

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Monday, February 9, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Quail Ridge Conference Center, Louisville, MS



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

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

Chairman Jones gavelled the meeting to order and welcomed Senate Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee Chairman Philip Moran, and House Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee Chairman Scott Bounds.

OPENING PRAYER

Larry Castle, Director of Technical Programs, opened the meeting with a prayer.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the minutes of January 21, 2015 were unanimously approved as presented.

TODAY'S AGENDA

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

LICENSE SALES REPORT

License Sales Report

Jason Thompson, License/Boat Registration Division Director, presented the License Sales Report for the month of January, 2015. He informed the Commission that total revenue for January was up over \$5,000 from last year.

His report included the following cumulative sales (comparing January, 2015 to January, 2014):

- Resident License sales escalated up \$2,000. Waterfowl stamps up over \$11,000.
- Non-resident Licenses up over \$3,000. Three-day Archery Weapon up \$43,000.
- Other Licenses reported revenue up 1% in the Permits category.
- Lifetime Licenses – The total number of lifetime licenses sold are down 1% from last year.

The MDWFP License/Boat Registration Division is currently working with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation to send an email blast for fishing license renewals.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were received from the public.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Citation Report

Col. Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, briefed the Commission on 454 citations issued statewide between January 16, 2015 and January 30, 2015. Top five violations were No License, Baiting and Supplemental Feeding, Trespassing, Hunting from a Public Road, and Headlighting.

Reinstatement Request

Col. Adcock brought before the Commission one request for reinstatement. The violator was asked to come forward and state why his license had been revoked.

- Derek Stiglet, Gautier, MS
In 2007 Mr. Stiglet and a friend were arrested for headlighting. No deer were shot. He spent \$2,500 on fines and another \$250 on reinstatement fees, plus his time off from work. He will not be doing this again.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Commission voted unanimously to reinstate Mr. Stiglet's license.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Adcock presented a recruitment video for Law Enforcement that has been produced by the agency. The Commission was impressed with the video and asked the Chief to let all who participated know how much the Commission liked the product. No action was required of the Commission.

Ed Penny and Dr. Polles then addressed the Commission about the possibility of doing a more comprehensive survey of Mississippi sportsmen regarding issues such as license fee increases and tagging. Discussion followed regarding survey methods, accuracy of responses, and costs. After further discussion, it was the understanding that MDWFP would move forward with the survey for license fee increases and tagging.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, March 18 at 2:30 p.m. at MDWFP Main Office, 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, 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, ongoing criminal investigations, and the possible relocation of a business or industry. Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Commission voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session.

Dr. Polles updated the Commission on the prospective purchase of a tract of land in Montgomery County. The Commission had voted previously to authorize the Executive Director to have the property appraised once staff had determined that there were no encumbrances on the property that could impede the ability of the agency to manage it for public hunting. Staff has determined that no such encumbrances are present. Dr. Polles also informed the Commission that the prospective Seller had asked to retain the house/lodge and approximately 200 acres around the house. This would leave approximately 3000 acres for a Wildlife Management Area.

The Commission reaffirmed its prior action regarding this property and encouraged staff to move forward.

Dr. Polles and Chief Adcock updated the Commission on the operations at the enclosures in South Mississippi. No action was required of the Commission.

There was no other business for discussion in Executive Session.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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



Bryan Jones, CHAIRMAN



Date



Charles Rigdon, VICE CHAIRMAN



Date