

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources



Commission Meeting

Minutes

March 1, 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 2:03) – Chairman Lillard

Invocation (Video 2:18) – Major Greg Watts

Pledge of Allegiance (Video 3:51) – Captain Jason Ice

Chair's Remarks (Video 4:20)

Commissioner's Remarks (Video 6:39)

Commission Members in attendance (Video 9:31) Greg Cecil, Dr. Karl Clinard, Jerry Ferrell, Dr. Robin Floyd, Paul Horn, and Josh Lillard.

Action Items

- Minutes from December 1, 2023 quarterly meeting and December 14, 2023 special called meeting (Video 10:09)
 - Dr. Robin Floyd made a **motion to accept the December 1, 2023 and December 14, 2023 minutes as written**, seconded by Dr. Karl Clinard. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Greg Cecil, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Quarterly Financial Reports (Video 11:23)
 - Lisa Cox, Director of Administrative Services, presented the quarterly financial reports. Dr. Robin Floyd made a **motion to accept the quarterly financial reports as written**, seconded by Paul Horn. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Greg Cecil, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- 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 15:56)

- 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.
 - Greg Cecil made a **motion to make the proposed changes**, seconded by Jerry Ferrell. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Greg Cecil, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Informational update and recommended next steps on CWD response in western Kentucky (Video 18:06)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, provided the commission with an informational update and recommended next steps on CWD response in western Kentucky.
 - Ben Robinson asked for Commission approval to add Ballard, Carlisle, and McCracken Counties to the CWD surveillance zone and to participate in the Mississippi State University deer scrape study.
 - Dr. Karl Clinard made a **motion to approve the 3 counties to be added to the CWD surveillance zone and to participate in the Mississippi State University deer scrape study**, seconded by Robin Floyd. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Greg Cecil, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Revised provisions for hunting and fishing on public lands (Video 31:10)
 - Jenny Gilbert, Legislative Liaison, and Dave Dreves, Director of Fisheries, proposed amending 301 KAR 3:005 Public use of newly acquired or newly managed lands. Staff propose to: amend the regulation to 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. Currently, the department does not have the specific provisions to recommend for amending the regulation, but could continue review of the regulation and present those at the next commission meeting.
 - Dr. Robin Floyd made a **motion to table this item to the next quarterly meeting**, seconded by Greg Cecil. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin

Floyd, Greg Cecil, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

- Add 2 days to end of spring squirrel season for additional hunter opportunity (Video 35:41)
 - 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.
 - Dr. Clinard made a **motion in honor of Ralph Swallows, who formally requested this item, that we approve extending 2 days of spring squirrel season**, seconded by Dr. Robin Floyd. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Greg Cecil, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

- Add Siberian Laika to the list of approved dog breeds/crossbreeds that can be used for bear hunting with dogs (Video 37:11)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife, proposed amending 301 KAR 2:300 – Black bear seasons and requirements. The bear dog hunters have requested the addition of this breed.
 - Paul Horn made a **motion to accept the amendment as written**, seconded by Dr. Clinard. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Greg Cecil, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

- Clean up regulation language on youth licensing (Video 38:18)
 - Brian Clark, Deputy Commissioner, proposed amending 301 KAR 5:022 to add privileges for youths at no additional cost, while this regulation is being amended for other approved changes. The amendment would clarify that a youth turkey permit (1 turkey) may be used in spring or fall and that a youth deer permit mirrors the standard statewide deer permit. This amendment would better align resident Youth Sportsman’s License with our other, more comprehensive “sportsman’s” licenses to reduce confusion among parents/youths and help ensure Youth Sportsman’s License holders turning 16 during a license year are hunting legally with applicable licenses/permits included. Additionally, the proposed amendment would add the following license and permits to Youth Sportsman’s License: Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit, Spring Turkey Permit and Fall Turkey Permit, Ballard WMA Waterfowl Hunt Permit (valid for the entire season for Youth Sportsman’s holders turning 16). Deputy Commissioner Clark requested that the Trout Permit also be added to the Youth Sportsman License, which was not mentioned on the agenda. There would also be an exemption for youths 15 and younger from the Ballard WMA Waterfowl Hunt Permit requirement. The privileges that are included in applicable youth licenses and permits would be clearly communicated in the hunting/fishing guides and on the website.

