

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

1:30 p.m. Educational / 2:30 p.m. Business Session

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211

EDUCATIONAL SESSION – 1:30 PM

PRESENT: Commission Chairman Scott Coopwood, Commissioners Robert Taylor, Billy Mounger, and Bill F. Cossar were present. Commissioner Clay Wagner also joined the meeting by means of teleconferencing.

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

YATES CONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION ON WHITE-TAILED DEER BREEDING

Mr. Bill Yates, President/CEO, and Shellie Peters, Manager, Yates Construction Company, presented a PowerPoint presentation on their white-tailed deer facility, including layout of their holding pens and barn, and breeding operation procedures.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE – PALEONTOLOGY EXHIBIT

Mr. George Phillips, Research Biologist & Paleontologist, gave a PowerPoint presentation which included a history of the Museum's fossil and stone collection. The current collection is now one of the largest in the world. Each year the Fossil Road Show at the Museum draws a large crowd bringing their fossils to share with others and to learn more about Mississippi in the process. Phillips brought several items from the Museum's Paleontology Exhibit for the Commission to view following his PowerPoint presentation.

There being no further Educational Session items, the Commission recessed until 2:30 p.m.

No other presenters came forward and the Commission moved on to the next agenda item.

Arriving later in the meeting, Senator Mike Seymour and Carroll Higginbotham had hoped to address the Commission during Public Comments; however, their arrival was too late for this meeting.

CONSERVATION AWARDS

Chairman Coopwood asked John Taylor, Chairman, MDWFP Foundation; and Bob Tyler, former Assistant Coach for MSU and University of Alabama, to come forward. Both of these gentlemen were given the highest accolades for the countless hours and tireless enthusiasm to ensure that Mississippi is an outstanding place for enjoyment of the great outdoors.

Chairman Coopwood presented a plaque to John Taylor and Commissioner Mounger presented a plaque to Coach Tyler. A round of applause followed.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, License/Boat Registration Division Director, presented the License Sales Report for the month of November, 2019. The total revenue for the end of November is down 5% from last year.

Highlights of his report are listed below:

- Resident license sales – down 3.77%
- Non-resident licenses – down 6%
- Other Licenses category – down 8.82%
- Lifetime Licenses – down 10.09%

WMA User Totals

- iOS WMA Users Total: 11,192
- Android WMA Users Total: 3,911
- Total WMA App Downloads: 15,103

October 2019 WMA Users

- iOS WMA Users: 4,548
- Android WMA Users: 1,539

Auto Renewals

- Since February 2019 a total of 36,356 customers have signed up for Auto Renewal
- 7,458 customers have signed up for Auto Renewal in the month of November.

License Packages

- As of December 9, 2019, there has been a total of 4,467 license packages sold.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

2019 SEAFWA Officer of the Year

Col. Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, asked Corporal Cole Edwards to come forward. The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) selected Corporal Edwards as the 2019 SEAFWA Officer of the Year at their annual convention this year. This honor goes to an officer who has not only demonstrated outstanding law enforcement skills but dedication to community service, outreach and education, interdepartmental cooperation and innovations that may be utilized by other officers and departments. A round of applause followed as Colonel Adcock presented the award to Corporal Edwards.

Law Enforcement Update

Col. Adcock presented a handout to the Commission which highlighted license violations for the month of November and officer work details, such as Hunter Education Classes, supplemental feeding violations, and duck hunting out of season violations.

Enclosures

Colonel Adcock stated that due to the sensitive nature of this report, that this would be done in Executive Session.

License Reinstatement Request

Col. Adcock presented the following license reinstatement request. The violator was asked to come forward and state the circumstances of his arrest before the Commission.

- *Reagan White, Olive Branch, MS*
White stated that he was in his truck with two other friends. He spotted three deer in his headlights and his friend jumped out of the truck with a gun and shot one of the deer in Marshall County. He regretted having done this and will never do this again. His fines totaled \$2,100 which he had to work off himself.

Col. Adcock recommended the Commission restore his license at this time; however, if he receives another citation, he will serve the full three years for a second offense.

MOTION: By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Mounger, White's license was reinstated by unanimous consent with the stipulation that he will serve the entire three years for a second citation.

Mississippi Scholastic Shooting Program (MSSP) Update

Michelle Carter, Director of Outreach Programs, presented a handout to the Commission highlighting two MSSP Fall Qualifier Events each hosting 476 Youth Participants at Turcotte Shooting Facility and McIvor Shooting Facility. With the weather turning cold and wet, Carter has averted her attention to recruitment of public and private schools for MSSP and College Recruitment for the upcoming Law Enforcement 2020 Cadet Class at all 15 Mississippi Community Colleges.

PARKS**Repairs & Infrastructure Investment**

Jennifer Head, Budget Director, presented handouts to the Commission outlining the top five infrastructure and renovation priorities in the FY2021 Budget Request. A Comprehensive Master Plan for Park Improvements was also presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Location: The Cotton House, Donelson Room, Cleveland, MS

Time: No Educational Session; 1 p.m. Business Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Director stated that there need for Executive Session for discussions regarding investigative proceedings by a public body regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law.

ACTION: Commissioner Wagner made a motion to close the meeting to determine the need for Executive Session for discussion on investigative proceedings by any public body regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law. Commissioner Cossar 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 regarding investigative proceedings by a public body regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law.

The meeting was closed, and the room cleared.

ACTION: Commissioner Wagner made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss investigative proceedings by a public body regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law. Commissioner Cossar seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to enter Executive Session.

Counsel announced to those present outside the meeting room that the Commission had entered Executive Session to discuss investigative proceedings by a public body regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law.

Chief Adcock, Lieutenant Trent Myers, and William McKinley with the enclosure enforcement program, updated the Commission on current issues with non-compliant enclosures which may result in citations being issued for regulatory and statutory violations.

Discussion followed; however, no action was required of the Commission, at this time.

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

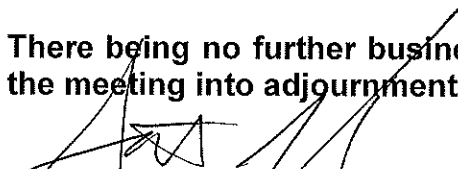
Counsel announced that the meeting had re-opened and no action had been taken by the Commission.

Senator Seymour returned to the meeting and asked about making more WMA Daily Visitor Permits available in card form for sportsmen who do not have smart phones (for the WMA Check-in app) or for areas with poor cell coverage. Russ Walsh assured the Senator that all WMA managers in South Mississippi had an adequate supply of cards and he would follow up with them to make sure they were available.

Senator Seymour also asked about a request from Hope Outdoors regarding an upcoming hunt for individuals with disabilities. Staff informed the Senator that we were awaiting a formal request on letterhead from the organization.

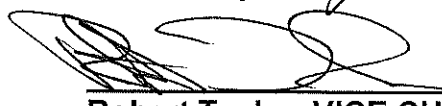
ADJOURNMENT

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



Scott Coopwood, CHAIRMAN

1/15/20
Date



Robert Taylor, VICE CHAIRMAN

1/15/20
Date