

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

2 p.m.

Holmes County State Park Training Facility, Durant, MS



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Bryan Jones, Commissioners William "Billy" Deviney, Clay Wagner, and Bill F. Cossar

ABSENT: Commissioner Charles Rigdon

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Robert Cook, Deputy Executive Director; Larry Castle, Michael Bolden, Chad Dacus, Larry Pugh, Col. Steve Adcock, Jason Thompson, and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

Chairman Jones gaveled the meeting to order and welcomed House WFP Committee Chairman Scott Bounds, Senate WFP Committee Chairman Giles Ward, and WFP Cadets.

OPENING PRAYER

Sergeant Philip Fancher, MDWFP Law Enforcement Chaplain, opened the regular session with a prayer.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the minutes of October 15 and November 5, 2014 were unanimously approved as presented.

TODAY'S AGENDA

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, today's agenda was unanimously approved.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

License Sales Report

Mr. Jason Thompson, License/Boat Registration Division Director, presented the License Sales Report for the month of October, 2014. He informed the Commission that total revenue for October was down 1.7 percent from last year. It is up 1.0 percent from last month's report.

His report included the following cumulative sales (comparing October, 2014 to October, 2013):

- Resident license - sales are down more than 2%. Small Game licenses up over 1%. Annual Range Permit is up \$13,000, which is 63% increase from last year. Senior and Youth Exempt License sales are up.
- Non-resident licenses - down .8 percent. Last month we were down over 3%. Three-day license sales were up over \$10,000 from last year.
- Other Licenses – sales were up 6%.
- Lifetime category – sales down 1%.

Marketing did send an email blast last month to 6,198 customers whose licenses had expired. This month we have renewed 436 licenses.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

FISHERIES

PROPOSED Rule 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 3

Mr. Larry Pugh, Fisheries Bureau Director, requested the following changes to Rule 2.2 and Rule 3.1.

- **Rule 2.2 – Fisheries Community Assistance Program.**
Changes would include renaming the program to include fishing; modifications to creel limits at Coahoma County Lake, Whitehead Lake, and Chateau Lake; and adding two lakes to the program (McAlpine Lake in Amory & Duncan Lake in Hattiesburg).
- **Rule 3.1 – Commerical Fishing**
Clarifying “helper” and “recreational hoopnet” language; length limit changes; and issuance of special permits to allow limited commercial fishing opportunities at Moon Lake and Bay Springs Lake.

ACTION: Commissioner Cossar made a motion to approve proposed Rule 2.2 and proposed Rule 3.1 as presented. Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion and the motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Promotion Pinnings

Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director, and Mr. Robert Cook, Deputy Executive Director, joined Col. Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, with the pinning of the following officers as their promotions were recognized.

- Capt. Chris Harris to Central Region Major
- Lt. Dale Bell to South Captain over SRT and Central Field
- Sergeant Major Chris Reed to Training Lieutenant
- Msgt. Willie Gayton to South Region Lieutenant
- Msgt. Barry Delcambre to South Region Lieutenant
- Msgt. Marion Pearson to Lieutenant Boating Coordinator
- Sgt. Ricky Berry to Lieutenant Boating Coordinator
- Sgt. Chris Clark to Lieutenant Boating Coordinator
- Sgt. Phillip Fancher to Sergeant Major in charge of the Chaplain Program.
- Corp. Marcus Christon to Sergeant Major in Training.

Citation Report

Col. Steve Adcock briefed the Commission on 219 citations issued statewide between October 13 and November 13. Top five violations were No License, Baiting and Supplemental Feeding, Trespassing, Hunting on a Private Road, and Hunting Out of Season.

Reinstatement Requests

Col. Adcock brought before the Commission four requests for reinstatement. Each violator was asked to come forward and state why his license had been revoked.

- Taylor Nowell, West, MS
Mr. Nowell shot two deer from his vehicle.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted unanimously to reinstate Mr. Nowell's license.

- Cody Smith, Vardaman, MS
Mr. Smith shot a deer from his vehicle after dark and had planned to come back later to pick it up but a game warden was waiting on him. His gun was confiscated and he was fined \$3,000.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted unanimously to reinstate Mr. Smith's license.

- Michael Gossett, Water Valley, MS

Mr. Gossett was arrested for headlighting. No deer was killed. He was fined \$3,200.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted unanimously to reinstate Mr. Gossett's license.

- Joseph McCardle, Hattiesburg, MS

Mr. McCardle was arrested for headlighting. A gun was in the vehicle but was not fired. His fines totaled \$2,500.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted unanimously to reinstate Mr. McCardle's license.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Fox Field Trials 2015 Exemption Request

Mr. Larry Castle, Director of Technical Programs, informed the Commission of a scheduling oversight by the Mississippi State Fox Hunter's Association (MSFHA) for the spring National Fox Hunting Association (NFHA) field trial to be held in Grenada and Yalobusha Counties, March 5-7, 2015. Due to a conflict on the March 7th date with the youth turkey hunt, this request could not be approved at the MDWFP regional level and required exemption by the Commission. Mr. Castle stated that this is the second year this conflict has happened and urged the MSFHA to schedule future field trials outside of the open season or youth weekend of turkey season.

Discussion followed by the Commission. It was noted that this is a long-standing field trial that attracts participants from across the nation and generates an economic stimulus to this region of the state.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commission Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted unanimously to allow this exemption for one day (March 7, 2015) for the NFHA 2015 field trial.

- Wounded Warrior Special Hunt

Mr. Chad Dacus, Wildlife Bureau Director, advised the Commission that the Wounded Warriors of Mississippi would like to partner with MDWFP for a special hunt at Canemount WMA for wounded Mississippi veterans January 23-25, 2015.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Wounded Warrior Special Hunt at Canemount WMA was unanimously approved as presented.

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 real property. Upon motion made by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the Commission voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session.

Dr. Polles presented several properties that are available for purchase, or may become available for purchase, to the Commission, and also reported on funds that are available for land purchases. Discussion followed. One project requiring Commission action is a proposed purchase of a tract of land in south Mississippi to complement a piece of land to be purchased by the Land Trust. After purchase, both tracts will become part of the Pascagoula Wildlife Management Area. Staff requested that the Commission authorize having the tract in question appraised for purchase.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the Commission voted unanimously to authorize having the tract of land in south Mississippi appraised.

After discussing the other opportunities that had been presented, the Commission suggested that staff prepare a prioritized list of properties to pursue, and an action plan for acquiring them. Dr. Polles agreed and said that staff would prepare an educational session prior to either the December or January meeting.

There was no other business for discussion in Executive Session.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the Commission voted unanimously to end Executive Session and open the meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, December 17, 2014 @ 2:30 p.m., Greenwood-Leflore County Chamber of Commerce Auditorium

ADJOURNMENT

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



Bryan Jones, CHAIRMAN

11/19/14

Date

Charles Rigdon, VICE CHAIRMAN

Date