

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
JOE WHEELER STATE PARK LODGE
ROGERSVILLE, ALABAMA

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings taken before Celeste O. Riddle,
RMR, RPR, ACCR #127, and Commissioner for the
State of Alabama at Large, at Joe Wheeler State
Park Lodge, 4401 McLean Drive, Rogersville,
Alabama, on Saturday, May 4, 2013 at
approximately 9:00 a.m.

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

2 Mr. Dan Moultrie, Chairman

3 Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner

4 Dr. Gary Lemme

5 Mr. Bill Hatley

6 Mr. Austin Ainsworth

7 Mr. Jeff Martin

8 Dr. Warren Strickland

9 Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.

10 Mr. Grady Hartzog, Jr.

11 Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.

12 Mr. T.J. Bunn, Jr.

13 I N D E X

14 CALL TO ORDER 3

15 INVOCATION 3

16 INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS 3

17 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 5

18 COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS 6

19 PRESENTATION BY DR. LEMME 31

20 PUBLIC HEARING 40

21 COMMENTS BY CHRIS GREENE 68

22 OLD BUSINESS 149

23 NEW BUSINESS 160

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. The May 4th,
2 2013 meeting of the Conservation Advisory Board
3 will come to order. I would like to welcome
4 everyone to Joe Wheeler State Park Lodge. The
5 Board is glad you are able to be here today. The
6 invocation today will be given by Mr. Bill
7 Hatley. Mr. Hatley.

8 MR. HATLEY: Let us pray, please. Our
9 gracious and eternal Heavenly Father, we are
10 indeed grateful for the privilege of being able
11 to serve this great State and we pray that you
12 will bestow thy richest blessings upon this group
13 in all of our endeavors. And now we pray that
14 you would let the words of our mouths and the
15 meditations of our heart be acceptable in thy
16 sight oh Lord, our strength, and our Redeemer.
17 Amen.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hatley.
19 The next order of business is the introduction of
20 the Board members. First, I would like to
21 introduce our Commissioner of Conservation, Mr.
22 Gunter Guy. Our Alabama Agriculture Commissioner
23 cannot be here today. Deputy Commissioner Curtis

1 Jones is not here today. Our other ex-officio
2 member here today is Dr. Gary Lemme from the
3 Alabama Extension Service, Dr. Lemme. Next, I
4 would like to let the District members of the
5 Board give their name and what District that they
6 represent starting with Mr. Hatley.

7 MR. HATLEY: My name is Bill Hatley. I
8 represent District 1.

9 MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs. I represent
10 District 6.

11 MR. BUNN: T.J. Bunn. I represent District
12 7.

13 DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland,
14 Congressional District 5.

15 MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, Congressional
16 District 5.

17 MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, Congressional
18 District 2.

19 MR. MARTIN: Jeff Martin, District 3.

20 MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, District
21 4.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you Board Members
23 in attendance today. The next order of business

1 is the approval of the March 9th, 2013 Advisory
2 Board minutes. Are there any changes to the
3 minutes? Mr. Hatley.

4 MR. HATLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would refer you
5 to page 140 and 141 of the minutes. I would like
6 a clarification if it's proper.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: It is and it will be
8 duly noted. Go ahead, Mr. Hatley.

9 MR. HATLEY: I made a motion on that
10 starting with line 12. I would like to make the
11 following motion, that the Department of
12 Conservation eliminate all fall turkey hunting in
13 the state of Alabama. Then Dr. Lemme asks a
14 question of Gary. Said, Mr. Moody, is there a
15 biological reason to close turkey season during
16 the fall? Mr. Moody's response was no. My
17 response was negative. My response was not
18 directed to Dr. Lemme. It was directed to Mr.
19 Moody in his response to Dr. Lemme.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: It's not a correction,
21 you just want it clarified.

22 MR. HATLEY: Clarified. The negative was
23 there, but I was upset to some degree with --

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The minutes will duly
2 reflect that. Any other changes? Then so be the
3 minutes stand approved as read.

4 The next order of business is the
5 Commissioner's comments. I would like to call on
6 Commissioner Guy. Commissioner Guy.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Dan. I have a
8 small presentation I am going to make, a little
9 powerpoint that the Board has asked me to do.
10 Before I do that, I want to recognize a few
11 people. Tim, where are you? Tim Haney. Tim,
12 will you stand up. Tim is our supervisor here at
13 Joe Wheeler State Park and I want to thank Tim
14 and his staff for the great work they have done
15 to get this set up for our meeting today. I
16 would like to give them a round of applause.

17 (Audience applauds.)

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: The park is beautiful and
19 it looks good, Tim, and I appreciate in hard
20 times, hard economic times, I really appreciate
21 what you and your staff do, a good job here.
22 And, of course, Greg Lein, our Parks Director is
23 here. Where are you, Greg? Greg is right here

1 on the front row and is doing a great job in his
2 new position as Parks Director in trying to, as
3 many of y'all have seen, in trying to keep the
4 parks viable for all our citizens here in
5 Alabama. This is one of our really good parks
6 here in north Alabama and we need to try to keep
7 it open.

8 The other thing I would like to do, because
9 I know his daddy won't do it, Mr. Daniel
10 Moultrie, will you stand up. This is Dan's son,
11 Daniel Moultrie. And I want to recognize Daniel
12 not just for being here today, but a lot of y'all
13 might not know -- I know his daddy is proud --
14 that he is a -- I believe it's a -- I will
15 probably get this wrong -- a charter member of
16 the Alabama High School Bass Anglers Association
17 or Bass Fishing Association. He has been doing
18 that since it started. He is a junior this year.
19 He has accomplished a great deal. I don't know
20 all of his -- I know in one tournament just
21 recently there were 196 entrants and I think he
22 finished in the top 50. And I have been to some
23 of those events and if you've never been to one

1 of those events, I didn't realize until last year
2 how big they are, it's a great thing for the
3 State. They are getting young people interested
4 in bass fishing. And when you've got 196
5 entrants into something like that, it's something
6 that we can all be proud of about our youth. We
7 always hear about bad things, but Daniel is the
8 perfect example of what kind of good young people
9 we have. And I think we ought to give him a
10 round of applause.

11 (Audience applauds.)

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Maybe Dan has something
13 else to add to that.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The only thing I know,
15 I've spent the last four years trying to
16 accommodate him in the hunting industry and he is
17 going into the fishing industry.

18 Go ahead, Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: So I am trying to follow
20 up on our last meeting. There were some
21 questions and have been some questions about some
22 of the actions taken by the Board. And I should
23 always recognize, and I don't often do, how much

1 this Board actually looks at all these things
2 very seriously. They work hard and they ask
3 questions, which I think are good questions, and
4 want to know why we are doing whatever we are
5 doing and what decisions they make are based on
6 that information. And so we try to give them
7 information. It's not just something where they
8 show up in here and make decisions on, you know,
9 what they hear on each day. So what we talked
10 about a couple of times, I didn't get a chance to
11 show it the last few times, it was related to
12 some of our other decisions about Game Check,
13 elimination of fall turkey season, extension of
14 the season. It has to do with where we get some
15 of our information, and so this is online.
16 Anybody can go take a look at it; it's published.
17 And we want to be transparent, so you can go look
18 at it, you can make your own decisions, but this
19 has just been recently published. This is our
20 Alabama Hunting Survey 2012. It's conducted
21 every year. This is my highlighting. I was just
22 trying to hit a few points that are important.
23 This has been going on since 1963, so for 50

1 years, one of the methods by which we kind of
2 determine season and bag limits and estimate
3 harvest is based on a mail survey; and that's the
4 way it's been working for 50 years. And I think
5 it should be recognized that, you know, it has
6 some reliable information in there. And I think
7 at the time that it was started in 1963, it was a
8 very good tool in the tool bucket is what I say,
9 a very good tool, and maybe one of the only tools
10 because we didn't have the electronic resources
11 and the way what we have nowadays to do things.
12 And getting a hunter survey through a sample was
13 acceptable practice and still is acceptable
14 practice, and I think it is a tool that you look
15 at to determine. So anyway, you can read this.
16 Basically what it says is we have been doing that
17 since 1963 as you note. It says this year's
18 survey forms were mailed to approximately 8,930
19 people drawn from 249,686 hunting licenses; 720
20 were returned undeliverable; a total of 3,097
21 completed forms is what they used from that
22 survey. On the next line, you will notice that
23 it says the estimates in this survey represent

1 hunting by licensed hunters only. What we have
2 to remember in this State is that -- of course,
3 we sell licenses. That's the information we
4 generally have to send out these survey forms to
5 people, but there are so many exempt hunters in
6 this State, whether it is under 16, whether it is
7 over 65, or whether in some cases it might be
8 hunting on your own property, fishing on your own
9 property, and those kind of things. We don't
10 know what that number is. Those numbers have
11 been estimated and you will see some of that
12 information right there where it notes the
13 survey, the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting
14 and Wildlife Recreation is done. In 2006, it
15 indicated there were 397,000 people, licensed and
16 unlicensed, and that year they estimated -- or it
17 shows that we had 256,000 licensed. Compare that
18 with this year where they are saying we have
19 163,000, so that's quite a difference. So this
20 year, approximately 163,000 licensed individuals
21 hunted in Alabama. And if I am reading this, the
22 way I am reading it, in 2006 it was saying
23 256,000 were licensed for that year, so our

1 license sales are down, so we don't really know
2 what the total number of hunters are.

3 So anyway, going further, it says in
4 reviewing the current survey estimates, it is
5 important to recognize that a degree of
6 uncertainty must be associated with each of the
7 estimates. This uncertainty is due to the
8 estimates being based on a sample instead of a
9 complete census of all licensed hunters. So
10 again, it's a tool and I think our group, our
11 biology group, folks that work in our Department
12 do a good job using the tools they have, but it's
13 difficult at times. And one of the reasons that
14 I think this Board and I thought that the game
15 survey -- the Game Check was a good thing was
16 because number one, we will be able to get a much
17 better sample of information that will help us
18 make good management decisions on season and bag
19 limits because the larger the sample, I think the
20 better another tool for making those decisions
21 like other states are doing because the
22 technology is there now for us to do it when we
23 couldn't do it 50 years ago or maybe 20 years

1 ago. And with iPads and smartphones and
2 telephone and the prices have come down, we can
3 do that. And so we will be able to get better
4 information.

5 The other reason, of course, for the Game
6 Check is because this Board, myself, and I'm sure
7 a lot of you, have said well, we have these bag
8 limits, you know, like five for turkey and three
9 bucks or deer, but we don't really believe, even
10 though we have to carry our harvest information,
11 harvest record with us, that that can be enforced
12 properly. So a lot of people say we want tags,
13 we want tags, we need tags so that we can make
14 sure that we are not violating these bag limits;
15 and I agree. And if you look at other states,
16 again, a lot of them that went with the hard
17 tags, they have gone away from them for a couple
18 of reasons. Number one, it's very costly and
19 number two, because the technology is there for
20 very similar to what we are doing here where you
21 have to call in that data, you have to get a
22 confirmation number, and then our law enforcement
23 can use that to check against what they come up

1 on in a hunter. Say do you have your harvest
2 records, have you confirmed that and got a
3 confirmation number. And then we can for law
4 enforcement purposes better, we believe -- I
5 believe and I believe this Board believes, we can
6 better enforce those season and bag limits so
7 that we can manage the game.

8 So this talks about -- and you can, again,
9 read it. I'm not going to go over every bit of
10 it. But one thing it talks about is standard of
11 errors based on sample sizes. And, again, it
12 says estimates with a percentage standard error
13 of less than 15 percent are reliable enough to be
14 useful in making management decisions. It has a
15 lot of good information in there. It says it's
16 normal for the estimates to fluctuate from one
17 year to the next.

18 You know, it's not perfect, but it's a tool. One
19 thing it says that you will note here, County
20 level harvest information was extrapolated from
21 the raw data for the first time since the mail
22 survey began in 1963. The county information has
23 a higher standard of error due to the smaller

1 sample sizes. And it just tells you there -- so
2 this year was the first year we asked for some
3 county information. We figured if we are going
4 to send out, why we don't just ask people to tell
5 us what county they are killing in too. So we
6 have got information on that.

7 This is a part of it I took out just to show
8 you. These are the results for this season.
9 You've got the deer, you've got the turkey. You
10 will see the estimates on there. They talk about
11 man-days of hunting and they talk about number
12 harvested. So, you know, if you combine gun,
13 archery, and muzzleloader, it's 155,800 estimated
14 number of hunters that killed an estimated
15 254,800 deer.

16 If you go to the turkey, of course, there is
17 one for spring and there is one for fall.
18 Because it was a small sample size, you can see
19 that the estimate for the fall, there is 2,900
20 hunters that killed 1,100 turkeys, and the
21 standard error is 16.6 percent on the number of
22 hunters and 36.5 percent on the number of
23 harvested. So this just shows you the spring

1 season information. If you are talking about
2 trends you can, you know -- if you ask ten
3 people, you might get ten ideas what about what
4 those trends may show. This is just the spring.
5 What interests me there a little bit, I don't
6 know if it interests you, is that compared to
7 previous years, the number of hunters is way
8 down, which concerns me and, you know, concerns
9 the fact that I don't know, you know, why. The
10 harvest is actually up. So, you know, that's
11 part of what, you know, our Department has to do
12 to analyze that and figure out what that means.

13 There is the fall season. Again, if you are
14 looking at trends, you can certainly see that
15 over the years, the number of hunters have gone
16 significantly down. And you have got the
17 harvest, which is consistent with last year but
18 over time a little bit fluctuating there. 2007
19 is an interesting year, but other than that, it
20 pretty much seems it's a fairly low number. And
21 then that's just a combined, that's the combined
22 season. So again, this is all on the website.
23 All you have got to do is look at it. So

1 basically what you have got is an average of, it
2 looks like, 49,600 hunters killing about one
3 turkey a piece; in the spring, killing a half a
4 turkey a piece.

5 Because we did ask for county information
6 this year, there is some information on here that
7 shows county by county for bucks, does, and
8 turkeys. We couldn't get turkeys in by county in
9 the fall, but we were able to take the numbers --
10 I asked the folks in the Wildlife section and I
11 got this information. This is the fall turkey
12 hunters from the sample. Just understand, it's
13 just from the sample. So the sample they used
14 from fall actually amounted to -- in the
15 left-hand column is the type of license. I had
16 to get them to explain that. That just tells you
17 the different types of licenses. There are
18 in-state and out-of-state licenses that vary on
19 whether it's a 10-day or small game hunting or
20 whatever or lifetime. So what you have got is
21 you had from that sample that we got back, you
22 had for fall, you had 33 hunters killing 17
23 turkeys, showing no jakes killed, but 17 adult

1 gobblers and the number of turkeys just relates
2 to whatever that license number is. And I went
3 ahead and just wrote it up in the top hand
4 corner, so that represents seven non-resident
5 license holders and it represents 26 resident
6 license holders.

7 So a couple of people have mentioned, and I
8 think it's fair enough, that Steve Barnett who
9 works with our Department, wrote a book, a very
10 good book about our turkeys here in Alabama back
11 in -- I think it came out in 2010 and I think the
12 way I read it, it's based on the number -- of
13 course, you had to publish it. It's based on
14 numbers that were current from 2007 because if
15 you read it, it reflects a 2007 mail survey. And
16 so, you know, I think what some people do is they
17 look at it and they say oh well, it says we have
18 got 500,000 turkeys. And so I think Steve and
19 all the people that have worked on that, it's
20 fair to say they have done a good job. They say
21 in here, if you read it, it's an estimate, and
22 it's based on -- the estimate is based on our
23 habitat. It's not an actual count. And

1 sometimes if you are like me, you just read
2 something and you just look at a number and you
3 think, oh, it's 500,000. I think it's important
4 to recognize that the turkey population, it's
5 hard for our guys to come up with this and Steve
6 says in here -- what I understand they did is
7 they took habitat and they looked at the habitat
8 and, of course, based on habitat, they have a
9 method of determining what populations that will
10 support; but it's not based on any precise
11 counting of that information. They try to use
12 some other stuff like maybe some game camera
13 information and probably do some observation.
14 And while I am confident they do that -- is Steve
15 here today? He is not here. But I've been
16 meaning to ask him about this, I don't know
17 whether they -- I haven't seen any writings
18 concerning those kinds of things, but I know they
19 work at it all the time. But when somebody sees
20 that number and say our population is good, and I
21 hope it is, but what we are trying to do is put
22 new tools in the tool box to make sure that it
23 isn't, because I'm going to tell you -- and

1 everybody has their own opinion -- but I have
2 heard from this Board that a lot of people have
3 concerns about our turkey population in various
4 parts of the State and that it's been worse
5 lately than it has been over the years. And
6 because turkey populations are more, I think,
7 fair to say sensitive to a lot of different
8 things more so than deer, we have to be very
9 careful what it says. Anyway, if you read this,
10 of course, he says, you know, most of the
11 year-to-year fluctuations are based on brood-
12 rearing success, and there are a lot of things
13 that go into that.

14 So I just put this up here to show you that.
15 Of course, if you look at that number, the number
16 of hunters again show going down, but the harvest
17 is going up. He just reiterates generally what
18 has already been said here. It says the mail
19 survey format is a means of collecting harvest
20 data that's put in place, but you look at trends
21 and you look at trends over years of time. And
22 that's good except that that doesn't necessarily
23 give you an opportunity to react to problems in

1 the short-term with this kind of survey work,
2 whereas Game Check will hopefully give us more
3 opportunity to react in realtime to issues
4 particularly on a county-by-county basis. Some
5 other people have said other states have fall
6 turkey season, and some other states do. There
7 is a lot of variation in that. If you really
8 look at it hard, and how they do it, different
9 bag limits, Georgia doesn't have it. I pulled
10 this up just because -- and, again, you can read
11 this online, it's Georgia DNR. They go into some
12 reasons that I think this Board has basically
13 been looking at which is -- I don't need to read
14 it all. Basically it just goes into some of the
15 things they look at that the Board is looking at
16 too about the consequences of fall hunting impact
17 on the turkey population and how you have to look
18 at years of hatching success and those kinds of
19 things that can add to it. And Georgia believes,
20 and I think this Board believes, that managing it
21 for spring success is paramount, not to say that
22 it hasn't been flawed and it hasn't been flawed
23 in the past, but err on the side of caution. I'm

1 not trying to speak for everybody. Just what I
2 hear is that it's better to try to manage it for
3 a great spring success which is typically where
4 most people hunt turkeys in Alabama. And you can
5 read what they say. But harvesting during the
6 fall can result in as much as 60 percent of the
7 reduction in their spring hunting opportunities.
8 So again, you can read that. I think that what
9 they are just saying is they have elected not to
10 do the fall season because they believe it
11 adversely affects their spring season.

