

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

1 p.m.

North Mississippi Fish Hatchery & Visitor Education Center

Enid, MS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

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, Special Assistant Attorney General.

Chairman Deviney gaveled the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

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 October 12, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Coopwood and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the agenda for November 16, 2016 was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mason Bassett and his attorney, Cory Anthony, were present and met with Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General, prior to the meeting and decided to not bring their comments before the Commission at this time.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, Director of License/Boat Registration, presented the License Sales Report for the month of October 2016. Total sales are up \$250,000.00 (5%).

Highlights of Thompson's report are listed below:

- Resident License Sales – up \$400,000 (17%)
- Resident Sportsman – up \$330,000 (22%)
- Small Game - up 17%
- Resident All Game – up 43%
- Exempt License Sales are up: 1,300 licenses sold compared to 900 last year
- Non-Resident Licenses: Freshwater Fishing up; Annual Freshwater Fishing up 9%; 3 day Freshwater up 12%; 1 day Freshwater 8%
- Other Licenses - Total Permit Sales – number of permits sold is down 6%
- Lifetime License category – up \$30,000 (18%)

FISHERIES

2016 SEAFWA Fisheries Biologist of the Year – Dennis Riecke

Larry Pugh, Director of Fisheries Bureau, requested Dennis Riecke to come forward as he announced that The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) had named Riecke the 2016 Fisheries Biologist of the Year at their 69th annual meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Applause followed as Pugh presented the award to Riecke.

WILDLIFE

Pascagoula River Basin Alliance – 1-day WMA User Permit

Chad Dacus, Director of Wildlife Bureau, presented a letter received from Brad Young, Director of the Pascagoula River Basin Alliance, requesting the Commission to reinstate the 1-day WMA User Permit for non-hunting, outdoor recreation purposes (i.e., kayaking, canoeing, bird watching). This permit would require a fee of \$5 (resident) and \$10 (non-resident) for one-day use any day of the year. This permit was discontinued last year due to the lack of interest. Staff advised the Commission that if they approved the request, they would make the necessary rule change and bring it before the Commission at the next meeting.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the Pascagoula River Basin Alliance 1-day User Permit was approved by unanimous vote of the Commission.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Update

Colonel Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, highlighted citations, shooting range attendance, Super Hunt 2016, MSSP Program (107 youth at Providence Shoot and 118 at Turcotte Shoot), and Law Enforcement Projects (Turcotte Sporting Clay Trail, MCOTA athletic building, McIvor Range development of land for lake and pistol/rifle ranges).

No action was required of the Commission.

Reinstatement Requests

Colonel Adcock presented the following four reinstatement requests. All violators had taken their Hunter Education classes and paid their fines. Adcock asked that each come forward and state the circumstances of their arrest before the Commission. Following each statement a motion was made by the Commission.

- *Dustin Wilson, Philadelphia, MS*

Wilson was arrested in 2006 for shooting a deer from a public road. He pled guilty. He bought a fishing license the next year since his violation was for hunting and from then on he was issued a hunting and a fishing license until the new computer program merged everything last year. He contacted MDWFP last year and has completed all reinstatement requirements. He was without a license for a year. Col. Adcock recommended reinstatement.

MOTION: By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, Wilson's license was reinstated by unanimous consent.

- *Mitchell Crenshaw, Philadelphia, MS*

Crenshaw was arrested in 2014. He was driving the vehicle and stopped while his friend got out and shot at a deer from the road. When an officer came up behind him with blue lights he tried to outrun the officer for 15 minutes. His fines totaled \$2,500.

MOTION: Upon motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, the Commission unanimously voted to approve reinstatement of Crenshaw's license.

- *Dalton Haney, Senatobia, MS*

Haney was pulled over by an officer with a loaded gun and light in the back of his vehicle. He did not shoot a deer but had planned to do so. He was fined \$2,100.

MOTION: Commissioner Cossar made a motion to reinstate Haney's license, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, and was unanimously approved by the Commission.

- *Justin Fleury, Hammond, LA*

Fleury saw a deer cross the road and shot at the deer on the driver's side. Later he stopped and shot at a buck on the passenger side as well. An officer showed up and arrested him. Col. Adcock recommended that if Fleury receives a ticket in the next two years that his two year revocation will be added back on.

MOTION: Motion was made by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to accept the staff's recommendation to reinstate Mr. Fleury's license with the condition that if he receives a ticket in the next two years, an additional two year revocation will be added to the prior period.

Discussion followed and the Commission concluded that it would consider every reinstatement carrying the stipulation that if a ticket is received in the two years following reinstatement, then an additional two year revocation should be added back on.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Commission meeting date was set for Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman asked if there was a need for an Executive Session. The Deputy Executive Director stated that there was need for a brief Executive Session to discuss budget line items which could affect the continued employment of persons in specific positions, and job performance of specific individuals in specific positions.

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

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

The Commission determined that Executive Session was needed for the discussions regarding budget line items which could affect the continued employment of persons in specific positions, and job

performance of specific individuals in specific positions. Upon motion by Commissioner Cossar, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the Commission voted unanimously to enter Executive Session for discussions regarding budget line items which could affect the continued employment of persons in specific positions, and job performance of specific individuals in specific positions.

Counsel announced that the Commission had entered Executive Session for the stated discussions to those outside the meeting room and returned for the discussion.

Deputy Executive Director Robert Cook reported to the Commission on efforts that had been made, pursuant to their wishes, to seek a non-appropriated realignment of the Executive Director's position, pursuant to authority in the FY 2017 Appropriations bill, subject to available funds and the approval of the State Personnel Board ("SPB"). Mr. Cook reported that the SPB had conducted surveys of other agency heads within Mississippi state government and similar positions in wildlife agencies in the surrounding Southeastern states. As a result of this process, the SPB made a recommendation that the position of DWFP Executive Director, PIN 7679, be realigned to a start step of \$113,345.22, with a top end salary of \$147,348.79. This reflects a start step increase of \$20,548.41. Mr. Cook stated that staff recommendation was to accept the SPB recommended realignment range.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the State Personnel Board's proposed salary realignment range as submitted by staff.

Mr. Cook then asked the Commission to consider recommending that the SPB set the incumbent Executive Director's salary based upon longevity, experience and related SPB rules. Based upon these criteria, the SPB recommended adding the difference between current start step and the realigned start step to the incumbent's current salary. Staff determined that amount to be \$147,215.96.

Mr. Cook also noted that the SPB had informed staff that since the Executive Director was appointed by joint action of the Governor and the Commission, the Governor's assent and joint recommendation of the realignment would be needed.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the Commission voted unanimously to accept Staff recommendation and request that the State Personnel Board set the incumbent Executive Director's salary at \$147,215.96, and directs staff to seek the assent and joint recommendation of the Governor when presenting this request to the State Personnel Board.

There was no further business for Executive Session.

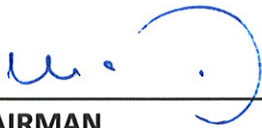
Upon motion made by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the Commission voted unanimously to exit Executive Session and open the meeting.

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, upon motion made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Chairman Deviney gaveled the meeting into adjournment.



Billy Deviney, CHAIRMAN

12-14-16

Date

Clay Wagner, VICE CHAIRMAN

Date