

MS COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Monday, February 20, 2012 @ 8:00 a.m.

Quail Ridge Conference Center, Louisville, MS.

PRESENT: Commissioners Deviney; Jones; Rigdon and Stanley. Among the staff attending were Dr. Sam Polles; Michael Bolden; Larry Castle; Ed Penny; Chad Dacus; Ramie Ford; and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

WELCOME

Chairman Deviney welcomed special guests Senator Giles Ward, the new chairman of the Senate Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee and Representative Michael T. Evans, member of the House Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee. Larry Castle then opened the meeting with a prayer.

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 23, 2012 Commission meeting, were presented for approval.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Minutes from the January 23, 2011 Commission meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

TODAY'S AGENDA

The proposed agenda for the day's meeting was presented for approval.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the February 20, 2012 Agenda was approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Two members of the public requested that they be allowed to address the Commission concerning proposed Public Notice LE5-3779.

Mr. David Smith: Mr. Smith stated he is a member of a hunting club that leases approximately 1700 acres from Mississippi Power in Jackson County. Mr. Smith is concerned that the restrictions on hog hunting as proposed in the new public notice, may impede the club's ability to control nuisance hogs on club property. More specifically, he is concerned that the requirements for written "landowner permission", to allow running dogs for hogs at night, may be prohibitive since the owner is a corporation. There are about fifty members of the club that are willing to remove hogs from the property, but they are concerned that the proposed rule's limit of hunting parties to three people, and the permission requirements, could have a chilling effect on the participation in hog control.

Mr. Mike Henderson: Also a member of the hunting club with Mr. Smith, echoed similar concerns.

Chief Adcock addressed the concerns. Specifically, he pointed out that the restrictions that the gentlemen were worried about, only apply to those persons who desire to hunt hogs at night, with firearms that exceed the requirements for a lawful firearm after hours (similar to a depredation permit). The restrictions would not apply to the running of dogs at night if the hunters were not armed with anything other than a rimfire or shotgun with appropriate shot size.

The Commissioners made the following observations during discussion:

Staff needs to reword the language on permitting and hunting after hours to be more obvious that the restrictions only apply to persons desiring to hunt with firearms exceeding those ordinarily employed after hours; and

Re-visit the need for a three (3) person limit on the size of hunting parties.

The Commission also suggested the club write some of these provisions into their lease from Mississippi Power.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Chief Adcock gave the Law Enforcement report on headlighting cases. Headlighting cases have gone down about 30% in 2011. A trend that has been noticed is that persons who are stopped for headlighting are claiming they are hunting hogs. This has prompted the changes to be requested in the nuisance animal public notice. If there is a possibility you are going to hunt, call officers and let them know. We have 24 hour number to call. Chief Adcock repeated what weapons may be used while hunting nuisance animals at night.

Chief Adcock continued the citation report for November and December. The resident no license continues to be the number one citation. There were 45 citations written in the North Region; 58 in the Central Region; and 53 in the South Region. Several major details on road hunting were conducted resulting in 74 citations in the North Region; 50 in the Central Region; 98 in the South Region.

Chief Adcock then presented Public Notice of Intent LE5-3779 (Nuisance Animals) with amendments, as discussed earlier, for approval.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, Public Notice LE5-3779 (Nuisance Animals) was unanimously approved as presented.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Mr. Rickie Felder presented the License Sales Report. He stated that compared to last month's report under resident license sales, Sportsman License sales are up but some of the Small Game License sales are not. Freshwater Fishing resident down about 6%. WMA user permit is up 5%, \$30,795. State Waterfowl Stamp is up 8%, \$18,000. Non resident is \$56,933, Small game up 1% \$4,275 the seven day small game is down about 9%, Freshwater fishing non

resident is up 4%, spring turkey permit is up 1% \$560 the non resident deer permit up 6% non resident as a whole is slightly down \$101,385.

Alligator license sales continue to go up and remain very popular. Overall with MDWFP sales, up 65% from the prior year. Other license 17% increase. With DMR, the salt water annual license has gone up some \$ 37, 325 8%, Lifetime license is up 25% increase Overall all license sales are up.

WILDLIFE

Ed Penny introduced Charlie Welch and Jason Price for an update on projects in the GIS division.

Charlie Welch and Jason Price presented a Power Point and multi-media report on new developments within the Department's GIS program. It was noted that new technology and an ever-increasing wealth of public-accessible GIS data, have increased the capabilities of what the GIS technicians can do with mapping and related data, on Department-managed lands. All this information and the applications to utilize that data, are available on the "cloud" and are Internet-based. It is foreseeable that all the applications currently being used to manage Department lands will be able to be accessed by the public for use in managing private lands in the near future.

The Commission thanked them for an informative presentation

NEXT MEETING

March 20, 2012 (tentative). Location MDWF&P, Jackson, MS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

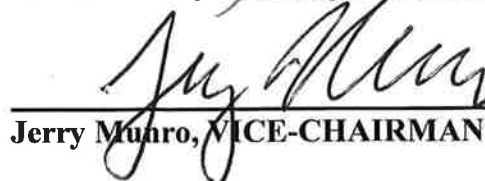
ACTION: A brief discussion ensued between the Chairman and Dr. Polles, and staff regarding the need for Executive Session. It was determined that any matters requiring executive session were not yet ripe for discussion; therefore, no action was taken and no Executive Session was required.

ADJOURNMENT

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


William "Billy" Deviney, CHAIRMAN

3-20-12
Date


Jerry Munro, VICE-CHAIRMAN

3-20-12
Date