12 A recent article that came out in the
13 Alabama Wildlife Federation which Steve Barnett
14 just published this last month or so, in that
15 book talks about a couple of things that are
16 interesting is that in this particular one he
17 estimates the current statewide population at
18 400,000, so that's down a bit from the 500,000.
19 But y'all can get this magazine and look at it
20 and read it yourself for those who are interested
21 in this particular topic. And he talks about
22 poults. One of the issues you look at is poults
23 -- excuse me, hens with poults. And what he

1 says, I am going to paraphrase here, I am going
2 to read, generally speaking, average survival of
3 less than two poults per hen is poor; two to
4 three is fair; and more than three is good. And
5 although it is too early to observe a statewide
6 trend, brood hens, hens with poults have been
7 successfully averaging over three poults per hen
8 since 2010. However, when productivity is
9 measured by all hens, including hens with no
10 poult, recruitment falls just over two poults
11 per hen. And what he talks about in this article
12 is that there is a -- they have looked at this
13 and he says in terms of overall productivity
14 including hens without poults, recruitment began
15 to drop to poor numbers starting in 2006 in a
16 sampled area they did. So he says the potential
17 of reduced poult recruitment on population growth
18 over time warrants close monitoring. The data in
19 some southeastern states with many years of brood
20 counts are exhibiting a common trend of increased
21 harvest over time while experiencing decreased
22 poult production. So these are some of the
23 issues that I know that I have tried to look at

1 and I have shared with this Board as to some of
2 the decision making here. And what we tried to
3 accomplish, not only with turkey but with all
4 populations, is to try to best manage those
5 populations, you know, to give the hunters in our
6 state and those that participate in outdoors and
7 buy our licenses or otherwise have opportunities
8 to hunt here have the best opportunity to have
9 good seasons. And, you know, it is tough to do
10 that.

11 And again, I want to stress that I am not
12 criticizing what has happened. I am just trying
13 to say that I would like to see our Department
14 use as many tools as we can possibly use to make
15 those decisions if they are available to us, and
16 I hope that they agree with me on that, and I
17 think this Board agrees with me on that. That
18 gives the public better information upon which
19 you can understand what our decisions are being
20 made on. And you can actually see that
21 information and that's one of the things about
22 the Game Check is you will be able to get that
23 information the next day. You will be able to

1 see in both -- I have said this before for many
2 of y'all that have already been around is that if
3 successfully implemented like we hope and people
4 buy into it, you will be able to see the next day
5 deer and, you know, in the fall, deer that people
6 are killing by county. In the spring you will be
7 able to see turkeys that are being killed by
8 county. And depending on what happens here
9 today, if we extend the fall season for some time
10 to look at this, you could be able to see how
11 many turkeys are being killed in the fall season
12 each day, provided the people that we are asking,
13 you know, to work with us are obeying the law.
14 And, you know, that's what we need, everybody to
15 obey the law and the rules and regulations are
16 implemented.

17 Understand, that it's not us trying to be
18 burdensome on y'all or to try to make y'all do
19 something, you know, that we are -- I'm trying to
20 look for the right word -- trying to put more
21 process on you. But if you understand that we
22 are trying to actually help you and you will help
23 us by giving us that information, we can just

1 make better decisions. Our enforcement people, I
2 think, can have an easier job in trying to
3 enforce the laws, which are difficult at times
4 because right now all we have got is somebody
5 saying I did kill something and I've got to write
6 it down. And without a confirmation number, that
7 makes it difficult to enforce that.

8 So, Mr. Chairman, there is probably some
9 other things I could say but I probably need to
10 be quiet and I know there are some Board members
11 that asked me to do that. Thank you. And if
12 anybody up here has any questions at this time, I
13 will be happy to answer them.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner, I had one
15 question. I would like, again, to try to keep
16 the Board with as much knowledge as they could
17 have on any subject. In referring to the survey
18 -- and I don't think you mentioned it -- what is
19 the accuracy rate or deviation; do you have that?

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: I mentioned it for the
21 fall turkeys. It's above what they mentioned to
22 be an acceptable level; that's why I was noting
23 it. For the fall, this is the first time we've

1 ever got any county data, county-by-county data.
2 And while we didn't have those numbers showing up
3 what county, we did know that 33 turkeys were
4 killed -- excuse me. 33 hunters killed 17
5 turkeys and that survey said that the acceptable
6 deviation for it being reliable was exceeded. So
7 if you look back at that particular graph, that
8 would be under where I highlighted it there, the
9 deviation for the number of hunters is 16.6
10 percent. So as I understand that, what it's
11 saying is the sample survey is so low that it
12 would not necessarily be reliable that that was
13 the number of hunters.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Could be skewed.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Could be skewed. And 16
16 percent is somewhat over it, but when you look at
17 the number of turkeys, the standard deviation is
18 36.5 which is way above that; because again, the
19 sample was so small, as I understand it. If
20 there is anybody that has a different opinion
21 with the Wildlife group, but that's the way I
22 understand it. And, you know, that's
23 recognizable because it is a small sample. And

1 again, you don't have a trend here because that
2 was our first year, so the only thing you can
3 take from that is just understanding that -- and
4 then you look at those other trends, it's pretty
5 consistent is that in the spring the number of
6 hunters -- you are not taking county there on
7 this graph, understanding it's not county
8 information, it's just a trend over time of that
9 mail survey that goes -- this one just goes back
10 to '71, but you can clearly see -- I think the
11 reason that the 2002 is highlighted -- and, Gary,
12 you tell me if it's wrong -- I believe that was
13 the year there were some changes made to the way
14 the calculations were done positively.

15 MR. MOODY: We had used North Carolina State
16 for years and years and years. All the
17 southeastern states use them.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: This is the one that went
19 to Auburn?

20 MR. MOODY: Yes, that's when we went to
21 Auburn. But it had changed over time and the
22 other states had started doing their own
23 statistics work and they just sort of got out of

1 it at NC State and people retired and then it
2 went to Auburn.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's why that line is
4 there. That's all that means; it was a little
5 bit of a change. Generally it follows the same
6 methodology that everyone does. Other than that,
7 you can see there is a trend downward there. So
8 if you are looking at trends, that's what you
9 get.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Does the Board have any
11 other questions for the Commissioner? Mr.
12 Hartzog.

13 MR. HARTZOG: Probably ask of Gary. Gary,
14 if you look in '71, we had an extremely higher
15 number of fall turkey hunters. Now in '71, how
16 many counties did we have fall turkey season in
17 '71?

18 MR. MOODY: It was considerably more than
19 now, but I don't know the number.

20 MR. HARTZOG: So the decline is not only the
21 more people in the spring season but also the
22 decline because the other counties gave up their
23 -- elected to give up their fall turkey season.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Hartzog, I didn't
2 address that. While you brought it up, let me go
3 ahead and mention, I went back and looked at at
4 least 15 years, I believe, and for those that
5 didn't remember this. So at one time there were
6 more counties and eventually a lot of those
7 counties had dropped off because counties that
8 had fall turkey seasons, they had less days and
9 also they gave up days in the spring. And so
10 somewhere over that period of time, the fall
11 season, the people in the counties that had fall
12 season kept their fall season and they got the
13 same number of days as everybody else in the
14 spring. So like with these six counties here,
15 they got the same number of fall seasons they
16 always had and their spring season is the same as
17 everywhere else in the State. But that was kind
18 of -- well, I wasn't here then, but my
19 understanding was one of the tradeoffs at that
20 time for a fall season was less days in the
21 spring. In some way, probably for whatever
22 reasons, those two just kind of dissipated. So
23 yes, to answer your question. I didn't go back

1 to 1971 or '75, but there has been more emphasis
2 on spring hunting and the season has been
3 lengthened to give the most prominent time of the
4 year for turkey hunting, spring hunters more
5 days, but no days were ever subtracted from the
6 fall.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions for
8 the Commissioner? I'm sure we will have a chance
9 to discuss this on further later in the day.

10 The next order of business -- thank you,
11 Commissioner Guy. The next order of business is
12 the public hearing. When your name is called,
13 please go to the microphone and give your name
14 and subject you wish to speak on. I will remind
15 you that only you may speak at the time you are
16 called and that any interference will not be
17 tolerated.

18 Our standing rules will be in effect as always.

19 Let me back up. Dr. Lemme has some
20 information on what the Extension Service has
21 done concerning our dove season. Dr. Lemme.

22 DR. LEMME: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
23 Alabama Cooperative Extension System has recently

1 published an updated version of the publication
2 Mourning Dove Biology and Management in Alabama.
3 There are copies available in the registration
4 room there for you to take. They are also
5 available for printing on the ACES, aces.edu
6 website, where you can all get a copy. The U.S.
7 Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for the
8 management of the mourning doves since they are
9 migratory. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
10 allows for hunting of mourning doves over or
11 around normal agriculture operations. The U.S.
12 Fish and Wildlife Service defers to each State's
13 Cooperative Extension Service to define what a
14 normal agricultural operation is in that state.
15 The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service wants
16 to ensure that new agricultural technologies are
17 not impeded or that hunting over the fields is
18 allowed. And so spring planted fields that are
19 managed for agricultural production are not
20 generally a problem. They are planted outside of
21 the normal hunting season. The area of confusion
22 has generally been associated with fall seeded
23 wheat fields. We have defined in the publication

1 normal agriculture operations as though they have
2 fields that are planted with less than 200 pounds
3 of seed wheat, not feed wheat. There are four
4 general areas of agricultural operations
5 associated with fall wheat planting. Planting
6 fall wheat can be planted any time between August
7 1st and November 30th. In other words, there are
8 no zones within the State. That allows the
9 annual variation in climate, also the variation
10 in soils occurring across our State. Planting
11 may be done using no-till technology where a
12 no-till drill is used. Also, broadcasting of
13 aerial seeding is permitted using agricultural
14 ways in no-till operations. Seeds may be planted
15 in the tilled seedbeds with a drill or with a
16 broadcast seeder or an aerial broadcaster with an
17 incorporation operation. Some seeds will be
18 found on the surface of the soil as a result of
19 incomplete incorporation. Wheat included in fall
20 planted cover crops must be at rates less than
21 200 pounds per acre. Those things that are not
22 normal agricultural operations are sowing seeds
23 several times in succession unless there is a

1 drought or a flooding which has limited seed
2 emergence. Piling, dumping, spilling, or
3 concentrating wheat seed on the ground or not
4 evenly spreading that seed is not considered to
5 be a normal agriculture operation, so producers
6 should be careful with turning at the end of a
7 row to make sure their seeding operations do not
8 result in concentrations in those areas above the
9 seeding rate of 200 pounds. Generally, spring
10 planted seeds such as corn, millet, and
11 sunflowers are not planted in the fall. But if
12 they are planted in the fall for fall foliage,
13 they should not be top sown. In other words,
14 hopefully these clarifications in an educational
15 format will allow our farmers to farm and our
16 hunters to hunt doves over agricultural fields in
17 Alabama.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's great, Dr. Lemme.
19 I'm going to start and I know the Board will -- I
20 have got a question about it. I get asked all
21 the time when somebody -- I think the name helps
22 construe misinterpretation about in top sown
23 wheat. The question we always get is if you top

1 sow wheat, which is an acceptable planting
2 practice, does it have to be drug in, cult packed
3 in, people drag little pieces of fences in,
4 anything else, or can it actually be only the
5 soil is well tilled up to an acceptable soil
6 service, can you leave it alone and not do
7 anything?

8 DR. LEMME: Well, you can top sow wheat in
9 no-till operations also. But usually when you
10 top sow seed in a till operation, it needs to be
11 some type of incorporation, but normal
12 operations. But you will get limited -- you will
13 get spans if you do not incorporate and a lot of
14 the people adjust their seeding rates, that's an
15 acceptable rate.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Just like if they were
17 flown in top cover. I guess, Kevin, this is a
18 question that gets asked all the time. If
19 somebody broadcasts it on a well prepared seedbed
20 and does not do anything else after they
21 broadcast it, are they in effect legal or not
22 legal?

23 KEVIN: They are legal according to Dr.

1 Mask. Depending on soil types, if it's a well
2 prepared seed bed, there is no need to drag it in
3 or cover it.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Right. The seed would
5 be the intent in having a well prepared -- if it
6 was hard and had been broken up --

7 KEVIN: If it's hard ground and you throw
8 out seeds, that's a problem. If it's a prepared
9 seedbed, there is good soil-to-seed contact,
10 there is no need, according to Dr. Mask, to drag
11 or cover the seeds.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have talked about
13 this. There has been so much misinformation about
14 this. Mr. Hatley, do you have a question?

15 MR. HATLEY: You've still got to have less
16 than 200 pounds or less?

17 DR. LEMME: Correct. You must use seed
18 wheat, not feed wheat.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions?

20 DR. LEMME: Another thing that's really
21 helpful for farmers, if you are part of the USDA
22 farm program, you are telling people -- you are
23 registering which field, agricultural field

1 registered. That helps define it also.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I think, Dr. Lemme, this
3 helps tremendously the public because our
4 planting zones and our shooting zones were never
5 exact with each other and it confused and
6 depending on what the weather was and it really
7 made for a bad situation there. Now y'all have
8 clarified that and I think that's great putting
9 it into one zone.

10 DR. LEMME: Thank you. And Kevin and his
11 staff have been very, very helpful in working
12 with us.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: I want to just again, I
15 told Dr. Lemme personally how much I appreciate
16 him and his staff working on this because one of
17 the primary goals that I have had since I have
18 been in office was to try to make dove hunting
19 fun again for people and mostly what I hear from
20 the public is they are just scared because they
21 don't know what the expectations are. And I
22 think the actions by Dr. Lemme and the
23 Cooperative Extension Service help clarify and

1 kind of broaden what other folks are doing in
2 other states to make everybody understand and be
3 on the same page about what their expectations
4 are and that's what we want. We want the hunting
5 public to know what is expected of our law
6 enforcement and our law enforcement and them to
7 be on the same page so when they go out there and
8 they plant for doves, they are not scared that
9 they are going to get ticketed because they just
10 don't know what they are supposed to be doing.
11 And I think what Dr. Lemme and his group have
12 done has really helped us in that regard. We are
13 going to try to make that more public, to try to
14 get that information out so people can do that.

15 I want to also say that we are working
16 closely with our friends at the U.S. Fish and
17 Wildlife Service because they are also part of
18 this as a migratory bird. We have been having
19 ongoing discussions with them to make sure they
20 too are also on the same page and everybody's
21 expectations are the same, and we sent them these
22 revised practices that the Extension Service has
23 put out for their comments. And we are hoping by

1 the time dove season opens, that we will all be
2 together on that. And as long as we have a
3 uniform interpretation of what the expectation of
4 the public is, I feel like the public will have
5 more opportunities to go out and have dove hunts
6 which are great social occasions where they can
7 bring family and friends and, you know, you can
8 do more like it used to be when we all grew up.
9 I know when I grew up, most everybody on this
10 Board, except for the younger guys, that was a
11 big deal, and it's just not a big deal anymore.

12 I would also note, as I think I did last
13 time, license sales are down and there are a lot
14 of reasons why our license sales are down because
15 nobody gets invited to dove hunts anymore. How
16 many of you out there that are 40 or 50 years old
17 or maybe even 35, it used to be that everybody
18 wanted to have a dove hunt and everybody wanted
19 to invite you to a dove hunt and you would go out
20 and buy a license so you could go dove hunting
21 and go out with your friends and enjoy an
22 afternoon and maybe listen to a football game.
23 It just doesn't happen anymore. Small hunts,

1 people are worried about. We are trying to
2 change that. I appreciate the work of Dr. Lemme
3 and I appreciate the work of the Board.
4 Hopefully we will get that turned around a little
5 bit so it's a more -- can be enjoyed more. Thank
6 y'all for that.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Commissioner.
8 Let's go back into the public hearing section. I
9 will go back over it again. When your name is
10 called, please go to the microphone and give your
11 name and subject you wish to speak on. I will
12 remind you again that only you may speak at the
13 time you are called and any interference will not
14 be tolerated. The Board standing rules will be
15 in effect as always. And our first speaker will
16 be Mr. Avery Bates.

17 MR. BATES: My name is Avery Bates. I'm
18 Vice President of Organized Seafood Association.
19 Also many years commercial fishing, oyster, and
20 shrimping, fishing. We love to produce good
21 healthy seafood. You know, I have been to this
22 thing a lot of times. Mr. Hatley did a beautiful
23 prayer. Today I want to commend you on that

1 prayer opening this meeting. And, you know, ole
2 King David was told something by God in 2 Samuel
3 23 verse 3, he said that he that ruleth over men
4 must first be just ruling in the fear of God.
5 It's an awesome responsibility when you make
6 decisions that can affect a lot of people's
7 lives. And when you're appointed or take that
8 position, you must be just according to God. But
9 the things that I want to make known today, we
10 want to keep fishing. We want to continue to
11 harvest the fish of the sea, whether it's
12 pompano, mackerel, or whatever species it is. We
13 don't need gamefish status because you are taking
14 fish away from people's mouth. We've fed the
15 Governor, we've fed Pat Dye, and the agriculture
16 people, many hundreds of people fresh mullet.
17 We'd like to keep fishing for species and keep
18 using the gillnet. We heard something this year
19 that kind of -- or this past week, that kind of
20 stuck in my craw, as the old saying goes. A
21 fisherman tried to go fishing in the river and he
22 was told it's against the law to gillnet fish.
23 He wanted to go catch some suckerfish, which by

1 law they are legal to catch and whatever catfish
2 they might catch in his net is a six-inch stretch
3 law anyway. He said it's against the law.
4 That's wrong because he bought a license. The
5 license gives him the liberty to supply the
6 market. That license of a commercial gillnetter
7 might pay as much as \$800 to supply the
8 businesses. I heard Mr. Lemme say boy, he likes
9 good seafood. Everybody that I have talked to --
10 I like good oysters. We supply the markets;
11 that's state law. You can't buy them from a
12 recreational fisherman. When you take them away
13 from us, the people of the State and the commerce
14 are affected in this State. Mr. Moultrie said it
15 was going to be brought up in the last meeting
16 about pompano. Pompano is a good eating fish.
17 Don't take him away from our commercial
18 fishermen. It is important that every species of
19 fish out there according to defined law 9-2-80
20 stays seafood and that's important because my
21 family's five generations plus is for supplying
22 seafood to all the State and not only the State,
23 this country. And being a citizen of the United

1 States, we should make sure that our laws are
2 fair and just. Like God said let's make it just
3 and fair.

4 Do y'all have any questions about the
5 seafood?

6 We run into a little problem this week as a
7 survey on our --

8 MS. JONES: Time.

9 MR. BATES: When I mentioned our Director --
10 the time is up?

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would wind up,
12 Mr. Bates.