- Greg Cecil made a **motion to accept the amendment as written**, seconded by Jerry Ferrell. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Greg Cecil, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Increase fees for selected nonresident licenses and permits (Video 44:49)
 - Rich Storm, Commissioner, proposed amending 301 KAR 5:022. This amendment would increase nonresident hunting license by \$10, increase nonresident deer permit by \$50, and increase nonresident spring and fall turkey permits by \$25.
 - Commissioner Storm read a public comment received by email from a stakeholder regarding these proposed increases:

“Please do not vote to increase the non-resident fees for deer and turkey hunting. I'm a non-resident landowner, and I've stopped buying licenses now for my wife, children and myself. I limit it to one license now due to cost. If the goal is to decrease the population in CWD areas, then higher fees are not the way to go. Also, almost 20% of the harvest according to recent telecheck reports, are on landowner tags which do not pay a dime to the department. I do pollinator plantings, prescribed fires, invasive species control, and forest stand improvement projects across every acre of my farm. It feels like a slap in the face for some landowners to be paying the bill for other landowners.”--*Ben Allgood, Landowner in Adair County, Kentucky; Resident of Ascension Parish, Louisiana*
 - Dr. Robin Floyd made a **motion to accept this item**, seconded by Dr. Clinard. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Greg Cecil, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Personal Service Contract (Video 55:28)
 - Dr. Robin Floyd made a motion to allow the Chair to start negotiations regarding this Personal Service Contract, seconded by Jerry Ferrell. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Greg Cecil, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Discussion Items

- Increase selected deer hunting opportunities in Zone 1 and 2 counties, and statewide for youths and mentored hunters for the 2025 season (Video 56:31)
 - Dr. Robin Floyd, Commission Member, proposed amending 301 KAR 2:172 – Deer hunting seasons, zones, and requirements. This amendment would extend the early youth firearm season for hunting deer statewide. This season would run for 9 consecutive days starting from the second Saturday in October. Additionally, he has proposed that we expand early muzzleloader deer season for adults for those same 9 consecutive days.

However, this adult season would only be available in the counties located in the CWD Surveillance Zone.

- Dr. Clinard made a **motion to pass this discussion item on to an action item, as Dr. Floyd had amended in his discussion**, seconded by Greg Cecil. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Greg Cecil, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- Recommendations for the 2025 Bear Hunting Season (Video 1:07:42)
 - 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.
 - No objections were made to passing this item on to an action item.
- Prohibit use of aircraft (drones, helicopters, airplanes, etc.) for taking fish or wildlife and use of drones/UAS on private and public land (Video 1:09:11)
 - Colonel Jeremy McQueary, Director of Law Enforcement, presented a department proposal to promulgate a new regulation to prohibit taking fish/wildlife with aircraft. This regulation would include comporting with federal law prohibiting take with aircraft (16 US Code § 742). It would also prohibit use in any aspect of take per the definition of wildlife in KRS 150.010. 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. Colonel McQueary clarified that this regulation would apply to both private and public hunting areas.
 - No objections were made to passing this item on to an action item.
- Require identification on cellular or wireless trail cameras on WMAs/public hunting areas (Video 1:12:00)
 - Colonel Jeremy McQueary, Director of Law Enforcement, proposed amending 301 KAR 3:010 – Public Use of Wildlife Management Areas. This amendment would add requirement for all trail cameras used on WMAs/public hunting areas to be externally labeled with its owner’s customer identification number.
 - No objections were made to passing this item on to an action item.
- Recommendations for the 2025 elk season (Video 1:14:19)
 - 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 the opening day of cow firearm week 2 to the first Saturday in January to alleviate overlap with Christmas and Christmas Eve holidays, prohibit cellular trail camera use during elk hunting seasons, prohibit drone use for the hunting or scouting of elk, clean up baiting regulations to prohibit hunting over a baited area within 30 days of bait being removed, draw elk hunting units during the initial drawing, amend loyalty redraw to fit this new drawing system, landowner elk permits (provided in exchange for public hunting access) can only be used on property enrolled in the public access agreement.

