

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Friday, July 12, 2019

11 a.m.

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS

MINUTES OF SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING

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

ABSENT: Chairman Scott Coopwood

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Jennifer Head, Budget Director; and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

Noted for the Record: Attached to these minutes are copies of the Special Teleconference Meeting Notices, which were posted one day 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, and the Chairman being absent, the Vice Chairman, Mr. Taylor, opened the meeting.

Chairman Scott Coopwood requested this Special Meeting of the Commission for the purpose of approving a resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Wildlife Heritage Fund. The proposed expenditure is the first of three (3) purchases of lands in Issaquena County acquired by The Nature Conservancy as part of the acquisition of lands comprising the Governor Phil Bryant Wildlife Management Area. The urgency for this special meeting was due to the closing for the first phase purchase of approximately one-third of the TNC-held lands scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, 2019. At that time, funds are to be tendered via electronic transfer. The resolution is required to expend funds per Mississippi Code Annotated Section 49-5-83.

Discussion followed by the Commission. The Commission was in consensus with the payment for the first phase. The only concern was making sure all three payments are fully compliant with all applicable laws and rules and to verify this as full consideration and payment.

ACTION: A motion was made to approve by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Mounger, to adopt the resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Wildlife Heritage Fund to purchase the Phase I lands from The Nature Conservancy to add to the Governor Phil Bryant WMA. The motion carried. A copy of the proposed resolution has been appended to the minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Wagner moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Mounger. The motion carried. Vice Chairman Taylor gaveled the meeting into adjournment.


Robert Taylor, VICE CHAIRMAN

7/17/2019
Date

**BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON
WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS**

**In Re: Authorizing expenditures from the Wildlife Heritage Funds to purchase lands
 in Issaquena County, and for related purposes.**

RESOLUTION and ORDER

WHEREAS, under the auspices of the Honorable C. Delbert Hosemann, Secretary of State for the State of Mississippi, in his capacity as State Land Commissioner, the State of Mississippi, acting by and through the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (the "Commission") purchased approximately 12,000 acres of land, being part of a larger 18,000 acre tract, in Issaquena and Warren Counties, formerly owned and controlled by the Anderson-Tully Company ("ATCO");

WHEREAS, In order to purchase the entire tract, the Secretary of State, and the Commission, solicited the assistance of The Nature Conservancy ("TNC") to provide the necessary funding to purchase the remaining acreage and hold the same for future purchase by the state;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the prior agreement of the parties, the first purchase of approximately one-third (1/3) of the TNC-held lands, by the State, is scheduled to close on or before July 16, 2019;

THEREFORE, Pursuant to the authority contained in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-5-83, the Commission has directed the preparation of this resolution, documenting the authority to make expenditures from the Wildlife Heritage Fund, as authorized in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-5-71, and further orders the following:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks finds that the proposed purchase of lands in Issaquena County represents a major achievement in natural

resource conservation, with the potential for preserving and enhancing wildlife habitat in perpetuity for all Mississippians; and that this Resolution shall serve to certify compliance with all applicable statutes pertaining to the purchase of real property by and through the Wildlife Heritage Fund, and shall serve as a “warrant” as provided in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-5-83, “signed by the chairman of the commission and countersigned by the executive director of the department,” directing the approved state depository to disburse funds from the Wildlife Heritage Fund, as consideration for the purchase of the subject lands; and

BE IT ORDERED: That, by copy of this Resolution, Trustmark Bank, approved state depository for the Wildlife Heritage Fund, is hereby authorized to make a disbursement, by certified cashier’s check or electronic transfer of funds, in the amount of Four Million Seven Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand, Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars and No Cents (\$4,772,750.00), payable to First American Title, Inc. (closing agent), in trust for The Nature Conservancy Inc., and as full consideration and payment for the purchase of the subject lands.

SO RESOLVED AND ORDERED, by unanimous vote of the Commission, this the 16th day of July, 2019.

Scott Coopwood, Chairman
Mississippi Commission on Wildlife,
Fisheries, and Parks

CERTIFICATION

I, **Sam Polles, Ph.D.**, hereby certify that the Resolution and Order set forth above, is a true and correct Resolution and Order of the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, as authorized by a vote taken and spread upon the minutes of the special called meeting of the Commission, dated Tuesday, July 16, 2019, as duly noticed and conducted by law.

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

DRAFT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Special Meeting of the Mississippi 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 **Friday, July 12, 2019**, in Jackson, Mississippi, at **11:00 A.M.** This special meeting is an informational and business meeting for the purpose of approving a resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Wildlife Heritage Fund. The proposed expenditure is the first of three (3) purchases of lands acquired by The Nature Conservancy as part of the acquisition of lands comprising the Governor Phil Bryant Wildlife Management Area. The closing for this phase of the project is to be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2019, at which time, funds are to be tendered via electronic transfer. The resolution is required to expend funds per MISS. CODE ANN. §49-5-83.

The meeting will be held, via teleconference, 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 12th day of **July, 2019**.



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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Bid Opportunities

Commission

Employment Opportunities

Legislative Committee

MDWFP Strategic Plan

Rules

Senate & House Bills

Human Resources

Purchase License

MDWFP Regional Offices

Special Teleconference Commission Meeting

Friday, July 12, 2019

Time: 11 AM

Location: 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson MS 39211

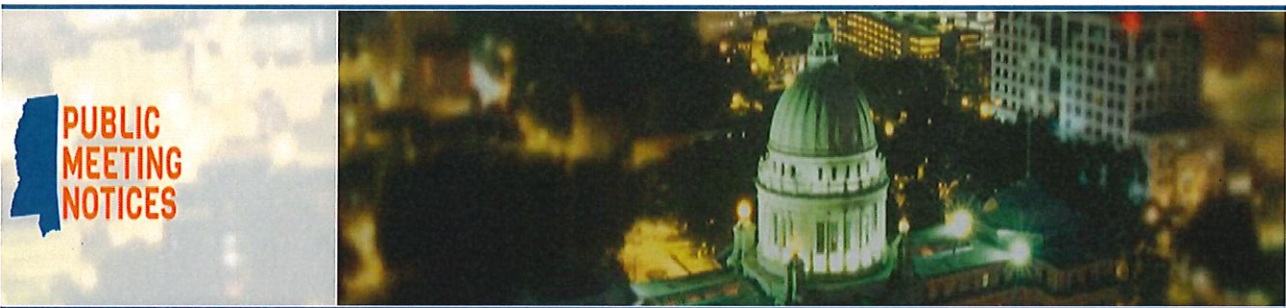
County: Hinds

For more information please contact Sharon Polzin at 6014322009 or by email at sharon.polzin@wfp.ms.gov.

Special Teleconference Meeting of the Commission to vote on a resolution authorizing expenditures from the Wildlife Heritage Funds to purchase land. The meeting is open to the public and the Commissioners will be attending electronically from remote locations.

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Public Meeting Notices

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 MDWFP Teleconference Meeting

Date and Time: 7/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

Description:

Special Teleconference Meeting of the Commission to vote on a resolution authorizing expenditures from the Wildlife Heritage Funds to purchase land.

MEETING LOCATION

1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson MS 39211

[Map this!](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sharon Polzin
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sharon.polzin@wfp.ms.gov

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