13 MR. BATES: We found an area that we were
14 getting ready to plant that's been hurt pretty
15 hard. It looked like drudging to me, as being a
16 fellow that's been on the water. Drudging was
17 okay back in -- remember the last meeting we had
18 on drudging, Mr. Harmon, across the way when I
19 handed you a petition with 300 and something
20 people against it and 10 or 15 for it. We've had
21 an area that's been affected negatively in Port
22 of Mobile Bay, more than one area. We wish you
23 would have listened way back then. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, Mr.
2 Bates. That would be Mr. Hatley, not Mr. Harmon.
3 The next speaker is Ashley Gray.

4 MS. GRAY: Thank you for allowing me the
5 opportunity to speak with you guys today. I am
6 Vice President of Madison County Wildlife
7 Rehabilitators. It's a hobby for us, we don't
8 get paid; it is an unpaid profession. I am here
9 today regarding the letter we received from
10 Conservation basically saying they are going to
11 shut down our operations pretty much completely.
12 The public really needs us to be able to continue
13 that. Yesterday we got over twelve calls on our
14 hotline that's in Madison County. And over the
15 past year we've had over 300 calls, so the public
16 needs us to be able to continue. There are a few
17 misconceptions that's kind of been associated
18 with wildlife rehabilitators. We are not against
19 hunting, we don't hate hunters, and we are
20 definitely not members of PETA. There is another
21 speaker coming up to kind of explain the letter
22 to you more. It should be on the top of your
23 packet. Thank you again. I am finished. Thank

1 you.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead, Mr. Ainsworth.

3 MR. AINSWORTH: What exactly do y'all do?

4 MS. GRAY: We rescue and rehabilitate and
5 release wildlife species in Madison County.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions?
7 Where are those released?

8 MS. GRAY: We have private lands, some that
9 we own, some that our friends have. We have to
10 have permission. There has to be a water source.
11 We cannot transport them over county lines or
12 over bodies of water.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland.

14 DR. STRICKLAND: I got a chance to look at
15 the Madison County Wildlife Rehabilitators Code
16 of Conduct and also I think it's part of our
17 packet as well. If you look at the criteria,
18 it's a very organized organization and I think
19 that we really owe our wildlife, you know,
20 orphaned, injured wildlife. Euthanasia should
21 not be the only option. And I think what you all
22 are doing is great. I think it's a great service
23 to Madison County. I certainly support it. And

1 I think one of the things that I would like to
2 see from our conservation officers is reasons why
3 -- were you all warned at all of this before it
4 happened?

5 MS. GRAY: No, sir.

6 DR. STRICKLAND: I would like to know why
7 this decision was made. If I am not mistaken,
8 you have a veterinarian that kind of provides
9 oversight?

10 MS. GRAY: We do.

11 DR. STRICKLAND: And both of you require a
12 significant amount of training, a couple hundred
13 hours?

14 MS. GRAY: Yes, and continuing education as
15 well.

16 DR. STRICKLAND: And the purpose is really
17 not re-establishing, you know, let's say racoons,
18 opossum, but it's a place to go when you have an
19 injured animal other than putting them to sleep
20 through euthanasia. So I think what I would like
21 to see is for our conservation officers to report
22 back to this Board maybe at our next meeting
23 before we terminate this service. Give us some

1 good reasons. I mean, I can understand the
2 public health risks, but most of these animals
3 are no public exposure at all.

4 MS. GRAY: Exactly.

5 DR. STRICKLAND: So I think this needs to be
6 emphasized to the audience as well as the Board
7 that these animals that are rehabbed, they are
8 not put on display, there is no public exposure
9 at all. Basically these orphaned animals, these
10 injured animals are brought in, they are rehabbed
11 by trained professionals and released back into
12 the wild under very controlled conditions.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland and Mr.
14 Ainsworth, would this be in your area? I know
15 y'all always dig into these things. And, Mr.
16 Jones, if y'all would dig into this one, it would
17 be good.

18 Mr. Hartzog, do you have a comment also?

19 MR. HARTZOG: Just a question. What do they
20 lack from the permitting? I mean, it looks like
21 the problem is they don't have a valid permit.
22 What is -- what's the process of getting them a
23 valid permit?

1 MS. GRAY: We have an actual new permit.
2 But what's been taken from us is like the
3 fur-bearing, the racoons and the opossum. I
4 think all we are really allowed to do now are
5 squirrels and rabbits. We have a permit. We are
6 basically trying to get the full extent of what
7 we were able to do be reinstated at least until
8 the end of the season.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions?
10 Mr. Jones.

11 MR. JONES: Of your 300 calls that you
12 received, how many of those are fur-bearing?

13 MS. GRAY: Probably 90 percent. The other
14 10 being songbirds, which we are federally
15 permitted to take them.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions from
17 the Board?

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: If I could, Johnny, Mr.
19 Johnson.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Captain Johnson, if you
21 would speak on that.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: He issued the letter.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks. Actually, I have no

1 problem with any of these ladies in Madison
2 County. In fact, they have been good to work
3 with us throughout the year and I have nothing
4 bad to say about any of them, but it came down to
5 public safety; Dr. Strickland mentioned that.
6 And to say it like this, there is a racoon in
7 every garbage can in north Alabama. And actually
8 landowners and people that manage the property
9 are actually paying people to kill this wildlife
10 that are being rehabbed by rehab. I know that
11 may sound cruel to some people, but that's what's
12 happening. Racoons mainly and sometimes opossums
13 are being killed by permitted wildlife
14 euthanasia. That's the reason that -- Jud
15 Easterwood, biologist there in my office, and I
16 came up with the guidelines that no longer would
17 fur-bearers be allowed to be rehabbed in District
18 1. They are allowed to rehab birds, songbirds,
19 birds of prey, if they have a Federal permit. So
20 we didn't really shut them down. We just
21 restricted what they could rehab and we did it
22 for the people of Alabama. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: I was looking at this

1 before when I got it, just looked at it.

2 Is there a regulation currently in place that
3 prohibits what they are doing?

4 MR. JOHNSON: There is a regulation that
5 prevents anybody from possessing any wildlife in
6 Alabama without a valid permit from you.

7 DR. STRICKLAND: So you're saying they've
8 never had a valid permit for fur-bearers?

9 MR. JOHNSON: They did in the past, Dr.
10 Strickland.

11 DR. STRICKLAND: But you took it away?

12 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. We did issue one
13 and we took it away.

14 DR. STRICKLAND: In Congressional District 5
15 or in Madison County, have you had any valid
16 complaints with regards to Madison County
17 Rehabilitation animals released or has there been
18 any public health risks that you are aware of?

19 MR. JOHNSON: We have not had any complaints
20 on the Madison County Rehab Group. We have had
21 numerous complaints -- I don't have the number
22 with me today -- about fur-bearers and human
23 contact.

1 DR. STRICKLAND: That could happen outside
2 this rehab. I mean, most of us are at risk if
3 you are in timber having some kind of contact
4 with fur-bearers. You know, I just think before
5 -- I personally would like to have more
6 information before we pull that away from them.
7 I personally feel that the risk, the public
8 health risk, is certainly low for rabies, what
9 they are doing, particularly since it's so
10 organized and it's so well supervised. And
11 again, I don't think they knew that this, if I am
12 not mistaken -- did you all have any idea that
13 this letter was coming?

14 MS. GRAY: No, sir.

15 DR. STRICKLAND: There have been no
16 complaints, but I would just like to have it re-
17 visited.

18 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Dr.
20 Strickland. Mr. Dobbs.

21 MR. DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One
22 quick question or observation, you based your
23 decision, Mr. Johnson, on the fact that people

1 are hiring nuisance predator hunters. We all
2 suspect, we don't know, but we all suspect that
3 we have an issue throughout the State with
4 predation on a lot of our game species, turkeys
5 certainly, possibly hogs, certainly from racoons,
6 foxes, and skunks where they persist. So what I
7 am seeing here or what I guess, and I want to be
8 clear, is that because we have an overpopulation,
9 as you have stated, and people are working to
10 eliminate that and reduce predation, all you are
11 doing by not letting them rehabilitate and
12 reintroduce these animals back into our wildlife,
13 the set of wildlife, is we are just helping that
14 process along.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

16 MR. DOBBS: What they are doing is wonderful
17 work and I don't want to see anything killed, but
18 I don't want an overpopulation of anything and
19 that's my concern that maybe we have got an
20 overpopulation, we all believe that, and let's
21 don't contribute to that. I would rather you put
22 all your energies toward rehabbing the raptors
23 and the songbirds and the things that are having

1 issues or have had in the past. I wanted to be
2 clear that this doesn't seem to be arbitrary on
3 your part and it seems to make sense to me.

4 MR. JOHNSON: I think you cleared it up
5 better than I did, Mr. Dobbs. I appreciate it.
6 I think if you put a fur-bearer back into the
7 wild, it's going to do one of two things is my
8 opinion. It's going to fight to the death or
9 it's going to move another predator from that
10 area into another area because the area or the
11 land is at maximum carrying capacity for racoons
12 right now.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland.

14 DR. STRICKLAND: How many fur-bearers do you
15 think you are releasing a year at your rehab,
16 actually releasing?

17 MS. GRAY: Within the last year in our
18 group, two racoons.

19 DR. STRICKLAND: Do you think it's going to
20 have an impact? It's the mission. It's what
21 they are doing. I think we are missing the whole
22 big picture. I don't think three or four racoons
23 is going to have any impact on anything. It's

1 the message they are delivering, it's the
2 mission; that's what we have to look at.

3 MS. GRAY: May I please clarify that many of
4 the racoons that we pick up that we are providing
5 a public service, they have to be with us, they
6 need us. For instance, if it's been hit by a
7 car, we take it and we take it to the vet and
8 have it euthanized. It helps the public to know,
9 it eases their mind and stuff. Yes, two racoons.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Metzler, do you wish
11 to speak on this? Commissioner.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: I was just saying I think
13 he might address Dr. Strickland's concerns about
14 looking at it. If I understand, we are going to
15 look at some of this a little more in this
16 process maybe.

17 MR. METZLER: We started about six months
18 ago to review the rehabilitation policies and
19 permitting process that we have within the
20 Department. We should be able to finish up that
21 review in the next three or four months and maybe
22 provide some feedback on the direction we are
23 going, so everything across the State will be

1 standardized; that's what our hope is in doing
2 this.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Very good.
4 Thank you, Ms. Gray.

5 MS. GRAY: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is
7 Lindsey Wilmer.

8 MS. WILMER: Hi. Thank you for giving me
9 the chance to speak today. My name is Lindsey
10 Wilmer. I am the Vice President of Madison County
11 Wildlife Rehabilitators. I have over 13 years of
12 experience in wildlife rehab. I specialize in
13 the Virginia opossum but, of course, I work with
14 other species too. As wildlife rehabilitators, I
15 really feel like we provide a service to the
16 veterinarians in Madison County. Animal
17 hospitals often serve as a drop-off point for
18 those who find orphaned or injured wildlife
19 animals. And when the wild animals don't need to
20 be euthanized, they allow us to take the
21 responsibility of rehabbing them and then
22 releasing the animals after that. In that way I
23 really feel like I'm like a PR agent to the

1 veterinarians of the area; I really do. They
2 really appreciate our work. They need us. In
3 addition to the service we provide for the
4 veterinarians, we impact the public through what
5 we do in just taking them away sometimes. Also
6 education, we go to community events and
7 educational programs in our area, also churches,
8 Boy Scout troops, Girl Scout troops. Two weeks
9 ago we received this letter. We knew nothing
10 about it. We were actually at Save Nature
11 Preservative Day when we got the letter. But
12 anyway, it informed us that we are limited to
13 basically squirrels and rabbits for our rehab and
14 now we kind of feel like we are a dead end to the
15 public and the veterinarians that we work with,
16 so I think that's all I have to say.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you so much.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I ask a question?

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Commissioner.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Ms. Wilmer, how many
21 other groups are there like yours or are there
22 any others?

23 MS. WILMER: There are several other groups

1 in the State. In our District there is one other
2 group. Other Districts allow the groups to exist
3 and they are permitted as far as we know.
4 District 1 has one other group, the North Alabama
5 Wildlife Rehabilitators.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: And are y'all part of the
7 same organization?

8 MS. WILMER: No, sir, we are our own.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Wilmer.
10 Yes, Mr. Jones.

11 MR. JONES: Just for clarification, when you
12 are speaking of District 1, that District 1 is
13 the State District 1, not the Congressional
14 District?

15 MS. WILMER: Right.

16 MR. JONES: I just wanted to clarify that.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Commissioner.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: I really need to ask
19 Captain Johnson. Thank you, ma'am. Are the
20 licenses provided on a case-by-case basis or how
21 do they get a license?

22 MR. JOHNSON: In the past, Commissioner, if
23 they applied for a permit, we would go by and

1 inspect the facility, make sure it had adequate
2 water and shelter for the animals, and basically
3 issue them to anybody. We don't have a lot of
4 guidelines in regard to who we have permitted to.

5 DR. STRICKLAND: You have a permit criteria?

6 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

7 DR. STRICKLAND: Which is pretty thorough?

8 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is
10 Stephanie Kern.

11 MS. KERN: Thank you, Commissioner,
12 Chairman, and Board for having us today. My name
13 is Stephanie Kern and I am the President of the
14 Madison County Wildlife Rehabilitators. We are
15 here today by invitation of Captain Johnson and
16 we appreciate the invite as well. We have
17 renewed and complied with Alabama Rehabilitation
18 permits for years. We received our 2013 permit
19 only two short months ago with the only animal
20 restriction being coyotes. We were shocked to
21 receive this letter in April terminating our
22 February license and restricting the
23 rehabilitation of all animals except for

1 squirrels and rabbits. Interestingly, we found
2 that this letter was limited to District 1.
3 Professional organizations such as ourselves in
4 District 3, 4, and 5 continue today to be in full
5 operation with allowances to rehabilitate all
6 wildlife without restriction. Our operating
7 standards are as rigorous as the other Alabama
8 rehabilitation organizations, which include Wild
9 Mammal Care of Alabama in District 3, the Big Ben
10 Wildlife Sanctuary in District 4, and the
11 Environmental Study Center in District 5. Again,
12 these are State Districts. Our Code of Conduct
13 is attached in your packet. Like Big Ben
14 Wildlife, we are professionally trained and also
15 members of the International Wildlife
16 Rehabilitation Council. We also belong to the
17 National Opossum Society. And our members adhere
18 to the International Wildlife Rehabilitation
19 Council as well as the National Wildlife
20 Rehabilitation Association Standards. Toyota
21 Manufacturing Plant and the Land Trust of North
22 Alabama Executive Committee have expressed
23 interest in our placing a rehabilitation facility

1 and a wildlife sanctuary on the Land Trust
2 property in Huntsville, similar to what you would
3 find at the Big Ben Wildlife Sanctuary as well as
4 the Environmental Study Center. Our facility
5 would serve to educate the public on wildlife
6 conservation and further the mission of the
7 Department of Conservation. The restrictions on
8 our permit would completely remove the progress
9 that has been made in this area. We are asking
10 today for your approval to reinstate the permit
11 of Madison County Wildlife Rehabilitators to
12 include all wildlife except deer and coyote.
13 Again, our standard rival rehabilitation
14 organizations are still in full operations in
15 District 3, 4, and 5. We do understand from Mr.
16 Metzler that the State Wildlife Rehabilitation
17 regulations are currently being discussed and if
18 interim criteria would be required to reinstate
19 the policy of District 1 in order to reinstate
20 our full permit now, we have drafted criteria
21 consistent with our neighboring states of
22 Mississippi, Tennessee, and Georgia and they are
23 included in your packet as well.

1 We continue to receive numerous calls daily
2 to our hotline for injured and orphaned wildlife.
3 Without your immediate approval, we will be
4 forced to turn our callers away and then leave
5 them to their own means of dealing with injured
6 and orphaned wildlife. This will increase
7 illegal holdings of wildlife.

8 MS. JONES: Time.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You can go ahead and
10 finish, Ms. Kern, you are fine. Go ahead and
11 finish.

12 MS. KERN: I am complete. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Ms. Kern, we are going
14 to -- and thank you for not including coyotes on
15 y'all's list. I'm sure the members of the Board
16 appreciate that as much as I do. I talked with
17 Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson, you may want to talk
18 about that you may want to rescind that letter
19 until we have more time to study it and Mr.
20 Metzler can look into it and possibly get a
21 statewide program; is that correct?

22 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. I agree with these
23 ladies that we need something that's uniform

1 statewide, and I agree with them wholeheartedly.
2 I'm not rescinding on my wishes as far as the
3 fur-bearers being not rehabbed, but I agree with
4 you, Chairman, we need to put it off and allow
5 them to do what they are doing right now until we
6 come up with something that's fair to everyone.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Would that be in
8 acceptance with y'all, Ms. Kern?

9 MS. KERN: Yes, sir. And we fully support
10 statewide regulations. We actually have offered
11 for Mr. Metzler, we would like to see involved in
12 that process.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great.
14 And I would like to see Frank Boyd involved in
15 that also, Mr. Metzler, with what they are doing
16 with their activities. He could report back to
17 the Board on that and I would like to get Frank's
18 input on that also. Mr. Hatley.

19 MR. HATLEY: I have one question. I may
20 have missed this in one of your presentations,
21 but how are you funded?

22 MS. KERN: Sir, we are not funded. This is
23 totally volunteering efforts. There are some

1 kind-hearted individuals that do donate
2 personally to us from time to time --

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: It's not privately
4 funded?

