

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources



Commission Meeting

September 19, 2025 | 8:30 AM (ET)

In-person: Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm – Meeting
Room A

1525 Mills Ln, Frankfort, KY 40601

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

Minutes

Call to Order and Welcome (Video 3:04)

Invocation (Video 3:19) Tommy Reed

Pledge of Allegiance (Video 5:31) Matt Rhodes, 3rd District Commission Member

Roll Call (Video 5:58) Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Chuck Meade, Fred Shortridge, Walter Robertson

Chair's Remarks (Video 6:28)

Commissioner's Remarks (Video 7:36)

Informational Items:

- Quarterly Financial Reports (Video 17:15)
 - Melissa Trent, Director of Administrative Services, presented the quarterly financial reports.
 - Matt Rhodes **made a motion to accept the quarterly financial reports as submitted**, seconded by Walter Robertson. Votes were as follows:
Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Fred Shortridge, and Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- Update on National Archery in the Schools Program, NASP (Video 24:21)
 - Tommy Floyd, President of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), provided the commission with an update on the program.

- Wild Turkey Surveys and Research Updates (Video 33:14)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, and Zak Danks, Turkey and Grouse Program Coordinator, provided an update on wild turkey surveys and ongoing research.
 - The Commission and Department have launched a Wild Turkey Working Group. Members include: Ben Robinson (KDFWR), Dan Figert (KDFWR), Zak Danks (KDFWR), Jimmy Woods (KDFWR), Jeff Raymer (2 District Commission Member), Josh Cummins (5th District Commission Member), Walter Robertson (9th District Commission Member), Derek Alkire (NWTF), Scott Davis (NWTF), and Jason Lupardis (TFT).

Action items:

- Minutes from May 21, 2025 Quarterly Commission Meeting (Video 47:19)
 - Fred Shortridge ***made a motion to approve the May 21, 2025, Quarterly Commission meeting minutes***, seconded by Jeff Raymer. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- Voting on qualifying nonprofit organizations' applications for 2026 Special Commission Permits for Black Bear, Deer, Turkey, Elk & Waterfowl for fundraising to support projects in Kentucky (Video 47:52)
 - Steven Fields, Staff Attorney, informed the Commission that 13 eligible applicants applied for the 2026 Special Commission Permits. He also noted that this is the first year the Department will award Black Bear Special Commission Permits. The Commission needs to determine today how many permits of each type to award.
 - Josh Cummins ***made a motion to award 10 permits for each permit type***, seconded by Jay Smith. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Fred Shortridge, and Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*
 - The Commission voted.
- Request for a commercial pontoon rental on Lake Beshear by All Aboard Boat Rentals, LLC dba All Aboard Pontoon Rentals (Video 59:15)
 - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, and Jeff Ross, Assistant Director of Fisheries, presented a request for commercial pontoon rentals on Lake Beshear by All Aboard Boat Rentals, LLC, dba All Aboard Pontoon Rentals.
 - Pursuant to 301 KAR 1:010, the Department is required to hold a public meeting and accept written comments before approving a commercial facility on any of the four state-owned lakes. The Department must then provide a recommendation to the Commission, followed by Commission action.
 - Dreves stated that the Department's recommendation is to approve the pontoon rental business with limitations, including that only pontoon boats may be rented and that the fleet be limited to a maximum of six

rental pontoon boats.

- Jay Smith **made a motion to vote on this item.** Chairman Meade stated that the motion is to approve the commercial pontoon rental on Lake Beshear by All Aboard Boat Rentals, LLC, dba All Aboard Pontoon Rentals. Commission Member Cecil clarified that the motion includes the Department's limitations and recommendations. Fred Shortridge seconded the motion. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Fred Shortridge, and Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*

❖ Expand the Mississippi State University deer scrape study into Breckinridge County CWD Surveillance zone (Video 1:05:17)

- Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, requested Commission approval to expand an ongoing research project. Currently, staff locate and collect ground scrapes made by deer. Dirt samples and licking branch samples are collected and tested to detect the presence or absence of CWD prions on the landscape. This project is an effective tool in guiding the Department's monitoring efforts. Staff have been conducting this sampling in Ballard County and in Western Kentucky and are now requesting to expand the study into Breckinridge County, where a positive detection was found within a CWD zone.
- Robinson also provided a brief update regarding a captive cervid facility that was recently depopulated in Breckinridge County under the Department of Agriculture's authority. Deer from this facility were sampled and tested, and the Department of Agriculture reported to us that eight additional positive cases were confirmed.
- The only cost associated with this study would be staff field time required for sample collection.
- Greg Cecil **made a motion to accept the expansion of the Mississippi State University deer scrape study into Breckinridge County CWD Surveillance zone**, seconded by Matt Rhodes. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Fred Shortridge, and Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*

• Adjust bag limits for river otter and bobcat (Video 1:11:43)

- Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, proposed amending [301 KAR 2:251](#) Hunting and trapping seasons and limits for furbearers as follows:
 - Increase the otter bag limit to the following: 15 per season, only 10 of which can be taken from Otter Zone 2.
 - Increase the bobcat bag limit to the following: 10 per season, only 3 of which shall be taken with a gun/by hunting.

- Chairman Meade asked that, in the future, he would like to see 10 bobcats per season for trapping or hunting.
- Matt Rhodes asked for clarification if the otter bag limit would be for per person or per zone. Robinson clarified that the cost would be per person, unless you are in a Zone 2 county.
- (Video 1:16:35) Jeff Raymer **made a motion that we accept these amendments**, seconded by Fred Shortridge. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Fred Shortridge, and Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- Establish a permit for rabbit hunting enclosures (Video 1:12:26)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, proposed amending [301 KAR 2:041](#) Shooting areas, dog training areas, commercial foxhound training enclosures, and bobwhite shoot-to-train season as follows:
 - Establish requirements for acreage, fencing, and containment
 - Establish requirements for animal holding and treatment, quarantine procedures, and disease reporting and testing
 - Establish requirements for permits, inspections, record keeping and reporting, possession of wildlife, and create definitions for rabbit training enclosure permits
 - Expand revocation and denial section for standardization across permits
 - Define species allowed in shooting areas
 - Standardize naming of shooting area between [301 KAR 2:041](#) and [301 KAR 5:022](#)
 - Standardize shooting area permit transfer requirements
 - Amend [301 KAR 2:081](#) Transportation and holding of live native wildlife as follows:
 - Establish requirements for permitting, possession, and transfer of native rabbits to rabbit training enclosures
 - Amend [301 KAR 5:022](#) License, tag, and permit fees as follows
 - Create a rabbit training enclosure permit for \$25
 - Standardize naming of shooting area between [301 KAR 2:041](#) and [301 KAR 5:022](#)
 - (Video 1:17:11) Josh Cummins **made a motion**, seconded by Matt Rhodes. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Fred Shortridge, and Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- Modify Chapter 6 regulations to comply and comport with United States Coast Guard amendments and NASBLA recommendations (Video 1:17:46)

- Col. Jeremy McQueary, Director of Law Enforcement, proposed amending [301 KAR 6:001](#) - Definitions to include the following definition:
 - Law enforcement vessel
 - Public safety vessel
 - Engine cut-off switch link
 - Engine cut-off switch
 - Wireless cut-off system
 - Incorporate other definitions included in Chapter 6 regulations
- Amending [301 KAR 6:020](#) - Boating Safety Equipment to add a section regarding engine cut-off switch requirements
- Amending [301 KAR 6:030](#) - Waterway Safety Requirements to include: Section 2 (4) to add wording “coast guard approved”
- Add Section 6 to include language regarding enforcement and public safety vessel operations distance passage “Move Over Law” requirement(s)
- Fred Shortridge **made a motion**, seconded by Greg Cecil. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Fred Shortridge, and Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion Items:

