

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

1:30 p.m.

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, 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, Executive Deputy Director; Larry Castle, Michael Bolden, Jennifer Head, Chad Dacus, Chris McDonald, Larry Pugh, Col. Steve Adcock, Jason Thompson, Paul Collins, and counsel, Doug Mann and Drew Malone, Special Assistant Attorneys General.

Chairman Jones gaveled the meeting to order and welcomed Scott Coopwood of Cleveland, MS.

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 Wagner, the minutes of March 18, 2015 were unanimously approved as presented.

TODAY'S AGENDA

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

LICENSE SALES REPORT

License Sales Report

Jason Thompson, License/Boat Registration Division Director, presented the License Sales Report for the month of March, 2015. He informed the Commission that total revenue for March was similar to sales at this time last year.

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

- Resident License sales identical to FY14. Annual Range permit up \$25,000. Waterfowl Stamps up \$12,000.
- Non-resident Licenses up \$24,000. Three-day All Game License up \$47,000 and Seven-day All Game up \$14,000.
- Other Licenses are up but the permits sold are down 2%.
- Lifetime Licenses – 26 fewer licenses sold.

The MDWFP Foundation purchased 2,500 Youth licenses last year and will be buying 1,300 this year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Winnie Ross came forward to thank the Commission for the Dog Permit System. Her property borders the Homochitto National Forest and she would like to see the continuation of dog permits. The Commission thanked Ms. Ross for her comment.

Mike McCormick, Miss. Farm Bureau Federation, and Brad Young, Wildlife Federation, were present. They had issued written comments to the Commission concerning Wildlife Rule 8.5 prior to the meeting and did not wish to speak at this time.

FISHERIES

FINAL 40 MS Administrative Code Part 3, Chapter 2:

- **Rule 2.1 – Regulations Regarding State Fishing Lakes**

Larry Pugh, Fisheries Bureau Director, stated that no comments had been received for FINAL Rule 2.1 and requested Commission approval.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Fisheries Rule 2.1 as presented.

Fisheries Bureau Awards

Mr. Pugh had the honor of presenting awards to the following employees who made outstanding contributions in their line of work for FY14.

Tyler Stubbs	Fisheries Biologist of the Year
Joey Hinton	State Lake Manager of the Year (Lake Perry)
Dustin Rodgers	Support Employee of the Year

WILDLIFE**FINAL 40 MS Administrative Code Part 2, Chapter 5:**

- **Rule 5.2 – Private Lands Alligator Season**
- **Rule 5.3 – Public Waters Alligator Season**

Chad Dacus, Wildlife Bureau Director, requested approval of the FINAL rules 5.2 and 5.3. A slight change was made to Rule 5.3 to clarify wording to deal with public waters under the control of a public or governmental entity and whether or not that entity will allow alligator hunting. He stated that no comments had been received.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted unanimously to approve FINAL Rules 5.2 and 5.3 as presented.

FINAL 40 MS Administrative Code Part 2, Chapter 8:

- **Rule 8.5 – Decommission of Enclosures containing White-tailed Deer**

Mr. Dacus stated that several comments had been received. All comments had been forwarded to the Commission prior to the meeting for their review. The Chairman acknowledged that the comments had been received and the Commission understood that the rule, as presented, needed to be reworked. It was also noted that some of the stakeholders, such as the Board of Animal Health and the Cattleman's Association, needed to be consulted for their input on any proposed revisions or new rules.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted to withdraw Rule 8.5 for further research and development. Commissioner Deviney abstained from the discussion and the vote.

PROPOSED 40 MS Admin Code Part 2, Chapter 1:

- **Rule 1.1 – 1.43 – All WMAs**

Dacus reviewed the rule changes made to each WMA as outlined in a handout distributed to the Commission. One comment was received concerning Leroy Percy WMA. Dacus discussed this comment with the Commission.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve WMA Rules 1.1 - 1.43 as presented.

PROPOSED 40 MS Admin Code Part 2, Chapter 2:

- **Rule 2.2 – White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits**

Dacus presented a handout with the proposed changes to Rule 2.2 with clarifications on primitive weapons, bag limit wording amended from license year to annual season (Oct. 1 – Feb. 15), and antlerless bag limit in Southeast Zone changed to one per day not to exceed three per annual season (Oct 1- Feb. 15).

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Rule 2.2 as presented.

PROPOSED 40 MS Admin Code Part 2, Chapter 4:

- **Rule 4.1 – Small Game Hunting and Seasons and Bag Limits**

Dacus stated that calendar dates were stricken and the same hunting dates will be used year after year.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Rule 4.1 as presented.

LAW ENFORCEMENT**Citation Report**

Col. Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, briefed the Commission on citations issued statewide between March 13, 2015 and April 16, 2015. The top violation continues to be No License. Discussion followed on the laws and fines imposed for No License. McHenry Shooting range almost matched Turcotte with attendance of 796, slightly less than 818 at Turcotte. However, McHenry may be propelled into the lead this next month due to 580 youth currently attending a 4-H Club Tournament.

Honor of Valor

Col. Adcock presented the Medal of Valor to Msgt. Michael Voyles, Tishomingo Co., due to his personal act of valor beyond the call of duty and by putting himself in harm's way in the aid of two luka policemen during a shootout with an armed offender in a local store. Chief Randy Stringer, luka Police Department, stood up and thanked Voyles on behalf of the City of luka for his extreme heroism and assistance. Col. Adcock commented that this honor has only been bestowed twice before. A round of applause was extended by the Commission, staff, and public to Msgt. Voyles.

MDWFP Fallen Officers' Memorial Service

Col. Adcock invited the Commissioners and public to attend the MDWFP Fallen Officers' Memorial Service to be held on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 10 a.m. at 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS. MDWFP will honor and remember its conservation officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

PARKS

Paul Collins, Director of Park Operations, presented the following FINAL rules. No comments were received.

FINAL 40 MS Administrative Code Part 6, Chapter 1:

- Rule 1.1 – State Park Fees

- Rule 1.2 – General Rules and Regulations for State Parks

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Rules 1.1 and 1.2 as presented.

OTHER BUSINESSNew Director of Parks

Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director, stated that upon the retirement of Libby Hartfield this month a new Director of Parks had been selected. Jennifer Head was asked to stand and be recognized as the new Director of Parks. She was welcomed with a round of applause by the Commission, staff, and attendees.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, May 20 at 2 p.m. at Gulf Coast Research Lab/Cedar Point at Ocean Springs, MS.

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. 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 results of the “yellow book” appraisals of a parcel of land in Montgomery County. Appraisals were surprisingly low, but it was noted that the improvements on the property had been withdrawn from any prospective sale and were not included in the appraisal.

Discussion followed as to any potential offer that could be made. Without taking a vote, the consensus of the Commission was that the Executive Director should make inquiries as to whether or not the Seller would be interested in selling at the appraised price. Dr. Polles assured the Commission that he would let them know the results of his inquiry.

Art Kennard updated the Commission on a tract of land in Bolivar County. This tract is owned by a number of undivided interest owners. The consensus of the Commission was that the agency should gather more information and encourage the seller to produce something to show that full title will be conveyed and that the undivided interest owners are willing sellers.

There was no other business for discussion in Executive Session.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, 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