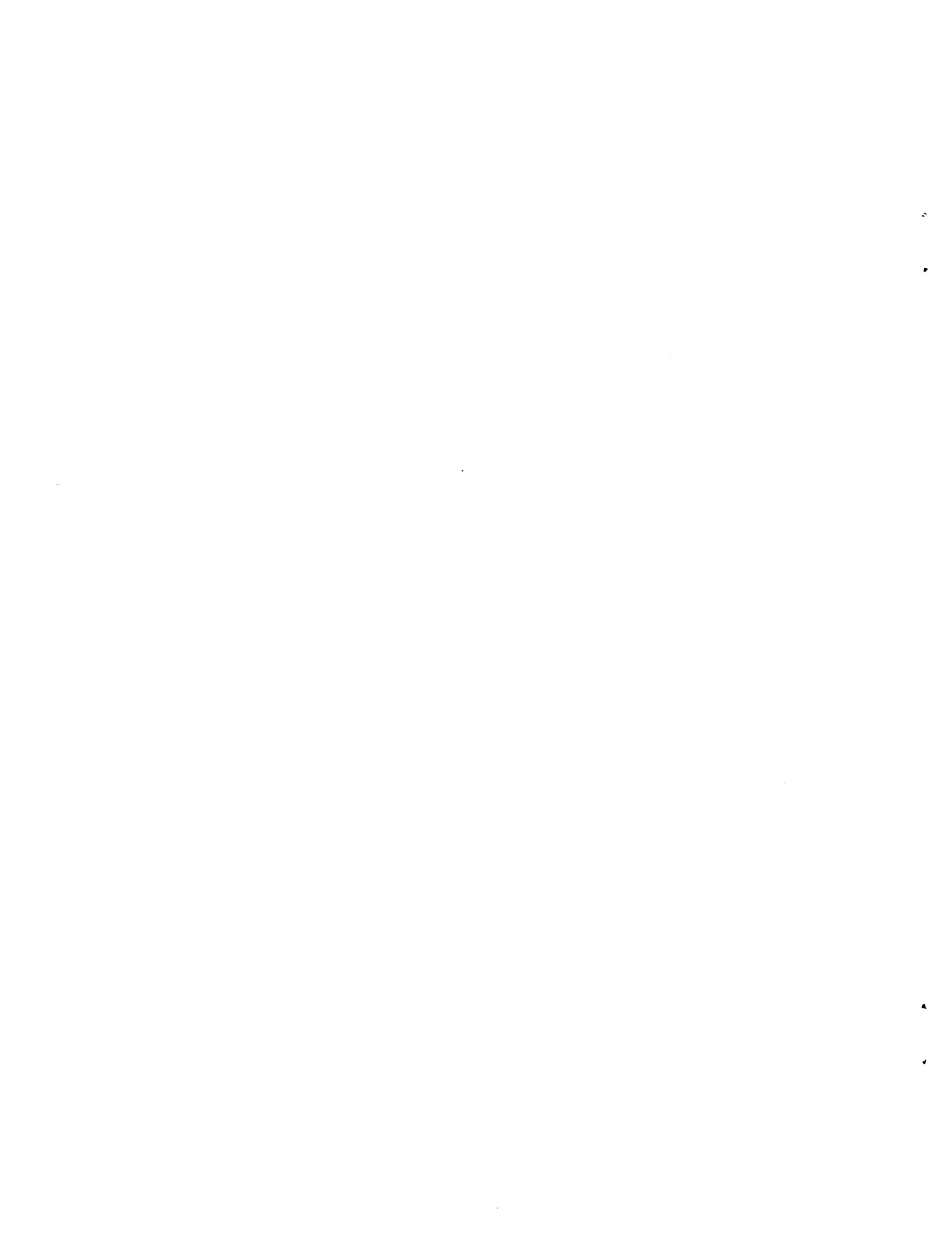


**FINAL REPORT: 1990 HR 265
BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TOURISM
OF THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
AND ENERGY TASK FORCE**

RESEARCH MEMORANDUM NO. 455

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

January, 1992



**FINAL REPORT: 1990 HR 265
BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TOURISM
OF THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
AND ENERGY TASK FORCE**

LRC Staff:

Kenneth M. Carroll

Research Memorandum No. 455

**Legislative Research Commission
January, 1992**

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Vic Hellard, Jr., Director

FROM: Kenneth M. Carroll, Legislative Analyst

DATE: January 9, 1992

SUBJECT: Research Study Directed by 1990 House Resolution 265

During the 1990 Session of the General Assembly, the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 265. HR 265 and a subsequent LRC directive authorized the Task Force on Economic Development and Tourism to conduct hearings during the 1990-91 Interim regarding the Department of Parks and the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and their ability to meet the demands of a growing tourism industry.

This memorandum is a presentation of the work of the task force and their recommendations for consideration by the 1992 General Assembly.

Enclosure

MEMBERS

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Sen. Charles Borders
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Rep. Jo Elizabeth Bryant
Rep. Paul Richardson
Rep. William Strong

1990 HR 265

Pursuant to 1990 HR 265 and a subsequent LRC directive, the Subcommittee on Tourism of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force has been engaged in studying the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Department of Parks, to determine their ability to meet the demands of a growing tourism industry.

The Subcommittee on Tourism was directed by the full task force to study the aforementioned departments and propose recommendations. The subcommittee met a total of six times and utilized

the meetings to take testimony from officials of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Department of Parks.

At the request of the co-chairs of the full task force, and upon approval of the LRC, three Special Subcommittees for Facilities Review (members listed on previous page) were temporarily created within the full task force to make on-site visits to state parks and fish and wildlife holdings. The members of the three special subcommittees were drawn totally from the membership of the Subcommittee on Tourism. The on-site visits provided the members of the special subcommittees the opportunity to interview the park managers and their staffs in an informal setting. More importantly, the on-site visits were very valuable in determining the actual condition of the parks, especially the state resort parks.

The three Special Subcommittees for Facilities Review were authorized by the LRC to conduct two two-day on-site visits each. The three special subcommittees visited the following sites:

1. Special Subcommittee for the Review of Western Kentucky Facilities.
 - a. Barren River Lake State Resort Park
 - b. Rough River State Resort Park
 - c. Ben Hawes State Park
 - d. John James Audubon State Park
 - e. Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park
 - f. Lake Barkley State Resort Park
 - g. Kenlake State Resort Park
 - h. Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park
2. Special Subcommittee for the Review of North/Central Kentucky Facilities
 - a. Frankfort Fish Hatchery
 - b. Blue Licks Battlefield State Park
 - c. Kincaid Lake State Park
 - d. Big Bone Lick State Park
 - e. General Butler State Resort Park
 - f. My Old Kentucky Home State Park
 - g. Green River Lake State Park
 - h. Constitution Square Historic Site

- i. Kentucky Horse Park
3. Special Subcommittee for the Review of Eastern Kentucky Facilities
 - a. Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park
 - b. Pine Mountain State Resort Park
 - c. Cumberland Falls State Resort Park
 - d. General Burnside State Park
 - e. Jenny Wiley State Resort Park
 - f. Paintsville Lake State Park
 - g. Greenbo Lake State Resort Park
 - h. Grayson Lake State Park
 - i. Carter Caves State Resort Park

Focus of the Subcommittee on Tourism

Department of Parks

- Operations
- Condition of state parks and their construction and maintenance needs.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

- Operations
- Need for additional revenue
- Land acquisition

Focus of the Three Special Subcommittees for Facilities Review

On-site visits at state parks, and fish and wildlife holdings, to determine their condition and needs.

Recommendations

Department of Parks

1. The 1992 General Assembly should drastically increase expenditures for maintenance projects, particularly at state resort parks. Funding of a comprehensive maintenance program, for normal and special maintenance projects, should take precedence over any new construction projects.

2. The 1992 General Assembly should support a bond issue to fund new construction and renovation projects at parks, including the following:
 - a. lodge rooms and cabins;
 - b. meeting facilities;
 - c. swimming pools;
 - d. golf courses;
 - e. marina improvements;
 - f. campgrounds;
 - g. infrastructure;
 - h. lake repair and renovation; and
 - i. tennis courts, horseback riding and other recreational facilities.
3. The Tourism Development and Energy Task Force strongly recommends that the Department of Parks institute the following:
 - a. Devise a method to determine the cost effectiveness of privatizing particular park services before entering into or renewing a contract with the private sector;
 - b. Conduct annual training conferences at state parks for park managers and other park management staff;
 - c. Develop a process that requires significant input from the bottom-up (park management staff) when developing the six-year plan;
 - d. Permit park managers to solicit bids for normal and special maintenance projects, at their parks, to determine if a P-9 crew, a private contractor or in-house staff can complete the project in the most cost efficient manner;
 - e. Require all department personnel, especially park personnel, to pass a course in hospitality training; and
 - f. Determine if it would be cost efficient to assign a marketing specialist to a particular park or parks within a region.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

The Tourism Development and Energy Task Force recommends that the 1992 General Assembly pass legislation, when necessary, to assist the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources in implementing the following recommendations:

1. Establish broader-based sources of funding for fish and wildlife programs:
 - (a) to offset future reductions of hunting and fishing license revenues caused by an anticipated decline in the number of active hunters and anglers;
 - (b) to ameliorate the current situation in which fish and wildlife programs which directly or indirectly benefit all Kentuckians are financed solely by hunters and anglers;
 - (c) to finance much-needed work with endangered, threatened and other nongame fish and wildlife species;
 - (d) to acquire wetlands, riparian zones and other critical areas for wildlife habitat and for public wildlife-related recreation;
 - (e) to better serve a broader and increasingly diverse constituent base with appreciative and other nonsporting interactions with wildlife; and
 - (f) to deal with pollution-related fish and wildlife problems.
2. Establish programs to provide increased public access to Kentucky's streams.
3. Look closely at establishing a "user-pay" system to address all forms of fish- and wildlife-related recreation in addition to hunting and fishing.
4. Define and develop policies governing the commercial use of fish and wildlife resources, including aquaculture, commercial fishing, fishing tournaments, and "big buck" and other wildlife contests which exploit fish and wildlife for commercial or personal gain.
5. Monitor the extent and effects of pollutants such as PCBs and chlordane upon fish and wildlife resources.
6. Develop procedures and policies to deal with the increasing pressure upon publicly-owned lands and waters by diverse user groups. Of particular concern is the public land/private land interface around department-owned lakes.
7. Clarify the paradox of stream ownership—the fact that while the Commonwealth owns the water flowing in a stream, the stream banks and stream bed upon which both water quality and aquatic life depend are in private ownership.

8. Establish a national wildlife refuge in Kentucky, both for the wildlife habitat it will provide and for the outdoor recreation and tourism it will furnish.
9. Incorporate fish and wildlife conservation values into the use and development of private lands, including mining, forestry, and agriculture, as well as industrial, urban and suburban development.
10. Require Kentucky's conservation officers to receive the necessary legal and technical training in nontraditional areas, like environmental protection.
11. Incorporate the teaching of fish and wildlife conservation values into Kentucky's current educational reform movement, with the ultimate goal of environmental literacy for all our citizens.
12. Develop a flexible and responsive planned management system which incorporates public involvement in all phases of departmental decision making, and which constantly evaluates programs and policies in light of the department's mission, the present and future needs of our fish and wildlife resources, and the role of department officials as public servants.

APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A—1990 HR 265
- APPENDIX B—Minutes of the Six Meetings of the Subcommittee on Tourism
- APPENDIX C—Minutes of the Meetings of the Three Special Subcommittees for Facilities Review
- APPENDIX D—Financial statements for all state parks for Fiscal Year 1990 and Fiscal Year 1991.

IN HOUSE

REGULAR SESSION 1990

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 265

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1990

Representative Dottie Priddy introduced the following resolution which was ordered to be printed.

A RESOLUTION authorizing the Task Force on Economic Development and Tourism to conduct hearings regarding the Department of Parks and the Department of Fish and Wildlife during the 1990-1991 interim.

WHEREAS, Kentucky has one of the most extensive state park systems in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the state parks of this Commonwealth serve as major tourist attractions; and

WHEREAS, the camping and lodging facilities of many of Kentucky's state parks are filled to capacity for long periods of time throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, many tourists have to make reservations for campsites, cabins, or rooms in the park lodge a year in advance because of a growing tourism industry in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, along with its system of wildlife refuges and department controlled lakes, is a great asset to this Commonwealth in its effort to promote the tourism industry in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has designed and constructed numerous boat ramps on many of the lakes within this Commonwealth which have provided hunters and fishermen with increased access to Kentucky's water resources;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

1 Section 1. That the Task Force on Economic
2 Development and Tourism is authorized to conduct on-site
3 hearings during the 1990-91 interim regarding the
4 Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, its system of
5 wildlife refuges and department controlled lakes, and the
6 ability of the Department to meet the demands of a growing
7 tourism industry while at the same time protecting and
8 conserving this Commonwealth's fish and wildlife resources
9 for future generations.

10 Section 2. That the Task Force on Economic
11 Development and Tourism is authorized to conduct on-site
12 hearings during the 1990-91 interim regarding the
13 Department of Parks, its operation of the state parks
14 system and the ability of each state park to meet the
15 demands of a growing tourism industry.

16 Section 3. Staff services to be utilized in
17 conducting these hearing shall be provided from the
18 regular Commission budget.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENERGY TASK FORCE

Subcommittee on Tourism

Minutes of the First Meeting
of the 1990-91 Interim

May 11, 1991

The first meeting of the Subcommittee on Tourism of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force was held on May 11, 1991, at Kentucky Dam Village. Representative Charles Geveden, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Charles Geveden, Co-Chair; Senators David Boswell, Charlie Borders, Henry Lackey, Bob Leeper, Richard Roeding, John Rogers; and Representatives Woody Allen, Jo Bryant, and Richard Sanders.

Guests: Representatives Ruth Ann Palumbo, Ramsey Morris, and Senator Tom Buford; Mac Morris, Marshall Co. Tourism Commission; Frank Waggoner, Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park; Bill Hainsworth, Kenlake State Resort Park; Allen Morris, Four Rivers Productions; Ben Jent, Eddyville; and Dick Thomas, Aurora.

LRC Staff: Linda Kubala, Kenny Carroll, Becky Harilson, Chris Lilly, and Jessie Sue Simpson.

Representative Geveden stated that as part of HR 265, the Subcommittee on Tourism was directed to look into the operations of state park systems in Kentucky. As a result of that directive, Frank Waggoner, manager of the Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, and Bill Hainsworth, manager of Kenlake State Resort Park, were asked to discuss park operations.

Mr. Waggoner welcomed everyone to Marshall County and Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park. He gave a brief history of the park's beginning. The TVA built a dam in 1938 and built a village which consisted of a golf course, airport, administration building, recreation facilities and 40 cottages. These cottages were turned over to the state in 1949, and from 1949-1955 the state invested approximately \$1.5 million in renovation and additional cottages. Kentucky Dam Village generates \$4 million in income and has up to 225 employees during the summer.

Mr. Waggoner stressed that renovation is a very important key in staying competitive with other states. He stated that starting in July, plans are being made for a \$450,000 golf green renovation at the golf course. Plans are also being made to renovate all of the cottages. Another problem that needs attention is the upgrading of electric services. The park is still using transformers which TVA installed in the 1930's. Mr. Waggoner expressed the desire to see a

percentage of gross profits put back into the park system in order to keep up with competition from other states.

Representative Lewis asked what percentage was needed. Mr. Waggoner said around 10% for the capital account. He said this year the park would probably spend around \$2-3 million, and that it would probably take around \$4-5 million to bring the park up to the level it should be, but this would take time.

Representative Roeding asked about the state's involvement in the retention of the gross profit for maintenance. Mr. Waggoner said that the state has never allowed the park to retain any profits for maintenance, but is given a portion of a budget request that is divided among the fifteen state parks.

Representative Allen asked if the park generated more funds than it takes for upkeep and if any other parks supported themselves. In responding, Mr. Waggoner said that the park normally shows around \$300,000 profit a year, outside of expenses, and that there were possibly three or four parks that are self-sufficient.

Representative Geveden asked if the golf course was considered part of the park operation. Mr. Waggoner said that the golf course was budgeted for approximately \$550,000 and would show a profit of \$225-230,000. All facilities overall will show a profit, although the airport at times is questionable. He said approximately \$200,000 was currently needed to built more hanger space, which was necessary for the airport to break even.

In response to a question from Representative Geveden regarding Gobbler's Knobb, Mr. Waggoner stated that Gobbler's Knobb was located across from the marina on approximately 130-140 acres. The state is negotiating with private contractors to develop a golf course, and possibly condominiums. This decision would be up to the TVA, and no decision has been made.

Next on the agenda was Bill Hainsworth, manager of Kenlake State Resort Park. He stated that Kenlake opened in 1952 and has 795 acres. The park generates \$1.5 million in sales, of which \$115 million goes for payroll and expenses going directly back to the community. Mr. Hainsworth expressed the concern that renovation was the biggest concern of the state parks. In order to get Kenlake on a competitvie scale, \$2 million is needed for maintenance. Irrigation of golf courses would increase play and in turn, revenue. The central office area spent \$281,000 in 1989-1990 and \$323,000 in in 1990-1991 for beneficial renovations.

Representative Allen asked about the current occupancy rate of rooms. Mr. Hainsworth stated that occupancy rates of the lodge currently run about 61% and cottages about 40%. There was a brief discussion about reducing room rates, to which Mr. Hainsworth responded that the premise of the Parks Department was to generate a spin-off so private enterprises could get established in the communities.

