



MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

Minutes of the Meeting
April 8, 2010 – Page 1627

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks met at 1505 Eastover Drive in Jackson, MS on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 12 noon. The meeting was attended by Commissioners Bryan Jones; Charles Rigdon; John Stanley; William "Billy" Deviney; and Jerry Munro. Among MDWFP staff attending were Dr. Sam Polles; Don Brazil; Ramie Ford; Amanda Mills; Robert Cook; Sally Sutherland; and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

WELCOME

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order. He welcomed Representative Bennett Malone to the meeting. Dr. Sam Polles acknowledged that Representative Malone has and continues to be a strong supporter of this agency and the things we do for the citizens of this state and we appreciate his commitment.

Deputy Director Robert Cook opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, the Minutes of April 8, 2010 were unanimously approved as presented.

TODAY'S AGENDA

There were no changes to the Agenda.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Munro and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon the April 8, 2010 Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

There was no one present from the public who wished to make comments.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Mr. Michael Bolden presented the License Sales Report and stated the dollar ranges continue to be consistent as in previous months. Crossbow and disabled exempt license sales have increased. Mr. Bolden stated the agency is maintaining e-mail addresses and using this capability to reach those who need to renew their license.



COMPLIANCE

Mr. James Dixon presented a revision to current Policy No. 17 pertaining to department vehicle or water craft accidents. He stated the change involves two (2) revisions: (1) includes water craft and ATVs; and (2) details the review process of all accidents and the establishment of an accident review committee. Basically the changes are to strengthen the existing risk management procedures. Mr. Dixon advised that the staff feels these revisions will be beneficial to the agency.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Munro and seconded by Commissioner Stanley the change to Policy No. 17 regarding department vehicle or water craft accidents was unanimously approved as presented.

PARKS

Mr. Ramie Ford presented Public Notice 002(a) (Intent) (Park Rules and Regulations) for approval. He stated that recent legislation was approved allowing persons who possess a concealed firearm carry permit, to carry their firearms in public parks. Public Notice 002 (State Park Rules and Regulations) needs to be revised to reflect the change in the law.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, Public Notice 002(a) (Intent) (State Park Rules and Regulations) was unanimously approved as presented.

MARKETING

Ms. Laura Sims presented a group of banners that were created and designed by Martin Cate. These banners were displayed at the SEAFWA planning conference. Ms. Sims stated the following three (3) items have been recently completed: (1) the MDWFP website has been updated by Nathan Wilson in Information Technology Systems; (2) the radio show airs every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. on Super Talk Radio; and (3) an e-mail database has been established.

Ms. Sims continued by stating the new website design has received good responses as well as the response to the radio show. The latest e-mail went out to 47,000 addresses. The use of e-mail is not only cost effective but is also a good tool to evaluate how messages are received. We are exploring many ways to add addresses to the e-mail database. For example, once an e-mail is forwarded to others, our e-mail program is able to capture those additional e-mail addresses. Also, we know that 16,000 people actually opened the message and 11% clicked through the links on our web page.

Some other marketing projects in development are a Facebook fan page which should begin next week; and a Federal grant that is to be specifically used for a direct mail campaign. The first mail-out using this grant will be the end of April. Also, we are proposing as an incentive to



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renew your fishing license, the chance to enter a drawing for two (2) free nights at a state park of the purchaser's choice.

Commissioner Stanley advised that there needs to be a way to reach lifetime license holders and Commissioner Deviney suggested that the renewal cards/e-mails, etc., include a place for the public to provide feedback.

Ms. Sims concluded by handing out a booklet of examples of marketing pieces that have been used.

MISSISSIPPI OUTDOORS

Mr. Jim Walker provided a Power Point presentation to update the Commission on happenings with Mississippi Outdoors. He advised that Ms. Amanda Mills has been instrumental in developing and implementing the Mississippi Outdoors fan page on Facebook.

MWFP FOUNDATION

Mr. Clark Gordin provided a Power Point presentation to update the Commission on information regarding the Foundation. He introduced Ms. Carley Baker, Deputy Director of the Foundation who is working on the new "Outdoors in Mississippi" magazine. Ms. Baker advised this is a bi-annual publication and she has been working with selling advertisements. She advised that the Foundation website displays all the sponsors and other information.

WILDLIFE

Chief Larry Castle presented fifty-four (54) public notices of intent. These included notices for the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs); revisions to the alligator hunting public notices; and white tail deer season and bag limits. Chief Castle advised that the changes to the WMA public notices are indicated in red and the changes provide more opportunity and clarity within the regulation process. Attached are two (2) memos outlining the changes to alligator season and deer season bag limits as well as the WMA proposed changes. (See attachments.)

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Diviney and seconded by Commissioner Munro, public notices W5-3758 (I) (Alligator on Public Lands); W2-3799 (I) (Alligator on Private Land); and W15-3434 (I) (White tailed deer season and Bag Limits) were unanimously approved as presented.

