

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Monday, February 1, 2021

2:30 p.m.

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS

MINUTES OF SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING

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

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Larry Pugh, Director of Technical Programs; and Doug Mann, Executive Staff Officer.

Noted for the Record: Attached to these minutes are copies of the Special Teleconference Meeting Notices, which were posted three hours prior to the meeting on the doors of the MDWFP office building located at 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS, and on the MDWFP website and the Mississippi Open Meetings website, as per the provisions of the Mississippi Open Meetings Act.

Having determined that a quorum was present, the Chairman opened the meeting.

Dr. Polles advised the Commission that tomorrow was the deadline for bills to be reported out of committees for the current legislative session. He deferred to Larry Pugh to update the Commission on bills coming out of the respective committees on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks from the House and Senate.

Mr. Pugh informed the Commission that three (3) bills had been passed out of the House Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee: HB 152, HB 382, and HB 1231. HB 152 would divert some of the lottery proceeds to the State Parks. HB 382 is an attempt to make technical changes on high-fenced enclosures to address problems caused by last year's passage of SB 2722. HB 1231 creates the Mississippi Outdoors Stewardship Trust Fund which is intended to fund conservation projects through grants. The trust fund is to be funded by sales tax diversions from sporting goods retail sales.

Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of each bill as presented. No action was required of the Commission.

Mr. Pugh then updated the Commission on bills that are expected to be brought forward in the Senate Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee. It is anticipated that the Chairman will bring SB 2035, SB 2074, SB 2095, and SB 2480 before the committee this afternoon. SB 2035 is the air gun bill. SB 2074 would require the Commission to regulate freshwater guide and outfitter services. SB 2095 would allow LLC managers and members to be exempt from having to purchase a hunting license. SB 2480 is the Senate counterpart to HB 382 and will make technical changes to the high-fenced enclosure laws. It was also reported that the Chairman indicated he might bring SB 2486, SB 2487, and SB 2499 forward.

Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of each bill as presented. It was noted that staff had submitted information for changes to several of the bills, and opposition to certain provisions where appropriate.

No action was required of the Commission.

Discussion on several other bills not directly related to wildlife issues, but with an impact on state agencies in general, followed.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Taylor gaveled the meeting into adjournment.



Robert Taylor, CHAIRMAN

Date



Billy Mounger, VICE CHAIRMAN

Date

PUBLIC NOTICE

Special Meeting of the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

PURSUANT TO MISSISSIPPI CODE ANNOTATED '25-41-5 and '25-41-13, the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks hereby issues this notice to the public of a special meeting to be held on **Monday, February 1, 2021**, in Jackson, Mississippi, at **2:30 P.M.** This special meeting is an informational meeting for the purpose of discussing legislation pending in the current legislative session affecting the Commission and the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

The meeting will be held, via teleconference, in the Commission Meeting Room of the Department's offices at 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211. The meeting is open to the public and the Commissioners will be attending electronically from remote locations.

This the **1st** day of **February, 2021**.



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