- Create definitions and regulations to define the waterbodies and the area of some waterbodies where wakesports will be allowed (Video 1:21:04)
 - Col. Jeremy McQueary, Director of Law Enforcement, and Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, proposed amending [301 KAR 6:001](#) – Definitions for 301 KAR Chapter 6 as follows:
 - Define wakeboat and wakesports
 - Dreves stated during the meeting that the Corps of Engineers requested the Department include in the definitions vessels engaged in wakesports, even if they do not currently have a wakeboarder actively participating in the sport. He explained that this language would ensure wakesport activities and design features — such as filled ballast tanks that create a large wake — are not permitted while simply traveling across the lake without someone actively engaged in the activity. This would be one element the Department would want to add to the definition.
 - Dreves stated that the definitions would also encompass all boats designed or used to create a wake for wakesports.
 - Amending [301 KAR 6:030](#) – Waterway safety requirement 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.
- Dreves requested that the Department file only the definitions portion of this discussion item as an action item today, so it can be filed next month along with the Colonel's definitions that were approved earlier in the meeting.
- Jeff Raymer requested to remove Lake Beshear and Rough River Lake from the list of eligible waters for wakesports.
- Greg Cecil **made a motion to move the portion of this discussion item defining wakeboats and wakesports to an action item**, seconded by Jeff Raymer. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Fred Shortridge, and Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- Jeff Raymer **made a motion to accept the definitions of wakeboats and wakesports, as well as approving the concept of defining other boats that do not have a ballast tank**, seconded by Walter Robertson. Josh Cummins clarified after the motion was made that the definitions would encompass the general framework of the definitions, but not the specific definitions given. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Fred Shortridge, and Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- (Video 2:10:31) Chairman Meade asked for a motion to take [301 KAR 6:030](#) to an action item at the next meeting. Jay Smith **made a motion**, seconded by Jeff Raymer. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Fred Shortridge, and Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- Josh Cummins asked during the vote whether the motion included removing the two lakes that Jeff Raymer had requested to be removed. Chairman Meade clarified that it did not.

(Video 1:50:37) Break

(Video 2:08:21) Return from break

(Video 2:08:32) The Commission was required to break a tie vote regarding the Special Commission Permits for nonprofit organizations, specifically for the National Deer Association and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for waterfowl.

- Modifications of Regulations Controlling Land and Water Use at Department Lakes (Video 2:19:03)
 - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting. The working group is continuing to revise this regulation, and although progress is being made, additional time is still needed.
 - No objections were made.
- 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 2:20:00)
 - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, proposed amending [301 KAR 1:201](#) – Taking of fish by traditional fishing methods as follows:
 - Dreves requested the removal of the proposed amendment to apply a 12-15 inch protective slot limit on Largemouth Bass; 18-inch minimum size limit on Smallmouth Bass; 10 fish aggregate daily limit on black bass at Paintsville Lake. He stated that, given the current changes in the fishery, it would not be an ideal time to move forward with this amendment and recommended maintaining the existing statewide regulations.
 - 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
 - Greg Cecil **made a motion to move this item onto an action item at the next meeting, with the omission of bullet two**, seconded by Jay Smith. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Fred Shortridge, and Walter Robertson. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- Marion County WMA Emergency Management tower construction (Video 3:03:00)
 - Commissioner Storm requested to table this item for the next meeting. Currently, the Department does not have any feedback from the county.
 - No objections were made.
- Committee Meetings (Video 3:03:28)
 - Commissioner Storm proposed to maintain the three-step process of the four quarterly meetings that are held in Franklin County, as well as committees to be assigned by the chair according to time and need, and also with the flexibility to be held statewide.
 - Greg Cecil **made a motion to move this item to an action item at the next meeting**. No one seconded the motion. A roll call vote was then taken. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jay Smith, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Josh Cummins, Fred Shortridge, and Walter Robertson.
- (Video 3:16:13) Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, clarified that he misspoke earlier regarding the action item for the CWD Scrape Study. He had previously stated there would be no cost to the Department other than staff time; however, that was incorrect. In the previous study in West Kentucky, there was no charge; however, circumstances have since changed. The current project will include a charge of \$35 per sample, with an anticipated sample range of 100–200, resulting in a total cost of approximately \$3,000–\$7,000. The Department's operating budget will cover this expense and is reimbursable at 75% through a Pittman-Robertson Grant. The Commission made no objections.
- Turkey Bag Limits (Video 3:17:27)
 - Jeff Raymer asked to hold off on lowering the number of turkeys from two to one in the spring. Raymer made the requests to remove the fall archery season and remove the bearded hens.
 - Josh Cummins stated that with the current working group in place, adjusting the bag limits would not address what some sportsmen may believe it would do for the population. He noted that the working group has been having productive discussions on this topic in finding the root cause. At this time, the majority agrees that changing the bag limit is unlikely to significantly increase the population, contrary to some expectations. Cummins also mentioned that the working group has discussed