There was discussion on the issue of more signs on highways concerning the parks. Representative Lewis stated that more signs on the highways would be very beneficial. Mr. Hainsworth said that an information center on the north side coming from Tennessee in Christian County was planned for the summer.

Representative Allen stated that another idea which would be beneficial to all parks would be the promotion of festivities that would encourage people to come to the parks. Mr. Waggoner said that for the first time, Kentucky Western Water Lands has gone with matching funds on a regional basis to St. Louis, Evansville, Detroit, and places within a 400-500 mile radius with TV advertising.

Representative Borders introduced Mark Ludwig, Superintendent of Lake Barkley State Park, who expressed his appreciation to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on Tourism for their concern.

Representative Geveden thanked Mr. Hainsworth for his presentation and introduced Mac Morris, Executive Director of Marshall County Tourism Commission. Mr. Morris welcomed the subcommittee to Marshall County. Mr. Morris began by informing the subcommittee, that according to the Kentucky Department of Travel Development, the tourism industry in Marshall County had an economic impact of \$66.3 million in 1990. The total economic impact for 15 counties in the western lakes region for 1989 was \$208,720,069. These fifteen counties are served by I-24.

Mr. Morris stated that Marshall County's advertising budget for 1990-91 is \$65,000, and they are in hopes of having \$105,000 for advertising in 1991-92. He hopes that in the future there will be more interstate highway signs to help promote tourism in the state. In closing, he pointed to a gross error in the Industrial Quarterly which stated there were 350,000 travelers through Marshall County and western Kentucky each year, when in fact there are 5,455,000.

Mr. Ben Jent, owner of the Western Kentucky Factory Outlet Mall in Eddyville spoke next. Mr. Jent expressed his appreciation for the support of all legislators in their concern for businesses. He said that approximately 600 businesses depend either totally or to some extent on tourism and travelers to western Kentucky, and that with the completion of I-24, travelers are being transported through the area without realizing what vast recreational opportunities are available. Mr. Jent expressed concern that the problem has been discussed at length by tourism organizations, but as yet, a solution has not been found. Due to federal and state sign regulations, businesses are excluded or limited in their ability to inform travelers. Available data indicates that only approximately 10% of highway travelers stop at rest areas and information centers, leaving 90% passing through without being informed. As a result of this problem, 42 businesses have failed or are now struggling to exist. Mr. Jent stressed that it is imperative that signing laws in Kentucky be reviewed and that both federal and state regulations be reinterpreted or rewritten. Since I-24 is the only interstate highway in Kentucky on which no signing is permitted, he recommended

that I-24 be designated as a pilot project to test the effect of the Cotton Amendment on Kentucky. Secondly, the guidelines as outlined in the Cotton Amendment should be applied to permit limited signing on the Western Kentucky Parkway, which is regulated by state law. In closing, Mr. Jent said that as a businessman he has invested \$6 million in Lyon County in the last three years and he believes in Kentucky and its future.

The next speaker was Mr. Dick Thomas, who owns the Brass Lantern Restaurant in Aurora, Kentucky. Mr. Thomas pointed out some facts from a summary report of the 1976 study commissioned by Kentucky Western Waterlands from the Midwest Research Institute. This report stated that tourism from the Nashville market was only one-fourth of what was expected in 1976. After looking at room tax receipts when I-24 opened, he assured the members that Kentucky was not getting the impact expected from the opening of the I-24. Mr. Thomas commended Mr. Hainsworth for his cooperation in working with the community.

Senator Rogers made a motion that the Subcommittee on Tourism explore the possibilities of establishing an effective statewide policy on highway signage to assist in the development of Kentucky's tourism industry. After brief discussion, the motion was seconded and adopted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENERGY TASK FORCE

Subcommittee on Tourism

Minutes of the Second Meeting
of the 1990-91 Interim

June 10, 1991

The second meeting of the Subcommittee on Tourism of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force was held on June 10, 1991, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Charles Geveden, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Greg Higdon, Co-Chair; Representative Charles Geveden, Co-Chair; Senators David Boswell, Henry Lackey, Bob Leeper, Danny Meyer, Bill Quinlan, Richard Roeding; and Representatives Jo Bryant, Richard Sanders, and Richard Turner.

Guests: Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo; John Hinkle, Kentucky Retail Federation; John Barnett, South Central Bell; and Ray Gillespie, KHMA.

LRC Staff: Linda Kubala, Kenny Carroll, Mary Lynn Collins, Diana Hill, Kyna Koch, and Karen Thomas.

Representative Geveden called for the approval of the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were approved without objection.

The first item of business was the discussion of future subcommittee plans. Representative Geveden pointed out that reports were given at the last meeting at Kentucky Dam Village by managers of Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park and Kenlake State Resort Park. The subcommittee has been charged with the the responsibility of studying the operations of various state parks. Representative Geveden stated that it was planned to have the Subcommittee on Tourism split into three groups to visit various areas of the state. This would be the most timely and cost effective method of doing the study. He explained that there was a mix-up in getting approval from the LRC at their last meeting, but the committees should be approved at the next meeting.

Representative Geveden also explained that the subcommittee is charged with looking into the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. They had been invited to attend the meeting today, but had other obligations. They will also be tied up in July. It was discussed that possibly a special meeting might be arranged to be held at the Game Farm on June 28 for a presentation by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

As a point of interest, Senator Lackey mentioned that he has

asked LRC staff to get with Ralph Gabbard at WKYT-TV in Lexington and also with the National Association of Broadcasters' President, Eddie Fritz, to hold a special meeting in September to host a session in the studio on the latest technology in the area of broadcasting. Senator Lackey feels that this area is something that the legislature should know about and he is going to ask LRC to invite all legislators to this session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENERGY TASK FORCE

Subcommittee on Tourism

Minutes of the Third Meeting Meeting
of the 1990-91 Interim

June 28, 1991

The third meeting of the Subcommittee on Tourism of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force was held on Friday, June 28, 1991, in the Video Room at the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Representative Charles Geveden, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Charles Geveden, Co-Chair; Senators Bill Quinlan, David Boswell, Charles Borders, Bob Leeper, Danny Meyer, Richard Roeding; Representatives Woody Allen, Jerry Bronger, Jo Elizabeth Bryant, Richard Sanders, Richard Turner and Lawson Walker.

Guests: Don McCormick, Tom Young, Norm Sims, Jim Owens, Bob Bates, Pete Pfeiffer, Paul Oliver, Ted Crowell, John Filson, Bill Graves, Rebecca Games, Lauren Schaaf, Tom Edwards, Lynn Garrison, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Eric Reed, Fund for Animals.

LRC Staff: Linda Kubala, Kenny Carroll, Mary Lynn Collins, and Diana Hill.

Representative Geveden called for the approval of the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved without objection.

Representative Geveden stated that the subcommittee was required by 1990 HR 265, to look into the administration of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. He then introduced Commissioner Don McCormick, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Mr. McCormick stated that the study comes at a very appropriate time. The department has, for the last two years, been redefining its mission and goals. The time has come for fish and wildlife agencies all over the country to find out what the public wants and what they are willing to pay for the services provided by fish and wildlife agencies. Attitudes toward fish and wildlife activities are changing due to the fact that the public has more recreational opportunities to choose from. Fishing and hunting is becoming less popular with our youth, mostly due to competition with other recreational activities. Commissioner McCormick stated that poles recently showed that 75% of all Kentuckians feel that wildlife is important, yet only 30% fish or hunt.

Wildlife habitats are disappearing at an alarming rate and wildlife agencies must change to meet changing conditions. Although

the department's present system has served Kentuckians well, the department is trying to devise a new system without abandoning what has worked in the past. Commissioner McCormick reported that wildlife is more abundant today than in the days of Daniel Boone, and that sportsmen are responsible for the proliferation of fish and wildlife populations because they fund the department through license sales. He pointed out that one essential ingredient of the study should be to look to the future needs of Kentuckians and devise a system for managing and preserving wildlife habitats for future generations to protect Kentucky's heritage and tradition. The system should be responsive to the needs of both wildlife and the people of Kentucky by fostering cooperation and understanding.

Commissioner McCormick then introduced members of the staff of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources who were present. A video tape was then shown by Mr. John Wilson, which presented the Department of Fish and Wildlife's role today. Commissioner McCormick pointed out that the department produces the program "Kentucky Afield" which, according to a California company's survey, was found to be the third longest running TV program in the country. It is also within seven percentage points of being the number one TV program on KET.

Senator Roeding asked about the statement that there is more wildlife today than when Daniel Boone was alive. Mr. Lauren Schaaf, Director of the Division of Wildlife, responded that man has made significant impacts by opening up landscape which has increased habitat conditions for several species, especially for whitetail deer, which were infrequently encountered in Boone's day.

Representative Bronger asked about black bear in Kentucky. Mr. Schaaf stated that in approximately two years the department expects that black bear will be producing offspring in southeastern Kentucky. In response to a question concerning the coyote population in Kentucky, Commissioner McCormick stated that reports come in all the time from many different areas of the state, and that the first reports of coyote damage came from Woodford County.

In responding to a question from Senator Leeper on the Almstead Dam, Commissioner McCormick stated that this was a dam on the Ohio River adjacent to the Ballard County Wildlife Management Area. A new highlift floating dam is being built on the river along the middle of the management area. This dam is the first of its kind in the world and will be under construction for 14 years. The construction of this dam will have a definite impact on waterfowl and wildlife in the area, especially due to the fact that there will be continuous lighting of the area for a period of three years. The department is working with the Corps of Engineers to try to reduce the effects on wildlife.

Senator Boswell asked if the Corps was going to acquire any property from the department. Commissioner McCormick responded by saying that if additional acreage is required by the Corps, the department will work with the Corps and try to accommodate them.

Representative Allen pointed out the problem of coyote damage to livestock and asked if any studies showed that placing a bounty on coyotes would help the situation. Commissioner McCormick stated that bounties would probably not be a solution because there is no market for furs. He indicated the department was trying to advise farmers on solutions.

Mr. Tom Edwards, Assistant Director of Wildlife, commented that there are coyotes in Kentucky that are causing problems with livestock, but the impact on the wildlife population is minimal. Landowners usually handle their own problems, but the department is trying to provide information to farmers on lambing and calving procedures to alleviate the problem. He stated that it was an expensive procedure to remove coyotes.

Next on the agenda was a film entitled "Challenge to Change" produced by the Responsive Management Project of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Associations.

Following the film, Senator Borders brought up the issue of providing free fishing licenses to disabled and retired people, particularly railroad retirees. He mentioned that Representative Castleman had sponsored a bill that passed last session which permitted persons found to be disabled by the Social Security to receive a free fishing license. Senator Borders stated that several railroad retirees in his area feel that they should be eligible to receive a free fishing license. Commissioner McCormick stated that this would have a tremendous impact on the agency's budget and the department is already offering several people free licenses now. Jim Owens stated that to date there have been 12,000 disability licenses issued, which calculates to approximately a loss of \$300,000, with an additional \$25,000 added for administering the program. Commissioner McCormick pointed out that there is no such thing as a free driver's license. After brief discussion it was decided that the matter would be looked into further, with the possibility of a prefiled bill before the 1992 session. Senator Borders asked the department to do some research on the impact of free licenses for additional disabled and retired persons on the department's budget.

Next on the agenda was Mr. Norm Sims, Public Affairs Director, to give a presentation on the trends facing the department in the future. Mr. Sims stated that three things are taking place with the population of Kentucky. There is a relative decline in population, aging of population, and urbanization. People are also making changes in how they participate in recreation programs, with a leveling out and declining of traditional recreation.

According to the last census, Kentucky's population grew by less than 1% from 1980-1990. Mr. Sims pointed out charts showing population characteristics by age in Kentucky. He stated that babyboomers are getting older and they are having too few children to replace themselves. In the year 2020, children of babyboomers will be about 30, the age when they are most likely to hunt and fish. The number of people over 65 also is increasing. Many of these people hunt and fish, but do not contribute financially.

Mr. Sims displayed a chart showing the Kentucky counties which grew or lost population. He stated that a lot of surveys show that people don't want to travel more than an hour or so from where they live to enjoy recreational facilities and that the department is going to have to look at ways of providing facilities near urban areas if participation is going to be kept at the current rate.

In summary, Mr. Sims stated that the number of people hunting and fishing is leveling off in the short-term. The number of people hunting and fishing will remain significant, despite the decline. According to department projections, in 20-30 years there still will be about 870,000 Kentuckians hunting and fishing. We are faced with a change in emphasis from traditional hunting and fishing activities to things like nature walks, bird watching, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, etc. According to a 1985 study by the Southeastern Trends Project, almost 8 out of every 10 people over age 16 participate in some form of wildlife recreation other than hunting and fishing. Managing the multiple use of recreation areas will be more of a challenge for the department in the future. Some revenue shortfalls can be made up in license fee increases for the short term, but not over the long term.

After a brief discussion on non-resident license charges, Commissioner McCormick stated that the department did not want to overcharge for fees and that data is now being gathered on figures on non-resident hunters in Kentucky.

Next on the agenda was Mr. Jim Owens, Budget Director for the department. Mr. Owens talked about the problem with county clerks asking for a 10% increase in their fee for selling licenses. Currently clerks receive \$.75 for every license they sell. The department is presently trying to work with the clerks on a compromise of \$1. Mr. Owens stated that in 1989 the department paid \$800,000 to clerks for gross license fees and if it went up 10% they would be paying \$1.2 million, which is a 53.67% increase. The department would like to implement its own license distribution system which they think they could manage better and more cheaply than the county clerks.

In responding to a question from Senator Meyer on sporting goods shops, Commissioner McCormick stated that no sporting goods shops in Jefferson County receive any fee for selling licenses, but if the department administered the program, some of the fee would go to the shops selling licenses.

Mr. Owens continued his presentation by stating that the department has not increased the cost of licenses since 1986 and that the agency fund balance is declining. Money is being spent on beneficial programs in many areas. Mr. Owens showed graphs depicting agency expenditures and revenues. At the close of FY 1991, operating expenditures, including capital construction projects, were \$17,250,000 compared with income of \$19 million.

Commissioner McCormick commented that the department's cash

flow is drying up and a new revenue increase will have to be implemented, probably in 1993. The department needs to find out what the sportsman wants and what he is willing to pay. Commissioner McCormick pointed out that sportsmen, up to this point, have never complained about the services they have received. What they want will determine the budget of the department.

There was a brief discussion on what can be done to bring in more revenue from out of state. Commissioner McCormick stated that the department does work with the Tourism Cabinet on advertising promotions.

Representative Turner brought out the fact that it might be a good idea for farmers to form an association whereby hunters and fishermen could be charged a fee for the use of the association land. Senator Boswell responded by stating that when he was Commissioner of Agriculture this project was talked about and the proposal would be feasible. Commissioner McCormick said this was being done now.

It was brought out that farmers might want to charge a fee for having educational tours of farms and farm procedures.

Representative Allen stated that the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is one of the most efficient departments in state government, but he would like for the public's perception to improve. He feels there is little respect for the department from the public, and that possibly conservation officers should have more of a teaching role than a fining role. Representative Allen stated that the "spotlighting" bill passed by the General Assembly may have contributed to this problem.

Commissioner McCormick said he appreciated Representative Allen's concern. He stated that the department is going to place more emphasis on area participation with landowners.

Representative Bryant asked if the department had any educational programs for children. Ted Crowell stated that there are seven conservation programs a year in the school districts and that there is a great demand for the programs. Demand actually increased after curriculum requirements were dropped. The department agreed to contact Commissioner Boysen and to work with the Department of Education to incorporate their programs in school reform plans.

Representative Geveden thanked the members of the department for their presentations. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENERGY TASK FORCE

Subcommittee on Tourism

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting
of the 1990-91 Interim

October 3, 1991

The fourth meeting of the Subcommittee on Tourism of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force was held on Thursday, October 3, 1991, at the Western Kentucky Wildlife Management Area. Representative Charles Geveden, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Greg Higdon, Co-Chair; Representative Charles Geveden, Co-Chair; Senator Bob Leeper; Representative Robbie Castleman; and Rex Smith, ex officio.

Guests: Charles Martin, U.S. Department of Energy; Joe Walker, Martin Marietta; Joe Carroll, Mark Higdon, Spike Stacey, waterfowlers; Lauren Schaaf, Commissioner Don McCormick, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Norm Davis, West Kentucky Shell Harvesters Association; George Onnybecker, resort owner; D. Dobson, TW Shell; and Jim Devillez, waterfowler and resort owner.

LRC Staff: Ken Carroll and Linda Attkisson.

Chairman Geveden welcomed the members of the audience and thanked them for inviting the subcommittee to meet in western Kentucky. He then recognized Don McCormick, Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and asked if he had any comments. The Commissioner in turn introduced the members of his staff appearing at the meeting.

Representative Geveden stated the purpose of the public hearing was to discuss issues pertinent to the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. He then invited Joe Carroll to address the subcommittee. Mr. Carroll discussed goose hunting and the number of geese wintered on Ballard County Wildlife Management Area. Mr. Carroll said it is the opinion of the people he represents that there is too much hunting taking place at the Ballard County Wildlife Management Area to sufficiently hold enough geese to provide quality hunting to tourists. Presently, about 75 percent of the Wildlife Management Area is being hunted. He said in Illinois only 10 or 15 percent of their refuges are hunted, and hunting is in one particular area designated as a safety zone, which does not cause a disturbance to the geese wintering there.

