

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

North Mississippi Fish Hatchery, 457 CR 36, Enid, MS
9 a.m. Educational Session / 10:30 a.m. Business Session

MINUTES OF EDUCATIONAL SESSION – 9 AM

PRESENT: Commission Chairman Clay Wagner, Commissioners Bill F. Cossar, Robert Taylor, and Billy Mounger.

ABSENT: Commissioner Scott Coopwood

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Michael Bolden, Larry Castle, Jennifer Head, Col. Steve Adcock, Larry Pugh, Russ Walsh, Jason Thompson, and counsel, Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

Educational Sessions are for informational purposes only. Commission action on any topic may only be taken during a regular Business Session.

FISHERIES

North Mississippi Fish Hatchery Tour

A tour of the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery facilities and operations was conducted by staff. The tour concluded at the Visitor Education Center.

There being no further business, the Educational Session was adjourned. The Commission reconvened at 10:30 a.m. for the Business Session at the Visitor Education Center Conference Room.

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9 a.m. Educational Session / 10:30 a.m. Business Session**MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS SESSION – 10:30 AM**

PRESENT: Commission Chairman Clay Wagner, Commissioners Bill F. Cossar, Robert Taylor, Billy Mounger, and Scott Coopwood.

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Michael Bolden, Larry Castle, Jennifer Head, Col. Steve Adcock, Larry Pugh, Russ Walsh, Jason Thompson, and counsel, Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

Chairman Wagner, having noted for the minutes that a quorum was present, gaveled the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Chairman Wagner welcomed Senator Mike Seymour.

OPENING PRAYER

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

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Mounger and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, the minutes of the March 22, 2018 Commission meeting were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

With no changes to the agenda, the Commission took the following action.

ACTION: Commissioner Mounger moved to approve the agenda for April 18, 2018, Commissioner Coopwood seconded the motion and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Senator Mike Seymour was recognized for comment. Senator Seymour presented several questions for the Commission; including, road closures in Copiah County during turkey season, whether Calhoun County WMA would be included in the recommended 2018-19 WMA regulation changes, and antler

size in the lower Coastal Plain (Leaf River WMA). Russ Walsh, Executive Director of Wildlife Bureau, replied that there were no changes to the WMA regulations for Calhoun County WMA.

ACTION: The Commission asked Walsh to get with Senator Seymour concerning his questions dealing with Copiah County and Leaf River area.

Senator Seymour also requested clarification on a citation issued in North Mississippi at Potts Camp (Tate County). Counsel stated that this particular case was an on-going investigation and could not be discussed in open forum but could be brought up in Executive Session.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, Director of License/Boat Registration, presented the License Sales Report for the month of March 2018. The total revenue for the end of March is down less than 2% from last year.

Highlights of Thompson's report are listed below:

- Resident License Sales – down 3%, quantity sold down 3%
- Resident Waterfowl stamps – quantity sold up by 455
- Non-resident licenses – up \$62,000
- NR Small Game Hunting – up 2%
- NR 7 Day Small Game – up 4%
- NR All Game – up \$83,000
- WMA Permits – up 3%
- Permit category – up over \$40,000
- Lifetime Licenses – up 6%, quantity sold up 9%

The Executive Director requested Thompson to provide a historical review of several license categories next month, including why those categories have declined, and what actions are taking place to retrieve lost patrons.

WILDLIFE

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Update

Walsh presented a handout to each Commissioner with information on the current CWD Response Operation.

A total of 1,338 samples have been taken statewide since October 1, 2017 and test results revealed 1,183 "not detected", 154 "pending", and 1 "CWD positive". Of these deer samples, 574 were collected from Mississippi's 25-mile Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone which encompasses Claiborne, Hinds, Issaquena, Sharkey, Warren, and Yazoo Counties.

To date only one deer has tested positive for CWD which was collected on January 25, 2018 in Issaquena County. All other deer samples from Mississippi submitted for testing have been returned as "not detected" for CWD.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has also sampled deer within the portion of the 25-mile CWD Management Zone which lies across the Mississippi River. All tests submitted by LDWF were returned as "not detected" for CWD.

Discussion followed on testing results in other states after finding CWD. It was noted that some states did not detect more CWD positive test results for two years following the initial occurrence.