5 MS. KERN: Yes, but it's a huge expense on
6 our part.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: I want to thank y'all for
9 your presentation but also I know y'all recognize
10 that Captain Johnson is probably one of our best
11 -- well, we have got a lot of good folks and he
12 does an excellent job and you realize that he is
13 looking out for the best interest of everybody,
14 not picking on you guys, because we have a lot of
15 human-animal contact that we deal with every day
16 that is very difficult to handle in some
17 respects. So anyway, Johnny, I appreciate what
18 you are doing, appreciate you willing to withdraw
19 that until we can look at it.

20 MS. KERN: Yes, sir, if I may.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, go ahead, Ms. Kern.

22 MS. KERN: Thank you, sir. We want to thank
23 Captain Johnson. We work very well with him and

1 we do respect all of the statewide wishes
2 concerning wildlife. Again, we feel that really
3 our mission is a public service. The public
4 finds injured and orphaned wildlife. As you can
5 imagine, many, many people don't have the heart
6 to just release it back into the wild or kill it
7 themselves and they really don't have any other
8 option but to call a wildlife rehabilitator. So
9 ours is more of a public service to the
10 kind-hearted, you know, peace-loving individual.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Well, Ms. Kern, Ms.
12 Wilmer, and Ms. Gray, thank you for your
13 presentations today. Captain Johnson, thank you,
14 thank you so much.

15 DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Chairman?

16 COMMISSIONER MOULTRIE: Yes.

17 DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Jones is going to -- he
18 has volunteered his service for fund raising for
19 Madison County.

20 (Audience laughs.)

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Y'all are in great shape
22 now.

23 MR. JONES: My first donor is sitting right

1 here to my left.

2 (Audience laughs.)

3 MS. KERN: Thank you very much.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Kern.

5 Let's move on to freshwater fishing. Mr. Nathan
6 Smith will be our next speaker.

7 MR. NATHAN SMITH: Good morning. My name is
8 Nathan Smith. I'm a mortgage loan officer for a
9 local bank. I've lived in this area --

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the
11 microphone, please, Mr. Smith.

12 MR. NATHAN SMITH: Thank you for having me
13 here this morning. As a local fisherman and
14 local crappie fisherman, myself and other
15 sportsmen have become concerned about the
16 depletion of numbers of management of natural
17 resources with crappie fishing. In discussions
18 with fellow sportsmen, we always come back to
19 three alternatives. We would ask that you
20 consider either limiting the number of poles the
21 fishermen may use at one time when fishing for
22 crappie, limiting the daily catch limit from 30
23 to perhaps 20, or raising the minimum legal catch

1 from 9 inches to 11 inches. My personal favorite
2 is limiting the number of poles. In Alabama
3 there is no limit on the number of poles that a
4 fisherman may use crappie fishing and we tend to
5 see 10, 12, maybe 16 poles used at one time, and
6 this increases by at least a factor of 16 the
7 chances of catching a fish over somebody who
8 maybe uses just one pole. And the problem with
9 it is more and more I hear conversations from
10 that type of fishermen who brags that they
11 exceeded the daily limits. I talked with a
12 gentlemen a month ago who said well, two days
13 before I talked with you he caught 66; the daily
14 limit is 30. The day before he caught 55; the
15 limit is 30. That day he was fishing again, he
16 made it very plain that he caught 3,000 fish that
17 season and he made money selling them. I
18 listened to our -- looked on the Internet for a
19 crappie forum. Earlier this week a gentleman
20 talked about he and a fishing partner taking home
21 90 in one day. Three weeks ago a gentleman
22 talked about bringing home 120 in one day. These
23 are people that use what's called spider rigging

1 or more than one pole. I am not advocating that
2 we reduce the number of poles down to one, but
3 perhaps we reduce them from an unlimited number
4 to a manageable number of maybe four. Those are
5 the alternatives that we would suggest to
6 sportsmen.

7 I have also been asked if you would consider
8 -- a few years ago boaters were allowed to clean
9 their fish on the water in their boat; that was
10 denied, for lack of a better terminology for me,
11 and I have been asked if you would reconsider
12 allowing fishermen to clean their fish while on
13 the water in the boat.

14 Thank you. That's all I have to say.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Smith, are your
16 concerns over crappie on a particular lake or
17 statewide?

18 MR. NATHAN SMITH: I can only speak about
19 northern Alabama, so I would talk about
20 Guntersville through Pickwick when you cross the
21 channel from east to west.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We want to have a
23 comment back on the number of poles and what's in

1 effect in the State if we can have it right here.
2 Who is going to speak? Go ahead.

3 MR. GREENE: I'm Chris Greene, Assistant
4 Chief of Fisheries. We do have some limitations
5 on poles in certain areas. We don't have any on
6 the Tennessee River. Crappie populations are
7 kind of boom and bust. Some years you are going
8 to have a lot of fish, some years you are not
9 going to have a lot of fish. So for what we
10 would need to see to make any changes, it would
11 be that we really feel like over-harvest is
12 taking place. And what I understand this year,
13 they are having a good year.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. Okay. Very
15 good.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: May I ask a question, if
17 I may.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: So it sounds like one of
20 the problems is just enforcement of limits?

21 MR. NATHAN SMITH: Yes, sir.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: And it's not an excuse
23 but, you know, we are kind of limited, but I

1 don't know what we could do to maybe help out.
2 If you could -- people are reluctant, and I know
3 why, to tell on folks. But self-enforcement, if
4 we can get information about that, at least we
5 can check into those kind of things. We need the
6 public to help enforce our laws and we have to
7 have you. For the 98 percent of the people who
8 abide by the laws, we need you to help us. I
9 mean, I know that is not easy to do, but if you
10 could tell our officer or call in that
11 information, we certainly need to try to enforce
12 limits.

13 MR. NATHAN SMITH: If your officers will
14 give me their contact information, I can see that
15 that happens.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: After the meeting --

17 MR. JOHNSON: Or give the District office
18 information.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would meet with
20 Mr. Johnson after the meeting. Thank you, Mr.
21 Smith. Mr. Hartzog, you had one last comment.

22 MR. HARTZOG: Yes. Just a comment about the
23 local officers. There is a 1-800 Game Watch

1 that's in effect 24 hours a day. You don't have
2 to identify yourself. Game Watch is there, it's
3 a 1-800 number, and you can report any game
4 violations you want, and it's been there for
5 years and years and years. So when you see a
6 violation, call 1-800 Game Watch and report it.
7 And it didn't sound like to me like a line
8 problem, but an enforcement problem.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

10 MR. NATHAN SMITH: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Ty
12 Smith.

13 MR. TY SMITH: Thank you very much. When I
14 walked in, I saw all these officers in the back.
15 I would like to say thank y'all for protecting
16 our natural resources. We appreciate what you
17 guys do very much. I would also like to follow
18 up on Nathan's about crappie fishing, and
19 particularly Wheeler Lake. I'm an avid crappie
20 fisherman, I love the crappie species myself. I
21 probably fish four to five days a week and have
22 since I was about 15 years old. Seemingly, the
23 number of fish, crappie, on Elk River in

1 particular, Wheeler Lake has decreased over the
2 years to a concerning level for myself. I also
3 would love to see a higher size of fish. We are
4 currently at 9 inches. I would love to see it go
5 to 10 or 11, the limit also reduced; it currently
6 is 30. As far as trolling, trolling has really
7 taken off in the last two or three years and
8 gained popularity. You will see folks fishing
9 with as many as 12, 15, sometimes the case may be
10 20 poles out. You could say well, the limit is
11 30, you can catch 30 in an hour or you can take
12 all day to catch it, but I do think that with the
13 amount of poles out, it entices the person that's
14 not following the rules to break the rules by
15 being able to catch so many fish in a short
16 period of time. So therefore, I also ask that
17 you review and please bring down the limit on the
18 number of poles. I don't know what the answer
19 is, but maybe some other states, some lakes if
20 you have information on can be helpful to us.
21 But anyway, I please ask that on Wheeler Lake in
22 particular to raise the size limit of the
23 crappie, reduce the creel amount, daily amount,

1 and also put a limit on the amount of poles that
2 can be used in the method called trolling for
3 crappie. Thank you. Appreciate it.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

5 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman?

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Jones.

7 MR. JONES: Mr. Greene, I know there has
8 been a lot of studies that have been done
9 concerning, you know, the fish population in the
10 Wheeler reservoir as well as the Guntersville Dam
11 reservoir. Has any of these fish studies that
12 are ongoing with Auburn University included
13 crappie?

14 MR. GREENE: There has been some studies
15 done with crappie. A lot of those were done back
16 in the late 90s. What we found out was crappie
17 populations are -- they are really tied to water
18 levels during the wintertime. So if you have a
19 really wet winter, sometimes you will have a big
20 year class of crappie, so that's one of the
21 things that's kind of hard to manage. And one
22 thing that you would do if you raised the limit,
23 you would have to keep in effect or keep in mind

1 that crappie is a short-lived fish. So by
2 raising the limit, you are going to have a lot of
3 fish that would be dying by natural mortality
4 before they would be exposed to fishing and we
5 would rather have anglers catch those fish rather
6 than dying by natural causes. So you have to
7 kind of balance those two out.

8 MR. JONES: So it's a short life-cycle fish.

9 MR. GREENE: Yes, sir.

10 MR. JONES: I guess similar to quail in the
11 way quail would be managed, to put it into a
12 different type of term.

13 MR. SMITH: Me being a fish guy, I'd have
14 to --

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I ask just one follow
16 up?

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Chris, is there any
19 problem -- I heard the other gentleman say
20 something about a market, maybe that they are
21 selling -- they are putting out a lot of poles
22 and they are catching a lot of fish because they
23 are trying to market those fish commercially. Do

1 you have any knowledge about that or can you
2 share with the Board anything? That would be
3 prohibited, I would assume?

4 MR. GREENE: Yes, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: So again, if somebody has
6 knowledge of that --

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Come to the microphone,
8 please, and identify yourself again.

9 MR. TY SMITH: Ty Smith. I agree. On
10 Wheeler Lake in particular, we have major water
11 fluctuations. It seems like TVA uses our
12 reservoir as maybe a holding or released points
13 and so the water fluctuations are great. A
14 9-inch crappie, you guys -- most people in this
15 room fish a lot. A 9-inch crappie is not even
16 really a harvestable fish, but yet it's legal to
17 keep. So all I am asking is it can't hurt a
18 thing to increase the size limit from a 9-inch to
19 a 10-inch has got to help us. But anyway, thank
20 you for your comments.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead.

22 MR. GREENE: I just want to also say that
23 our section does standardized sampling on

1 reservoirs on a rotational basis and on Wheeler
2 Reservoir that equates to about every three
3 years. So we are sampling these crappie
4 populations on a regular basis and get
5 information on that from which we provide
6 information for regulations.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dobbs.

8 MR. DOBBS: For personal edification, what
9 is the life span of crappie?

10 MR. GREENE: I would say probably five to
11 six years would be a pretty old crappie.

12 MR. DOBBS: And how many of those years does
13 it take for them to get to be 9 to 10 inches?

14 MR. GREENE: It depends on the reservoir. I
15 mean, it's all about nutrient levels, prey
16 availability. There are a lot of different
17 factors. I would say probably a fast growing
18 reservoir, maybe two to three years. And on
19 nutrient poor reservoirs, slower.

20 MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions?

22 Let's move to a new topic. This is on the fall
23 turkey season. The first speaker is William

1 Oppenheimer.

2 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Mr. Chairman, Mr.
3 Commissioner, gentlemen, my name is William
4 Oppenheimer. At the last meeting, you voted to
5 revoke fall turkey season in the counties which
6 it existed, Clarke, Clay, Covington, Monroe,
7 Randolph, and Talladega. I respectfully request
8 that you gentlemen reconsider your action. Four
9 of the six County Commissions, Talladega,
10 Randolph, Clay, and Monroe, have voted
11 unanimously to request you to restore fall turkey
12 season to its traditional date, the Saturday
13 before Thanksgiving through the 1st of January.
14 Over 300 people have signed petitions requesting
15 the same thing. These same petitioners have
16 offered eight pages of mainly thoughtful comments
17 regarding the tradition of fall turkey hunting.
18 49 states have spring turkey season and 40 states
19 have fall turkey season. Alabama has among the
20 highest density, even if you count 400,000
21 turkeys, of any state in the country. And the
22 six counties in which fall turkey season existed
23 have the highest density or among the highest

1 density of wild turkeys of any counties in
2 Alabama. This is in the map on Mr. Barnett's
3 study of the wild turkey on your website. Mr.
4 Moody confirmed at the last meeting that there
5 was no biological reason to eliminate fall turkey
6 season. There was no reason given for Mr.
7 Hatley's motion. In ten years of transcripts
8 since 2004, not one person has complained about
9 fall turkey season. In fact, there has been no
10 mention of fall turkey season with the exception
11 of Mr. Hartzog a few years ago as for fall turkey
12 season at Fort Rucker. That's the only mention
13 of fall turkey season in ten years aside from Mr.
14 Hatley.

15 MR. HARTZOG: That's not true.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We will cross that. Mr.
17 Oppenheimer, continue. The Board will address
18 the Chair and Mr. Oppenheimer address the Chair.
19 We will continue after his three minutes. He
20 deserves his three minutes. Mr. Oppenheimer,
21 continue.

22 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I beg your pardon. It has
23 been stated that it's not fair to have fall

1 turkey season in six counties. People have
2 complained to this Board over the past ten years
3 about virtually everything, but not one person
4 has ever complained, not one public person has
5 ever complained about fall turkey season. In the
6 studies the Commissioner showed us, it's clear,
7 as Dr. Strickland said, that it's a matter of
8 scale. Fall turkey season represents a drop --

9 MS. JONES: Time.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead and continue
11 since we interrupted you, Mr. Oppenheimer. Go
12 ahead.

13 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Fall turkey season, whether the data is skewed a
15 hundred percent, represents a drop in the bucket
16 of the turkeys harvested. It's habitat, it's not
17 harvest that controls the population. 50,000
18 turkeys are shot in the spring time, maybe a
19 thousand are shot in the fall. So I ask you,
20 gentlemen, please reconsider to restore fall
21 turkey season in its entirety. If you remove
22 fall turkey season, Game Check will not give us
23 any results; we will have no information. But if

1 we keep fall turkey season, implement Game Check,
2 if there is a problem caused by fall turkey
3 hunters, we will be the first to insist that you
4 make further restrictions. Thank you, gentlemen.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: From the Board -- and I
6 know for a fact I would like to clear up and I'm
7 sure the Board is very anxious to clear up some
8 stuff, but I have in my minutes that I repulled
9 on three separate occasions in the very near
10 past, Mr. Hatley has brought up and spoken about
11 fall turkeys during these advisory boards and I
12 know I have been on the Board over 12 years and
13 many times Mr. Hatley brought it up and talked
14 about it and it was talked about with
15 Commissioner Lawley. I know that because I have
16 those minutes with me. Now to clear that up so
17 we don't want any misinformation, and I think
18 there has been misinformation spread on this
19 issue, and I would like for the Board to have
20 solid, concise data, so that has been brought up.

21 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Sir, may I clarify?

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Oppenheimer.

23 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I was referring to members

1 of the public.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: But when you said it had
3 not been brought up at all, I want to clarify for
4 the Board and the public it has been brought up.

5 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir, I agree. What I
6 believe I said is no member of the public.

7 MR. HATLEY: Negative.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. I do not remember
9 a public member coming myself. I know Mr. Hatley
10 has been very vocal on it. I want to make sure
11 and clarify that point. Now let's go through.
12 Mr. Hartzog, do you have a comment?

13 MR. HARTZOG: Well, Mr. Oppenheimer called
14 me and asked me why I voted the way I did and I
15 have gone back and done some research and asked
16 some questions and the Commissioner brought it up
17 during his presentation. When we had fall
18 seasons in the past, those counties that had fall
19 seasons had less days in the spring. And so
20 apparently several years back, that went through
21 the cracks and y'all got more days. And Mr.
22 Oppenheimer called and asked one thing and
23 because we had been hounded so much about the

1 February season and everybody getting the same
2 number of days, one of the reasons I voted for it
3 was because I didn't think it was fair for six
4 counties to get more days than the rest of the
5 State.

6 So, Mr. Oppenheimer, if you want an
7 extension into the fall, would your six counties
8 and the County Commissioners and your petitioners
9 be in favor of reducing the number of days you
10 got in the fall in the spring? Now I've talked
11 to a lot of the turkey hunters. Since this issue
12 has come up, I've talked with members of the
13 Board, Wild Turkey Federation, and a lot of local
14 turkey hunters and they said, look, spring season
15 is our passion. I mean, so would the spring
16 turkey hunters in those six counties be in favor
17 of losing days in the spring?

18 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Sir, I don't know. I
19 can't speak for them to that extent. But I would
20 say that there is no reason to make a change from
21 the way it's been for the past 50 years.

22 MR. HARTZOG: Well, no, it hasn't been the
23 same for the last 50 years.

1 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Last 15.

2 MR. HARTZOG: Y'all used to get less days.

3 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Okay, the past 15 years or
4 so we have gotten the same number of days. And
5 if there is not a biological reason and if there
6 is not a financial reason and if no one from the
7 public has complained about that fact to this
8 Board, why?

9 MR. HARTZOG: Again, the reason I just told
10 you was because I don't think it's fair for you
11 to have more days than the people in Mobile
12 County.

13 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir.

14 MR. HARTZOG: And the other concern I had --

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Oppenheimer, I'm
16 going to let Mr. Hartzog continue. Go ahead.

17 MR. HARTZOG: The other concern I had was
18 since we passed the feeding during the fall was
19 the possible abuse of corn, the deer hunting, for
20 turkey hunting. So those are the two reasons.
21 But, you know, in asking us to reconsider, are
22 you willing to give up days in the spring in
23 order to get your days in the fall? I'm asking

1 you.

2 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Personally?

3 MR. HARTZOG: Yes, sir.

4 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Personally, I would give
5 up a day.

6 MR. HARTZOG: A day. And you want ten days
7 for one day?

8 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir.

9 MR. HARTZOG: Is that fair?

10 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir.

