cumulative” rather than “consecutive” for loyalty years applied.
 - Paul Horn made a **motion to accept this item as written**, seconded by Brian Fisher. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Update WMA deer quota hunts regulation for the 2024 season (Video 1:11:15)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, proposed amending 301 KAR 2:178 – Deer hunting on WMAs. This amendment would remove December antlerless only hunt on Veteran’s Memorial WMA, remove the 3-day January open firearms hunt on West KY WMA, and clarify language to state that a quota hunt participant shall be given one preference point for each “antlerless” deer instead of each “female” deer on Ballard, Clay, Taylorsville Lake and Veterans Memorial WMAs, remove the outdated reference to 1 bonus deer quota hunt permit for a quota hunt applicant due to historic changes in the Commission’s handling of Special Commission Permits, and modify 301 KAR 2:178 Section 2 (7) (d) to allow the hunter to plainly label the portable stand with the hunter’s customer identification number.
 - Paul Horn asked for the department to look at other WMAs that could be opened for general deer hunting and bring that information back to the commission.

- Brian Fisher made a **motion to accept this item as written**, seconded by Doug Morgan. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Break (Video 1:14:43)

- Promulgate a new administrative regulation requiring wildlife disease reporting from veterinarians, wildlife disease testing facilities and researchers (Video 1:27:11)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, and Dr. Christine Casey, Veterinarian, proposed amending 301 KAR 4 to include a new administrative regulation for wildlife disease reporting by veterinarians and others upon receiving test-positive results, establish a reporting mechanism to address wildlife disease concerns that impacts preservation and conservation of wildlife populations per KRS 150 and define conditions and procedures for reporting diseases detected in wildlife species. Departments of Agriculture and Public Health have similar reporting requirements. Dr. Casey also clarified that there is currently nowhere in regulation that allows an animal control officer to euthanize wildlife. The department would need to work with the vet board, who regulates euthanasia. The vet board has a specific certification that requires training and then would allow for wildlife to be euthanized.
 - Brian Fisher made a **motion to accept this item as written with the addition of the animal control officer's ability to euthanize**, seconded by Greg Cecil. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Modify regulations for commercial trotlines (Video 1:35:00)
 - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, proposed amending 301 KAR 1:146 – Commercial fishing gear as follows: Commercial trotlines must be tagged at both ends and at least every 100 ft, commercial trotline maximum length reduced from 6,000 ft to 1,000 ft, and commercial trotlines must be set at last three feet under the surface.
 - Brian Fisher made a **motion to accept this item as written on page 15**, seconded by Ralph Swallows. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Modify water bodies open to commercial fishing (Video 1:36:36)
 - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, proposed amending 301 KAR 1:150 – Waters open to commercial fishing. This amendment would establish an upper boundary for waters open to commercial fishing on the mainstem of the Cumberland River above Lake Cumberland, which shall be its confluence with the Rockcastle River.

- Ralph Swallows asked if they knew how many commercial fishermen would be impacted.
- Brian Fisher made a **motion to accept this item as written**, seconded by Ralph Swallows. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Modify special regulations for bass at Grayson Lake and eliminate minimum size limit on Channel Catfish in many public waters (Video 1:39:33)
 - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, proposed amending 301 KAR 1:201 – Taking of fish by traditional methods. This amendment would add a protective slot limit of 12-15 inches for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass at Grayson Lake and remove the 12-inch minimum size restriction for Channel Catfish on more than 100 water bodies in Kentucky.
 - Doug Morgan made a **motion to accept this item as written on page 17**, seconded by Jerry Ferrell. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- At the September Commission meeting, a unanimous vote was passed to increase Commissioner Storm's contract by 6%. The Commission did not place a time for that increase to become effective. Chairman Clinard asked for the commission to discuss a time for the 6% increase to take place. Paul Horn **made a motion for Commissioner's Storm's 6% contract increase to become effective on October 1, 2023, since the last meeting took place at the end of September**, seconded by Dr. Robin Floyd. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Discussion Items

- Modify nontraditional fishing regulations to clarify gig possession restrictions, specify possession limits for shovelnose sturgeon and sportfish, revise sport fishing trotline tagging requirements, and prohibit hand grabbing on smaller lakes owned or managed by the department (Video 1:43:59)
 - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, proposed amending 301 KAR 1:410 – Taking of fish by nontraditional fishing methods. This amendment would add dates when possession of a gig of any kind is illegal, to match dates established in 301 KAR 1:082 – Frog season; limits, set a shovelnose sturgeon possession limit of two (2) times the daily limit and a possession limit of two (2) times the daily limit for sportfish taken by trotline, jugline, or setline, require that sportfishing trotlines must be tagged on both ends with the angler's fishing license customer identification number, and