FINAL Rule - 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 5 – Alligators

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

With no public comments received during the 30-day comment period, Walsh requested final adoption of Alligator Rules 5.2 and 5.3.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Mounger, the Commission unanimously approved FINAL adoption of Alligator Rules 5.2 and 5.3.

PROPOSED – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 2 – White-Tailed Deer

- **Rule 2.2 – Deer Season and Bag Limits**

The following Deer Season and Bag Limits for 2018-19 were presented to the Commission for approval:

Delta Zone:

Areas west of 1-55 and north of 1-20 plus areas south of 1-20 and west of U.S. Highway 61.

Northeast Zone:

Areas east of 1-55 and north of U.S. Highway 82.

East Central Zone:

Areas east of 1-55, east of U.S. Highway 49, south of U.S. Highway 82, and north of U.S. Highway 84.

Southwest Zone:

Areas east of U.S. Highway 61, south of 1-20, west of U.S. Highway 49, and west of MS Highway 35.

Southeast Zone:

Areas south of U.S. Highway 84 and east of MS Highway 35.

Antlered Buck Deer Bag Limits:

One (1) antlered buck deer per day, not to exceed three (3) per annual season (Oct. 1 – Feb. 15). Legal bucks must meet the antler criteria within the appropriate deer zone.

Antlerless Deer Bag Limits:

A. Delta, Northeast, East Central, and Southwest Zones: Three (3) antlerless deer per annual season (Oct. 1 – Jan. 31). Exceptions to this are:

- (a) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Army managed lands are designated by Federal Regulations and should be contacted for their antlerless deer season and bag limits.
- (b) U. S. Forest Service National Forests bag limit on antlerless deer is one (1) per day, not to exceed three (3) per annual season (Oct. 1 – Feb. 15).

B. Southeast Zone: One (1) antlerless deer per day, not to exceed two (2) per annual season (Oct. 15 – Jan. 31)

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Mounger, the Commission unanimously approved PROPOSED Deer Season and Bag Limits Rule 2.2, as presented.

2018-2019 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Season Recommendations

Walsh called upon Houston Havens, Waterfowl Program Coordinator, to present to the Commission the 2018-19 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Season Recommendations which are listed in the table below.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY	POSSESSION
Sept. Teal	Sept. 15 - 30	6	18
Sept. Canada Geese	Sept. 1 - 30	5	15
Woodcock	Dec. 18, 2018- Jan. 31, 2019	3	9
Snipe	Nov. 14, 2018- Feb. 28, 2019	8	24
Common & Purple Gallinules	Sept. 1 - 30 AND Nov. 23, 2018 – Jan. 1, 2019	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Rails: Clapper and King	Sept. 1 - 30 AND Nov. 23, 2018 – Jan. 1, 2019	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Rails: Sora and Virginia	Sept. 1 - 30 AND Nov. 23, 2018 – Jan. 1, 2019	25 Singly or in aggregate	75 Singly or in aggregate
Mourning and White-winged Doves (North Zone)	Sept. 1- Oct. 7 AND Oct. 27 - Nov. 7 AND Dec. 22, 2018- Jan. 31, 2019	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY	POSSESSION
Mourning and White-winged Doves (South Zone)	Sept. 1 - 9 AND Oct. 6 - Nov. 7 AND Dec. 15, 2018 - Jan. 31, 2019	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots	Nov. 23 - 25 AND Nov. 30 - Dec. 2 AND Dec. 5, 2018- Jan. 27, 2019	Details Below*	Details Below*
Geese: Canada, White-fronted, Snow, Blue, Ross's, and Brant	Nov. 9 - 25 AND Nov. 30 - Dec. 2 AND Dec. 5, 2018- Jan. 27, 2019	Canada Geese: 3 Snow, Blue, and Ross's: 20 White-fronted: 3 Brant: 1	Canada Geese: 9 Snow, Blue, and Ross's: No Limit White-fronted: 9 Brant: 3
Youth Waterfowl	Nov. 17, 2018 AND Feb. 2, 2019	Same as Regular Season	Same as Regular Season
Light Goose Conservation Order (Special Permit Needed)	Oct. 1- Nov. 8 AND Jan. 28 - Feb. 1 AND Feb. 3 - Mar. 31, 2019	No Limit	No Limit

***DUCKS, MERGANSERS, and COOTS daily bag limit:** The duck daily bag limit will include a total of six ducks, including no more than four mallards (no more than two of which may be females), three wood ducks, two redheads, three scaup, two pintails, two canvasbacks, one mottled duck, and two black ducks. The merganser daily bag limit will be a total of five mergansers, only two of which may be hooded mergansers. The coot daily bag limit is 15. The possession limit for ducks, mergansers, and coots is three times the daily bag limit.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Mounger, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, the 2018-2019 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Season Recommendations were unanimously approved by the Commission, as presented.

