

# **MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS**

Wednesday, December 19, 2012 @ 2:00 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce, Greenwood, MS



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Jerry Munro, Commissioners John C Stanley IV, Bryan Jones, William “Billy” Deviney, and Charles Rigdon

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Mr. Robert Cook, Deputy Director; Ramie Ford; Noel Hughes; Michael Bolden; Libby Hartfield; Ed Penny; Chad Dacus; Ron Garavelli; Col. Steve Adcock; Lt. Col. Sammy Fisher; Jim Walker; and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

## **WELCOME**

Chairman Munro welcomed Senator Giles Ward (Chairman of the Senate MDWFP Committee).

## **MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Minutes of the November 28, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

## **TODAY’S AGENDA**

The agenda was amended to reflect the addition of one item to Other Business; namely, Shepard State Park - Rules and Regulation changes for Public Notices P-001 and P-002.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, today’s agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.



## LICENSE SALES REPORT

### License Sales Report

Mr. Michael Bolden, Director of Administrative Services, presented the License Sales Report for the month of November, 2012.

He reported the following cumulative sales for November:

- Resident sales are down slightly by less than 1% - \$25,500; catching up from last month;
- Sportsman's License sales are down slightly by \$766 but are catching up; marketing has increased sales in this area
- Non-resident sales are also down by less than 1% representing \$20,200
- Overall license sales are up by \$69,414

Mr. Bolden was concerned with the September sales and was hopeful October and November would be better. Thankfully this has proven to be true with sales catching up in November. It appears that the public chose to delay their license purchases until the hunting season opening.

## WILDLIFE

### Environment and Nutrition Deer Research Project Update

Mr. Chad Dacus, Assistant Wildlife Bureau Director, updated the Commission on a deer research project which has been ongoing for the past seven years. He distributed a booklet to each Commissioner entitled "Environment and Genetics 2012 Research Update."

This project was implemented to evaluate Mississippi deer to determine if deer body and antler size is influenced by regional soil types and subsequent deer habitat quality, since the Lower Coastal Plain does not produce deer comparable to the Mississippi Delta. A secondary research outcome would be to determine the potential inherent geographical genetic influence, as optimum nutrition was provided to all deer.

This project began in 2005 and 2006 by capturing wild bred does in three different soil regions (Delta, Thin Loess, and Lower Coastal Plain). The first generation fawns were birthed at Mississippi State University. The first generation bucks were taken to five different facilities and the first generation does were housed at MSU. The second generation fawns were bred from first year bucks and first year does.

Valuable information was gathered on wildlife birth weights and growth rates on fawns and one year olds. The study did find significant difference in antler size in the first generation; however the second generation antlers of Lower Coastal Plain deer were able to catch up with the Delta deer but the body mass was not. There were no significant differences in antler production for second generation bucks between the three soil regions. One explanation is that the deer can pool their resources into antler production faster than they can into body production. In five or six generations it is predicted that they would be able to catch up on body mass under optimal nutrition.



The big picture is there are no genetic limitations within the Lower Coastal Plains deer. The only limitation in this area is nutrition. The final evaluation revealed that abundant food and quality habitat are the keys to producing superior deer in Mississippi.

National attention is being drawn to the buck score program which was a product of this study. Information from the study has branched out into eight different research projects. The final format is being developed by a Ph.D. student now and should be published in the next 12-18 months. This information will be shared with the public and across state lines after the results have been published.

### **Canemount WMA Deer Report**

Canemount was purchased earlier this year and this fall was the first year for deer draw hunts. The harvest goal for deer was 100. As of 12/13/2012 a total of 85 deer have been harvested so the goal will more than likely be reached by the season end date of January 13<sup>th</sup>. Mississippi Outdoors has been filming there and should bring in some good publicity. A handout of Canemount deer hunting statistics and pictures was given to each Commissioner.

### **WMA Deer and Waterfowl 2012 Harvest**

Statewide deer harvest has been running about the same for the past couple of years at our WMAs. Currently we have reported a deer harvest of 1,551. Waterfowl harvest is up with 5,963 reported total. If weather conditions shift to a colder pattern, it has been predicted that Mississippi will have an abundance of ducks like in the 1990's.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **Citation Report**

Col. Steve Adcock, Law Enforcement Chief, stated that it had only been three weeks since his last report. During that time 309 citations have been issued.

### **Reinstatement Request**

Col. Steve Adcock, Law Enforcement Chief, brought before the Commission one request for reinstatement. He advised the Commission that Mr. Harris had met the requirements, paid his fines, and recommended his reinstatement.

- **John Harris, Satartia, MS**

Mr. Harris stated that he and a friend were going hunting. They headlighted a deer but did not fire their weapons. He was fined \$2,800 for headlighting with possession of a weapon.





**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, the request to reinstate hunting privileges to Mr. Harris was unanimously approved.

### OTHER BUSINESS

#### **Shepard State Park – Rules & Regulation Changes for Public Notices P-001 and P-002**

Ramie Ford, Director of State Parks, informed the Commission that the City of Gautier voted to assume operation and maintenance of Shepard State Park as outlined in an agreement with MDWFP. There will be a transition time between now and January 28, 2012. All revenue and expenses from the park will be transferred to the City of Gautier. This allows the City of Gautier to do things that are not in the regulations; however, they will have to maintain the standards which have been set forth in P.N. P-002.

MDWFP is currently working with the Attorney General's Office concerning a possible deed transfer to the City of Gautier in the future.

Noel Hughes was congratulated for his efforts in negotiating this agreement with the City of Gautier over the past few months.

Ramie Ford requested Commission approval to the added language in the following public notices:

- Public Notice P-001 – “All fees set forth above do not apply to Shepard State Park which is being operated and maintained by the City of Gautier for the State of Mississippi.”
- Public Notice P-002 – “All rules and regulations set forth above do not apply to Shepard State Park which is being operated and maintained by the City of Gautier for the State of Mississippi.”

**ACTION:** Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve Public Notices P-001 and P-002 as amended, Commissioner Stanley seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Commission.

### TENTATIVE MEETING DATE

Date: Wednesday, January 16, 2013  
Time: 2:00 PM  
Location: MDWFP Main Office, Jackson, MS



### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine the need for executive session. The Commission determined that executive session was needed to discuss ongoing criminal investigations, and job performance of specific personnel in specific positions, and related issues. Upon motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Commission voted unanimously to enter into executive session.

Dr. Polles updated the Commission on several ongoing investigations in South Mississippi regarding the alleged unlawful importation of deer into the state. No action was required of the Commission.

Dr. Polles updated the Commission on efforts to secure realignment of law enforcement positions. No action was required of the Commission.

Dr. Polles and Robert Cook updated the Commission on a couple of incidents involving law enforcement personnel. The Commission was informed in case they are contacted about the incidents. No action was required of the Commission.

There was no further business for Executive Session.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Commission voted unanimously to exit Executive Session.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

  
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Jerry Munro, CHAIRMAN

1/16/13  
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Date

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John C Stanley IV, VICE-CHAIRMAN

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Date