Mr. Carroll said in the mid-80's the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources implemented a program to limit the hunting to a

smaller area of the refuge, but the harvest apparently was not high enough within the refuge itself, so hunting pressure has increased. He said this program only lasted two years. He said he would like the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to establish a safety zone where the geese want to rest and hunt a smaller area of the refuge. Reducing the hunting pressure on the geese would result in more geese being held on the refuge.

Mr. Carroll stated there is also a concern that the 10-14 year Olmstead Lock and Dam project will create a major disturbance for the waterfowl within the refuge. Within three or four air miles there is a 60,000 acre refuge in Illinois. He said there is adequate acreage to hold 80,000 to 100,000 geese on the Ballard County WMA, but as long as a disproportionate share of the refuge is being hunted the geese will not stay.

Mr. Carroll said the department is very cooperative. He said the members of the Fish and Wildlife commission are not waterfowl experts, but they are telling the waterfowl experts in the department how to run the Ballard County WMA.

Mr. Carroll said he would like to see Fish and Wildlife submit a five-year refuge management plan to the General Assembly.

Mr. Carroll concluded by saying he does not want to take anything away from the public hunter. In fact, if the hunting pressure is taken off of the rest area preferred by the geese, the number of decoys increased, make more efficient blinds, and have more direct hunter supervision like the commercial clubs, then the harvest will be increased and there will be a better quality hunt for the public hunter.

Senator Higdon asked Commissioner McCormick if there is discussion within the department about the large acquisition of land made in Illinois and the potential impact of Illinois being able to draw more birds than in Kentucky. The Commissioner responded that land is the key issue. If Kentucky had more land there would not be the problems that are being discussed before the subcommittee. Commissioner McCormick said he disagreed with very little that Mr. Carroll said, but the department has an obligation to the public hunter. He said whatever changes are made in the programs, time needs to be given for the programs to work. Changes are going to be made this year. He said one change would be to remove some of the gunning pressure off of the rest area.

Chairman Geveden asked Mr. Carroll if he had an estimate of the economic impact that goose hunting has on Ballard County. Mr. Carroll responded he could only guess, but these people are tourists, which means motels and restaurants in Ballard County and the surrounding area would profit.

Chairman Geveden asked that the subcommittee be provided with information on the number of hunters that come to Ballard County by the end of the next hunting season. Commissioner McCormick said the information would be broken down by man-days. Senator Higdon asked

that the information indicate in and out-of-state hunters.

The next speaker was Spike Stacey from Paducah. Mr. Stacey said he was not representing anyone, he just likes to hunt ducks and geese. He said people are losing sight of the hunting experience. It is the people you hunt with, not the number of birds you take home. He said he is 100 percent for the state providing public hunts. He suggested considering the Kentucky residents more than out-of-state hunters, perhaps by charging out-of-state hunters a higher fee.

Mr. Stacey reported that a recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey reported waterfowl hunters spend about \$120 each. In 1989, almost 11,000 hunters traveled to Ballard County to hunt on commercial goose clubs. Using this data, it is estimated goose hunters contribute about \$1.32 million annually to local economies. Mr. Stacey said personally he feels these figures are low. He said most of the walk-in hunters pay \$100 to \$125 a day just to hunt, then there are other monies spent on lodging, food, and hunting equipment. He said not all of the economic impact would be in Ballard County, because a lot of the hunters stay in Paducah.

Mr. Stacey said it is important for the legislature to allocate money for additional wetlands for the state. He said this is not just for economic reasons, but conservation reasons as well. The bottomland hardwood is the quickest disappearing aspect of all the different habitats in the United States. He said hunting in western Kentucky is as good as anywhere in the United States.

Mr. Stacey stated that man-induced disturbances do more to preclude waterfowl use of prime habitats than any other factor. A short time after the hunting begins, waterfowl relocate to areas with little or no hunting disturbance.

Mr. Stacey went on to say that in the mid-1980s, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources increased efforts to attract and hold a greater portion of the geese in the Mississippi Valley Population. Mr. Stacey referenced a study which the following recommendations were made: (1) increase refuge size; (2) change hunting in Ballard County to a 3:00 p.m. closing; (3) decrease human disturbance; (4) move shooting areas away from roosting sites; and (5) increase winter forage. Mr. Stacey said a considerable amount of time and monies were invested in implementing these recommendations. Efforts have been somewhat successful with mid-winter MVP highs of 125-170 thousand birds using the area in recent years.

Mr. Stacey concluded by saying the key issue is land and management of that land. He added that he agreed with Mr. Carroll about the nine-member commission. He said the members are political appointees and the members of the commission are not knowledgeable enough about waterfowl management to make the right decisions. He said he would like for the department to have more leeway in making decisions on waterfowl management.

Senator Higdon said he agreed that the main problem is land. He said the ability to create a refuge within the limited amount of

land available is much tougher in Kentucky than in Illinois and Tennessee. It needs to be addressed. He suggested looking into a bond program to purchase land.

Representative Smith commented on the issue of the commission, stating that the process to promulgate administrative regulations may need to be changed. This needs to be studied.

Representative Smith said the way to hold birds is by feeding and protecting them.

Commissioner McCormick commented that it is very seldom that the commission does not accept the recommendations of the department. He said he feels the commission system is needed and works good. He said the members of the commission are not paid. He added that he hopes the sportsman never loses the input on who serves on the commission.

Mark Higdon appeared next and stated that he started hunting ducks and geese in the early 1970's. He said over the years the duck and goose population has declined due to hunting pressure in the Axe Lake area and the Peal Wildlife Management Area. In the 1980's the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources made a decision to make the Peal Wildlife Management Area a rest area. In 1986, Swan Lake was purchased and there was no hunting allowed there or at the Peal Wildlife Management Area. A population of ducks was held in that area for about a month or more. The next year the department allowed hunting on the Swan Lake Wildlife Management Area and the Peal Wildlife Management Area. Since that time, there has not been the number of ducks holding in that area. He said he would like to ask that hunting be stopped on Swan Lake. He said in the Peal Wildlife Management Area there are no permanent blinds and there is no time shutoff. He said the public could be provided with more quality hunting if there was more control on the Peal Wildlife Management Area.

Commissioner McCormick stated that when the Swan Lake Wildlife Management Area was purchased, it was with the intention of making a recommendation for hunting on the area.

Jim DeVillez spoke next and presented a map demonstrating the land acquisitions in Illinois compared to Kentucky. He showed the migration of the birds and said that Kentucky needs to take steps now to attract and hold more geese in Kentucky. Representative Smith said we really can't do anything about what Illinois is doing, but Kentucky needs to take steps to draw more birds to Kentucky.

The next topic of discussion before the subcommittee was musseling. Mr. George Onnybecker, a resort owner, stated that the mussel shells in the Tennessee Valley are a curse to our resource. The mussel industry problem has been growing daily in the lakes area for the past five years.

Mr. Onnybecker stated the impact on both the environment and the economy of the area is hard to measure. The destruction of

habitat, an important factor to a productive fishery cannot be measured because there are no records of what once existed. Many tourists and fishermen are going elsewhere simply because they perceive a problem with the lakes area.

Mr. Onnybecker said the department has resisted taking action. Its allegiance seems to be to the shell harvesters. Another concern is that a thriving black market exists within an industry that is mining the bottoms of the lakes. Many local young people have been corrupted into breaking the law because the law is not being enforced. Mr. Onnybecker gave an example of a problem he had had with illegal musseling. He said he made futile attempts to get a law enforcement officer to respond to his complaint of people trespassing on his resort property to get to the lake, but could not get anyone to respond.

Mr. Onnybecker said he is concerned that programs promoting placement of fish attractors seem to be fading in Kentucky, while surrounding states are giving them more emphasis. Federal law prohibits placement of structure (fish attractors) that might obstruct navigation in the main lake. However, Mr. Onnybecker stated that state law, through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, protects an industry that admittedly removes valuable structure that was part of the original resource.

Representative Smith stated he thought Mr. Onnybecker's comments were strong. Mr. Onnybecker admitted he is upset with the situation and that he gets emotional about the subject. Representative Smith said he grew up on the lakes, but he has to support the person who is making a living. He said the shell harvesters have to make a living. He said he hoped the resort operators and the shell harvesters could work together.

Senator Higdon said that from a legislative standpoint their approach is to require the department to protect the resource. He said the tourist industry doesn't own the lakes, and the department's position has to be to protect the resources the lake provides.

Senator Higdon asked that staff check with the district courts in the area to see what the conviction rate is on the people who are arrested for illegal musseling.

Jim DeVillez spoke next concerning his experience on the mussel advisory group which is studying the musseling issue. He said in 1987, the number of mussel brailling licenses were limited. He said this was not constitutional and therefore did not stand. He said that the mussel shell industry in general in the United States is in trouble.

Mr. DeVillez said he is in the tourism business and that the fishing business is off. He said he has lost several sports fishermen during the last couple of years.

Mr. DeVillez said that in Indiana musseling is being

prohibited, which means musselers will be coming to Kentucky. He said this could cause illegal musseling to increase. He said that fish depend on mussels for food. If there is a shortage of mussels, the fish will have trouble surviving.

The last person to appear before the subcommittee was Mr. Norm Davis, Western Kentucky Shell Harvesters, who said there has been a lot of assumptions made about the musseling industry that are not true. Last year the musseling industry in western Kentucky brought in \$10-12 million. Nationally, about \$70 million of shells were exported to Japan. In 1990, more mussel boats were on Kentucky Lake than in any other time in history. On any given day there were approximately 72 boats on a 50,000 acre lake. Last fall was one of the best fishing seasons in many years. Based on those facts, Mr. Davis stated that the answer to better fishing is more musseling.

Mr. Davis stated that tourism in western Kentucky is up 12.4%, which has to be one of the biggest increases in the country. Marshall County was up 11.1%, after adjusting for inflation. Most tourists are fascinated at what is being done with shells. Musseling should be promoted as an attraction, but it cannot be done without marina owners and resort owners cooperating with each other.

Mr. Davis pointed out that facts show that fishing is up and the fish numbers are in record numbers. The Marshall County Tourism Commission promotes Kentucky Lake as the number one crappie lake and the number three bass lake. In conclusion, Mr. Davis stated that the mussel harvest is up, mussel population is up, fish numbers are up, and tourism is up. Conflict among mussel groups and other groups is also up. He said it's clear that damage has not been done to the lake or the fishery resource, even though structures have been moved around. Managing the resource is expensive and there is not enough manpower to meet the law enforcement needs.

Senator Higdon asked if there was a possibility that the mussel association would consider a season where they might not operate during peak spawning months for crappie. Mr. Davis said the industry could not survive because 35% of their annual income comes in May and June.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENERGY TASK FORCE

Subcommittee on Tourism

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting
of the 1990-91 Interim

October 15, 1991

The fifth meeting of the Subcommittee on Tourism of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force was held on Tuesday, October 15, 1991, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Charles Geveden, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Charles Geveden, Co-Chair; Senators Charles Borders, David Boswell, Robert Leeper, Danny Meyer, Richard Roeding; Representatives Jerry Bronger, Jo Bryant, Paul Richardson, Richard Sanders, Jr., and Richard Turner.

Guests: Commissioner Rapiere Smith, Bob Bender, and James Goodman, Department of Parks; Earl Clemons, Jr., Governor's Office for Policy and Management; and Ray Gillespie, KHMA.

LRC Staff: Ken Carroll, Linda Kubala, Mary Lynn Collins, and Diana Hill.

Press: KET.

Representative Geveden called for the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were approved without objection.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recent reviews of the state park system which had been conducted by the three special subcommittees of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force. Representatives from the Department of Parks were in attendance to discuss these reviews and answer questions from the members.

Senator Meyer stated that his subcommittee had visited My Old Kentucky Home State Park at Bardstown and they were very concerned with the maintenance problems there, as was apparent in many parks. He pointed out that there were places in the mansion that were rotting and there was a leak on the third floor. He also pointed out that the amphitheater at the park is in need of being rebuilt. The subcommittee was concerned with leasing arrangements at My Old Kentucky Home State Park. The members felt that the state should receive more revenue from the leases, especially because the state pays the majority of the maintenance costs.

Mr. Rapiere Smith, Commissioner of the Department of Parks, introduced Mr. Bob Bender, Deputy Commissioner of Support Services and Mr. James Goodman, Deputy Commissioner for Park Management. With

regard to My Old Kentucky Home, Commissioner Smith stated that work would begin very soon on repairs, but he was not aware of the roof leaking. He turned to Mr. Bender to respond. Mr. Bender said that the entire roof on the mansion at My Old Kentucky Home will need replacement within the next two to three years.

Senator Meyer commented that his subcommittee felt the Kentucky Show at Old Bardstown Village should be moved to the grounds of My Old Kentucky Home, since most of the visitors would already be there. He also mentioned that the national guard buildings were empty and there had been talk of using that area for a new campground. Senator Meyer also stated that managers should be given more flexibility to run their parks instead of just being caretakers.

Mr. Bender said that the national guard has not submitted anything to the Department of Parks in writing indicating they will be leaving that area. He agreed that the campground does need work, and it is a top priority of the department to maintain what is there now, but relocating the campground area will not be a high priority in their budget request.

Senator Roeding also mentioned that maintenance in most of the parks was the biggest problem they saw. He said Kentucky has the best state parks in the country and upgrading of the parks should be the main priority in order for Kentucky to continue their leadership in this area. Senator Roeding asked about park managers' responsibilities at the park and he also wanted to know how much property is actually owned by the Department of Parks. Mr. Bender said the park manager is basically responsible for the routine day-to-day maintenance of the park and all facilities within the park. Problems are reported to staff in Frankfort, who in turn evaluate and prioritize the needs of the park. Mr. Bender said the department is asking for an increase from \$3.7 million to \$7 million for each year of the upcoming biennium for maintenance. With regard to the property holdings, the Department of Parks owns about 42,000 acres of land and 1300 buildings and structures, which are now all about 25-30 years old. All existing infrastructures are obsolete as far as today's codes and standards.

Mr. Goodman then commented on the parks' gift shops by stating that 99% of gift shop inventory is bought at the park level by the gift shop manager with the approval of the park manager and the business office. He then said that the central office is primarily responsible for buying gifts in bulk and imported items. The department is moving toward giving the managers more flexibility.

Representative Turner stated that some of the parks visited were outstanding, such as Kincaid State Park. He pointed out that My Old Kentucky Home State Park is not just a state shrine, but a national and international shrine, and should be very well maintained. Representative Turner also observed that there were large infestations of termites in the main office at Green River State Park. He stated that overall, with the exception of My Old Kentucky Home and Green River, the parks he visited in central Kentucky were in good shape and their staffs were very upbeat.

Representative Turner expressed concern about the archeological dig performed at Big Bone Lick State Park. Once the dig was completed, by out-of-state individuals, the bones were taken from Kentucky and never returned.

Mr. Bender said that Kentucky has been involved in ongoing discussions with the University of Nebraska to retrieve the bones they removed in 1966. The Department of Parks hopes to obtain funding for a major new museum facility at Big Bone Lick State Park to display the bones.

Senator Borders said that maintenance was found to be the major problem at the parks he visited in eastern Kentucky, but overall his subcommittee was very impressed with what they found. He believes that we should improve on what the parks now have before adding any new structures. Senator Borders said that this subcommittee, the legislature and the Department of Parks should support major infrastructure improvements and an extensive maintenance program. There should also be more emphasis on advertising.

Representative Bryant asked if Commissioner Smith or any deputy commissioners ever visited the parks. Commissioner Smith stated that he tried to visit each park three times a year if his schedule permits. Representative Bryant then asked if while visiting the parks, if the managers informed him of any problems that arise. Commissioner Smith said they do, and he in turn does what he can to help them. Mr. Goodman said that there are two directors under him that visit the parks at least twice a year.

Representative Bronger commented that he felt that painting should be performed at every park on a year around basis. He wanted to know if there were any painting crews in the department or if that work was hired out, especially on the cabins. Mr. Bender said painting was done both ways. Representative Bronger pointed out that if painting was done on a regular basis there would not be such a great maintenance problem. Mr. Bender agreed, but stated that funding is a problem.

Senator Leeper asked if the Department of Parks inspects state parks on a regular basis. Mr. Bender stated that the basic function of the Frankfort staff is to offer support services, and that the maintenance branch manager is primarily responsible for addressing parks' maintenance needs.

Senator Leeper asked if the P-9 crews were cost efficient. He said many of the park managers expressed concern about the P-9 crews. Mr. Bender said the P-9 Maintenance Program has been functioning within the Department of Parks for many years and over the last two years they have attempted to refine the program. The department has some concerns about the program but as yet has not been able to come up with a better solution to replace the program. In some instances work could have been done less expensively. Although there are concerns with the P-9 Program, its strength is that it can provide emergency assistance for parks at all hours.

Senator Leeper asked Mr. Bender if the subcommittee could get a copy of their six-year plan. Mr. Bender said a copy of the existing six-year plan and also an updated version which will reflect their new budget requests would be provided to the subcommittee.

Senator Meyer commented that a new camping area at Green River was never finished, even though the money was appropriated for it. Another problem he said the subcommittee noticed was the lack of vehicle maintenance. He suggested that vehicles should be replaced more often, instead of spending a lot of money to repair old vehicles.