2019-2021 Turkey Regulation Changes for WMAs

Walsh presented a handout explaining turkey regulation changes for WMAs with long-term turkey harvest declines.

All changes will be monitored for a minimum of three seasons. An evaluation will be done through email-based surveys using contact info from WMA daily use cards. The daily use card data will include: gobbling, observations, harvest per man-day, etc.

- **Choctaw, Little Biloxi, Malmaison, Marion County, and Mason Creek WMAs (Rules 1.2, 1.13, 1.14)**

Youth Season: Last Saturday & Sunday in March

Regular Season: April 1 – May 1

Justification: Hunter complaints suggest users desire proactive management. Later, shorter frameworks are advocated in the Wild Turkey Strategic Plan. The season opens in concert with peak gobbling. Harvest is delayed until hens have opportunity to begin nesting. This retains limited youth opportunity, while minimizing Law Enforcement confusion during regular open season. Lost opportunity only averages 10 man-days per WMA by dropping full Youth Week. Similar changes are being made by neighboring states--Alabama, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

- **Copiah County and Tuscumbia WMAs (Rules 1.8 & 1.32)**

Youth Season: March 8 – 14

Permit-Only: March 15 – April 17

Regular Season: April 18 – May 1

Justification: Extends draw hunt period by three weeks on Copiah and creates similar draw-only framework for Tuscumbia. Copiah and Tuscumbia are respectively the #1 and #3 most highly pressured WMAs in the system (based on average acres per man-day of hunting). Both have stable harvests but too much pressure for acreage. Hunter feedback suggests frustrations with excessive pressure. Each has other public opportunities nearby. Proposal allows limited open hunting late in season when demand should be low.

- **Hell Creek WMA (Rule 1.29)**

Youth Season: Youth Turkey Draw Hunt during April

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday BY PERMIT ONLY – one gobbler bag limit.

Justification: Expanding population can handle limited hunting opportunity. Small overall area and limited population curtails more liberal opportunity. Above framework mirrors youth-only draw dates at Ward Bayou.

These changes were presented as a preamble to the discussion on proposed rule changes for all Wildlife Management Areas, which follow.

PROPOSED – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 1 – WMA Regulations**• Rules 1.1 – 1.45 – WMA Regulations**

Walsh presented the rule changes made for each WMA as outlined in a handout distributed to the Commission. 2016-17 was the end of the five-year regulation continuity cycle. These recommended changes reflect an evaluation of that cycle by MDWFP staff and public comments. They are categorized by clarification of existing language, restructure of content within rule, increase in hunting opportunity, and modified season structure based on biological data.

A copy of this handout has been included in the addendum.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Coopwood and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission unanimously approved the PROPOSED WMA Regulations (Rules 1.1 – 1.45), as presented.

FISHERIES

The following four rules were presented for FINAL passage by Larry Pugh, Director of Fisheries Bureau. The Commission deferred their vote until all four were presented.

FINAL Rule- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 3, Chapter 1 – General Fisheries**• Rule 1.3 – Regulations regarding Sport Fishing**

Pugh stated that no public comments were received; however, Fisheries has decided to remove the proposed requirement for “written” consent to run another person’s gear after reviewing this regulation with Law Enforcement. Fisheries will be working with Law Enforcement Bureau on enforceable changes to this rule next year. Counsel stated that this rule could be approved with the change.

• Rule 1.4 – Statewide Creel Limits

Pugh stated that no public comments had been received; however, Law Enforcement recommended additional language to clarify possession of crappie and bass at Paul Love Park at Lake Washington. Therefore, Fisheries recommended the following language addition to Rule 1.4:

“For Lake Washington in Washington County – the possession of crappie (white crappie, black crappie, and their hybrids) and bass under 11 inches while in Paul Love Park or on the weir is prohibited.”

