

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS

11 a.m. Educational Session / 1 p.m. Business Session

EDUCATIONAL SESSION – 11 AM

PRESENT: Commission Chairman William “Billy” Deviney, Commissioners Bill F. Cossar, Clay Wagner, Scott Coopwood, and Robert Taylor.

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

Four items were on the agenda for the Educational Session.

1. Wildlife Bureau – Ducks.

Houston Havens, Waterfowl Program Coordinator handed out a report, “2017 Email Survey of Mississippi Waterfowl Stamp Holders: Summary Report” and gave a PowerPoint update on MDWFP Waterfowl Program.

2. Enclosure Update.

William McKinley, Enclosure Program Coordinator gave a PowerPoint presentation on “High-Fenced Enclosures containing White-tailed Deer in Mississippi.”

3. Kaput Feral Hog Bait.

Ricky Flynt, Alligator/Furbearer Coordinator, and Anthony Ballard, Nuisance Animal Biologist, informed the Commission of their findings on Kaput Feral Hog Bait. Highlights of their presentation were in a one-page handout entitled, “Kaput Feral Hog Bait.”

4. Licenses Analysis.

Time limitations did not allow for the Licenses Analysis report due to the evacuation of the MDWFP building until 1 p.m. to check out a possible gas leak.

BUSINESS SESSION – 1 PM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

PRESENT: Commission Chairman William “Billy” Deviney, Commissioners Bill F. Cossar, Clay Wagner, Scott Coopwood, and Robert Taylor.

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

Chairman Deviney, having noted for the minutes that a quorum was present, gave the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Chairman Deviney welcomed Scott Bounds, House Chairman of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee.

OPENING PRAYER

Robert Cook, Deputy Executive Director, opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the minutes of the March 22, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

ACTION: Commissioner Coopwood moved to approve the agenda for April 19, 2017. Commissioner Cossar seconded the motion and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the general public who wished to address the Commission.

AWARDS

Mississippi 2016 Wildlife Federation Conservation Achievement Award Winners

The Mississippi Wildlife Federation recognized the following four MDWFP employees for their achievements in natural resource conservation at its 57th Mississippi Conservation Achievement Awards Banquet. Each recipient was brought before the Commission by their Bureau Director/Chief and acknowledged for the outstanding accomplishments in their field. Applause followed as each person was recognized.

- **Conservation Officer of the Year – Sergeant Major Marcus Christon**
.....presented by Col. Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement

- **Wildlife Conservationist of the Year – William McKinley**
.....presented by Russ Walsh, Director of Wildlife Bureau
- **Conservation Educator of the Year – Emily-Jo Wiggins**
....presented by Larry Pugh, Director of Fisheries Bureau
- **Fisheries Conservationist of the Year – Nathan Aycock**
....presented by Larry Pugh, Director of Fisheries Bureau

Fisheries Bureau Employee Awards for 2016

The Fisheries Bureau recognized the following staff who made significant contributions during the past year. Larry Pugh asked each recipient to come forward as he presented their award. Applause followed each presentation.

- **Fisheries Biologist of the Year – Ryan Jones**
- **State Lake Manager of the Year – Jim Lusby, Lake Lamar Bruce**
- **Fisheries Support Employee of the Year – Chad Washington, CAB in Delta Region**

Commendation

Randy Wilson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, presented an award to former biologist, Russ Walsh, for outstanding achievements while serving the past seven years at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Wilson also congratulated Walsh on his new position with MDWFP as Director of the Wildlife Bureau. Applause followed.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, Director of License/Boat Registration, presented the License Sales Report for the month of March 2017. The total revenue for the end of March is up over \$1,270,000 (up 8%).

Highlights of Thompson's end of the year, annual report are listed below:

- Resident License Sales – up 22%
- Sportsman license sales – up 26%
- Small Game Freshwater Fishing licenses – up 23%
- Non-resident licenses – up \$46,000
- NR Small Game Hunting – up 13%
- NR 7 Day Small Game – up 26%
- NR Freshwater Fishing – up 15%
- NR 3 day Freshwater Fishing – up 23%
- NR 1 day Freshwater Fishing – up 12%
- Permit category – down \$27,000
- Lifetime License category – up \$41,000 (9% increase)

WILDLIFE

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

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

Ricky Flynt, Wildlife Alligator/Furbearer Coordinator, stated that 11 comments had been received during the 30-day comment period. Half of the comments were positive and half were negative.