11 MR. HARTZOG: You think that's fair?

12 MR. OPPENHEIMER: May I answer the question?

13 MR. HARTZOG: Yes.

14 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I think what would be fair
15 and reasonable would be to expand fall turkey
16 season into other counties. I would suggest, if
17 I may answer your question, that fall turkey
18 season could exist in most of the non-northern
19 tier counties. In other words, in counties that
20 have got substantial populations, because fall
21 turkey hunters hardly harvest any turkeys. I
22 know the data is unreliable, but the trend is
23 clear and the empirical evidence -- and Mr.

1 Moody, correct me if I am wrong -- Mr. Moody,
2 would you not say that fall turkey hunters only
3 harvest a drop in the bucket of the turkeys
4 harvested?

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody, you can
6 answer that. Go ahead.

7 MR. MOODY: Currently, that's the case.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You say you believe
9 that, Mr. Moody, of the -- state that again. I
10 would like to hear your opinion of that.

11 MR. MOODY: If I understood the question
12 right, the current harvest has a very small
13 portion of that made up by fall harvest.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: So you believe the
15 survey numbers are fairly accurate then?

16 MR. MOODY: I think they are reflective of
17 what's going on out there, yes.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley, you raised
19 your hand.

20 MR. HATLEY: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead.

22 MR. HATLEY: I have a question, Mr.
23 Oppenheimer.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Please speak up, Mr.
2 Hatley, so that I can hear you.

3 MR. HATLEY: Have you ever attended one of
4 these Board meetings in your life?

5 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Years ago, sir.

6 MR. HATLEY: How many years ago?

7 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Oh, my goodness, 30 years.

8 MR. HATLEY: You are quoting --

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let him answer, Mr.
10 Hatley. You asked him a question, he deserves to
11 answer the question.

12 MR. HATLEY: Answer the question.

13 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I'm sorry, sir.

14 MR. HATLEY: Answer the question.

15 MR. OPPENHEIMER: The question is have I
16 ever attended one of these Board meetings?

17 MR. HATLEY: Yes, sir.

18 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir. Years ago, many
19 years ago, maybe 30 years or 35 years ago.

20 MR. HATLEY: So how old were you at that
21 time, 15?

22 MR. OPPENHEIMER: No, sir. I will be 60
23 years old on August the 16th.

1 MR. HATLEY: A couple of questions. Do you
2 believe in either sex turkey hunting?

3 MR. OPPENHEIMER: No, sir.

4 MR. HATLEY: Then why do you insist on fall
5 turkey hunting?

6 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I have hunted fall
7 turkeys, sir, for 52 years. I have never killed
8 a hen. And by the way, the Georgia study that
9 was referred to earlier presupposes that the
10 people would kill hens.

11 MR. HATLEY: You can identify a jake
12 between --

13 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Absolutely.

14 MR. HATLEY: Fine. Where do you hunt --

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: There will be no other
16 comments from the gallery. Go ahead, Mr. Hatley.

17 MR. HATLEY: Where do you hunt in the state
18 of Alabama?

19 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I hunt, sir, in Monroe
20 County on the Alabama River.

21 MR. HATLEY: On the Alabama River?

22 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir.

23 MR. HATLEY: In your propaganda that you

1 sent to us, from Monroe County there were two
2 respondents, two, out of your -- what do you say
3 to that?

4 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Two respondents?

5 MR. HATLEY: In your 300 you keep quoting,
6 you had two people that responded from Monroe
7 County. I hunt in Monroe County.

8 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir. May I --

9 MR. HATLEY: No.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let him finish, Mr.
11 Oppenheimer. Go ahead, Mr. Hatley.

12 MR. HATLEY: I'm not through. How many did
13 you kill this year, how many turkeys?

14 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Sir, he asked --

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's okay. We are
16 going to go back to that. Let's stay with the
17 current questioning. Mr. Hatley asked what your
18 current kill was for the year.

19 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I killed three gobblers
20 this year, sir.

21 MR. HATLEY: Spring or fall?

22 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I killed two in the fall
23 and one in the spring.

1 MR. HATLEY: Do you have your harvest report
2 with you?

3 MR. OPPENHEIMER: No, sir.

4 MR. HATLEY: Did you fill it out?

5 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir. The season is
6 over, sir.

7 MR. HATLEY: Did you fill it out?

8 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir, I did fill it
9 out, but the season is over so it's not required
10 to carry it now.

11 MR. HATLEY: I didn't ask you to carry it.
12 I just asked you if you filled it out.

13 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I beg your pardon, Mr.
14 Hatley, I thought you asked me did I have it with
15 me.

16 MR. HATLEY: It seems like we are not on the
17 same page and evidently we are not on the same
18 page with a lot of your innuendos and statements
19 about this Board. You questioned the integrity
20 of this Board.

21 MR. OPPENHEIMER: In what way, sir?

22 MR. HATLEY: In your responses, did you not
23 read what you sent us?

1 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Sir, I didn't write the
2 responses.

3 MR. HATLEY: Did you not read what you sent?

4 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir, I did read what
5 I sent you.

6 MR. HATLEY: Did you not question why
7 someone would question the integrity of this
8 group? You didn't question why your responders
9 said that we did this under the table in the dark
10 of night? Did you not read those things?

11 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir, I did read those
12 things.

13 MR. HATLEY: Then why did you send them to
14 us? Do you think this Board does not have
15 integrity?

16 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I think this Board has
17 integrity.

18 MR. HATLEY: Then why did you make those
19 statements?

20 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I did not make those
21 statements, sir.

22 MR. HATLEY: You sent them to us as your
23 representative?

1 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I forwarded the statements
2 that were made by petitioners. I cannot control
3 and would not dare try to tell someone else what
4 to say.

5 MR. HATLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have no more
6 questions for this gentleman.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That will be fine.

8 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Mr. Chairman, may I answer
9 one of his questions?

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Oppenheimer, go
11 ahead.

12 MR. OPPENHEIMER: He asked why there were
13 only two respondents from Monroe County. There
14 were many respondents who hunt in Monroe County,
15 but whose residence is listed on the form.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I believe who Mr. Hatley
17 was referring to, if I remember reading the
18 petition in detail, and I think I do, is Mr.
19 Garstecki's comments. I have known Mr. Garstecki
20 a long, long time and that I believe was probably
21 not appropriate. But in knowing Gary, that may
22 be what his comments were. So we did get a
23 better --

1 MR. OPPENHEIMER: May I apologize for the
2 untoward comments, if any were made, by people
3 that I could not control.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: There was one more
5 comment I wanted to ask you about. I don't
6 believe this is you, but again in attacking this
7 Board and its integrity from a Jay Harris
8 Oppenheimer. Is that any relation?

9 MR. OPPENHEIMER: That's my son.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: He had written on
11 Tuesday, April 16th to Dr. Lemme and he says in
12 that: From what I can tell, you are the only
13 member of the Conservation Advisory Board with
14 any sense at all and I wish the Board consisted
15 entirely of honorable people like yourself. Now
16 not only in that comment did he accuse this Board
17 of being not honorable and having no sense, he
18 accused the Governor, two Commissioners, and
19 long-time members of this Board. I thought that
20 was -- from the Chair, I believe that's very
21 inappropriate also.

22 Any other questions from the Board? Mr.
23 Jones.

1 MR. JONES: Mr. Oppenheimer, of the 300
2 petitioners, how many of those have a hunting
3 license in the state of Alabama?

4 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Sir, I have no way of
5 checking that, but may I give you an estimate? I
6 would say probably half of the petitioners had a
7 hunting license would be my estimate.

8 MR. JONES: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Commissioner.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: If I could, thank you for
11 your comments. You know, you and I have talked
12 about this and as I told you, I appreciate your
13 comments. I might differ with them, but I
14 appreciate your comments and where you are coming
15 from. I did want to clarify, and I will answer
16 Mr. Jones' question, but I wanted to make sure I
17 understood. This petition, it was just an online
18 posted petition?

19 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: So I will represent to
21 you I had our staff look at the names and it's
22 not an exact science because there are some
23 duplication of names, but just for your

1 information even, and I will be glad to show it
2 to you, we went back and looked and where there
3 was like a name like Mr. Alexander, there are
4 several Alexanders, so we gave them the benefit
5 of the doubt, went through it. And so, Mr.
6 Jones, what we came up with is there are
7 approximately 128 with some type of license.
8 That includes a hunting license, fishing license,
9 or saltwater license or possibly a HIP or duck
10 stamp or anything that might indicate they would
11 have had a license of some kind, so we had 128
12 that we identified. And again, that's what I was
13 going to share with you. So the rest could have
14 been -- there could have been some others on
15 there -- to be fair with Mr. Oppenheimer, there
16 could have had been some that were exempt or non-
17 hunters, you know, people that may have signed up
18 just because they were a family member or
19 somebody like that, which I am sure you are
20 recognizing. There were 19 out-of-state and two
21 of those had licenses. I am pretty confident in
22 that because you can check an out-of-state
23 license much easier.

1 I just wanted to answer your question, Mr. Jones,
2 and direct that to you.

3 MR. OPPENHEIMER: May I respond, Mr.
4 Commissioner?

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, sir.

6 MR. OPPENHEIMER: That would agree with my
7 estimate of about half.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: And that's what I was
9 letting them know.

10 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Thank you, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's correct. Any
12 other questions for Mr. Oppenheimer? As I told
13 Mr. Oppenheimer last night and this morning, the
14 one thing I do appreciate, and from the start we
15 have requested that people come voice their
16 opinions, approach the Board, and tell us that
17 and from that I appreciate you doing this and
18 opening this subject up, Mr. Oppenheimer.

19 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Oppenheimer, I have
21 one more question from the Chair and from the
22 Board again and you touched on it, but I want to
23 get a concise statement from you. Why do you

1 believe that -- if we are looking at opening up
2 fall turkey season again, why do you believe when
3 the State has a lot of passionate turkey hunters,
4 why do you believe that those six counties should
5 have that right when the other counties don't and
6 we don't have the data to open those counties
7 because we don't know if the population could
8 sustain that, why should you and those six
9 counties have that right?

10 MR. OPPENHEIMER: May I answer?

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I want you to answer it.
12 Go ahead.

13 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Anyone can come to those
14 six counties to hunt. I live in Mobile, I hunt
15 in Monroe County, so it's not restricting fall
16 turkey hunting to just residents of those six
17 counties. But the reason to keep it is in order
18 to measure what effect fall turkey hunting has on
19 the population through improved data collection.
20 And more importantly, frankly, it's a tradition
21 that is keenly felt. And I apologize for my
22 son's comments, if you will attribute them to
23 youthful vigor.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I would agree with that.
2 I appreciate you apologizing for those.

3 MR. OPPENHEIMER: But fall turkey hunting is
4 unlike spring turkey hunting. There is very
5 little chance of success, but there is every
6 chance of having a fantastic experience in the
7 fall woods and I would invite you gentlemen to
8 try it. I would be happy to take you.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you
10 for your comments. The next speaker on this
11 subject will be Mr. Kenny Guy.

12 MR. KENNY GUY: I appreciate y'all giving me
13 the opportunity to come up here and talk today.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the
15 microphone, please, Mr. Guy.

16 MR. KENNY GUY: I'm not real good with
17 microphones. If I lose my voice, I will just give
18 you a written statement; all right. But I talked
19 with Mr. Guy earlier, I don't know if we are
20 cousins or not, but maybe we will make a
21 connection later on.

22 (Mr. Guy and Commissioner Guy talking
23 at the same time.)

1 (Audience laughs.)

2 MR. KENNY GUY: Anyway, my name is Kenny Guy
3 from Childersburg, Talladega County, and I drove
4 up this morning to voice my opposition to the
5 decision this Board made on eliminating fall
6 turkey hunting. I got most of my information out
7 of the Daily Home articles, and one of the
8 publishers -- editors is here today. There was
9 several reasons given for doing it and to me none
10 of them would hold water. One said we are going
11 to unify the season. Well, I believe it was two
12 board meetings before y'all ununified the seasons
13 in deer in the south Alabama deal, if I could use
14 the word ununified. Another one was -- and I did
15 agree with this, y'all are going to be shocked,
16 but I agreed with one of the members, and I
17 forgot what his name was, when he said it's not
18 right for six counties to have fall turkey
19 hunting; it's just not right, and I agree with
20 that 110 percent. What is really right is to
21 allow those counties to keep their fall season
22 and test and analyze and open up fall turkey
23 hunting in every county in this State where the

1 numbers would justify it. It's simple. I don't
2 know why there has been such a big deal made out
3 of it. The centerpiece of Pilgrim's Thanksgiving
4 dinner was a wild turkey in November. So I don't
5 guess they had any biologists back then, but
6 there are still turkeys around. I guess that
7 does make a difference. And you can go through
8 the pastures and fields in most counties in this
9 state and see a multitude of turkeys out. And I
10 have seen an analysis that estimated between nine
11 and a half and ten turkeys per square mile on
12 average in Alabama which ranks Alabama number one
13 in that. I think Mississippi was number two with
14 about seven, seven and a half turkeys. We have
15 got 30 more percent than Mississippi; they have
16 fall turkey season. To me, if something isn't
17 broke, my daddy never did try to fix it. When it
18 broke down, he tried to fix it, but not before.
19 As an example of economics, I spend \$500 every
20 year in Talladega County on a hunting club for
21 the sole purpose of turkey hunting in the fall.
22 If my opportunity is taken away and it won't
23 be --

1 MS. JONES: Time.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead and sum it up.

3 MR. KENNY GUY: If this decision won't be
4 reversed, I'll take that money and add a little
5 bit more to it and go to the surrounding states
6 and buy their permit, stay in their motels, eat
7 at their restaurants, buy their gas. It's just a
8 two-barrel loss of revenue with people coming in
9 and in-state hunters going out. That's basically
10 it. I would like for Mr. Hatley to ask me a
11 question.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I'm sure that can be
13 accomplished.

14 MR. KENNY GUY: The same thing he asked
15 about attending the meetings. This is my first
16 one.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We appreciate it.

18 MR. KENNY GUY: This is my first one. Come
19 on, please.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Guy --

21 MR. KENNY GUY: I've never had to attend one
22 before because of the radical changes. The
23 boards before us, State Board of Conservation,

1 has done a tremendous job with getting the
2 numbers up. I mean, years of turkeys, it's just
3 unbelievable. And while the number is up here
4 and before our opportunities to enjoy our natural
5 resources goes down, it's just --

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I think you will find
7 this Board very concerned about these numbers and
8 just like during the -- to give you an example of
9 that, during the last meeting, this Board
10 questioned why the number of doe harvest in
11 northeast Alabama radically had to be changed
12 immediately and the brakes put on it and
13 everybody, oh, there are plenty of does. And
14 guess what, there may not be plenty of does.
15 There is a study out that Director Sykes and I
16 have looked at that could justify why that
17 happened and, again, this Board takes that very
18 seriously. And we don't want to have happen to
19 turkeys what happened to quail populations. If
20 you look at turkeys and quail, a turkey isn't
21 anything but a bird, then we lost that with quail
22 and we don't want to lose that with turkeys. And
23 we, in the hay days of turkeys, and I remember,

1 I'm old enough to remember the hay days of quail,
2 and we want to be extremely careful guarding that
3 resource and that's why this Board is very
4 concerned about that. I don't want anybody to be
5 mistaken. There isn't a personal thing with this
6 Board, it's concerning the resources. But, Mr.
7 Guy, we appreciate you coming to your first
8 meeting and hopefully you will be at a lot more.

9 MR. KENNY GUY: The reason I never been to
10 one because I never thought I had to. Nothing
11 upsets me very much but that upsets me.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Guy, I want you to
13 answer the same question I asked earlier. Why do
14 you think that you should receive a fall turkey
15 season when the other counties right now cannot
16 have one?

17 MR. KENNY GUY: Well, see, here again, this
18 Board is looking at the glass half empty. I
19 believe we could keep turkey hunting those six
20 counties and do that, increase to every county
21 that will support it. I am looking at the glass
22 -- I'm calling the population of turkeys in
23 Alabama a glass, is full and overflowing. Let

1 the people enjoy the natural resources, I mean.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you
3 for your response and thank you for coming today.
4 We have a question from Mr. Jones.

5 MR. JONES: You say you would like it
6 expanded, I want you to know that County
7 Commissions and Sheriff offices and people all
8 over this State for the past 30 years have
9 systemically closed down fall seasons throughout,
10 so I don't think it would be necessarily a
11 welcome back across that because it was purposely
12 set about to be closed down systematically one by
13 one. That's why it's reduced down to six
14 counties. And --

15 MR. KENNY GUY: Did they give the reasons?

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Guy, let Mr. Jones
17 finish.

18 MR. JONES: There were lot of reasons. It's
19 what the public wanted. And again, that is what
20 everyone wanted; that's been going on for a long
21 time.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog.

23 MR. HARTZOG: I'm going to ask the same

1 question I asked Mr. Oppenheimer. If we were to
2 agree to give you some fall days back, are you
3 willing to be fair to the rest of the people in
4 the State and give up days in the spring and do
5 you feel like -- the majority of the turkey
6 hunters I talked to, their love is spring turkey
7 season.

8 MR. KENNY GUY: I love it too.

9 MR. HARTZOG: How many names would be on the
10 petition -- how many names would be on the
11 petition not to lose their spring days? How many
12 days would you be willing to give up in the
13 spring for you to get fall days?

14 MR. KENNY GUY: I don't really see a give
15 and take thing really. You know, why should you
16 give up something that the population supports,
17 the population of turkeys supports it. I know
18 used to the season went from March 20th to April
19 25th. We give up -- we added ten days in the
20 spring and we got six weeks in the fall, five and
21 a half or six weeks.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: A little less than six
23 weeks.

1 MR. KENNY GUY: Five and a half. Why would
2 you even ask what would I give up. I mean, it's
3 a God given right to go out and harvest. We pay
4 for the -- the hunters and the fishermen pay for
5 this Department. I am telling you the Department
6 of Conservation has done a tremendous job through
7 the years, but why take away privileges now, why
8 even consider swapping out this for that. Those
9 charts, I can't see many people killed over one a
10 year anyway. Is that the way that I was looking
11 at it right?

12 MR. HARTZOG: But, I mean, in trying to be
13 fair to the other people in the State --

14 MR. KENNY GUY: Give them turkey hunting.

15 MR. HARTZOG: We have given them more days
16 as the years have gone by. They have got a
17 longer season now than they had five years ago;
18 right, Gary?

