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STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
ALABAMA AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES
RICHARD BEARD BUILDING
Montgomery, Alabama
February 28, 2015

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Proceedings taken before Tracye
Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR
No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama
at Large, at the Alabama Agriculture and
Industries, Richard Beard Building, Montgomery,
Alabama, on Saturday, February 28, 2015, commencing
at approximately 9:02 a.m.

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1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 2 Mr. Dan L. Moultrie, Chairman
- 3 Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner
- 4 Mr. John McMillan
- 5 Mr. Bill Hatley
- 6 Dr. Bob Shipp
- 7 Mr. Austin Ainsworth
- 8 Dr. Warren Strickland
- 9 Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
- 10 Mr. Grady Hartzog
- 11 Dr. Gary Lemme
- 12 Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.
- 13 Mr. T.J. Bunn, Jr.
- 14 Mr. Jeff Martin

15 * * * * *

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. The

17 February 28, 2015, meeting of the

18 Conservation Advisory Board will come to

19 order. I'd like to welcome everybody to

20 Montgomery, Alabama. The board is glad

21 that you're able to be here today. The

22 invocation will be given by Mr. Bill

23 Hatley.

Mr. Hatley.

1 MR. HATLEY: Let us pray.

2 Our gracious and eternal Heavenly
3 Father, we pray that you will bestow thy
4 richest blessings upon this meeting,
5 upon each person gathered and this
6 board. May our actions be pleasing in
7 thy sight. For we ask in Jesus Christ's
8 name and for his sake, Amen.

9 (Audience responds.)

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hatley.

11 The next order of business is the
12 introduction of the board members.

13 First I'd like to introduce our
14 Commissioner of Conservation,
15 Commissioner Guy.

16 Next I would like to introduce our
17 Deputy Commissioner, Curtis Jones.

18 Next I'd like to introduce Alabama's
19 Agriculture Commissioner, John McMillan.
20 Commissioner McMillan.

21 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Dan, let me say that
22 we've got the horse fair going on with
23 about 400 horses up at the Coliseum. If

1 anybody's interested when you leave
2 here, it's a good event.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you.

4 Is there any -- is that free to the
5 public, or what is that --

6 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: It's a minimum charge,
7 \$5 or something, to get in gate.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And that will be all day?

9 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: And tomorrow too.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Very good.

11 All right. And our other ex-officio
12 member here today is Dr. Gary Lemme from
13 the Alabama Extension Service.

14 Dr. Lemme, thank you for being here.

15 All right. Next I'd like to let the
16 district members of the board give their
17 name and what district they represent
18 starting with Mr. Ainsworth.

19 MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, District 4.

20 MR. BUNN: T.J. Bunn, District 7.

21 MR. MARTIN: Jeff Martin, District 3.

22 MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, Congressional
23 District 5.

1 DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland,
2 Congressional District 5.

3 MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, Congressional
4 District 2.

5 DR. SHIPP: Bob Shipp, District 1.

6 MR. HATLEY: You've already been introduced.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: He doesn't have a
8 district, Mr. Hatley. Please just do
9 what you're asked to do.

10 MR. HATLEY: Why me, Lord. Yeah. Bill
11 Hatley. I represent District 1.

12 MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, District 6.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank y'all
14 very much.

15 All right. The next order of
16 business is the approval of the May 3rd,
17 2014, minutes. Are there any changes to
18 the minutes?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Then, if no changes, the
21 minutes stand approved as read.

22 The next order of business is the
23 DCNR departmental reports.

1 And, Commissioner Guy, I understand
2 the reports -- we're going to cut them
3 short, but there will be some
4 presentations. But go ahead,
5 Commissioner. You've got the floor.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
7 appreciate it.

8 Good morning, everybody, and thank
9 you for being here.

10 The first order of business is just
11 a little housekeeping. Many of you
12 remember David Dean who was legal
13 counsel for us, and he retired last
14 year. And we have new counsel with us
15 today, Greg Locklier, who is -- we're
16 proud to have with the Department of
17 Conservation. Greg is going to be a
18 great asset to us.

19 Greg, if you would stand and just be
20 recognized.

21 Thank you, Greg.

22 So we have a very good legal staff
23 and are very appreciative of what they

1 do, particularly as it relates to board
2 meetings and all the rules and
3 regulations. And there's a lot of work
4 that goes into that, so ...

5 Next we're going to have a couple of
6 PowerPoints today just to try to assist
7 everyone in understanding anything that
8 has gone on last year or that may be
9 going on this next year. And so the
10 first person I want to call on is
11 Director Chris Blankenship who will give
12 a short PowerPoint presentation on some
13 Marine Resources issues.

14 I think we're going to ask the board
15 to move down so y'all can see it.

16 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Good morning. I'm Chris
17 Blankenship. I'm the director of Marine
18 Resources for Alabama. And I want to
19 give a quick presentation on the red
20 snapper check that we did last year.

21 I appreciate the Advisory Board
22 approving the mandatory red snapper
23 reporting system at the meeting in May

1 of last year. Just want to give you an
2 update on how that went, what the
3 results were, and what we plan to do for
4 2015.

5 Just as a refresher of how we got to
6 this point, the federal government sets
7 the quota, the season for red snapper.
8 We felt like that the information that
9 they were using to set the season length
10 was inaccurate, that it was
11 overestimating the catch of red snapper
12 for Alabama and other states. So in
13 order to refute what they were
14 collecting, we implemented this red
15 snapper system where the people would
16 have to report the catch when they came
17 in so that we would have true numbers
18 for the state of Alabama.

19 Per boat, when they came in from
20 snapper fishing, they had to report what
21 was caught on that boat. They could
22 report via Smartphone app, online,
23 through the toll-free telephone number.

1 And then for people that didn't --
2 weren't able to use any of those
3 methods, we had drop boxes set up at the
4 six coastal boat ramps that most
5 everybody uses, and they could use the
6 paper forms and drop off their
7 information on those forms. And we
8 collected those every day.

9 You know, we didn't ask for a lot of
10 information from them. We just asked
11 for information that we needed to be
12 able to accurately account for what was
13 being caught for red snapper off the
14 coast of Alabama. We asked for the
15 number of anglers on the boat, the
16 number of fish harvested, you know, kept
17 on that vessel, the number of fish that
18 were discarded dead, the vessel
19 registration number, the county of
20 landing, and whether it was a private
21 recreational trip or a charter --
22 charter trip.

23 So when they used the app, it took

1 less than five minutes. Usually took
2 about two minutes to put that
3 information in on the app. It was very
4 minimal for the people to report the
5 information.

6 And then our staff sampled the
7 vessels during the state and the federal
8 red snapper season, both our Enforcement
9 section and our Fisheries section. When
10 we encountered a vessel that had red
11 snapper, that was recorded. And so then
12 we were able to compare and get a
13 percentage of compliance, percentage of
14 the number of people. Then we would
15 look back at those vessels and see if
16 we had a corresponding report on that
17 same day that matched up with our
18 interactions in the field.

19 So here are the results. This is a
20 little bit of a complicated table, but
21 the top two lines are the ones that I
22 really want to focus on. This is during
23 the nine-day federal red snapper season.

1 We had, you know, several thousand
2 reported number of anglers and fish.
3 The landed fish per angler, the limit
4 for red snapper is two fish per person.
5 So on charter boats -- you see that
6 middle column -- they pretty -- pretty
7 much everybody got their limit that
8 fished on the charter boat. They got
9 their two fish per person. And the
10 private anglers was 1.78 fish. So
11 almost everybody gets their limit on
12 snapper fishing because they're so
13 plentiful.

14 The nonreporting factor is -- that
15 is derived from the percentage of
16 compliance. You know, if you have 50
17 percent of the people that reported,
18 then that number would be two. So you
19 would double the reported landings to
20 get the actual landings. Does that make
21 sense?

22 So another thing I want to point out
23 is the mean weight, the average weight

1 of red snapper. Several years ago the
2 average weight was around three pounds
3 per fish. On the charter boats
4 throughout the season it was almost 11
5 pounds per fish. Private anglers, the
6 average weight was about 8.4 pounds.
7 And those weights are derived from our
8 staff at the dock measuring fish,
9 weighing fish, you know, every day
10 during the season. Those are not
11 reported by the fishermen. Those are
12 actual weights taken by our folks.

13 And then the bottom part was Florida
14 had a state season and then Alabama --
15 we had a weekend season in the month of
16 July. And so those are fish that were
17 caught during that season. You can see
18 there is -- as you get closer to shore
19 in the state waters, both in Florida and
20 Alabama, the average size was much
21 smaller than what's caught further
22 offshore. But the total estimated catch
23 from our reporting system that we

1 collected was about 450 -- 450,000
2 pounds.

3 Just to kind of show you how people
4 reported, we had a total of 2700
5 reports. 59 percent of them were done
6 via the app. The 6 percent online --
7 the app and the on -- if you had a
8 Smartphone and you went -- you couldn't
9 get the app to work and you just did
10 it -- went to the "Outdoor Alabama"
11 Website on your phone and reported it,
12 it all goes to the same place. The app
13 just takes you to the same place that
14 the Website does, so really you can add
15 those two together. We had 65 percent
16 of the people use their Smartphones or
17 the app to report. 17 percent used the
18 1-800 number. And then 18 percent used
19 the paper forms at the boat ramps.

20 This just kind of shows the
21 frequency of the time of day that we
22 got -- that people reported, you know,
23 when the fish were being landed and

1 reported. That's the red -- the red
2 lines in there. That's 24-hour time.
3 So you can see that we have kind of a --
4 most of it started around noon when
5 people would come back to the dock, but
6 it lasted all the way, you know, until
7 ten, 11 o'clock at night. And a lot of
8 those were charter boats that were
9 making -- making two trips a day.
10 They'd come -- they'd make a morning
11 trip. They'd come in around noon. Then
12 they'd take another crew out and come in
13 around eight or nine o'clock at night so
14 they could make the most of the nine-day
15 season. And they can do that as long as
16 they're taking different people on the
17 charters.

18 And then the blue lines are our
19 validations. Those are the times that
20 we interacted with the public at the
21 boat ramps or on the water. And so they
22 correspond pretty good with the amount
23 of the reports. So it shows -- we use

1 that to see what we need to do as far as
2 varying, you know, our sampling methods
3 at the dock and on the water to make
4 sure that we're capturing enough and
5 interacting enough with the people when
6 they're coming back. And so, you know,
7 we still -- we probably could pick up
8 some of those really late night spots
9 for this next year, for 2015, to make
10 sure we're getting plenty of contacts.

11 And we use this -- this is just
12 by -- we ask for the counties that help
13 us with our patrols so that we can
14 decide how to divide up the manpower and
15 where to place people throughout the
16 season. You can see that Baldwin
17 County, you know, had a much higher
18 number of charter reports compared to
19 Mobile County and the same with the
20 private anglers. So that will help us
21 in 2015 as we, you know, maneuver our
22 people around to get the most
23 interaction, the most contacts.

1 So this is the slide that really
2 shows the success of the program. The
3 column on the far right is the federal
4 data collection program where they
5 estimated that we caught 1.2 million
6 pounds of red snapper in Alabama during
7 the nine-day -- well, during the -- all
8 of the seasons. We estimate we caught
9 455,000 pounds. So when they use those
10 catch rates to set the season length, if
11 they're using two-and-a-half times the
12 catch rate of what we think is really
13 happening in Alabama, you know, in a
14 nutshell, that makes the season about
15 two-and-a-half times shorter than it
16 should be. And so that's why our
17 program was so important, and it
18 really -- the program really showed what
19 we thought it would, that they're
20 overestimating the catch.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Chris, have y'all
22 communicated that to the feds, and what
23 was their response, please?

