

# Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources



## Commission Meeting

December 5, 2025 | 8:30 AM (ET)

In-person: Salato Wildlife Education Center – Schaaf Room

#1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

[Live Video Teleconference](#)<sup>1</sup>

## Minutes

**Call to Order and Welcome** (Video 2:48)

**Invocation** (Video 3:26) Josh Cummins, 5<sup>th</sup> District Commission Member

**Pledge of Allegiance** (Video 4:24) Jay Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> District Commission Member

**Roll Call** (Video 4:49) Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Chuck Meade, Fred Shortridge, Walter Robertson

**Chair's Remarks** (Video 5:14)

**Commissioner's Remarks** (Video 5:47)

### Informational Items:

- Quarterly Financial Reports (Video 12:45)
  - Melissa Trent, Director of Administrative Services, presented the quarterly financial reports.
  - Jay Smith **made a motion to accept the quarterly financial reports**, seconded by Josh Cummins. *The motion carried unanimously.*

### Action items:

- Minutes from September 19, 2025 Quarterly Commission Meeting (Video 20:35)
  - Matt Rhodes **made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted with the following revision: on page 14, second paragraph, the acronym for the Kentucky Alternative Livestock Association should be**

**corrected to KALA.** The motion was seconded by Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*

- Create regulations to define the waterbodies and the area of some waterbodies where wakesports will be allowed (Video 21:35)
  - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, and Col. Jeremy McQueary, Director of Law Enforcement, proposed amending [301 KAR 6:030](#) – Waterway safety requirements as follows:
    - Propose that wakesports will only be permitted at least 300 feet from shore on all sides, and at least 300 feet from a commercial dock or moorage harbor on eligible waterbodies.
    - Propose a provision that wakeboat users shall drain the ballast tanks of their boats to the fullest extent practicable upon leaving a body of water and before leaving the ramp area.
    - Wakesports eligible waters shall be: Mississippi River, Ohio River, Kentucky Lake, Lake Cumberland, Lake Barkley, Barren River Lake, Green River Lake, Cave Run Lake, Dale Hollow Lake, Laurel River Lake, Nolin River Lake, Rough River Lake, Taylorsville Lake, Herrington Lake, Yatesville Lake, Dewey Lake, Lake Beshear, and Lake Linville. All other waters in Kentucky shall be ineligible for wakesports.
    - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
  - Jay Smith proposed amending the existing language regarding wakesports distance requirements from shore and commercial docks/moorage harbors, changing “at least 300 feet” to “at least 200 feet” on all sides of eligible waterbodies.
  - Jay Smith **made a motion to accept 200 feet as the standard and remove Lake Beshear from the approved list**, seconded by Jeff Raymer.
  - Director Dreves on the **motion regarding whether the remaining stipulations within the recommendations would remain as written**, and Jay Smith confirmed that they would.
  - Steven Fields, Staff Attorney, asked whether the **motion also included the 200-foot requirement from commercial docks and moorage harbors**, and Jay Smith clarified that it did.
  - Jay Smith restated his **motion to accept the 200-foot buffer for all lakes, excluding Lake Beshear, and what is listed on the agenda**. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Fred Shortridge, Walter Robertson. No: Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins. *The motion carries.*
- Modifications of Black Bass Size and Daily Limits, Shovelnose Sturgeon Daily Limit, Skipjack Herring Daily Limit, and Additions to the Fishing in Neighborhoods

Program (Video 36:22)

- Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, proposed amending [301 KAR 1:201](#) – Taking of fish by traditional fishing methods as follows:
  - Remove the slot limit on Largemouth Bass at Cave Run Lake and enact that there will be no size limit on Largemouth Bass and the aggregate daily limit on black bass will be 10 fish (18-inch minimum size limit on Smallmouth Bass will remain).
  - Remove the slot limit on Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass on Otter Creek in Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area.
  - On the following waterbodies with a black bass protective slot limit, change the black bass aggregate daily limit from 6 fish to 10 fish. The lakes are: Beaver Lake, Bert Combs Lake, Beulah Lake, Boltz Lake, Carter Caves State Park Lake, Cave Run Lake, Corinth Lake, Elkhorn Creek, Elmer Davis Lake, General Butler State Park Lake, Grayson Lake, Lake Blythe, Lake Malone, Lake Pennyryle, Lincoln Homestead State Park Lake, McNeely Lake, Panbowl Lake, Wood Creek Lake.
  - Add a daily limit of 2 fish for Shovelnose Sturgeon.
  - Add a daily limit of 100 fish for Skipjack Herring.
  - Add two small lakes to the Fishing In Neighborhoods (FINs) Program. The following two lakes would be added to the “List of Special Lakes and Ponds” that is material incorporated by reference and thus would be managed under FINs Program regulations.
    - Owens’ Lake – 8.6-acre lake in Boone County owned by the City of Walton
    - Harry T. Clark Community Park Pond – 1.2-acre county-owned lake in Rowan County
  - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Fred Shortridge **made a motion to keep the language as written, but with the exception of Cave Run Lake, only five of the ten fish can be 12” or above**, seconded by Jay Smith. *The motion carried unanimously.*

❖ CWD Response to Pulaski County Positive Detection (Video 45:20)

- Scott Harp, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Division, provided the Commission with an update regarding the positive CWD response to Pulaski County and proposed the following recommendations:
  - Add these 9 counties to the CWD Surveillance Zone: Pulaski, Wayne, Whitley, McCreary, Lincoln, Laurel, Rockcastle, Russell, and Casey Counties
  - Authorize baiting under Commissioner's authorization
  - Prohibit deer rehabilitation within the designated Surveillance

Zone

- Implement carcass restrictions
  - Expand deer scrape study into the designated Surveillance Zone
- Clarify that the guiding of hunters on a WMA for profit constitutes commercial activity and would therefore be prohibited and clarify that fishing tournaments that launch at a WMA boat ramp is not a commercial activity under the current Wildlife Management Area regulations (301 KAR 3:010), define commercial activity and modify the group definition in (301 KAR 3:001) (Video 55:56)
    - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Division, and Col. Jeremy McQueary, Director of Law Enforcement, proposed to clarify that the guiding of hunters on a WMA for profit constitutes commercial activity and would therefore be prohibited and clarify that fishing tournaments that launch at a WMA boat ramp is not a commercial activity under the current Wildlife Management Area regulations (301 KAR 3:010). The proposal also includes defining commercial activity, modifying the group definition in (301 KAR 3:001), and making any additional regulatory clean-up necessary for conformity.
    - Jay Smith asked if we could bring the issue of take and recovery as new business at the next meeting.
  - Modify deer hunting regulations to allow hunting on properties owned by county or local governments (Video 1:11:24)
    - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Division, proposed amending [301 KAR 2:178](#) Deer hunting on wildlife management areas, state parks, other public lands, and federally controlled areas, and to cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity.
  - Amend and incorporate by reference applications and reporting forms for Resident Fur Buyer, Resident Fur Processor, Non-Resident Fur Buyer, and Non-Resident 3 Day Fur Buyer Licenses (Video 1:12:09)
    - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Division, proposed amending [301 KAR 4:090](#) Taxidermy and the buying and selling of inedible wildlife parts, and making any additional regulatory cleanup necessary for conformity.
  - Matt Rhodes **made a motion to accept the last four action items as submitted for approval**, seconded by Jay Smith. *The motion carried unanimously.*
  - Update the special fundraising permits drawing regulation (Video 1:14:19)
    - Kevin Kelly, Director of Information and Education, proposed amending [301 KAR 5:210](#) Special agency fundraising permits as follows:
      - Amend [301 KAR 5:022](#) for conformity
      - Modify definitions

- Re-order of permit drawing sequence
- Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity.
- Jay Smith **made a motion to approve as written**, seconded by Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Break (Video 1:17:05)

Return from Break (Video 1:31:28)