Chief Castle advised that complaints have been received, regarding hunting ethics at Malmaison WMA. Staff is in receipt of only two comments from people who wanted a draw system at Malmaison, and numerous e-mails opposing a such a draw hunt. After some discussion, it was



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suggested to propose a public notice of intent for 30 days to capture public response regarding a draw system at Malmaison.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Munro and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, it was unanimous to create a public notice of intent for 30 days to capture public response/comment regarding a draw system at Malmaison WMA.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Munro and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, all the above mentioned WMA public notices of intent were unanimously approved as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

Representative Bennett Malone made a few remarks regarding his positive experiences working with Dr. Polles and the Mississippi State Parks staff. Representative Malone praised the staff for their professionalism and pledged his continuing support for the Department. Dr. Polles thanked Representative Malone for his remarks and informed the Commission of Representative Malone's efforts in the Legislature on behalf of the Department.

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010 @ 12 Noon
MDWFP Main Office, Jackson, MS (Confirmed)

June 22-23, 2010
Location: Buccaneer State Park, Waveland, MS (Tentative)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Munro, the meeting was closed to determine the need for Executive Session. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was closed. It was determined that an Executive Session was needed to discuss certain transactions in land. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Munro, the Commission voted unanimously to enter Executive Session.

Mr. Art Kennard presented the following:



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1. Sunflower County property: Mr. Kennard provided aerial maps of the specific tract(s) of land that may be available for purchase. He requested that the Commission authorize the Department to obtain appraisals of the proposed land.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, it was unanimously approved to obtain appraisals of the proposed land as presented by Mr. Kennard.


ACTION: There being no further business for Executive Session, Commissioner Munro made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, to come out of Executive Session and re-open the meeting. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was re-opened.

ADJOURNMENT

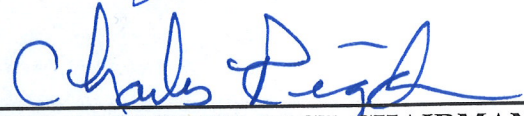
There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Jones gaveled the meeting into adjournment.



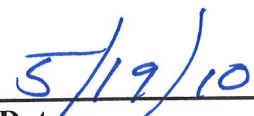
BRYAN JONES, CHAIRMAN



Date



CHARLES RIGDON, VICE-CHAIRMAN



Date

WILDLIFE ATTACHMENTS



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS
Jackson Office
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211 – 6322



Wildlife Bureau Memorandum

TO: Larry Castle - Director, Wildlife Bureau

FROM: Ricky Flynt – Alligator Program Coordinator

DATE: March 16, 2010

SUBJECT: Alligator season changes for 2010.

Public Waters

- Increased number of available permits in the Pascagoula Zone from 120 to 140.
- Prohibit possession of alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages.

Private Lands

- Added 4 new open counties, Bolivar, Leflore, Sharkey, and Sunflower.
- Increased number of open days from 17 to 24.

Future plans for expansion to other public waters should be considered in near future. However, my recommendation is to continue with current zone restrictions in order to tightly monitor hunter harvest and biological data to coincide with the cooperative alligator research project that will be initiated in 2010.



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
Jackson Office
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211 – 6322



WILDLIFE BUREAU MEMORANDUM

TO: Larry Castle, Wildlife Bureau Director

FROM: Chad M. Dacus, Deer Program Coordinator

DATE: April 1, 2010

SUBJECT: 2010 – 2011 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limit Public Notice Changes

Changes in the WTD Seasons and Bag Limits Public Notice:

- Zones 1 & 3:
 - Added either-sex opportunity on private and open public land during December 16 -23 (entire Gun without Dogs Season).
 - Change the January 20 – 31 Primitive Weapons season to Gun without Dogs.
- Zone 2:
 - Gun without Dogs: January 20 – 31 (Either-sex on private land; legal bucks only on open public land)
 - Primitive Weapons: February 1 – 15 (Legal bucks only on private land and open public land)
- Define Antlerless deer:
 - Antlerless deer are defined as any female deer and any male deer without hardened antler above the hairline.
- Define Legal Weapons:
 - Archery: Longbows, recurves, or compound bows. There is no minimum or maximum draw weight. There is no minimum length arrow. Fixed or mechanical broadheads may be used.
 - Primitive Weapons: as defined in Public Notice LE5-2280.
 - Gun: There are no caliber or magazine capacity restrictions. Archery and primitive weapons may be used during the gun seasons.
- Added Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) section:
 - The wording in this section remains the same as previous years, but now it is in the DMAP section of the Public Notice not in the Bag Limit section.