- prohibit hand grabbing on lakes less than 500 acres owned or managed by the department.
 - No objections were made to pass this item on to an action item.
- Create a seasonal no boat fishing zone around the oxygen injection area on Lake Cumberland (Video 1:50:35)
 - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, proposed amending 301 KAR 1:201 – Taking of fish by traditional fishing methods. This amendment would create a no-boat fishing zone in the forebay of Lake Cumberland during the summer and fall months when the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers performs oxygen injection into the lake.
 - Dave asked to table this item. At this point, it's hard to know the impact of the oxygen injection area until it becomes operational. Currently, the prediction for it to become operational is July 2025.
 - No objections were made to table this item until the oxygen injection area becomes operational.
- Revised provisions for hunting and fishing on public lands (Video 1:57:22)
 - Jenny Gilbert, Legislative Liaison, explained that at the last commission meeting, two additional regulations were listed (301 KAR 2:112 and 301 KAR 5:040). They have been removed due to further review and consultation with staff. The department will still be filing 301 KAR 2:112 and 301 KAR 5:040 as required by KRS 13A requirements, but no substantive changes will be made.
 - Jenny proposed amending 301 KAR 3:005 Public use of newly acquired or newly managed lands. This amendment would define terms including “managed lands”, review provisions for fishing opportunities in ponds, lakes, or streams on or adjacent to department property, and consider permanent closure of public land to hunting that was purchased for fishing access and does not lend itself to hunting safely.
 - No objections were made to pass this item on to an action item.
- Set daily harvest limits for raccoon hunting (Video 2:01:41)
 - Commission member Doug Morgan proposed amending 301 KAR 2:251 – Hunting and trapping seasons and limits for furbearers. This amendment would set daily hunter harvest limits for raccoons at 2 per person, 6 per hunting party.
 - Brian Fisher **made a motion to not move this item on as an action item**, seconded by Ralph Swallows. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Yes: Brian Fisher, Yes: Ralph Swallows, Yes: Greg Cecil, Yes: Josh Lillard, Yes: Jerry Ferrell, No: Paul Horn, No: Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried by majority.***

- Add 2 days to end of spring squirrel season for additional hunter opportunity (Video 2:17:50)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, proposed amending 301 KAR 2:122 – Seasons, methods, and limits for small game. This amendment would extend the season through the third Sunday in June.
 - Brian Fisher asked if the department could potentially increase the squirrel limits from 6 to 8.
 - No objections were made to pass this item on to an action item.

- Increase selected deer hunting opportunities in Zone 1 and 2 counties, and statewide for youths and mentored hunters for the 2025 season (Video 2:21:01)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, Commission Member Robin Floyd, and Joe McDermott, Deer Coordinator, proposed amending 301 KAR 2:172 – Deer hunting seasons, zones, and requirements. This amendment would expand early youth gun deer season to nine consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in October in all four deer hunting Zones and expand early muzzleloader deer season to seven consecutive days beginning the third Monday in October in Zones 1 and 2 counties with antlerless harvest only during the first five days of this season.
 - Paul Horn asked for clarification to be made on the language regarding early muzzleloader deer season dates.
 - Chairman Clinard asked for the harvest numbers of buck to doe ratio during youth season.
 - Brian Fisher asked Wildlife to look into whether charging for Additional Deer Permits could be a barrier to harvesting more antlerless deer in Zone 1 and Zone 2.
 - Ralph Swallows asked for the above language to state that if the season is extended, it would be for youth only.
 - No objections were made to bringing this item back as a discussion item at the next meeting. The commission requested that additional charts and information be provided to them in the meantime.

- Add Siberian Laika to the list of approved dog breeds/crossbreeds that can be used for bear hunting with dogs (Video 2:40:16)
 - Ben Robinson proposed amending 301 KAR 2:300 – Black bear seasons and requirements. The bear dog hunters have requested the addition of this breed.
 - No objections were made to pass this item on to an action item.

New Business Items

- Recommendations for the 2025 Bear Hunting Season (Video 2:41:45)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, and Dr. John Hast, Elk and Bear Program Coordinator, proposed amending 301 KAR 2:300 – Black bear seasons and requirements. This amendment would establish a 14-day early archery and crossbow season in Clinton and Wayne Counties to

begin on the third Saturday in September and coincide with the opening of deer crossbow season.

- Chairman Clinard asked for numbers be provided to the Commission at the next meeting.

