



MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

Minutes of the Meeting
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The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks met at East Mississippi Community College in Scooba, Mississippi on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, at 1:00 p.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; Don Brazil; Paul Collins; Tim Brinkley; Robbie Neely; and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

WELCOME

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order. Don Brazil opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Munro, the Minutes of February 17, 2010 were unanimously approved as presented.

TODAY'S AGENDA

There were no changes to the Agenda other than the presenters as follows: Dr. Polles presented the License Sales report; Larry Pugh presented the Fishery Public Notices; Robbie Neely gave the update on Buccaneer State Park; and Tim Brinkley presented the Law Enforcement report.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Munro the March 16, 2010 Agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

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

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Dr. Polles advised a similar trend continues with resident license sales being down overall by 5%. The non-resident sales are down 2%. A private company has been hired to help clean up our current mailing list. It was noted that license sales are up for the Apprentice, All Game, Small Game, and Crossbow licenses, which were all marketed through our new projects. We feel this is a positive indication that our marketing efforts are working.



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FISHERIES

Mr. Larry Pugh presented the following Public Notices from the Fisheries Bureau:

1. 3424 (Creel & Length Limits) (FINAL)
ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Munro and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, Public Notice 3424 (Creel & Length Limits) (FINAL) was unanimously approved as presented.
2. 3423 (Rules & Regulations for State Fishing Lakes (INTENT)
Mr. Pugh stated there were revisions made to the original intent version to match the Parks public notice on fees.
ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Munro and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, Public Notice 3423 (Rules & Regulations for State Fishing Lakes (INTENT) was unanimously approved as presented.
3. 3550 (Community Assistance Program) (FINAL)
ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Munro, Public Notice 3550 (Community Assistance Program) was unanimously approved as presented.

PARKS

Mr. Paul Collins presented the following Public Notices from the Parks Division:

1. P-002 (Rules and Regulations) (Temporary)
2. P-002 (Rules and Regulations) (Intent)
3. P-001 (Park Fees) (Temporary)
4. P-001 (Park Fees) (Intent)

Mr. Collins advised that changes have been made since the original intent versions of the abovementioned public notices were presented at the January 2010 Commission meeting. Therefore, temporary versions need approval in order to implement the changes in a timely manner, and intent versions will be re-filed.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Munro and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the four (4) abovementioned Public Notices (P-002) and (P-001) were unanimously approved as presented.

Mr. Paul Collins presented the following special request from the National Guard:

Colonel Robinson of the National Guard requests a special exemption from the State Park entrance fees for National Guard personnel. This exemption only applies for the entrance fees. All other park fees are not included in the exemption. The National Guard will be responsible for updating the agency each year with current employees who will receive the exemption.



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It was noted that this same request was approved last year and Commissioner Jones asked for a report of the number of National Guard employees who visited the State Parks and received the exemption. Mr. Collins advised he will provide that information.

Discussion was made regarding allowing the exemption for a three-year period only.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Munro, the National Guard's request to exempt their employees from the Mississippi State Park entrance fees was unanimously approved as presented. The request was approved for three years.

Mr. Robbie Neely presented a report on the status of rebuilding Buccaneer State Park. He provided a handout updating the three phases of reconstruction. He advised it is anticipated there may be limited camping available by May 2010. Phase III of the project involves construction of the water slide and wave pool. It is a nine (9) month contract. The bulk of this 21 million dollar project will be covered by FEMA reimbursement and partly insurance.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Lt. Colonel Tim Brinkley presented an update on citations. He stated all district offices are conscious of the budget cuts. It was asked where the money for fines goes and Lt. Colonel Brinkley advised all that money goes to the county.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

NEXT MEETING DATES

(Confirmed) **Thursday** – April 8, 2010 – Jackson, Mississippi @ 12 noon
(Tentative) **Tuesday** – May 18, 2010 – Time & Location: TBA

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, 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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1. Yazoo County Property: Motion was requested to make an offer in an amount equal to the average of the two (2) appraisals.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the motion to authorize the Executive Director to make an offer in an amount equal to the average of the two (2) appraisals on the Yazoo County property was approved. Commissioner Stanley, Commissioner Rigdon, Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Munro voted in favor of the motion and Commissioner Deviney abstained.

2. Discussion followed about the Lake Whittington property being sought for boating access at Lake Chotard. The possibility of a three party arrangement was discussed. A motion authorizing the Executive Director to pursue all possible avenues to obtain the boating access, or in the alternative, to make an offer for the property, was requested.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Munro and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the motion passed.

3. Art Kennard advised the Commission of the bids received for farming Black Prairie WMA and Hell Creek WMA. Mr. Kennard presented the two highest bids for each lease and recommended accepting the highest bids.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the awarding of the leases to the highest bidders.

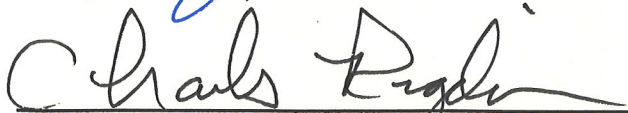
There being no further business for Executive Session, Commissioner Munro made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, to come out of Executive Session and re-open the meeting. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was re-opened.

ADJOURNMENT

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


BRYAN JONES, CHAIRMAN

4/8/10
Date


CHARLES RIGDON, VICE CHAIRMAN

4/8/10
Date