

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Sunday, October 27, 2013 @ 2:30 a.m.

Room 9, Harrah's Mid-South Convention Center, Tunica, 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;; Larry Castle; Ed Penny, Larry Pugh, Col. Steve Adcock, Jim Walker, and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the minutes of the Commission meeting of September 10, 2013, were unanimously approved.

TODAY'S AGENDA

Chairman Stanley requested to move the Public Comments section to follow the Fisheries' report, and move the Duck Stamp funding requests prior to Ed Penny's presentation.

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

LICENSE SALES REPORT

License Report

Larry Castle, Director of Technical Programs, presented the License Sales Report for the month of September, 2013.

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

- Overall license sales up \$65,000
- Resident license sales are down 2%
- A new privilege, Annual Resident Range Permit, was added in September - which has generated \$13,000
- Generated from House Bill 1001 - Fishing license was combined with Small Game Hunting license and is up \$150,000 due to this license structure change
- Non-resident Licenses up \$82,000
- Other Licenses -Alligators licenses up \$25,000

- Lifetime license sales are the same with exception of Non-resident Native Son Lifetime license sales which are up \$7,500

FISHERIES

Lake Monroe

- **Renovation/Closure & Repealing of Creel Limit**

Larry Pugh, Fisheries Bureau Director, requested Commission approval to lift the creel and/or size limits for fishing at Lake Monroe in order to encourage the public to harvest as many fish as possible while the lake is being drained for repair and renovation. If approved, this repeal notice will be given to the public immediately. All requirements for fishing licenses and/or lake permits shall remain in full force during this period. At such time as the draining operation has been accomplished and following notice by Fisheries of such occurrence, Lake Monroe shall be closed to fishing and recreational use until such time as the reconstruction/repair and renovation operations are complete. The projected time frame for closure and renovation is two years.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, authorization to lift the creel and size limits for fishing at Lake Monroe while the lake is being drained, followed by closure of the lake for repair and renovation, was unanimously approved as presented.

FINAL Paddlefish 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 approval of the FINAL rules above. A handout was provided to the Commission listing some additional changes. Mr. Pugh referenced that Class III violations in Rule 3.2 would be removed and all paddlefish violations would be Class I (Section H, Item b). He also pointed out the deadline which applicants must validate their intentions to purchase a permit was changed from November 1, to November 14, in Rule 3.5 (Section E, Nos. 6 & 7). Mr. Pugh explained that the paddlefish season would run for six months within six different zones and each zone would have a different harvest time frame.

Chairman Stanley requested Mr. Kim Campbell to come forward with his remarks, after which the chair would entertain a motion regarding the FINAL rules.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Paddlefish

- **Kim Campbell, K & L Caviar, Carrollton, MS**

Mr. Campbell thanked the Commission for allowing him to come. For the past 30 years Mr. Campbell has been processing and harvesting fish. Knowing that he would have to use 6 inch netting this year, Mr. Campbell ordered 6 inch monofilament netting in February, 2012. In May, 2012, MDWFP notified the public of the required change from

monofilament (plastic) to multifilament (nylon) netting. Mr. Campbell stated that he has always used monofilament netting and did not remember any discussion last year requiring multifilament netting.

Mr. Campbell brought before the Commission a request for an exemption for the next six months to fish the Big Black, Sunflower, Coldwater, Yazoo, and Mississippi Rivers using the 6 inch monofilament netting that he already had, and to use the 6 inch multifilament nets on the interior lakes. Mr. Campbell then amended his request as to fishing the Mississippi River since his team always sets up on the Arkansas side of the Mississippi, and under the reciprocal agreement with Arkansas, the Arkansas rules will apply.

Mr. Pugh, Fisheries Bureau Director, stated that MDWFP is trying to make the best recommendation to protect this resource which is why the department has recommended the multifilament netting. "This is still a relatively new fishery; therefore, we will probably have changes next year as we continue to learn more about paddlefish." Chairman Stanley requested that the Fisheries Bureau inform the harvesters of any contemplated changes as those changes may influence the harvesters buying decisions when preparing for the season.

Mr. Pugh was asked if Mr. Campbell's request/proposal would negatively impact the resource for one season if his request were to be approved. Mr. Pugh stated that he did not believe that the resource would be impacted by using the 6 inch monofilament on the four rivers in Mr. Campbell's request as long as he uses the 6 inch multifilament on the lakes. Dr. Polles and Mr. Pugh confirmed that if Mr. Campbell's request is granted for this year, then the MDWFP recommendation for multifilament netting will be put forward next year.