- Prohibit use of aircraft (drones, helicopters, airplanes, etc.) for taking fish or wildlife and use of drones/UAS on WMAs/public hunting areas (Video 2:45:12)
 - Colonel Jeremy McQueary, Director of Law Enforcement, presented the proposal to promulgate a new regulation to prohibit; use of aircraft in any aspect of take per wildlife definition in KRS 150.010 (and in keeping with federal law) and use of drones on any WMA or public hunting area statewide. The following would be exempted: the department and its agents conducting research, communications and other authorized management activities; use of aircraft for recovery of big game on private lands not open to public hunting; authorized landowners/their agents engaged in lawful wildlife damage control activities; and commercial fishers for use in locating or removing Invasive Carp.
 - The Commission asked for more information to be provided to them at the next meeting.

- Prohibit use of cellular or wireless trail cameras on WMAs/public hunting areas(Video 2:57:19)
 - Colonel Jeremy McQueary, Director of Law Enforcement, presented a department proposal to promulgate a new regulation or amend 301 KAR 3:010 to: prohibit use of wireless or cellular trail cameras on public hunting areas; require all trail cameras used on WMAs/public hunting areas to be externally labeled with its owner's customer identification number; and exempt the department and its agents conducting research, communications, enforcement, and other authorized management activities.

- Modify the 2025 Elk season (Video 3:03:37)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, and Dr. John Hast, Elk and Bear Program Coordinator, proposed amending 301 KAR 2:132 - Elk hunting seasons, permits, zones and requirements. The amendments would: open Paul VanBooven WMA and Fishtrap Lake WMA to elk hunting; move cow gun week 2 to the first Saturday in January to alleviate overlap with Christmas and Christmas Eve holidays; prohibit cellular trail camera use for hunting in the elk zone during elk hunting season; prohibit drone use for elk hunting or scouting ; clean up baiting regulations to prohibit hunting over a baited area within 30 days of the bait being removed; assign elk hunting units during the initial drawing; amend loyalty redraw to fit this new drawing system; and landowner elk permits can only be used on property enrolled in the landowner access

agreement where those permits were earned.

- Overview of bobcat hunting season and data collection methods (Video 3:07:07)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, and Laura Palmer, Furbearer Program Coordinator, provided an informational update regarding the bobcat hunting season and data collection methods. For the last ten years, the annual bobcat harvest has fallen between 2,000-3,000 cats, averaging about 2,300 per year.
- Modifications to the permitting criteria, holding criteria and area requirements for multiple permit holders and facility types (Video 3:13:01)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife and Commission Member Doug Morgan brought to the Commission's attention that based on previous changes to amend 301 KAR 2:041 (Shooting areas, dog training areas, commercial foxhound training enclosures, and bobwhite shoot to train season), there are not currently adequate provisions in the regulation to permit a noncommercial fox training enclosure. The Wildlife Division will examine the regulation in light of recent requests from applicable stakeholders to potentially bring forward recommended amendments.
- (Video 3:18:02) Commission Member Jerry Ferrell requested a statewide flintlock only muzzleloader season. He requested that the Wildlife Division research and see what other states are doing, see what the Department would need to do to move forward, and send him that information.
- (Video 3:19:11) Commission Member Brian Fisher asked the Wildlife Division research how many additional deer permits are sold and see if that is a significant amount of revenue, and if removing it might help increase harvest. Commission Member Fisher also asked the Wildlife Division to look into nonresident fees for hunting and how we compare given the value of our resources. Lastly, Commission Fisher asked the Wildlife Division to see what impact out-of-state hunters are having on WMAs compared.
- (Video 3:21:29) Commission member Ralph Swallows asked the Department to look into possibly having a permit requirement on WMAs that the Department owns. Commission member Horn asked for a list of state-owned lands that we require a permit and ones that don't.

Public Comments (Video 3:24:36) Lisa Jackson, Public Information Office Supervisor, read the following statement regarding public comments:

