

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Thursday, October 5, 2017

9 a.m.

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS

MINUTES OF SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING

PRESENT: Commissioner Scott Coopwood

PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: Chairman Clay Wagner, Commissioners Bill F. Cossar, Robert Taylor, and Billy Mounger.

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Robert Cook, Deputy Executive Director; Larry Castle, Director of Technical Programs; Doug Mann and Drew Malone, Special Assistant Attorneys General.

Noted for the Record: Attached to these minutes are copies of the Special Teleconference Meeting Notices, which were posted two days prior to the meeting on the doors of the MDWFP office building located at 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS, and on the MDWFP website and the Mississippi Open Meetings website, as per the provisions of the Mississippi Open Meetings Act.

Having determined that a quorum was present, the Chairman opened the floor to the business on the agenda.

The Executive Director requested the Special Meeting of the Commission to update them on proposed/pending transactions in real property.

First, Dr. Polles reported that the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality ("MDEQ") and The Trust for Public Lands ("TPL") are developing grant proposals to submit to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ("NFWF") for the purchase of three tracts of land (Weyerhaeuser, Griffith, and "Land Between the Creeks") in the coastal region. NFWF is the court-ordered administrator of funds paid by BP to settle claims and/or provide restoration of lands damaged by the Deepwater Horizon oil platform disaster. Each entity has interest in obtaining these lands for MDWFP-managed Wildlife Management Areas. NFWF has requested a Letter of Support from MDWFP and MS Secretary of State, Delbert Hosemann, stating that the state is willing to accept the land as eventual landowners. Per MDEQ/TPL, the lands would:

1. Be held in title by the State of MS (Secretary of State as well as MDWFP would be listed on the deed).
2. Typical deed restrictions/stipulations would include the usual conditions applicable to acquisitions of lands for WMAs, providing for preservation/conservation in perpetuity. Any

restoration and management objectives would be in the conservation and stewardship plan tied with restoration of the property (i.e., water quality improvement, bird use, etc.).

Information and maps of each of the tracts being considered were emailed to the Commissioners for prior review.

Staff recommendation was to prepare a Letter of Support for the "Land Between the Creeks" and the "Griffith" properties and hold the Letter of Support for "Weyerhaeuser" until more details were developed. Commissioner Taylor suggested that the MDWFP staff go forward with issuing a Letter of Support to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The other Commissioners were in agreement with this plan and urged MDWFP staff to proceed.

Dr. Polles then discussed a large acquisition of lands in the Delta that the Anderson-Tully Timber Company was looking to sell. This acquisition has the potential to double the size of the Mahannah WMA. This project is also being pursued with the assistance of Secretary Hosemann. The Commission encouraged staff to proceed.

Finally, Dr. Polles informed the Commission that discussions with the owners of the former Halpino Hunting Club, adjacent to Tara Wildlife in Warren County, had made certain demands of the agency through their representative that, by law, the MDWFP could not agree to do. Further study of recent water levels on the tract indicated that it may not be suitable for management as a WMA. Staff was now taking the position that, with the proposed acquisition of the land adjacent to Mahannah, acquiring the Halpino property was not as desirable as it had been when first brought to the Commission's attention. The Commission agreed and advised staff to let the Halpino property go unless the owners can agree with agency requirements.

No vote or action was required of the Commission at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Clay Wagner, CHAIRMAN

Date



Bill F. Cossar, VICE CHAIRMAN

Date

PUBLIC NOTICE

Special Meeting of the MS Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

PURSUANT TO MISSISSIPPI CODE ANNOTATED '25-41-5 and '25-41-13, the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks hereby issues this notice to the public of a special meeting to be held on **Thursday, October 5, 2017**, in Jackson, Mississippi, at **9:00 A.M.** At this special meeting, the Commission will only receive an update on pending transactions in real property. This meeting is for informational purposes only, and no vote or action is anticipated or required. No other items will be before the Commission for action.

The meeting will be held in the Commission Meeting Room of the Department's offices at 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211. The meeting is open to the public and the Commissioners will be attending electronically from remote locations.

This the **3rd** day of **October, 2017**.



Sam Polles, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
Fisheries and Parks



NOTICE DETAILS

NOTICE DETAILS

State Agency: Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks

Public Body: Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks

Title: Commission on Wildlife Fisheries and Parks

Subject: Special Commission Meeting

Date and Time: 10/5/2017 9:00:00 AM

Description:

The Commission will be receiving an update on pending transactions in real property. This meeting is for informational purposes only. No vote or action is anticipated or required.

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MEETING LOCATION

1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson MS 39211

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Sharon Polzin
6014322009
sharonp@mdwfp.state.ms.us

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Commission Teleconference Meeting

Thursday, October 05, 2017

Time: 9 AM

Location: 1505 Eastover Drive Jackson MS 39211

County: Hinds

For more information please contact Sharon Polzin at 6014322009 or by email at sharonp@mdwfp.state.ms.us.

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