

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources



Commission Meeting

Minutes

August 30, 2024 | 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 5:33)

Invocation (Video 5:47) – Jenny Gilbert, Legislative Liaison

Pledge of Allegiance (Video 6:34) – Chuck Meade, Commission Member

Chair's Remarks (Video 6:55)

Commissioner's Remarks (Video 7:14)

Commission Members in attendance (Video 16:40) Greg Cecil, Dr. Robin Floyd, Josh Lillard, Chuck Meade, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, and Walter Robertson

Informational Item:

- Quarterly Financial Reports (Video 10:06)
 - Melissa Trent, Director of Administrative Services, presented the quarterly financial reports.

Action items:

- Minutes from June 21, 2024 quarterly meeting (Video 17:25)
 - Chuck Meade made a **motion to adopt the June 21, 2024 Quarterly Meeting Minutes**, seconded by Matt Rhodes. The votes were as follows: Yes: Robin Floyd, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Chuck Meade, and Walter Robertson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Voting on qualifying nonprofit organizations' applications for 2025 Special Commission Permits for deer, turkey, elk & waterfowl for fundraising to support projects in Kentucky (Video 18:09)

- Steven Fields, Staff Attorney, informed the Commission that there were 20 eligible applicants, the highest since 2019, showing positive trends in program participation. A new regulation for the 2024 elk season allows special commission permit holders to hunt on any open public land within their assigned elk zone, and any private land within the zone with landowner permission,. Regarding permits, the Commission needs to decide today how many of each type of permit to award.
- Chuck Meade made a **motion to award 10 permits for each permit type**, seconded by Walter Robertson. The votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Chuck Meade, and Walter Robertson. **The motion carried unanimously.**
- Increase selected deer hunting opportunities in CWD Surveillance Zone counties, and statewide for youths and mentored hunters (Video 32:47)
 - Commission member Dr. Robin Floyd proposed amending [301 KAR 2:172](#) – Deer hunting seasons, zones, and requirements.
 - Commission member Matt Rhodes asked if the expanded muzzleloader season was for mentors only or anyone. Commission member Floyd stated that it would be for anyone. Rhodes also asked for clarification on the types of cartridges that could be used. Floyd noted that when he proposed this item, it included every centerfire cartridge except a necked-down modern gun cartridge.
 - Chairman Lillard clarified that, following the three-step process, the proposal to expand early muzzleloader deer season in CWD zones to include only muzzleloaders is up for a vote today.
 - Dr. Floyd's proposal today is to expand early youth gun deer season to nine consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in October statewide and also to expand early muzzleloader deer season to nine consecutive days beginning the third Monday in October in CWD Surveillance Zones counties with antlerless harvest during the first seven days of this season.
 - Commission member Raymer asked if this would be for muzzleloaders only, and Commission member Floyd stated that would be fine.
 - Dr. Floyd made a **motion to consider his proposal as modified**, seconded by Matt Rhodes. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Chuck Meade. No: Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Walter Robertson. **The motion failed.**
- Prohibit use of aircraft (drones, helicopters, airplanes, etc.) for taking of fish or wildlife (Video 59:47)
 - Colonel Jeremy McQueary, Director of Law Enforcement, and Scott Harp, Assistant Director of Wildlife, presented a department proposal to promulgate a new regulation to prohibit taking of fish or wildlife with aircraft. This regulation would comport with federal law prohibiting take with aircraft (16 US Code § 742). It would prohibit use in any aspect of take per wildlife definition in [KRS 150.010](#). It would exempt the

department and its agents conducting research, communications, enforcement, and other authorized management activities. Lastly, the regulation would allow for authorized landowners/their agents engaged in lawful wildlife damage control activities, and commercial fishers for use in locating or removing invasive carp.

- Chuck Meade made a **motion to approve this action item**, seconded by Matt Rhodes. The votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Chuck Meade, and Walter Robertson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

(Video 1:08:31) Commission member Floyd temporarily left the meeting.

- Prohibit the use of decoys on public dove fields before October 1st (Video 1:09:02)
 - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of Wildlife, proposed amending [301 KAR 2:225](#) – Dove, wood duck, teal, and other migratory game bird hunting. The use of decoys, both motorized and static, would be prohibited on dove fields managed by the Department during the month of September.
 - Greg Cecil made a **motion to approve as written**, seconded by Walter Robertson. Votes were as follows: Yes: Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Chuck Meade, and Walter Robertson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Streamline, clarify and update public lands waterfowl hunting requirements (Video 1:11:03)
 - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of Wildlife, presented the proposed amendments to [301 KAR 2:222](#) – Waterfowl hunting requirements on public lands. These amendments would; add Harris-Dickerson, Clear Creek, and Blackford Oaks WMAs to the list of WMAs that have entry and exit requirements, assign public land waterfowl hunters in Ballard County to a single unit per day, allow flexibility in timing for managers administering in-person standby drawings in Ballard County, remove the automatic assignment of surrendered hunting units during quota hunts at Boatwright WMA, remove the requirement to use primitive weapons on Barren River WMA while hunting waterfowl, change the rest days for waterfowl hunting at Sloughs WMA from Tuesday and Wednesday to Monday and Tuesday, require daily check-in before waterfowl hunting at Sloughs WMA, and remove the penalty for violating state or federal law during waterfowl quota hunts that excludes hunters from applying for or participating in department quota hunts in the subsequent year.
 - Matt Rhodes made a **motion to approve this item as submitted**, seconded by Jeff Raymer. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd,

Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Chuck Meade, and Walter Robertson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

(Video 1:12:13) Commission member Floyd returned to the meeting.