Senator Borders commented that at each park there was a problem with leaking swimming pools. Mr. Bender responded by saying that they have tried to address this problem in their budget. Most pools are 25-30 years old and some of them will be rehabilitated and several other pools will need total replacement.

Representative Geveden stated that he was concerned about the funding process for the state park system. Mr. Bender stated that all receipts generated in the state park system go into a Department of Parks trust and agency fund. The department proposes a budget which the General Assembly must approve. Once a budget is approved, the General Assembly appropriates the difference in the revenue generated and the revenue necessary to meet the budget request. Representative Geveden asked if the department had considered taking a percentage of revenue from each park and allocating that for maintenance back to that specific park. Mr. Bender said they have not had the luxury of being able to do that because all revenues generated across the park system have had to be utilized to not only provide for maintenance but also to provide for the salaries for the park rangers and the non-income producing aspects of the park operation. He also said that the Appropriations and Revenue Committee has expressed some interest in creating a vehicle that would assure the appropriate and proper maintenance of the park system in future years.

Representative Geveden commented that the lack of rooms at the parks was a problem. He asked how far along the department was in considering a bond issue to fund the department's budget needs. Mr. Bender said that the department was encouraged by the fact that both of the gubernatorial candidates have gone on record by expressing the need of a bond issue in excess of \$100,000,000 for the state park system. Mr. Bender also said that department staff were discussing the ramifications of a bond issue, such as the state's bonding limit. Mr. Bender stated that the department's primary emphasis in the next budget is to maintain what we have now, but he also said the park system is in need of some additional facilities such as lodge rooms and cabins.

Representative Geveden asked what the department's feeling would be if the park system was operated similar to the Kentucky Fair and Exhibition Center as a separate corporation with an appointed board by the Governor. Mr. Bender said they would be very

receptive to discussing that issue.

Representative Geveden stated that park managers said they had difficulty marketing their particular park, because they were bound by restrictions on out-of-state travel. He stated that possibly there should be a person from each state park to be a marketing representative to go to major population areas near the park and spend time encouraging businesses to utilize their park's facilities. Representative Geveden asked what the policy requires in the way of specific authorization for out-of-state travel. Mr. Goodman stated the current state regulation says that employees must fill out an out-of-state travel authorization, but if fewer than four people travel at a time it does not require approval from the Finance and Administration Cabinet. He also said there is no internal Department of Parks' policy restricting out-of-state travel.

Another concern mentioned by Representative Geveden was that there were no regular meetings of park managers to discuss their parks' needs and problems. His subcommittee felt that the Department of Parks should schedule such a meeting on an annual basis.

Representative Geveden asked about complimentary lodging, meals and the free use of the parks by some individuals. Mr. Bender stated that there is an internal policy which permits complimentary rooms and meals on occasion. The general philosophy in the central office is that for an individual or group to receive these services, there needs to be some direct benefit to the park system.

There was a brief discussion on park marinas. Mr. Goodman stated that a lot of the marinas, at the state parks, were built in the 1960's. They were built with state funds and the leases were negotiated at that time with private interests to operate them. The department receives a percentage of the revenue generated at the marinas based on the lease agreement. The subcommittee expressed concern over the fact that the state pays for most of the marina maintenance. The members felt that as marina contracts expire, the department should take steps to operate the marinas themselves.

Representative Geveden thanked the representatives of the Department of Parks for their help and assured them that the subcommittees had enjoyed the park tours, which have been very productive. He assured them that the subcommittee wanted to assist the department in obtaining additional funding for maintenance, personnel, and more rooms at the state parks.

Commissioner Smith said he would like to see the subcommittees tour all of the parks at some time. He then asked the members of the subcommittee if they enjoyed the food at the parks, to which they all responded that the food was good.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENERGY TASK FORCE

Subcommittee on Tourism

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting
of the 1990-91 Interim

November 12, 1991

The sixth meeting of the Subcommittee on Tourism of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force was held on Tuesday, November 12, 1991, in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Chairman Charles Geveden, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Charles Geveden, Co-Chair; Senators Charles Borders, David Boswell, Henry Lackey, Robert Leeper, Richard Roeding; Representatives Jo Bryant, Robbie Castleman, Paul Richardson, Richard Sanders, Rex Smith, Richard Turner, and Lawson Walker.

Guests: Commissioner Don McCormick, and Thomas A. Young, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Bob Bender, Hugh Smith; Department of Parks.

LRC Staff: Linda Kubala, Ken Carroll, Gerard Donovan, Bill Van Arsdall, Mary Lynn Collins, and Diana Hill.

Press: KET.

Chairman Geveden called for the approval of the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were approved without objection. He then stated that the subcommittee had toured various state parks and had heard testimony from state park employees, as well as hunters, fishermen, and conservationists. A copy of the final report of the subcommittee was available in members' folders. Commissioner Don McCormick and Deputy Commissioner Thomas Young with the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and Mr. Bob Bender, Deputy Commissioner of Support Services with the Department of Parks were available for questions and comments on the recommendations.

Responding to a question from Representative Richardson regarding bill drafts, Chairman Geveden said the report is the summary of the subcommittee's visits and inquiries to the Parks Department and Fish and Wildlife Department. He said there is no legislation involved in the report, but only recommendations to the full task force. Chairman Geveden said that if the full committee feels any recommendations should lead to legislation, then bill drafts may be forthcoming. The subcommittee proceeded to discuss recommendations pertaining to the Department of Parks.

In going over the recommendations, concern was expressed regarding the termite problem at some of the parks. It was suggested that someone in the Department of Agriculture should be contacted to help solve the termite problem. Mr. Bender stated that there is an ongoing program of insect/termite detection by park managers. He said they will survey park managers to identify the problem areas and in turn notify the Department of Agriculture for help.

Senator Roeding said he was impressed with park managers' willingness to talk candidly with subcommittee members during their visits. He asked that the managers be commended by the department.

Regarding the recommendation requesting the General Assembly to support a bond issue to fund a comprehensive maintenance and new

construction programs, Representative Walker expressed concern that bond revenue would be used for maintenance projects. Chairman Geveden explained that some of the bond revenue would be expended on special maintenance and renovation projects such as the reconstruction of cabins or lodges. Other members expressed concern also.

A motion was made to amend the second recommendation by deleting the words "a comprehensive maintenance program". The second recommendation would now read, "The 1992 General Assembly should support a bond issue to fund new construction and renovation projects at parks." The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Representative Richardson stated that there is a great need for additional signs along four-lane limited access highways in order to call attention to state parks and other tourism related facilities. He said that the federal government is very restrictive, and suggested corresponding with Kentucky's congressional delegation to remind them of the importance of signage to the tourism industry.

Chairman Geveden stated that it seems the state is losing a great deal of revenue by contracting out the marinas to the private sector. He suggested that when the contracts expire, the department look into operating the marinas instead of leasing them out. Mr. Bender said the cabinet secretary is in agreement, however, the next

contract will not be up for another six or seven years. Chairman Geveden asked how the subcommittee can be assured that its wishes are carried out. Senator Boswell suggested it could be done statutorily. Chairman Geveden asked Mr. Bender to supply a listing of all marinas and their contract expiration dates.

Recommendations pertaining to the Department for Fish and Wildlife were discussed next. Senator Borders discussed conversations he had had with Representative Dick Castleman and Commissioner McCormick concerning offering free hunting and fishing licenses to persons living on social security, retirement, or disability incomes. He said the number of people taking advantage of the free licenses would probably be lower than suspected, although there would be some impact to the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Representative Walker agreed with the recommendations for the department, but questioned how they would be implemented. Chairman Geveden said that if the full task force endorsed the recommendations, then the department could seek sponsors for bills that implement the recommendations. Representative Walker also asked why there are fewer hunters now than in past years. Commissioner McCormick said there are now many more activities for young people. He also said that anti-hunting sentiment has grown because it has been enhanced through the media. He said the decline

of license sales is a nationwide trend. Commissioner McCormick said the decline in the number of licenses may necessitate instituting user fees on wildlife areas in the near future.

In discussing the recommendation on a user pay system, Chairman Geveden asked if there are any user pay systems already established to generate revenue besides the one at the Ballard Wildlife Management Area. Commissioner McCormick said there are a few, but not many. He said the proposed system would require paying for use of the property.

Representative Smith said that user fees are a legitimate approach to maintain facilities, noting that user fees are used in transportation network upkeep. Commissioner McCormick agreed, saying that user fees will be necessary to keep up with growth of the use of the wildlife areas by nontraditional users, such as horseback riders, photographers, and hikers.

Representative Turner asked how to encourage people to leave land to the Department of Fish and Wildlife upon their death. Commissioner McCormick said a foundation should be created for that very purpose. He discussed instances whereby a piece of land was left to the department, and problems arose as to what to do with it. A foundation could be useful in resolving these issues, and could be used to purchase land for the department. Representative Turner

suggested the subcommittee and the department work together to create a foundation. He discussed his concern about the rapidly decreasing amount of wildlife habitat, and said something must be done to protect it. Commissioner McCormick responded by saying that the department has been involved in "biodiversity" for several years. He said that other states' departments of fish and wildlife have been the agencies who have spoken up about the problems and concerns expressed by Representative Turner. He said that the other states' departments have been criticized for only promoting programs for game species; however, habitat that is created or saved for game species also benefits non-game species.

Senator Boswell asked how the user fee system will affect people who buy combination hunting and fishing licenses and water fowl stamps. Commissioner McCormick said the user fee would probably be included in the cost of the licenses or stamps. He declined to discuss specific situations. He did say, however, that the whole licensing system in Kentucky will be revamped in the next few years so that different types of hunting will be allowed with only one license.

Chairman Geveden asked if any thought had been given to a bond issue for land acquisition. Commissioner McCormick said it has been discussed but not received favorably by the Commission.

Chairman Geveden said that when land is bought by the state, it is taken from the property tax rolls and counties must look elsewhere for the lost revenue. He asked for the Commissioner's thoughts on giving part of the revenues generated on the wildlife areas back to the counties. Commissioner McCormick said he would be against the idea because the department already gives away a significant amount of revenue through the exclusions of license requirements that certain Kentucky residents are allowed. If the department is required to give more money away, the price of licenses will have to be raised to make up for the loss. In turn, the licenses will be too high for many sportsmen to afford.

After brief discussion, Chairman Geveden had to leave the meeting for another meeting. He asked Representative Smith to chair the remainder of the meeting.

Representative Smith asked if any other states have the option of acquiring non-profit status in accepting tax deductible contributions for purposes of acquiring public lands. Commissioner McCormick said there were not many, if any. He based this on the fact that the department receives correspondence from other states seeking information on foundations Kentucky may have in place. Representative Smith stated that the possibility of establishing a foundation should be explored by the General Assembly.

Senator Boswell commented on public access around property bought or owned by the state. He said that on new lakes public access should be provided by looking into acquiring enough land in the development of the lake to impose a greater setback. The public should be made more aware of what the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has to offer. He said the public should appreciate our state's natural resources and environment because the department works very hard to protect them.

Commissioner McCormick also stated that the department is in the process of establishing a national wildlife refuge in Kentucky.

After going over the recommendations, Representative Smith thanked the representatives of the Department of Parks and Fish and Wildlife Resources for their input and help. He stated that if they wanted to turn any of the recommendations into legislative proposals they should present them to the 1992 General Assembly.

Representative Smith entertained a motion to recommend the final report and recommendations of the Subcommittee on Tourism, as amended, to the full task force. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Next on the agenda was consideration of BR 250, AN ACT relating to tourist and convention commissions, sponsored by Representative

Gregory, to be recommended to the full task force for prefiling. The bill states that cities and counties have the option to set up tourist commissions by joint or separate action. There was a brief discussion on the terms served by commissioners. It was decided that this issue would be discussed in the full task force meeting. A motion was made and seconded to recommend BR 250 to the full task force for prefiling. The motion carried by voice vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF
WESTERN KENTUCKY FACILITIES OF THE TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY TASK FORCE

Minutes of the First Meeting
of the 1990-91 Interim

August 26-27, 1991

The first meeting of the Special Subcommittee on the Review of Western Kentucky Facilities of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force was held on Monday, August 26 and Tuesday, August 27, 1991.

Present were:

Members present August 26: Representative Charles Geveden, Chair; Senators David Boswell and Robert Leeper; Representatives Woody Allen and Richard Sanders.

Members present August 27: Senators David Boswell, Henry Lackey, and Robert Leeper; Representatives Woody Allen and Richard Sanders.

Guests: Bobby Hurt, Park Manager, Barren River Lake State Resort Park; Pete Sherrow, Park Manager, Rough River Dam State Resort Park; Dennie Satterly, Park Manager, Ben Hawes State Park; Mary Dee Ellis, Park Manager, John James Audubon State Park.

LRC Staff: Ken Carroll and Bruce Smith.

The subcommittee convened at 9:00 a.m. in the dining room in the lodge at Barren River Lake State Resort Park. The first order of business was to sample the food by eating breakfast. The subcommittee agreed that the breakfast was good. After breakfast, Bobby Hurt, Park Manager, greeted the subcommittee and then took members and staff on a tour of the park.

Mr. Hurt first took the subcommittee to the kitchen which the members rated as excellent on efficiency but only average on cleanliness. The food service segment of the park utilizes 24 employees on two shifts. The next stop was the meeting hall.

Mr. Hurt explained to the subcommittee that 63% of the park's revenue is generated by business groups who conduct meetings at the park. Although the park ranks fifth or sixth in overall park revenue generated, it still had a loss of \$285,000 last year. Chairman Geveden asked what it would take for the park to generate a profit. Mr. Hunt responded that the park needs more rooms and also needs to increase the size of its meeting hall from 250 to 500 seats. The members were then shown a cabin and a typical lodge room.

Senator Boswell asked Mr. Hunt about the park's maintenance program, especially the Department of Park's P-9 crew. Mr. Hunt

responded that the P-9 crew does a pretty good job, but the state parks would be maintained better if each park had a small maintenance crew or the ability to contract locally for the needed services.

In response to a question from Representative Allen regarding the percentage of out-of-state park visitors, Mr. Hurt stated that out-of-state visitors accounted for 68% of the visitors. Senator Boswell asked Mr. Hurt if any records were kept on the number of people turned away because there were no vacancies at the park. Mr. Hurt said no data has been kept on visitors turned away. The subcommittee members agreed with Senator Boswell that the turn-away information could help decisionmakers determine customer demand at various park facilities.

Mr. Hurt was asked by Chairman Geveden if there were any problems at the park that the subcommittee should be aware of. Mr. Hurt responded that the swimming pool leaks approximately 11,000 gallons of water per day, costing the park approximately \$600 per month. Chairman Geveden agreed to see what could be done to address the problem, then he thanked Mr. Hurt for the tour of the park.

The subcommittee then held a short meeting in the dining room to fill out the evaluation form on the park. Upon reaching a consensus on the evaluation form, the subcommittee recessed until 2:00 p.m., at which time the subcommittee reconvened in the dining room at Rough River Dam State Resort Park.

Chairman Geveden called the subcommittee meeting to order. The first order of business was to eat lunch and evaluate the food service operation at the park. The subcommittee members agreed the food was good. After lunch, Mr. Pete Sherrow, Park Manager, introduced himself to the subcommittee and then took members and staff on a tour of the park.

Mr. Sherrow took the subcommittee to the kitchen which did not seem to be as clean as it could be. Mr. Sherrow reminded the members that the kitchen was old and was due to be closed in December for renovation. The next stop was the recently completed meeting facility, with a seating capacity of 400 people, which the members agreed was a nice addition to the lodge complex. The members were then taken to see a lodge room, a cabin, the beach, the campground, the marina, and the golf course.

After the park tour, the subcommittee held a short meeting in the newly constructed conference room. Mr. Sherrow was asked if the park shows a profit. He responded that the park shows a loss of approximately \$230,000 per year. Mr. Sherrow was asked what the park needs to improve its profitability. He responded that the park needs an eighteen-hole golf course, marina improvements, and a significant

increase in lodging facilities to compliment the new meeting facility.

Chairman Geveden thanked Mr. Sherrow for the park tour. The subcommittee then held a short meeting to reach a consensus on the evaluation form. The subcommittee then recessed until Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

The subcommittee convened at Ben Hawes State Park and was greeted by Dennie Satterly, Park Manager. The primary activity at the park is golfing. Mr. Satterly first took the members on a tour of the clubhouse which is an old brick farmhouse. Mr. Satterly said the clubhouse was in need of renovation, and the members present agreed.

The members were then taken on a tour of the golf course which was well groomed and in decent condition considering the hot dry summer and extensive usage. Mr. Satterly next took the members to the picnic shelter, which was in need of repair. Some of the support posts need to be replaced and the structure alone needs to be painted. Mr. Satterly commented that he could maintain the park better if he had a fulltime maintenance crew or the ability to contract locally for maintenance. The members were also shown the playground and tennis courts which need to be renovated also.

After the tour, Mr. Satterly was asked if there were any other problems that the members needed to be informed of. He stated that he has a problem with people sneaking in and playing golf without paying. Mr. Satterly suggests that a fence may need to be erected in certain areas to address the situation. The subcommittee members thanked him for the tour. The meeting recessed until 11:00 at John James Audubon State Park, at which time the members were welcomed to the park by Mary Dee Ellis, Park Manager.