Counsel stated that this rule could be approved with the change.

FINAL Rule- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 3, Chapter 2 – State Fishing Lakes and Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes**• Rule 2.1 – Regulations regarding State Fishing Lakes**

No public comments were received; therefore, Fisheries requested FINAL passage, as presented.

- **Rule 2.2 – Regulations regarding Community Fishing Assistance Program Lakes**

One written inquiry was received and the inquiry was satisfied. FINAL passage was requested as presented.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission unanimously approved FINAL Fisheries' Rules 1.3 and 1.4 with changes, and FINAL Rules 2.1 and 2.2 as presented.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Update

Col. Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, presented a handout which highlighted citations, shooting range attendance, turkey hunting violations, AIMS tournament, and McIvor construction update.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tabled Request to Transport White-tailed Deer

A deer enclosure transportation request was presented to the Commission at the March meeting; however, that request was tabled pending receipt of additional information from staff. Counsel stated that it was his understanding this request had been withdrawn shortly after the March Commission meeting. Chairman Wagner confirmed that he had been contacted by the requestor the next day and asked that the request be withdrawn. That being the case, no further action was needed by the Commission on this request.

Request for Enclosure Decommission

Larry Castle, Director of Technical Programs, stated that a Mr. Hankins of Carroll County, owner of a permitted enclosure, had requested to decommission his facility. This enclosure encompasses approximately 595 acres. Mr. Hankins has fully cooperated with all requirements contained in the decommissioning regulation. MDWFP staff are satisfied that Mr. Hankins has fully complied with all requirements and have, therefore, authorized the permittee to begin removing or lowering the fence. This is an administrative matter and for Commission information only.

No action was required by the Commission.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Commission meeting date was set for Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 12:30 p.m. following the 10 a.m. MDWFP Fallen Officer Memorial Service. These events will take place at 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman asked if there was a need for an Executive Session. The Executive Director stated that there was need for Executive Session to discuss two Law Enforcement investigations, personnel, and transactions in real property.

ACTION: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to close the meeting to determine the need for Executive Session to discuss on-going investigations of a Law Enforcement agency, personnel matters including the job performance of specific individuals in specific positions, and transactions in land. Commissioner Mounger seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting.

Counsel announced to those present that the meeting was now closed to determine the need for Executive Session to discuss ongoing investigations of a Law Enforcement investigation agency, personnel matters including the job performance of specific individuals in specific positions, and transactions in real property.

The meeting was closed and the room cleared, except for Senator Seymour.

ACTION: Commissioner Mounger made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss ongoing investigations of a Law Enforcement agency, personnel matters including the job performance of specific individuals in specific positions, and transactions in real property. Commissioner Coopwood seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to enter Executive Session.

Counsel announced to those present outside the meeting room that the Commission had entered Executive Session to discuss ongoing investigations of a Law Enforcement agency, personnel matters including the job performance of specific individuals in specific positions, and transactions in land.

Senator Seymour inquired about the status of a road hunting case in Tate County. Staff present with knowledge of the matter indicated to the Senator that the alleged violator had been found guilty in Justice Court, but that he was expected to appeal. Inasmuch as the matter was still being prosecuted, further discussion was moot.

Senator Seymour also informed the Commission that he had received a complaint about an officer in South Mississippi. The Senator had requested that the complainant put his or her concerns in writing; however, he had yet to receive anything. The Senator said that he would forward the complainant's letter upon receipt.

The Commission and Dr. Polles assured him that they would look into the matter.

Senator Seymour excused himself from the meeting.

Dr. Polles then asked the Chief of Law Enforcement to make a presentation. Colonel Adcock introduced several members of the Law Enforcement command staff and local officers from the Warren County area to present a report on a hunting incident that had resulted in a fatality. The officers presented the evidence and the results of their investigation. This presentation was made pursuant to the authority of MISS. CODE ANN. §49-4-31, which authorizes the department to investigate hunting incidents. The statute further authorizes the Commission to refer any hunting incident to the local District Attorney for presentation to the Grand Jury, if the evidence indicates any possible criminal liability was involved in the incident.

Colonel Adcock stated that it was his opinion and the opinion of the investigating officers that this incident was the result of criminally negligent homicide and should be referred to the local District Attorney.