Customers remarked in some comments that the same people appear to get drawn each year. Flynt stated that the statistics show that this is not true. Some of the same people are networking and accompany the person who was drawn. Flynt requested Final approval of Rules 5.2 and 5.3.

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

PROPOSED – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 3 – Wild Turkey

- Rule 3.1 – Wild Turkey Seasons and Bag Limits

Adam Butler, Turkey Program Coordinator, recommended no changes to the Wild Turkey Seasons and Bag Limits. Beginning with the 2017 Spring Season, turkey hunters have been asked to voluntarily report their harvests online to the MDWFP within 72 hours. The online harvest data only displays summary statistics showing the county where the harvest was made. To date, 898 turkey harvests have been reported between March 8 and April 19, 2017.

Butler discussed a request from the public to create separate zones for the opening of spring turkey season. This request was based on a perception that gobbling activity varies greatly across the state, with north Mississippi's peak of gobbling being much later than elsewhere. Based on information from a MDWFP-MSU study on gobbling activity conducted in 2008 and 2009, along with observations from the MDWFP's annual Spring Gobbler Hunting Survey, Butler surmised that gobbling peaks at nearly the same time across much of the state. Given the lack of dramatic difference in gobbling activity, along with potential negative issues created by zones, Butler suggested that the Wildlife Bureau did not recommend initiation of zones for spring turkey season.

No action was required of the Commission.

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

- Rules 1.1 – 1.45 – WMA Regulations

Larry Castle, Director of Technical Programs, reviewed the rule changes made for each WMA as outlined in a handout distributed to the Commission. A copy of this handout has been included in the addendum.

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

PROPOSED – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 4 – Small Game

- **Rule 4.1 – Small Game, Migratory Birds, and Other**

Larry Castle reported that staff had recommended no changes to this rule from last year.

No action was required of the Commission.

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

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

Larry Castle presented a handout showing the results of the “2017 Deer Hunter Survey” conducted online during the past month. The survey was sent via email and social media to over 300,000 individuals. Over 13,300 hunters participated in this survey, representing all regions of the state. The results were uniform across all hunting zones and the public agreed that reducing bag limits on antlerless deer was the preferred method to manage deer populations in situations where increasing the deer population was the objective. Over half supported mandatory harvest reporting to provide geographically specific information on deer population. Chairman Deviney and the Commission were pleased with the survey and recommended using surveys in the future so that the public voice could be heard from all areas of the state in making these decisions.

Based on the results of this survey the following Deer Season and Bag Limits for 2017-18 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.

Bag Limits:

Delta, Northeast, East Central, and Southwest Zones: 3 antlerless deer per annual season.

Southeast Zone: 1 antlerless deer per day, not to exceed 2 per annual season.

Open Public Land:

Suspend antlerless opportunity except during Archery Only and Youth Gun Seasons.

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

2017-2018 Waterfowl and Dove Season Recommendations

Houston Havens, Waterfowl Program Coordinator, joined Larry Castle to answer any questions concerning the 2017-18 Migratory Game Bird Season Recommendations which were presented to the Commission and listed in the table below. Havens reported that waterfowl breeding populations in 2016 remained high, which would again provide the state the opportunity to select a liberal hunting season of 60 days with a six-duck bag limit. The only change was with goose seasons, largely based on public feedback. Last year there were some days in duck season when goose season was closed. Therefore, a change was made to line up goose seasons with duck seasons.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY	POSSESSION
Sept. Teal	Sept. 9, 2017- Sept. 24, 2017	6	18
Sept. Canada Geese	Sept. 1, 2017- Sept. 30, 2017	5	15
Woodcock	Dec. 18, 2017- Jan. 31, 2018	3	9
Snipe	Nov. 14, 2017- Feb. 28, 2018	8	24
Moorhens and Gallinules	Sept. 2, 2017- Nov. 10, 2017	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Rails: Clapper and King	Sept. 2, 2017- Nov. 10, 2017	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Rails: Sora and Virginia	Sept. 2, 2017- Nov. 10, 2017	25 Singly or in aggregate	75 Singly or in aggregate
Mourning and White-winged Doves (North Zone)	Sept. 2, 2017- Oct. 8, 2017 AND Oct. 21, 2017- Nov. 4, 2017 AND Dec. 9, 2017- Jan. 15, 2018	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Mourning and White-winged Doves (South Zone)	Sept. 2, 2017- Sept. 10, 2017 AND Oct. 7, 2017- Nov. 11, 2017 AND Dec. 2, 2017- Jan. 15, 2018	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Crows	Nov. 4, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018	No Limit	No Limit

