



**MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
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The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks met at the MDWFP Main Office, 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS on Wednesday, February 17, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was attended by Commissioners Bryan Jones; Charles Rigdon; John Stanley; William "Billy" Deviney; and Jerry Munro. Among MDWFP staff attending were Dr. Sam Polles; Robert Cook; Don Brazil; Ramie Ford; Steve Adcock; Noel Hughes; Libby Hartfield; Charles Knight; Sally Sutherland; and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

**WELCOME**

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order. Mr. Robert Cook opened the meeting with prayer.

**MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Minutes of January 19, 2010 were unanimously approved as presented.

**TODAY'S AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Munro the February 17, 2010 Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no one present from the public who wished to make comments.

**LICENSE SALES REPORT**

Mr. Michael Bolden presented the License Sales Report for January 2010. He stated that there continues to be a slight decline in license sales. However, when compared to an average of overall sales the previous three months, the percentage is down from 4% to 3. The state of Louisiana continues to be the highest in non-resident sales.

Mr. Bolden continued by saying we are continuing the development of our e-mail list of license holders to expand our marketing outreach efforts.

It was noted that there has been an increase in crossbow license sales and there is current legislation that lifts some of the current restrictions for obtaining a crossbow license.

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### MUSEUM

Ms. Libby Hartfield presented a Power Point Presentation regarding Museum updates.

### WILDLIFE Youth Participation Initiative

Mr. Justin Thayer presented a Power Point Presentation regarding an update on the Youth Participation Initiative project.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

Chief Steve Adcock presented an incident/citation report and stated that the highest number of incidents continues to be with tree stand accidents. He said the total number of citations issued in December were 1346 and were broken down as follows:

District 1 = 243  
District 2 = 370  
District 3 = 192  
District 4 = 114  
District 5 = 105  
District 6 = 322

### OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

### NEXT MEETING DATES

(Confirmed) **Tuesday** – March 16, 2010 – Scooba, Mississippi  
(Tentative) **Tuesday** – April 8, 2010 – Jackson, Mississippi

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Munro, the meeting was closed to determine the need for Executive Session. The vote was unanimous. It was determined that an Executive Session was needed to discuss certain land acquisitions, reports of ongoing criminal investigations, and budget line items that could affect the continued employment of employees in specific positions. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Munro, the Commission voted unanimously to enter Executive Session.



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Mr. Doug Mann advised of several easement requests: (1) Quitman County and (2) Trim Cane Water Association. Quitman County is replacing a bridge and needs to expand the right-of-way. Trim Cane Water Association is installing a new water main.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Munro and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the two easement projects mentioned above were unanimously approved as presented.

Mr. Art Kennard gave an update on the proposed shooting range project in Stone County. He stated there have been some negative public comments about this possibility; however, the local Board of Supervisors supports the project.

A motion was made to obtain written support from the local Board of Supervisors in the form of a resolution, and then move forward with appraisals.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, the motion to obtain written approval from the Stone County Board of Supervisors supporting the proposed shooting range in Stone County and to move forward with an appraisal once that resolution is received was unanimously approved.

Mr. Kennard gave updates on Lake Whittington, Lake Chotard and Alcorn County properties. No action was required by the Commission.

Don Brazil gave updates on: (1) Blaine Property in Doddsville saying the owner had backed out of the deal; (2) Swarek Tract in Yazoo County is in the works; (3) Aqua Farms (3290 acres in Washington County with 134 ponds); and (4) Humphrey County in Belzoni: 1282 acres. No action was required by the Commission.

It was suggested to continue looking for prospective properties.

A report was given by Chris McDonald and Eric Clark from the Wildlife Division regarding an inspection of a high fence enclosure in Natchez. Pictures were handed out of the unacceptable conditions of this enclosure. It was advised that 10 counts of Public Notice violations have occurred with this particular site. Staff recommends a letter be delivered to the owner notifying him of the violations and unacceptable conditions of his enclosure. (A draft copy of the letter was handed out.)

Discussion followed.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Munro, it was unanimously approved to send the two-page letter to the owner of the high fence enclosure in Natchez, which outlines the violations and asks the owner to submit an improvement plan within 30 days.



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Mr. Rickie Felder presented an update on the budget, budget cuts and contingency plans for future cuts or reductions in funding. No action was required by the Commission.

Mr. Ramie Ford presented a plan to reduce the budget for Parks. No action was required by the Commission.

To better improve communications with staff, Commissioner Stanley recommended that all communication to the Commissioners flow through one person rather than multiple people. It was agreed that all communication with the Commission come from Sally Sutherland, Administrative Assistant.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Jones gaveled the meeting into adjournment.

  
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BRYAN JONES, CHAIRMAN

3/16/10  
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Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHARLES RIGDON, VICE-CHAIRMAN

3/16/10  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date