ACTION: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to refer the hunting incident investigative report to the District Attorney for Warren County, for presentation to the Grand Jury, to be considered for prosecution as a homicide. Commissioner Cossar seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to refer the report.

Dr. Polles reported to the Commission that the acquisition of property along the Mississippi River, originally proposed by the Secretary of State, was moving forward. To that end, certain formalities needed to be observed. Dr. Polles asked Counsel to explain.

Counsel informed the Commission that certain expenditures for earnest money, appraisals, and related costs ancillary to the purchase of the real property, would need to be made from the Wildlife Heritage Fund. One of the statutory requirements for such expenditures is the appending of a Commission resolution to the records of the Heritage Fund showing the authorization of expenditures. Counsel requested that the Commission adopt a resolution that had been prepared, to authorize the expenditures.

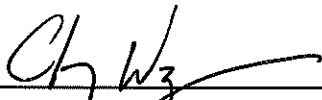
ACTION: Commissioner Coopwood made a motion to adopt the resolution presented to the Commission which would authorize expenditures from the Wildlife Heritage Fund to effect the purchase of lands along the Mississippi River. Commissioner Mounger seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the resolution. A copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes.

There being no further items for discussion in Executive Session, Commissioner Cossar made a motion to open the meeting. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to open the meeting.

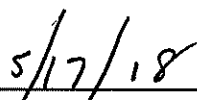
Counsel announced to any members of the public outside the meeting that the Commission had exited Executive Session and opened the meeting. Counsel also announced the votes that had been taken on the items discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Wagner gaveled the meeting into adjournment.



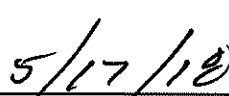
Clay Wagner, CHAIRMAN



Date



Bill F. Cossar, VICE CHAIRMAN



Date

2018 – 2019 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS RECOMMENDED CHANGES

TURKEY SEASON STRUCTURE

2-day youth hunt and begin regular season on April 1

- Choctaw WMA – Rule 1.2
- Little Biloxi – Rule 1.2
- Malmaison – Rule 1.13
- Marion County – Rule 1.14
- Mason Creek – Rule 1.2

Extend draw hunts (~5 weeks)

- Copiah and Tuscumbia

Implement Youth Draw Hunt

- Hell Creek

BASIC REGULATIONS

Basic Regulations Rule 1.1 2

- CLARIFYING that any motorized vehicle is not allowed on roads closed to vehicle traffic (including motorized bicycles).
- CORRECTING website to report bear sightings.
- ADDING language that drones may not be launched from or landed on MDWFP-Owned Wildlife Management Areas.
- ADDING language that trail cameras must have the hunter's name and phone number permanently and legibly written on or attached to the camera.
- ADDING language that a WMA wild hog trapping permit may be requested by contacting 601-432-2199 as needs are determined on individual WMAs by MDWFP.
- ADDING CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 36, will be followed.

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER

Rules 1.10–.12, 1.21, 1.24, 1.34, 1.37, 1.38, 1.40, 1.41 3

- STANDARDIZE language and regulations.

SEASON STRUCTURE

Canal Section and John Bell Williams WMAs – Rule 1.7 4

- Allow hunting in the Harden Moore impoundments each day from one-half hour before sunrise until 12 p.m.

Copiah County WMA – Rule 1.8 5

- Reduce days of antlerless deer opportunity (152% increase in harvest since 2015).

