

# **MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS**

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

2 p.m.

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

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

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

Chairman Rigdon gaveled the meeting to order and welcomed future Commissioner, Robert Taylor, to the meeting.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

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

## **MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the February 22, 2016 Commission meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

## **AGENDA**

The Commission was informed of two additional requests for the March 16, 2016 agenda:

- Under "Public Comments" - Mr. Randall Livingston.
- Under "Other Business" - Moon Lake Temporary "No-Wake Zone" Order.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the agenda for March 16, 2016 was unanimously approved as amended.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Two gentlemen came before the Commission with comments.

- Dr. Kary G. Whitehead, Meridian, MS, presented a handout to the Commission concerning problems with dog hunters running dogs on his property located in Kemper County.

The Commission informed Dr. Whitehead that his best recourse would be to join forces with other landowners experiencing this problem and petition the Legislature for changes.

- Mr. Randall Livingston, Louisville, MS, brought a rabbit hunting concern to the Commission. Rabbit hunters are expected to wait until after deer season, which is February, to hunt; therefore. Mr. Livingston requested for deer season to end shortly after New Year's Day allowing more time for rabbit hunters.

The Commission thanked Mr. Livingston for coming.

### **LICENSE SALES REPORT**

Jason Thompson, Director of License/Boat Registration, presented the License Sales Report for the month of February 2016. Total revenues were only down less than one percent.

Highlights of Thompson's report are listed below:

- Resident License Sales - down 2%.
- Senior Exempt Licenses – up 7%
- Small Game – up 5%
- Range permits – up 10%
- Non-resident sales - down less than 1%
- Freshwater Annual licenses - up 6%
- Three day Freshwater licenses – up 9%
- One day Freshwater licenses – up 6%
- Lifetime License category – up for the first time this year

### **FISHERIES**

#### **FINAL 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 3, Rule 2.1 – State Fishing Lakes and Community Assistance Program Lakes**

- **Rule 2.1 – Regulations Regarding State Fishing Lakes**

Larry Bull, Assistant Director of Fisheries Bureau, presented the FINAL version of the rule, with no changes from the proposed version adopted last month. No comments were received.

**ACTION:** By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, Rule 2.1 was approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.

WILDLIFE**FINAL 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Rule 8.5 - Regulations Regarding Animals in Captivity and Enclosures**

- **Rule 8.5 – Decommission of Enclosures containing White-tailed Deer**

Chad Dacus, Director of Wildlife Bureau, recommended adoption. No changes were made since the last meeting and no comments were received.

**ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, Rule 8.5 was approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.**

**PROPOSED 40 Miss. Admin. Code, Part 2, Chapter 5 – Alligator**

Ricky Flynt, Wildlife Alligator/Furbearer Coordinator, presented PROPOSED rule changes listed below:

- **Rule 5.1 – Alligator General Regulations**

- Further defines alligator wrestling activity.
- Adds harassment of alligators as an illegal act.
- Increases alligator ranch license fee from \$50 to \$100.
- Adds requirements to be approved for alligator egg producing facility permits.
- Clarifies that CITES tags are not required for sale of live hatchlings.

- **Rule 5.2 – Private Lands Alligator**

- Opens 12:00 noon August 26 and ends 6 a.m. September 19, 2016
- Adds Lowndes, Noxubee, and Oktibbeha Counties to open counties list (total of 31 counties)

- **Rule 5.3 – Public Waters Alligator**

- Opens 12:00 noon August 26 and ends 12:00 noon September 5 (Labor Day), 2016
- Further clarifies closed portion of Ross Barnett Reservoir
- Change “First-come, First-serve” permit purchase date from 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in July to 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in July

- **Permit Allocation Changes**

- No changes to the Seven (7) Zones or their boundaries
- No net change to total permits issued (920).
- Permits per zone redistributed as follows:
  - Zone 1 – Northwest ~~100~~ 50
  - Zone 2 – Northeast 150
  - Zone 3 – West Central ~~150~~ 170
  - Zone 4 – Southwest ~~150~~ 170
  - Zone 5 – South Central 150
  - Zone 6 – Southeast 150
  - Zone 7 – Pearl/Ross Barnett ~~70~~ 80

**ACTION:** By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the proposed amended Rules 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 were approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.

### PARKS

#### FINAL 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 6, Rule 1.1 – State Park Fees

- Rule 1.1 – State Park Fees FINAL

Jennifer Head, Director of State Parks, recommended approval. No comments were received, and the rule was presented as a FINAL version with no changes from the proposed version adopted last month.

**ACTION:** By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, Rule 1.1 was approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### Citation Report

Colonel Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, presented a handout which highlighted violations, shooting range attendance, and flood details along the Mississippi River (including 36 rescues).

#### License Reinstatement Request

Colonel Adcock stated that the violator had taken his Hunter Education class and paid his fines. Adcock asked Saxton to come forward and state the circumstances of his arrest before the Commission.

- *Barry Clark Saxton, Benton, MS*  
Saxton was convicted of headlighting in December 2014. He and some friends decided to go road hunting and fired four or five shots from the truck. He paid \$3,900 in fines and spent the night in jail.

**ACTION:** By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, Saxton's reinstatement was unanimously approved by the Commission.

#### Boating Officer of the Year Awards

Capt. Calvin Fulton had the honor of presenting awards to the following officers who made outstanding contributions in their line of duty for FY15.

- North Region, MSgt. Dean Hudson
- South Region, MSgt. Gary Crum
- Central Region, Sgt. Steven Westerfield

**Shikar Safari Club International Award**

Col. Steve Adcock presented the Shikar Safari Club International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award to Officer MSgt. Michael Voyles. Voyles received the Medal of Valor in February 2015 for his heroic deeds during a shootout in Iuka, MS.

**OTHER BUSINESS****Mississippi Wildlife Federation Awards**

The following awards were presented to the following employees who have shown exemplary abilities, passion, and work ethic this past year.

- Conservation Officer of the Year, MSgt. Michael Voyles.  
Col. Steve Adcock presented.
- Wildlife Conservationist of the Year, Tamara Campbell.  
Chad Dacus presented.
- Fisheries Conservationist of the Year, Dennis Riecke.  
Larry Bull presented.

A round of applause by the Commission and staff followed each recipient's presentation.

**Moon Lake – Temporary No Wake Zone**

Col. Steve Adcock requested that the Commission impose a No Wake Zone on Moon Lake, located in Coahoma County, for 35 days due to record flooding in the area. Boat traffic in the affected areas could cause significant property damage to flood-impacted homes, due to wave action. This order will be effective March 16, 2016.

**ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the temporary No Wake order was unanimously approved by the Commission. A copy of this order has been appended to the minutes.**

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Next Commission meeting date was set for Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 2 p.m. in the Commission Conference Room located at 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39211.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Staff informed the Commission that there was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT


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

Chairman Rigdon gaveled the meeting into adjournment.

  
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Charles Rigdon, CHAIRMAN

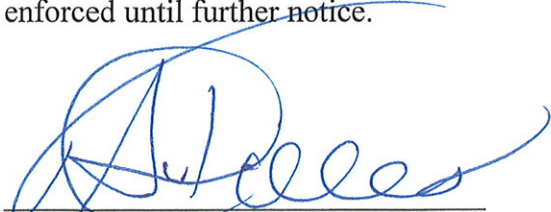
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Date

  
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Clay Wagner, VICE CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

By order of the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks dated March 16, 2016, Moon Lake, in Coahoma County is hereby declared a temporary no wake zone. Dead slow speed enforced until further notice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Polles', is written over a horizontal line.

Sam Polles, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks