

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

2 p.m.

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS

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; Michael Bolden, Larry Castle, Jennifer Head, Chad Dacus, Colonel Steve Adcock, Jason Thompson, and counsel, Doug Mann and Drew Malone, Special Assistant Attorneys General.

Chairman Rigdon gaveled the meeting to order and welcomed Senator Mike Seymour, House WFP Committee Chairman Scott Bounds and Robert Taylor to the meeting.

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 of the Special Teleconference Meeting held on May 12 and Regular Commission Meeting on May 18, 2016 were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the agenda for June 22, 2016 was unanimously approved.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, Director of License/Boat Registration, presented the License Sales Report for the month of May 2016. Total revenues were up \$44,000.

Highlights of Thompson's report are listed below:

- Freshwater fishing – up 4%
- 3 day freshwater - up 11%
- Commercial Fishing License – up 5%
- Shooting Range Permits – up 10% generating over \$90,000
- Non-resident Privileges – down less than 1%

- All Day Licenses - up \$67,000
- WMA permit sales – up 3%
- Three-day Freshwater licenses – up 6%
- One-day Freshwater licenses – up 2%
- Spring Turkey hunters purchased 117 more licenses
- Permit category – up 61%
- Lifetime License category – up 3%

FINAL 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 6, Chapter 1 – Chapter 8 – License General Regulations

- **Rule 8.4 – Non-Resident Hunting & Fishing License & Fee Program**

Jason Thompson stated that no comments were received and recommended approval.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, Final Rule 8.4 was approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented.

PARKS

FINAL 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 6, Chapter 1 – Rules & Regulations for Miss. State Parks

- **Rule 1.2 – Section T. – Firearms, Fireworks, and Explosives**

Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General, stated that this rule change was brought before the Commission at the May meeting in order to be in compliance with Mississippi House Bill 786. No comments were received and staff recommended approval.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, Final Rule 1.2 was approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.

TEMPORARY AND PROPOSED

40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 6, Chapter 1 – Rules & Regulations for Mississippi State Parks

- **Rule 1.1 – State Park Fees**

Jennifer Head, Director of State Parks, presented the following fee increases.

Bear Creek Float Trip – Increase from \$30 to \$40 per trip (fee still less than competitors)

Carpet (miniature) Golf – Increase from \$2 to a range of \$2 - \$4 per person

(price variance on whether course has been updated or not)

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, Temporary and Proposed Rule 1.1 was approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.

WILDLIFE

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

- **Rule 2.7 – Cervid Carcass Importation**

Chad Dacus, Director of Wildlife Bureau, stated that no comments were received and staff recommended final adoption.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, Final Rule 2.7 was approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.

PROPOSED 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 7

- **Rule 7.1 – General Regulations for the Taking of Nuisance Animals**

Dacus presented the Commission with a letter from Margaret L. Boley, Forest Supervisor, U.S. Forest Service, which addressed the lack of applicable Code of Federal Regulations concerning the taking of nuisance animals on open national forest lands (non-WMA) in Mississippi. In order to reduce confusion by the public, the U.S. Forest Service recommended the adoption of the same Basic Regulations and Special Instruction for all Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) on nuisance animals and extending them to Forest Service lands as outlined below. All these items reflect changes from last year's U.S. Forest Service regulations.

- No bait or feed is allowed at any time.
- Nuisance animals may be killed during daylight hours only during any open season with weapons and ammunition legal for that season.
- Transporting or releasing into the wild, or capture and removal of any live animal or plant is prohibited without Forest Service approval.
- Trapping (including snaring) of hogs is prohibited.
- Moving or transporting live hogs is prohibited.
- Nuisance animal hunting with dogs is allowed during any deer with dogs season.
- Nuisance animal hunting with dogs is allowed during daylight hours only following the close of the last primitive weapon season until last day of February with weapons and ammunition legal for small game.

Two members of the U.S. Forest Service were present and responded to questions concerning this letter.

Commissioner Wagner suggested that the U.S. Forest Service consider granting permits to individuals to trap hogs. Commissioner Deviney agreed.

Additionally, Dacus presented changes to Rule 7.1 to incorporate state law changes as stated in HB 487; to require a Live Wild Hog Transport Permit for any wild hog held in an enclosure for the purpose of slaughter; and to add a provision for licensed trappers to possess a live coyote or fox for the purpose of sale to licensed coyote/fox enclosures.

Commissioner Cossar recommended that language in paragraph G(1b) be printed in the newspaper noting that the transporting of "wild hogs" without a permit is a Class I violation punishable with a fine of not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000 and imprisonment in the county jail for five (5) days.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Coopwood and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, Proposed Rule 7.1 was approved unanimously by the Commission as presented.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Citation Report

Colonel Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, presented a handout which highlighted violations, shooting range attendance, and 2016 LawFit Challenge.

License Revocation

Col. Adcock informed the Commission that Joel Gregg, Coahoma County, has received nine (9) citations this past year and that his license was revoked in accordance with state statute. He has already served jail time for his violations and continues to trespass.

OTHER BUSINESS

Election of Commission Officers

Chairman Rigdon called for nominations for Commission officers for the coming year.

ACTION: Commissioner Bill Cossar nominated Commissioner Billy Deviney as the new Commission Chairman, and Commissioner Clay Wagner as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Scott Coopwood seconded the nominations. There were no other nominations. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Billy Deviney as Chairman and Clay Wagner as Vice Chairman, beginning July 1, 2016.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Commission meeting date was set for Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 2 p.m. in the Commission Conference Room located at 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39211.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman asked if there was a need for an Executive Session. The Executive Director stated that there was need for Executive Session.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, 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 land. Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session.

Larry Castle informed the Commission that appraisals for a tract of land adjacent to the Pascagoula Wildlife Management Area were complete and the agency was ready to make an offer at the average of the two appraisals. The land is approximately 320 acres and is currently controlled by the Currie family trust.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the Commission voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to make an offer to purchase the Currie tract for the average of the appraised value.

There was no further business for Executive Session.

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

The meeting was opened and the actions taken during Executive Session were announced in open session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Cossar made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion, and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Chairman Rigdon gave the meeting into adjournment.

Charles Rigdon, CHAIRMAN

Date



Clay Wagner, VICE CHAIRMAN

7-20-16

Date