

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

**Thursday, July 13, 2023**

**9:30 AM Business Session**

**The Grand Hotel, 111 North Broadway St., Natchez, MS 39210**

## **BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES**

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

Among the MDWFP staff attending were Executive Director Lynn Posey, Larry Pugh, Curtis Thornhill, Andre' Hollis, Col. Jerry Carter, Charles Knight, 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 Cossar asked Jason Thompson to open the meeting with prayer.

The Mayor of Natchez, Dan Gibson, stopped by to welcome the Commissioners, staff, and visitors to the City of Natchez.

## **MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Mounger and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the Commission meeting minutes of June 22, 2023, were unanimously approved.

## **AGENDA**

Executive Director Lynn Posey did not have any changes to the agenda but requested to make the following announcements:

- Commissioner Leonard Bentz and the MDWFP office officially received notice from Governor Tate Reeves on July 12, 2023, that Commissioner Bentz had been reappointed effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2028, to serve as Commissioner of District 5. Mr. Posey congratulated Commissioner Bentz.
- On Monday, July 24, 2023, the renaming of the **North MS Fish Hatchery** to the **Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery** will take place from 1 PM – 3 PM, as approved by the 2023 Legislative Session (Mississippi House Bill 923) and signed into law by Governor Reeves.

- The **Mississippi Field Guide** booklets are ready to be distributed to the public. A copy was given to members of the Commission.
- The Fall Edition of the **Mississippi Ag and Outdoor Expo** will be July 28-30, 2023, at the new Mississippi Trade Mart.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Mounger, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting agenda of June 22, 2023.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one came forward for public comment.

### **LICENSE SALES REPORT**

Jason Thompson, Administrative Services Director, presented the License Sales Report for the month of June 2023. The total revenue for the end of this fiscal year was up \$976,000 more than last year.

Highlights of his report are listed below:

- Resident (RES) license sales – up \$15,000
- RES WMA User Permit – up 3%
- RES Senior Exempt Lifetime – up 8%
- Non-resident (NR) license sales – up 9%
- NR Small Game Hunting – up 7%
- NR 7-Day Small Game – up 7%
- NR All Game – up \$68,000
- Lifetime License category – down 2%

Total sales last fiscal year totaled \$20.2 million, breaking a record in collections.

### **MUSEUM**

#### **FINAL – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 8 – Regulations regarding Animals in Captivity and Enclosures**

##### **Rule 8.3 – Regulations for Animals Inherently Dangerous to Humans**

Charles Knight, Director of Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, reported that no comments had been received since last month and recommended Final approval of Rule 8.3 by the Commission.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Mounger and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the Commission unanimously approved adoption of Rule 8.3, as presented by the staff.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

#### **Law Enforcement Update**

Col. Jerry Carter, Chief of Law Enforcement, reported that during the month of June, 549 citations were issued with "No License" being number one, "PFD Violation" number two, "No Boat Registration" third, "Trespassing" fourth, and "No Boating Certificate" fifth.

The Fourth of July Weekend report, named Operation Dry Water, was reviewed. A total of 221 citations were issued between July 1 -3, 2023. A total of 2,034 registered vessels and 5,459 boaters were contacted.

The shooting range customer counts for June 12 – July 6 were:  
McIvor – 412; Turcotte – 355; and McHenry – 345.

#### **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.

- **Frederick Garraway III, Bolton, MS**

Garraway went to a friend's house in Madison County and the two decided to go headlighting. A deer was spotted, Garraway proceeded to shoot the deer from the road, and load the deer into the truck. A landowner called authorities to report a gunshot. Law Enforcement responded and arrested Garraway. He was fined \$2,800 and his guns were taken but later returned following his court date. Mr. Garraway regretted his actions and the danger he created by shooting into someone's pasture after dark.

**ACTION:** By motion of Commissioner Mounger and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, Frederick Garraway's license was reinstated by unanimous consent.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was presented.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

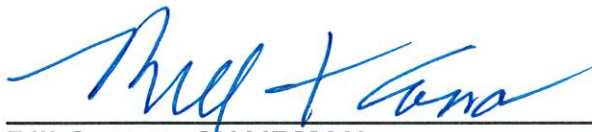
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2023

Location: Holmes County State Park, 5369 State Park Road, Durant

Time: 11 AM Educational Session & 1 PM Business Session

**ADJOURNMENT**

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



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Bill Cossar, CHAIRMAN

  
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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Coopwood, VICE CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date