- Paul Horn asked to move this item onto an action item but to remove the provision of prohibiting cellular trail camera use during elk hunting season.
 - With a 4 to 1 vote, this item will move on to an action item at the next meeting.
- Modifications to the permitting criteria, holding criteria and area requirements for multiple permit holders and facilities types (Video 1:19:58)
 - Ben Robinson, Director of Wildlife and Laura Palmar, Furbear and Wild Pig Program Coordinator, proposed amending 301 KAR 2:041 – Shooting areas, dog training areas, commercial foxhound training enclosures, and bobwhite shoot-to-train season. Ben stated that there could be additional regulations that need to be amended, such as 301 KAR 2:081 and 301 KAR 5:022. Previous regulation changes inadvertently eliminated the ability of smaller acreage foxhound training enclosures to operate legally. The department has been working with the Kentucky Houndsmen and with the Law Enforcement Division to create requirements for these facilities to allow them to operate legally. Some of the topics that need to be discussed are disease prevention, recordkeeping and reporting requirements, disease response and surveillance, minimum enclosure size, stocking density, acclimation and running periods for wild game, and streamlining of permitting. The department would also like to combine all the regulations related to foxhound training enclosures into one regulation.
 - Dr. Clinard asked that the commission be provided with all the appropriate information and recommendations within 30 days.
 - No objections were made to passing this item on to an action item.

New Business Items

(Video 1:27:33) Chairman Lillard entertained a motion to accept all new business items and move them forward to discussion items at the next quarterly meeting. Dr. Robin Floyd made a **motion to move all new business items onto discussion items at the next meeting**, seconded by Jerry Ferrell. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

The new business items listed on the agenda included:

- Prohibit the use of decoys on public dove fields before October 1st
 - Wildlife Division 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.

- Streamline, clarify and update public lands waterfowl hunting requirements
 - Wildlife Division proposed amending 301 KAR 2:222 Waterfowl hunting requirements on public lands. This amendment 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.

- Modify reciprocal agreements with Illinois and Indiana regarding fishing on the Ohio River
 - Fisheries Division proposed amending 301 KAR 1:220 – Reciprocal agreements regarding fishing. This proposed amendment would remove commercial fishing on the Ohio River from our reciprocal agreements with both the states of Illinois and Indiana. Additional, propose to clarify the agreement with the state of Illinois by removing the language that states an angler must follow their state’s regulations if they are more restrictive.

- Commission Bylaws

(Video 1:32:18) – **The date of the next quarterly commission meeting has been set to June 21, 2024.**

(Video 1:33:30) **10 minute break**

Public Comments (Video1:46:39) 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 hunt in Anderson Co (Zone 1) Kentucky. This is in reference to the Proposal from Commissioner Floyd in reference to expanding Early Muzzleloader Deer season & Youth hunt with Mentors. In my opinion, we should totally support this for the Youth Aspect & also the Adult Mentor aspect. The Mentor getting a little extra chance before Modern Gun Season & also the Youth for getting extra time and teaching. The Youth will be able to spend more time afield. However, this should be for Any Deer, not just Antlerless. This would give the Mentor/Adult a chance to harvest a nice buck before the Modern Gun War starts, he/she can have some options & not just Antlerless. Also, this should be for Any Muzzleloader, Traditional or Inline. In the December Meeting, Commissioner Ferrell mentioned this be a Flintlock Only Season for the Mentor. In my opinion, A Flintlock is a fun gun, at the range, and they have their place. We have to consider a couple things, you have to take a tool box with you when using them. Also

their place isn't in a tree. A Mentor/Youth will use the muzzleloaders they currently have, they won't go buy another one to participate in this. Most muzzleloaders nowadays are Inline, of some form or fashion and 5 different brands. I'm not with any sort of Organization or Hunt Club, I'm just a life-long deer hunter trying to help a couple groups out. Thanks for your time & everything you do.
--Shawn Altizer, Madison Co/Richmond KY

I am writing to you to express my concerns concerning the youth season being extended and displacing the early muzzleloader season. I am a lifelong KY resident, a father of 5 young children who are beginning their journeys as hunters, an avid hunter of all that our state has to offer, and a blue collar worker that works many weekends throughout the year, often when it is most inconvenient in regards to having plans to hunt and do things outdoors that are time sensitive.