“Public comments regarding New Business Items or Discussion Items on the agenda may be submitted by email to FW.PublicAffairs@ky.gov. Emailed comments received by 5:00 PM (eastern) two days preceding the meeting date

will be distributed to all Commission members the day prior to the meeting and will be read by KDFWR staff during the Commission meeting for up to 3 minutes total per commenter, time permitting and at the discretion of the Commission chair. Emailed comments allow Commission members adequate time for consideration and correspondence if necessary, and they allow the Commission to conduct business more efficiently during meetings. Note: A commenter's contact information is not required for emailed comments, but will be necessary if a response is requested, and other than name and affiliation it will not be publicly disclosed if provided. Anonymous comments will be distributed to the Commission members but may not be read during the meeting. The Commission chair reserves the right to not read publicly any comments that are libelous, profane, derogatory of others, not pertaining to business items on the meeting agenda, or redundant with other comments. Questions will receive an email response. Commenters should include "Commission meeting" in their email subject line and include in their email message their first and last name(s), Kentucky county(s) of residence (or state of residence if a nonresident), and organizational affiliation and position if they are an officer or official representative for a particular organization. In-person attendees of meetings may also request to speak up to 3 minutes total per commenter on New Business Item(s) or Discussion Item(s) on the agenda, but will be required to sign-in on the public comment request form on the table at the meeting room entrance by 9:00AM (eastern) on the day of the meeting, and provide name, county and state of residence, organization represented and position (if applicable), and applicable agenda items. Commenters who speak in person will not have their emailed comments read publicly at the meeting and are asked to avoid voicing comments that are redundant with others speaking prior to them during the allotted public comments time."

Lisa Jackson, Public Information Office Supervisor, read the following emailed comment:

I am writing to you to express my concerns on the Department of Fish and Wildlife proposal to change the requirements of Fish and Guide license requirements. As for myself, I am totally opposed to these radical proposals. Raising the fees for a yearly license from \$150 to \$300. I was told direct from Commissioner Storm that this is not being done to raise money for Fish and Wildlife, but just to get in line with adjoining states. Why do we as Kentucky residents and sportsmen have to do something just because someone else is doing it? Keeping a daily creel log and filling online to Fish and Wildlife monthly or stand to have your guide license revoked. Excuses that this information is to help the biologists. To be honest, how accurate do you think the data will be? When filling out your yearly guide license application, you must also list your tax ID number. Why? They say it will not be used or information shared with the Department of Revenue, but why even ask for it? To date, no one has ever gave an

explanation of why this is necessary. I'm very disappointed in Fish and Wildlife that they have pushed for these changes and very little, if any, research has been done and really no communication with license guides to give their opinion. I've heard many say that they will either give up guiding or just guide without advertising, without a license. I truly, truly hope this does not happen. I'm also an elected magistrate here in Grant County, and I've expressed my concerns to Commissioner Storm. I've also expressed my concerns to several elected state representatives and Kentucky legislators who agree with me on this issue. – Roger Humphrey

I would like to pass on the consensus of the LKS clubs in the Third District. Catfish and pay lake issue is at least moving in the right direction. It would be nice to see language asked that eliminates live transporting. Speaking on behalf of UBK only, as this issue came up after our district last meeting, we are adamantly opposed to extending youth and muzzleloader season in October. This adds 10 additional hunter orange days in zones one and two and five in zones three and four. Bowhunters continue to get hammered every time a timeframe of a type of weapon or type of weapon is expanded. In addition, we will be removing more bucks from the breeding pool prior to breeding season and losing those genes. Also note this increased pressure on the deer herd will have a detrimental effect during modern gun when most deer are harvested, as deer react very negatively to increased pressure. KDFWR constantly promotes itself outside the state as a premier big buck state, and killing more of them prior to breeding season is not the way to meet those expectations. Also, unfortunately, due to telecheck, it is our opinion that many bucks will hit the ground during the extended muzzleloader season, and those folks just wait until modern weapon to telecheck it in or claim it is an archery kill. If you want to kill more does, extend the December muzzleloader season, maybe add in a doe only modern weapon season in December and eliminate the \$15 tag for additional deer in zone one counties. Shooting mature big bucks prior to breeding season is not done in any state that I'm aware of in the quantity that will occur under these recommendations. Regarding bear season, why only Wayne and Clinton counties? I understand the damage to crops, but the other counties should also have the same opportunity. I bow hunt bears there every year, and as we come in behind the dog season, the bears are almost all nocturnal and very skittish. The hound hunters kill far more bears than bow hunters and are given ample days to do so. Bow hunters kill very few bears, and unfortunately, most of those are over bait, illegal, but it is impossible to catch them in eastern Kentucky. Just like the December gun season for bears, it is very difficult as with cold weather. The bulk of them have already done up. Bears now have become a big problem in eastern Kentucky, but unless you are a hound hunter, your chances and opportunity are very limited. Open the 14-day proposed season to all bear zones. Regards drones and cellular cameras, the intent is good, but enforcement will be an option. What if I live in the elk zone but have my cameras out for deer as I don't have an elk permit? The regulation also needs to state that cell cameras are prohibited during elk season in elk zone counties only. The way it is written could be interpreted statewide. What about TV shows such as Kentucky A Field or Rutting in the Bluegrass and numerous TV and YouTube shows that use drones to film parts of their hunts? Are drones outfitted with thermal cameras allowed for retrieving downed game? – Ed Morris

