

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

Thursday, May 17, 2018  
1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211  
No Educational Session  
12:30 p.m. Business Session

## **MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS SESSION**

**PRESENT:** Commission Chairman Clay Wagner, Commissioners Bill F. Cossar, Robert Taylor, Scott Coopwood, and (via teleconference) Billy Mounger.

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 12:30 p.m.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

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

### **MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Coopwood and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, the minutes of the April 18, 2018 Commission meeting were unanimously approved.

### **AGENDA**

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

**ACTION:** Commissioner Taylor moved to approve the agenda for May 17, 2018, Commissioner Cossar seconded the motion and the motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Kelly MacNealy, Madison, MS** - was recognized as the designated speaker for a group of 20-25 hunters who came to the meeting. As members of hunting clubs which lease land from Anderson Tully, Mr. MacNealy expressed concerns with MDWFP purchasing property from Anderson Tully in the Southern Delta area. It was suggested that MDWFP review the flooding aspects of this property, the expense of building bridges to access different areas, and additional law enforcement needed. The group also suggested building lodges or

campgrounds on WMAs for hunters to use, ATV roads to enable youth and disabled to get to hunting areas, and designated ground blinds for hunters with special needs.

The Executive Director pointed out that several WMAs do have designated ground blinds for hunters with special needs. Different ways of managing WMAs are currently being analyzed, not only by Mississippi but all fifty states, and many of the points brought out today are already under consideration.

In response to a question on leasing the land to the hunting clubs, Counsel explained that there is no statutory authority which currently exists that will allow MDWFP to lease state property to a private individual. Also, if the sale is finalized, restrictions on Federal grant funds, which will be used to purchase this property, do not allow it to be leased to private parties.

### **LICENSE SALES REPORT**

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

Highlights of Thompson's report are listed below:

- Resident License Sales – down 4%
- Non-resident licenses – up \$20,000
- NR Small Game Hunting – up 2%
- NR 7 Day Small Game – up 4%
- NR All Game – up 3%
- NR Spring Turkey Permit – up 5%
- Permit category – up \$40,000
- Lifetime Licenses – up 6%, number sold up 9%

In response to Chairman Wagner's question on the cause of annual revenue decline, Thompson attributed it to non-resident privileges and wildlife/fishing license privileges.

### **WILDLIFE**

#### **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Update**

Russ Walsh, Wildlife Executive Staff Officer, presented a handout to each Commissioner with information on the current CWD Response Operation.

A total of 1,520 samples have been taken statewide since October 1, 2017 and test results remain the same with only one "CWD positive". The Wildlife Bureau will continue to test. It was noted that in some states with CWD outbreaks, test results in the early stages of the disease came back as "not detected". In these states it took months or years for the disease test results to indicate more "CWD positive" deer.

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

Walsh stated that there were no significant public comments. There were a couple of date changes made in the FINAL copy.

**ACTION:** By motion of Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission unanimously approved the FINAL WMA Regulations (Rules 1.1 – 1.45), with changes.

**FINAL – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 2 – White-Tailed Deer****• Rule 2.2 – Deer Season and Bag Limits**

Walsh stated that there were no public comments and recommended approval.

**ACTION:** By motion of Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission unanimously approved FINAL Deer Season and Bag Limits Rule 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, illegal dumping and littering violations, MSSP State Tournament with East Rankin Academy taking top honors, South Regional Clay Shoot with top 30 shooters from each state invited to compete (Mississippi officers and shooting range staff participated), and McIvor construction update.

**OTHER BUSINESS****Executive Orders – Moon Lake and Wolf Lake**

Pursuant to the authority set forth in Mississippi Code Annotated '59-21-111 et. seq., the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, with the approval of the Commission, rescinded and withdrew restrictions on certain recreational boating activities at Moon Lake, Coahoma County, and Wolf Lake, Yazoo County, Mississippi, by Executive Order.

All recreational boating activity on Moon Lake was resumed on May 7, 2018 and Wolf Lake, Yazoo County, on May 11, 2018.

**ACTION:** By motion of Commissioner Coopwood and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission unanimously ratified all actions to date on the Executive Orders for Moon Lake and Wolf Lake. Signed copies of the two Executive Orders which were ratified have been appended to the minutes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Next Commission meeting date was set for Wednesday, June 20, 2018. The Educational Session will begin at 2 p.m. followed at 3 p.m. with the Business Session. 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 personnel matters involving the job performance of specific individuals in specific positions, and potential transactions in real property.

