

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, November 20, 2013 @ 9:30 a.m.

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman John C. Stanley IV, Commissioners Bryan Jones, William "Billy" Deviney, and VIA TELEPHONE - Clay Wagner.

ABSENT: Commissioner Charles Rigdon

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

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the minutes of October 27, 2013 were unanimously approved as presented.

TODAY'S AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, today's 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 October, 2013.

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

- Overall license sales down by two percent
- Annual Resident Range Permit has generated over \$20,000
- Fishing license / Small Game Hunting license - up \$192,000
- Commercial Privileges - up
- Sportsman's License - down

Mr. Thompson stated that an email survey was sent to individuals who have expired licenses. He received 40 responses from the survey stating that they plan to renew their licenses.

A pie chart was distributed indicating that 18% have not renewed licenses due to turning age 65. Half of the 18% purchased a Senior Exempt License for \$5.00. A suggestion was made to issue a Senior Sportsman License which would include a Duck Stamp. Discussion followed.

Two handouts were distributed to the Commission depicting by zip code which areas of Mississippi and Louisiana have not renewed sportsman licenses.

Chairman Stanley requested a similar map illustrating where sportsman licenses are being purchased. Mr. Thompson stated that a map would be prepared for the December meeting as requested.

To encourage young hunters and develop a new base, the MDWFP Foundation has been working with the Licensing Department by purchasing licenses for youth 16 and under after completion of their Hunter Education classes. Around 1,500 licenses have been purchased over the past three weeks. Mr. Thompson stated that he would include this information in next month's report.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife Bureau Awards

Mr. Chad Dacus, Wildlife Bureau Director, presented Wildlife Bureau awards to the following employees who have shown exemplary abilities, passion, and work ethic this past year. The foundation also provided gift cards to each from Academy Sports:

- **Wildlife Biologist of the Year – Rick Hamrick**
- **WMA Manager of the Year – Med Palmer**

The Commission and staff gave a round of applause following each presentation.

MUSEUM

Computer Upgrade to Biotics 5

Mr. Charles Knight, Director of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, presented a request to use \$15,000 from the Wildlife Heritage Fund to upgrade their Biotics software. MDWFP is in the process of upgrading all computers to Windows 7 or 8 which is not compatible with the current Biotics software. Biotics is used to map and keep track of species in need of conservation and allows the various Heritage Programs throughout the U.S. to maintain relatively uniform data entry methods and to build on one another's methodological and technological advancements.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Museum's request was unanimously approved.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Citation Report

Col. Steve Adcock, Chief of Law Enforcement, stated that 300 citations were issued last month. Of these violations, 44 were headlighting; 57 license violations; and 35 unlawful possession.

Reinstatement Requests

Col. Adcock brought before the Commission two requests for reinstatement. Each violator appeared before the Commission and stated the reason for his conviction. Col. Adcock recommended reinstatement for both men.

- Bobby Wallace III - Vicksburg, MS

Mr. Wallace stated that he was charged and convicted in 2009 of headlighting with a gun in his truck. He stated that it has taken four years to pay off his fine.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the request to reinstate hunting privileges to Mr. Wallace was unanimously approved.

- Michael Vaughn - Crenshaw, MS

Mr. Vaughn was charged in 2011 of headlighting deer. He was fined \$3,000 and lost his license.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the request to reinstate hunting privileges to Mr. Vaughn was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented.

TENTATIVE MEETING DATES

- **December Meeting** – Tuesday, December 17 - noon at Mahannah WMA
- **January Meeting** – Wednesday, January 15, 2014 – 2:30 p.m. at Greenwood Chamber of Commerce
- **February Meeting** - Monday, February 3, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. at Quail Ridge Lodge, Louisville

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, 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, ongoing criminal investigations, job performance of individuals in specific positions and relocation of a business or industry. Upon motion made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Commission voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session.

Dr. Polles updated the Commission on several possible tracts of land that were being investigated for possible purchase. Dr. Polles also updated the Commission on the status of recent land purchases and the management of those properties.

No action was required of the Commission.

William McKinley and Eric Clark updated the Commission on the status of ongoing investigations into allegations of importation of white-tailed deer. Discussion followed.

No action was required of the Commission.

Dr. Polles updated the Commission on several potential employment/disciplinary matters. No action was required of the Commission.

Dr. Polles opened discussion on the topic of overhauling the regulations regarding high-fenced enclosures. Discussion centered around the need for an updating or revamping of the rules. No action was required of the Commission; however, staff was directed to continue development and improvement of proposed regulations for enclosures.

There was no other business for discussion in Executive Session.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission voted unanimously to end Executive Session and open the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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



John C Stanley IV, CHAIRMAN

12-17-13

Date



Bryan Jones, VICE-CHAIRMAN

12/17/13

Date