The following comments were made in person:

In reference to combining youth hunting weekend and modern muzzleloading week, combine youth only hunting weekend and modern muzzleloader season combining into a week pre-season. Merging the two into one and extending the two days into a week from Saturday to the following Sunday. This would allow youth hunters more time to harvest that trophy buck or their first deer. This would allow grandparents, relatives, parents, aunts and uncles the option to use muzzleloader to hunt alongside the teenager, teaching them the principles of hunting, marksmanship and sportsmanship. This will allow muzzleloader hunters a week pre-season before modern rifle season to hunt their trophy buck. This will allow more time to harvest some of the white tails, reduce the number of deer vehicle encounters, help out the local food banks and hunters for the hungry and also help out with photo ops for donation. The current youth weekend and early muzzleloader season isn't sufficient time for youth hunters or muzzleloader hunters to harvest a deer. This will give perfect opportunity for a mentor to hunt alongside the youth. Youth, grandparents, relatives have other in-depth commitments such as early morning daycare, getting youngsters onto the school bus, doing childcare and childcare in the afternoons. Also weekend and afternoon sports activity is for middle age. The current muzzleloader weekend is sufficient time before gun season when the pressure skyrockets. For example, some muzzleloader hunters coach youth sports, have family commitments at home with supper, homework and showers. They're also first responders to enjoy this and need more time. These folks work 12-hour shifts, have emergencies to deal with and have to give months notice in advance to take vacation days. Some get called out for severe weather and have to travel to other states, therefore missing a two-day weekend. Medical workers have to jump and run at the drop of a hat getting a call at 3 a.m. Many times medical workers are often too tired to even make it home and have to find a spare room to take a nap. A longer season would really help them out. This would also allow more time for hunters to participate and the hunters for the hungry program and consider donating their harvest to the processor to help their local community. Inclement weather for black powder. If there's any precipitation whatsoever, black powder is ruined. One example, if there's been rain, snow moisture, etc., black powder gets wet and will not go off. There's all sorts of instances of having a hammer cocked on a white tail, you add rain, snow, and try to fire it. You might get a pop from your cap or your powder. Sometimes you're lucky enough to get a second chance a while later. - Sean Altsizer, Madison and Anderson County, speaking on behalf of youth hunters and muzzleloading hunters

I'd like to thank you guys for moving the proposal by Dr. Floyd about the deer regulations forward. There's much more to be discussed on it. The six out of the nine districts I was able to talk about since we weren't able to meet before the meeting today, I reached out to them. They're all in one form or another opposed to it as written. As you well know, the league is all about R3 and we like the idea of expanding the youth hunt, but there's too many concerns from other groups that by doing that would absolutely limit some of their participation. One thing that we didn't discuss today was the fact that as a bow hunter, during those now 15 days of October, I'm going to be forced to wear

Hunter Orange because of the gun that's going on. Something else to think about. That was basically everything that we had issues with as far as the agenda today. Thanks for a short meeting, guys. Great discussion. I appreciate all your hard work. – Edwin Nighbert President of the League of Kentucky Sportsmen.

I want to thank you guys for the work you did. It was wonderful. I've been a proponent of the outfitter scenario for years now, and I thank you for taking that up. You made my discussion on coons mute and I appreciate that. Again, thanks commissioners, Fisher, Swallows, and Morgan for the work they've done the last couple of years. I know we've not always been on the same side, but we've been in the same room. So thank you much, guys. - Larry Richards Kentucky, and a chapter of Safari Club International.

- Farewells and Acknowledgements (Video: 3:39:37) The Commission acknowledged the departure of three members: Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, and Doug Morgan, thanking them for their service and dedication. Chairman Clinard afforded each a few minutes to share personal remarks.

- Election of Commission Officers (Video:3:39:11) The meeting included the election of new officers. Josh Lillard as Chairman, Greg Cecil as Vice Chair, and Jerry Ferrell as Secretary. Votes for all three were as follows:
 - Robin Floyd **nominated Josh Lillard as Chair**. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
 - Brian Fisher **nominated Greg Cecil as Vice Chair**. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Dr. Karl Clinard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
 - Brian Fisher **nominated Jerry Ferrell as Secretary**. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Brian Fisher, Ralph Swallows, Greg Cecil, Josh Lillard, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Doug Morgan, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Adjourn (Video 3:52:58)

- Brian Fisher **made a motion to adjourn**, seconded by Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***