

DRAFT MINUTES

JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
GAME AND FISH/STATE POLICE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL

Meeting Jointly
Monday, June 20, 2016

The Senate and House Committees on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs, the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development, and the Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council met jointly on Monday, June 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., in Room A, MAC Building.

Members in Attendance

Committee members in attendance: Senators Ronald Caldwell, Chair; Eddie Joe Williams, Chair; Bobby J. Pierce, Co-Chair; Alan Clark, Vice Chair; Jon Woods, Vice Chair; Senators Cecile Bledsoe, Linda Chesterfield, John Cooper, Joyce Elliott, Scott Flippo, and Jimmy Hickey; Representatives Nate Bell, Chair; Josh Miller, Co-Chair; David Hillman, Vice Chair; James Ratliff, Vice Chair; Representatives Charles Armstrong, Bob Ballinger, Scott Baltz, Rick Beck, Ken Bragg, David Branscum, Charlotte Douglas, Jon S. Eubanks, Kenneth Ferguson, Lanny Fite, Michael Gray, Mike Holcomb, Lane Jean, Mark McElroy, Ron McNair, Stephen Meeks, Betty Overbey, Mathew Pitsch, John Walker, and Jeff Wardlaw.

Other Legislators in attendance: Senator Greg Standridge and Representatives Donnie Copeland, Jana Della Rosa, Justin Gonzales, David Meks, Micah Neal, Sue Scott, and James Sorvillo.

Senator Williams called the meeting to order.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Mr. Jeff Crow, Incoming Director, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, stated chronic wasting disease (CWD) entered Arkansas in February 2016. He expressed the importance of providing accurate information during the meeting to ensure the public receives important information regarding this matter.

Mr. Brad Carner, Chief, Wildlife Management, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, stated Arkansas is the 24th state to test positive for CWD. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission contacted other states to learn as much as possible to move further in managing the disease. CWD is a fatal neurological disease found in deer, elk, moose, and other members of the deer family. It is similar to mad cow disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep. CWD is not a virus nor caused by bacteria or fungus, but the infectious agent is a mutated protein called a prion. An animal in the wild may appear to be completely healthy but later exhibit symptoms, typically 18-60 months after infection. The first case of CWD was discovered in Colorado in 1967. The disease has now been detected in five Arkansas counties. More than 8,000 deer samples have been taken since 2003; extensive testing was done from 2003-2010 with no chronic wasting disease positive cases.

The goals for managing CWD are as follows:

- reduce the concentrations and density of deer to slow the rate the disease spreads
- increase monitoring
- establish a CWD management zone and prohibit feeding of wildlife within the zones
- liberalize season structure on public and private land where CWD is present
- create a non-commercial hunting enclosure permit for high-fence deer facilities
- prohibit the use of scents and lures containing natural deer urine statewide

Discussion and Protocols for an Active Shooter Event

Mr. David Maxwell, Director, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM), gave an overview of the protocols for an active shooter event. Any emergency response in the state involves coordination with many agencies and local law enforcement. Arkansas has six certified bomb teams located in Little Rock, Conway, Bentonville, El Dorado, Fort Smith, and State Police Headquarters. As funding becomes available, the teams began to meet monthly to develop protocols to assist each other when necessary. During a local response, ADEM and State Police will provide support to local law enforcement. ADEM serves as a notification point with checklists to ensure the correct people are notified during certain situations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.