- developing a survey for hunters to help determine the number of turkey hunters actively participating in the field.
 - Greg Cecil asked how many hunters harvest two birds. Zak Danks, Turkey and Grouse Program Coordinator, responded that approximately 10% of spring turkey hunters do so.
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, asked for clarification that the Commission agreed not to pursue a reduction in the bag limit at this time. Chairman Meade confirmed that was correct. Robinson then inquired how the Commission should proceed with Commission Member Raymer's request to eliminate the fall archery season for turkeys. The Commission agreed to keep this item as a discussion topic for further consideration of Raymer's request.
- 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 3:31:58)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife 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), define commercial activity and modify the group definition in (301 KAR 3:001).
 - No objections were made to passing this item on to an action item.
- Modify deer hunting regulations to allow hunting on properties owned by county or local governments (Video 3:40:20)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, proposed amending [301 KAR 2:178](#) Deer hunting on wildlife management areas, state parks, other public lands, and federally controlled areas.
 - Greg Cecil **made a motion to move this item to an action item**, seconded by Jay Smith. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- 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 3:42:05)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, proposed amending [301 KAR 4:090](#) Taxidermy and the buying and selling of inedible wildlife parts.
 - Greg Cecil **made a motion to move this item to an action item**, seconded by Matt Rhodes. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- Update the special fundraising permits drawing regulation (Video 3:43:22)

- Kevin Kelly, Director of Information & Education and Marketing, 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
- Jay Smith **made a motion to approve**, seconded by Greg Cecil. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Informational Items:

- Announcement of recipients of the 2026 Special Commission Permits for Black Bear, Deer, Turkey, Elk & waterfowl for nonprofits' fundraising for projects in Kentucky and elk unit draw (Video 3:45:42)

Deer (10 Permits)

- Camp Hero Inc
- Carr Creek Fish and Game Club
- Hopkins County Sportsmen and Sportswomen Club Inc
- Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Education and Resource Foundation LLC
- Kentucky Houndsmen Foundation for Sportsmen's Rights, Inc.
- Kentucky River Longbeards NWTF Chapter
- Lights and Sirens Outdoors Inc
- Northern Kentucky Quail Forever
- The Nature Conservancy in Kentucky
- Wildlife Women, INC

Spring Turkey (10 Permits)

- Camp Hero Inc
- Carr Creek Fish and Game Club
- Hopkins County Sportsmen and Sportswomen Club Inc
- Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Education and Resource Foundation LLC
- Kentucky River Longbeards NWTF Chapter
- Lights and Sirens Outdoors Inc
- National Deer Association
- Northern Kentucky Quail Forever
- The Nature Conservancy in Kentucky
- Wildlife Women, INC

Elk (10 Permits)

- Camp Hero Inc - Unit 3
- Carr Creek Fish and Game Club – Unit 5
- Hopkins County Sportsmen and Sportswomen Club Inc – Unit 6
- Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Education and Resource Foundation LLC – Unit 7
- Kentucky Houndsmen Foundation for Sportsmen's Rights, Inc. – Unit 4
- Kentucky River Longbeards NWTF Chapter – Unit 2
- National Deer Association – Unit 5

- Northern Kentucky Quail Forever – Unit 4
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation – Unit 2
- The Nature Conservancy in Kentucky – Unit 6

Waterfowl (10 Permits)

- Camp Hero Inc
- Carr Creek Fish and Game Club
- Hopkins County Sportsmen and Sportswomen Club Inc
- Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Education and Resource Foundation LLC
- Kentucky River Longbeards NWTF Chapter
- Lights and Sirens Outdoors Inc
- Northern Kentucky Quail Forever
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy in Kentucky
- Wildlife Women, INC

New Business Items:

- Restrict travel of Florida Bass, requested by Commission member Chuck Meade
(Video 3:50:22)
 - Chuck Meade made a motion to table this item. Josh Cummins asked if the item would be tabled until the next meeting, and Meade replied, “No, just tabled.”
 - No objections were made.

