

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, May 22, 2013 @ 2:00 p.m.
INFINITY Science Center, Bay St. Louis, 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 Executive Director; Ramie Ford; Larry Castle; Jason Thompson; Ed Penny; Chad Dacus, Ron Garavelli, Col. Steve Adcock; Jim Walker; and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Minutes of the April 17, 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 Jones, today's agenda was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Mr. Jason Thompson, License/Boat Registration Division Director, presented the License Sales Report for the month of April, 2013.

He reported the following cumulative sales (comparing April, 2013 to April, 2012):

- Overall total license sales are up \$30,000
- Resident License is improving even though still down by 5%
- Sportsman's License up by \$17,000
- Non-resident was the biggest jump \$88,000
- Other Licenses up \$89,000
- Overall we see numbers and sales percentages going up compared to last year

FISHERIES

PROPOSED Rule – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. Chap. 3 Rule 3.1 – Commercial Fishing

Mr. Ron Garavelli, Fisheries Bureau Director, informed the Commission that Rule 3.1 – Commercial Fishing is being amended to reflect statutory changes authorized in Mississippi House Bill 1002. The two main changes in this Rule are:

- To delete the requirement that the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks provide tags for certain commercial fishing equipment
- To revise the minimum size requirement of slot openings on slat baskets

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the PROPOSED Rule was unanimously approved.

WILDLIFE

FINAL Wildlife Rules

Mr. Chad Dacus, Wildlife Bureau Director, presented the following FINAL Rules for WMA and deer, turkey and small game season. Mr. Dacus stated that a few adjustments were made on Rule 1.37 - Sky Lake WMA based on comments since the last meeting. A few sections at Sky Lake were closed to rabbit hunting with dogs due to some private land conflicts. No other changes were made.

□ FINAL Rules:

- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2 Chap. 1 – WMA Regulations
 - Rule 1.2 – Non-state owned, Non-COE WMAs
 - Rule 1.7 – Canal Section WMA
 - Rule 1.12 – Mahannah WMA
 - Rule 1.16 – O’Keefe WMA
 - Rule 1.23 – Sunflower WMA
 - Rule 1.24 – Twin Oaks WMA
 - Rule 1.26 – Natchez State Park
 - Rule 1.28 – Black Prairie WMA
 - Rule 1.29 – Hell Creek WMA
 - Rule 1.32 – Tuscumbia WMA
 - Rule 1.37 – Sky Lake WMA
 - Rule 1.38 – Howard Miller WMA
 - Rule 1.40 – Charlie Capps WMA
 - Rule 1.41 – Indianola WMA
 - Rule 1.43 – Canemount WMA
- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2 Chap 2 – White-tailed Deer
 - Rule 2.2 – White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits
- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2 Chap 3 – Wild Turkey
 - Rule 3.1 – Wild Turkey Seasons and Bag Limits
- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2 Chap 4 - Small Game, Migratory Birds and Other
 - Rule 4.1 – Small Game Seasons and Bag Limits

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the FINAL Rules listed above, including the changes to Rule 1.37, were unanimously approved.

Staff Report on April Meeting with MDWFP Officers, U.S. Forest Service Officers and Hunters with Dogs

At the April 17, 2013 Commission meeting several individuals were present representing hunters with dogs. Mr. David Smith had addressed the Commission concerning problems hunters with dogs are experiencing in the Homochitto National Forest. MDWFP officers and U.S. Forest Service officers met with these individuals in a separate meeting that same day and the Commission requested a staff report.

As requested, Mr. Dacus presented a staff report to the Commission at the May 22 meeting with a list of the basic questions presented by the hunters with dogs in April and the response given to them by law enforcement. He stated that the main concern of the hunters with dogs was not the regulation, but how to avoid getting a ticket.

No action was needed by the Commission.

PARKS

FINAL Parks Rules

Mr. Ramie Ford, Director of Parks, presented the following FINAL Rules. He stated there were no comments or changes from the PROPOSED.

- FINAL Rules:
 - 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6 Chap 1 – General (fees and rules/regulations)
 - Rule 1.1 – State Park Fees
 - Rule 1.2 – General Rules for State Parks

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the FINAL rules above were unanimously approved as presented.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Citation Report

Col. Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, stated that 587 citations were issued, with 330 citations for no fishing licenses. He stated that there have been several drownings already this year and a safe boating promotion has begun on the radio to raise water safety awareness.

Reinstatement Requests

Col. Adcock brought before the Commission four requests for reinstatement. Each violator appeared before the Commission and stated the reason for his conviction.

- Coleman Gill, Hamilton, MS
Mr. Gill has completed requirements and paid his fine. In October, 2010 he shot a deer in his yard after dark.
- Damian Hosli, Ocean Springs, MS
In 2011 Mr. Hosli shot a deer illegally. Col. Adcock stated that he has satisfied all his requirements.
- Jesse Spear, Ocean Springs, MS
Mr. Spear shot a deer illegally and was fined \$5,000. He has completed all requirements and paid his fine.
- Houston Stringer, Silver Creek, MS
Mr. Stringer shot a deer after hours and went to jail in 2008. His fine was \$3,000. Mr. Stringer was cited in 2010 and 2011 for hunting under revocation. Col. Adcock stated that he was not allowed to come before the Commission for reinstatement until he had completed a full year without any citations.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, the request to reinstate hunting privileges to all of the above mentioned men was unanimously approved as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Polles updated the Commission on the alligator permit draw system. Recently, comments had been made on the Internet that the draw system may be an unlawful lottery. Attorney Mann informed the Commission that he had consulted with his counterpart at the Gaming Commission and that the draw system was NOT a lottery as it did not possess all three elements of a lottery as prohibited in state law. Discussion followed. Staff pointed out that an effort had been under way for some time to change the draw process to an automated process. That process is almost ready with the only hold-up being an interface between the draw system and the license database. The automated process is expected to be ready for the 2014-2015 alligator season. The Commission determined that since the draw system was expected to change within the year, there was no reason to charge the Ten Dollar application fee for the permit draw. (This fee will not be charged with an automated system).

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Commission unanimously approved waiving the Ten Dollar application fee for the alligator permit draw.

No other business was presented.

TENTATIVE MEETING DATE

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2013
Time: 2:30 PM
Location: 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, 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 transactions in land and job performance of specific individuals in specific positions. Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Commission voted unanimously to enter into executive session.

Dr. Polles and senior staff addressed the Commission on a 4.5 acre tract of land adjacent to Lake Bogue Homa in Jones County. Per prior Commission authorization, the land had been appraised and negotiations undertaken with the owners. Per those negotiations, the parties had agreed to a sale price below fair market value as determined by the average of two appraisals. Staff requested Commission authorization to purchase the property.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, the request to purchase 4.5 acres of land adjacent to Lake Bogue Homa in Jones County was unanimously approved as presented.

Dr. Polles addressed the Commission on several pending changes in department management staff.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Commission voted unanimously to authorize Dr. Polles to make the pending personnel changes as presented.

There was no further business for Executive Session.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney 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

Date

John C Stanley IV, VICE-CHAIRMAN

Date