MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, September 23, 2026
10:00 AM Business Session
MDWFP Headquarters
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Billy Mounger, Commissioners Gary Rhoads, and Drew St. John were in attendance. Vice-Chairman Todd Hairston and Commissioner Colin Maloney attended the meeting via teleconference.

Among the MDWFP staff attending were Executive Director Lynn Posey, Curtis Thornhill, Michelle Carter, Jeremy Bass, Amy Blaylock, Scottie Jones, Colonel Jerry Carter, Jason Thompson, Russ Walsh, Angel Rohnke, Drew Malone (General Counsel), and Mitchell Boulanger (Deputy General Counsel).

The Chairman gaveled the meeting into order and welcomed all guests, both in person and watching the livestream. He recognized Representative Scott Bounds and thanked him for attending.

OPENING PRAYER

Chairman Mounger asked Russ Walsh, Director of Conservation Policies, to open the meeting with a prayer.

MINUTES

Chairman Mounger asked the Commission to review the minutes from the August meeting and then called for a motion to approve them.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner St. John and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads, the Commission meeting minutes for August 27, 2026, were unanimously approved.

AGENDA

The Chairman asked Executive Director Posey if there were any changes to the proposed agenda. Executive Director Posey reported that several public comments had been submitted in recent days regarding Miss. Admin. Code, Rule 2.4 on supplemental feeding, but no one signed up to speak at today's meeting. He also confirmed that an executive session would not be necessary.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner St. John, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting agenda for September 23, 2026

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Jason Thompson, Director of Administrative Services, presented the License Sales Report for July 1 through September 22. He explained that he included the September numbers because dove season opened on September 5.

Highlights of this report are listed below:

- Resident license sales - $1,338,022.20 (down 9.06%)
- Non-Resident license sales - $798,571.50 (down 8.17%)
- Other licenses - $108,275.00 (up 28.45%)
- Lifetime license category – $171,000.00 (up 20%)

GREAT MISSISSIPPI NATURE TRAIL - TISHOMINGO NATURE TRAIL

Jeremy Bass, Marketing Director, continued the overview of the Great Mississippi Nature Trail by highlighting Tishomingo State Park in northeast Mississippi. He noted the park's distinctive Appalachian foothill landscape, its historic Paleo Indian presence, and its CCC-built features. He briefly described the park's five hiking trails, rock formations, and the 200-foot swinging bridge over Bear Creek. He emphasized that Tishomingo reflects the natural beauty and history the Great Mississippi Nature Trail aims to showcase and encouraged the public to visit mississippinaturetrail.com for more information.

Executive Director Posey thanked Commissioner St. John for his work on the Great Mississippi Nature Trail and announced that Commissioner St. John and Entergy recently secured a $50,000 grant to support the project.

WILDLIFE

40 Miss. Admin. Code, Part 2, Rule 2.4 Supplemental Feeding of Wild Animals Outside of Wildlife Enclosures (FINAL)

Amy Blaylock, Wildlife Director, proposed updates to Rule 2.4 on supplemental feeding, including adding game birds to the species list and removing the word "stationary" from the spin-cast feeder language. She clarified that feed must still be evenly distributed and not dumped in piles. Mrs. Blaylock reported receiving about 30 public comments, with opinions evenly split, and recommended final adoption of the rule.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Vice-Chairman St. John, the Commission approved the update to Rule 2.4 as the final rule. Commissioner St. John voted against the change.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Col. Jerry Carter reported that during August 2026, a total of 421 citations were issued with "No Resident License" being number one (84), "Alligator Regs" being number two (62), "Running Lights" being number three (47), "Personal Floatation Device" (PFD) being number four (42), and "No Boat Registration" being number five (28).

Commissioner Maloney joined the meeting via teleconference at this time.

On November 28, 2024, Officer Robbins cited Stephen Monk in Greene County as he was travelling to a morning detail at 3:30 a.m. Officer Robbins saw a vehicle carrying what appeared to be a freshly killed deer. He slowed to confirm, initiated a traffic stop, and verified that a freshly harvested deer was in Mr. Monk's truck bed.

The Commissioners reviewed the incident with Mr. Monk and explained why he received a serious violation. Mr. Monk expressed regret for his actions, and Col. Carter confirmed that he met all reinstatement requirements.

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner St. John and seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, the Commission unanimously approved the reinstatement of Stephen Monk's hunting license.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Mounger invited Representative Scott Bounds to share comments on his work with Mississippi's wildlife and outdoor policy and his expectations for the upcoming legislative session. Representative Bounds reviewed his roles with the Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee, the Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, and agency appropriations. He discussed conservation funding, the 2015 license-fee increase, and the likelihood of a limited legislative agenda during the election year. Chairman Mounger thanked Representative Bounds for his continued support.

NEXT MEETING DATE

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

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Location: Department of Marine Resources Head Quarters
1411 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530

Time: 9:00 AM Education Session
10:00 AM Business Session

Executive Director Posey added that, as of now, a December meeting is not needed, but that could change.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Mounger called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rhoads made the motion to adjourn the September 23, 2026, Commission Meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner St. John. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Mounger gaveled the meeting into adjournment.

Billy Mounger, CHAIRMAN	10/21/26 **Date**
Todd Hairston, VICE-CHAIRMAN	10/21/26 **Date**