

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, June 22 2022

No Educational Session 11:00 AM Business Session
Mclvor Shooting Facility, 4216 Davis Chapel Road, Sardis MS 38666

BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman William Mounger II, and Commissioners Bill F. Cossar, Scott Coopwood, Leonard Bentz, and Gary Rhoads.

Among the MDWFP staff attending were Deputy Executive Director Lynn Posey, Larry Pugh, Col. Jerry Carter, Russ Walsh, Amy Blaylock, Jerry Brown, Jason Thompson, Doug Mann, and Drew Malone, Special Assistant Attorney General. The Chairman welcomed guests watching the live stream video and special guests attending.

OPENING PRAYER

Chairman Mounger opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Bentz and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the Commission meeting minutes of May 19, 2022, were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

Deputy Executive Director Lynn Posey requested that the following items be added to the agenda:

- Land discussion
- Update on Mallard Point Golf Course located at John Kyle State Park.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Cossar and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting agenda of May 19, 2022, as amended.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, License/Boat Registration Division Director, presented the License Sales Report for the month of May 2022. The total revenue for the end of May was up 1.49% compared to May 2021.

Highlights of his report are listed below:

- Resident license sales – down 1.51%
- Non-resident license sales – up by 4.28%
- Other Licenses – down 2.27%
- Lifetime License category – down 5.82%

The sale of license packages are up from last year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one came forward at the meeting for public comment.

WILDLIFE

FINAL – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 7 – Nuisance Animals

Rule 7.1 – General Regulation for the Taking of Nuisance Animals

Walsh presented changes to Rule 7.1 which reflect statutory changes on transportation of wild hogs across the state at the Commission meeting last month. No public comments were received, and final approval was recommended.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Bentz and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission approved FINAL passage of Rule 7.1, as recommended by staff.

Chronic Wasting Disease Update

Deer sampling year is from July 1 – June 30 of each year. A new sampling year is about to begin and adjustments to the CWD Management Zones were recommended due to the discovery of new CWD-positive deer. Walsh stated that four new counties (Claiborne, Prentiss, Tishomingo, and Lafayette) would be added to the CWD Management Zones where CWD-Positive deer have been detected inside or within 10 miles of the county line.

Commissioner Cossar invited discussion on providing an earlier opportunity for counties within a CWD Management Zone to exit the zone and supplemental feeding restrictions currently required by the CWD Management Plan. Under the current CWD Management Plan, a county may be eligible for removal from a CWD Management Zone after 3 years. This determination is

made using the CWD Zone Delineation Tool in the management plan. A significant weight is placed on the number of samples collected during the 3 years. Discussion followed.

ACTION: Commissioner Cossar made a motion to amend the CWD Management Plan with an early exit plan for any counties included in a CWD Management Zone. If no CWD-positive deer have been detected after three years of being under the CWD management criteria, then that county would be removed from the CWD Management Zone. If a CWD-positive deer is discovered after the county has come out of the management zone, then the county would go back into the CWD Management Zone. All other provisions in the CWD Management Plan would remain in force. Commissioner Rhoads seconded the motion. Chairman Mounger stated that the only reason he would vote no was because he felt it should be longer than three years due to an incident in Mississippi where a deer tested positive after three years and nine months from first detection in that county. A vote was taken on the motion to amend the CWD Management Plan per Commissioner Cossar's motion. Commissioners Cossar, Bentz, Coopwood and Rhoads voted in favor of the Motion. Chairman Mounger voted against the Motion. The Motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Update

Col. Jerry Carter, Chief of Law Enforcement, reported that the North Region Office had a meeting with the HR Department yesterday to discuss the SEC² salary increases for officers July 1st. Everyone is smiling and happy. Thank you all for your support.

During the month of May 951 citations were issued with "No License" being number one, "No Boat Registration" was number two, and "PFD Violations" was a close third.

