

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources



Special Called Commission Meeting

Minutes

[Live Video Teleconference¹](#)

December 14, 2023

#1 Sportsman's Lane

Frankfort, KY

9:30 AM (EST)

Commissioner's Members in attendance – Greg Cecil, Dr. Karl Clinard, Jerry Ferrell, Brian Fisher, Dr. Robin Floyd, Paul Horn, Josh Lillard, Doug Morgan, and Ralph Swallows.

Invocation (Video 5:32) – Deputy Commissioner Gabe Jenkins

Pledge of Allegiance (Video 6:14) – Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife

Information Items

- Report on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) detection in Ballard County (Video 6:45).
 - Deputy Commissioner Gabe Jenkins provided a report on detecting Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Ballard County. The state's preparedness to manage CWD was emphasized, drawing on experience from other states and relying on Kentucky's surveillance strategies. Kentucky employs two types of CWD surveillance: a five-county CWD surveillance zone in western Kentucky due to a previous detection in Tennessee and statewide routine surveillance in the other 115 counties.
- Review of Kentucky's CWD Response Plan and implementation (Video 10:53)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, provided a review of Kentucky's CWD Response Plan and its implementation. CWD was confirmed in a 2.5-year-old male white-tailed deer, harvested on November 11th on private property in southeastern Ballard County. The detection was made during routine surveillance and confirmed via ELISA and IHC tests. There has been

increased sampling in Ballard County and adjacent areas, with 89 samples testing negative and more results pending. Immediate notification of stakeholders was completed following the CWD detection. The Department is currently assessing local deer densities and determining the required sampling volume to establish the prevalence rate. The response plan is adaptable and has evolved over 20 years based on new research and lessons learned from practices in other states. At this time, no regulatory changes are planned for the 2023 hunting season. This decision factors include the timing of the detection, low harvest numbers post-detection, and potential communication and enforcement challenges. There will be a public meeting in the Ballard County area for stakeholder engagement. Dr. Christine Casey, staff veterinarian, answered some technical questions about disease testing procedures.

Adjourn (Video 25:54)

Ralph Swallows made a **motion to adjourn**, seconded by Paul Horn. ***The motion carried unanimously.***