- Committee Meetings (Video 1:31:33)
  - Commission member Meade requested a discussion on the potential formation of a limited number of committees.
  - Matt Rhodes asked for clarification on how committee meetings would function, specifically whether this would replace the current three-step process or simply be added to the existing structure.
  - Chuck Meade clarified that any committee meetings would be added to the commission's additional quarterly meetings and would not replace the current process.
  - Greg Cecil asked whether the commission has any bylaws governing committee operations, including their purpose, oversight, responsibilities, and whether they would be required to keep minutes. He expressed concern regarding how the committee structure would function.
  - Steven Fields, Staff Attorney, stated that the commission bylaws include a section on committees and working groups. He explained that the commission may establish any type of committee—such as an elk committee or wildlife committee—to discuss matters prior to those items being presented to the commission as new business. While the bylaws outline how committees are created and the maximum number of members permitted, they do not specify operational procedures for committees.
  - Josh Cummins asked for clarification regarding the intent of the discussion, confirming that today's action would only approve the concept of having committee meetings, with a detailed committee structure to be developed later, brought through the three-step process, and then voted on. Chuck Meade confirmed that this understanding was correct.
  - Deputy Commissioner Jenkins requested that the Commission identify a few members who would be willing to work with the department to develop a draft for presentation at the next quarterly meeting.
  - Josh Cummins **made a motion to approve committee meetings, provided no committee meetings are held until the structure is finalized**, seconded by Greg Cecil. Mr. Cecil also clarified that any structure or guidelines developed must follow the established three-step process. Mr. Cummins agreed that the proposed committee structure would be brought back as new business at the next meeting and proceed through the three-step process. Mr. Meade recommended that Josh

Cummins, Jay Smith, and Fred Shortridge work with the department to develop the committee structure. *The motion carried unanimously.*

### Discussion Items:

- Promulgation of a new regulation regarding procurement (Video 1:41:23)
  - Jenny Gilbert, Legislative Liaison, proposed to promulgate new regulations under 301 KAR Chapter 11 to provide transparency in purchasing policies as follows:
    - Itemize procurement procedures, contracts, and other related administrative services policies
    - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
  - No objections were made to passing this item on to an action item.
- Modifications of Regulations Controlling Land and Water Use at Department Lakes (Video 1:44:45)
  - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting. The working group is continuing to revise this regulation; however, additional time is still needed.
  - Josh Cummins **made a motion to table this item and bring it back as a discussion item at the next meeting**, seconded by Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- Fall Turkey Archery and Crossbow Seasons (Video 1:45:34)
  - Commission member Raymer has requested to amend [301 KAR 2:144](#) to remove hens from legal take during fall archery season and fall crossbow season and to cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity.
  - Jay Smith **made a motion to send this item on to an action item for the next meeting**, seconded by Fred Shortridge. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- Spring Turkey Season (Video 1:57:14)
  - Commission member Raymer has requested to amend [301 KAR 2:142](#) to remove bearded hens from legal take during spring turkey season and to cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity.
  - Jay smith **made a motion**, seconded by Josh Cummins. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- Overlap of youth-only gun deer season and early muzzleloader season (Video 2:03:45)
  - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Division, reported that the CWD Working Group Commission members requested revisiting the overlap of these two deer hunting seasons in [301 KAR 2:172](#) and to cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity.

- Greg Cecil asked for clarification on whether the CWD Working Group intended to eliminate the overlap between the two seasons.
  - Matt Rhodes stated that user groups should be able to share the land and hunt together safely. However, he noted that questions have arisen regarding why this regulation was enacted and whether it needs to be reconsidered.
  - Jeff Raymer **made a motion to keep this item on as discussion**; no second was made; however, *the motion carried unanimously*.
- Modify bear season (Video 2:09:19)
    - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Division, proposed amending [301 KAR 2:300](#) Black bear seasons and requirements as follows:
      - Remove the physical check requirement for harvested bears and require hunters to submit a tooth of any harvested bear to KDFWR via mail
      - Expand the chase-only season beginning the day after spring turkey season through the end of September
      - Prohibit bear chase on public land within the elk hunting zone during the month of September to not conflict with elk archery and gun seasons
      - Expand archery and modern gun seasons in bear zone 1 to run a full five days for each season (currently 3 days each)
      - Establish a youth only bear season opening the second Saturday in October and running two days (overlaps the first two days of youth deer) in bear zones 1, 2, and 3
    - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
    - Jay Smith **made a motion**, seconded by Josh Cummins. *The motion carried unanimously*.

