

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211

2 PM Educational Session / 3 PM Business Session

EDUCATIONAL SESSION – 2 PM

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

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Michael Bolden, Curtis Thornhill, Col. Steve Adcock, Larry Pugh, Russ Walsh, Jason Thompson, Charles Knight, and counsel, Drew Malone, 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.

Trapping in Mississippi

Mr. Kenny Prince, representing the Mississippi Trappers' Association, gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on trapping in Mississippi. He stated that predator animals are increasing. Mr. Prince gave a thorough account of all the predators in Mississippi and the best methods to control them.

Some highlights of his presentation include:

- Raccoon population explodes when not being trapped.
- Coyotes have been known to eat domestic dogs, young donkeys, calves, sheep, and goats.
- The Cooperative Co-op took out 1,000 coyotes last year.
- Traps and snares are still the best way to control coyotes.
- Hogs prefer snares. Patience produces results.
- Trapping is the best method to open dams created by beavers.

Mr. Prince introduced Chip Davis, President of the Mississippi Trappers' Association (MTA). MTA will be having their Fall Convention/Annual Meeting at Bass Pro Shop in Pearl, MS on September 21 & 22, 2018. MDWFP and Mississippi Outdoors were invited to come to their Fall Convention. Trapper Educational Classes will be offered.

His presentation concluded with a display of various pelts for observation and a demonstration on how to set a variety of traps and snares.

There being no further business, the Educational Session was adjourned. The Commission took a short break before reconvening at 3 p.m. for the Business Session.

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MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS SESSION – 3 PM

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

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Michael Bolden, Curtis Thornhill, Col. Steve Adcock, Larry Pugh, Russ Walsh, Jason Thompson, Charles Knight, and counsel, Drew Malone, Special Assistant Attorney General.

Chairman Wagner, having noted for the minutes that a quorum was present, gaveled the meeting to order at 3 PM. Chairman Wagner welcomed Senator Mike Seymour.

OPENING PRAYER

Russ Walsh, Wildlife Executive Staff Officer, opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Coopwood and seconded by Commissioner Mounger, the minutes of the May 17, 2018 Commission meeting were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

Chairman Wagner advised the Commission of the following requested changes to the agenda:

- Remove Wildlife - Proposed Rule 8.2 Regulations for Enclosures Preventing the Free Ingress and Egress of Wild Animals
- Add Wildlife – Proposed Rule 1.43 – Canemount WMA Regulations

ACTION: Commissioner Taylor moved to approve the agenda for June 20, 2018 as amended, Commissioner Coopwood seconded the motion and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented to the Commission.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, Director of License/Boat Registration, presented the License Sales Report for the month of May 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 3%
- Small Game Freshwater Fishing licenses – up 2%
- Non-resident licenses – up \$42,000
- NR Small Game Hunting – up 2%
- NR 7 Day Small Game – up 4%
- NR All Game – up \$17,000
- NR Spring Turkey Permit – up 5%
- Permit category – up \$40,000
- Lifetime Licenses – up 4%, number sold up 8%

WILDLIFE

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Update

Russ Walsh, Wildlife Executive Staff Officer, informed the Commission that Mississippi State University's Veterinary Research & Diagnostic Laboratory in Pearl/Jackson has been approved to receive funding to purchase equipment and provide a technician to test all our fresh tissue samples in the future. Currently all samples collected in Mississippi are sent out-of-state for testing.

PROPOSED – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 1 – WMA Regulations:

Rule 1.43 – Canemount WMA Regulations

Walsh presented the following changes:

- Designate Mondays and Thursdays as scouting days (currently only Thursdays)
- Deer Draw Hunt – Administrative Changes
 - 13 (3-day hunts) - Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
3-day hunts are \$300 with 12 hunters per hunt
 - 16 (2-day hunts) – Tuesday and Wednesday
2-day hunts are \$200 with 12 hunters per hunt
 - 1 (2-day youth hunt) - \$200 with 6 hunters per hunt
 - After initial drawing, individuals will have 48 hours to purchase a permit.
Subsequent drawings will be held for permits not purchased.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Mounger and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission unanimously approved Proposed Rule 1.43 as presented.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Update

Col. Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, presented a handout which highlighted citations, shooting range attendance, McIvor construction update, officers assisting with recovery and CPR for unconscious individual, and officer support at special summer events (fishing rodeos, Mississippi Fish Hatchery youth field trips, and VBS alligator presentations).

Commissioner Taylor stated that the public need to be aware of the number of drownings in Mississippi and how to prevent them.

License Reinstatement Request

Colonel Adcock presented the following license reinstatement request. The violator had met all the requirements by taking a Hunter Education class and paying his fines. Adcock asked him to come forward and state the circumstances of his arrest before the Commission.

- *Auzzie Myatt, Woodland, MS*
Myatt informed the Commission that he had shot a deer in Pike County after dark. He stated that he had learned his lesson and would never do it again. He apologized and said he was sorry. This mistake cost him around \$3,000.

Col. Adcock recommended the Commission restore Myatt's license at this time with the understanding that if he receives another violation, his license will be rescinded for the entire three years.

MOTION: Upon motion of Chairman Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, Myatt's license was reinstated by unanimous consent with the stipulation that he will serve the entire three years for a second citation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Election of Commission Officers

Chairman Wagner called for nominations for Commission officers for the 2018-19 year.

ACTION: Commissioner Taylor nominated Commissioner Bill F. Cossar as the new Commission Chairman and Commissioner Scott Coopwood as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Mounger seconded the nominations. There were no other nominations. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Bill F. Cossar as Chairman and Scott Coopwood as Vice Chairman, beginning July 1, 2018.

As Wagner's term ends this month as Chairman of the Commission, he wanted to commend the staff at MDWFP for the dedication to their job and the magnitude of everything they do for

this Commission and the State of Mississippi. Commissioner Coopwood issued a thank you to Chairman Wagner for his outstanding job as Chairman this past year.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Commission meeting date was set for Tuesday, July 17, 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 Buccaneer State Park, 1150 South Beach Boulevard, Waveland, MS 39576.

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 transaction of business and discussion regarding the prospective purchase, sale, or leasing of lands.

ACTION: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to close the meeting to determine the need for Executive Session to discuss transaction of business and discussion regarding the prospective purchase, sale, or leasing of lands. 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 transaction of business and discussion regarding the prospective purchase, sale, or leasing of lands.

The meeting was closed and the room cleared. Thomas Anderson remained to make a presentation to the Commission concerning a pending real property transaction.

Discussion followed.

ACTION: Commissioner Coopwood made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss transaction of business and discussion regarding the prospective purchase, sale, or leasing of lands. Commissioner Cossar 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 transaction of business and discussion regarding the prospective purchase, sale, or leasing of lands.

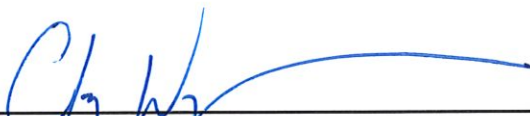
Dr. Polles updated the Commission on the potential purchase of lands in Copiah County. Thomas Anderson, whose property is subject to an easement to gain access to the proposed purchased lands, came forward and presented his view on this purchase. No action was required of the Commission at this time.

ACTION: There being no further items for discussion in Executive Session, Commissioner Cossar made a motion to open the meeting. Commissioner Mounger 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.



Clay Wagner, CHAIRMAN



Date



Bill F. Cossar, VICE CHAIRMAN

Date