

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, December 13, 2017 – Business Session
Holmes Co. State Park/MCOTA, 5369 State Park Road, Durant, MS

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS SESSION – 2:45 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; Robert Cook, Deputy Executive Director; Michael Bolden, Larry Castle, Curtis Thornhill, Col. Steve Adcock, Larry Pugh, Russ Walsh, Jennifer Head, 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 2:45 p.m. Chairman Wagner welcomed Representative Scott Bounds, House Chairman of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (WFP) Committee; and Senator Mike Seymour.

OPENING PRAYER

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

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 14 & 15, 2017 were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director, requested that the Wildlife item under Other Business on the agenda be removed at this time and a presentation to be added under Law Enforcement.

ACTION: Commissioner Taylor moved to approve the agenda as amended for December 14, 2017. Commissioner Cossar seconded the motion and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were brought forward to the Commission.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, Director of License/Boat Registration, presented the License Sales Report for the month of November 2017. The total revenue for the end of November was \$5,000,000 that was \$75,000 more than last year. Over 97,000 licenses and permits were sold in November.

Highlights of Thompson's end of the month report are listed below:

- Resident licenses – down 4%
 - Resident Waterfowl Stamp – up 2%
 - Youth Foundation – we sold 300 more licenses this year than last November.
- Non-resident sales – up \$35,000
 - Small Game – up 8%
 - Waterfowl stamps – up 11%
 - WMA permits - up 4%
- Permit category – up \$40,000 (includes alligator permits)
- Lifetime license sales – up 5%

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Introduction of Cadet Class

Col. Steve Adcock welcomed the Commission to the Mississippi Conservation Officers' Training Academy (MCOTA). He informed the Commission that the new MCOTA cadet class began classes on December 4th and introduced Captain Chris Reed, Training Coordinator. Captain Reed stated that this is week two of training and the cadets are currently enthralled in wildlife week, transitioning to federal training, and then boating. Each cadet was asked to introduce themselves to the Commission. Captain Reed acknowledged many of these cadets shined with top awards in academic, shooting, and physical fitness at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer's Training Academy (MLEOTA) graduation a few weeks ago. Special recognition was given to Cadet Karri Fulton who finished first in class, out of 83 cadets, and the first female at MLEOTA to achieve this award. A round of applause followed.

Citation Report

Col. Steve Adcock distributed a handout to the Commission which highlighted 1,131 citations issued from November 2 to December 8, 2017; the top citation was for no license, second for No Orange, and third for Supplemental Feeding. Officers responded to a black bear incident in Issaquena County this past month. This was the third black bear incident this year. Stuff the Truck Christmas Project was completed this week and toys will be delivered to Blair Batson Children's Hospital December 14th.

Captain Scottie Jones presented slides and video of the construction progress at McIvor Creek Shooting Facility as Phase II begins in January, 2018.

Col. Steve Adcock described the most emotional job as a Conservation Officer is locating and recovering a drowning victim or investigating a maritime incident. On average MDWFP recovers 25-30

cadavers a year with some recoveries in 30-foot deep, murky water. MDWFP officers receive sonar training and work with dive teams around the state, with some dive teams being good and others only adequate. With this being the case, MDWFP feels that a special underwater recovery team would not only benefit this agency but other agencies as well. Captain Jason Young, North Region, introduced Private Tim Gholson and Private Jason Lane who have been assisting him the past six months developing a plan for a proposed MDWFP special dive unit. Three teams would be formed with training in four phases. Captain Young hopes to have this unit trained and functional within a year.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought before the Commission.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, January 17, 2017
LOCATION: Cleveland, MS
TIME: TBA


EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman asked if there was a need for an Executive Session. The Executive Director stated that there was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Taylor made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Cossar, and the motion carried.

Chairman Wagner gaveled the meeting into adjournment.



Clay Wagner, CHAIRMAN

Date



Bill F. Cossar, VICE CHAIRMAN

Date