

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

Wednesday, January 16, 2013 @ 2:00 p.m.  
State Office, 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Jerry Munro, Commissioners Bryan Jones, William "Billy" Deviney, and Charles Rigdon

**ABSENT:** Commissioner John C Stanley IV

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Mr. Robert Cook, Deputy Director; Ramie Ford; Michael Bolden; Libby Hartfield; Charles Knight; Ed Penny; Chad Dacus; Ron Garavelli; Larry Pugh; Col. Steve Adcock; Lt. Col. Sammy Fisher; Jim Walker; and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

## **MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Minutes of the December 19, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

## **TODAY'S AGENDA**

No changes were made to the agenda.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Jones, today's agenda was unanimously approved.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

### **Kylie Sparks:**

Chairman Munro welcomed Kylie Sparks for comment. Mr. Sparks wanted to express his appreciation for the deer hunting with dogs permit system in Homochitto National Forest which has given protection and ownership of his land back. He is a business owner in Louisiana and landowner of 415 acres in Mississippi which adjoins the Homochitto National Forest. This year is the first time he has seen an eight point deer on his property. He is happy to report that the past two Thanksgivings his family has enjoyed their holiday without deer dogs running through their property. Other property owners surrounding the national forest in Franklin County have also expressed their gratitude.



Mr. Sparks made two suggestions for Commission consideration: changing the southern area of Caston Creek WMA to “still hunting only” since most of this area is private property and to make Lake Okhissa “bow hunting only.”

**Preston Sullivan:**

Mr. Sullivan came to represent the landowner coalition around the Homochitto National Forest and to echo Mr. Sparks’ positive comments concerning the deer hunting with dogs permit system. He stated that this is the first regulation that has changed deer hunting with dogs conduct in the field. During the 2011-12 Season 900 permits were issued for deer hunting with dogs in Homochitto. Only 40 violations were issued which indicates this system is working for 95% of deer hunters with dogs. It appears the vast majority of deer hunters with dogs are complying and have changed their conduct in the field. The violators who are being issued tickets are the chronic offenders. One offender recently received his fifth strike. Mr. Sullivan suggested an amendment to the permit regulations for chronic offenders, such as a permanent revocation of their permit after the fourth strike. As it stands now, offenders get a 20-day suspension on their second strike, and a one year suspension after the third strike.

**Jim Curry:**

Mr. Curry is a private landowner in Hancock County. He stated that the non-industrial farm owner’s number one aggravation in Hancock County would be the deer hunter with dogs trespassing on their property. There is a growing coalition for statewide support for deer hunting with dogs permit. The Farm Bureau’s policy book is printed each year to influence legislative topics. This year’s 2013 policy book states, “we support legislation which would minimize infringement of hunting dogs on the private property rights of others.” This statement signifies that the majority of land owners in Mississippi are in favor of such a system.

Chairman Munro thanked everyone for their comments. Commissioner Deviney encouraged these three gentlemen to write letters stating these comments and suggestions to the Mississippi Legislative House and Senate Wildlife Committee members. Chairman Munro advised them to get these addresses on the Mississippi Legislative website, <http://www.legislature.ms.gov>.

## **LICENSE SALES REPORT**

**License Sales Report**

Mr. Michael Bolden, Director of Administrative Services, presented the License Sales Report for the month of December, 2012.

He reported the following cumulative sales for July 1 – December 31:

- Overall license sales - up \$49,183.90
- Resident license sales - down \$22,519.60 or 1.57%
- Non-resident sales - down \$26,187.60 or 3.04%; \$12,600 of this is Louisiana
- Other license sales, including Alligator - up \$90,677.00 or 114.39%
- Lifetime license sales - up \$9,900.00 or 4.68%





Mr. Bolden handed out a month by month chart indicating that sales are still following the trend. We are slightly down by \$20,000 from last year. The department is hoping that once the rain ends sales will improve.