(Video 3:51:04) Greg Cecil **made a motion to move the remaining three new business items to a discussion item for the next meeting.** No second was made on the motion. No objections were made.

- Promulgation of a new regulation regarding procurement
- Overlap of youth-only gun deer season and early muzzleloader season
 - CWD Working Group Commission members requested revisiting the overlap of these two deer hunting seasons in [301 KAR 2:172](#)
- Modify bear season
 - Amend [301 KAR 2:300](#) Black bear seasons and requirements
 - 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
- (Video 3:52:19) Josh Cummins requested that a new business item be added to the December agenda to discuss a survey option related to turkey permits. Greg Cecil asked if this would be brought forward as a discussion item at the next meeting, and Chairman Meade confirmed that it would. There were no objections.

Closed Session (Video 3:54:08) Steven Fields, Staff Attorney, read the following statement for public notice about the Commission entering into closed session:

“All meetings of a quorum of the members of any public agency at which any public business is discussed or at which any action is taken by the agency, shall be public meetings, open to the public at all times except for specific exceptions listed in KRS 61.810 or otherwise provided for by law.

The Commission has business today that will require entering into a closed session. KRS 61.815 requires notice of the general nature of the business to be discussed in the closed session, the reason for the closed session, and the provision of KRS 61.810 that authorizes it be publicly announced prior to entering closed session for most open meetings exceptions.

In the proposed closed session, the Commission will discuss the potential acquisition of real property via purchase. The discussions shall occur in the closed session to protect the state’s interests in the acquisition of land. By identifying KDFWR’s interest in the particular parcels, the general public would be alerted to the various owners’ willingness to sell the property and our intent to purchase. As such, the publicity increases the likelihood other parties may make offers on the properties. Such competing offers could increase the value of the subject properties. Alternatively, a private party could purchase a property from the current owner more quickly than the Commonwealth and require the Commonwealth to pay a premium to acquire it.

This closed session is authorized by KRS 61.810 under Section 1(b) for the potential land acquisition.

Upon an approved motion, the Commission will enter into closed session. The Commission shall not discuss any other matters and no action shall be taken occur during the closed session.

During the closed session, counsel and necessary members of staff will be present to advise the Commission.”

- Jay Smith **made a motion to enter into closed session**, seconded by Matt Rhodes. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Action Items (Video 4:18:41)

- Greg Cecil made a **motion to approve the land acquisition**, seconded by Josh Cummins. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Set a date for the next Quarterly Commission Meeting (Video 4:19:34)

- December 5, 2025

Public Comments (Video 4:19:55)

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. 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.”

The following comments were made in person (Video 4:21:33)

“Thank you for allowing this, but I wanted to brief the commission quite briefly on, uh, the history of committee meetings as we knew them in the past. Thirty days prior to a commission meeting like this, we would get together with the commissioners. Three of you would sit at the table as, uh, the Fisheries Commission Committee, for example, and the other commissioners sat at the side and listened. That wasn’t a requirement, but it was how they did it.

At that point and I’ll give you an example with Dave Dreves’s discussion earlier. Uh, those issues in that new business item were brought forth to the table. The public sat in the audience, and the topic—slot limits on bass—was discussed amongst the Fisheries Committee members with input by the public.

That issue was fleshed out. That 22 minutes spent was worth it, but it was spent there, not here. When that issue then came as a discussion item to this commission, the details were known. If each separate commissioner had a specific idea that he wanted to add to that, there's your chance. But the focus groups, working groups, and committees were basically doing the same thing at the same time—except we did have public input.

I'll bring you back to the January 19, 2019 meeting, where the public actually had input in the creation of the CWD plan that we're living with right now. We had some recommendations Oh, well, I can always speak louder. Like, back to that meeting of 2019—the people in the audience in the committee meeting actually had input. We had KALA there, we had a few other folks there. We talked about maybe washing down delivery trucks that carried deer from point to point in the state. We talked about the possibility of CWD being spread by live urine—people gathering urine and selling it—which are some very valid topics, and we hoped to get them into the plan.

