

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Thursday, September 14, 2023
9:00 AM Business Session
J.P. Coleman State Park, 613 CR 321, Iuka 38852

BUSINESS SESSION

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

Among the MDWFP staff attending were Executive Director Lynn Posey, Jason Thompson, Lt. Col. Scottie Jones, Jerry Brown, Ryan Jones, Art Kennard, and Doug Mann.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman Bill F. Cossar. 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.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Bentz and seconded by Commissioner Mounger, the Commission meeting minutes of August 17, 2023, were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

The Chairman asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Executive Director Lynn Posey stated the Law Enforcement Report on the agenda would be presented by Lt. Col. Scottie Jones. Col. Jerry Carter was unable to attend the meeting. Also, an item would need consideration during Executive Session.

Posey also thanked the J.P. Coleman State Park staff for the hospitality displayed during the Commission's visit. A round of applause followed.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Mounger and seconded by Commissioner Coopwood, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting agenda of September 14, 2023, as amended.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Update

Lt. Col. Scottie Jones, Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement, stated that hunting season was kicked off with Alligator, Dove, and Teal Seasons.

Jones reported that during the month of August, 270 citations were issued with "No License" being number one, "PFD Violation" number two, "No Boat Registration" third, "Violation of Running Lights" fourth, and "Reckless Operation" fifth. These numbers do not include Dove Opening Season.

During the opening weekend of Dove Season, law enforcement checked 4,278 hunters statewide. Citations issued totaled 413. Law Enforcement officers made an impact on baited fields and did an excellent job.

Twelve new law enforcement officers are now in their new jobs (two in the North District, eight in Central, and two in the Southern District). Law Enforcement is now reaching out for new recruits.

Shooting range customer counts have started to increase due to Dove Season and MSSP events. The shooting range counts for August 6 - September 10, 2023 were:

McIvor – 815; Turcotte – 1,171; McHenry - 835

OTHER BUSINESS

Waldo Cleland (1965 – 2023)

Commissioner Bentz cited the recent loss of Waldo Cleland, MDWFP's Director and Ambassador for the Archery in Mississippi Schools (AIMS) Program. He was a professional archer, acquiring four national titles and a Shooter of the Year award. Cleland had a vision to bring archery into every high school in the state of Mississippi. In 2003, MDWFP gave him the tools he needed to start AIMS in 10 schools and AIMS has continued to grow to over 500 schools. Cleland embraced his talent and love for this sport and shared it with as many people as he could. His heart was to give to others and now his love of archery and people will live on through this great program.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023

Location: Buccaneer State Park, 1150 S. Beach Blvd, Waveland

Time: 10 AM Business Session

ADJOURNMENT

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



Bill Cossar, CHAIRMAN



Date



Scott Coopwood, VICE CHAIRMAN



Date