1 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir. We have met with
2 them on several occasions. We started
3 right after the season. You know, we're
4 working with them on this trying to help
5 calibrate their program. And they've
6 been responsive.

7 We've had -- they're trying to
8 figure out how to take the information
9 from a small state like Alabama and be
10 able to extrapolate that out or
11 implement something like that in the
12 other states, and if they can't do that,
13 at least figure out how to take
14 Alabama's data and use it, you know, for
15 our state. And we're having continuing
16 meetings with them, and they're going to
17 continue to work with us in 2015 and
18 help fund some of our data collection.

19 So plans for 2015. You know,
20 continue the program just like it was
21 where people report pretty much the same
22 information. I really don't -- the only
23 thing we're going to change and add to

1 the information we're asking them to
2 report at this point is just whether
3 they left from a public dock or a
4 private dock. That's some information
5 that we need to be able to see if
6 there's a difference in catch rates or
7 what's being reported from people that
8 leave from a public boat ramp versus a
9 marina or if they've got their boat at
10 their house or something like that. So
11 that's the only thing that we'll ask.

12 And the second bullet, you know,
13 last year -- this was approved in May.
14 The season started June 1st. So we had
15 about three weeks to get the information
16 out to the public, to do a PR push and
17 to make sure that people knew that they
18 had to report. Almost 80 percent of the
19 charter boats were compliant. They
20 reported -- which is a pretty good
21 reporting rate. And about 50 percent of
22 the private anglers reported. So we're
23 hoping that this year, having more time

1 to get the word out, working with people
2 and for them to be able to see the
3 importance of the changes that happened
4 last year, how important it is to
5 report, that those compliance rates will
6 go up.

7 And then, also, we have -- we're
8 going to use -- we have cameras at all
9 of our -- there are six main boat ramps
10 that go out into the Gulf. We have
11 cameras and we record what launches
12 there, you know, a lot of information.
13 So we could do vessel counts.

14 So when we go back -- if we go back
15 to those other slides where there's that
16 discrepancy between the federal
17 government and Alabama, they were not
18 very responsive, honestly, to begin with
19 to our numbers. But when we said we
20 have video, we can count the number of
21 vessels that have launched, and when we
22 go back on those -- working with the
23 University of South Alabama, some of

1 their students, going back and counting
2 those vessels, it corresponds within one
3 percent of what our numbers showed from
4 the reporting versus the federal data.

5 So you can have two data-reporting
6 systems, but then when we have that
7 video evidence to back up those numbers,
8 that was pretty compelling. And that
9 really changed our conversations with
10 them. And so this year we're going to
11 expand that and really use those numbers
12 and that video to count those vessels.
13 And, like I say, we're continuing to
14 collaborate with the federal staff to
15 compare the results and make
16 improvements in their system and in our
17 system but, more importantly, to be able
18 to use that data next year and into the
19 future.

20 And Kevin Anson, who's our chief
21 biologist -- and Kevin did a good job of
22 taking that data and putting the program
23 in place so that we could analyze all

1 that data and come up with the landing
2 numbers and the correction factors and
3 all that that you saw. You know, we may
4 be a small state here, but we've got
5 some pretty sharp people, and we have to
6 remind the federal government of that
7 pretty regularly. Just because we're a
8 state, that doesn't mean that our folks
9 are not pretty sharp and we can do a lot
10 of stuff here. Be glad to take any
11 questions.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Chris, I've got one quick
13 question. What was the biggest snapper
14 turned in?

15 I know everybody wants to know that.
16 What was the biggest snapper you heard
17 about?

18 MR. ANSON: Through our program it was
19 probably 25 pounds.

20 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Chris, what are other
21 Gulf states doing, similar type research
22 or --

23 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Other states are -- now that

1 we've done this program last year and
2 everybody saw the success that we have
3 now, all of the other states -- you
4 know, Texas was already kind of doing
5 their own thing. But Mississippi is
6 trying to implement a system very
7 similar to ours, and Florida is
8 implementing a system this year. It's
9 different from ours just because of the
10 geography of their coastline. You know,
11 we're able to do things in Alabama
12 because we have a small coastline. But
13 Florida is going to do something this
14 year to try and get their own
15 information as well.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thanks, Chris.

17 And I just want to make a few
18 comments and that is this: You know,
19 red snapper fishing, of course, for our
20 Gulf -- our coastal counties here in
21 Alabama is a huge, important, you know,
22 part of what we are about. And it
23 greatly affects not only the economic

1 impact there in those coastal counties,
2 plus all over the state -- because there
3 are many, many people who enjoy fishing
4 for red snapper off our coast. And each
5 day we get in addition to that, you can
6 imagine how much that means when you
7 talk about people spending money down
8 there for gas, for food, for just
9 recreation, going down there on the
10 weekends, all that kind of thing.

11 I want to congratulate and really
12 thank Chris and Marine Resources
13 division for what they have done here.
14 As you can see, we have pointed out to
15 the federal government -- he's a lot
16 nicer than me -- that they are wrong in
17 what they are doing. They are missing
18 it.

19 When you miss those numbers -- and
20 if you go back -- I don't know if you
21 can go back. But if you go back to
22 those numbers and you see in a nine-day
23 season our information with much more

1 validation showed about 450,000 pounds
2 of fish being caught and they showed
3 over a million-point-two, that's huge in
4 a nine-day season. So imagine how much
5 they were missing it in a 40-day season.