19 MR. KENNY GUY: Give us more days.

20 MR. HARTZOG: Well, why don't we just make
21 it 365 days a year.

22 MR. KENNY GUY: That's the question you
23 asked me, what would I give up. I don't see

1 where --

2 MR. HARTZOG: My whole concern is being fair
3 to the rest of the people out there that don't
4 live in the six counties that y'all live in.
5 And, of course, you say they can come in but, you
6 know, in years past, y'all lost days in the
7 spring for having that privilege.

8 MR. KENNY GUY: Ten days.

9 MR. HARTZOG: And so --

10 MR. KENNY GUY: Ten days and gained five and
11 a half weeks. I mean, y'all can look at that.
12 This year the gobbling was over 15 days before
13 the season went out basically.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Guy. The
15 next speaker will be Sammy Schillaci. Mr.
16 Schillaci. One more time, Mr. Schillaci.

17 The next speaker will be Johnny Ponder.

18 MR. PONDER: Thank y'all for letting me
19 come, Commissioner Guy, Board members. Some of
20 you I've talked to, I think, in the last few
21 weeks. Probably some of you have taken me off
22 your Christmas list; I'm not sure. But I've been
23 a turkey hunter all my life, my daddy and my

1 granddaddy. My granddaddy used to look down on a
2 man that would kill a turkey in the spring
3 because he said it was too easy. But because our
4 hunting culture has changed, it makes it easier
5 to kill a turkey and we want a fast drive-through
6 way to harvest our game now. It's a culture
7 change is what it is. The same principle is
8 behind the ten days given to the six counties or
9 parts of the six counties down in the south
10 because they wanted to hunt in the rut. It's
11 easier to kill a deer in the rut. Am I wrong or
12 right about that? That's the reason for it. So
13 that's the way it was. Traditionally, every
14 county in the state of Alabama had a turkey
15 season in the fall, but they didn't have a spring
16 season; there wasn't a spring season; it was all
17 fall. Now you go to Colbert County, there wasn't
18 any turkeys, but you can go up there and roam
19 around if you wanted to legally. In Clay,
20 Talladega, and Randolph County -- I can't speak
21 much for Monroe, Clarke, and Covington because I
22 don't know a lot about it, but in our three
23 counties, we have a huge amount of public land

1 that people can come from Henry County and hunt
2 in if they want to. I cannot go to Henry County
3 and hunt because I don't know anybody that owns
4 any land down there. It's public hunting, but
5 they can come up here and fall turkey hunt and
6 have the entire Talladega National Forest. A
7 huge majority of it is in Talladega and Clay
8 County and some of it goes up into Cleburne
9 County. Now Cleburne County is another county
10 that you could possibly do a fall season in
11 because it's got one of the highest incidences of
12 turkeys, I think, in the state of Alabama
13 according to Steve. It's a traditional thing for
14 me. And another thing about that too, the
15 tradition, let's talk about that just a second.
16 I may be older than some of you, but the season
17 comes in now the Saturday before Thanksgiving.
18 It used to come in the Friday before
19 Thanksgiving. Do you know why they changed that?
20 Because the schools were complaining because too
21 many people were skipping school to go hunting on
22 that first day of season, and that's when deer
23 hunting started to become popular. And, Mr.

1 Hartzog, that's when they started doing away with
2 the fall seasons systematically through the State
3 because deer hunting became more of what we were
4 doing. Back in my day, we never saw a deer
5 track. If we did, we would all pile in the car
6 and go look at it if somebody was to find one
7 because we had never seen one. It was something
8 we read about in Outdoor Life; that's the way it
9 was. But let me just tell you a little story and
10 then I am going --

11 MS. JONES: Time.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very quickly tell the
13 story.

14 MR. PONDER: There were two brothers. One
15 just graduated from high school and the other was
16 still in grade school. The older of the two got
17 a summer job before he started college. The
18 younger one day asked him, said will you take me
19 fishing tomorrow and the brother looked at him
20 and said sure, when I get in from work tomorrow,
21 I'm going to carry you fishing. So the next day
22 the little boy, he turned over everything in the
23 yard hunting grub worms and everything and picked

1 up his little 202. He couldn't wait for his
2 brother to get home because they were going
3 fishing. Well, when the brother got home, he ran
4 in the house and he said hey, I'm ready to go
5 fishing. I can't now, I've got to go to my
6 buddy's house and listen to music. Well, the
7 little boy was devastated beyond words.
8 He had planned, planned on going fishing all day.
9 He had his little Zebco 202 and he was ready to
10 go. And I guess the moral of that story is just
11 because something seems unimportant to you, it
12 doesn't mean it's not very important to another
13 group. And me being an 18-year member of the
14 Talladega County Board of Education, I live by
15 that every day with those little kids. And
16 that's kind of the way that I feel like we have
17 been done with the turkey season.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any questions from the
19 Board for Mr. Ponder? No questions. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: I have a question.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: And a comment. First of
23 all, I want you to know that I think all of us on

1 this Board respect individually the fact that
2 y'all want fall turkey season. It's not really a
3 personal issue and I even respect -- there are a
4 lot of traditions that I miss. You know, talking
5 about dove season and how things change. What
6 does happen is the way our public goes about
7 looking at what they want, when they want to do
8 it, how they hunt and all that, is part of what
9 we have to consider. And it's not always a
10 reflection on what we do up here that I feel is
11 on a personal nature that we are trying to look
12 out for the vast majority of the public and what
13 they want, as opposed to unfortunately that
14 affects a few adversely. And it's not -- so I
15 hope you understand that I don't ever see this
16 Board taking action in a way that is meant to
17 harm or hurt anybody else's personal, you know,
18 kind of enjoyments, you know, in what we do.
19 It's not that way. It's not something we want to
20 do, but you have to in certain cases balance
21 those interests for the betterment of the whole
22 hunting public. So I just want you to understand
23 that. And let me say this, so in that regard

1 what is important too then is when you write
2 things or people say things, you know -- you
3 know, it is important that you are careful about
4 what you say because I don't know one person on
5 this Board in the two years I have been here that
6 has had a personal agenda or come to me with
7 anything. They have always been interested in
8 what's good for the public, what's good for the
9 resource, because that is what we have to
10 balance, what's good for the resource and what's
11 good for the public. And trying to just do the
12 best job we can, as long as you understand that,
13 we can accept your complaints as long as you will
14 just understand where we are coming from and I
15 think we can all get along better where there are
16 not innuendos and insinuations or anything like
17 that. At least don't say them unless you are
18 willing to give us the, you know, backup for
19 saying there are back room deals or there is
20 something like that. So what's important for
21 this Board, you know, is for people to come
22 forward and just tell us what, you know, your
23 problem is and let us try to evaluate it and then

1 respond appropriately. We may not agree that's
2 fair, but it should be done in a way that it's
3 not harmful to each other. I mean, I hope you
4 would agree with that.

5 MR. PONDER: I understand that. I didn't
6 mean to insinuate that y'all were careless people
7 about that. I just meant to tell you that I am
8 trying to show you how important fall turkey
9 season was to me and my family and my kids; it's
10 always been that way. Another reason that the
11 fall season came in on that Friday is because the
12 hunters of those days wanted that turkey for
13 Thanksgiving. They needed it at least a week. I
14 actually saw that written down where they said
15 they would like to have a week before
16 Thanksgiving; and that's when they first started
17 turkey season.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I follow up?

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Commissioner.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Look, we all understand
21 your passion and the people that have said
22 something. But understand from the Board, that
23 we can look at you as an isolation. But just as

1 Mr. Hartzog was saying, if we took away days from
2 the spring, what do you think the reaction would
3 be. It would be overwhelming. I can guarantee
4 you that people would be mad at us for taking
5 away spring days. And so we are trying to
6 balance a lot of interests here.

7 (Mr. Ponder and Commissioner Guy
8 talking at the same time.)

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Address the Chairman.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Let me ask a question.
11 On the 25th of April, you wrote an email that
12 basically talked about a meeting that I was in
13 where I was quoted with a bunch of law
14 enforcement. Can you tell me -- there were
15 misrepresentations in that email, wherever you
16 got that information. Could you tell me your
17 source of that information so I can address them
18 personally somewhere because I felt like that
19 they apparently told you some things that weren't
20 true. Can you tell me who the source of that
21 information was from that email you sent me about
22 a meeting where I addressed the law enforcement?

23 MR. PONDER: Well, I would rather not reveal

1 the source.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Why wouldn't you if --

3 MR. PONDER: Even though it's not affiliated
4 with any of y'all.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Ponder, please
6 address the Chair.

7 MR. PONDER: I'm sorry.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Why wouldn't you want --
9 I mean, what is wrong -- I am willing to talk
10 about anything openly, but if there is a source
11 out there that felt like they had to go around my
12 back and tell you and you can't tell me, I am
13 concerned about that because that's what we are
14 dealing with right now is misinformation and
15 stuff. So it seems like to me it's only fair
16 that whoever told you that should be identified
17 because it had to be somebody at that meeting, I
18 assume.

19 MR. PONDER: If it's untrue --

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead and respond,
21 Mr. Ponder.

22 MR. PONDER: If that information is untrue,
23 let's just forget about it.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm sorry, I can't forget
2 about it.

3 MR. PONDER: I will retract the --

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: You won't tell me who
5 gave you the information?

6 MR. PONDER: No, sir, I would not do that.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: And that's because -- why
8 would you not tell me?

9 MR. PONDER: Well, I don't think it's fair
10 to who told me.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: In what regard? There
12 were 180 officers there. Why wouldn't it be
13 fair? Why wouldn't it be fair?

14 MR. PONDER: I don't know about the meeting
15 or how many people were there. I am just telling
16 you the person that told me, I am not going to
17 tell you who it is.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Did he ask you not to say
19 who it was?

20 MR. PONDER: You know, I don't know, but he
21 may have, but I wouldn't have done it anyway.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: It affects his
23 credibility and in some respect I hate to say

1 this, if you are not willing when you make an
2 allegation -- and I respect you, what you are
3 trying to do but you know, carefully what I am
4 saying is there was 180 officers and if that
5 person, whoever it is, can't stand up and man up
6 so I can address the misinformation, then I don't
7 think he is very credible, especially not to
8 stand up publicly.

9 MR. PONDER: I didn't say it was an officer.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Was it somebody in the
11 meeting?

12 MR. PONDER: Okay, I tell you what let's do,
13 let's just say that I fabricated the whole email;
14 okay.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Ponder, I have one
16 last question, unless the Board has any more. As
17 the rest has been asked, why should you have a
18 fall turkey season when others in this State that
19 are just as passionate can't have one in their
20 county?

21 MR. PONDER: Well, it's been a longer
22 tradition in our county than it has in other
23 counties, even though they had a fall season too

1 at one time or another; right?

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You are answering the
3 question, not me, Mr. Ponder.

4 MR. PONDER: They had -- why theirs was
5 taken away, whether it's just the Department or
6 whatever was alluded to a while ago, I don't
7 know, but they had one at one time. They are
8 very much welcome. Any of these other counties
9 are welcome to come to the Talladega National
10 Forest land, it's all Federal land, and hunt
11 turkeys in the forest. That's where I hunt. I'm
12 a forest land hunter and always have been.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.
14 We have one more question. Mr. Bunn.

15 MR. BUNN: I don't have a question. I just
16 want to make a comment and change gears a little
17 bit. I'm an avid turkey hunter myself. Me
18 personally, my personal preference, I can't speak
19 for the rest of the Board, is I think that turkey
20 hunting is a spring sport. And the method that I
21 understand that you use to kill a turkey in the
22 fall is real receptive to kill jakes. Now do you
23 mind telling me the method you use to kill a

1 turkey and do you agree with me that a jake is
2 more receptive to that method than, say, a mature
3 gobbler?

4 MR. PONDER: I am going be honest with you,
5 I don't know if I really got a method or not
6 because generally nothing I have ever done that
7 worked, it worked two times in a row. So I can't
8 tell you that I have got a method.

9 MR. BUNN: I go out, I find a turkey on the
10 roost gobbling, I set up, I try calling the
11 turkey, that's the method I use to kill a turkey.
12 Now do you hunt out of the ground blinds, do you
13 use calls, do you sit on the row, do you hunt
14 over --

15 MR. PONDER: What I try to do is get out and
16 do a lot of walking and try to bust up a bunch of
17 old gobblers. If y'all think you hear a lot of
18 gobbling in the spring, bust you up a bunch of
19 old two or three year olds and you will hear you
20 some gobbling in the fall. And a lot of people
21 say they don't gobble in the fall, well, they've
22 never fall turkey hunted if they believe that.

23 MR. BUNN: How do you make them gobble?

1 MR. PONDER: You don't have to make them
2 gobble. They can take care of that themselves.

3 MR. BUNN: You know, I've busted up a lot of
4 turkeys on that while I was deer hunting and when
5 I've busted them off the roost, I've never heard
6 them gobble.

7 MR. PONDER: Are they like old gobblers?

8 MR. BUNN: Yes.

9 MR. PONDER: I don't know about your turkey,
10 I haven't figured mine out yet.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you,
12 Mr. Ponder.

13 MR. PONDER: May I add one last little
14 comment about the story I told?

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very quickly get to the
16 end of the story.

17 MR. PONDER: That little boy was my baby
18 brother and I was the careless one that let him
19 down, so I just wanted to let you know about
20 that.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.
22 The next speaker is Clark Carpenter.

23 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Chairman. My

1 name is Clark Carpenter. I live in Talladega as
2 well. If I seem a little nervous, it's not
3 because I'm addressing you fellows, it's all
4 these game wardens in this room. Usually when I
5 am surrounded by that many, I'm trying to make
6 sure the feed seeds, our seeds -- feed wheat like
7 you guys were talking about. But thank you.
8 I've talked with Gunter and I have talked with
9 you, I believe, and Don on the phone about this
10 matter and I too appear before you to ask you to
11 reconsider --

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the
13 microphone, please, Mr. Carpenter.

14 MR. CARPENTER: I guess it's on; right? I
15 usually don't need one. I usually talk loud
16 enough. I too would ask you to reconsider your
17 decision on fall season. Let me say, and I think
18 Gunter will tell you this, Gunter has told me
19 that all you fellows are acting in good faith in
20 what's in the best interest of game management in
21 the State of Alabama, and I don't question that
22 one bit; I accept that. Good faith is the
23 standard. And I appreciate the fact that -- I

1 come making no accusations about inside dealings
2 or special treatment; I think Gunter will tell
3 you that as well. I have said that to him.

4 I want to talk to you, though, about the
5 basis of your decision, if I may. Gunter, you
6 were quoted by a fellow, and let me tell you I
7 have been around long enough to know if you get
8 quoted, that doesn't necessarily mean you said
9 it. I don't know this David Rainer fellow, but I
10 hope he quoted you correctly.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: He may have; I don't
12 know.

13 MR. CARPENTER: Because I agree with him 100
14 percent. You were quoted in the March meeting, I
15 think as saying, we need to have data to support
16 what we do and I hope that's an accurate quote
17 because, gentlemen, that's right. Gunter is
18 absolutely correct, and that should be the policy
19 of any organization that's managing wildlife. No
20 other consideration other than let's do the right
21 thing based upon data. But then I have to be
22 honest with you, I have a hard time squaring that
23 good policy which should be the principle that

1 guides this Board with what I read and what's
2 been represented to me. And Mr. Hatley quoted it
3 so it must be right about what happened in the
4 March meeting. The motion was made, let's cut
5 out fall turkey hunting period. Do we have a
6 second? Yes, Mr. Jones. Any discussion? Yes,
7 Dr. Lemme. Is there a biological reason to close
8 turkey season during the fall? Answer, Mr. Moody
9 -- and I understand that's your wildlife
10 biologist that you rely on. No. When I read Mr.
11 Hatley's negative, I took it to mean nothing
12 against Mr. Lemme, but that he was agreeing no,
13 there is no biological reason to eliminate fall
14 turkey hunting. And, gentlemen, I can't square
15 those two statements. I can't square we need to
16 have data to support what we do versus let's do
17 this, is there any data to support; no. I can't
18 square those two things. And if you can, I'm am
19 all ears. But what if you can't, does that
20 dictate --

21 MS. JONES: Time.

22 MR. CARPENTER: Then good faith dictates it
23 to be considered enough.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You can sum it up, Mr.
2 Carpenter.

3 MR. CARPENTER: To say to us fellows, you
4 are right, we want to act on data and we acted
5 without data, so we are going to reconsider this
6 and see if we can't maximize hunting in Alabama
7 everywhere we can to the extent that we can and
8 do that. And, Mr. Martin, you are new to this
9 Board, you are our District man, I am on your
10 side. But I have got to tell you in a short
11 period of time, you've sure got a lot of people
12 frustrated and mad at you, and I really don't
13 think that's fair because I don't think you
14 really knew that you were really aware of these
15 things in your District or that there was a lot
16 of opposition to it. But I am asking you as our
17 representative to make a motion to reinstate the
18 fall season and let this Board have an
19 opportunity to say okay, we've proved we are in
20 good faith and you are right, Clark, it's a fact
21 we didn't have the right data. We'll get the
22 right data.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Carpenter, we are

1 going to sum it up right there. Does the Board
2 have any questions for Mr. Carpenter?

3 I've got one question for Mr. Carpenter and
4 then the final question that everybody had. I
5 understand that the Commissioner had asked you if
6 he could try to ask the Board to get you part of
7 your days back around those traditional days to
8 fall turkey hunt, would you be acceptable to that
9 and that your answer was that you came back and
10 said no, you would rather not have it, that you
11 would rather proceed without those days or get it
12 all back; would that be correct?

13 MR. CARPENTER: Not exactly. He asked me to
14 check the temperatures, so to speak, because I
15 know a lot of the old boys. I checked around and
16 it was a real negative response and I told him, I
17 said, you know, as a matter of fact, I don't
18 think that's the right way to go either. Here is
19 why. Grady, I know you from somewhere. I've
20 seen you.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Would you address the
22 Chairman.

