

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

**Monday, November 9, 2015**

**2 p.m.**

**MDWFP Main Office, 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211**

## **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, Charles Knight, Colonel Steve Adcock, Jason Thompson, Ed Penny, and counsel, Doug Mann and Drew Malone, Special Assistant Attorneys General.

Chairman Rigdon gaveled the meeting to order.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Robert Cook, Deputy Executive Director, opened the meeting with prayer.

## **MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the minutes for the October 14, 2015 Commission meeting were unanimously approved.

## **AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the agenda for November 9, 2015 was unanimously approved as presented.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no members of the public present who wished to comment on any matters pending before the Commission.

## **LICENSE SALES REPORT**

Jason Thompson, Director of License/Boat Registration, presented the License Sales Report for the month of October 2015. Total revenues are down one percent.

Highlights of Thompson's report are listed below:

- Resident License Sales are down over four percent. A number of resident and non-resident customers are waiting until November 21<sup>st</sup> for gun season to begin to purchase their licenses.
- The Foundation has purchased over 900 licenses for youth this year.
- Non-resident License Sales are down two percent. Seven-day small game licenses are up 12%. Seven-day all game licenses are up 20%.
- Permits are up \$99,000 (60% increase)
- Lifetime Licenses are down \$19,000

### MARKETING

Lacey Kuhn, Marketing Coordinator, detailed a PowerPoint presentation which outlined marketing strategies using traditional advertising (TV, radio, and print) and digital promotions (web, social, and email).

### WILDLIFE

#### TEMPORARY 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Rule 1.12 – Mahannah WMA Regulations

Chad Dacus, Director of Wildlife Bureau, stated that this change would correct a typo made in April altering the opening date for gun hunting at Mahannah WMA from November 13 to November 12. The temporary rule will go into effect upon filing and expire on November 13.

**ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, Rule 1.12 was unanimously approved as presented.**

#### Hope Outdoors – License Exemption Request

Dacus presented a request for license exemption for one out-of-state hunter who is disabled. This hunter will be participating in a hunt sponsored by Hope Outdoors. The hunt is scheduled for January 29 - 30, 2016 in the Wiggins, Stone County area.

**ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the license exemption request was unanimously approved as presented.**

#### Update on the Foundation Super Hunt: A Deer Hunt for Youth with Disabilities

Dacus informed the Commission that this was the third year MDWFP had teamed up with the Foundation to sponsor the Super Hunt: A Deer Hunt for Youth with Disabilities. The Super Hunt was a three-day event full of fun activities and three hunting opportunities. It was held at the MDWFP Turcotte Education Center running from October 30 to November 1, 2015. Participants included 78 youth between the ages of 6 and 17. Twenty-eight youth killed a deer, seven killed their first deer. Alan Mumbower, Hunter Education Coordinator, was recognized for his outstanding job as the Coordinator of this event.

**2015 SEAFWA Wildlife Biologist of the Year – John Gruchy**

Dacus requested John Gruchy to come forward as he announced that The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) had named Gruchy the 2015 Wildlife Biologist of the Year at their annual meeting in Asheville, NC on November 3, 2015. The Association's Wildlife Biologist of the Year Award is given to one Wildlife Biologist who has made outstanding contributions toward wildlife conservation.

Applause followed as Dacus presented the framed award to Gruchy.

**WMA Trapping Request**

Dacus stated that licensed trapper Johnny McMillen from New Albany had requested a permit to trap live coyotes on Charles Ray Nix WMA for the 2015-16 trapping season. There will be special stipulations in place and data collected from Mr. McMillen. Any other requests will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, Mr. Miller's request for a permit to trap live coyotes was unanimously approved as presented.**

**The Wildlife Society's Distinguished Service Award – Randy Spencer**

Larry Castle, Director of Technical Programs, came forward to recognize Randy Spencer, Grant Coordinator, as the recipient of The Wildlife Society's Distinguished Service Award. This is a professional society which annually recognizes professional excellence, outstanding achievement, and highlights contributions to wildlife science and management through their Awards Program. This award was recognized at the Wildlife Society's annual meeting in October and presented to Randy Spencer at the SEAFWA conference last week in Asheville, NC. A round of applause was given to Spencer as Castle presented this award to him.

**FISHERIES****TEMPORARY and PROPOSED 40 Miss. Admin. Code, Part 3, Rule 1.4 – Statewide Creel Limits**

Larry Pugh, Director of Fisheries Bureau, presented a change to Rule 1.4 in order to clean up language and establish a daily creel limit of three Rainbow Trout per day at Lake Lamar Bruce. This Rule was presented as both a proposed and temporary rule, with the temporary rule going into effect immediately while the proposed rule would be out for comment.

**ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, Rule 1.4 was unanimously approved as presented.**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT****Citation Report**

Colonel Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, presented a handout which highlighted license violations, shooting range attendance, Super Hunt youth event, and in-service training.

**Reinstatement Request**

Colonel Adcock stated that the reinstatement request for Bobby Glenn Roberson, Jr. had been resolved prior to the meeting and no action was needed by the Commission.

**Stuff the Truck Toy Drive for Blair Batson Children's Hospital**

Lt. Chris Reed presented the MDWFP Toy Drive for Blair Batson Children's Hospital. MDWFP is the only toy drive sponsor for the hospital during the Christmas Season. Approximately 60-80 children are treated daily; however, during the Christmas holidays 100-120 children come in for treatments daily while they are out of school. Each child receives a toy when treated at the hospital, which includes outpatient treatment. Each hospitalized child also receives toys on Christmas morning. Ten locations were cited as drop off points for toys from November 2 – December 10. MDWFP Law Enforcement Officers will be delivering the donated toys to Blair Batson on Thursday, December 17.

MDWFP will host a Sporting Clay Fun Shoot on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 7 am at the Turcotte Shooting Facility. All proceeds and gifts from this event will go to the children at Blair Batson.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was presented.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Next Commission meeting date was set for Wednesday, December 16, at 2:30 p.m., at Delta State University, Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni Foundation House, 1003 West Sunflower Road, Cleveland, MS.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine the need for Executive Session. The Commission determined that Executive Session was needed for discussions regarding transactions in real property. Upon motion made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Commission voted unanimously to enter Executive Session.

Dr. Polles updated the Commission on several tracts which may be available for purchase, as well as tracts which had been discussed in previous meetings, but did not appear to be moving toward acquisition.

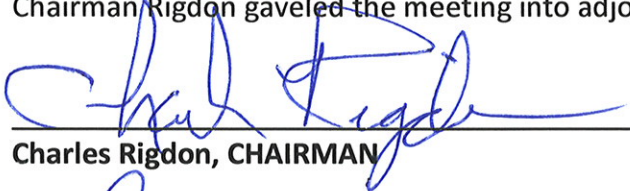
There was no further business for Executive Session.

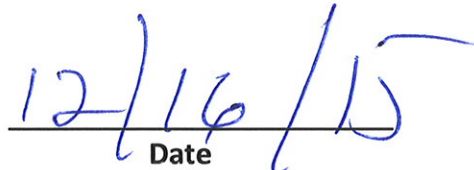
**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Commission voted unanimously to exit Executive Session and open the meeting.

**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

  
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Date