2010-11 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

WMA	Proposed Change(s)
<p>Basic Regulations for All WMAs</p>	<p>Legal weapons for archery hunting include longbows, recurves, compounds, and crossbows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define legal weapons for archery hunting on WMAs to include crossbows. <p>Standardize language for legal weapons for small game and turkeys and put in basic regs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote consistency among WMAs, making regulations easier for hunters to understand. <p>During permitted draw hunts for deer and turkey, for selected hunters 21 years old or older, one youth aged 15 years old or younger may accompany or hunt with the permitted adult hunter and will be allowed to harvest up to the permit bag limit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage youth participation with adults on permitted draw hunts. <p>Add the words “full body harness” to FAS wording.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification for hunters who don’t understand FAS requirements. <p>At end of “Beavers, Coyotes, and Hogs” section add “During permitted draw hunts for deer non-permitted hunters on a WMA may only take beaver, coyote, or hogs with legal small game weapons for that specific WMA.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of legal weapons for nuisance species. <p>Amend wording regarding forfeiture of hunting privileges for all WMAs (by Commission action) to “for a period of at least one calendar year”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would allow an option for more severe penalties in extreme cases.
<p>All Subject WMAs</p>	<p>Raccoon hunting in summer raccoon season Friday and Saturday nights only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow additional opportunity. <p>For areas with late season archery opportunity, make it “youth gun”, also.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional youth hunting opportunity. <p>For permitted turkey hunts the daily bag limit is one gobbler per permit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodates youth participation while continuing to distribute harvest. <p>Make permit draw hunt process all electronic for applications and notifications. Make email address a required field for all electronic applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to mailing costs, time, etc. <p>Eliminate 6” barrel restriction on handguns for hog hunting with dogs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not necessary and not a problem where allowed on other areas.

2010-11 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

WMA	Proposed Change(s)
Bienville, Caney Creek, and Tallahala	<p>Legal bucks and does Nov. 20-21 with dogs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer either-sex deer dog hunting on opening weekend when we have the highest agency presence and standardize the opportunity among the three Bienville NF WMAs to avoid confusion.
Black Prairie	<p>Add two additional days onto the archery season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow opportunity for hunting on a weekend and simplify the season structure. With the addition of these two days there will no longer be two archery season periods separated by two days, it will be one continuous period. This change will remove one weekend of Fox Hunting, but there will still be nine weekends allotted to host Fox Hunts on the area.
Canal Section/John Bell Williams	<p>Matubby Creek Island portion of the WMA to be closed to all firearms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This area is currently bow hunting only, but it is open to small game hunting. This area of land is located in the city limits of Aberdeen and it is against city ordinances to discharge firearms in the city limits. The COE has advised MDWFP to close this area to all firearms and make it bow hunting only. <p>Does and legal bucks Dec. 16-23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more opportunity to harvest does on area. <p>Make it mandatory for hunters to check in deer at self-service check stations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more/better harvest data from the area to help in making management decisions in the future. <p>Hunting seasons (excluding waterfowl season) will be closed from south of Walkers Levee boat ramp road to north of Ironwood Bluff Road on the WMA when the Tombigbee River gauge at Fulton reads 16.0 ft or higher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During high water situations in this area the wildlife is forced out of their natural habitat and forced to use high banks or the waterway levee to get away from the flood waters. (16.0 feet puts water to the toe of the levee in much of the indicated area.) During this time hunters make man drives on the levee and on the high ground shooting and harassing wildlife. Also, boats are used to harass wildlife in the high water situations. <p>Give the handicap hunters at Acker Lake handicap area ATV access Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of each week of turkey season. Then allow anyone to hunt Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, but by foot traffic only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will give the handicap hunters opportunity to turkey hunt the area.
Caston Creek	<p>Make the first 2 weeks of turkey season a permit draw.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute hunting pressure and insure quality (and safer) opportunities for permitted hunters.

2010-11 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

WMA	Proposed Change(s)
Charles Ray Nix	<p>Increase the primitive weapon draw hunt from 2 weeks to 3 weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deer harvest data, habitat changes, and visual observations support a need for increased harvest on the WMA. This should increase hunter participation and increase harvest of a growing deer herd.
Choctaw	<p>Extend 2nd gun season to statewide 2nd gun season (only ran to January 3 last year).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunity to harvest does.
Copiah County	<p>Change permit station use back to permit board. (Similar to what is currently being used at Wolf River WMA) Visitors would just put Part A on the board, instead of dropping it in the box when entering the WMA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows manager to know at a glance how many hunters, and who, are on area. <p>Proposed deer season changes: Dec 16 – Jan 9, either sex, gun (Dec. 16 – Jan. 2 last year); Jan 10 -31, archery and youth gun, either sex.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunity for doe harvest and for youth hunting. <p>Allow youth to use any weapon. Currently centerfire rifles (other than PW) are not allowed on Copiah County WMA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunity for youth hunting. <p>Change the Dec 2-15 PW season to gun season and define legal weapons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basically we would leave the legal weapon description like it (for regular gun, only shotguns with slugs, now) is and add an exception for youth to allow centerfire rifles. <p>Make the first 2 weeks of turkey season a permit draw. Provide 2 day hunts with Sunday hunting available during these 2 weeks only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute hunting pressure and insure quality (and safer) hunting opportunities.
Divide Section	<p>Youth may use any weapon legal for statewide usage during any season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the area is primitive weapon all season after archery youth will be allowed to use a rifle while hunting the WMA. This will provide more youth opportunity. <p>Make it mandatory for hunters to check in deer at self-service check stations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more/better harvest data from the area to help in making management decisions in the future.
Hell Creek	<p>Extend the deer archery season one week (January 15-28)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide more deer hunting opportunities
Howard Miller	<p>Non-hunting use of the area during waterfowl season is allowed by foot traffic only on Sundays and Tuesdays from Noon until 3:00 PM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To limit disturbance on the area.