

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

**Tuesday, September 13, 2022**

**No Educational Session      10 AM Business Session  
Mclvor Shooting Facility, 4216 Davis Chapel Road, Sardis, MS**

## **BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES**

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

Among the MDWFP staff attending were Deputy Executive Director Lynn Posey, Larry Pugh, Col. Jerry Carter, Russ Walsh, Amy Blaylock, Jason Thompson, and Drew Malone, Special Assistant Attorney General. The Chairman welcomed guests watching the live stream video and special guests attending, including Representative Bill Kinkade, Chairman of the House Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Russ Walsh, Wildlife Chief of Staff, opened the meeting with prayer.

### **MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Bentz and seconded by Commissioner Mounger, the Commission meeting minutes of August 11, 2022, were unanimously approved.

### **AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Coopwood and seconded by Commissioner Mounger, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting agenda of September 13, 2022.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- *Christopher Winter* – Mr. Winter came before the Commission to comment on the confusion by the public between baiting and supplemental feeding during turkey season. Commissioner Mounger explained how the law interprets baiting. The Commission agreed that the law

needed some clarification and there will be changes forthcoming. The Chairman thanked Mr. Winter for coming.

### LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, License/Boat Registration Division Director, presented the License Sales Report for the month of August 2022. Up 5%

Highlights of his report are listed below:

- Resident license sales – down 1 %
- Non-resident license sales – up 7 %
- Other Licenses – up 7%
- Lifetime License category – up 39%

License packages sold are up from last year.

Alligator sales are up from last year.

### WILDLIFE

#### PROPOSED 2022-2023 Senior Adult WMA Draw Hunts

Russ Walsh, Wildlife Chief of Staff, presented the following recommendation for adding Senior Adult WMA Draw Hunts for the 2022-2023 Hunting Season, as requested by the Commission at their last Commission meeting:

**Application Period:** November 1-15 (may apply with a partner)

**Hunt Dates:** Thursday & Friday, January 19-20, 2023

**Locations:** Mahannah and Phil Bryant WMAs

**Legal Weapons:** Weapon of choice

**Bag Limit:** 1 legal buck and 1 antlerless deer

This will be a draw hunt for 125 hunters, they may bring a non-hunter with them.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Bentz and seconded by Commissioner Mounger, the Commission unanimously approved adding Senior Adult WMA Draw Hunts to PROPOSED Title 40 Miss. Admin. Code - Part 2, Chapter 1: Wildlife Management Areas:

- Rule 1.12 - Mahannah WMA Regulations
- Rule 1.46. – Phil Bryant WMA Regulations

## PARKS

### Parks Update

Director of Technical Services, Larry Pugh, gave the following Parks report, on behalf of Parks Operations' Director Andre Hollis.

### August, 2022 Compared to August, 2021

Reservations (RV Camping, Cabins, Primitive)	up	\$ 8,646
Privilege (Entrance fee, Bank Fishing, Boat Launch, Other Day Use Fees)	down	2,799
Gross Monthly Total	up	5,847

Discussion followed on Phase I of the Parks Improvement Plan.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### Law Enforcement Update

Col. Jerry Carter, Chief of Law Enforcement, reported for the month of August, there were a total of 533 citations issued with "No License" being number one, "No Boat Registration" was number two, and "PFD Violation" was third.

A Dove Season Detail Report for Opening Weekend revealed 288 violations with "Baiting" violations being number one; "No License" number two; and "Unplugged Shotgun" came in third. A total of 158 officers checked 3,293 dove hunters over the weekend covering 351 dove fields. Col. Carter commended the good work of his officers protecting the public and the resource.

Other updates:

- Six cadets graduated from MLEOTA August 25<sup>th</sup> and will report with the rest of their class to MCOTA to finish their training.
- McHenry Sporting Clay Trail opened to the public on August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- An alligator was seized after being taken unlawfully in Coahoma County.

The shooting range customer counts for August were:

McIvor – 755; Turcotte – 740; and McHenry – 635.

### License Reinstatements

Col. Carter presented four license reinstatement requests. The violators were asked to come forward and state the circumstance of their arrest before the Commission.

- **Jeremy Cockrell, Mendenhall**  
Cockrell stepped outside his home and saw a deer. He went back inside, got his gun, and shot the deer from his front porch. His closest neighbor called and reported him. This cost him around \$3,000.

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

- **Taylor Woodcock, Christian**

Woodcock stopped his vehicle as a deer ran across the road in front of him that evening. He immediately pulled out his gun and shot him from the road, killing the deer. A homeowner nearby called the local Conservation Officer.

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

- **Kyle Roberts, Gulfport**

Roberts was riding in the vehicle with the previous violator, Mr. Taylor Woodcock. He apologized for their actions that night.

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

- **John Campbell, Hickory**

Campbell was out spotlighting and explained that he did not know why because there are plenty of deer to hunt during the day. He shot and killed the deer. Campbell apologized to the Commission.

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

### OTHER BUSINESS

Russ Walsh informed the Commission that approximately 2,400 acres have been donated to the Pascagoula River Wildlife Management Area. This land has always been known as "The Land Between the Creeks" and is very important from a conservation standpoint. A Dedication and Tour of this new property will begin at noon on Thursday, October 6, 2022. Joining MDWFP at the Dedication will be the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the US Forest Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

The Chairman reminded the Commission that a Ribbon Cutting will be held at Mallard Point Golf Course, located at 3037 State Park Road, Sardis, MS this Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at 3 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2022  
Location: McHenry Shooting Facility, Perkinston  
Time: 1:30 PM Business Session

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Deputy Executive Director stated that an Executive Session was not needed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

  
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Bill Cossar, CHAIRMAN

  
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Date

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Scott Coopwood, VICE CHAIRMAN

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Date