<u>Hell Creek WMA – Rule 1.29</u>	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement a Youth Squirrel Season.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement a Youth Turkey Draw Hunt	
<input type="checkbox"/> Require hunters to harvest a doe during their permitted gun hunt prior to harvesting a buck.	
<u>Lake George WMA – Rule 1.10</u>	7
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce days of antlerless deer opportunity (193% increase in doe harvest since 2015).	
<input type="checkbox"/> Require youth hunters to harvest legal bucks except during the Youth Gun Hunt where they may harvest any antlered buck (50 of bucks harvested were under antler criteria).	
<u>Leaf River WMA – Rule 1.2</u>	8
<input type="checkbox"/> Public request to increase minimum antler criteria to 12 inch inside spread and a 15 inch main beam on Leaf River.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey emailed to 44 hunters with only 16 responses. 10 indicated they wanted to increase minimum antler criteria.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Enact to assess increased criteria on WMA in Lower Coastal Plain	
<u>Marion County WMA – Rule 1.14</u>	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce days of antlerless deer opportunity.	
<u>Mahannah WMA – Rule 1.12</u>	8
<input type="checkbox"/> Allow October to be all permitted archery hunts. 9 total hunts.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Allow November to be all permitted primitive weapon hunts. 9 total hunts.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Allow December to be all permitted gun hunts. 9 total hunts.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate incentive/special hunts.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFY that Saturdays are small game hunting days.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFY that Saturdays and Wednesdays are Scouting days.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION of scouting day language.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFY that the waterfowl sanctuary is closed to all entry.	
<input type="checkbox"/> REMOVE special buck tags since they are not being utilized.	
<u>Natchez State Park WMA – Rule 1.26</u>	11
<input type="checkbox"/> Remove permitted youth squirrel hunts to allow open youth squirrel hunting on Saturdays and Sundays during February.	
<u>O’Keefe WMA and Malmaison WMAs – Rules 1.33 and 1.13</u>	11
<input type="checkbox"/> REMOVE the February Hog Dog hunting season.	
<u>Riverfront WMA – Rule 1.44</u>	13
<input type="checkbox"/> Remove zones. Zones were included because on the State Park zone.	
<u>Shipland WMA – Rule 1.21</u>	14
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce days of antlerless deer opportunity (200% increase in harvest over past two seasons).	
<u>Tuscumbia WMA – Rule 1.32</u>	15
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement a Youth Squirrel Season on Unit 2.	

Twin Oaks WMA – Rule 1.24 15

- REMOVE incentive hunt to allow more draw hunt opportunity.

ROADS and ATV TRAILS

Malmaison WMA – Rule 1.13 9

- Only allow ATVs on WMA levees for retrieval of harvested deer and hogs and for handicapped access.

Old River WMA – Rule 1.17 12

- Close Horseshoe Lake when the river gauge at Bogalusa reads 16.0 ft or higher. Roads will be re-opened when conditions are suitable for vehicle use that will minimize road damage

STANDARDIZE OR CLARIFY LANGUAGE

Rules 1.2, 1.7, 1.9, 1.10– 1.13, 1.15, 1.16, 1.18, 1.19, 1.21–1.25, 1.27–1.30, 1.32–1.38, 1.40, 1.41 3

- CHANGE language for migratory birds (doves, waterfowl, etc) in season date tables from **See Federal Regulations to Same as Statewide Seasons**.

Rules 1.2, 1.7–30, 1.32–41, 1.43–45 3

- CLARIFYING it is the visitor’s responsibility to complete the daily visitor use cards.

Rules 1.2, 1.7–1.30, 1.32–33, 1.35–39, 1.43–45 3

- CLARIFY that all deer harvested on WMAs count towards their statewide bag limit.
- STANDARDIZE Deer Data Collection language and specify what biological data must be collected.

Canal Section and John Bell Williams WMAs – Rule 1.7 4

- Clarification of language.
- Watercraft or left unattended more than 30 days may be confiscated and disposed of by MDWFP.

Charles Ray Nix WMA – Rule 1.36 5

- STANDARDIZE language in seasons/bag limits table.

Charlie Capps WMA – Rule 1.44 5

- CLARIFICATION of when fishing is allowed.
- CLARIFICATION that other migratory game birds (doves) can be hunted using non-toxic shot.

Cossar State Park – Rule 1.45 6

- STANDARDIZE language.

Graham Lake WMA – Rule 1.33 6

- STANDARDIZE language.

Howard Miller WMA – Rule 1.38 7

- CLARIFICATION of dove regulations.

