

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

**Thursday February 12th, 2025
10:00 AM Business Session Teleconference
MDWFP Headquarters
1505 Eastover Drive**

BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioners Gary Rhoads and Todd Hairston were in attendance. Chairman Scott Coopwood, Commissioners Billy Mounger, and Colin Maloney attended via phone.

Among the MDWFP staff attending were Executive Director Lynn Posey, Brian Ferguson, Lt. Col. Scottie Jones, Russ Walsh, Amy Blaylock, Jerry Brown, Jason Thompson, Andre´ Hollis, Drew Malone (General Counsel) and Doug Mann.

The Chairman gaveled the meeting into order and welcomed guests, both those watching the live stream video and those attending in person.

OPENING PRAYER

Chairman Coopwood opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

Chairman Coopwood asked the Commission to review the minutes from the January meeting and when done called for a motion to approve the minutes.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Maloney and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads, the Commission meeting minutes of January 23rd, 2025, were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

The Chairman asked Executive Director, Lynn Posey if there were any changes to the proposed agenda. Mr. Posey stated that there is a change in the agenda, which was for Mark Lance to speak during "Other Business."

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Maloney, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting agenda for February 12th, 2025.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, Director of Administrative Services, presented the License Sales Report for the month of January 2025. The total revenue for the end of January was down about 1% (\$16,276,706.60) compared to January 2024 (-0.74%).

Highlights of his report are listed below:

- Resident license sales – \$5,663,207.10 (down 0.49%)
- Non-resident license sales – \$9,953,160.50 (down 1.03%)
- Other Licenses – \$92,342.00 (up 1.31%)
- Lifetime License category – \$568,000.00 (up 1.52%)

WILDLIFE

Small Game Season Extension

Through MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-31, when the open season ends on a Friday, the commission shall have the authority to extend the season until thirty (30) minutes after sunset on the following Sunday. This two-day extension is for the 2024-2025 Small Game season only and applies as follows: Small Game: Includes Squirrel, Rabbit, Opossum, Raccoon, and Bobcat. This extension shall apply to private land only and concludes on Sunday, March 2, 2025.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Mounger and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads, the Commission unanimously approved the 2024-2025 small game extension.

40 Miss. Admin. Code, Part 2, Rule 5.2, Rules for Hunting Alligators on Private Lands:

Andrew Arnett proposed a rule change to Rule 5.2, Alligator Hunting Season for Private Lands, for the alligator program. The proposed change would move the application process online. Andrew Arnett stated that no public comments have been received and asked that the rule be final.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Maloney, the Commission unanimously approved the rule change in the alligator program to move the application process online as final.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Update

Lt. Col. Scottie Jones, Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement, reported that during the month of January 2025, a total of 1,196 citations were issued with "No Resident License" being number one (125), "Hunting from Public Road" was number two (107), "Trespassing" was number three (99), "Unlawful Possession" was number four (81), and number five was "WMA Check-in/Regs" (74).

Customer counts for the department's shooting ranges for the month of January were: Mclvor – 515; Turcotte – 973; and McHenry – 914 customers.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mark Lance with the Mississippi's Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus addressed the Commission with a supplemental feeding issue on feeding rules and their impact on hunting turkeys, proposing a distance restriction similar to other states.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Executive Director Posey announced the proposed date and time for the next meeting as follows:

Date: Wednesday, March 19th, 2025
Location: MDWFP Headquarters – 1505 Eastover Drive
Time: 10:00 AM Business Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Director stated that there was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Coopwood called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rhoads made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Hairston. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Coopwood gavelled the meeting into adjournment.



Scott Coopwood, CHAIRMAN

3/19/25

Date



Gary Rhoads, VICE CHAIRMAN

3/19/25

Date