Ms. Ellis informed the subcommittee that the museum was closed for renovation and that the items on display were being packed to be put in storage. The museum renovation project, along with the construction of a nature center adjacent to the museum, was funded by the 1990 General Assembly in the amount of \$2,132,000. The museum and nature center is scheduled to be open to the public in the Spring of 1993.

Senator Lackey asked Ms. Ellis to place a value on the Audubon collection which had been on display at the museum. Ms. Ellis said the collection is valued at \$20-25 million. Senator Lackey then asked Ms. Ellis about security arrangements for the collection. Ms. Ellis said that other than the park ranger, there is no continuous security at the museum. She added that the Henderson city police and the Henderson County sheriff are called upon if needed. Ms. Ellis

also said that the museum, when opened in the Spring of 1993, should be protected on a continuous basis with armed guards and a burgler alarm.

Ms. Ellis was then asked to list other needs at the park. She said the Tea House, which serves as the park's office building, needs a new electrical system, plumbing, and a new roof. She also said the park needs a thirty-room lodge with a meeting facility to accommodate educational groups that come to the park to experience the new museum and nature center. Ms. Ellis said that Pumpkin Creek Lodge at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park is an example of the type of lodge facility needed at John James Audubon State Park.

Ms. Ellis also said that she would like to see the state acquire a wetland area adjacent to the proposed nature center to offer an additional educational experience to park patrons. She also said that the park's lake is old and dirty and needs to be renovated. Ms. Ellis concluded by mentioning that the golf course needs some renovation work, particularly a better irrigation system for the greens and the fairways. The members thanked Ms. Ellis for her presentation and then took a tour of the park.

The subcommittee toured the campground which seemed to be in good shape. It then took a tour of the lake area which had a lot of debris and trash on its banks. Next the members toured some picnic sites and then toured the golf course. The golf course fairways were in bad shape primarily because of a combination of hard rain and then a dry summer. The last stop made by the subcommittee was a tour of the museum. Most of the displays had already been packed for storage.

The review of John James Audubon State Park concluded around 4:30 p.m., at which time the subcommittee adjourned.

SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF
WESTERN KENTUCKY FACILITIES OF THE TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY TASK FORCE

Minutes of the Second Meeting
of the 1990-91 Interim

September 23-24, 1991

The second meeting of the Special Subcommittee on the Review of Western Kentucky Facilities of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force was held on Monday, September 23 and Tuesday, September 24, 1991.

Present were:

Members present August 26: Representative Charles Geveden, Chair; Senator Robert Leeper and Representative Richard Sanders.

Members present August 27: Representative Charles Geveden, Chair; Senator Robert Leeper and Representative Richard Sanders.

Guests: June Hudson, Park Manager, Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park; Mark Lovely, Park Manager, Lake Barkley State Resort Park; Bill Hainsworth, Park Manager, Kenlake State Resort Park; Frank Waggoner, Park Manager, Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park.

LRC Staff: Ken Carroll and Bill Van Arsdall.

The subcommittee convened at 9:30 a.m. in the dining room of the lodge at Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park. The subcommittee members were greeted by June Hudson, Park Manager, who sat and talked with the members as they sampled breakfast at the park. Chairman Geveden asked Ms. Hudson about specific needs at the park. Ms. Hudson said the park was in need of a new bathhouse at the beach to replace the old one that had been torn down. She said the new one didn't need to be nearly so large as the old one was. She also said that the riding stable was in need of insurance coverage to protect the park from liability. The last item of need she mentioned was converting the vacant space under the meeting hall into administrative offices.

Chairman Geveden then asked Ms. Hudson if park management staff should be transferred to another park periodically. She said that it was her opinion that the park manager, business manager, maintenance supervisor, and the chef should be transferred to a different park every four years. The park management staff should be given the opportunity to function at different types of parks throughout their careers.

Chairman Geveden then asked Ms. Hudson about the training needs of park managers. Ms. Hudson said that park managers need training on an annual basis. She said the Governmental Services Center in Frankfort offers effective training courses and the department will pay for it but the park managers don't utilize it much.

Representative Sanders asked Ms. Hudson about the greens on the park's golf course. She said the greens are wonderful even though they have had some problems with the irrigation pump at the course, and that the park has a good grounds keeper. In response to a question from Senator Leeper on where the closest golf courses were, Ms. Hudson stated that the closest courses were in Hopkinsville. Chairman Geveden asked if the golf course makes money and she said yes.

Representative Sanders noted that there were a lot of senior citizens at the park. Ms. Hudson stated that 40-50% of the park's customers are senior citizens. Representative Sanders asked if the park or any other park had a croquet course. Ms. Hudson said she didn't know of any.

Representative Sanders asked if the P-9 maintenance concept worked good at the park. She said it did not. She was asked why. Ms. Hudson said that she got a quote of \$2000, plus the cost of the paint, from them to paint her official residence, and it would be more than two weeks before they could start. She said she could perform the same job with local labor for \$760 with paint included.

The members thanked Ms. Hudson for being so candid with them. She then took the subcommittee members on a tour of the park. After the tour the members and staff departed for Lake Barkley State Resort Park.

Chairman Geveden reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the dining room in the lodge at Lake Barkley State Resort Park. Mark Lovely, Park Manager, greeted the members and staff and met with them while they ate lunch.

Chairman Geveden asked Mr. Lovely how things were going at the park. He responded that the golf course greens were being renovated and had not been seeded yet, but were scheduled to be sown in a few days. Mr. Lovely was asked about the occupancy rate at the park and he responded that the annual occupancy rate is approximately 65%.

Chairman Geveden asked Mr. Lovely about needs at the park, and he responded that this park and others need more staff. He said the legislative cap on personnel and the lack of a quality workforce in rural areas makes it very difficult to fill positions. Mr. Lovely was asked which parks could justify having an assistant manager. He

said that the state resort parks on Lake Barkley, Kentucky Lake and Lake Cumberland could justify the position. Senator Leeper asked Mr. Lovely his opinion concerning the rotation of park management staff every four years. Mr. Lovely said that as long as the park management staff is performing well at a park that they should be allowed to remain at the park indefinitely. He said that community relations is a key factor in running a state park and a park manager who has a good long-standing relationship with the local community can perform his job better. Besides, he said, at this point in his career if he was promoted and transferred the only place for him to go is to the central office in Frankfort.

Chairman Geveden asked Mr. Lovely if the department helps him market the parks. He said that it does, but the individual parks need funding to market their parks locally. He also said there is a need for a marketing specialists to be assigned to market a particular park or parks within a region of the state. For example, a marketing specialist could go to Nashville to approach business and tour groups and entice them into coming to Lake Barkley State Resort Park.

Representative Sanders asked Mr. Lovely about the P-9 maintenance program. Mr. Lovely said it works pretty good but if he had the funding he could address the maintenance needs more efficiently. He said every state resort park should have a carpenter, plumber and an electrician who could help each other on projects and also utilize other park staff when needed. He also said that park managers should have more flexibility to contract locally

for needed construction and maintenance projects.

Chairman Geveden thanked Mr. Lovely for meeting with the members. Mr. Lovely then took the members on a tour of the park. After the tour Chairman Geveden adjourned the meeting.

On the second day of the two-day meeting Chairman Geveden convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the dining room in the lodge at Kenlake State Resort Park. The members and staff were greeted by Bill Hainsworth, Park Manager, who invited the members to sample breakfast. Chairman Geveden asked Mr. Hainsworth about the condition of the marina. Mr. Hainsworth said the marina was all wood and was the old marina from Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park. He said it is due to be totally renovated in 1993. Senator Leeper asked why parks don't run the marinas themselves. Mr. Hainsworth said there is a perception that parks lack personnel with expertise to run a marina.

Chairman Geveden asked Mr. Hainsworth if all parks have a group sales agent. He said they do not, but there probably should be one assigned to a park or set of parks in a particular region of the state. Chairman Geveden asked Mr. Hainsworth what the greatest need at the park was. He responded that the park needs a 600-seat conference center to accommodate large groups, especially religious groups which are a good market for the park. Senator Leeper said he felt that the department needed to match the lodging and meeting facilities at a park so it did not overbuild facilities.

Chairman Geveden asked if park management staff should be required to attend annual training seminars. Mr. Hainsworth said that they should be required to take two weeks of training annually, much like the private sector. He was asked about hospitality training for all park employees. He said the department has a policy memo on greeting guests, but required hospitality training would be a good idea. Chairman Geveden asked Mr. Hainsworth if it was a good idea to transfer park management staff every four years. He said it was not, unless it was determined that a staff person would perform better in a different setting. Continuity is the key to success. If the park management staff is doing a good job leave them there.

Representative Sanders asked about the annual occupancy rate at the park. Mr. Hainsworth responded that it ranges from 45-55%. Chairman Geveden asked if the park had a positive bottom line. Mr. Hainsworth responded that it did not. The park lost \$300,000 last year and will probably lose in excess of \$400,000 this year.

Mr. Hainsworth then took the subcommittee on a tour of the park. After the tour Chairman Geveden thanked Mr. Hainsworth and recessed the meeting until 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:00 p.m. at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park. Mr. Frank Waggoner, Park Manager, greeted the subcommittee members then joined them for lunch. Chairman Geveden asked Mr. Waggoner about the renovation needs at state parks. Mr. Waggoner said piecemeal renovation doesn't work. He said major renovation of an entire park should be performed then move on to

another park. Chairman Geveden then asked Mr. Waggoner if the park had a positive bottom line. He said it normally has a profit of \$300,000 but this year it only has a profit of \$30,000.

Chairman Geveden asked Mr. Waggoner if parks should operate the marinas themselves. He said his primary concern would be the department having to buy houseboats at \$125,000 each and then having to maintain them. He was also asked about park management staff being transferred every four years. He said that as long as the staff is doing a good job that they should be allowed to stay at a park. Senator Leeper asked Mr. Waggoner when the last annual park manager meeting was held. Mr. Waggoner said that he could not remember the last one.

Chairman Geveden asked Mr. Waggoner about needs at the park. He said that he would like to see the completion of the auditorium project. He also said the lodge needs to be totally renovated and a pool for the cottage area needs to be built. Finally, he said the runway needs to be extended by 2000 feet and a hanger needs to be built.

Mr. Waggoner then took the members on a tour of the park. After the tour Chairman Geveden thanked him and the meeting was adjourned.

NORTH-CENTRAL SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY TASK FORCE

Minutes of the First Meeting
of the 1990-91 Interim

September 5-6 1991

The first meeting of the North-Central Special Subcommittee of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force was held on Thursday, September 5 and Friday, September 6, 1991.

Present were:

Members present August 5, 1991: Senator Danny Meyer, Chairman; Senator Bill Quinlan; Representatives Jerry Bronger, Lawson Walker, and Richard Turner.

Members present August 6, 1991: Senator Danny Meyer, Chairman; Sen. Bill Quinlan; Representatives Jerry Bronger, Lawson Walker, and Richard Turner.

Guests: Mike Larimore and Steve Marple, Frankfort Fish Hatchery; Bob Johnson and Luella Moore, Blue Licks Battlefield State Park; Delbert Ried, Kincaid Lake State Park; Irene Patrick, Shirley Meihaus, and Scott Kerrick, Boone County; Robert Lindy, Big Bone Lick State Park; Deena Pettyjohn, Liz Harmon and Donald Thomas, General Butler State Resort Park..

LRC Staff: Linda Kubala and Mark York.

The subcommittee convened outside of the office of the Frankfort Fish Hatchery, in Franklin County, at 9:30 a.m. Hatchery manager Mike Larimore explained that the facility was built in the 1950's by the federal government. The state has used its efforts just to maintain the facility since it took over operations in 1987, but now personnel are at work renovating some of the ponds. He said the hatchery is used to raise large mouth bass, minnows and goldfish, bluegills, catfish, and sunfish, both to stock state-owned lakes and to operate the farm pond stocking program. Farm ponds used to be stocked free; now the service costs the farmer \$10. Bass leave the hatchery when they are about 1-2", while catfish are raised to 3" for farm ponds, and 10" for state fishing lakes.

Senator Meyer asked how long it takes for a fish to grow to a legal size. Mr. Larimore said that in a managed pond, small mouth bass can reach 12" in two years, while it would take six years to reach that size in the Elkhorn Creek.

Mr. Larimore then showed the members two ponds which are being renovated. He said they had taken bids for the project, and the low bid was \$19,000. So hatchery personnel did the work in-house

instead, renting a bulldozer for \$2,000 and borrowing a dump truck from the Department of Transportation. In response to a question, he said the facility employed five full-time employees, two of which are 11-month temporary, and two summer aids. They do all their own maintenance, using the off season for that purpose.

The subcommittee then went to the hatchery building, where fish are brought to be counted and weighed before leaving the hatchery. Like the rest of the hatchery, this building dates from the 1950's, and all of the transfers must be done by hand. Responding to a question about ties to Kentucky State University, Mr. Larimore said the hatchery had benefitted a lot from the help of KSU's fish pathologist. ESC, a bacterial disease of catfish, appeared last year and has been endemic at the hatchery, despite efforts to eradicate it. Mr. Larimore hopes to build a more modern hatchery building, and also plans to try raising blue catfish, which grow to trophy size.

The subcommittee then walked out to one of the acre-sized ponds to watch catfish being fed. Steve Marple explained that a variety of feeds are used for different kinds of fish and stages of development. Under their present management, they get 1.2-1.5 pounds of catfish for each pound of feed they use. Mike Larimore said that the facility now raises far more pounds of fish per pond-acre than it did when it was under federal management. Senator Meyer asked about 11-month temporary employees. Mr. Larimore said they have been unable to put these employees on a full-time basis. The facility needs more personnel. He also noted that Fish and Wildlife Resources is funded by hunting and fishing licenses, yet their facilities serve many people who are not traditional sportsmen. He said Kentucky might look at extra funding methods for these programs, such as a visitor sticker sold in Nebraska.

The subcommittee then traveled to Blue Licks Battlefield State Park in Robertson County. The group met Mr. Bob Johnson, park manager, at the park office and then proceeded to the area of the museum and gift shop. Mr. Johnson took the group a short distance along the old Buffalo Trace, which is part of a nature preserve within the park. He showed members the endangered Short's Goldenrod, which is found only along this remnant of the Buffalo Trace. The group then toured the museum, which was built in 1931 and expanded in 1936, and viewed a video in the museum about the Battle of Blue Licks. The group also visited the small gift shop across the parking lot from the museum.

Responding to questions by members, Mr. Johnson said the park employed 28 during the summer and five in winter. Everything is closed in the winter except the new multi-purpose building, which he said is booked nearly every weekend throughout the year. The main constraint to park expansion is the land for new facilities, since the park contains only 150 acres. The park mainly serves a local clientele, although visitors come from all parts of the country. When the park hosted the "Simon Kenton Drama" for three days this Summer, 1600 people attended. The pool is an especially important local facility. Leaks developed in the pool and it had to be closed

and drained in May. Temporary repairs were made, but an estimated \$70,000 are needed to repair the pool.

Mr. Johnson then took the subcommittee to the multi-purpose building. Mr. Johnson said that this building rents for \$100 or \$150 a day, and is heavily used. Most of the use is local, since surrounding towns do not have any large facilities like this. All of the facilities were very clean and well-maintained. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the multi-purpose building could be expanded into a lodge, and expressed certainty that the park could support a lodge facility. Funds had been approved for two cottages near the multi-purpose building, and construction had begun, but the contractor had gone bankrupt, leaving the cottages unfinished. He said he was looking into the possibility of building a road and ramp to the Licking River, making the river accessible for some water sports.

The group then moved to the pool facility. The pool, which closed after Labor Day, had been drained, and Mr. Johnson explained the problems they had had with leaks. He explained that the park operates all of its own concessions, including a snack bar at the pool. Representative Turner asked about the diving board, since these have been removed from most public pools due to liability. Mr. Johnson said the board had passed inspection this year; the 12-foot depth of that part of the pool may make diving less hazardous. During the summer, the pool regularly draws 300 people on weekends, 50 people on weekdays.

The subcommittee then viewed the miniature golf course and toured the campground, noting that all of these facilities are well-maintained.

Leaving Blue Licks Battlefield State Park, the subcommittee traveled to Kincaid Lake State Park in Pendleton County. They met park manager Delbert Ried at the park office, and briefly visited a restored log cabin near the office. They also visited the large picnic shelter in the vicinity, located in an open field. The group then proceeded to a parking lot and lake access point near the Kincaid Lake Dam. Mr. Reid said this area also is the emergency overflow for the lake, and he has seen it underwater twice in past years. The lake covers 200 acres of land, but has 12 miles of shoreline. The other side of the lake is privately owned. The lake is operated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, but they do not control the water level. Swimming has been prohibited in the lake for three years, and the new pool was built where the beach used to be.

Mr. Reid showed the group the multi-purpose building, which was built in 1981-82. He said that the building gets year-round weekend use, and is rented primarily by local groups and individuals. The group then proceeded to the marina. Most of the boats had been removed after labor day, and the marina concessions were closed. Mr. Reid said the park operated all of its concessions itself. When open, the marina rents paddle boats, pontoon boats, and fishing

boats and sells small items. He said the park is heavily used. The campground is full all summer, and other facilities also stay very busy. The park's nearly 1000 acres could support more facilities, including a lodge and cabins.