FISHERIES PADDLEFISH ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, paddlefish Rules 3.2, 3.4, and 3.5 were unanimously approved as final, with agreed upon changes allowing 6-inch monofilament netting on the Yazoo, Sunflower, Coldwater and Mississippi Rivers. Six-inch multifilament netting will be required at Lake Mary, Moon Lake, and the Big Black River.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Conservation Programs

- **Dr. Frank Rohwer, President of Delta Waterfowl Foundation.**
Dr. Rohwer brought before the Commission a proposal for supporting Delta Waterfowl's ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) program. ALUS works on the principle that the Canadian landowner knows best where to grow food and where to grow ducks. This organization uses wildlife funds to organize farm programs for the protection of ducks. Dr. Rohwer stated that their recent success is in Alberta where ALUS was founded.
- **Dr. Curtis Hopkins, Director of Operations for Ducks Unlimited's Southern Region.**
Dr. Hopkins introduced Dr. Tom Moorman who will lead DU's Southern Regional Office upon his retirement. Dr. Moorman will assume his new position on November 1, 2013, and will continue working out of DU's Southern Regional Office in Ridgeland, which oversees DU's conservation delivery in 13 states.

- **Mr. Ed Penny, Director of Conservation Programs**

Mr. Penny presented a handout to the Commissioners on upcoming projects for WMA management and MSU research projects.

WILDLIFE

Duck Stamp Projects

Mr. Penny, Director of Conservation Programs, presented a handout displaying Duck Stamp sales for the past year. The revenue produced from these sales, as well as the current balance in the duck stamp proceeds account, forms the pool of monies available for grants to participating entities for waterfowl projects. Mr. Penny then presented staff recommendations for distribution of duck stamp proceeds, as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>	<u>Project Description</u>
DU Canada	\$100,000	\$100,000	Continue funding of Eastern Saskatchewan Parklands NAWCA Project; funds will be matched 4:1 with other agency and DU funds
Delta Waterfowl	\$100,000	\$100,000	Continue funding for Delta's ALUS initiative in Alberta
MSU Research	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	Provide funding for expansion of the radio-marked mallard project in the MS Delta
WMA Waterfowl Management	\$190,000	\$190,000	Contingency funds to WMAs for supplemental waterfowl plantings and pumping for hunting season. State owned areas (\$75,000) COE WMAs (\$115,000)
WMA Wetland Enhancement Project	\$ 0	\$ 0	No request for Wma enhancement projects this year. Given the potential of reductions in COE funding for management activities, the use of duck stamp funds to mitigate for this reduction in funding is a greater need.
Aerial Waterfowl Surveys	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	Continue waterfowl monitoring of MS Delta waterfowl abundance; Delta Wildlife also funding.
Waterfowl Program Travel	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Provide funds for program staff to attend LMVJV, GCJV, and MFC meetings
Mississippi Flyaway Dues	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,700	Annual dues to Mississippi Flyaway Council
Flyaway Banding	\$ 563	\$ 563	Annual contribution to MS Flyaway banding efforts
Total	\$467,263	\$467,263	

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, funds for 2013-14 Duck Stamp projects were unanimously approved as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

Citation Report

Col. Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, provided a Citation Report handout for the Commission for the month of September, 2013. No comments or additions were made to the written report.

2012-13 Harvest Survey Results

Mr. Penny, Director of Conservation Programs, detailed highlights from the Harvest Survey which was distributed to the Commission. He stated that this is the first year that a phone survey was used to gather statistics instead of a mailout. Some interesting facts were: deer harvest up 1,000 deer; spring turkey harvest down 5,300 birds; and squirrel hunters outnumber turkey and duck hunters.

No action was required of the Commission.

Canemount

Dr. Polles presented a proposed rule, establishing rates and fees for overnight room rentals at the Canemount WMA "Red Barn." (6 bedrooms). Should the agency move forward with this plan, prospective hunters could rent a room at the WMA for the day or days of hunting that they have drawn.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the proposed rule setting room rental rates for the Canemount Red Barn.

TENTATIVE MEETING DATES

November Commission Meeting – Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013 in Jackson at 9:30 a.m.

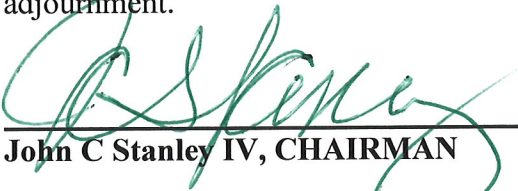
December Commission Meeting – Tuesday-Wednesday, December 17-18 (Issaquena Co.)


EXECUTIVE SESSION


ACTION: Chairman Stanley asked the Executive Director if an Executive Session was needed. Dr. Polles informed the Commission that there were no matters requiring discussion in Executive Session.

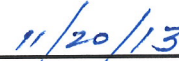
ADJOURNMENT

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



John C Stanley IV, CHAIRMAN

Date

Bryan Jones, VICE-CHAIRMAN

Date