- Increase Deer Hunting Opportunity for Youths Statewide (Video 1:05:54, 1:12:42) Jeff Raymer made a **motion to expand early youth gun season to nine consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in October in all four deer hunting zones**, seconded by Matt Rhodes. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Chuck Meade, and Walter Robertson. No: Greg Cecil. ***The motion carried.***
- Reduce the September teal season in Kentucky from nine (9) days to five (5) days (Video 1:14:11)
 - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of Wildlife, presented a proposal to amend [301 KAR 2:225](#) – Dove, wood duck, teal, and other migratory game bird hunting. This amendment would reduce the current teal season from nine days to five days for the 2025-2026 season. The five days of teal season would run concurrently with the September wood duck season. The season would begin on the third Saturday in September and continue for 5 consecutive days.
 - Chuck Meade made a **motion to pass this item**, seconded by Jeff Raymer. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Chuck Meade, and Walter Robertson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- ❖ Wildlife Vehicle Collision Study (Video 1:15:25)
 - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of Wildlife, and Joe McDermott, Deer Program Coordinator, presented to the Commission for its approval a research project in partnership with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC). The project, funded by the KYTC, focuses on studying wildlife-vehicle collisions.
 - Greg Cecil made a **motion to approve this item**, seconded by Chuck Meade. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Chuck Meade, and Walter Robertson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- ❖ Kentucky Wild Eastern Whip-poor-will Project (Video 1:18:56)
 - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of Wildlife, requested Commission approval to partner with the University of Kentucky on a research project tracking the migration of Eastern Whip-poor-will, a declining species.
 - Chuck Meade made a **motion to approve this item**, seconded by Walter Robertson. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Chuck Meade, and Walter

Robertson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

- ❖ Research project for the identification of genetic markers for trophy size in native Largemouth Bass (Video 1:20:29)
 - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, requested Commission approval to contract with an entity to identify genetic markers that predispose our native Largemouth Bass to grow to trophy size with the eventual goal of propagating those genetics in our hatcheries for future stocking of “Thoroughbred Bass” in Kentucky waters.
 - Chuck Meade made a **motion to approve this item**, seconded by Dr. Robin Floyd. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Chuck Meade, and Walter Robertson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

(Video 1:28:21) 15-minute break.

Discussion items:

- Recommendations for the 2026 elk season (Video 1:43:47)
 - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of Wildlife, asked to table this item. The Wildlife Division plans to conduct more extensive research with constituents and gather additional stakeholder feedback before returning to this as a discussion item.
 - No objections were made.
- Establish a permit for rabbit hunting enclosures (Video 1:43:47)
 - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of Wildlife, asked to table this item. The Wildlife Division plans to conduct more extensive research with constituents and gather additional stakeholder feedback before returning to this as a discussion item.
 - No objections were made.
- Add the Federal Duck Stamp (e-stamp) to the list of licenses/permits offered for sale online by the Department (Video 1:46:11)
 - Scott Harp, Assistant Director of Wildlife, proposed amending [301 KAR 5:022](#) – License, tag, and permit fees. This amendment would allow the Department to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Duck Stamp Office to allow the electronic sale of the Federal Duck Stamp (e-stamp) on the Department website.
 - No objections were made to passing this item on to an action item.
- Modify traditional fishing regulations on selected water bodies (Video 1:47:36)
 - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, proposed amending [301 KAR 1:201](#) – Taking of fish by traditional fishing methods. This amendment would (1) remove the catch and release regulations for sport fish on Clear Fork

Lake (Logan and Warren counties), (2) remove the 4-fish daily limit for Channel Catfish and 15-fish daily limit on sunfish from ponds at Kentucky River WMA's Boone Tract, (3) add a 10-inch minimum size limit for crappie on Nolin River Lake and Rough River Lake, (4) propose to add an 18-inch to 26-inch protective slot limit and 2-fish daily limit for native walleye on the Rockcastle River.

- No objections were made to passing this item on to an action item.
- Modify the language regarding the definition and usage of electric trolling motors on selected water bodies (Video 1:52:25)
 - Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, requested to table this item until the next meeting for further research by the Fisheries Division.
 - No objections were made.