6 Okay. What I'm most proud of is
7 that the State of Alabama has taken the
8 lead on this. And that's why I want to
9 congratulate Chris and all the people
10 that work for him. They have really
11 worked very hard to get this program
12 done, and everybody should be proud of
13 them. Because, as you were asking,
14 Commissioner McMillan, other states are
15 following us because of this. And we
16 have gotten the federal government's
17 attention at least. They're not, you
18 know, exactly changing their ways yet,
19 but you can see a lot of action in
20 Congress now by Congressman Byrne, who
21 has really taken the lead on a lot of
22 things. And it's all because of what
23 Chris was able to do last season.

1 And so the important take-away is he
2 depends heavily on the information that
3 we get from the charter boat captains
4 and from the private fishermen. And we
5 very much appreciate them calling in
6 that information to us because it
7 provides the data that we need to show
8 that the federal government is not
9 getting it right and that we are better
10 managers of those resources than they
11 are. And that's just where it is.

12 But, Chris, I want to again say
13 thank you to you and the Marine
14 Resources division for taking the lead
15 on that and on -- just all about the red
16 snapper fishery in the Gulf. So I know
17 there's a bunch of people ...

18 All right. So now I want to call on
19 Director Chuck Sykes. And Chuck is
20 going to give a presentation on some
21 issues that are coming up for Wildlife
22 and Freshwater Fisheries.

23 MR. SYKES: Thank you, Commissioner.

1 Can y'all hear me without having to
2 hold the microphone?

3 I'll try to talk up. I usually
4 don't have a problem with it.

5 First and foremost, the February
6 season extension, I think most people
7 were satisfied with it. The reports
8 that we got were overwhelmingly
9 positive. We can't make everybody
10 happy. We try as much as we can. But I
11 want to give props to our biologists.
12 You can see at the bottom they've taken
13 over 3,000 deer in the spring and summer
14 since '95 and about a thousand of them
15 have been done in the past two years.

16 And you can ask Mike Bolton over
17 there. He went and sat with me on a
18 deer stand in June two years ago, and
19 that's why he's so skinny now. He lost
20 about 30 pounds that afternoon. It's
21 not any fun getting out there and
22 fighting mosquitos in 110-degree weather
23 trying to get this data. But the data

1 that they got is what allowed us to work
2 with the hunters, give them what they
3 wanted in south Alabama and have that
4 February extension.

5 This year we are going to continue
6 our sampling process. We're going to
7 move up the state. But we are not
8 making any recommendations at this time
9 to change. We want to give it another
10 year or so and see how the resource is
11 going to handle this -- the extra ten
12 days in February. So for this year
13 we're recommending to the board no
14 changes; everything stay just like it
15 was last year.

16 We've got a few changes on our WMAs.
17 Those were three deer taken off WMAs in
18 Alabama. If anybody says you can't kill
19 a big deer on public land in Alabama,
20 they haven't hunted them yet. We killed
21 some outstanding deer this year.

22 We're adding some significant
23 acreages to quite a few of our WMAs.

1 We're going to add about 2,000 acres to
2 Lowndes, over 9,000 acres to the Geneva
3 State Forest WMA, and over 4200 acres in
4 Autauga. We're trying to provide as
5 much quality public-hunting access as we
6 can.

7 Many of our WMAs, based on hunter
8 requests and some of the success that
9 we've had at Barbour and Skyline, we're
10 going to break them up into zones and
11 put antler restrictions on some of the
12 zones where people will have a trophy
13 area to hunt. And for those of you that
14 just want to go shoot a deer, we'll have
15 those areas too. Hunts will run
16 simultaneously where anybody that wants
17 to go hunting can. Part of the areas
18 will be trophy-managed and part will be
19 just go have fun.

20 We're going to try something this
21 year as a pilot. We're going to have a
22 couple of special opportunity hunts. In
23 north Alabama we're going to have two

1 hunts, two WMAs, that are going to take
2 place before the regular opening of gun
3 season. Some of the areas up there rut
4 early as indicated by all of our
5 conception data. We're going to try it
6 and see how that works. A couple of our
7 WMAs in the southern portion of the
8 state, we're going to have a special
9 opportunity hunt during the closure in
10 December.

11 We want y'all to take advantage of
12 all the hard work that the guys are
13 doing on the WMAs. There's some
14 outstanding public property out there,
15 so we're providing a couple of extra
16 opportunities for y'all to enjoy it.

17 Some waterfowl changes on WMAs that
18 we are recommending to the board for
19 consideration. I think any of y'all
20 that duck hunt realize the importance of
21 sanctuaries and letting ducks rest, the
22 same way with deer. So we're proposing
23 in the Upper Delta, Mobile-Tensaw Delta,

1 W.L. Holland WMA, to stop all-day
2 hunting and bring it to one-half hour
3 before sunrise till noon. Should give
4 ducks time to rest and feed in the
5 afternoon, and it will provide a better
6 hunting opportunity for people when they
7 go.

8 Next year we would love to set a
9 rest area down in the open water between
10 the Causeway and the interstate. So
11 what we're going to do this year is we
12 will query duck hunters coming in and
13 out of the boat ramps down there to get
14 their opinion. The Advisory Board is
15 going to listen to public input. I
16 think it would greatly improve the
17 quality of the hunting if we provided
18 those ducks with a sanctuary where they
19 could rest and feed.

20 Every five years we get a chance to
21 set zones for migratory birds. The U.S.
22 Fish and Wildlife Service gives us an
23 opportunity to set zones. Right now we

1 have two waterfowl zones, Mobile and
2 Baldwin Counties and then the rest of
3 the state. Our biologists are
4 recommending that we go to one zone.
5 That gives us a little more flexibility
6 within the 60-day season if we choose to
7 do so. This would not be for this year.
8 This would be for next year. Just
9 something for the board and the public
10 to consider.

11 The same thing goes with dove zones.
12 We've got two zones now. From all
13 indications from the hunters and from
14 our staff, we would like to keep that
15 the same. But, again, this is just for
16 public comment next year and for the
17 board to consider.