All things considered, I personally feel that extending youth season would have a positive impact overall for our state. As was mentioned in the December meeting, families have countless commitments they must plan around on weekends. Thankful as we are for the youth weekends we currently have, we never seem to feel like there is nearly enough time to get everyone out in the woods for their opportunity to harvest a deer during the October youth season. October is a much better time to get the youth out as much as possible, as the weather hasn't gotten nearly as bad as it can sometimes be during the December free youth weekend. I've found the weather conditions a youth hunts in their first time out can heavily dictate whether or not they want to go out the next time they're given the opportunity. This is vital, as our youth are our future and getting them involved and keeping them involved is the only way our culture will survive.

I do not, however, feel that it is a good move to extend the youth hunt at the cost of pushing our muzzleloader season another week into October. At that point we are subjecting our deer herd to firearm seasons of one sort or another the majority of October and the majority of November. Our herd receives more than its fair share of pressure during the modern rifle season and doesn't need any added days of it. The muzzleloaders of today are not what they were in the past, they're capable of effective shooting distances further than most hunters are capable of with centerfire rifles. This is why many western states have restrictions on muzzleloaders such as open sights, no in lines, no sabots, etc. Pushing that season into another weekend in October essentially is adding another weekend of modern firearms season.

I like the idea of the current muzzleloader season and youth weekend running concurrently and maintaining just 2 weekends of firearm hunting for deer in October, as the weekends are when most people are hunting. The December muzzleloader season is already 9 days long, beginning just 2 weeks after a 16 day rifle season, I do not feel we'll be losing anything by allowing youth to be in the woods during the muzzleloader season in October, but gaining opportunities for our youth. Personally, it is an either/or for me, when taking my children hunting I'm focused on the safety of having a firearm with us for them to use, and not taking another for myself no matter which season is in. However, that is a decision people will have to make on their own. But at least if the seasons are in at the same time they will have the option to focus on their youth, have a

muzzleloader of their own with them, or hunt without a youth that weekend. Poachers are going to poach, and dads are going to take rifles from their kids and/or tag deer under their kids' names during these seasons. We're setting these seasons for the law-abiding citizens that will do the right thing, not the outlaws who will ignore the regulations either way.

If increased doe harvest is desired, maybe we should consider some of the current youth, muzzleloader, or rifle seasons to be set as doe only for a portion of their season, to eliminate the added expense of bonus doe tags to residents of KY, or to make it a requirement that the thousands of nonresident hunters that come to hunt big bucks in our state earn their buck tag by harvesting a doe first.

Thank you for your time

--Andrew Fields, Germantown, KY

I would first off like to express my gratitude for what the dept has done for the state and its wildlife. I have traveled to many other states and I think Kentucky is one of the best for balancing access, opportunity, and satisfaction for all of its land users.

I'm am contacting the commission today to express my feelings on some of the upcoming meetings topics.

I am in favor of banning cellular trail cams on public lands. I don't think our publics lands should be monitored from your phone, they should be enjoyed in person. I also would like to see any trail cameras, treestands, etc, have a tagging requirement similar to trapping listing the name of the owner. I feel like to many things are left out and forgotten.

I am in favor of banning drones to take game and use on public lands. I was witness to the effectiveness of this tactic on a hunt a few years ago. Game was easily located. This is definitely not fair chase.

I am in favor of expanding early muzzleloader season in Zone 1 and 2. I would love to see either sex harvest but if we could at least just have extra antlerless harvest it would greatly help the harvest numbers of Zone 1 and 2 in my opinion.

I am in favor of expanding the spring squirrel season. It's an under-utilized season and it would increase opportunity for those that participate in it without hurting the population.