The Memorial Day Weekend report for May 20-30th was reviewed. MDWFP Law Officers did an outstanding job enforcing the law. Officers interacted with over 8,000 boaters during that time.

Officers issued 10 BUI citations during the month of June.

North Region Officers participated in the Fallen Officer 5K run in Tupelo. Every year MDWFP officers participate. Officer Braden Reynolds won first place in his age group this year.

Range Officer Jad Touchton came forward to give the shooting range customer counts: Mclvor – 421; Turcotte – 667; and McHenry – 485.

FINAL – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 4, Chapter 2 – Rules and Regulations regarding Boat and Water Safety

Rule 2.6 – "No Wake" Zones for Waters of the Jourdan River in Hancock County, Mississippi

Doug Mann, Executive Staff Officer, stated that last month Rule 2.6 on No Wake Zones on the Jourdan River was presented. This was a pre-existing rule where the boundaries were vague and needed to be clarified. Mr. Mann indicated that no comments have been received regarding this matter and requested FINAL approval.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Bentz and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission approved FINAL Rule 2.6 passage.

License Reinstatement

Col. Carter presented one license reinstatement request. The violator was asked to come forward and state the circumstance of his arrest before the Commission.

- **Bannon Teel, Raleigh, MS**

Teel stated that he made a stupid mistake. He and a friend were bored and decided to hang out on the back roads. He had never gone spotlighting before, but they did that night, which resulted in spotting and killing a deer. Teel apologized to the arresting officer and to the Commission. This incident cost him approximately \$4,800.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Bentz and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, Bannon Teel's license was reinstated by unanimous consent with the stipulation that he will serve the entire three years for a second offense.

Salary Discussion

Citing statutory authority for the Commission to set the salary of the Chief of Law Enforcement, Commissioner Bentz made a motion to make Colonel Jerry Carter's salary commensurate with the salary of the Mississippi Highway Patrol and Department of Public Safety's Chief of Law Enforcement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cossar.

Discussion followed with many questions for staff which could not be answered without further investigation as to the effect of the new SEC² state personnel system. Commissioner Rhoads also noted that the duties and responsibilities of the MDWFP's chief of Law Enforcement might vary significantly from those of the chief of the MHP.

After a lengthy discussion Commissioner Bentz withdrew his motion with the condition that MDWFP staff provide the answers to their questions at the next Commission meeting concerning the salary, responsibilities, and staff of all three chiefs of Law Enforcement (MDWFP, MDPS, and MDHP) and how a raise may impact Law Enforcement's senior staff opportunities for advancement and compensation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Election of Commission Officers

Chairman Mounger called for Commission officer nominations for the 2022-23 year.

ACTION: Commissioner Rhoads nominated Commissioner Bill Cossar as the new Commission Chairman beginning July 1, 2022. Commissioner Coopwood seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Bill Cossar as Chairman beginning July 1, 2022.

ACTION: Commissioner Rhoads nominated Commissioner Coopwood as the Vice Chairman beginning July 1, 2022. Commissioner Bentz seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Scott Coopwood as Vice Chairman beginning July 1, 2022.

Land

Art Kennard, Land Coordinator, stated that there are two tracts of land near Malmaison that will be coming up for auction. He would like to get general authority from the Commission to obtain two yellow book appraisals on these tracts.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Cossar, the Commission unanimously approved the order of appraisals on said properties, as recommended by staff.

Mallard Pointe Golf Course Report

Larry Pugh, Director of Technical Services, reported that a five-year lease has been signed for the management of Mallard Pointe Golf Course. The clubhouse and irrigation system have been renovated by MDWFP. An opening date for the golf course has not been set at this time.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Date: Thursday, July 21, 2022

Location: 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211

Time: 9:00 AM Educational Session & 10:00 AM Business Session

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Cossar moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bentz, and the motion carried. Chairman Mounger gaveled the meeting into adjournment.



William M. Mounger II, CHAIRMAN

8/11/22

Date



Bill Cossar, VICE CHAIRMAN

8/11/22

Date