### **New Business Item:**

- Create a new January 3-day antlerless firearms hunt in Zone 1-3 counties (Video 10:50)
  - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Division, proposed amending [301 KAR 2:172](#) Deer hunting seasons, zones, and requirements as follows:
    - Create an antlerless only firearms hunt the last 3 days of Kentucky's deer season (Martin Luther King holiday weekend) in deer zones 1-3
    - Remove references to disposal permits to conform with [301 KAR 2:176](#)
    - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity

- Josh Cummins **made a motion to pass this item on to a discussion item**, seconded by Jay Smith. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- Non-Resident Hunting License (Video 2:15:10)
  - Gabe Jenkins, Deputy Commissioner, proposed amending [301 KAR 5:022](#) to bundle the Non-Resident Hunting License to also include a Non-Resident Fishing License, increase the cost from \$160 to \$195, and cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity.
  - Josh Cummins **made a motion to move this item on to a discussion item**, seconded by Greg Cecil. *The motion carried unanimously.*

### Public Comments (Video 2:17:58)

The following comments were made in person:

“Hi, good morning. Happy Friday. My name is Allison Daniel. Um, I want to thank everybody here. I know most of you are volunteers and you're doing the best that you can to make the best decisions that you can for the state and your constituents. I am here representing the wakeboat owners. I'm not going to talk about restrictions. I know I'm not allowed to. Um, but I have my family here, my kids. If Keith and Charlie, will you all stand up? Thought it was important to bring them, um, because they're sportsmen, they're hunters, they're anglers. Um, they're also surfers and they're wakeboarders, right? We do all these things outside as activities, and I think it's critical for them to understand the way that processes work in the government.

I think it's also critical for them to understand when you make a commitment to something, even if you don't get the outcome that you want, you still stand behind that, right? Like if you've—I'm a I'm a woman of my word. Um, and I want to raise them to be people of their word. And so I think it's critical that as we talk today that they also learn how to fight for something when it's necessary, right? To fight for your belief.

So I committed to many of you before today that I would kind of spearhead in a lot of ways at least the Rough River Lake Wake Sports Association, and in turn spread that across the state so that we could improve voter safety and education, and we could try to improve the perception that wakeboat owners or wakeboat wakeboarders are a problem in general regardless of how this meeting went today. Um, and I thank you Commissioner Rhodes and Cecil and Cummins for your support. Um, some of you who didn't vote for us today committed to supporting us, um, prior to this in conversations and even committed to potentially influencing your peers to vote for us, right? And that's not the way it went.

Um, regardless, I continue to be a person of my word. I committed that I would be part of this process and that I would help voter safety and education, um, as we move on. So, I do have some concerns. I'll bring them up through the process because I want to be respectful, um, of the commission. Anyways, it doesn't matter. Um, but I guess what I'm here to say is that regardless of the sentiment today, regardless of how, um, the vote

happened, I would still like to work with this commission in any way possible to improve voter safety and education.

I do fully believe that the restrictions that imposed today will actually negatively impact safety on many of our lakes. It's going to put riders in the water in the very main channel of our waterways. It's going to put them in harm's way. It's also going to make it much more difficult for people in wakeboats to avoid anglers, right? Because if we're in violation of 200 ft, we can no longer give you the girth, like the breadth of area that we would normally give you so that we don't rock your boat, right? This is going to cause additional conflicts. It's going to cause problems.

So, it's even more critical now that we work on creating a unified culture across the state of Kentucky where voter safety, um, and really courtesy for all voters is the number one thing that we're trying to solve for. Sorry, I'm a little bit nervous. Um, I also noticed, sorry, when we were up here, that the budget item—while voter registration is small—it's actually grown over the last two years more than any other ticket on that, which means there's more voters than there have been. They're growing at a faster rate than hunters and fishermen.

So again, it's more critical that we're taking time to train people safety education. So anyways, I would like that to be a part of a new discussion topic at your March meeting. I think that it's worth—I guess it's new business is the next step, then move to discussion, and if there's, um, subcommittees that you guys discussed today that could be part of that licensing I would absolutely love to be part of that with you all. Regardless, I will see you all in March. You're not, you're not done with me. You might not ever be. Might be sitting up there with you guys one day. Thank you all.” – *Allison Daniel*

“Brian Mackey from Harden County. Um, I wanted to talk a little bit about the turkey, and it's more of a little bit of a history nugget, and by no means am I trying to step on Zak's toes because I think he's a rock star here for this agency. But, um, when we talk about the fall turkey season and the hen harvest, a lot of times we always get hung up on, well, it's a small number, and I think sometimes in the context of things some of the history gets forgotten about our turkey situation.

