

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS

1:30 p.m. Educational Session / 3 p.m. Business Session

EDUCATIONAL SESSION – 1:30 PM

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

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

Three items were on the agenda for the Educational Session. No action was taken by the Commission on these items as they are presented for information only.

1. AIMS (Archery in Mississippi Schools)

Waldo Cleland, Director of AIMS, presented an update on AIMS (Archery in Mississippi Schools). A newsletter was handed out to the Commission.

2. Licenses Analysis.

Jason Thompson, License/Boat Registration Division Director and John Simpson, Consultant, gave a presentation to the Commission.

3. Commission Protocols and Procedures.

Sam Polles, Ph.D., Executive Director, presented proposed updates to 40 MISS. ADMIN. CODE, Part 1, Rule 1.2, for Commission discussion.

BUSINESS SESSION – 3 PM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

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

Chairman Deviney, having noted for the minutes that a quorum was present, gaveled the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

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

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

Sam Polles, Executive Director, stated that the agenda needed to be amended to include one item, General Administrative Rules of the Commission, Rule 1.2, under OTHER BUSINESS.

ACTION: Commissioner Coopwood moved to approve the agenda as amended for May 17, 2017. Commissioner Cossar seconded the motion and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Ken Anderman**, Franklin County resident. Mr. Anderman presented several suggestions to the Commission on ways to improve the deer population in South Mississippi.
- **Phil Lechner**, Biloxi, MS. Mr. Lechner owns a home and property in the Leaf River Wildlife Management Area. He presented suggestions on how to improve the quality of deer in that area.

Chairman Deviney thanked the gentlemen for coming and acknowledged that their statements will be taken into consideration.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, Director of License/Boat Registration, presented the License Sales Report for the month of April 2017. The total revenue for the end of April is up over \$1,200,000 (8% increase).

Highlights of Thompson's end of the month report are listed below:

- Resident License – up 22%
- Sportsman License – up 26%
- All Game License – up 47%
- Small Game Freshwater Fishing licenses – up 23%
- Non-resident licenses – up \$69,000 (1,100 more licenses sold)
- NR 3 day Freshwater Fishing – up 9% (2,400 more licenses sold)
- NR 1 day Freshwater Fishing – (1,700 more licenses sold)
- Permit category – down \$27,000
- Lifetime License category – up \$30,000 (8% more licenses sold)

WILDLIFE

Wild Turkey Update

Adam Butler, Turkey Program Coordinator, updated the Commission on current efforts to improve the wild turkey population. He distributed a report of the online voluntary turkey harvest reporting statistics to the Commission. At this time, staff has no recommendations for any changes to the bag limits or other harvest rules.

FINAL – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 1 – WMA Regulations

- **Rules 1.1 – 1.45 – WMA Regulations**

Larry Castle, Director of Technical Programs, presented a summary of changes made to WMA rules since last month. He noted that these changes were clerical corrections to 4 WMA rules. He noted that he would be looking into comments made today by Mr. Anderman and Mr. Lechner. Castle stated that it takes two or three generations for deer to improve from good nutrition and habitat. Data is constantly being evaluated to see if any changes are warranted for deer conservation and management practices in each area of the state.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission unanimously approved FINAL Rules 1.1 – 1.45 WMA Regulations, as amended.

FINAL – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 2 – White-Tailed Deer

- **Rule 2.2 – Deer Seasons and Bag Limits**

Castle presented an amendment to “Youth Deer Hunts” for 2017-2018 White-tailed Deer FINAL Rule 2.2 to reflect:

- 6. c. Authorized state and federal lands: Saturday two weeks prior to opening day of Gun season through the Friday prior to Thanksgiving.**

MDWFP has been receiving much commentary from the public concerning Deer Season and Bag Limits between the survey, 30-day comments, and radio. Castle feels good about the recommendations that have been made. About half of the written comments are proponents for the recommended changes and about half are opposed for various reasons. MDWFP will work with private land owners on additional DMAP and FEMAP permits, and will continue to communicate to the public that open public lands will continue to allow hunting of antlered deer.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the Commission unanimously approved FINAL Deer Season and Bag Limits Rule 2.2, as amended.

PARKS

TEMPORARY & PROPOSED Rule- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 6, Chapter 1 – General Regulations

- **Rule 1.1 – State Park Fees**

Jennifer Head, Director of Parks, presented Rule 1.1 verbiage updates for the Parks disclaimer (page 1), camping-standard maximum increase to \$22 (page 3), and fee increases at Mallard Pointe Golf Course (pages 7-8). A copy of the changes was included in each Commissioner’s binder.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the Commission unanimously approved TEMPORARY and PROPOSED Parks Rule 1.1 as presented.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Officer Pinnings

Recent promotions of eight MDWFP Law Enforcement Officers were acknowledged by a pinning ceremony. Col. Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, requested Maj. Lane Ball and Maj. Chris Harris to come forward and assist him in the presentation of new rank and pin to the following personnel:

- Megan Fedrick to Headquarters, Lt. Hunter Education/Training
- SgM. Marcus Christon to Lt. North Region/Training
- Lt. Byron Davis to Captain North West Region
- Lt. Chris Reed to Headquarters, Captain Training/Public Info
- SgM. Jason Young to Captain North East Region

- Lt. Tracy Tullos to Captain Central West Region
- Lt. Kallum Herrington to Captain South East Region
- Lt. Barry Delcambre to Captain South Region McHenry Office

The Commission and attendees ended the pinning ceremony with a round of applause.

Update

Colonel Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, presented a handout which highlighted citations, shooting range attendance at Turcotte and McHenry, as well as, McIvor Range construction updates. During the past month McHenry hosted the South State 4H event with 591 youth participating and Turcotte hosted 2017 MSSP State Championship with 130 youth participating. Officers also led hunter education classes and presented wildlife programs in the school system.

License Reinstatement Requests

Colonel Adcock presented the following license reinstatement requests. Adcock asked the violators to come forward and state the circumstances of their arrest before the Commission.

- *Hunter Spencer, Vardaman, MS*

Spencer was a 15 year-old at the time of his arrest. He and some friends were riding around. A deer jumped across the road and his friend shot at the deer with his pistol from the road. Someone in the car behind them reported their tag number to the authorities. He was fined \$2,100 and a year suspension. His grandfather paid off his fine and he had to work it off. Col. Adcock recommended his reinstatement; however, if he does this again he will have to fulfill the entire three-year license suspension.

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

- *Joshua Baldwyn, Plantersville, MS*

Baldwyn, his brother, and friends were arrested for spotlighting. His fine amounted to \$2,462. He stated that he had learned his lesson and would not do this again. Col. Adcock recommended his reinstatement; however, he, too, will have to fulfill the entire three-year license suspension if arrested a second time.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

PROPOSED – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 1, Chapter 1:

General Administrative Rules of the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Rule 1.2 The Commission

During the Educational Session, held prior to this meeting, the Commission reviewed the current General Administrative Rules of the Commission on MDWFP and the Commission handbook. It was determined that several updates to the current rule were needed to allow the Commission more flexibility in conducting its business. Mainly, the Commission decided that it would no longer require holding a meeting every month and that the holding of educational sessions would be authorized as part of the regular meeting. A copy of the proposed changes is appended to these minutes.

MOTION: By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the Commission unanimously adopted the additions and changes to PROPOSED Rule 1.2.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Next Commission meeting date was set for Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at the Jackson Office. The Educational Session will begin at 2 p.m., followed by the Business Session at 3 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION: Commissioner Coopwood made a motion to close the meeting to determine the need for Executive Session to discuss personnel matters involving job performance of individuals in specific positions, and budget line items that could affect the continued employment of individuals in specific positions. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting.

Counsel announced to those present that the meeting was now closed to determine the need for Executive Session to discuss personnel matters involving job performance of individuals in specific positions, and budget line items that could affect the continued employment of individuals in specific positions. The room was cleared.

A brief discussion followed.

ACTION: Upon a motion made by Commissioner Taylor, and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the Commission voted unanimously to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters involving job performance of individuals in specific positions, and budget line items that could affect the continued employment of individuals in specific positions.

Dr. Polles and Deputy Executive Director Robert Cook then updated the Commission on the proposed realignment of the biologist series of positions within the agency. Under the agency's SFY 2018 budget, the Executive Director may realign certain positions within the agency as long as there are funds available to do so, and the overall change will not impact the agency's appropriated (authorized) personnel funding level.

No action was required of the Commission.

There being no further business for discussion in Executive Session, Commissioner Cossar made a motion to exit Executive Session and open the meeting. Commissioner Coopwood seconded the motion, and the Commission voted unanimously to exit Executive Session and open the meeting.

Counsel announced to anyone remaining outside the meeting room, that after receiving information on a pending personnel action which required no action or vote, the Commission had exited Executive Session and opened the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Deviney gaveled the meeting into adjournment.



Billy Deviney, CHAIRMAN

5/14/17

Date

Clay Wagner, VICE CHAIRMAN

Date

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

Title 40: Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Part 1: General Administrative Rules of the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

RULE 1.2 The Commission.

A. The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks is a five (5) member commission consisting of members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members are appointed from each of the five (5) Congressional districts as those Districts existed prior to the 2000 Census. Members serve five (5) year terms and the terms are staggered so that a commissioner rotates off the Commission each year.

B. The Commission has the general authority to enforce the wildlife, fisheries and natural resource conservation laws of the State of Mississippi through its regulatory powers. The Commission is the primary policy making entity for the conservation and preservation of the wildlife, fisheries and related natural resources of the state.

C. The Commission conducts its business through the holding of monthly regular meetings. The number and frequency of official meetings shall be determined by the Commission, but shall be no less than nine (9) official and regularly-scheduled meetings per state fiscal year. Extraordinary and special meetings of the commission may be called and conducted per the provisions of the Open Meetings Act.

1. Meetings are open to the public and are conducted according to the Mississippi Open Meetings Law, and Robert's Rules of Order.

2. Meetings may consist of an educational session for the Commission to receive information and reports which require no Commission action, and a business session, at which all official acts of the Commission shall be recorded.

3. Official minutes of the business sessions shall be transcribed and certified, and preserved as a public record. Minutes are not required to be kept for an educational session other than a listing of the presenters and topics covered during the educational session.

D. The day-to-day business of the Commission is conducted by the Department under the authority of the Commission. The Department also provides such administrative and clerical support to the Commission as is needed.

History: Revised May 2017.

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§25-43-2.104, 49-1-29, and 49-4-4.