

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

1:30 p.m.

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

PRESENT: Commission Chairman William "Billy" Deviney, Commissioners Clay Wagner, Bill F. Cossar, and Scott Coopwood

ABSENT: Commissioner Robert Taylor.

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Robert Cook, Deputy Executive Director; Michael Bolden, Larry Castle, Jennifer Head, Colonel Steve Adcock, Chad Dacus, Larry Pugh, Jason Thompson, and counsel, Doug Mann and Drew Malone, Special Assistant Attorneys General.

Chairman Deviney gaveled the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The Chairman welcomed Senator Mike Seymour and Representative Scott Bounds, House Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee Chairman.

OPENING PRAYER

Larry Castle, Director of Technical Programs, opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Coopwood and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the minutes of the August 17, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the agenda for September 21, 2016 was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public present who wished to make comments.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, Director of License/Boat Registration, presented the License Sales Report for the month of August 2016. Total sales are up \$172,000, an increase of 12%, compared to August, 2015.

Highlights of Thompson's report are listed below:

- Resident License Sales – up \$169,000, quantity of licenses sold is down 6%
- Resident WMA permits – quantity sold is up 618, due to the WMA permit requirement this year
- Nonresident licenses – sales amount down 1%
- NR 7-day Small Game – up 18%
- NR 3-day Freshwater – up 4%
- Other Licenses - Total Permit Sales – down 5%
- Lifetime License category – up \$29,000 or 33%
- Revenue generated from license fee increase July 1-August1 - \$241,642

MUSEUM

Chairman Deviney commended Charles Knight, Director, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, and his staff for hosting the Commission that morning. The Commission extended acclamations on the wonderful facility and quality Museum staff, who were recognized as not only being knowledgeable but passionate about what they are doing.

FINAL 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 5, Chapter 2:

Knight presented the following two rule changes for FINAL adoption. No comments were received.

- **Rule 2.2 – Regulations regarding Turtles and Tortoises**
- **Rule 2.3 – Regulations regarding Non-game Wildlife in Need of Management**

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, FINAL Rules 2.2 and 2.3 were approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.

FISHERIES

FINAL Rules 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 3, Chapter 3:

Larry Pugh, Director of Fisheries Bureau, presented the following four rule changes for FINAL adoption. Two comments were received in support of the changes.

- **Rule 3.1 – Commercial Fishing Regulations**
- **Rule 3.2 – Commercial Paddlefish Regulations**
- **Rule 3.4 – Paddlefish HMU's Open Periods and Quotas**
- **Rule 3.5 – Paddlefish Permit Applications**

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, FINAL Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, and 3.5 were approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.

WILDLIFE

Chad Dacus, Director of Wildlife Bureau, presented the following items for Commission consideration:

- **FINAL Rules 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 1, Rule 1.24 – Twin Oaks Regulations**

Dacus stated that no comments had been received and recommended this rule for FINAL adoption.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, FINAL Rule 1.24 was approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.

- **PROPOSED Rule 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 8**
Rule 8.4 – Regulations for Game & Fur-Bearing Animals in Captivity

Dacus explained that this rule was adopted in the 1980s and language was updated. He explained three new exemptions which were outlined in this rule regarding high fence enclosures for deer, fox, coyote, and rabbit pens.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, PROPOSED Rule 8.4 was unanimously approved by the Commission as presented.

- **Hope Outdoors – License Exemption Requests for Out-of-State Hunters**

Dacus presented the exemption requests for out-of-state hunters on behalf of Hope Outdoors. This organization will be hosting the four hunts below for individuals with critical illnesses and/or severe disabilities.

- West Miss. Chapter, Vicksburg area, December 2-3, 2016
- Central Miss. Chapter, Forest area, December 9-10, 2016
- North Miss. Chapter, Bruce area, December 16-17, 2016
- South Miss. Chapter, Wiggins area, January 20-21, 2017

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Hope Outdoor exemption requests were approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Citation Report

Colonel Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, presented a handout which highlighted violations, Dove Season opening weekend citations, shooting range attendance at Turcotte and McHenry, wood duck banding in Newton and Jasper counties, and McIvor Creek Shooting Range Groundbreaking Ceremony on August 30, 2016. No action was required of the Commission.

Reinstatement Request

Colonel Adcock presented the following reinstatement request. The violator had taken his Hunter Education class and paid his fines. Adcock asked him to come forward and state the circumstances of his arrest before the Commission.

Bradley Magliolo, Ponchatoula, LA

Magliolo was arrested in December, 2014 for headlighting on a public road. He and a friend were driving in a truck during the early morning hours before sunrise. They saw a deer and turned the truck around to get another look when an officer pulled them over. The officer found a bow in the back of the truck with a flashlight taped to the bow. Magliolo said that his fines totaled just under \$3,000 plus the loss of a day of work.

Col. Adcock stated that he would recommend reinstatement of his license this one time but would not if he returns with another violation.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, Magliolo's license was reinstated by unanimous consent.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Commission meeting date was set for Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the Mississippi Conservation Officers' Training Academy, located at Holmes County State Park, 5369 State Park Road, Durant, MS 39063.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman asked if there was a need for an Executive Session. The Executive Director stated that there was need for a brief Executive Session.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine the need for Executive Session to discuss transactions in real property, personnel matters including job performance of individuals in specific positions, and possibly budget line items which could affect the continued employment of individuals in specific positions.

Counsel announced that the meeting was closed to determine the need for an Executive Session to discuss transactions in real property, personnel matters including job performance of individuals in specific positions, and possibly budget line items which could affect the continued employment of individuals in specific positions. The room was cleared.

The Commission determined that Executive Session was needed for the aforementioned discussions. Upon motion by Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the Commission voted unanimously to enter Executive Session for discussions regarding transactions in real property, personnel matters including job performance of individuals in specific positions, and budget line items which could affect the continued employment of individuals in specific positions.

Counsel announced to the public outside the room that the Commission had entered Executive Session for the aforementioned reasons.

Dr. Polles and Art Kennard updated the Commission on recent purchases of land, and pending transactions. These transactions have almost depleted the surplus of program income funds that recent Federal Aid rule changes have required the department to expend the monies for approved transactions such as land acquisition, or forfeit the monies back to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Dr. Polles reported that staff would continue to pursue more land purchases in order to deplete all the surplus Federal funds as long as the USFWS will allow.

Art Kennard then informed the Commission that staff had advertised the sale of the Canemount property for bids, as authorized by HB 890 of the 2015 Regular Legislative Session. Bids were to be opened on Thursday, September 15, 2016, at 2:00 P.M. Mr. Kennard informed the Commission that one (1) bid had been received. Staff was seeking Commission acceptance of the bid, or in the alternative, direction as to how to proceed if the offer was deemed to be too low.

Discussion followed.

ACTION: After much discussion and deliberation, Commissioner Cossar made a motion that the Commission accept James Harrison's offer to purchase the Canemount property, authorized to be sold in HB 890, 2015 Regular Session. Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to accept the offer.

Dr. Polles and Deputy Executive Director Robert Cook, updated the Commission on an ongoing review of the violator's database and the revocation process. The department had experienced several cases where a convicted violator, whose right to hunt, trap, and fish had supposedly been forfeit upon conviction for headlighting, was continuing to purchase a license and hunt. More recently, an individual convicted of headlighting several years ago had been denied a license due to certain problems being fixed. Several employees of the license and MIS bureaus were recognized for identifying and fixing the system weaknesses that had allowed violators to keep purchasing licenses.

No action was required of the Commission.

There was no further business for Executive Session.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the Commission voted unanimously to exit Executive Session and open the meeting.

Counsel announced the actions taken by the Commission during Executive Session to any members of the public remaining on the premises.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Cossar made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion, and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Chairman Deviney gaveled the meeting into adjournment.



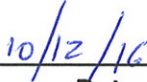
Billy Deviney, CHAIRMAN



Date



Clay Wagner, VICE CHAIRMAN



Date