We've only had a statewide—every bit of every county in the state was open for turkey hunting—for about 30 years. You know, I can remember in my area in '94, part of Larue County was open, part of it was closed. Part of Hardin County was open, part of it was closed. But, you know, that history of the restoration project, it started in 1978.

And the information I'm giving here came from Art Lander, who, as many people know, used to be a staff writer here for this agency and recently passed away. But he listed in an article of his from Kentucky Afield years ago that in 1978 we had 2,380 turkeys is what the estimated flock was. In that season hunters harvested 44 birds.

From '78 to '97 is when our restoration project was going on. So that was a 20-year time span, '78 to '97. In that restoration, we stocked 6,760 birds at 430 sites across the state.

So, if you break that down, that's about 338 birds a year that were trapped and relocated. And that is basically what got us to where we were a few years after '97 into our heyday.

So, you know, our first fall season was in '97. Of course, this was gun, archery, the whole deal. But there were, in the 2004–05 season, 6,589 hens harvested. You know, that's almost the same number of birds that we moved around for 20 years to establish our population.

So, I just think that history is a little relevant—that even though it can be a small number of birds we might be saving, basically a small number of birds got us to where we were, you know, 10–15 years ago when it was rocking. So, I would urge the commission to do anything possible to protect hen harvest, even though it might be a small number, but a small number got us where we were. Thank you.” – *Brian Mackey*

“Thank you, guys. I'm Anthony Brown from Meade County. Most of y'all know me, and I promise to keep this short. Um, some of the guys from around my area in Meade and Breckenridge County want me to ask, like, in the September goose season, why we split the state and why now Meade County is in the western zone, which opens up and it's the first two weeks of the season, where the last two years most of the crops, like corn crops in our area, aren't harvested yet. And by the time they are harvested to the places we have access to hunt, our season's already out.

So, we're just trying to figure out why we can't just open the whole state for that length of time or, if possible, try to move us back. Because up until a couple years ago, we were still in the eastern zone and not sure why now we're in the western zone. But they just want me to kind of question that and just figure out if we could do some working on that, because by the time that two weeks is up, then they start harvesting crops in our area and season's already over.

And I just want to bring that up. Thank you for your time.” - *Anthony Brown*

Thank y'all for the time. I wanted to address the turkey situation. Y'all are going down the right route. For the last five years, we have shot no hens on our thousand-acre farm. And when we started that, we would hear usually two to three birds gobble. That was it. Now, last year, by not doing this for five years, I could sit on my porch and hear 25 to 30 gobble. So one hen is four to six birds. She may hatch out 10, but due to depredation, you know, coyotes, foxes, skunks, you name that, that one hen can bring six more out there. So that works out real well for the population increase.

Another thing I'd like to do, I've got a lot of people, and we go to Eastern Kentucky a lot. They do have a significant bear population there. Y'all might want to look at more than five days. A friend of mine sent me a video last spring of a bear chased down an elk calf and caught it. I mean, that's the elk's are money cow. So, you need to protect that. We've got a big bear population.

Also, on the youth season for that January, or that hunting season for the doe season in January, that would be an excellent opportunity to put that during that Christmas time

frame for youth hunters. Kids are out of school for Christmas break. It's a good opportunity to take advantage of eliminating your doe problem, and it gets your young kids out for hunting.

Last thing I've got is a concern with this wakeboard. I'm not taking either side on that. I just think the department might be opening itself up for litigation because they're separating or isolating for a wakeboat. You've got cabin cruisers, you've got torpedo boats, you've got big commercial boats that also throw big wakes. You know, the keel depth, the weight of the boat, everything like that has something to do with how much of a wake it does. So, I would be very careful with specifically saying a wakeboat. And that's my concern on that right there. Thank y'all." – *Thomas Ballinger*

(Video 2:31:17) 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](mailto:FW.PublicAffairs@ky.gov). Email comments received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time two days prior to the meeting date will be distributed to all Commission members on the day prior to the meeting and read by agency staff during the Commission meeting for up to three minutes total per commenter, time permitting and at the discretion of the Commission Chair. In-person attendees of meetings may also request to speak for up to three minutes total per commenter on new business items or discussion items 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 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the day of the meeting and provide name, county of residence, organization represented, official position (if applicable), and the agenda items being addressed. 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 timeframe."