The subcommittee next visited the pool area. The pool, built three years ago, was closed and had been drained. Local citizens are very supportive of the park. A local fund drive raised \$50,000 from Falmouth citizens to build the pool. The group is now working to raise \$100,000 as seed money to convince the state to build a lodge at the park.

The group then viewed a playground, picnic area, and the park grocery. They visited the park's recreation area, which includes basketball, tennis and paddleball courts, miniature golf, shuffle board, playground equipment and other sports. This complex also closed Labor Day, and Mr. Reid showed the committee that all of the equipment had been cleaned and put away in such shape that everything was ready to open next year. He explained that careful preventive maintenance and prompt repairs kept the facility in good shape, although the fencing around the courts, for example, had been in place more than 15 years. The park employs 36, of which eight work year round.

The subcommittee then visited the campground which, like all of the park, was neatly mowed and very clean. The campground had no blacktopped sites. Mr. Reid said he strongly favored first-come first-served rental of campsites over reservations, because people often reserved places but did not show up, leaving others without a place.

After completing its tour of Kincaid Lake State Park, the Subcommittee recessed until 9:30 a.m. September 6.

The subcommittee reconvened at the park office of Big Bone Lick State Park in Boone County at 9:30 a.m., September 6. After meeting park manager Robert Lindy, the group heard from three members of Boone County government about the possibility of building a lodge or convention center near the park. County Commissioner Irene Patrick spoke of the strong local support for the park, and the presence of several local attractions nearby. Commissioner Shirley Meihaus described some of the efforts of the local people to get state support for a lodge at the park, which would overlook the Ohio River. Commissioner Meihaus also gave the committee a packet of information about the proposed park expansion. She told the members that the park easily could pick up group business from the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area, and that a lodge would offer an alternative to the urban facilities. Representative Bronger noted that convention business would be hard to attract as long as the facility could not serve alcohol, and a discussion ensued over different aspects of the proposal. The Boone County representatives then left materials with the members, and the subcommittee proceeded to tour the park with manager Robert Lindy.

Mr. Lindy took the members through the playground and baseball diamond area. This area looked somewhat unkempt, in part because several days of rain had made mowing impossible. Mr. Lindy noted that the playground equipment was being taken out, to replace it with safer equipment. The park employs seven full-time people, 15 during the "shoulder" periods and 30-32 during summer months. Mr. Lindy was asked about the practice of hiring employees as 11-month seasonal, and said he found this practice to be bad for employee morale. It made it hard to expect the best performance out of employees when they are denied some benefits.

The group then visited a parking area with a restroom building and large tent. Mr. Lindy said they put up the tent in spring and rented it for \$30 a day, and had it rented out constantly. He said a permanent shelter at this site would be well-used and would make more sense in the long run than a temporary tent. He said he would like to have many improvements for the park, like a new shelter house, and supported the idea of a lodge, but that his primary concern was to improve the museum and the educational aspects of the park.

Mr. Lindy next took the group to the museum/gift shop, both housed in a very small building with a parking lot. The park's Diorama Trail also begins at this point, so the group first walked along that trail, viewing the new pen for the park's herd of 12 buffalo. A boardwalk cuts across the swamp, and plaques tell about the buffalo, the salt springs, the big bone discoveries, and history of the area. The members saw a fiberglass and concrete reconstruction of bones as they might have been when the site first was explored. This was built in the 1960s and is in very poor shape. Mr. Lindy said he would make a display like this very differently today, and this should be taken out and replaced. He said he was working with the Forestry Service to place identification plaques on many of the trees, and add more interpretive signs. Representative Turner asked whether a display could be built to show people a cross-section of a dig. Mr. Lindy said this would be hard, since the marsh area is waterlogged and in the flood plain. There ensued a lively discussion of various possibilities for developing this unique place into a valuable educational facility for school classes and a research facility. Mr. Lindy said the University of Nebraska had conducted extensive excavations in the 1960s, with the understanding that all bones eventually would be returned to the park. The finds, however, never were returned. Senator Meyer directed staff to look into this, and also to research a possible bill draft requiring all research at state parks to proceed under the auspices of a state university, and all artifacts to remain in the state. Mention was made of establishing a cooperative research endeavor between the park and Northern Kentucky University to further the research potential of the park. Mr. Lindy said that one of his main priorities is to upgrade the park's educational and research capability. He said a feasibility study of a museum had received funding of \$60,000, but he did not know whether work was progressing. While he would like a major new museum/research facility, and has developed plans for such a facility, he said that

he could not simply wait in hopes that such a project would be approved and built. He said he wants to take smaller steps in the meantime which will make better use of the facilities already in place. Mr. Lindy said the park's annual Salt Festival pursues an educational and historical theme. All of the participants actually must demonstrate making their crafts, not just sell them.

The members then walked the rest of the trail, stopping to discuss the historical significance of the salt springs and salt mining. Returning to the parking lot, the group then entered the gift shop, which Mr. Lindy said earned more money than any other in the state park system, although it is a very small shop. The museum is located in the back room of the gift shop. It consists of one room, a dramatic mastodon skull and some other ice-age bones, some modern bones, and a video presentation. Members pointed out that the skeleton of a buffalo and some other displays were not labeled. Mr. Lindy said he would fix that right away. Mr. Lindy pointed out his preferred location for a new museum building, which could use the existing parking lot. He has asked for temporary improvements on the museum, which will cost \$17,000 this year and \$42,000 next year. These include shifting the gift shop space and utilizing the museum area more effectively, using dividers to partition the space into a maze, and adding murals and much more interpretive information.

The group then toured the campground, which like the other parks visited was nearly empty after Labor Day. Mr. Lindy said the campground is full throughout the summer, and they could fill a facility with twice as many sites.

Following its tour of Big Bone Lick State Park, the subcommittee traveled to General Butler State Resort Park in Carroll County. The members ate in the dining room at the park lodge, and met park business manager Deena Pettyjohn. Ms. Pettyjohn said the park is a major draw for the area, and its facilities are very heavily used. The lodge, with 57 rooms, and the dining room, which seats 133, are at capacity. Due to the lack of facilities, and particularly the lack of adequate meeting rooms, the park has had to turn away many groups which wanted to meet there during the past year. This not only applies to new groups, but some groups which have met at the park for years have outgrown the facilities.

The members asked Ms. Pettyjohn several questions about the use of part-time and temporary classifications for park employees who in fact are permanent and full-time. Ms. Pettyjohn asked one of the waitresses to speak to that, since she is an 11-month seasonal worker. She said the classification seems unfair and hurts morale when the employees work with others in the same jobs with no more seniority who are classified as full-time. The 11-month seasonal employees receive no vacation days and must pay their own insurance one month each year. After lunch, the group visited the lodge registration desk and spoke to employees, who included a "part-time" employee who in fact works full time, who said the main drawback of the classification is a lack of job security and of advancement opportunity. Ms. Pettyjohn said they hope to move the registration

area, which is small and out of the way. Employees had brought their own chairs and lamps to make the area more functional.

Ms. Pettyjohn and Donald Thomas, maintenance supervisor, then took the group to the conference center. The center consists of two classroom-sized rooms. A third room was supposed to be a kitchen, but never has been completed, so it is used as storage. Initially, the conference center was to have included a larger meeting room, but this never was built. Ms. Pettyjohn said that General Butler was the only park which made a profit at one time. Now, a few of the other parks operate in the black, but General Butler has losses of 7-10%. The lodge and cottages are most heavily used in summer, and also are full when the weather is good for skiing in the winter. Ski Butler is not operated by the park, but by a private concession. Ms. Pettyjohn said that the parks need to be able to make more of their business decisions on-site, and that parks like General Butler should be operated as profit centers. Ms. Pettyjohn provided members with the park's Capital Outlay Request for 1991-92. She said many of the items on the list - such as new picnic tables or the conference center kitchen, have been requested year after year but are not approved. The park has a tent, which it can rent out for \$30 per day. However, it costs park personnel more than \$30 to set up and take down the tent, so it does not use it. The prices must be realistic and individual parks must have some flexibility in their operations.

The group toured the area of cottages and the campground. Some of the cottages were built during the 1930s. Most of these were recently refurbished. Other cottages built during the 1950s are in need of similar work. The golf course has only nine holes; Ms. Pettyjohn said an expanded course would be a money maker for the park, but the present course operates at a small loss. Finally, the group went to look at the miniature golf facility near the park entrance. Ms. Pettyjohn said the park personnel want to move this facility, which is in poor repair, and expand it. She said the course had 6,000 users in 1990, and could draw far more. The park wants to build a driving range, which would be heavily used and bring in additional money.

Having completed its business, the subcommittee adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

NORTH-CENTRAL SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY TASK FORCE

Minutes of the Second Meeting
of the 1990-91 Interim

September 18-19 1991

The second meeting of the North-Central Special Subcommittee of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force was held on Wednesday, September 18 and Thursday, September 19, 1991.

Present were:

Members: Senator Danny Meyer, Chairman; Senator Richard Roeding; Representative Richard Turner.

Guests: Alice Heaton, My Old Kentucky Home State Park; Carlene Offut, Steven Foster Story; Bobby L. Bowe and Cleve Rice, Green River Lake State Park; Brenda Willoughby, Constitution Square State Shrine; Lee Cholak, John Nicholson, Nore Ghibaudy, Mike Scales, Tim Jones, Kentucky Horse Park.

LRC Staff: Linda Kubala and Mark York.

The subcommittee convened near the gift shop at My Old Kentucky Home State Park at 10:00 a.m. Park Manager Alice Heaton said that 106,000 people paid to tour the mansion last year. The park is a money-maker, and is a tremendous draw for Bardstown. Representative Turner asked what she thought of the idea of making each park a profit center, and of making the manager responsible for the performance of that center. Ms Heaton said she would welcome that idea. She said that the park's potential is much greater than its use. With imagination and greater flexibility, the park could draw far more people and more profit than it now does. A new association, with fund-raising and advisory functions, has been set up for the park. This group must approve any major changes recommended by the manager, and also can help finance new projects, but cannot augment the regular operating budget. She said a major request, which they

had included in the 5-year capital plan, was an interpretive center, which would be near the entrance to the park. She said this center was badly needed, could house rotating exhibits and information about Steven Foster, and give people somewhere to go while waiting to tour the home. However, local opposition developed around the idea that this would be a conference center, perhaps competing with other facilities, so the interpretive center was dropped from the plan. Ms. Heaton said the winter Candlelight Tours had become so popular that lines of people often waited in the cold and wind for the next tour. In summer, they wait in the heat. Having something else to do could help disperse and entertain the crowds.

Park personnel operate the gift shop, but the amphitheater is leased to the Steven Foster Story, and the golf course is leased to the local country club. She said they have developed a landscaping plan for the whole park.

The group walked to the mansion. The front door is in very bad shape, a pillar is rotted out, and bees living behind the cornice forced the entrance to be shut for several weeks. Ms. Heaton said they had tried for years to get the door fixed, but that nothing was approved until things actually fell apart. She said a craftsman had been working for the park for the past year, renovating the shutters of the mansion. She said preventive maintenance is very difficult to obtain, but is crucial in historic properties like the mansion.

Inside the mansion, Ms. Heaton showed the members several rooms, commenting on the beautiful condition of the furnishings. She

then took the group to the nursery on the top floor, where a major leak has developed in the roof, causing damage to the attic, nursery, and second-floor ceiling. She said Frankfort will not approve repair to the roof, and questions that there is a leak. The water damage was quite visible upstairs; water marks also have developed on the ceiling of the bedroom below. Similar plaster damage was apparent in another second-floor room; the guide said this had developed over a period of several years, and now plaster is flaking off and falling on furniture, yet they cannot get approval to fix the roof. Ms Heaton said maintenance on historic properties is especially difficult, because everything must be kept authentic. Among problems noted by the subcommittee were that the stairway to the third floor is loose, and some floors need repair. Ms. Heaton said they also had asked for repainting and replastering. Sears provides free paint, since they shot a commercial in My Old Kentucky Home.

Leaving the mansion, the group viewed the Rotunda, an outdoor shelter which Ms. Heaton said is heavily used. A method of weatherizing the rotunda is needed so it can be used in cold weather. Ms. Heaton said a group of Japanese tour arrangers had attended a reception there a few days ago, and that the Japanese, particularly, love this park.

The subcommittee then drove past the golf course, which is being expanded from 9 to 18 holes, and the campground, which Ms. Heaton said must be moved to make way for the expanded golf course. She showed the group a picnic area across the road from the present

campground, which she proposes to make into a new campground. She said that the expanded golf course will be operated by the park, rather than by the country club. The group drove past a National Guard building on park-owned land. The National Guard is vacating this building, which will revert to the park.

The group then drove to the amphitheater, which houses the summer musical, Steven Foster Story. The amphitheater is leased to the Steven Foster Story for \$1 per year. All maintenance falls to the state. The amphitheater is about 30 years old, and needs extensive renovation, upgrading, and replacement. The office building was built on top of piles of wood, and has considerable termite damage. The concrete steps and floor of the amphitheater itself is in bad shape and needs replacement. The state recently renovated the dressing rooms. Members spoke to Carlene Offut, manager of the Steven Foster Story. She said the steps need hand rails, and the whole facility is in poor shape. She said the show is sold out much of the time. Ms. Heaton said she wants to put a gift shop at the amphitheater, which could utilize park employees and recoup for the park some revenue from the amphitheater.

Finally, Ms. Heaton showed the group Old Bardstown Village. The state is in the process of acquiring this privately-owned attraction, located on city-owned land near the park, for \$800,000. The attraction includes several log buildings brought in from various parts of Kentucky, as well as a museum and a building which houses "The Kentucky Show." The museum building leaks badly, and contains civil war displays which will not be owned by the state.

Ms. Heaton said if she could move the Kentucky Show to a building on the park, such as the proposed interpretive center, it could be a tremendous boon. She said the museum would need to be redone. She said the park had the opportunity to acquire a collection of historical musical instruments as a gift. She said, however, that she was having trouble getting approval. Senator Roeding said that the historical buildings should be moved to the entrance area of the state park. There they could offer an additional diversion to the visitors. Senator Meyer noted that the buildings were not at all authentically restored, but used metal roofs and aluminum siding, among other things.

After leaving My Old Kentucky Home, the subcommittee traveled to Green River Lake State Park near Campbellsville, Kentucky. Park Manager Bobby L. Bowe accompanied the group around the park. He said the park employs 7 full-time people, and 30 during the summer, who care for 1300 park acres. A lodge has been proposed for the park, which would be let as a concession - a pre-bid conference on this project is scheduled for September 30. The campground, which is on the lake, is one of the largest and busiest campgrounds in the state park system. Senator Meyer asked about the new campground. He said the General Assembly appropriated money to double the campground capacity a few years ago, but somehow, most of the money had not been used for that project. The group viewed this new part of the campground, which has only gravel roads and no paved sites, and many of the sites are not level. Paving is needed. Mr. Bowe said that dust is a major problem in this area. He said on summer weekends, not just the campground, but the whole area between the campground

and the picnic area and behind the public beach, was filled with campers. The group visited the small store at the entrance to the campground. Mr. Bowe said the gift shop needs to be enlarged and the inventory improved, and that he does not have enough employees to take care of the facilities. He said he had tried unsuccessfully to get a golf cart for use in keeping the restrooms clean. He said a small boat ramp in the campground area would greatly reduce traffic in and out of the campground, and generally relieve congestion.

Representative Turner asked Mr. Bowe what he thought about making the individual parks profit centers, giving each manager a budget and the flexibility to operate his park. Mr. Bowe said he would welcome this. He said many of the large resort parks, with far more income sources, have losses greater than Green River.

The subcommittee then drove to the marina, which is leased to a private business. The marina recently was expanded. Senator Roeding asked whether there was any trouble getting permission to expand, saying he had heard that marinas at Kentucky Dam Village and Lake Barkley were not being allowed to expand. Mr. Bowe said he did not think there had been any problem. The Corps of Engineers, which operates the lake, had to give its permission. Upon questioning, he said the state is responsible for the grounds maintenance, water and sewer, and the restrooms at the marina. He said he would look up the terms of the lease agreement with the marina when he returned to the office. The park previously rented some small boats at the campground area, but this had been discontinued several years ago.

Leaving the marina, the subcommittee drove across the dam and then returned to the office area and maintenance garage. The newest truck available to the park is a 1986 model with 80,000 miles; the others have 135,000, 172,000 and over 200,000 miles. Most of the mowing equipment also was quite old, and was handed down from other parks. The group also saw termite damage in the office building. Mr. Bowe said that maintenance of existing facilities was a problem, and often the parks find it easier to get new facilities than sufficient funds to take care of what they had. The park sewage treatment plant was cited in July, but Mr. Bowe said the problems were not capacity, but age and operation of the equipment. He said it was important to give park rangers jurisdiction on public roads, and that personnel practices should be improved to get good, motivated employees. He said he pays seasonal workers \$4.80 per hour. Park rangers start at \$12,000 per year, compared to state police, who start at \$20,000.

Mr. Bowe looked up the lease terms for the marina. The marina, after 5 years, pays 5.5% of its gross to the park. The park received \$2200 for July, and \$1800 for August of 1991 from the marina. Asked how he knows whether the marina is paying the proper amount, Mr. Bowe said that he does not know. The state has no way to audit the books of the concession. A discussion then ensued concerning the need to investigate lease arrangements of state parks, since arrangements such as this, or the concessions at My Old Kentucky Home State Park, seemed to be bad deals for the state.