Lacey Kuhn, Marketing Coordinator, came forward. The Marketing Department compiled a list of 80,000 customers, resident and non-resident, whose licenses had expired. This list was used as a direct mailout to encourage end-of-season hunting and spring fishing.

The rotunda at the State Capitol has been reserved March 21 to exhibit events and programs sponsored by the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

## MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

### **Public Notice FINAL M1-3821 – Rental of Museum by Outside Groups**

Libby Hartfield, Executive Officer for Museum, Conservation Research, and Education, advised the Commissioners that there were no changes from the Intent version approved last month.

**ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the request to approve Public Notice Final M1-3821 – Rental of Museum by Outside Groups was unanimously approved.**

## FISHERIES

Ron Garavelli, Fisheries Bureau Director, presented the following Public Notices of Intent:

- **Public Notice of Intent F7-3550 (I) – Community Assistance Program Water Bodies**  
This would add Lake Dockery to CAP.
- **Public Notice of Intent F12-3428 (I) – Sport Fishing**  
Aberdeen and Columbus Spillways (U.S.C.O.E.) : anglers limited to fishing with one rod or pole per person; treble hooks will not be allowed
- **Public Notice of Intent F16-3423 (I) – State Lakes Regulations**  
Remove Oktibbeha County Lake from Public Notice and give back to the county  
Open Jeff Davis Lake (recreational lake boating and skiing) – Youth Day on May 18<sup>th</sup> ,  
Open Day on May 22nd
- **Public Notice of Intent F18-3424 (I) – Creel Limits on Sport Fishing**  
Sardis Lake: 10” minimum length limit on crappie (Feb-May); FCR 15 creel limit; boats with 3 or more anglers can keep 40 crappie per boat  
Lake Jeff Davis: 16-20 inch slot limit with one bass allowed over 20 inches; 15 bag limit  
Moon Lake: Daily bag limit increased to 5 per day  
Pickwick Lake: 15 inch minimum length on bass; (TN/MS/AL agreement)



**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the above mentioned four Public Notices of Intent were unanimously approved as presented.

## **PARKS**

### **Public Notice FINAL P001 – Shepard SP Fees**

### **Public Notice FINAL P002 – Shepard SP Rules & Regulations**

Ramie Ford, Director of State Parks, advised the Commissioners that there were no changes to either Public Notice P001 or P002 from the Intent version.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the above mentioned two Public Notices Final P001 & P002 were unanimously approved as presented.

## **WILDLIFE**

### **Public Notice W3819 (Temporary) – Canemount**

Ed Penny, Wildlife Bureau Director, presented Public Notice W3819 (Temporary). This would allow more squirrel hunting opportunity at Canemount.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the above mentioned Public Notice W3819 was unanimously approved as presented.

### **Breach at Mahannah WMA**

Ed Penny informed the Commission of potential hazardous flooding situation at Mahannah WMA.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Commission voted to authorize Dr. Polles, upon staff recommendation, to close such parts of Mahannah WMA to hunting until conditions are no longer hazardous. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was presented.

**TENTATIVE MEETING DATE**

Date: Monday, February 11, 2013  
Time: 10:30 PM  
Location: Legion State Park, Louisville, MS

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine the need for executive session. The Commission determined that executive session was needed to discuss ongoing criminal investigations, and the relocation of a business or industry and the job performance of specific personnel in specific positions. Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission voted unanimously to enter into executive session.

Larry Castle addressed the Commission regarding a tract of land that was purchased for access to Lake Chotard. Mr. Castle informed the Commission that a boating access grant had been received by the Fisheries bureau and the monies will be used to reimburse the Wildlife Heritage Fund for the purchase price of "Laney Landing." No action was required of the Commission.

Dr. Polles and senior staff addressed the Commission on other matters expressed in the discussions regarding the need for executive session. Discussions followed; however, no action was required of the Commission.

There was no further business for Executive Session.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission voted unanimously to exit Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

  
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Jerry Munro, CHAIRMAN\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
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John C Stanley IV, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date