<u>Willam C. Billy Deviney WMA – Rule 1.41</u>	6
<input type="checkbox"/> RENAMING WMA in regulations.	
<u>Lake George WMA – Rule 1.10</u>	7
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFY there are no ORVs/ATVs trails.	
<u>Leroy Percy WMA – Rule 1.11</u>	8
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION that dove hunting on opening Saturday is for Youth Only.	
<u>Muscadine WMA – Rule 1.34</u>	10
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION of Dove regulations.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFY scouting is allowed by foot traffic only on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays 12 p.m. until 3 p.m.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION to remove ORV/ATV redundancy.	
<u>O’Keefe WMA – Rule 1.33</u>	11
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION of Dove Season regulations.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION of closed area and waterfowl language.	
<u>Pearl River WMA – Rule 1.19</u>	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Designate a separate Youth and Handicapped Area due to conflicts between hunters.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION of Legal Weapons language.	
<u>Sardis Waterfowl WMA – Rule 1.20</u>	13
<input type="checkbox"/> STANDARDIZE language.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION of Closed Area and No Hunting Zones.	
<u>Sky Lake WMA – Rule 1.37</u>	14
<input type="checkbox"/> SPECIFY that dove hunting is only allowed from 2pm until sunset.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFY ORVs/ATVs are only allowed for retrieval of harvested deer or hogs.	
<u>Sunflower WMA – Rule 1.44</u>	14
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION of the distance (100 feet) hunter must be from reservoir levees and pipeline rights of ways during firearms seasons.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION users must obtain an ATV/UTV permit from the U.S. Forest.	
<u>Twin Oaks WMA – Rule 1.24</u>	15
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION of Legal Weapons.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION that Saturdays and Wednesdays are scouting days.	
<u>Wolf River WMA – Rule 1.2</u>	16
<input type="checkbox"/> CLARIFICATION there are no ATV trails on Wolf River WMA.	

**BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON
WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS**

In Re: Authorizing expenditures from the Wildlife Heritage Funds to purchase lands in Issaquena County, and for related purposes.

RESOLUTION and ORDER

WHEREAS, the Honorable C. Delbert Hosemann, Secretary of State for the State of Mississippi, in his capacity as State Land Commissioner, has been instrumental in negotiating the purchase of approximately 18,000 acres of land in Issaquena County, formerly owned and controlled by the Anderson-Tully Company (“ATCO”);

WHEREAS, the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (the “Commission”) as successor to the Wildlife Heritage Committee, is desirous of assisting in the purchase of these lands through the use of funds in the Wildlife Heritage Fund and through grants from the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Once acquired, the lands will be managed as part of the Wildlife Management Area system of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (“MDWFP”);

WHEREAS, In order to purchase the entire tract, the Secretary of State, and the Commission, have solicited the assistance of The Nature Conservancy (“TNC”) to provide the necessary funding to acquire the total acreage available for purchase by the state;

WHEREAS, the Commission, acting by and through the MDWFP, and in concert with the Secretary of State and The Nature Conservancy, has successfully negotiated a contract for the purchase of the said lands, and is entering the period of time to perform such due diligence as may be necessary, to verify acreage, title, and related matters, prior to closing;

THEREFORE, Pursuant to the authority contained in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-5-83, the Commission has directed the preparation of this resolution, documenting the authority to make expenditures from the Wildlife Heritage Fund, as authorized in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-5-71, and further orders the following:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks finds that the proposed purchase of lands in Issaquena County represents a major achievement in natural resource conservation, with the potential for preserving and enhancing wetlands in perpetuity for all Mississippians; and

BE IT ORDERED: That, the Executive Director is hereby authorized to make such expenditures from the Wildlife Heritage Fund as may be required to effect the purchase of the subject lands, to include, but not be limited to, procurement of appraisals, payment of any “earnest money,” and tendering of funds representing the consideration for the purchase of the lands in Issaquena County, under the auspices of the Secretary of State, and in concert with The Nature Conservancy.

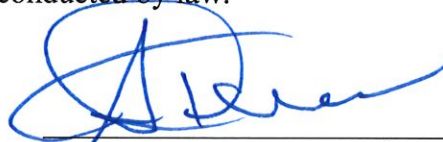
SO RESOLVED AND ORDERED, by unanimous vote of the Commission, this the 18th day of April, 2018.



Clay Wagner, Chairman
Mississippi Commission on Wildlife,
Fisheries, and Parks

CERTIFICATION

I, **Sam Polles, Ph.D.**, hereby certify that the Resolution and Order set forth above, is a true and correct Resolution and Order of the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, as authorized by a vote taken and spread upon the minutes of the meeting of the Commission, dated Wednesday, April 18, 2018, as duly noticed and conducted by law.



Sam Polles, Ph.D., Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
Fisheries, and Parks