18 Small game changes. We had quite a
19 few small game hunters come to the board
20 meetings last year when we extended the
21 season into February. They wanted some
22 days added. We looked at doing it the
23 first of March, but all of the biology

1 did not support it. We would have taken
2 a chance on having too many pregnant
3 females or ones that already had little
4 ones in the nest. So what we decided to
5 do is propose to the board to give small
6 game hunters 15 days in September. So
7 instead of it starting on October 1st,
8 squirrel and rabbit season would come in
9 September the 15th next year.

10 The alligator hunts, overwhelmingly
11 successful over the past couple of
12 years. I'm sure most of y'all know we
13 had the world record caught on one of
14 the hunts this year outside of Selma.

15 We've had quite a bit of conflict in
16 the Eufaula area over the past several
17 years. Despite what many people think,
18 most of Lake Eufaula is Georgia waters,
19 not Alabama waters. So we have been
20 working closely with the State of
21 Georgia, and what we decided to do was
22 break Eufaula off into a separate zone
23 this year. And you will have the

1 Eufaula lake and then you will have the
2 rest of the counties over there that you
3 can apply for tags in each of those
4 zones. We're going to run that season
5 concurrently with the Georgia season to
6 try to cut down on those user conflicts
7 between Alabama residents and Georgia
8 residents.

9 We've also instituted a
10 preference-point system. We cannot
11 guarantee that everybody that applies
12 for an alligator tag will get one. But
13 just an example, if you apply six years
14 in a row, you've got a greater than
15 80-percent chance of getting drawn for a
16 tag. Please don't ask me questions on
17 it, because IT has developed the formula
18 to do that, and I would have to get you
19 in touch with them to find out exactly
20 how it's done. But Keith has been
21 working on that for over a year trying
22 to get a quality preference-point system
23 together where everybody has the best

1 opportunity that they can to draw a tag
2 and enjoy the alligator hunting.

3 Same as last year on Lake Eufaula,
4 we're going to institute an eight-foot
5 minimum where we're trying to protect
6 the females over there. Recruitment is
7 down. The eight-foot minimum protects
8 about 90 percent of the females.

9 And you will be able to hunt during
10 daylight hours as well as nighttime
11 hours only on Lake Eufaula. We're
12 trying to mirror everything with Georgia
13 where we can cut down on those
14 conflicts.

15 This is going to be an interesting
16 one. Feral hogs. Changed the
17 regulation last year where it is no
18 longer personal possession once you
19 catch one in an attempt to curb the
20 illegal transportation of feral swine.
21 I think most everybody in here agrees
22 we've got enough of them; they don't
23 need to be put in any other places.

1 When we did that, we had to change
2 their status. And don't laugh, but pigs
3 are now a game animal and a furbearer.
4 The reason we did that is to make it
5 legal for you to trap them and to sell
6 their carcass if you want to, because
7 there were a lot of people that were
8 doing that, trapping pigs and selling
9 them. Now you can legally do that.

10 We're also -- at the request of a
11 lot of dog hunters, we are working with
12 the Alabama Hog Dog Hunters Association
13 on a limited permit system as a trial
14 basis at the Lower Delta WMAs to see how
15 effective they are at removing some hogs
16 and open up to another user group. So
17 we've been -- again, Keith Gauldin has
18 been working closely with them to come
19 up with an open-permit system on that
20 where we can regulate. They're going to
21 be gathering data for us, and we're
22 going to be allowing them to go in and
23 utilize that WMA.

1 Some miscellaneous changes that we
2 have got this year, again, through
3 requests of constituents. They
4 presented to the board last year that
5 there was some concern that people were
6 circumventing the commercial angler
7 license, getting a recreational license
8 and running trotlines with several
9 thousand hooks. Stan and Fisheries
10 section researched it, proposed that we
11 set a hundred-hook limit for
12 recreational license, not commercial.

13 There's been some confusion. I
14 talked to one of our senators yesterday.
15 One of his constituents had gotten
16 confused. This is actually protecting
17 the commercial fishermen. So we're not
18 limiting hooks on commercial fishing.
19 It's only on recreational.

20 There will be a slight CPI increase
21 on a license this year. It's going to
22 be roughly 40 cents on an annual hunting
23 license and about 20 cents on an annual

1 fishing license, and we would like the
2 board to consider passing that.

3 This next slide I may need to hire
4 Chris as a consultant for us. He had a
5 lot better success on the reporting
6 system than we did. I think there were
7 two major factors. One of them is Chris
8 and his staff did a great job with
9 education, and the other one, it was
10 mandatory. It wasn't voluntary.

11 Y'all can look at the numbers. Last
12 year we had a little over 19,000 deer
13 registered on Game Check two years ago.
14 This year, even with the February
15 extension in a third of the state, we
16 had 3,000 less deer reported. 16,244
17 deer were checked in through Game Check.
18 We probably killed that opening weekend
19 statewide.

20 Just like Chris, everybody applauded
21 his presentation because they were
22 getting numbers that they could use to
23 manage a resource better than the

1 federal government is doing. That's all
2 we're asking for is the same numbers
3 where we can do our job better. Please,
4 talk to your friends, get them to
5 comply. All it does is it makes us get
6 the information we need where we can
7 manage it better for you.

8 Now, I want to give some props to
9 the Advisory Board. Progressive
10 regulations over the past several years,
11 they're working. Whether you agreed
12 with them or not, they're working.
13 Passage of the three-buck limit in 2007
14 stressed the importance of not killing
15 everything that walked by just because
16 you could. Hunters became more
17 educated. They understood what it took
18 for quality deer management. More big
19 deer went down this year than any year
20 that I've ever seen. Even though the
21 weather wasn't great, the success was
22 tremendous on people harvesting good
23 deer.