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots	Nov. 24, 2017- Nov. 26, 2017 AND Dec. 1, 2017- Dec. 3, 2017 AND Dec. 6, 2017- Jan. 28, 2018	See Below	See Below
Geese: Canada, White-fronted, Snow, Blue, Ross's, and Brant	Nov. 10, 2017- Nov. 26, 2017 AND Dec. 1, 2017- Dec. 3, 2017 AND Dec. 6, 2017- Jan. 28, 2018	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. 18, 2017 AND Feb. 3, 2018	Same as Regular Season	Same as Regular Season
Light Goose Conservation Order Special Permit Needed	Oct. 1, 2017- Nov. 9, 2017 AND Jan. 29, 2018- Feb. 2, 2018 AND Feb. 4, 2018- Mar. 31, 2018	No Limit	No 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, three scaup, two redheads, two canvasbacks, two black ducks, one pintail, and one mottled duck. The merganser daily bag limit will be a total of five mergansers, only two of which may be hooded mergansers. Coots will have a 15 bird daily bag limit. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for ducks, mergansers, and coots.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, The 2017-2018 Migratory Game Bird Season Recommendations were unanimously approved by the Commission, as presented.

FISHERIES

FINAL Rule- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 3, Chapter 1 – General Fisheries

- Rule 1.3 – Regulations regarding Sport Fishing
- Rule 1.4 – Statewide Creel Limits

Larry Pugh, Director of Fisheries Bureau, stated that one comment was received during the past month on Rule 1.3. This comment brought to Fisheries' attention a change which needed to be made to Rule 1.3, which they did. No comments were received on Rules 1.4.

Action by the Commission on Rules 1.2 and 1.4 was deferred following presentation of Rules 2.1 and 2.2.

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

No comments were received on Rule 2.1. During the comment period, the City of Eupora requested that White Creek Lake be added to Rule 2.2, Community Fishing Assistance Program. With Commission approval, the FINAL version will be amended with the addition of the City of Eupora's request. Pugh requested final approval of the four rules.

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

Trace State Park Lake – Update and Commission Order

Pugh stated that the Fisheries Bureau and State Parks have worked diligently since fall 2016 reconstructing the downstream slope of Old Natchez Trace Lake. Winter rains and the development of additional slides forced the contractor to postpone work until the area dried. Officials with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Dam Safety Division, inspected the site in early April. The original slides on the downstream slope had significantly worsened, and slides on the upstream slope had reached a point that the dam core may have been impacted. MDWFP was directed by MDEQ to immediately open the valve and drain the lake in preparation for dam repairs in summer 2017. The smaller lake near the Park entrance will remain open. After repairs are complete, the lake will be stocked with bass, bream, crappie, and catfish. Pugh presented an Executive Order for the Commission to confirm so that the main lake may be drained for repairs.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Coopwood and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Order to close Old Natchez Trace Lake at Trace State Park for repairs to the dam. A copy of the Executive Order has been appended to the minutes.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Update

Colonel Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, presented a handout which highlighted citations, shooting range attendance at Turcotte and McHenry, as well as, McIvor Range construction updates. During the past month officers assisted at student AIMS tournaments, NatureFest, and flooding in Rankin County. MDWFP is currently training 12 cadets for the 2017 Spring Class.

License Reinstatement Request

Colonel Adcock presented the following license reinstatement request. Adcock asked the violator to come forward and state the circumstances of his arrest before the Commission.

- *Justin Devall, Big Creek, MS*

Devall was in a car with a friend to go deer hunting. His friend pulled over and shot a deer from the road. A neighbor called the game warden that evening and the game warden showed up the next morning and arrested them for headlighting. Devall paid \$2,600 in fines. Col. Adcock recommended reinstatement but warned if Devall ever shows up again he would have his license suspended for the full two years.