**ACTION: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to close the meeting to determine the need for Executive Session to discuss personnel matters including the job performance of specific individuals in specific positions, and transactions in land. Commissioner Cossar 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 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.

Discussion followed.

**ACTION: Commissioner Cossar made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss 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 personnel matters including the job performance of specific individuals in specific positions, and transactions in land.

Dr. Polles updated the Commission on the potential purchase of lands in Issaquena County which was the subject of the Public Comments received at the beginning of the meeting. No action was required of the Commission at this time.

Next, Dr. Polles and Chief Adcock informed the Commission of pending promotional opportunities in the Law Enforcement Bureau, due to attrition (retirement) of specific individuals. No action was required of the Commission.

**ACTION:** There being no further items for discussion in Executive Session, Commissioner Taylor made a motion to open the meeting. Commissioner Cossar 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 that no votes had been required for the items discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

  
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Clay Wagner, CHAIRMAN

  
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Date

  
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Bill F. Cossar, VICE CHAIRMAN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS**

***In Re: Temporary No-Wake Zone: Moon Lake, Coahoma County, Mississippi***

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**PURSUANT TO** the authority set forth in MISS. CODE ANN. §59-21-111(1), *et. seq.*, the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, as successor to the Mississippi Boat and Water Safety Commission, acting by and through the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (“MDWFP”), hereby rescinds that certain Executive Order suspending all recreational boating on Moon Lake, in Coahoma County, issued in March of this year, and substitutes therefor, this Temporary No-Wake Zone.

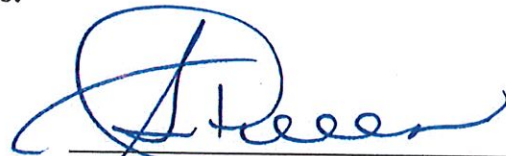
The water level at Moon Lake has finally receded to a level that no longer presents a hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of the boating public and landowners around the shore of the lake. However, the present water level still presents a hazard to private landowners and the public who own or utilize pier structures along the lake shores, where boat traffic creates wakes that may damage such property or injure persons on such piers.

The Executive Director finds as follows:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that pursuant to the authority set forth in MISS. CODE ANN. §59-21-111(1), *et. seq.*, a Temporary No-Wake Zone is declared on the waters of Moon Lake, Coahoma County, Mississippi, such that any and all boat traffic shall operate in a “dead slow – leave no wake” manner so as not to create any wake. This No-Wake Zone declaration shall continue in full force and effect until such time as the waters shall recede to a level where normal wakes no longer threaten the properties and piers along the shores.

Further, this Temporary No-Wake Zone shall be enforced by state and local law enforcement officers who patrol Moon Lake, including, without limitation, conservation officers of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and the Coahoma County Sheriff Department.

**SO ORDERED**, this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018.



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SAM POLLES, Ph.D.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS**

***In Re: Rescission of Suspension of Recreational Boating:  
Wolf Lake, Yazoo County, Mississippi***

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**PURSUANT TO** the authority set forth in MISS. CODE ANN. §59-21-111(1), *et. seq.*, the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, as successor to the Mississippi Boat and Water Safety Commission, acting by and through the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks ("MDWFP"), hereby rescinds that certain Executive Order suspending all recreational boating on Wolf Lake, in Yazoo County, issued in March of this year.

The MDWFP has determined that the water level on Wolf Lake has finally receded to a level that no longer presents a hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of the boating public and landowners around the shore of the lake. While no longer a threat, the present water level is still high and boaters are urged to operate with caution in areas where private landowners and the public own or utilize pier structures along the lake shores, to avoid damage to such property or injury to persons on those structures.

The Executive Director finds as follows:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that pursuant to the authority set forth in MISS. CODE ANN. §59-21-111(1), *et. seq.*, the Suspension of All Recreational Boating Activity on Wolf Lake, Yazoo County, Mississippi, is hereby rescinded. All boaters are encouraged to operate with caution so as not to threaten the properties and piers along the shores or persons using such properties or structures.

The normal rules and regulations for safe boating shall continue to be enforced by state and local law enforcement officers who patrol Wolf Lake, including, without limitation, conservation officers of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and the Yazoo County Sheriff Department.

**SO ORDERED**, this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018.



SAMPOLLES, Ph.D.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR