MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Thursday June 24th, 2026
10:00 AM Business Session
MDWFP Headquarters
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES

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

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, Drew Malone (General Counsel), and Mitchell Boulanger.

The Chairman gaveled the meeting into order and welcomed guests, both those watching the live stream video and those attending in person.

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 from the May meeting and when done called for a motion to approve the minutes.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Maloney and seconded by Vice-Chairman Mounger, the Commission meeting minutes of May 14th, 2026, were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

The Chairman asked Executive Director, Lynn Posey if there were any changes to the proposed agenda. Mr. Posey stated there are no public comments and there will not be an Executive Session.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Maloney, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting agenda for June 24th, 2026.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, Director of Administrative Services, presented the License Sales Report for the month of May 2026. The total revenue for the end of May was up 0.76% ($20,682,778.30) compared to May 2026.

Highlights of his report are listed below:

- Resident license sales – $6,999,410.70 (up 1.77%)
- Non-resident license sales – $11,590,922.60 (down 0.52%)
- Other Licenses – $105.410.00 (up 3.98 %)
- Lifetime License category – $864,000.00 (up 12.57%)

PARKS

Brian Ferguson, Chief of Staff, reported that the state parks have set a record with bringing in over $11 million, with the average being about $9 million. It still costs about $20-22 million a year to run the parks, so they do not fully pay for themselves yet, but the renovations and upgrades are gaining the attention of more visitors, who are making longer reservations. He discussed upcoming and on projects at parks such as Wall Doxey, Hugh White, John Kyle, Lake Lincoln, LaFluer's Bluff/Mayes Lake, that are being funded by state appropriations and federal reimbursements.

Buccaneer State Park has been more successful than any of our state parks before, by bringing in nearly $2 million this year alone.

He also discussed the work that has been put into various parks for the events going on for the Fourth of July, and the safety that will be provided.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Col. Jerry Carter reported that for May 2026, law enforcement issued a range of citations, with the top five violations being: No Resident License (141), No boat registration (36), Trespassing (31), PFD (30), and No NR Fishing License (29). Col. Carter's report also recognized officers for dedicating their time by doing their jobs not only during the week, but on the weekends as well, such as investigating illegal commercial fishing nets, performing compliance vessel checks, investigating people hunting turkeys out of season, and rescuing elderly lady out of flooding water.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Posey had special recognition for Chairman Rhoads, who Governor Reeves has appointed to serve another five-year term with us. He also welcomed a new attorney to the staff, Mr. Mitchell Boulanger, and stated that Emily Grace McGraw will be leaving the office, to be an at home mother for her daughter, June McGraw.

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Election of Officers

Commissioner Maloney made a motion to nominate Commissioner Billy Mounger as Chairman of the Commission for 2026-2027, which was seconded by Commissioner Hariston. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner St. John made a motion to nominate Commissioner Todd Hairston as Vice Chairman of the Commission for 2026-2027, which was seconded by Commissioner Maloney. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Executive Director Posey announced the proposed date and time for the next meeting as follows:

Date: July 23rd, 2026

Location: MDWFP Headquarters

Time: 9:00 AM Education Session

10:00 AM Business Session

ADJOURNMENT

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

Billy Mounger, CHAIRMAN — 7/23/26 Date

Todd Hairston, VICE CHAIRMAN — 7/23/26 Date