

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Tuesday, March 19, 2013 @ 2:00 p.m.
1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Jerry Munro, Commissioners Bryan Jones, William “Billy” Deviney, John C Stanley IV, and Charles Rigdon

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Mr. Robert Cook, Deputy Director; Ramie Ford; Larry Castle; Michael Bolden; Ed Penny; Larry Pugh; Col. Steve Adcock; Jim Walker; and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

Chairman Munro recognized the following visitor: Representative Scott Bounds, Chairman of the House Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Minutes of the February 11, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

TODAY’S AGENDA

No additions or changes were made to the agenda.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, today’s agenda was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tommy Poirrier: Mr. Poirrier by email dated March 07, 2013 requested permission to appear before the Commission. Mr. Poirrier stated that he and his brother own the existing Sandy Creek 700 acre high fence enclosure (Permit SW17) in the Kingston area. They are currently proceeding to divide the property by separating approximately 200 acres of the existing enclosure.

Commission consideration was requested for a waiver which would allow a permit for the 200 acre enclosure. Mr. Poirrier stated that to add more acreage to the 200 acre section would infringe into the campsite area. The 200 acres would be used for hunting by Mr. Poirrier’s family only.



Secondly, if a waiver is not granted for the 200 acre section, Mr. Poirrier asked what the minimum acreage allowance would be to receive a permit.

The Commissioners had several questions and comments, including a question if the 700 acres was grandfathered in when the regulations were established.

Dr. Polles stated that the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks would need to take this under advisement with comments from staff for Commission consideration.

Commissioner Munro thanked Mr. Poirrier and stated that a decision would be made at a later date.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Mr. Michael Bolden, Director of Administrative Services, presented the License Sales Report for the month of February, 2013.

He reported the following cumulative sales:

- Overall license sales – up \$103,000; however, number of licenses sold are down
- Freshwater fishing is down by \$48,000
- Resident license sales down \$24,852; however, 356 apprentice sportsman licenses sold which is encouraging and waterfowl stamp sales are up \$28,150
- Non-resident license sales up \$16,520 – fishing is down \$60,000
- Other license sales up \$90,000; Alligator license sales account for over 50% of this amount

The license buying patterns are consistent this year compared to last year.

FISHERIES

“Lure U to the Lake Day” Fishing Promotion

Mr. Larry Pugh, Fisheries Bureau Assistant Director, presented a request to waive entrance, boating, and fishing fees at Lake Elvis Presley on April 13, 2013 for a family-oriented fishing promotion entitled “Lure U to the Lake Day.” Drinks and lunch will be provided to families attending and MDWFP personnel will be on hand to assist with tackle and bait.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the request to waive entrance, boating, and fishing fees at Lake Elvis Presley on April 13, 2013 was unanimously approved.

**2012 Fisheries Bureau Awards**

Larry Pugh presented a plaque and commented on the valued attributes of each Fisheries employee below:

- Biologist of the Year – Nathan Aycock
- Lake Manager of the Year – Ken Stanford
- Support Personnel of the Year – Donald Barnes

The Commission and staff gave a round of applause to each as they accepted their award.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE**2012 MS Wildlife Federation Conservation Educator of the Year Award**

Libby Hartfield, Executive Officer for Museum Conservation Research and Education, informed the Commission that Angel Rohnke, Assistant Director of the Museum of Natural Science, was recently named the 2012 Conservation Educator of the Year by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. She received an award at the Wildlife Federation's 53rd Mississippi Conservation Achievement Awards Banquet. Angel stood and was congratulated by the Commission and staff.

WILDLIFE**2013-14 Dove Season Opening Date**

Ed Penny, Wildlife Bureau Director, presented optional opening dates for the 2013-14 Dove Season. The Commission was informed that the start date could begin on, but not before, September 1. A maximum of 70 hunting days are allowed from September 1, 2013 through January, 2014. A 2008-09 dove season calendar was presented to the Commission for viewing possible dove selection dates since this calendar has the same month and day layout as 2013-14. Mr. Penny stated that the dove season dates would not be set until July.

Commissioner Jones asked if there were any studies locally or in the Southeast that support when to make the breaks in the season? Mr. Penny stated that currently there is no data on how many doves are killed. Comments were made that more studies are needed on doves. Mr. Penny stated that he will look into this and have a recommendation in line with these questions for the April meeting.

No action was needed by the Commission at this time.

**Reorganization of MDWFP Public Notices**

Mr. Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General, informed the Commission that all MDWFP Public Notices have been converted to the Mississippi Administrative Code format and filed with the Secretary of State's Office. Under the new administrative code, regulations are now referred to as "rules" and the term "public notices" will no longer be used. The Administrative Code is comprised of Titles, Parts, Chapters, and Rules.

The MDWFP has been assigned Title 40 and Parts 1-6 were assigned to different subdivisions of the agency.

Part 1- Administration (includes License)

Part 2 – Wildlife

Part 3 – Fisheries

Part 4 - Law Enforcement

Part 5 – Museum

Part 6 - Parks

A conversion index was included in Commission notebooks showing the old "public notice" and new "rule" numbers.

No action was needed by the Commission, as this was for information only.