1 The area definition. The world was
2 coming to an end when the board passed
3 the area definition. Baiting was going
4 to be rampant. We were going to kill
5 every deer in the state. Didn't happen.
6 Baiting cases have not gone up. I
7 talked with one officer in my office
8 this week. Just as an example,
9 personally he wrote eight baiting cases.
10 The furthest distance was 11 yards.

11 You know, the board gave a blueprint
12 of how to do it. It's easy, a hundred
13 yards out of the line of sight, and you
14 still have people that are abusing it.
15 An outlaw is going to be an outlaw. But
16 the board did a great thing with this.

17 The picture of that deer right
18 there, that's a four-year-old that
19 somehow got sick. He utilized a
20 supplemental feeding program that was
21 done legally.

22 That's what he turned into this year
23 as a five-year-old. Without the

1 progressive regulations of a three-buck
2 limit, area definition, that deer would
3 have never made it through. That's a
4 world-class deer grown in Alabama.

5 And the final slide, without the
6 board listening to the recommendations
7 of the Wildlife staff and the hard work
8 involved just gathering conception data,
9 that hunter would have never killed that
10 deer on Monday, February the 2nd, in
11 Lowndes County. I put a tape on him at
12 165 and a half. Y'all, that's as good
13 an Alabama deer as you can ask for,
14 free range and a happy hunter.

15 So I want to personally thank the
16 board and thank our staff for getting
17 out, getting the data that we need to
18 present to the board, and y'all making
19 the proper rules and regulations, so
20 thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Director Sykes, when we --
22 when the board passed the antler
23 restrictions, it was thought the -- I

1 know Bill Gray and I talked about it and
2 several of us on your staff talked about
3 that. We thought the average age of a
4 buck killed in the state of Alabama --
5 that 85 percent of the bucks killed in
6 the state were a year-and-a-half old
7 during that time period, thus that that
8 was keeping us from killing deer like
9 this. Is there any idea to know where
10 we are on that right now or what that
11 average age class may be now in the
12 state?

13 MR. SYKES: Dan, I don't think we've got any
14 hard data on it. But just talking to
15 processors, talking to hunters, talking
16 with our staff at WMAs, the age class is
17 going up. You don't kill a 165-inch
18 deer if he dies as a yearling.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And the reports I get is
20 that more people are killing bigger and
21 better deer, which the age class has got
22 to go up.

23 MR. SYKES: Absolutely.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And that's the whole deal
2 that we needed to have happen?

3 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The other question during
5 your presentation that was good: How
6 old would the world-record alligator be?
7 What kind of age did that have on it?

8 MR. SYKES: No clue.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: No clue. Okay.

10 Commissioner?

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: What was he, 14-feet long?

12 MR. SYKES: 15.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: 15. And how much did he
14 weigh?

15 MR. SYKES: 1,011 pounds.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: The take-away from that is
17 if you lose a decoy or something in a
18 slough in the Alabama River, do not go
19 in after it. Because he was caught in a
20 slough down there below Selma; correct?
21 And I don't know where he -- I know I
22 used to ski in the river when I was
23 younger. I would not do that again.

1 So I do just want to add, thanks for
2 giving Chuck and his staff a round of
3 applause. Because, again, they are
4 working very hard to try to do what's
5 needed for our constituents and for the
6 hunting public, and it is difficult to
7 balance a lot of those types of things.
8 But I think you can see that a lot of
9 good progress is being made.

10 I think the only thing that you
11 didn't mention, Chuck, was a new -- the
12 turkey research. I don't know -- did
13 you want to say something about that
14 just briefly or -- we're spending --

15 MR. SYKES: I can.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: Why don't you just talk
17 about that, if you don't mind.

18 MR. SYKES: Yeah. There has been a decline in
19 turkey numbers throughout the Southeast
20 at all the meetings I go to with my
21 counterparts in the 13 southeastern
22 states. It's -- all of their research,
23 the data that they have, is showing that

1 their turkey numbers are declining.
2 There was no reason for us to think that
3 Alabama was in a vacuum and that
4 everything was good here. If they were
5 experiencing declines, we probably were
6 too.

7 So we are using some of our
8 Pittman-Robertson dollars that y'all
9 have provided by buying hunting licenses
10 and guns and ammunition, and we just
11 embarked on a five-year study with
12 Auburn University, about a
13 1.2-million-dollar study over the next
14 five years to try to get us some quality
15 information on the turkey population in
16 Alabama. It is a very aggressive study.
17 I hope they can accomplish it. They're
18 going to look at putting GPS units on
19 about 180 turkeys this spring in
20 different locations throughout the
21 state. Will be looking for predation
22 rates, nesting success, survivability.
23 It's going to give us some quality

1 information that we have never had.

2 Again, we've been working with deer
3 for a long time. We've got some good
4 information on them. We can always use
5 more. But turkeys have kind of been
6 overlooked. I'm a turkey hunter. I
7 wanted to make sure that we had plenty
8 of turkeys for me to hunt over the next
9 ten years and for all of y'all's kids
10 and grandkids to hunt as well.

11 So it's a -- it's a very aggressive
12 project, and hopefully next year we'll
13 have some good preliminary results.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: And going back to what
15 Chuck said about reporting, we have that
16 available, too, on the Web, on your app,
17 and by phone. In order to help us
18 accomplish that goal, we really need
19 turkey hunters to call in their harvest.
20 That would help us out tremendously
21 because then we are learning where
22 turkeys are being killed. And we can
23 see trends in that and we can use those

1 numbers to compare to what all the other
2 research is showing.

3 Because I think in a lot of cases
4 what we hear is that the viability of
5 turkey populations vary a good bit from
6 location to location, Mr. Chairman. And
7 so if people are calling in that
8 information to us, then we can see where
9 there might be problems in the state as
10 opposed to other places in the state
11 where there aren't problems, and we can
12 compare those areas to each other and
13 see why one might be better than the
14 other.