Lisa Jackson, Public Information Office Supervisor, read the following emailed comments.

"Also, reconsider merging Adult/Mentor Blackpowder Antlerless Only with the Youth Week. Adults being Antlerless Only with Blackpower & Youth using a Firearm." – *Shawn Altizer*

"Next issue, the turkey population and hunting need more scrutiny. In an earlier meeting, there were talks of reducing and changing regulations. Due to a good hatch, that idea was scrapped. I don't understand how just because of two years of good hatches back-to-back warrants the idea. Those hatches were directly related to cicada hatches. Nowhere does it make sense that we wait on a periodical hatch of a bug every 13, 17, or any of the other couple of broods that are located in Kentucky to keep the population growing.

Just like with CWD in my previous issue, the commission and leadership need to listen to people. We used to have counties split for seasons; there should not be much of a reason that the counties cannot be zoned the same as deer. I will agree some counties seem to have turkeys and others don't. The zones worked well with deer and bear in increasing the population of those species. It can work with turkey as well. It may just take some help from locals with special equipment to get better flock counts, or the department needs to invest in what is required to get the counts. So, I strongly suggest that the turkey limits or season dates get changed to increase the population."

– *Trey Webb*

"Good afternoon, Chair Meade and Commissioners:

We oppose KDFWR's proposals to

- 1) Take away physical checks by KDFWR agents and instead rely on bear hunters to submit a tooth by mail.
- 2) Expand the hounding chase-only season to begin May 10 (rather than the current June 1) and to continue unabated until September 30.
- 3) Expand archery and modern gun seasons in bear zone 1 to run a full five days for each season (currently 3 days each); and establish a youth-only bear season opening the second Saturday in October and running two days in bear zones 1, 2, and 3.

We do not oppose prohibiting bear hounding in elk-hunting zones.

If mandatory check stations are removed, KDFWR will no longer have access to reliable sex and age data for its vulnerable black bear populations. Washington state provides a cautionary tale: Washington requires mandatory tooth submission by hunters, but has a 44% failure rate, according to its latest management plan, because its agents do not check bears. Washington also has high rates of poaching because hunters fail to call in their bear kills. If mandatory checks are taken away, poaching rates and the ability of the state to monitor bear mortality in Kentucky will diminish. We respectfully request that mandatory check stations remain in place.

Humane World for Animals strenuously opposes hounding pursuit and hunting seasons. Hounding, especially in springtime, results in injuries and mortalities to vulnerable bears, particularly females and their cubs. Hounds attack and disturb non-target species, including deer and farm animals. Hounding results in mortal injuries to hounds, too. Hounding wildlife should be abolished in Kentucky, not expanded, because of all the cruelties involved with this method.

Likewise, we oppose the expansion of the use of archery equipment. Because of bears' thick coats, heavy bones and substantial muscles, obtaining a clean kill is difficult. Many

bears hit with arrows do not die quickly, but rather die from blood loss over time. This is unsporting and cruel.

Furthermore, we oppose any expansion of the bear hunt—whether in time or by certain classes of hunters—because far too many female bears are killed in Kentucky, suggesting that too many bears are hunted each season in the state. In 2024, a record 230 bears were hunted, and the 5-year average of females in the hunter kill is 37%. Humm and Clark (2021) recommend no more than between 10 to 24% maximum offtake for both sexes of a bear population. Without reliable population data, it is easy to kill too many bears. Therefore, we urge the Commission not to further expand the bear season.

We have also supplied a written comment letter that more fully briefs these issues with the relevant scientific citations. If you have questions or comments, please contact me.”  
– *Todd Blevins*

**Set a date for the next Quarterly Commission Meeting** (Video 2:37:29)

- February 27, 2026

**Adjourn**