23 MR. CARPENTER: I know your Board member,

1 Mr. Grady, from somewhere. I think he and I went
2 to school together or something. It's not a
3 matter of what we give you and what we don't give
4 you. It's not a matter of fairness to other
5 counties. It's this, we have got a great
6 resource here. We are going to manage it best on
7 data and based on that data we are going to open
8 up as much as we can to as many people as we can.
9 We are not going to worry about who is happy
10 because they don't have it. Let me tell you
11 something, I don't want you to make this decision
12 because we are up here raising Cain. That
13 wouldn't be right. That's not doing your job. I
14 don't want you to make this decision based upon
15 what some people whine about it being fair.
16 That's not the basis for your decision. The
17 basis for your decision is let's manage this
18 turkey population so that we can open it up to as
19 many people, as many places as often as possible,
20 and at the same time make sure that we are not
21 hurting the resource. Now I cannot figure out
22 one way if you don't have turkey hunting in any
23 fall county, how in the world are you going to

1 collect data to decide whether or not fall turkey
2 hunting hurts spring turkey hunting. What are
3 you going to compare it to? How are you going to
4 compare counties that do that and don't have it?
5 That makes no sense to me. And I know y'all want
6 to, I know you are trying.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's a good point you
8 bring. And in closing, again the same question,
9 why would you be in favor of your county having a
10 fall season when other counties with passionate
11 turkey hunters cannot?

12 MR. CARPENTER: First of all, it's not my
13 county and it's not only the residents of my
14 county that can hunt. It's six counties that
15 this article that was put up here a while ago
16 pointed out our turkey population -- and I wrote
17 it down because I read the last sentence of the
18 excerpt that you gave us -- shows an overall
19 population growth in Alabama. These counties
20 have plenty of turkeys and therefore let's let
21 people hunt in those counties and as the data
22 justifies it, let's open it up to other counties
23 or as the data doesn't justify it or militates

1 the history, let's close it in one of those
2 counties or two of those six counties, but not
3 arbitrarily say no more fall turkey hunting
4 without any doubt.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I agree with your
6 comment and I want to speak for the Board. The
7 Board has gotten a lot of information they have
8 conveyed to me during this past month of turkey
9 populations. I think a lot of them went to the
10 public to find out what they thought turkey
11 populations were. There is a great concern of
12 turkey populations and it seems to be in the
13 southern half of the State right now, Mr.
14 Carpenter. I know myself, not counting what the
15 rest of the Board surveyed, I called who I
16 believe is the largest landowner in Marengo
17 County, Mr. Walter Tutt, and asked Walter what he
18 thought. He said it was by far and away the
19 worst season they have had. I said was that due
20 to the late spring, he said absolutely not. He
21 said places where we used to see turkey tracks in
22 the road, he said now all you see is hog tracks,
23 and their families can't truthfully say -- he

1 said he thought there was far less turkey hunting
2 in the State. They didn't kill one turkey off
3 that tract this year and he believes the problem
4 is hogs destroying the turkeys' nests.

5 I have talked to Director Sykes about
6 getting some data about hog and turkey
7 interaction to study exactly what you said, let's
8 get some data and find out because we are
9 interested and this Board is interested to make
10 sure the resource was substantiated by harvest
11 and let's find out if there truly is a decline in
12 turkey population in these counties and look at
13 all of them. I'd like all y'all's answers to the
14 question. I think they bear relevance to this
15 situation. But let's be sensitive, let's not
16 have happen to turkeys what happened to quail
17 also. And in that not only from Mr. Tutt, I
18 talked to Sumter County, there seems be large
19 tracts. I talked to the owners of a 10,000-acre
20 tract that said turkeys, where we used to be one
21 of the best tracts in the State, were
22 non-existent right now. So I want the Board, and
23 the Board is going to make this decision, but I

1 want the Board to look at all these facts, then I
2 want to look at these guys, please, and for what
3 we bring forth, I and the Commissioner
4 appreciates negatively the misinformation that
5 was put out there, but sometimes in the heated
6 moment, that happens; we understand that. But I
7 assure you this Board is very concerned about
8 this topic and it's going to review it very
9 carefully today. We appreciate all y'all coming
10 and all y'all speaking on that.

11 Now is there any other comment?

12 Commissioner.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Clark. I know
14 how tough it is as an attorney for you to stand
15 up there. I know you want your time. I just
16 want to say this. I understand that there is
17 also -- there is a lot of reasons -- we discussed
18 -- it's multi-faceted, it's not just one, and I
19 think you realize that. But understand that when
20 we say there is data, there are some of us who,
21 not necessarily saying that data is just totally
22 bad, but there is a debate about the reliability
23 of the data particularly on a county-by-county

1 basis. So I just want to be sure on what when
2 you say well, there is no data to support taking
3 it away or whatever, I am just telling you and I
4 believe there is a reasonable debate that you can
5 say, as we say in our business, about that
6 amongst many people on the Board as well as in
7 the Department and otherwise about that. Again,
8 trying to use the tools we have and improve on
9 those, which we are trying to do for the public
10 through all kinds of different things, game
11 cameras, you know, we didn't used to have
12 surveys. I just want to say when you say that
13 there is no data, I'm just saying I don't
14 necessarily agree with that.

15 MR. CARPENTER: I --

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Carpenter --

17 MR. CARPENTER: He is addressing me. Why
18 can't I address him?

19 (Talking at the same time.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: All I'm saying is that
21 Gary and I have had this discussion. It's a fair
22 discussion that I should have with my staff, I
23 think --

1 MR. CARPENTER: Absolutely.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- is to reasonably
3 debate these issues to make sure it's not a
4 reflection on us disagreeing, but just having the
5 same debate that I would think you would want me
6 to have as a taxpayer to make sure that I think
7 and the Board knows that we are doing the right
8 thing. When you say that, just please understand
9 the context of that where we say do we think
10 there is data. Some do, some don't, there is
11 reasonable debate on that.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Carpenter, any
13 comments?

14 MR. CARPENTER: I was going by the fact that
15 your own Wildlife biologist when asked the
16 question is there any biological reason to remove
17 the fall turkey season, turns to this Board who
18 employs him and I assume relies upon him and he
19 says no. And you give us this survey, and I
20 think it's very good and agree. By the way, I'm
21 all for Game Check.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: You said that, thank you.

23 MR. CARPENTER: I think it's very good. I

1 would challenge somebody to show me anything in
2 that survey data that you have that calls for
3 taking turkey season away in the fall from these
4 six counties when the idea is to maximize it.
5 Now everybody has an opinion; hogs is true; bad
6 years is true; drought is true. I can't leave
7 here without telling you my opinion why you have
8 got reduced population in some counties. It's
9 decoys. Y'all never should have done that.
10 There is a lot of, lot of, lot of, lot of turkeys
11 killed on decoys that I'll never kill. If I had
12 been there that day without decoy, he wouldn't
13 have gotten killed. But everybody's got an
14 opinion and that's mine. But I mean, you've got
15 two percent of the total turkeys are killed in
16 the fall based upon that 1,100 versus 47, 48.
17 How in the world with two percent ever -- the
18 statement made was it might get you to have a 60
19 percent effect in the spring. How is 2 in 100
20 turkeys killed in a year, killed in the fall,
21 have any chance of having a 60 percent effect on
22 turkey hunting in the spring. It can't be.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Carpenter, thank you

1 for your comments. The next speaker will be Paul
2 Farmer.

3 MR. FARMER: My name is Paul Farmer. I'm
4 from Shelby County, Alabama and I'm here about
5 small game hunting. I noticed that everybody
6 here today is pretty much about turkey hunting.
7 I would like to see this reconsideration of all
8 this stuff going on about extending the deer
9 season go any further than where it's at. All of
10 us at the Alabama Dog Hunters Association have
11 been going around to all of our groups and trying
12 to get the small game hunters involved in our
13 groups to give them somewhere to go small game
14 hunting now. You know, times are getting tough
15 and they just ain't got no place to hunt. But
16 maybe it can stay down there and then as they
17 were saying, the data, up here where I live at,
18 our bucks are rutting way before deer season ever
19 goes out, so we kill our does too so we don't
20 have to worry about that. We don't have an over
21 achieve of doe problems. I would just like to
22 see more and more stuff done about solving the
23 issues with dog hunting period, whether it's

1 rabbit hunting, dog deer hunting, coon hunting,
2 hog hunting. You know, us guys, we just love to
3 hear dogs run. It don't matter what it is, we
4 just want to hear them run. And I would like to
5 see y'all think more about the way to get us back
6 into the hunting. License sales would go way
7 back up. I've got a group of guys I know right
8 now that would go back to buying licenses if they
9 could go back to running dogs. Once they were
10 doing away with all the dog hunting, they just
11 said to heck with it, they would just quit.
12 That's all I had to say today. Appreciate it.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.
14 The next speaker is John Ward. If everybody can
15 hang in there, we are going to make it through
16 our speakers and then we will take a break.

17 Go ahead, Mr. Ward.

18 MR. WARD: Good morning, I know you have a
19 rough time, but maybe God will be with you. I
20 want to speak on our Dog Hunting Association. I
21 know Don does a good job. I hear a lot of the
22 people working with him, I am working with him in
23 different counties. We want more dogs open up,

1 you know. And with our young youth being on the
2 street, I used to be a narcotic agent in Texas
3 and I have seen a lot of kids messed up on drugs.
4 And also, you know, to keep these kids occupied
5 by hunting, they are not going to have time to
6 get in trouble. We had a good youth hunt last
7 year. I hope we have a good one this year and I
8 hope we have a good year. Bucks and picket go in
9 the rut earlier a lot of places around and it
10 goes out, but really all I say is to be fair, be
11 equal, don't give in and don't give up. Thank
12 you.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.
14 The next speaker is Jim Dye.

15 MR. DYE: Good morning. My name is Jim Dye.
16 I live in Leeds, Alabama, hunt in Greene County.
17 I would like to reference an article in the
18 2011-2012 Hunting and Fishing Digest. Are you
19 doing your part to protect and ensure the future
20 of Alabama, the hunting heritage of Alabama. I
21 have to ask that question over. When it comes to
22 dog hunting, that's my heritage and my group's
23 heritage. A lot of people go way back to years

1 and years to dog hunting, whether it's deer
2 hunting, rabbit hunting, you know, we like to
3 hear our dogs run like John Ward just said. And
4 I have to ask that question. We want to keep
5 doing what we are doing, we want to do it
6 legally, we don't want to offend anybody else,
7 but we do want to keep our hunting the way it is.
8 And it will bring more people in.
9 My children like to hunt. Very far in the
10 distant future when I have grandchildren, I want
11 them to be able to go with me. I want to take
12 them dog hunting, want to show them that, what my
13 heritage was.

14 In reference to the southwest Alabama, ten
15 days of dog hunting have been taken away from
16 that area with an extension and I ask if there is
17 a way to find out how to get those ten days given
18 back to that area for dog hunting -- you know,
19 it's already a shorter season anyway, but there
20 is ten days there that these people in that area
21 that lease lands and put money into that area to
22 dog hunt on their hunting club, they have lost
23 that ten days of dog hunting. Mr. Hartzog asked

1 the question about, you know, is it fair to give
2 turkey hunters, you know, in the fall, is it
3 fair. Well, is it fair for those people there
4 that's paid money to hunt in that area to lose
5 their ten days; is it fair? I want to see the
6 heritage continue. I'd like the Board to
7 consider anything they can in that period. Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Commissioner.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Do you stalk hunt after
11 the season is over?

12 MR. DYE: Very little; very, very little. I
13 do take my children. They get bored with it
14 pretty quick; they are young. Like I said, we do
15 go just because, you know, an opportunity to
16 harvest the deer, take advantage of it. I do
17 very little stalk hunting.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Dye.
19 Any other questions? Mr. Bunn.

20 MR. BUNN: You hunt in Greene County; right?

21 MR. DYE: Yes.

22 MR. BUNN: So this doesn't affect you?

23 MR. DYE: It doesn't affect me right now.

1 I'm just really speaking on behalf of the Dog
2 Association.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, sir. The
4 next speaker is Susan Morrow.

5 MS. MORROW: Commissioner Guy, Chairman,
6 Members of the Board, I'm Susan Morrow. I'm from
7 Mobile, Alabama. With the loss of the ten dog
8 days in the southwest area and the season being
9 short six days, that's going to be a total of
10 sixteen days of dog hunting that we are going to
11 lose. And we have 37 management areas in this
12 State. We are allowed to dog hunt on four of
13 them and two of them December 1st falls on Boykin
14 and Blue Springs and I ask that you consider
15 moving that date for the dog deer hunters so that
16 we don't lose that on the management area. Also,
17 I would like to ask y'all to look at on the
18 Scotch Management area to cut back on the does
19 that are being taken there because when we go
20 there, we are not seeing the deer that we have
21 been seeing. And when we turn our dogs loose,
22 it's taking 45 minutes to an hour to jump. They
23 are hearing a lot of cutting and so to a lot of

1 our hunters, we are thinking about not going
2 there because there are too many does being taken
3 there. And also I would like y'all to consider
4 the hog hunting to open up the management area
5 because we have several that already have special
6 hunts for hogs. We would just like to please be
7 able to bring the dogs in and take care of the
8 hog problems there.

9 And also I would like to ask the question, I
10 don't know this answer so I would like to ask, is
11 there a law in Alabama that only allows us to
12 deer hunt so many days a year? Mr. Dodd?

13 MR. DODD: No.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead, Ms. Morrow.

15 MS. MORROW: I'm in deer mode right now;
16 okay. So I don't know that question and can
17 somebody answer that for me, please.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dodd.

19 MR. DODD: No, there is no law that
20 restricts. Those seasons are set on an annual
21 basis by the Commissioner.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Ms. Morrow.

23 MS. MORROW: Thank y'all so much. Please

1 consider my dates.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner Guy.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: But there is a reason we
4 have to set season and bag limits, you
5 understand, for deer and every other species
6 because biologically we have to look at those
7 issues. What I want to know is you mentioned --
8 how many Wildlife Management areas do we allow
9 dog hunting on?

10 MS. MORROW: Four.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: How many are in the zone
12 that we have extended the season? Any?

13 MS. MORROW: Three.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Three of them are in that
15 zone; is that right, Gary? Have you talked to
16 Mr. Moody or Ray or anything about what we might
17 could do on the WMAs more this year? Have you
18 had an opportunity to talk with them?

19 MS. MORROW: No, sir, I haven't.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: We don't need to go into
21 it now, but I would like for you to get with them
22 and then I'm sure I will talk to them and
23 understand if there are other opportunities on

1 some WMAs, which I think I mentioned to you at
2 the last meeting that we need to look at. So I
3 appreciate you bringing that up again. Thank
4 you.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Morrow.
6 One more question. Mr. Hartzog.

7 MR. HARTZOG: Question, Susan. You were
8 talking about extending in the hogs, will the
9 same dogs that you run deer with run the hogs?

10 MS. MORROW: No, sir. You have bait dogs,
11 you have catch dogs, and they are usually
12 catahoula curs or bull dogs. And all the hog
13 hunters that I know, their dogs don't do anything
14 but the hogs. They will bait them and catch them
15 and that's all they want and it will cut down on
16 the hog population, I promise you that.

17 MR. HARTZOG: You know, in hearing the
18 concerns on the turkeys for hog degradation and
19 all and in order to compensate since southwest
20 Alabama is the area where you said we've got
21 three management areas that y'all hunt something
22 -- and we will discuss it later in maybe new
23 business -- but something maybe for them to think

1 about is after the February 10th, give them,
2 since they have lost ten days, give them ten days
3 of hog hunting on those WMAs; I mean, as a
4 possibility. And that will be doing us a favor
5 getting rid of the hogs.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Morrow.

7 MS. MORROW: Thank y'all.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Next speak is Don
9 Knight.

10 MR. KNIGHT: Good morning. My name is Don
11 Knight. I live in Anniston, I hunt in Barbour
12 County, and I'm State President of Alabama Dog
13 Hunters Association. The first thing I would
14 like to say is, Commissioner, you are right in
15 one thing you said a while ago about in the heat
16 of a lot of things that have been going on
17 between the Advisory Board and myself and a lot
18 of other people that are here, a lot of things
19 have been said in the heat that's pretty tough
20 and we need to try to cut those out, work
21 together as we have in the past, and make things
22 go on. We need to do what's good, not what's
23 bad. And I want to bring a little something to

1 you. We get a lot of bad publicity and stuff
2 from a dog running across somebody's land; we
3 understand that. But I want to tell you about a
4 meeting we had Saturday, we had a big fish fry
5 down at Stockton. Susan and the group did a
6 magnificent job. We had 400 people come in and
7 sign our book that were there. They didn't all
8 stay, but they came and went. We had 200 new
9 members join our Association on this one day;
10 that's fantastic. We had enough fish to feed a
11 thousand people, I believe, but I am so proud of
12 our organization and our association. When the
13 meeting was over, they took that fish, some of
14 the local people knew where there were some needy
15 people, families that needed fish, and we went
16 out and gave those people the fish that was left
17 over. So I want you to understand the dog
18 hunters also want to try to do what's good.
19 That's why we have been trying to get our
20 counties to make our image better. People are
21 still living in the past. 15, 18, 20 years ago,
22 people used to beg us to come in with our dogs
23 and kill every deer we seen on their property

1 because it was killing their crops. Nowadays
2 they think there's a profit in it and it's not as
3 popular. We understand that and we are trying to
4 work to make things where we can keep it going
5 because it is a heritage, been around forever. I
6 had a couple of things. One of them is, Dan,
7 Commissioner, when y'all do your hunting survey,
8 Dan you mentioned to it before, I would like to
9 have a place on that survey in the counties where
10 deer hunting by dogs is allowed to place how many
11 deer we kill. I think you will find on the basis
12 of equal numbers, that the dog hunters kill a lot
13 more deer than standard still hunters.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You're talking about on
15 Game Check, Don?

16 MR. KNIGHT: Yes, I'm talking about on Game
17 Check. If we could put that on there somewhere
18 in the counties where it is accepted to see how
19 many deer we do kill, I think it would be
20 interesting data to maybe help us in the future
21 or maybe help us get some places open with the
22 permit system that had been closed down. It may
23 be profit, it may get more people back in

1 hunting, and that's what we are looking for. One
2 other thing --

3 MS. JONES: Time.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead and sum it up.

5 MR. KNIGHT: One thing I wanted to be clear
6 with this Board, I sent y'all a form on some
7 information about the conception dates on deer.
8 Back before the last meeting, I sent each member
9 one and I hope you got it. There seems to be
10 some question as to that being written up
11 favorable in my area. It's not meant that way.
12 I want you, if you will, I want to ask you to
13 take the report I sent you, get the report on
14 conception date up through 2012, look at what I
15 put on there, and make your own judgment; okay.
16 Look at what I put on there, read my comments
17 because I don't want this Board to ever think I
18 am doing anything wrong or construing anything
19 unfavorable or favorable for me. I've stood
20 before you too many years and got a whole lot of
21 folks on this Board and everywhere. And
22 understand when I tell them something it's a
23 fact. And sometimes I can't -- as we heard

1 recently, I still can't get the backup on those
2 facts and I hate that and I won't accept any more
3 information unless we get those facts as to who
4 backs them up and all. We can tell you we won't
5 do that. But that's all I have got to say.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Knight.
7 Mr. Hartzog.