15 So I would just encourage everybody
16 that's a turkey hunter to take a -- you
17 know, help us. Help us, like Chuck
18 said. Call that in during the season.
19 Let us know what you're harvesting and
20 where you're harvesting it. It takes
21 just a little bit of your time. We're
22 trying to make that about as simple as
23 we can. And we would greatly appreciate

1 that.

2 Yes, Chuck.

3 MR. SYKES: Just one more point going back to
4 Chris' presentation. I think a lot of
5 the misconception with deer and turkey
6 hunters is we want that information
7 where we can take something away from
8 them. You saw the data that Chris got.
9 It actually proved that you needed more.

10 So we're not trying to get that
11 information -- well, if I tell them I
12 killed five turkeys, they're going to
13 cut the limit, or if I tell them where I
14 killed three deer, they're going to say
15 we're killing too many. That's not the
16 case.

17 What Chris' information proved is
18 that y'all need more opportunity. If we
19 get that same information, it may show
20 that you need more opportunity. So
21 please don't look at it like we're
22 trying to take something away from you.
23 We need the information where we can

1 make the right decisions.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Commissioner.

4 If the board would return to their
5 seats.

6 All right. The next order of
7 business is going to be the public
8 hearing. When your name is called,
9 please go to the microphone, give your
10 name and subject you wish to speak on.
11 I'll remind you that only one may speak
12 at each time when you are called on and
13 that any interference will not be
14 tolerated.

15 The first speaker today is Hub
16 Harrington. Mr. Harrington.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: If anybody needs a chair --

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If y'all are in the back
19 of the room, there are some chairs
20 available if y'all want to come up.

21 MR. HARRINGTON: Hi, good morning. My name is
22 Hub Harrington. I am from Indian
23 Springs, Alabama, in Shelby County.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,
2 Mr. Harrington. Is it on?

3 Yeah, there you go.

4 MR. HARRINGTON: Is it on? How about now?

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's better.

6 MR. HARRINGTON: Got to get closer. Sorry.

7 Thanks.

8 I'm sorry. My name is Hub
9 Harrington. I'm from Indian Springs in
10 Shelby County, Alabama. I was a long
11 time ago the first mayor of Indian
12 Springs. We've lived there a long time.
13 Most recently I'm a retired circuit
14 judge from Shelby County.

15 So I'm here today on behalf of an
16 organization called "Keep Oak Mountain
17 Wild." I'm a lawyer. I can't say
18 anything in three minutes. I didn't
19 know the rules, so -- but I can follow
20 the rules. When I get to my three
21 minutes, I promise I'll sit down. I'll
22 give it a whirl.

23 I'm here today because we support

1 Oak Mountain State Park. One thing we
2 do not support about what's been
3 proposed at Oak Mountain State Park is a
4 large-scale, upscale hotel and
5 convention center. It's supposed to
6 have -- proposed to have 175 rooms and a
7 20,000-square-foot convention center.

8 Our contention is that this proposed
9 project does not fit the definition of
10 recreational enhancement. It's
11 certainly not a conservation project.
12 And we contend that it will be an
13 economic disaster and potentially an
14 environmental disaster. The entire
15 concept is an affront to the personality
16 and character of this park.

17 I know you all know where it is.
18 Oak Mountain State Park is located in
19 the north end of Shelby County. Shelby
20 County has been the fastest-growing
21 county in the state of Alabama for three
22 decades. When I moved to the house I
23 live in now, we could get on our horse

1 and ride it into the park. You
2 certainly can't do that today.

3 Today the park is surrounded by
4 subdivisions, shopping centers, heavy
5 traffic. It is completely surrounded.
6 It's an island. But it is a wonderful
7 island because it is a respite.
8 Serenity. It's natural. It does not
9 need to have the commercialization of a
10 resort-style hotel.

11 And the park needs to be upgraded.
12 It needs to be maintained. It needs to
13 have recreational and outdoor activities
14 enhanced. It does not need to become a
15 commercial entity.

16 The project is being put
17 together/proposed by the Shelby County
18 Commission, the City of Pelham, and the
19 State Park. The folks from Pelham and
20 Shelby County have stated publicly that
21 they intend for the park to be the
22 economic engine of Shelby County.

23 Our contention is that the park is

1 not an economic engine. It is for
2 serenity. Its value is recreational,
3 conservation, a respite from the
4 commercialization --

5 MS. JONES: Time.

6 MR. HARRINGTON: -- not money.

7 My three minutes. I told you I was
8 a lawyer. I was just getting started
9 good.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's all right. If you
11 can quickly --

12 MR. HARRINGTON: We have set up a Website
13 called "keepoakmountainwild.org." And I
14 brought you all a handout that discusses
15 the feasibility study that's been put
16 together by the county and the state.
17 And what we're here to ask -- and this
18 project will not work if you don't -- if
19 the state does not give the land for the
20 hotel to be built upon. So we would ask
21 you, please prevent that from happening
22 and please do not allow the park to
23 become a commercial entity. Save it for

1 the purpose for which it's designed.

2 Thank you very much.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Harrington.

4 The next speaker will be James

5 Watkins.

6 MR. WATKINS: Good morning. My name is James
7 Watkins. I live in Scottsboro, Alabama,
8 in Jackson County. I'm here
9 representing Mr. Mitch Allen who's
10 unable to attend. He was the one
11 supposed to give this speech this
12 morning.

13 I gave each one of you a packet.
14 There's a cover letter there from me,
15 and that pretty well explains where we
16 are right now as far as asking for your
17 support in getting some regulations
18 passed to limit the noise from airboats
19 and limit the amount of light that can
20 be used in these built-up areas on our
21 lakes, especially Lake Guntersville.

22 In your handout there is a list of
23 folks that attended this meeting in

1 July. Representative John Robinson had
2 contacted me. He had numerous
3 complaints of airboat noise and light
4 and wanted to get a meeting of concerned
5 citizens and residents around Lake
6 Guntersville, especially in Jackson
7 County.

