MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Thursday January 15th, 2026
10:00 AM Business Session
MDWFP Headquarters
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Gary Rhoads, Vice-Chairman Billy Mounger, Commissioners Colin Maloney, Todd Hairston, and Drew St. John were in attendance.

Among the MDWFP staff attending were Executive Director Lynn Posey, Curtis Thornhill, Scottie Jones, Col. Jerry Carter, Russ Walsh, Amy Blaylock, Jerry Brown, Jason Thompson, Brian Ferguson, Andre´ Hollis, and Drew Malone (General Counsel).

The Chairman gaveled the meeting to order and welcomed all guests and attendees, both in person and via livestream.

OPENING PRAYER

Chairman Rhoads requested that Jason Thompson, Director of Administrative Services, open the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

Chairman Rhoads asked the Commission to review the minutes of the previous meeting. Commissioner Mounger request a wording change about the new Turkey Stamp for clarification.

ACTION: Upon motion to amend the minutes by removing "to offset revenue decreases" by Commissioner Maloney and seconded by Commissioner Mounger, the Commission meeting minutes of December 17th, 2025, were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

The Chairman asked Executive Director, Lynn Posey, if there were any changes to the proposed agenda. Mr. Posey stated that there were no changes and there would be a need to consider an Executive Session to discuss possible land acquisition. There was nobody signed up for public comments today.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Mounger and seconded by Commissioner Maloney, the Commission unanimously approved of the meeting agenda for January 15th, 2026.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, Director of Administrative Services, presented the License Sales Report for December 2025.

Highlights of his report are listed below:

Resident license sales - $5,025,522 (down 1.33%)
Non-resident license sales - $8,032,850 (down 3.65%)
Other license sales - $82,768 (up 2.06%)
Lifetime license sales - $530,500 (up 7.63%)

The new Turkey stamp is now available; 286 stamps have been sold so far.
Auto-renewal functionality for licenses scheduled to be available by the end of this month.

PARKS

Andre Hollis, State Parks Director, gave an update on some projects that are being done. The department is actively renovating facilities across several state parks, including 43 campsites at Clarko Campground, which are expected to be completed by the end of the month after delays caused by holiday asphalt plant closures. At Buccaneer East, an additional $1 million in funding will expand the original 14-campsite project to include more campsites and a new hiking trail. Paul B. Johnson is renovating 16 cabins, a group camp, and a new waterfront camp store called "The Dock," with contractors targeting completion by the end of the month, while Wall Doxey is fully renovating six cabins (two of the six are CCC cabins). Percy Quin State Park is upgrading 18 historic CCC cabins in accordance with preservation codes, with completion hoped for by April, and overall guest feedback on these statewide renovations has been very positive.

Mr. Ferguson, Chief of Staff of Parks, reported on visitation and revenue for state parks from 07/01/2025- 12/31/2025

Total Visitors- 370,418
Total Occupancy- 92,210
Total Revenue- $5,220,000

WILDLIFE

Russ Walsh, Director of Conservation Policies, discussed a license exemption request for Hope Outdoors and Hearts of Hope, with some participants being out of state.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Mounger and seconded by Commissioner Maloney, the Commission unanimously approved a license exemption for Hope Outdoors and Hearts of Hope in 2026.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Col. Jerry Carter reported that during the month of January 2026, a total of 1167 citations were issued with "No Resident License" being number one (127), "Trespassing" number two (94), "Supplemental Feeding" number three (88), No WMA Check in" was number four (81), "Hunting from Public Rd. was number five (76).

Colonel Carter reported that law enforcement is in Phase Two of hunting season operations, with officers heavily deployed in the field to enforce game laws. He highlighted a recent headlighting deer case in South Mississippi, made through a combination of Snapchat-based investigation and information from an informant. Several illustrative cases were shown, including officers responding to illegal shooting from a levee in Warren County, and late, after-hours shooting in Marion County, resulting in multiple citations. He also described targeted enforcement in high-complaint road and dog-hunting areas, where officers issued 14 citations as part of these compliance checks.

Customer counts for the department's shooting ranges for the month of November were:

McIvor – 364
Turcotte – 883
McHenry – 721

NEXT MEETING

Date: February 19th, 2026
Location: MDWFP Headquarters
Time: 10:00AM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Rhoads asked Executive Director Posey if there was a need for Executive Session. Executive Director Posey replied that there was indeed a need for an Executive Session to discuss land transactions.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Maloney and seconded by Commissioner Hairston the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine the need for an Executive Session to discuss land transactions.

The meeting was closed and the room was cleared.

Drew Malone, General Counsel, announced to the visitors now in the lobby that the meeting had been closed to determine the need for an Executive Session to discuss land transactions.

A closed discussion followed.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Maloney and seconded by Commissioner St. John the Commission voted unanimously to enter Executive Session to discuss land transactions.

Drew Malone, General Counsel, announced to the visitors now in the lobby that the Commission had voted to enter Executive Session to discuss the potential purchase of land and transactions concerning the purchase of land.

The Meeting was closed.

The Commission was advised of a potential tract of land adjacent to a WMA that could become available for purchase. The Commission gave the Department the authority to inquire as to the potential purchase and take the necessary steps to acquire the land if possible.

There being no further matters for discussion in Executive Session, Chairman Rhoads called for a motion to re-open the meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner Mounger made the motion to go out of Executive Session and open the meeting. Commissioner Maloney second the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to go out of Executive Session and open the meeting.

Mr. Malone announced to those outside the room that the Commission was advised of a potential tract of land adjacent to a WMA that could become available for purchase and that the Commission gave the Department the authority to inquire as to the potential purchase and take the necessary steps to acquire the land if possible.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Rhoads called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner St. John made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Mounger. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Rhoads gaveled the meeting into adjournment.

Gary Rhoads, CHAIRMAN — 2/19/26 Date

Billy Mounger, VICE CHAIRMAN — 2/19/26 Date