

# Sportsman Council

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date and Time	
Date of Meeting:	November 1, 2023
Time of Meeting:	1700 PM
Meeting Location	
Location of Meeting:	Sportsman Center Classroom BLDG 1465 Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503
Meeting Attendees	
Present/Absent at Meeting:	See attached Roster for those present and absent.

The meeting of the Sportsman Council was called to order at 1700 on November 1, 2023, at Sportsman Center Classroom.

### I. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was distributed and unanimously approved.

### II. Old Business

1. Review Issues and Due Outs from Last Meeting  
COL Tolbert
  - Fee structure
    - The members and designated committees need to rework the fee structure for the upcoming year. A decision is needed by mid-December before 2024 permits are available for purchase.
  - Who should be able to hunt and fish on Fort Sill?
    - Committee members will need to propose a criterion that defines who is eligible to hunt and fish on Fort Sill. The proposal needs to be reviewed by SJA for legal review prior to staffing.
    - Decision needs to be made before 01 December 2023.
  - Annual Licenses
    - Can licenses run from June to June or the date you bought it to the date the next year to follow the states.

### III. New Business

1. VMIS Brief  
Tiffany Denard
  - VMIS is used to track volunteer hours to give leaders a better understanding of the need for jobs and to create jobs in the future.

- Members will need to register with VMIS. Ms. Denard has an instruction packet explaining how to register.
- Members that want to volunteer to help with the youth events will also need to have a CYS background check. Vicki White with Sportsman Services has the packets for the background check. Once you have filled out the packet, you will turn it in to Brooke Mullins with CYS. The background check can take up to 30 days to process.

## 2. EQD Update

Mr. Glen Wheat, Director Of EQD

- The new Biologist for Sportsman Center is Jeremiah Zurenda.
- Deer/Elk Gun
  - First weekend of Deer and Elk Gun:
    - November 8<sup>th</sup> - The rules will be out.
    - November 13<sup>th</sup> - The Lottery for the first weekend, November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, will be posted on iSportsman.
    - November 20<sup>th</sup> - The Lottery will close for the first weekend.
    - November 21<sup>st</sup> - The selection email will be sent out and the selection list will be posted on iSportsman.
    - November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Area selection will take place at 1200 in the parking lot of the Sportsman Center.
  - Second weekend of Deer and Elk Gun:
    - November 29<sup>th</sup> - The lottery will close for the second weekend.
    - November 30<sup>th</sup> - The selection email will be sent out and the selection list will be posted on iSportsman.
    - December 1<sup>st</sup> - Area selection will take place at 1200 in the parking lot of the Sportsman Center
  - For the Gun Hunts - Patrons can put in for all weekends. The first weekend slots will be filled with the pool of applicants for the first weekend. If all slots are filled for the first weekend and there are still applicants that did not get drawn for the first weekend, they will be the first picks for the second weekend. This way everyone gets drawn once. Once all of the entries for the first weekend are executed for the second weekends slots, the second weekend pool will be utilized until all spots are filled. The patrons from the second weekend pool that did not get drawn for the second weekend will then be the first picks for the third weekend and so on and so forth for the fourth weekend.
  - The lottery winner does not have to be present for the area selection, but someone will have to be present to select their area for them. If there is no one present at the draw to select an area for them, they will not have a spot on that weekend and their slot will be rolled to standby.
  - There will be the trailer at Quannah for all four weekends.
  - Mr. Dennis Small suggested that we post the no show/pass patrons on iSportsman for transparency.

- There will be no additional rifle areas opened up while the buffer areas are closed. When the Exception to Policy (ETP) is completed, the rifle areas may be more restricted.
- RACH will be cooking hamburgers and hotdogs at the Gun draws.
- Status of range overlays posted on iSportsman
  - Will we have overlays?
    - We will have overlays during gun season. Range control does not have the manpower to produce overlays for every day of hunting season.
  - How will we know before the day of hunting where there are troops and which areas will be open?
    - The Range Bulletin is posted on the DFMWR website page. This Range Bulletin will show you where there are troops or activity at on the range. Personnel at Sportsman Center will work on a link to the Range Bulletin for the iSportsman page.

### 3. Identification And Notification of Sub-committee Chairs

COL Tolbert

- Subcommittee Heads
  - Hunting: Trestyn Berry
  - Fishing: Michael Bennett
  - Regulations: Charles Gregg

### 4. Council Representative Updates and Questions

COL Tolbert

- Can we have posted updates or a timeline for the ETP?
  - Once the ETP leaves Fort Sill, we will have no control or updates on it. The ETP should take effect before next year's hunting season. When the ETP leaves Fort Sill, an update will be posted relaying such.
- Quannah Gates are being locked by units.
  - Mr. Dave Harper with DPTMS will address the gates being locked by units to make them aware to keep the gates open and unlocked. The issue will be addressed to units when they receive their range brief prior to occupying training areas through Range Control.
- Can we reimplement the bonus buck program?
  - The hunting committee will look at data with the biologists and determine if this is feasible based on the data. If feasible, the committee will draft a proposal for the next council meeting.
- Should we implement antler restrictions?
  - The hunting committee will look at data with the biologists and determine if this is feasible based on the data.
- How are the 21X funds utilized? Can we have more transparency on the funds?
  - Mr. Glen Wheat will provide additional data to us on the 21X funds at the next council meeting.

- Can surveys be given to hunters at the end of the season to see what they liked and did not like during the season?
  - Yes.
- Why are crossbows and compound bows considered the same if you can shoot significantly farther with a crossbow?
  - The hunting committee will look at data and determine if there needs to be a separation between the two, or if crossbows can be used by all hunters and not just disabled hunters.
- The hunters that are disabled and require an escort to hunt are put at a disadvantage at the draws. If they draw late, they may not get an area with a disabled blind. How can we fix that?
  - The council needs to determine the definition for disabled and how we want to change regulations based on that definition.

#### 5. Due Outs

COL Tolbert

- Regulation Committee:
  - Develop a recommendation for a new fee structure to align with SAV results.
    - Glen Wheat will email the Committee a starting point.
  - Define eligible population that can hunt/fish on Fort Sill in preparation for FS 200-1 2024 update.
- Hunting Committee:
  - Define “disabled hunter” IAW state/federal law and in line with Army regulations for FS 200-1 2024 update. Develop a proposal as to how we can better integrate “disabled hunters” into the draw and area selection process.
- EQD/Sportsman Center:
  - Provide an update at the next meeting on the Sikes Act and 21X funding to include where the funding has been spent on Fort Sill.

### **IV. Agenda and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 1700 on December 6, 2023 at:  
 Sportsman Center Classroom  
 BLDG 1465  
 Fort Sill, Oklahoma  
 73503

The meeting was adjourned at 1846 by COL Tolbert

Minutes submitted by: Brianna Wilcox

Minutes approved by: COL Tolbert And Sgt Maj Studer