In response to questions, Mr. Bowe said he did not think there was a master plan for the parks system. He was asked whether the

required six-year plan is set out park for park, and said he did not know of any comprehensive plan for the system or for the individual parks. Representative Turner suggested that each park should draw up its own six-year plan.

The meeting then adjourned until 9:30 a.m. September 19 at Constitution Square Historic Site in Danville. Park Manager Brenda Willoughby met the subcommittee at the park office. Ms. Willoughby began as park manager August 1, after the park was without a manager for eight months. The park employs only two full-time people, the manager and maintenance man, and a temporary employee in the office. Usually, a seasonal employee helps with the grounds during the summer, but no one was hired this year. This meant that one person virtually maintained the park by himself through most of this year. Some of the flower beds are maintained by the local garden club, and Ms. Willoughby noted several other contributions by the local community. At the time of the subcommittee's visit, volunteers were helping with preparations for the weekend festival, the Constitution Square Festival, and one volunteer was giving school children a tour while the manager attended to the subcommittee.

Asked by Representative Turner about the idea of operating the parks as profit centers, Ms. Willoughby said that would be a good idea. However, small shrines like Constitution Square have very few revenue options. Ms Willoughby said she would like to add a small gift shop, since visitors could pick up souvenirs and books or similar items. There presently is a private gift shop in one of the historic houses on the site. This shop leases for \$250 per month.

Older leases include the Historical Society museum, which leases its building for \$1 per year, the Art League, and the Chamber of Commerce. In all of these cases, the state assumes all responsibility for maintenance of the buildings. A fire in the chamber of commerce building caused considerable damage, which has not yet been repaired due in part to the high cost.

Ms. Willoughby noted that maintenance is a major problem for historical parks and shrines. The Departments of Parks and Historic Properties have a Memorandum of Agreement, which gives both agencies a say in the way historic properties are repaired. She showed the group a rotted threshold on one of the log cabins. The shutters on Fisher Row buildings also were in very poor repair. The doorways of some of these buildings also needed considerable work. If these are original items, they cannot simply be repaired, but must be restored using authentic materials and methods.

Ms. Willoughby took the group into the Grayson Tavern, noting that she wants to paint and put non-skid strips on the handicapped ramp to the building. The Grayson Tavern is rented to groups for parties and weddings, and also houses craftspeople during a before Christmas sale. She noted that the building uses radiant ceiling heat, and that central air conditioning would enhance the building's use. A window air conditioner was installed in one room. The group also visited the Governors' Circle and the other buildings. Ms. Willoughby said they are planning some big events during the state's Bicentennial.

Leaving Constitution Square, the subcommittee traveled to the Kentucky Horse Park near Lexington. There, the group was met by Park Manager Lee Cholak and employees John Nicholson and Nore Ghibaudy. The group was accompanied by several other park employees as well during parts of the ensuing visit.

Mr. Cholak said the park had 800,000 visitors last year. This makes the Horse Park more heavily used than the other state parks. The Horse Park also has a very different character than other parks, being a theme park, more comparable to Bush Gardens or Sea World in Florida than to other state parks. The group discussed the need for a larger advertising budget. The park has \$250,000 for marketing, but in essence is competing with theme parks which spend over \$1,000,000 for the same purpose. This year, Tourism Development featured the Horse Park in some of its Kentucky ads.

The Horse Park has been a separate agency in the Tourism Cabinet, separate from the Department of Parks, since 1980. The park is designed to give people many things to do, so they stay the whole day and then stay overnight in Kentucky. Mr. Cholak showed the subcommittee the site of a new, handmade carousel. The carousel will be operated as a concession. Other concessions include the restaurant and horseback riding. Most other attractions are operated by park personnel. The park employs 102 in the summer, and 83 permanent employees.

The members listened to a presentation of champion horses at the park, noting that the entertaining and knowledgeable narrator

earns only \$6.40 per hour. The group discussed the need for more appropriate job classifications and pay for employees with special skills. Mr. Cholak emphasized repeatedly the need for greater flexibility in purchasing supplies and managing the park. While the park is not part of the parks system, it must comply with state procurement rules. Mr. Cholak told of his experience trying to get the money for the purchase of a pair of Belgium horses when the park was new. He said feed and even hay must be procured through bidding, which makes it hard to get good quality. He showed the group two barns with stalls for participants in special events. One was built with private money, the other under a state bid using exactly the same specifications. The state-contracted barn had been altered to save materials, making it less comfortable for horses.

Besides "capturing" tourists traveling the I-75 corridor, the Horse Park has been very successful in attracting many different shows and events. Mr. Cholak said the park needed to add 500 more stalls in order to accommodate larger shows. He said that for major breed shows, such as the Paint Horse show which was at the park at the time, each rented horse stall represents 4 people. These people spend an average of \$140 each day they are in the area. Therefore he said that these shows, and other events such as the National Polo games which also were being held at the time, had a major economic impact on the region. Senator Meyer noted that the State Fairgrounds wants to get rid of its horse stalls, and the Horse Park might be able to get these.

The group ate lunch at the park restaurant and toured the park

museum. They were shown where heavy rains this summer flooded the museum basement. Mr. Cholak said that park personnel were lucky to find a pump which they could rent in the emergency, and avoid considerable damage to stored artifacts as well as to work areas and an art display area in the basement. But he said the park has had a lot of trouble getting this rental fee paid by the Finance and Administration cabinet. They say, according to Mr. Cholak, that the flood was not an emergency. Functionally related to the museum, the park operates a school program and many special educational activities, as well as college-level equine studies.

In the campground, the group noted the excellent layout, level, blacktopped pads and convenient water and electric hookups. The subcommittee drove past an old tobacco barn which the park rents for parties and reunions, and a barn which houses the horses and equipment of a riding program for handicapped children. The group also saw the sewer treatment plant. Mr. Cholak said this plant also services nearby Spindletop Hall, the Council of State Governments buildings, the Energy Lab and Spindletop Building. He said these groups pay very little, and the Asphalt Institute apparently hooked on without even asking or paying.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF
EASTERN KENTUCKY FACILITIES

Minutes of the First Meeting
of the 1990-91 Interim

August 6, 1991

The first meeting of the Subcommittee on the Review of Eastern Kentucky Facilities of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force was held on Monday, August 5, and Tuesday, August 6, 1991.

Present were:

Members: Representative Rocky Adkins, Chairman; Senator Charles Borders and Representative Jo Bryant.

Guests: Leon Russell, Judy Goble, Stanley Woodyard, Jim Stinnett, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park; Ron Reed, Paintsville Lake State Park; Kelly Newton and Barbara Jones, Greenbo Lake State Resort Park; Vanessa Marksberry, Grayson Lake State Park; Stephen Metts, John Tierney, Carter Caves State Resort Park; Fannie Taylor.

LRC Staff: Bill VanArsdall, Mark York and Bruce Smith.

The subcommittee convened in the lobby of the lodge at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. Leon Russell, Park Manager, explained the park's operations while members toured the lodge and dining area. The park's rooms have a 90-95% occupancy rate during the summer months. The lodge and the dining room show a net profit, while certain other operations of the park lose money.

Jim Stinnett, who oversees food service at the park, gave members a tour of the kitchen area, which has recently been remodeled. Mr. Stinnett pointed out that it is one of the best equipped and most modern kitchens in the state park system. The subcommittee then viewed the gift shop, which will soon be moved, and a meeting room in the lodge.

During a visit to a typical room for overnight guests, Mr. Russell stated his belief that people who visit parks are looking for the comforts of home, plus a little something else. When asked if any feature of the overnight accommodations needed improvement, Mr. Russell said that the bathrooms need to be upgraded and modernized.

The subcommittee then toured a two-bedroom cottage. The roofs of these structures need frequent repair, and the park's managers are trying to find a roofing material that will last a long time. At a second cottage, members saw decks and stairs that have recently been installed. Mr. Stanley Woodyard explained that most of the cottages will have decks added, and that the cottages with decks are requested more often than others.

Representative Adkins asked the park manager to name the

complaint heard most often from visitors. Mr. Russell said that guests complain about a lack of recreational activities after they have been at the park for more than one or two days. Visitors suggest the addition of riding stables, but liability and maintenance problems prevent the park management from adopting that activity.

The group then traveled to the marina, which was damaged by a storm in the spring but has been repaired. All but one or two boat slips are full. The subcommittee asked whether the park managers had considered renting jet skis for use on the lake. Mr. Russell said they had, but liability insurance has so far proved prohibitive.

The next stop was Jenny Wiley's new convention center, which has been open since late winter of 1991. The park managers are confident that this facility will produce revenue. It will attract large groups and can accommodate a musical theater, dinners, and parties. It cost \$1.25 million, including furniture. Jim Stinnett praised the layout of the building and said that its food preparation area contains modern, efficient equipment.

Next to the convention center is the amphitheater, which is run by an independent group but maintained by the park. Several plays and musical productions are staged there each year.

In response to a question regarding his attitude toward park security, Mr. Russell said he is not a stickler for close adherence to rules, as long as peace and proper behavior are maintained. Representative Adkins said that he approved of this attitude and that some parks seem to be suffering from a too-strict attitude toward vacationers.

The subcommittee then toured the laundry, maintenance area, and golf course pro shop. The public swimming pool, which is more than a mile from the lodge, is in an area that also features miniature golf and paddle boat rentals. The chairlift, like the amphitheater, is operated by an outside group under a lease agreement.

The campground is successful and often operates at near-full capacity. Legislators were shown the campsites and a small shop where campers can register and purchase supplies.

Mr. Russell told the subcommittee that Jenny Wiley State Resort Park employs 130 people at the peak of the summer season and 68-70 during the winter season.

After lunch at the park, the subcommittee traveled to Paintsville Lake State Park. The marina there is operated by a private firm.

Mr. Ron Reed, who is in charge of park operations, told the subcommittee that the biggest complaint he hears centers around the lack of a campground in the park area. There is no running water available for camper hookups, limiting the park's capacity to draw visitors from outside the area. Another problem is the

unavailability of designated swimming areas. Mr. Reed pointed to several spots used for swimming, but said that each is unsuitable for one reason or another. The addition of a playground for children would also improve the park, he said.

The subcommittee toured a portion of the lake by boat. Paintsville Lake is seven years old and has a surface area of approximately 1200 acres. There are two boat ramps, located at either end of the lake. All houseboats on the lake are required to carry their own sewage tanks. Mr. Reed said the lake has a reasonably good safety record, but there have been three drownings during its six years of operation.

The private corporation that runs the park pays for maintenance, garbage collection, etc., and receives some help from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. According to Mr. Reed, the state's participation is very limited. The lease is scheduled to expire soon and the marina is for sale. Potential buyers include Johnson County, which has expressed some interest in developing the area.

The second day of the meeting began with a tour of Greenbo Lake State Resort Park. Mr. Kelly Newton, Park Manager, welcomed the subcommittee and began the tour in the lodge, which contains the only indoor overnight accommodations in the park. Mr. Newton said the park's greatest need is for cottages. Five two-bedroom cottages would increase the park's attractiveness to lodgers. The subcommittee discussed the apparent discontinuation of a booth advertising Kentucky parks at the Ohio State Fair. Since many of the guests at eastern Kentucky state parks come from Ohio and West Virginia, out-of-state advertising is important.

Mr. Newton then showed the subcommittee the gift shop, which is the second largest in a Kentucky state park lodge. He pointed out an observation deck that is closed and will take \$7200 to repair. After visiting the reading room, the group saw the business office and met several employees who are taking part in a federally subsidized job program. A discussion of the park's finances revealed that the park earned \$139,000 above its projected sales last year. Money-losing operations include the boat dock, which has been declining in profitability lately, perhaps because park rules limit the use of the lake by boats with motors of greater than 10 horsepower. According to Mr. Newton, the beach has been closed, and the lack of public swimming facilities limits the park's drawing power. The park employs 77 people during the peak season.

Representative Bryant asked how public comment on park facilities could be encouraged. She suggested that a prize or a discount could be offered to people who fill out questionnaires telling what they like or dislike at parks. Mr. Newton agreed that could increase public participation.

The subcommittee toured a new deck behind the lodge and saw a new heating unit that allows some rooms to be heated while others are cooled. The group viewed three large meeting rooms, the kitchen, and the dining room, which Mr. Newton said needs 225 new chairs.

When asked about the greatest complaint from visitors outside the vicinity of the park, Mr. Newton cited the lack of cottages. He said that the main complaint of local people is the unavailability of public swimming facilities.

Mr. Newton said the park's pool was found to be leaking soon after it opened in April. Rather than shut down the swimming facilities, the park pumps extra water into the pool and will repair the leak after the pool closes this fall.

The subcommittee looked at a guest room in the lodge. Mr. Newton said that new furniture is needed for the rooms. Last year money was apparently earmarked by the state for this furniture, but it was not ultimately made available.

The group toured the tennis courts, boat rental area, and campground. The beach area would be costly to open up. Last year's estimate of the cost to dredge it was \$225,000. Mr. Newton said that he would prefer opening a public pool.

The next stop for the subcommittee was Grayson Lake State Park. The group was met by Vanessa Marksberry, Park Manager. She introduced the members of the maintenance crew and said they do a wonderful job of keeping up a large area with limited resources.

Ms. Marksberry said the park would benefit from the addition of screened-in lodging units containing bunk beds. These units could be moved on skids and would cost \$2500 to \$3000 a unit. She said that the park's equipment is generally in good shape. The maintenance crew is largely made up of seasonal workers. There are three full-time employees in the summer months.

The subcommittee toured the campground, which has 71 campsites and averages 70% occupancy in the summer. The campground does not earn a profit. Ms. Marksberry said the park would benefit from the addition of miniature golf, basketball and tennis courts, and a store where gifts and groceries could be purchased.

Ms. Marksberry showed the subcommittee a new shelter and two recently renovated bath houses. Her main goal, she said, is to make sure that the park has a beach. Swimming has been drastically curtailed as a result of several recent accidents.

The subcommittee visited the principal swimming area. There is currently a large sign in red letters warning visitors that there are hidden rocks and drop-offs. Ms. Marksberry said the state park system has become very concerned about the safety of swimmers lately. Local residents are resentful about the closing of a swimming area they have been using for many years. The subcommittee discussed the possibility of roping off a small safe section of water for swimming while forbidding swimmers to use a channel that has become dangerous because of boat traffic.

Senator Borders asked whether admission could be charged at the

beach to make up for some of the park's financial losses. The group discussed options for the swimming area, including posting of lifeguards during certain hours. There was general agreement that swimming should be allowed at the park, and that one area in particular has the best access to the bath house and parking lot. Ms. Marksberry said that the park's limited budget makes it preferable to allow swimming near the existing parking lot. The cost of setting up the sort of swimming area she envisions would probably be around \$100,000.

The group then drove to a section of the park under the control of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources rather than the Department of Parks. The marina, near the dam, is leased by a private concern. Most swimmers use this area. The marina is heavily used and draws many visitors.

When Ms. Marksberry was asked about complaints she receives from visitors, she stated that people tell her there should be cabins in the park. Furnishing portable screened-in overnight shelters would help attract a number of people to the area. She also reported difficulty in obtaining outdoor lights and signs from the state. The park staff, she said, makes some of their signs by hand.

The last park the subcommittee visited was Carter Caves State Resort Park. Stephen Metts, Park Manager, greeted the group and introduced John Tierney, a naturalist in charge of special projects. The subcommittee toured the lodge while Mr. Metts explained a partial upgrade of the building's heating and air conditioning system. He said heating and insulation in the lodge are the largest source of complaints from visitors.

Mr. Metts said that he is very pleased with the funding of the park. Carter Caves has been receiving its share of the money available to parks, but Mr. Metts is concerned that the money is not being used as efficiently as it could be. Labor is furnished from the state's "P-9" program, and the park is forced to use workers from distant parts of the state, paying for their travel expenses and giving them lodging at a reduced rate. Local laborers, he feels, could do the job as well at a lower cost.

The park has a high occupancy rate. During July, the lodge was 99% full and the campground operated at 97% capacity. In winter, special events attract visitors. Mr. Metts said the park is not self-supporting, however, and the biggest money losers are labor and maintenance.

The group toured the dining room and the kitchen, which has recently undergone remodeling. The Fields Room, which is the park's primary meeting room, will soon be expanded and doubled in size.

Mr. Metts said the major complaint from outsiders concerns the beach area, which has fallen into disrepair. The main complaint of the locals is the golf course, which has only nine holes. Visitors from outside the area take up a lot of time on the course, and locals do not get to play as much as they would like.

The subcommittee visited two guest rooms in the lodge, one of which was renovated this year. Mr. Metts said that the cost of redoing one of these rooms could be more than \$15,000. This price, he noted, did not include the cost of housing and transporting workers.

When asked about the number of employees at the park, Mr. Metts said there are 57 full-time workers and that 103 people are employed during the peak season.

Senator Borders commented on the appearance of the parks the subcommittee had seen. He had been told that some of the parks were deteriorating, but he was pleasantly surprised by the good condition of the facilities the group had visited.

The subcommittee drove to the golf course. The pro shop was recently refurbished for \$4000 using entirely in-park help.

Next the group visited the amphitheater, where programs are shown nightly during the summer, and the cottage area, which Mr. Metts said would benefit from tighter rules on admittance.

Mr. Metts showed the subcommittee the campground and miniature golf areas, which operate at a profit. The primitive camping area became so popular that access had to be restricted. Revenues increased when the restrictions were imposed.

