

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Tuesday, September 10, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m.
1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman John C Stanley IV, Commissioners Bryan Jones, William "Billy" Deviney, Charles Rigdon, and Clay Wagner.

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Mr. Robert Cook, Deputy Executive Director; Ramie Ford; Larry Castle; Charles Knight; Michael Bolden; Jason Thompson; Chad Dacus, Larry Pugh, Col. Steve Adcock; and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Minutes of Commission meetings held on July 17 and July 30, 2013 were unanimously approved as presented.

TODAY'S AGENDA

Commissioner Stanley requested to move Public Comments to the end of the agenda to give the public the opportunity to hear presentations today and then come forward with comments.

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

LICENSE SALES REPORT

License Report

Mr. Jason Thompson, License/Boat Registration Division Director, presented the License Sales Report for the month of August, 2013. He advised the Commission that the License Sales Reports for both July and August were in their binders. Both reports indicate that we are off to a good start for FY14.

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

- Overall license sales up \$170,000
- Sportsman's License slightly down by 3%
- All game licenses, apprentice licenses and 3-day fresh water licenses are up
- Non-resident license sales up \$83,000

- Other License up \$105,000; September report will give us a better comparison on alligator licenses

FISHERIES

Lake Bogue Homa – October 5, 2013 – Lure U to the Lake Day

Larry Pugh, Fisheries Bureau Director, requested authority to waive fees for one day for promotional purposes at Lake Bogue Homa on October 5, 2013.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, authorization to waive fees at Lake Bogue Homa was unanimously approved as presented.

Revision of Current Paddlefish Rule and Replace with the following PROPOSED Rules:

- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 3 Chap. 3 Rule 3.2 – Paddlefish Regulations
- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 3 Chap. 3 Rule 3.4 – Paddlefish Harvest Zones
- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 3 Chap. 3 Rule 3.5 – Paddlefish Applications and Reporting

Mr. Larry Pugh, Fisheries Bureau Director, requested Commission authority to revise the current rule, 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 3, Rule 3.2 and replace it with three separate rules (Rule 3.2 Paddlefish Regulations, Rule 3.4 Paddlefish Harvest Zones, and Rule 3.5 Paddlefish Applications and Reporting). This will help clarify rules and regulations for staff and the public.

Law Enforcement suggested imposing a daily bag limit. Mr. Pugh researched the surrounding states on-line and none of them have a daily bag limit. After discussion, it was determined that the Fisheries Bureau would take notes this next year while observing the harvest period at each location and come back with recommendations if a daily bag limit is needed.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, authorization to repeal current Rule 3.2 and adoption of PROPOSED Rules 3.2, 3.4, 3.5 was unanimously approved.

WILDLIFE

Chad Dacus, Wildlife Bureau Director, presented the following FINAL rules:

FINAL Rules:

- **40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2, Rule 2.5 – Special Hunts: Youth and Disabled**
Mr. Dacus explained that this rule was changed to open opportunities for other nonprofits to partner with MDWFP for youth hunting events. He reported that no negative comments were received from the public.

Commissioner Rigdon questioned why the short title states that it is for “Youth and Disabled,” however, Sections A and B only mention “Youth.” Dacus responded that this rule was originally written for “Youth” and he would research the discrepancy in the title.

Dr. Polles stated that MDWFP has separate statutory authority to address someone with disabilities.

- **40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2, Rule 7.1 – Nuisance Animal**

The Commission was advised that no changes were made since presented in July and positive comments have been received. This will make it easier for the landowner to take care of situations on their own property.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, FINAL Rules 2.5 and 7.1 were unanimously approved as presented.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Citation Report

Col. Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, stated that 813 citations were issued between July 12 – Sept. 2, 2013, of which 225 were license violations. Officers are busy instructing hunter education classes.

Reinstatement Request

Col. Adcock brought before the Commission one request for reinstatement, Mr. Cole Johnson. The Commission was advised that Mr. Johnson had taken the hunter education course, paid his fine, and wrote a remorseful letter.

- **Cole Johnson, Columbus, MS**

Mr. Johnson stated that he shot a deer in his backyard one and one-half hours after dark. A neighbor heard the shots and called in a report.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, the request to reinstate hunting privileges to Mr. Cole Johnson was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Agency and Floating Holiday Compensatory Time

Ivy Williams, HR Director, presented amended MDWFP Policy Chapter 01, Policy Number 04. A handout was given to the Commission explaining the changes. This policy would adopt and implement the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), as amended, as the basic wage and hour policy for this department.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the request to amend MDWFP Policy Chapter 01, Policy Number 04 was unanimously approved as presented.

Conservation Programs

Lacey Kuhn, Marketing Coordinator, presented new MDWFP employee, Ashley Thomas, to the Commission. She will be assisting Lacey in the Marketing Department. Greetings were extended to Ashley from the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were brought forward by the public.

TENTATIVE MEETING DATES**October Meetings:****Next Commission Meeting**

Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013

Time: 3:00 PM

Place: Tunica, MS

Multi-State Commission Meeting:

Date: Sunday – Tuesday, October 27-29, 2013

Place: Tunica, MS

November Commission Meeting – Wednesday, November 20, 2013

December Commission Meeting – Tuesday-Wednesday, December 17-18 (Issaquena Co.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney 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 for discussions regarding transactions in land and ongoing criminal investigations. Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session.

Investigations

William McKinley updated the Commission on several investigations that are underway in south Mississippi. Discussion followed. No action was required of the Commission.

Trim Cane WMA

Dr. Polles updated the Commission on a possible tract of land that may be available at Trim Cane WMA.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission voted unanimously to authorize Dr. Polles and staff to pursue the purchase of the property near Trim Cane WMA.

Dr. Polles advised the Commission of several other tracts of land that may be available; however, there was insufficient information available at this time to bring it forward.

There was no further business for Executive Session.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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



John C Stanley IV, CHAIRMAN

10-27-13

Date



Bryan Jones, VICE-CHAIRMAN

10/27/13

Date