And that's just one example of the ways in which the public brought to the department our ideas and our input. When, in the January 2020 meeting, that was just—this mic was taken, put off to the side, and we were allowed three minutes for our input after the fact. That really doesn't satisfy our requirement. Since we're paying the bills, we would like to have some input prior to your decision. We'd like to help you become more learned on the subject. And that's how we did it. It didn't preclude anyone—a focus group—from bringing information to that committee meeting. In fact, it helped.

Our hope going forward is to see a version of that brought back whereby, uh, fisheries, hunting, and fishing—we can take these new business items, flesh them out into discussion items, and bring everyone to the table. And that's what we're hoping to do. Uh, we don't want to exclude anyone. In fact, we want to be more inclusive. We want to feel like we've actually had a help in the solution. Thank you.” -Larry Richards

“Thank you, fellas. Um, I was here at a previous meeting talking about the, uh, the turkey seasons, and as Commissioner Raymer was talking about maybe lowering the limits, I mentioned that when I talked, apparently a lot of people watch this online and know how to pull them up, because I got a lot of feedback.

Not all good. I mean, I caught it from a bunch of guys that I've hunted with for years. And look, Josh and these guys working on this working group—I mean, I appreciate all the work they're doing. And like Commissioner Raymer talking about taking the bearded hens off the table, I'll also be—I mean, I'd like to entertain the idea of maybe the only people being able to shoot a jake in the spring season are youth hunters.

And I don't know if y'all have ever discussed this, but I brought it up the last time I spoke. A lot of the southern states—like South Carolina and Florida—they're doing it this year. Mississippi had already enacted it last year. Like, their public hunting ground is off-limits to non-resident hunters for the first nine days.

I'm not saying we do that drastic, but maybe at least the opening weekend. Because a lot of the guys in Meade and Breckinridge County—the only place they turkey hunt is Yellow Bank and all those properties—and we've got a farm that borders Yellow Bank pretty close. Ninety percent of the vehicles you see there are Indiana tags. And I just think it would give more opportunity for these guys to get first shot at these birds if we just... food for thought. I mean, I appreciate all the work you guys are doing on this turkey program." – Anthony Brown

"I appreciate the attention and the hospitality y'all extended. I appreciate all the work that the department and the commission have done over the years. I went, uh, as a young person in the woods having no large game to hunt, to now we have bear, turkey, elk, deer. I mean, we didn't even have a deer season back in the '80s when I was in college. So, you know, thanks, guys.

And I would like to see—the League has just been a partner to the department and the commission as well.

Um, looking over these action items, uh, I appreciate the bear portion of that—you're having more liberal, uh, rules and regs coming up. Um, the public and all the hunters alike—we're undergoing a bear population explosion, we feel.

I mean, the bears—you'd think they work for the county government picking up garbage, 'cause I mean, it would rival a garbage truck they're carrying off, really. Um, I recently attended the Bear Club meeting at Carr Creek a couple of weeks ago, and I just have some more items that, uh, maybe we could entertain in an upcoming session. They would like to see a chase season at night. Another item would be maybe a spring youth chase season, uh, training season year-round for, uh, young dogs. Uh, and the whole month of December—have a bear season with dogs, have archery season and rifle season extended. And, uh, again, thank you for your time and consideration." – Doug Ramey

Lisa Jackson, Public Information Office Supervisor, read the following emailed comment (Video 4:31:04)

"Chairman, Commissioners, and Department Staff,

I am a Kentucky resident currently residing in Muhlenberg County. I have five requests for your consideration that I believe will strengthen wildlife management and public engagement in our state.

I urge the Commission to make the necessary motion or amendment to stop the overlapping of the extended youth season and the October muzzleloader season. Overlapping these hunts creates unnecessary logistical issues for law enforcement, as well as confusion and safety concerns in the field. Keeping these seasons separate

protects the integrity and clarity of both.” - Scott Cronin

Adjourn (Video 4:31:47)

- Greg Cecil **made a motion to adjourn**, seconded by Matt Rhodes. *The motion carried unanimously.*