New Business Items:

- Establish an annual and one-day shooting range permit issued by the department (Video 1:55:09)
 - Kevin Kelly, Director of Information and Education, proposed amending [301 KAR 3:015](#) - Shooting ranges on department-owned or managed lands, [301 KAR 4:100](#) and [301 KAR 3:012](#) for conformity, and [301 KAR 5:022](#) - License, tag, and permit fees. The amendments include requiring a shooting range permit for all shooters at KDFWR-managed or affiliated ranges and establishing new permit fees: \$25 annually, \$5 for a one-day permit, and a free annual permit for holders of a valid Kentucky annual hunting or fishing license.
 - Chairman Lillard asked if the commission votes to bring this item back as a discussion item if the department could make this item more feasible for everyone in the wildlife management areas.
- Black Bass (Video 2:03:50)
 - Commission member Meade proposed a trial study on Paintsville Lake for stocking 5,000 F1 Florida-strain bass to be evaluated over a five-year period. The goal would be to enhance opportunities for youth and improve the bass population.
- Wake Boats (Video 2:04:41)
 - Commissioner Storm, on behalf of Commission member Raymer, raised the topic of wake boats to be discussed at the next commission meeting.
- (Video 2:05:20) Chairman Lillard entertained a motion to move the remaining new business items listed on the agenda and the ones discussed to discussion items at the next quarterly meeting. Dr. Robin Floyd made a **motion to move new business items to discussion items at the next**

meeting, seconded by Chuck Meade. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Closed Session (2:06:52) 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 five potential land acquisitions: four via purchase and one via land swap. 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 properties 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 portion of the closed session is authorized by KRS 61.810 under Section 1(b) for the potential land acquisitions.

In today’s closed session, pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f), the Commission shall also discuss and review the personnel service contract negotiations the Commission Chair conducted with Commissioner Storm regarding his potential reappointment and possible renewal of his contract. KRS 61.810(1)(f) authorizes closes sessions for discussions which might lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual employee. This was confirmed by the Attorney General’s Office in 21-OMD-091. The AG held that discussions which may lead to the reappointment or a decision not to reappoint an employee may be held in closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f). The potential reappointment of Commissioner Storm is authorized by KRS 150.061(1)(c).

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.”

- Chuck Meade made a **motion to enter executive session**, seconded by Greg Cecil. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Action Items (Video 4:05:51)

- Chuck Meade made a **motion to come out of executive session**, seconded by Greg Cecil. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Dr. Robin Floyd made a **motion to proceed with the land acquisition projects discussed in closed session**, seconded by Walter Robertson. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Chuck Meade, and Walter Robertson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Matt Rhodes made a **motion to move forward with consideration for the personal service contract as discussed in closed session**, seconded by Chuck Meade. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Jeff Raymer, Matt Rhodes, Greg Cecil, Chuck Meade, and Walter Robertson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

(Video 4:11:28) The next quarterly commission meeting date will be December 6, 2024.

Informational Item:

- Announcement of recipients of 2025 Special Commission Permits for Deer, Turkey, Elk & Waterfowl for nonprofits' fundraising for projects in Kentucky
(Video 4:46:02)

Deer (10 Permits)

- Camp Hero
- Carr Creek Fish and Game Club
- Cave City Trap Club
- Hopkins County Sportsman and Sportswomen Club
- Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Kentucky Houndsmen Association Foundation for Sportsmen Rights
- Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry
- Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers
- Northern Kentucky Quail Forever (Pheasants Forever)
- Scholastic Archery Association Corporation – Kentucky Division (KY S3DA)

Turkey (10 Permits)

- Caldwell County Sportsman Club
- Carr Creek Fish and Game Club
- Cave City Trap Club
- Hopkins County Sportsman and Sportswomen Club
- Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation

- Kentucky Grouse Hunters Association
- Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry
- Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers
- Northern Kentucky Quail Forever (Pheasants Forever)
- Scholastic Archery Association Corporation – Kentucky Division (KY S3DA)

Waterfowl (10 Permits)

- Carr Creek Fish and Game Club
- Cave City Trap Club
- Hopkins County Sportsman and Sportswomen Club
- Kentucky Ducks Unlimited
- Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry
- League of Kentucky Sportsmen
- Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers
- Northern Kentucky Quail Forever (Pheasants Forever)
- Scholastic Archery Association Corporation – Kentucky Division (S3DA)

Elk (10 Permits)

- Boone and Crockett Club – *Elk Hunting Unit 6*
- Carr Creek Fish and Game Club – *Elk Hunting Unit 3*
- Cave City Trap Club – *Elk Hunting Unit 4*
- Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation – *Elk Hunting Unit 7*
- Kentucky Houndsmen Association Foundation for Sportsmen Rights – *Elk Hunting Unit 5*
- Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry – *Elk Hunting Unit 2*
- League of Kentucky Sportsmen – *Elk Hunting Unit 5*
- Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers – *Elk Hunting Unit 3*
- Northern Kentucky Quail Forever (Pheasants Forever) – *Elk Hunting Unit 7*
- Scholastic Archery Association Corporation – Kentucky Division (S3DA) – *Elk Hunting Unit 2*

Adjourn (Video 4:50:53)

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