Proposed (Title 40, Part 2) Rules 5.2 and 5.3 – Alligator Hunting Season for Private and Public Waters

Mr. Ricky Flynt, Wildlife Alligator/Furbearer Coordinator, presented the Alligator Hunting Season Proposal for 2013. A handout was included in the Commissioner's notebooks showing the alligator season harvest history since the first season was initiated in 2005. The recommended alligator hunting season changes for 2013 included:

- Add one additional hunting zone (Northeast).
- Offer an earlier opening day (August 30) due to calendar conflicts with dove season and to avoid potential cooler weather associated with late September.
- An August 30 opening day would offer three days of alligator hunting opportunity prior to opening day for dove season on Labor Day.
- Reduce permits in Northwest Zone from 150 to 100, due to difficulty in navigable water and smaller number of alligators in open water.
- Increase Pearl River Zone permits from 60 to 70.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, proposed Part 2, Chapter 5, Rules 5.2 and 5.3 – Alligator Hunting Season for Private and Public Waters were unanimously approved.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

2012 Mississippi Wildlife Federation Conservation Officer of the Year Award

Col. Steve Adcock, Law Enforcement Chief, informed the Commission that Master Sergeant John Collum was chosen by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation as the Conservation Officer of the Year. Earlier this year he was also named SEAFWA Officer of the Year.

The Commission and staff gave Master Sergeant Collum a round of applause and offered congratulations.

FINAL 40 Miss. Admin. Code, Part 4, Rule 6.1 – WMA Range Fees

Col. Steve Adcock presented this rule last month as Public Notice of Intent LE 3822 (I) – WMA Range Fees. There have been no changes or comments with the exception of conversion to the Mississippi Administrative Code format this month.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Jones, FINAL 40 Miss. Admin. Code, Part 4, Rule 6.1 – WMA Range Fees was unanimously approved.

Citation Report

Col. Adcock reported the following:

- “No license” - #1 violation with 100 citations
- North Region – 36 citations
- South Region – 63 citations
- Central Region - 93 citations

Regatta

Col. Adcock presented a marine event application entitled the Bogalusa Boat Club Race to be held at Riverside Drive, Pearl River. This is sponsored by the Bogalusa Boat Club in Franklinton, Louisiana. Three races are planned for 2013 (June 1-2; July 27-28; and September 21-22). The boats will be 10-16 ft. long with two boats racing at a time. The Coast Guard requires a State Representative’s signature on the form. MDWFP officers will be present on the Mississippi side and Louisiana officers will maintain order on their side of the Pearl River.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Regatta application was unanimously approved as presented.



PARKS

Roosevelt State Park - Renaming

Robbie Neely, Facility and Grounds Director, informed the Commission of a Dedication Event planned for April 18, 2013 at Roosevelt State Park honoring Representative Dick Livingston (House of Representatives Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee Member for 20 years and House Chairman of WFP Committee 1996-2000) and Carl E. Harris, Sr. (Park Manager for 26 years, 1973-1999). Two buildings at Roosevelt are being renamed in their honor:

Livingston Performing Arts & Media Center honoring Rep. Dick Livingston
Alfreda – Harris Lodge honoring Carl E. Harris, Sr.

Handouts were provided displaying a copy of the dedication plaques to be mounted inside each building in their honor.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, the request to rename two buildings at Roosevelt State Park in honor of Rep. Dick Livingston and Park Manager Carl E. Harris, Sr. was unanimously approved as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on Canemount WMA

Ed Penny, Wildlife Bureau Director, updated the Commission on three items at Canemount. First, bids were let for the sale of timber on 220 acres but none were received. Secondly, Wildlife Bureau staff have been developing a plan with Ramie Ford, Director of Parks, in regards to several buildings at Canemount. This plan will be presented to the Commission in May. Thirdly, options for federal aid grants are being explored, details forthcoming at the April meeting.

Mr. Penny provided insight on waterfowl this past season. Overall Mississippi waterfowl was below average, while Missouri had a record high harvest. The first part of the season was excellent on the WMAs and then it declined as the weather turned warmer and wetter.

No action was needed by the Commission, as this was for information only.

Meet and Greet Day at the Rotunda

Dr. Polles, Executive Director, invited the Commission to attend “Meet and Greet Day” at the Capitol Rotunda on Thursday, March 21, 2013. The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks staff will be at the Capitol from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. to answer questions and afford insight on MDWFP programs. Displays, handouts, and refreshments will be provided.

**TENTATIVE MEETING DATE**

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013
Time: 12:00 Noon
Location: State Office, Jackson, MS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine the need for executive session. The Commission determined that executive session was needed to discuss budget line items affecting the continued employment of persons in specific positions, ongoing criminal investigations, and relocation of a business or industry. Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Commission voted unanimously to enter into executive session.

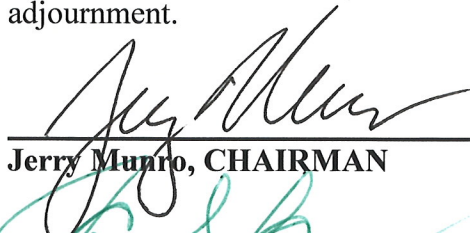
Dr. Polles and senior staff addressed the Commission on the matters expressed above, and discussion followed. The discussions were for informational purposes only and no action was required of the Commission.

There was no further business for Executive Session.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Commission voted unanimously to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Munro gaveled the meeting into adjournment.



Jerry Munro, CHAIRMAN

4/17/13

Date



John C Stanley IV, VICE-CHAIRMAN

4-17-13

Date