I am in favor of increasing nonresident license and tag fees. I hunt other states and we are definitely on the cheap side when it comes to nonresidents.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I appreciate all that you do. --Matt Dalton, Casey County, KY

The following comments were made in person:

I am Trey Webb out of Meade County mainly representing myself. On the deer Seasons mainly as a processor my family has owned and operated a processor deer processing for about 50 years now. They was probably processing deer before it was legal but you know that's neither here or there. I see no issues with expanding it but I think the objective that you're all trying to achieve on killing more deer is going to be fruitless. I think if you ask a lot of your processors, you know those the guys who interact with most of your hunters as they bring in Deer. I don't think you're going to see an increase.

You know youth season is two days and it's always within a handful of deer every year on what is killed and brought to us. Youth and late and early muzzleloaders is the same. It's a wild card. It's 100% weather driven. You know it can be anywhere from 20 to 150 deer, you know, and it's 100% weather driven. I don't know if adding five more days of antlerless is going to increase deer. Several of you said with kids and everything it's hard to get your hunting in. So, you know, if you are going to increase the dough kill to maintain populations in ones and twos, you know, I would look at, you know, the firearm season in general as a processor. You know we've never filled up through the modern gun season, but we've come close, and that's mainly because other processors do. You know we'll process 2,000 plus deer a year. Most of them go through the gun season, as the numbers show, yet 80% of them show up the first 3 days 4 days of season. So, you'll talk about pressure, you know, 16 days of continuous gun pressure. You know deer don't go nocturnal. They lock down, and they hide. So, if that was potentially expanded into a multi-season like a lot of your Western States on their elk firearm seasons and stuff like that, would that loosen the pressure and allow the deer to come out of a lockdown and hiding to get slammed again? You know a few days later and maybe increase your numbers. I don't know; it's just a suggestion to maybe look at just from a processor standpoint because, you know, once the deer once the first five days of gun season's over out of the numbers just drop you know, we go to can't keep up to waiting for deer to show up. So, you know, that's what I would just a suggestion. You know, but I don't know if you're going to achieve what you all want by adding the extra days. You know, youth weekend, I like that I got four kids, and getting four deer killed in two days is going to be difficult. Once all of mine are up in hunting. So, you know, I agree with, you know, nine days of Youth, but I don't know if you're going to achieve extra deer through the muzzleloader that you want to achieve. Thank you.

I'm Brian Mackey, Hardin County, Kentucky represent myself. But I've talked to a lot of people about the expansion of the deer, and I don't want anybody to think, you know, take this the wrong way. I have spent a lot of hours with youth, not just my own son but other people's children during youth seasons. But we hear a lot of talk about opportunities and opportunities. Our youth have more opportunities than we do. You know, they have regular muzzleloader, they have regular rifle, they have all the opportunities we do, but they already have the two days of October for Youth, and then the two at the end of the year. I'm kind of in agreement with Trey, that I think the timing of expanding this youth probably isn't going to really do that much. It was talked about the last meeting. Some schools won't be on fall break during that time. A lot of parents have limited vacation, so they're probably not going to be able to take off in the middle of the week in October to do that. Plus, you're dealing with typically warmer weather in October, and you know a lot of people do take their meat to processors. But there's a lot of people that process their own meat. If we're going to add days, I think it would be more beneficial to do it in December or early January. Children are on spring break or Christmas break a lot of parents are off during that time. The weather's cooler, so you know, those are all things that I think would benefit if the goal is to try to get more kids out and kill more deer. You know, I'd like to commend all for the work and the things that we try to achieve, but it seems like sometimes we start getting on this slippery slope, of well it's for youth opportunities or it's to kill more deer and with Senate Bill 3 popping up

the other day, wanting to put the department under agriculture, that makes these things a little more leery to a lot of the sportsmen out there. Thank you.

Executive Session (2:02:18) 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 two potential acquisitions 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 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 closed session is authorized by KRS 61.810 under Section 1(b) for the potential land acquisitions. 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.

- Dr. Clinard made a **motion to enter executive session**, seconded by Paul Horn. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Action Items (2:23:20)

- Dr. Floyd made a **motion to accept projects A and B**, seconded by Paul Horn. Votes were as follows: Yes: Dr. Robin Floyd, Greg Cecil, Jerry Ferrell, Paul Horn, Dr. Karl Clinard. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Adjourn (Video 2:24:34)

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