The subcommittee visited the public pool and the lake. Mr. Metts showed the group an access road that was built at low cost because local labor was used. The beach house, which is in bad repair, is the feature that he said needs the most improvement. A sign is posted acknowledging the poor appearance of the area. Improvements will be made shortly, probably by tearing down the present beach house and constructing a shelter.

Mr. Metts was asked his attitude toward rule-breakers in the park. He replied that he agrees with Representative Adkins that minor infractions should not be dealt with too harshly. Major discipline problems, of course, must be addressed firmly.

After a brief visit to one of the park's attractions, a natural rock formation known as Smoky Bridge, the subcommittee adjourned.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF EASTERN KENTUCKY
FACILITIES

Minutes of the Second Meeting
of the 1990-91 Interim

October 11, 1991

The second meeting of the Subcommittee on the Review of Eastern Kentucky Facilities of the Tourism Development and Energy Task Force was held on Thursday, October 10, and Friday, October 11, 1991.

Present were:

Members: Representative Rocky Adkins, Chairman; Senators Charles Borders and John Rogers; Representatives Jo Bryant, Paul Richardson, and William Strong.

Guests: Mark McLemore, Manager, Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park; Rick Powell, Manager, Pine Mountain State Resort Park; Danny Brown, Manager, Cumberland Falls State Resort Park; and Sonny Hartley, Manager, General Burnside Island State Park.

LRC Staff: Bill Van Arsdall and Bruce Smith.

The subcommittee convened in the lodge of Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park. Mark McLemore, park manager, welcomed members and showed them a videotape documenting the features of the park.

He said this is the first year that Buckhorn Lake is being operated on a twelve-month schedule. Until this year, the park has been closed during the winter.

Representative Adkins asked Mr. McLemore to list the park's greatest needs. The first priority, the manager said, is an access road from the Daniel Boone Parkway. This would cut driving time from the parkway in half. The members of the subcommittee discussed the difficulty of reaching the park, agreeing that all roads into the facility should be better marked.

A second need, Mr. McLemore said, is a meeting area that can handle large groups. A room that could seat 150-200 people would help attract meetings and conventions. Currently the park cannot accommodate gatherings of more than forty or fifty people. A recreation room and a small museum would also draw visitors.

Third, the boat dock needs improvements. The park's marina is the only one on the lake, and it needs repair. Water and electrical hookups should be available at all the boat slips.

Fourth, Mr. McLemore cited the lack of a campground. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers used to operate one about four miles from the park, but the site had to be closed due to electrical problems.

Fifth, he said, the park needs a golf course. If sufficient land could be found, it would be a tremendous asset, bringing in groups and local golfers. The nearest eighteen-hole course is in London.

Sixth, the water plant needs work. The park is self-sufficient, manufacturing its own drinking water and disposing of its own waste. Last year, the park came within a few hours of being shut down because of inadequate water supply. Money has been allocated to repair the water plant, but the amount is insufficient. Mr. McLemore said at least \$40,000-\$50,000 more will be needed.

Other problems were identified by Mr. McLemore. The rooms in the lodge need new furnishings and insulation. The park has recently completed the first two cottages built on the premises, but more are needed. The lake often requires more cleanup than the maintenance budget can support, because the level of the water fluctuates greatly and there is a good deal of floating debris.

In response to a question about the number of visitors, Mr. McLemore said the park has maintained a 60-65% occupancy rate during the months it has been open for business. During the summer the rate has been near 100%.

Representative Strong said that local residents attach great importance to improvement of the boat dock. The lake serves several surrounding counties, and the boat slips deserve prompt attention.

Representative Adkins stressed the importance of maintenance and renovation in keeping the park system strong. Senator Borders commented that the next state budget will be tight and that parks must concentrate on maintaining the facilities they already have.

Mr. McLemore then led the subcommittee to one of the two cottages recently built at the park. The cost of building and constructing both of the large two-bedroom units was approximately \$250,000.

The group visited the dock area and discussed plans for its modernization. The beach near the dock is heavily used in summer, according to the manager, and needs some improvements.

The subcommittee then traveled to Pine Mountain State Resort Park. Over lunch, the park manager, Rick Powell, discussed the park's needs. Mr. Powell said the short nine-hole golf course should be expanded to eighteen holes. Land for the expansion could be found on the site of the recently drained lake, or land could be acquired from a private owner. The golf course is popular and brings in around \$90,000 a year in net sales. The former lake site would also be a good location for a new campground so that large vehicles would no longer be forced to negotiate the steep curves leading to the present campground.

Representative Richardson asked about the rooms in the lodge. Mr. Powell said the occupancy rate is approximately 75% throughout

the year and much higher during the summer months. One of the park's needs, he said, is to add more overnight accommodations in the lodge. There are presently 30 guest rooms in the building. The park also has 20 cottages, ten of which are log cabins.

Mr. Powell said that the park's sewage treatment plant is small and gets overrun at times. He commented that Kentucky's state parks are beginning to show their age and that it is important to put money into maintaining what has already been built. Several members of the subcommittee agreed, saying they were pleased that the parks they had seen were well maintained on the whole.

Mr. Powell said the roads at Pine Mountain need work and the parking lot and roads leading to the lodge need resurfacing.

Pine Mountain does not possess the recreational facilities that some of the other parks have, he said. He suggested that a volleyball area in front of the lodge should be converted into tennis courts and that the miniature golf course should be improved. A sand volleyball court could be built near the pool.

Senator Rogers asked the manager whether he would support liquor sales at the park. Mr. Powell expressed doubt about their value, especially considering the possible reaction of the local community.

The subcommittee then took a tour of the lodge, part of which was built in the 1930's. Members observed construction work on a section of the lodge that will be used as a meeting center.

The group looked at a typical lodge room. The rooms have recently been renovated. In response to a question about the number of employees, Mr. Powell said the park has 70 employees in the summer and 40 during the off-months.

Walking to the swimming area, the group was told that the pool leaks and that the pool area should be renovated. Mr. Powell said he would like to see a new wing of the lodge built on the present site of the pool and a new pool dug not far away.

The subcommittee drove to the cabins, some of which, Mr. Powell said, could use new furniture. The ones that were built of logs during the 1930's are very popular with guests, he said, in part because of the large stone fireplaces.

The group toured the campground and traveled to a scenic overlook high above the city of Pineville. The last stop was the golf course, which is near the entrance to the park. The group discussed Mr. Powell's proposals for expanding the course and for renovating the pro shop, which has no merchandising area. Because this store is the first building that most visitors see in the park, Mr. Powell said, it should be made into a place where travelers feel welcome to come in and ask questions.

On Friday, October 11, the subcommittee met in the lodge at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park. Danny Brown, the manager, was

asked his opinion about the importance of maintaining the park's infrastructure. He agreed that maintaining the existing physical plant of a park is at least as important as adding new buildings. If a park builds something new but doesn't increase its maintenance budget, the park will end up in worse shape than before.

Mr. Brown also stressed the importance of hiring the right employees. There are limits on the sort of personnel the park can attract because of caps on salaries and because many positions are seasonal. He said managers should be given discretion over the number of employees hired and the salaries they are paid. The manager could be allotted a lump sum and given the power to choose the types of employees hired. The park could use a full-time carpenter and a refrigeration expert, but current policies make these positions hard to fill.

Unlike most of the parks, Mr. Brown said, Cumberland Falls earns a profit. It has done so in each of the eight years he has been the manager. The park is run like a business, and there are enough quest units to create the economies of scale and drawing power enjoyed by large hotels and motels.

He was asked about his priorities for the park. The first need is to rebuild more of the cabins. Ten new cabins are being added to the park to replace units that were built during the 1940's and have outlived their usefulness. The process of replacing worn-out cabins needs to continue, he said.

Another need is additional parking space near the lodge. Moving some earth a short distance would create 80 new parking spaces. Mr. Brown said there are plans to do this and the money has been made available.

Another priority is the renovation of Clifty Hall, a former residence hall for employees of the park. Unused since 1983, this dormitory could be converted into a meeting area and a new set of rooms. Mr. Brown estimated that redoing the hall would cost \$500,000 and that the project would pay for itself within five years.

Representative Bryant asked about the possibility of building a golf course in the park. She said the idea has a lot of local support. The subcommittee discussed possible locations for a course, and Mr. Brown said some private land would probably have to be acquired. The subcommittee then looked at guest rooms, some of which have been recently remodeled. The pool, which was built in 1968, has developed a leak.

The group traveled to the campground, which Mr. Brown says is too far away from the rest of the park activities. It will not accommodate large trailers and campers, and the ground is not level. There is even some danger for campers because of the proximity to steep hills and bluffs. All campsites, he said, should have access to water, sewer, and possibly even cable hookups. The campground is heavily used, with an occupancy rate above 100% in the peak season. The park's guest rooms have a year-round occupancy rate of about 70%.

The subcommittee toured some of the cabins that may be replaced, and members walked through Clifty Hall. The group then went to the falls area, which has several conspicuous signs warning of danger. The gift shop in this area is very profitable, bringing in about \$750,000 a year, and members calculated that without the gift shop the park might not show a profit.

The last park to be visited on this tour was General Burnside Island State Park. Sonny Hartley, park manager, met the subcommittee in the office at the park's eighteen-hole golf course. A public golf course has been built nearby, he said, and has reduced the park's business somewhat, but public demand for golf is strong in that area.

The park, which is on an island in Lake Cumberland, has a camping area and two swimming pools. The marina is privately operated. Mr. Hartley said the boat ramp in the park is the best on Lake Cumberland and receives a lot of use. Parking can be a problem, and there is a 15-20% increase in vehicle traffic every year. The campground, which has 94 sites, is often full on weekends and is extremely popular on holidays.

The park made money last year, the manager said, and the existence of the private golf course nearby might even benefit the park's course by eliminating some of the overcrowding on holiday weekends.

Mr. Hartley's first priority for the park is an upgraded pumping system. The flotation pump is 20 years old, and he said there should be two pumps so that lightning, which strikes often in the area, cannot knock out the whole system. Another thing the park needs, he said, is a set of women's tees on the golf course.

There is a leak in one of the pools, and subcommittee members observed that there were leaking pools in many of the parks they had visited.

When asked if there is a project local residents want, Mr. Hartley said there is some support for building a lodge, either with public or private money.

The subcommittee visited the boat ramp and the golf course. Near the park entrance the group looked at an area Mr. Hartley said is unsightly. A large stretch of bare earth and rock is visible beside the road at the end of the causeway that leads into the park. Mr. Hartley said that he would like to see this converted into a parking lot, perhaps with a shelter and a boat ramp.

After returning to the park office, the subcommittee thanked Mr. Hartley for the tour and the meeting was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
SALES SUMMARY
FOR MONTH ENDING

JUNE

	MONTH 1991	MONTH 1990	MONTH INCREASE (DECREASE)	YTD 90-91	YTD 89-90	YTD INCREASE (DECREASE)

AUDUBON	\$45,775.69	\$47,679.90	(\$1,904.21)	\$340,897.65	\$334,173.04	\$6,724.61
BIG BONE	\$45,232.97	\$38,053.84	7,169.13	\$240,942.36	\$211,654.74	29,287.64
BLUE LICKS	\$31,192.79	\$21,501.93	9,690.86	\$129,134.50	\$107,073.34	22,061.16
FORT BOONESBOROUGH	\$104,504.35	\$98,706.00	5,798.35	\$578,619.15	\$565,755.45	12,863.70
BUCKHORN	\$103,159.18	\$91,174.19	11,984.99	\$662,607.33	\$618,452.93	44,154.40
CARTER CAVES	\$228,857.13	\$216,628.68	12,228.45	\$1,525,401.95	\$1,412,756.05	112,645.90
COLUMBUS-BELMONT	\$20,686.35	\$20,910.64	(24.49)	\$101,999.54	\$91,060.18	10,939.36
CONSTITUTION SQUARE	\$333.35	\$565.81	(232.46)	\$4,458.89	\$5,673.08	(1,214.19)
CUMBERLAND FALLS	\$389,467.39	\$372,857.53	16,609.86	\$2,953,011.30	\$2,746,432.58	206,578.72
DR. THOMAS WALKER	\$4,840.25	\$4,977.13	(136.88)	\$27,698.28	\$25,147.26	2,551.02
KINCAID LAKE	\$69,050.03	\$55,634.53	13,415.50	\$246,430.53	\$217,907.54	28,522.99
GENERAL BURNSIDE	\$71,655.57	\$76,144.83	(4,489.26)	\$514,872.15	\$454,309.19	60,562.96
GENERAL BUTLER	\$258,417.67	\$233,312.55	25,105.12	\$2,118,890.37	\$1,907,365.07	211,525.30
GREENBO	\$147,024.19	\$127,011.96	20,012.23	\$1,105,090.59	\$936,364.02	168,726.57
JEFFERSON DAVIS	\$10,752.06	\$10,928.28	(176.22)	\$53,666.08	\$32,246.29	21,419.79
JENNY WILEY	\$272,881.50	\$267,787.15	5,094.35	\$2,174,743.51	\$2,082,952.90	91,790.61
KINGDOM COME	\$4,533.08	\$1,213.90	3,319.18	\$11,572.09	\$7,347.75	4,224.34
KENTUCKY DAM VILLAGE	\$592,916.23	\$569,602.19	23,314.04	\$4,317,666.53	\$4,336,486.27	(18,819.74)
KENLAKE	\$230,159.61	\$238,793.91	(8,634.30)	\$1,810,539.38	\$1,796,355.36	14,184.02
LAKE CUMBERLAND	\$440,341.98	\$414,117.89	26,224.09	\$3,480,388.23	\$3,243,483.93	236,904.30
LAKE MALONE	\$7,819.67	\$10,533.66	(2,713.99)	\$36,370.75	\$40,909.57	(4,538.82)
LEVI JACKSON	\$40,691.08	\$49,985.29	(9,294.21)	\$223,445.95	\$209,180.95	14,265.00
LINCOLN HOMESTEAD	\$50,422.33	\$49,461.11	961.22	\$365,563.33	\$357,657.08	7,906.25
LYNCHBURG BRIDGE	\$220,066.36	\$214,056.24	6,008.12	\$1,666,222.62	\$1,520,998.17	145,224.45
MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME	\$122,251.27	\$101,633.75	20,617.52	\$831,814.68	\$759,475.46	72,339.22
OLD MULKEY	\$92.10	\$231.00	(138.90)	\$729.10	\$993.50	(264.40)
PENNYRILE	\$117,254.79	\$109,228.48	8,026.31	\$752,010.31	\$715,993.81	36,016.50
PERRYVILLE	\$6,346.82	\$5,783.69	563.13	\$52,142.89	\$46,556.53	5,586.36
PINE MOUNTAIN	\$143,452.48	\$134,785.35	8,667.13	\$1,169,508.99	\$1,118,031.63	51,477.36
OLD FORT HARROD	\$26,418.83	\$20,984.04	5,434.79	\$164,455.71	\$158,019.45	6,436.26
ROUGH RIVER	\$277,847.83	\$261,896.00	15,951.83	\$1,872,047.09	\$1,687,381.28	184,665.81
WILLIAM WHITLEY	\$2,398.49	\$2,308.78	89.71	\$14,457.19	\$12,210.03	2,247.16
CAFETERIA	\$48,074.51	\$44,778.40	3,296.11	\$582,971.65	\$600,764.18	(17,792.53)
WHITEHALL	\$8,843.77	\$9,368.25	(524.48)	\$66,117.87	\$76,006.95	(9,889.08)
LAKE BARKLEY	\$557,289.55	\$520,144.93	37,144.62	\$4,118,622.08	\$3,967,402.07	151,220.01
BARREN RIVER	\$258,175.90	\$277,207.68	(19,031.78)	\$2,103,883.63	\$2,155,885.91	(52,002.28)
GREEN RIVER	\$62,973.88	\$51,194.65	11,779.23	\$271,923.44	\$238,673.76	33,249.68
GRAYSON LAKE	\$11,653.20	\$10,857.95	795.25	\$57,332.31	\$50,656.95	6,675.36
DALE HOLLOW	\$40,655.25	\$30,111.53	10,543.72	\$215,814.25	\$165,087.63	50,726.62
E. P. 'TOM' SAWYER	\$44,258.52	\$42,224.88	2,033.64	\$163,508.21	\$164,269.00	(760.79)
WAVELAND	\$3,305.42	\$1,862.31	1,443.11	\$17,083.30	\$17,454.82	(371.52)
BEN HAWES	\$65,925.41	\$55,651.80	10,273.61	\$492,332.96	\$415,606.82	76,726.14
TAYLORSVILLE LAKE	\$1,884.00	\$1,467.30	416.70	\$19,766.12	\$20,448.58	(682.46)
PAINTSVILLE LAKE	\$3,118.33	\$1,438.53	1,679.80	\$11,158.21	\$9,623.69	1,534.52
CENTRAL OFFICE			0.00			0.00
SUB TOTAL	\$5,193,191.16	\$4,914,800.64	\$278,390.52	\$37,667,913.07	\$35,642,284.79	\$2,025,628.28
KY SALES TAX	\$228,144.20	\$181,623.04	46,521.16	\$1,658,149.00	\$1,326,526.83	331,622.17
TOTAL	\$4,965,046.96	\$4,733,177.60	\$231,869.36	\$36,009,764.07	\$34,315,757.96	\$1,694,006.11
