

## SE District Meeting December 7, 2016

Attending: Dusty Schelbitzki, Rick Souerdyke, Pat Molini, Jeff Rawlinson, Brad Seitz, Kyle Smith, Jeff Jackson, Chance Brueggemann, Randall Fox, Mark Kemper, Kirk Hansen, Doug Kramer, Stacey Lewton, Matt Taylor, Travis Kopf, Chuck Lesiak, Jay Woltemath, Jeffery Bargar, Wendy Horine, Julia Plugge, Allie Claypool, Heather Weihe, Bill Krause, Richard Holland, Kevin Holliday, Bob Hanover, Jordan Katt, Justin Haas, Aaron Hershberger, Eric Fowler, Travis Shepler, Russell Mort, Dave Kinnamon, Scott Luedtke, John Laux, Dan Zuehlke, Dina Barta, Heath Packett, Dudley Sorensen, Rich Berggren, Zack Kelley, Mike Luben, Dan Evasco

### Jeff Rawlinson – R3 initiatives and Shooting Range Updates

- Shooting Range Updates
  - Wildcat Hills Heritage Park opened in September
  - Outdoor Education Center becoming more popular with more than 30,000 users the past year
  - Killdeer WMA Rifle Sight-in Range
    - Received only 1 bid which was too high, engineering redesigning and getting ready to rebid
- R3 Initiatives
  - National approach initiated by the national Wildlife Institute
  - Creating a license sales dashboard to understand customer participation/trends
  - Have developed an R3 Task Force that used the National Plan and what was identified in it and narrow them down to what was specific to Nebraska (this was a multi-divisional effort)
    - Lack of instructors, mentors, coaches, etc.
    - Lack of an established R3 community
    - Lack of individual program connectivity
    - Lack of convenient, quality places to hunt
  - Working with non-traditional partners
    - Beatrice public school – hunter education throughout the semester
    - Boys & Girls Clubs – outdoor education components

### John Laux – The Berggren Plan

- Discussed the decline in pheasant populations and why it has been occurring
- Talked about the economic impact hunting has in Nebraska
- Gave a review of past Focus on Pheasants plans in Nebraska and in SE Nebraska
- Went into detail about the Berggren Plan
  - Habitat and Access are the cornerstones of the plan
  - Went over the goals/objectives for each POA throughout the state and how they differ

### Scott Luedtke – The Berggren Plan in SE Nebraska

- Discussed the SE POA in more detail
- Talked about existing programs/initiatives already going on in addition to POA

- Critical that these become additive to POA for maximum impact
- Discussed outreach emphasis for SE POA
- Went over the ongoing tasks and needs
- Talked about the accomplishments that have taken place in some of these areas so far
  - Showed how other programs are working toward/with the POA plan

#### Rick Holland – Roadmap for the Future of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

- Gave the vision and goals of the fisheries division
- Discussed the approach of this plan would be achieved
  - Fisheries staff were put on 6 different committees and joined by staff from other divisions to come up the plan
    - Each committee answered 13 questions and then answers were compiled into the plan
  - Discussed things that were learned from the committees
- Went over the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the visioning exercise, which was Focus Group of the public
  - 7 meetings across the state, 101 total attendees at these meetings
  - Attendees were asked 2 questions at these meetings, what are things we currently do that you like? And what are things you would like us to do better in the future?
    - Highlights from both these questions were then covered
- Discussed the next step on the roadmap for the future of fisheries and aquatic resources

#### Jim Swenson – State Parks Update

- Trying to get the park permit increase to \$30 and get the non-resident sticker finalized
  - Other states with non-resident permits have been generating a lot of income
  - Hoping to get additional \$2 million in income with non-resident permit
- Talked about the Lake Mac plan and what will be done in year 1 out there
- Venture park project
  - Schram SP - will evolve into more of a nature center
  - Platte River SP - Additional camping units
    - Improving the fishing at Jenny Newman
    - Creating babbling brook flowing into the lake
  - Mahoney SP – Adding an indoor climbing wall
    - Moving the toboggan run, adding a zip line
- Kevin Holiday talked about the completed roads project at Indian Cave SP
  - Also mentioned plans to get rural water into the park over the next couple years
- Dusty Schelbitzki talked about the hunts taking place in Mahoney, Platte River and Schram SP's this year
- Zach Kelley talked about the upcoming Winterfest at Mahoney SP
- Randy Fox gave an update about Arbor Lodge
- There is an upcoming ice fishing clinic at Lake Wanahoo in January