8 MR. HARTZOG: Don, you told me some good
9 news this morning that you didn't relate to the
10 group about what the Dog Hunters Association was
11 going to do to try to help small game hunters.

12 MR. KNIGHT: We are promoting our
13 organizations. We've got four new chapters down
14 in southwest Alabama just last Saturday that
15 opened up. And what we are trying to promote
16 with our organization is for our dog deer hunters
17 to bring the rabbit hunters in, let them hunt
18 during the week when we've got the land, I will
19 let them hunt on our land down there after our
20 season goes out in Barbour County. We want to
21 take the responsibility of giving our small game
22 hunters more opportunity to hunt on our land.

23 MR. HARTZOG: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Knight.

2 The next speaker is Chris Hill.

3 MR. HILL: I'm Chris Hill from Franklin
4 County. I believe y'all had a letter handed to
5 each one of y'all from the Sheriff of Franklin
6 County about the dog hunting in Franklin County.
7 We would just like -- the dog hunters in Franklin
8 County ask that we be given a possibility of a
9 permit system or whatever for Franklin County for
10 dog hunting, even if it's just in part of the
11 county, the west end of the county. There is a
12 lot of land in the west end of the county
13 suitable for dog hunting and a lot of good clubs
14 and a lot of good members. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.
16 Okay. The last speaker will be Paul Jeffreys.

17 MR. JEFFREYS: Chairman, Commissioner, thank
18 you for allowing me speak. I'm Paul Jeffreys.
19 I'm from Lamar County in the northwest section of
20 the State. I have been coming to these meetings
21 for a long time and I think the only two that's
22 left is Mr. Hatley and Mr. Moultrie. I think
23 y'all -- when I started, y'all were on the Board.

1 I see a lot of new faces. Y'all have my sympathy
2 because I look at y'all as y'all are judges and
3 being in the legal field, you can tell me that a
4 judge has to make a decision. And when he makes
5 that decision, he has got both sides there and
6 somebody is going to get upset about it. But
7 that being said, I want to thank you for the
8 decisions that you have made because it seems as
9 though you are basing it on the biology and the
10 statistics that you are getting from the
11 biologists in the Department. We came to y'all
12 in our county, Lamar County, we came to y'all
13 several years ago, my son who is 13 now had just
14 been born, so that's when we started asking y'all
15 for help in our section of the State. You gave
16 us help. It has been a wonderful, wonderful
17 experience, has improved everything, and I just
18 want to ask y'all to maintain our seasons and bag
19 limits in our section of the State as they are.
20 Don't change anything. It's great. We are
21 enjoying better seasons. We are enjoying better
22 hunting. The wildlife populations are great.
23 And just being the last speaker, I want to thank

1 y'all for what you have done and ask y'all to
2 keep up the good work. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Jeffreys.
4 The Board will now take a recess and we will
5 convene back at 12:30 promptly. Thank you.

6 (Recess.)

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If everybody would take
8 their seats, we will reconvene. The next order
9 of business will be old business. I will start
10 with some open issues I show from the last
11 meeting. We had a turtle harvest regulation that
12 has Wildlife and Fisheries materials on this,
13 Raymond Jones question. Director Sykes.

14 MR. SYKES: At the request of Mr. Jones,
15 looking into Mr. Harbin and Ms. Harbin's request
16 for being able to trap breeder turtles, our
17 staff, both Enforcement and Wildlife, looked into
18 it. We have come up with a permit system that we
19 feel that is very fair. It's in all of y'all's
20 package. What needs to be done, if y'all approve
21 of the permit, Mr. Jones, I assume you need to
22 make a motion because we will have to amend one
23 of the regulations.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any more questions from
2 the Board? Mr. Jones? Very good. Thank you,
3 Director. The next one is Mr. Dobbs. You asked
4 about the discussion of a vanity tag. Any other
5 further discussion on or recommendations?

6 MR. DOBBS: No motions today, Mr. Chairman,
7 but it's certainly something that over the period
8 of the next few months we are going to explore
9 with Dr. Moody and Director Sykes about how we
10 can bring this to fruition.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good, Mr. Dobbs.
12 Dr. Lemme, anything else on the dove hunting and
13 agricultural planting? I think you went over it
14 thoroughly, but anything else?

15 DR. LEMME: No, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions from
17 the Board on that? We appreciate your work on
18 that.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I just as an
20 addendum?

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Just to make sure --
23 maybe we did say it, it's been a long day

1 already. This is posted online; right?

2 DR. LEMME: Yes. It's available online
3 through the ACES website and there is a hundred
4 copies out in the other room for pickup.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I just ask? It's
6 kind of hard sometimes to get through that
7 website. What is it under for the people that
8 want to go look, if you don't mind.

9 DR. LEMME: Why don't I also -- I will work
10 with our staff so it gets cross listed so it can
11 be accessible on your website.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: That would be awesome.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's on our website in two
14 different places.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: The new stuff is?

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Is it just a link?

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER:
19 outdooralabama.com/hunting.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: But is there a link for
21 like dove hunting on there specifically? We will
22 work on that. We will work on that and make sure
23 we get it.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dobbs.

2 MR. DOBBS: One question for Dr. Lemme. Is
3 this final? You made a comment about the fact
4 that NFWS was going to review it, talk to them.
5 You are going to?

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: I made the comment the
7 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will -- my
8 understanding is they go by what the Extension
9 Office puts out. What we did as a courtesy is we
10 sent that to them just so they would know there
11 had been some changes and I am just working with
12 them to see if there are any comments. If there
13 are comments, as I told Dr. Lemme and staff, I
14 will let them know. All the enforcement and
15 everybody will know. We will share that with the
16 Board. We are hopeful that they will just say we
17 got it. And then I am trying to just work to
18 make sure, again, that we can start promoting
19 dove hunting, legal dove hunting, but something
20 that everybody understands what they can and
21 can't do.

22 MR. DOBBS: Thank you very much.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Lemme.

1 DR. LEMME: What Commissioner Guy and I are
2 trying to do is to make sure the enforcement
3 group from both the State Division and the U.S.
4 Fish and Wildlife have the same understanding in
5 Alabama.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's excellent. Very
7 good. The next order of old business and, Mr.
8 Martin, I think you wanted to bring forth a
9 motion on the fall turkey season.

10 MR. MARTIN: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would read that.

12 MR. MARTIN: I make a motion to approve fall
13 turkey season for the counties of Clarke, Clay,
14 Covington, Monroe, Randolph, and Talladega for
15 2013-2014 hunting year as follows: November 23rd
16 through November 30th, December 21st through
17 January 1st, 2014 and further to approve similar
18 dates for those counties for the 2014-15 hunting
19 year, the exact dates which will be approved by
20 the Advisory Board at a later date. The above
21 season for fall turkey hunting will be subject to
22 review on a yearly basis based on data received
23 by the Game Check system and other available

1 information.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a second?

3 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We've got a motion and a
5 second. Discussion on the topic? Commissioner.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thanks, Dan. I just want
7 to say that for the Board to consider this, that
8 everybody does have a passion for what they love
9 and I appreciate, as I told Mr. Oppenheimer and
10 the others, that they have a passion for what
11 they love, and while we often disagree on how we
12 get to places, you know, what we do need to do is
13 continue to talk in this thing. And I think that
14 this is a good compromise in the short term
15 understanding, as I have explained to them that,
16 you know, as we get data, we can share that data,
17 we will go over that data, and we will try to do
18 what's right. One of the reasons that I have
19 looked at this and thought it was a good idea is
20 because it really concentrates on the traditional
21 times when the children and other family members
22 can be available, which is around Thanksgiving
23 holidays, and the Christmas holidays, all the way

1 through the end of the year. And while I realize
2 that probably the ones that spoke do not believe
3 that's enough days, we have also talked to some
4 others, and I'm not representing any names that,
5 you know, acquiesced it, it's fair, may not like
6 it but it's fair as a starting point to try to
7 get to where we are. And for those on the Board
8 that have some concern, I am just asking that
9 considering that it is a small number of -- you
10 know, the information as it exists is a small
11 number, that it's a reasonable request to at
12 least give back some days and let's see where we
13 can go forward.

14 So anyway, I just appreciate everybody's
15 attention to that and I appreciate everybody's
16 concern, as I said earlier, and how much the
17 Board wants to know about these things and makes
18 good decisions and I just want to acknowledge
19 that again.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. Any other
21 comments? The motion as read by Mr. Martin just
22 now to approve the following fall turkey seasons
23 for the counties of Clarke, Clay, Covington,

1 Monroe, Randolph, and Talladega for the 2013-14
2 hunting years as follows: November 23rd through
3 November 30th and December 21st through January
4 1st, 2014. Further to approve similar dates of
5 those counties for the 2014-15 hunting year, the
6 exact dates of which will be approved by the
7 Advisory Board at a later date. The above season
8 for fall turkey hunting shall be subject to
9 review on a yearly basis based on data received
10 through the Game Check system and other available
11 information. All those for the motion, raise
12 your hand? We have Mr. Ainsworth for, Mr. Martin
13 for, Mr. Hartzog for, Mr. Dobbs for, Dr. Lemme
14 for. All those against? Let the record show Mr.
15 Hatley against, Dr. Strickland against, Mr. Bunn
16 against, and Raymond Jones against. The motion
17 carries and passes.

18 Mr. Martin, I think you had one more motion
19 you wanted to make.

20 MR. MARTIN: The Conservation Advisory Board
21 members --

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak up, Jeff.

23 MR. MARTIN: I would like to make a motion

1 that the Conservation Advisory Board members
2 representing the six counties of Clarke, Clay,
3 Covington, Monroe, Randolph, and Talladega and
4 the Commissioner of Conservation shall upon
5 request be committed to meeting with citizens in
6 those counties during the coming 2014 hunting
7 year for the purpose of giving further input on
8 the subject of fall turkey hunting season in
9 future years in those counties.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Do we have a second?

11 MR. AINSWORTH: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a motion and a
13 second. Any discussion, Commissioner, on that.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: No. I think that it is
15 important as we continue and we have been
16 starting out with deer and I think we need to do
17 it with turkeys. We need to just try to have
18 meetings and we will do it with everybody. We
19 have a lot of user groups out there to the extent
20 we can try to get around the State and
21 particularly here since we got this issue and
22 meet with some folks. I am making a commitment
23 on behalf of myself and the Governor and

1 everybody else that we are willing to do that so
2 we can receive input. And not only on fall but
3 on spring so, you know, that we balance those
4 interests and we understand what everybody wants
5 and how we do that. So I would like to see this
6 motion pass so I can make sure those people know
7 we are committed to go out there and do that.
8 And by the way, it not only says me and those
9 representatives, but we welcome anybody else that
10 would be willing to come down there and hear the
11 conversation too. So I just thought the motion
12 could be more or less restricted to me and the
13 people from the representative counties.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We got a motion and a
15 second. Discussion is finished. The motion
16 stated again: The Conservation Advisory Board
17 members representing the six counties of Clarke,
18 Clay, Covington, Monroe, Randolph, and Talladega
19 and the Commissioner of Conservation shall upon
20 request be committed to meeting with citizens in
21 those counties during the coming 2013-2014
22 hunting year for the purpose of getting further
23 input on the subject of fall turkey hunting

1 seasons in future years in those counties. All
2 those in favor, raise your hand. All opposed?
3 Let the record show all for except Mr. Hatley,
4 one opposed. Motion carries.

5 All right. Any other old business?

6 MR. JONES: Do we need to make the turtle
7 motion now or in new business?

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You can make it now.

9 MR. JONES: Thank you, sir. I would like to
10 make a motion to approve the recommended proposed
11 regulation by the Department to permit a licensed
12 turtle farmer to trap turtles for breeding
13 purposes.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a motion. Is
15 there a second?

16 (Seconded by two Board members.)

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a motion and a
18 second. Any discussion? The motion as Mr. Jones
19 has read it, all those in favor, raise your hand.
20 All opposed? Let the record show that the motion
21 passes unanimously. Any other motions? Any
22 other business?

23 (Discussion held.)

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a written
2 motion or do we just need to say as presented by
3 Game and Fish or Dr. Lemme? If the Board will
4 stand at ease until we get a motion.

5 Dr. Strickland.

6 DR. STRICKLAND: I would like to make a
7 motion, Mr. Chairman, it shall be unlawful to
8 hunt mourning or white-winged doves over fields
9 that are planted or prepared outside of or
10 contrary to the recognized practices or methods
11 prescribed by the most recent Alabama Cooperative
12 Extension Service Publication.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Do we have a second? We
14 have a motion and a second. Any discussion? No
15 discussion. The motion being voted on as read by
16 Dr. Strickland, all those in favor, raise your
17 hand. All opposed? Let the record show that the
18 motion passes unanimously.

19 DR. LEMME: Let it be noted that I
20 abstained.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Please note in the
22 record Dr. Lemme abstained from the voting. Any
23 other old business?

1 New business. Next order of business is new
2 business. Any new business to talk about? Mr.
3 Hartzog.

4 MR. HARTZOG: I still think there is a lot
5 of confusion on Game Check. I talked to Chuck
6 not long ago about the possibility of having
7 within our cities each by Districts within two or
8 three of the major cities within each District
9 putting on a little seminar or presentation like
10 at the Chamber of Commerce or a school building
11 or whatever going over because it's still an
12 awful lot of people -- you know, I say something
13 to them about Game Check and they still scratch
14 their head and say what's what. So, you know,
15 the more public information we can get out there,
16 and it's not really in the form of a motion, but
17 maybe challenge the Department to take an extra
18 effort to get that information out through
19 publications, but also through public meetings,
20 you know, and each District to handle that.
21 Chuck.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Director Sykes.

23 MR. SYKES: We are currently looking at a PR

1 campaign where we will be addressing this because
2 you are right, a lot of people don't know, so we
3 are going to be looking to do a PR campaign to
4 advise people of all the new rules and regulation
5 changes including Game Check, area definition,
6 southwest deer zone, and the new dove
7 regulations. So that's something we are going to
8 be working on. And the Town Hall meetings like
9 we went to in Ashford, if y'all's Districts line
10 them up, I don't have a problem at all with
11 coming and talking and answering questions.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. How did the
13 test run during turkey season of Game Check go?
14 Is there any report on that so far?

15 MR. SYKES: We haven't talked to Mary Beth
16 and Alabama Interactive since it was over with,
17 but during the process we regulated it, met
18 several times on it, and everything was moving
19 very smoothly.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's a good question.
22 We did do a test run and we have worked out kinks
23 and we think we have worked out all the kinks.

1 And getting back as a means of addressing this,
2 we are keeping it simple at the beginning. And
3 Mr. Knight's, you know, request about include
4 some information there, ultimately that would be
5 good and I think when we get the Game Check
6 established, we could go to some extra questions
7 if we feel necessary, but we could also address
8 those questions in the mail survey, which I don't
9 see that we will discontinue; we will just still
10 do that. But so far we think we have worked out
11 the kinks in the Game Check. You know, the
12 technology is there, we believe we have got it
13 down. So to answer your question, we think we
14 will be ready and we have talked about a lot of
15 different public relation efforts, radio possibly
16 is a good one, we think, and the local counties
17 and stuff, meeting with people. So we have been
18 talking about that. We welcome anybody's input.
19 If they have some specific input, they can either
20 direct it to myself or to Chuck or any of the
21 other gentlemen within our Department.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I think I know a morning
23 show that would be more than happy -- would be

1 well received to present that.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: We would really like
3 that.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other new business?
5 Mr. Hartzog.

6 MR. HARTZOG: One other point concerning the
7 crappie issue. When will the study you said you
8 did that's like every three years --

9 MR. GREENE: I will have to look and see
10 when the next study year is. I think it may be
11 coming up in 2013 or 2014. I will have to double
12 check on that.

13 MR. HARTZOG: If you would, why don't you
14 send all the Board members a copy of your report.

15 MR. GREENE: Those reports are actually put
16 online once they have gone through review.

17 MR. HARTZOG: A lot of times you will
18 specifically mail those.

19 MR. GREENE: We can do that.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other issues at hand
21 that need to be talked about by the Board? Mr.
22 Dobbs.

23 MR. DOBBS: Very possibly we have discussed

1 this in past years. Opening up some additional
2 days in the management areas for hog hunting and
3 opening up some management areas that
4 traditionally didn't have those days for hog
5 hunting where they were prominent.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I think, and the Board
7 has acknowledged, as we've heard throughout the
8 entire meeting, that hogs are continuing to be
9 the probably, if not the single most concerning
10 point in our conservation efforts in watching
11 their growing and the damage they do and the
12 damage they possibly are doing to the turkey
13 population. I think that's a great comment and I
14 think we need to open it up any time we can with
15 hogs. And if that can be further looked at and
16 studied, I would applaud that. That's an
17 excellent point.

18 Any other comments? With that being said,
19 the next order of business is the date and
20 location of the next Advisory Board meeting. The
21 date has not been set and the location has not
22 been set, but probably it will be at the Capitol
23 as it generally is with most. The date hasn't

1 been set, but we will probably try to have it at
2 the Capitol and then further meetings throughout
3 the State as we normally do.

4 Being there is no further business, this
5 meeting is adjourned.

6 (Meeting adjourned at approximately
7 1:00 p.m.)

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

1
2 I, Celeste O. Riddle, RMR, RPR, CCR, do
3 hereby certify that I reported the foregoing
4 proceedings of the Alabama Department of
5 Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Board
6 Meeting on May 4, 2013.

7 The foregoing 166 computer-printed pages
8 contain a true and correct transcript of the
9 proceedings held.

10 I further certify that I am neither of kin
11 nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor
12 in any manner interested in the results thereof.

13 Done this 12th day of September 2013.

14
15
16 /s/ Celeste O. Riddle

17 ABCR #127 - Expires 9-30-14
18
19
20
21
22
23