MOTION: By motion of Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, Devall's license was reinstated by unanimous consent.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Next Commission meeting date was set for Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at the Jackson Office located at 1505 Eastover Drive. The MDWFP Fallen Officer Memorial will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the Educational Session at 1:30 p.m., and the Business Session at 3 p.m.

The June Commission meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at the Jackson Office. The Educational Session will begin at 2 p.m., followed by the Business Session at 3 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman asked if there was a need for an Executive Session. The Executive Director stated that there was need for an Executive Session to discuss transactions in land, and personnel matters involving job performance of individuals in specific positions.

ACTION: Commissioner Wagner made a motion to close the meeting to determine the need for executive session to discuss transactions in land, and personnel matters involving job performance of individuals in specific positions. Commissioner Taylor 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 transactions in land, and personnel matters involving job performance of individuals in specific positions. The room was cleared.

A brief discussion followed.

ACTION: Upon a motion made by Commissioner Wagner, and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission voted unanimously to enter executive session to discuss transactions in land, and personnel matters involving job performance of individuals in specific positions.

Counsel announced to those outside the meeting room that the Commission had entered executive session to discuss transactions in land, and personnel matters involving job performance of individuals in specific positions.

Dr. Polles and Art Kennard informed the Commission of two (2) small tracts of land of interest to the Department. One tract would add approximately 2.23 acres of land to Prentiss Walker Lake in Smith County, Mississippi. More specifically, the lot adds to the Department's ability to access to the dam. Appraisals had produced a very reasonable price for this tract.

The second tract is a nine (9) acre tract contiguous to the Charles Ray Nix WMA. This tract increases the Department's ownership of land along one of the public roads that forms one of the WMA boundaries. Appraisals for this tract also produced a reasonable price.

ACTION: Upon a motion made by Commissioner Taylor, and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the Commission voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to make fair market value offers to purchase the two tracts in question within the limits imposed by applicable statutes.

Dr. Polles and Deputy Executive Director Robert Cook then updated the Commission on a pending personnel issue. More specifically, they informed the Commission that recent attrition from the Media and Marketing bureaus of the Department have resulted in some challenges for the ongoing performance of certain activities, including, but not limited to, the production of the *Mississippi Outdoors™* television show. Dr. Polles and Mr. Cook recounted the efforts that have been made by staff to determine the cost and effectiveness of recruiting qualified personnel to continue to perform these duties in-house, or in the alternative, to solicit an outside vendor to provide these services. Dr. Polles outlined some of the preliminary determinations that had been made and what the next steps in this process will be. At this time, there were no recommendations for the Commission to consider.

No action was required of the Commission.

There being no further business for discussion in executive session, Commissioner Coopwood made a motion to exit executive session and open the meeting. Commissioner Cossar seconded the motion, and the Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session and open the meeting.

Counsel announced to anyone remaining outside the meeting room that the Commission had authorized the Executive Director to make offers on two tracts of land, and had received information regarding attrition and recruitment of vacancies in Media and Marketing.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Billy Deviney, CHAIRMAN

5/17/17

Date



Clay Wagner, VICE CHAIRMAN

5/17/17

Date



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE FISHERIES, AND PARKS

Sam Polles, Ph.D.
Executive Director

2017 – 2018

WMA Proposed Rule Change Summary

40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2 Chap. 1 – WMA Regulations.

- *Rule 1.1 – 1.45 WMA Regulations*

MDWFP Commission Meeting

April 19, 2017

2017 – 2018 WMA Proposed Rule Change Summary

1 **Basic Regulations**

- 2 • Move wild hog and black bear regulations from individual WMA rules to basic
3 regulations.

4 **Non-State Owned, Non-Coe WMA Regulations**

- 5 • Only allow antlerless deer harvest during archery only and youth gun season.
6 Regulations for Bienville, Calhoun County, Caney Creek, Caston Creek, Chickasaw,
7 Chickasawhay, Choctaw, John Starr, Leaf River, Little Biloxi, Mason Creek, Red Creek,
8 Sandy Creek, Tallahala, Upper Sardis, and Wolf River Wildlife Management Areas.
9 • Remove camping regulation on Calhoun County WMA due to road closure by
10 landowner.

11 **WMA Facility Rental**

- 12 • Eliminate facility fee on Charles Ray Nix WMA – shooting range.

13 **Canal Section, John Bell Williams, Divide Section WMAs**

- 14 • Remove quail and dove season sections – follow statewide seasons.

15 **Divide Section WMA**

- 16 • Adopt “carry-on-person” daily visitor permit card.
17 • Change current 10/13 antler criteria to 12/15.
18 • Implement 2-day turkey draw hunts the first two weeks of regular season.
19 • Changes will standardize regulations with Canal Section and John Bell Williams WMAs.

20 **Mahannah WMA**

- 21 • Require all hunters to stay on gravel road until draw process is completed to minimize
22 hunter conflict and provide equal opportunity for area access.

23 **Mahannah and Twin Oaks WMAs**

- 24 • Include snipe in season dates to clarify that hunting is allowed.
25 • Require youth hunters to only harvest bucks that meet the antler criteria during the
26 permitted and youth gun seasons to better protect younger age class bucks. Youth hunters
27 may harvest any antlered buck during the youth only hunt.
28 • Clarify when users can scout the WMA – daily prior to Oct. 1 and on any small game
29 hunting days thereafter.
30 • Close area to hunter use on Tuesdays to improve hunt quality by reducing disturbance.

31 **Old River WMA**

- 32 • Remove hog hunting with dogs to make regulations consistent with other state-owned
33 WMAs in the region.

34 **Pascagoula and Ward Bayou WMAs**

- 35 • Only allow doe harvest during archery only and youth gun season.

36 **Sardis Waterfowl WMA**

- 37 • Allow non-hunting access Nov. 1 – Jan. 31, except during youth deer draw hunts.

38 **Natchez State Park**

- 39 • Removing special buck tags because deer population has been reduced on the park.

40 **Hell Creek WMA**

- 41 • Remove single-day draw hunts and provide “first-come” opportunity during the final two,
42 full weekends of statewide quail season.
43 • Change current 10/13 antler criteria to 12/15 to standardize with other WMAs.

44 **Tuscumbia WMA**

- 45 • Include opossum and bobcat with raccoon opportunity to standardize furbearer
46 hunting/trapping opportunity among units.
47 • Clarify existing UTV/ATV regulations.
48 • Close rabbit hunting in UNIT 2 during statewide youth waterfowl days in November and
49 February to prevent conflicts between user groups.

50 **Graham Lake WMA**

- 51 • Standardize youth gun opening day with other WMAs.

52 **Yockanookany WMA**

- 53 • No entry prior to 1:00pm and limit of 40 hunters on the field on opening day for safety
54 purposes.

55 **Charles Ray Nix WMA**

- 56 • Offer bird dog training during February.

57 **Sky Lake WMA**

- 58 • Increase the antler criteria from 12/15 to 15/18.
59 • Open all areas to rabbit hunting.

60 **Theodore A. Mars WMA**

- 61 • Allow horseback riding at the request of local residents.

62 **Great River Road State Park**

- 63 • Change name to Riverfront WMA and create two hunting zones.

64 **George P. Cossar State Park, Leroy Percy State Park, and Natchez State Park**

- 65 • Declare these properties as State Parks AND Wildlife Management Areas.

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

In Re: Closing of Old Natchez Trace Lake at Trace State Park, and related matters.


ORDER

THIS MATTER, came before the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 19, 2017, at the request of State Parks and the Fisheries Bureau, that Old Natchez Trace Lake at Trace State Park, Belden, Mississippi, be closed to fishing and recreation until repairs and renovation to the dam are complete.

The Commission finds that the requests are well-founded.

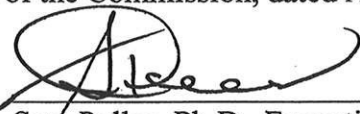
THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority set forth in MISS. CODE ANN. '49-4-4, the Commission hereby orders the Executive Director to close the lake to fishing and recreation until such time as the repairs and renovations are complete, at which time, by subsequent order of the Commission, the lake will be re-opened.

SO ORDERED, this the 19th day of April, 2017.



William Deviney, Chairman
Mississippi Commission on Wildlife,
Fisheries, and Parks

I, **Sam Polles, Ph.D.**, hereby certify that the Order attached hereto, is a true and correct copy of an Order of the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, as authorized by a vote taken and spread upon the minutes of such meeting of the Commission, dated April 19, 2017.



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