8 The meeting was held on July 16th,
9 and there's a list of folks that was
10 there, that were attending, law
11 enforcement, local government, and
12 citizens. We discussed the rules and
13 regulations -- oh, by the way, I'm a
14 retired Marine Police officer. I was
15 still working at the time this meeting
16 was held. I've since retired.

17 But we discussed the laws and rules
18 and regulations and the way the Marine
19 Police division conducts sound -- checks
20 the sound -- the 86 decibels on the
21 airboats. The officer assigned to that
22 post and myself conducted several --
23 numerous, numerous sound examinations

1 according to the law -- the regulation
2 we've got, and they all met the properly
3 muffled part of the regulation.

4 As I explained to Representative
5 Robinson at the time, most of these
6 noise problems we have are from the prop
7 itself. If you've ever been to an
8 airport and you heard an airplane crank
9 up, you see what kind of noise you get.
10 It's kind of bad at two, three o'clock
11 in the morning, waking folks up. And
12 these people are asking for your help in
13 relieving some of the problems we've got
14 in Jackson County, especially as far as
15 noise and light distance for the
16 airboats.

17 Oh, and by the way, these boats are
18 not part of the tournament crowd. The
19 tournament fishermen are given each
20 time -- each year before they have a
21 tournament a strip map of the lake,
22 areas marked and highlighted to not be
23 used after 10 p.m. at night. So it's

1 not just -- it's not the tournament
2 fishermen. It's the "Joe Blow" guy that
3 comes out during the week with his big
4 airboat.

5 But if you'll help -- if you could
6 give us some relief there, we certainly
7 would appreciate it. Thank you.

8 MS. JONES: Time.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Watkins, is the main
10 use of these airboats, do you think,
11 bowfishing at night?

12 MR. WATKINS: Yes, sir, bowfishing. Yes, sir.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Bowfishing. Okay.

14 MR. WATKINS: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Any other
16 questions from the board?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Watkins.

19 MR. WATKINS: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
21 Slade Johnston.

22 MR. JOHNSTON: Good morning, my name is Slade
23 Johnston. I'm from Sumter County,

1 Alabama, and I'm a junior at the
2 University of Alabama. I'm also the
3 president of our National Wild Turkey
4 Federation chapter at the University.

5 Today I'm representing our committee
6 as we seek the approval and support of
7 the Advisory Board for our nonresident
8 hunting license proposal. Each of y'all
9 should have a handout that is our
10 proposal. The purpose of this proposal
11 is to allow all nonresident students the
12 chance to purchase a hunting license at
13 resident prices that are
14 college-attending students in the state
15 of Alabama.

16 A little background on our
17 organization: Our NWTf chapter is a
18 nonprofit organization made up of UA
19 students from all over the nation.
20 We -- our primary goal is the
21 conservation of our wildlife. Currently
22 our committee consists of 122 members.
23 Out of that, about 30 percent are from

1 out of state. After surveying several
2 members individually and the committee
3 as a whole, we realized that it's a huge
4 hindrance for the college-attending
5 students from out of state that these
6 nonresident prices are so high.

7 We've drafted a list of benefits and
8 drawbacks for this proposal. Some of
9 them are the encouragement to purchase
10 from hunters who are hesitant due to
11 high costs, therefore, increasing the
12 volume of the total licenses purchased,
13 discouragement for those who risk
14 hunting illegally. And this will also
15 bring money to like outdoor hunting
16 stores within the state due to the
17 students having to purchase their
18 supplies in-state. A couple of the
19 drawbacks are that the state could lose
20 money from each individual purchase from
21 the nonresidents and, also, that the
22 students will have to have a way to
23 prove enrollment when they apply for the

1 license.

2 There are several other states that
3 are already currently providing this
4 option for license purchase. Some of
5 them in our region are Arkansas,
6 Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi.
7 This price change is significantly more
8 reasonable when calculating the increase
9 of nonresident to resident prices.

10 As shown in the handout in
11 Table 1.1, the annual all game hunting
12 license is 11-and-a-half times more than
13 the resident hunting license. Then you
14 can see in Table 1.2 that the annual
15 all -- the freshwater fishing license is
16 only 3.8 times more expensive for
17 nonresidents.

18 This is a huge difference in license
19 prices, and it's causing a large
20 financial burden on out-of-state college
21 hunters. Based on our research and
22 analysis, allowing nonresident students
23 to purchase a license at a resident

1 price will increase the volume of
2 license sales and be far more beneficial
3 than damaging for all parties.

4 We understand that this is a
5 legislative matter and that we cannot do
6 it with our resources alone. We are
7 seeking the Advisory Board's approval
8 and support to continue with this
9 process.

10 Do y'all have any questions?

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner Guy.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes. Mr. Johnston, thank
13 you very much for this. I think it's an
14 excellent idea. We will look at it.
15 It's good that you're here today. I've
16 actually seen this in some other states,
17 and we've talked about it preliminarily.
18 I think the biggest challenge might be
19 the legislation.

20 MR. JOHNSTON: Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: But we could certainly --
22 and then I think the other thing is to
23 make sure that we have the right

1 reciprocal agreements with other states
2 so that it's a fair exchange between
3 each state. And so I'll get with
4 Director Sykes. And let us first look
5 at that. And he has, obviously,
6 directors in every other state that he
7 can talk to and we can get a better
8 understanding of that reciprocal
9 agreement between the states.

10 I think it's a good idea. I think
11 anything that we can do to encourage
12 students and young people to be
13 involved -- I think it's a great idea.
14 So I want to thank you for bringing that
15 to our attention. And we will seek your
16 help if we go that route and can do that
17 maybe next year or something. We'll
18 have to work on it and make sure we get
19 it right. But please -- please keep
20 reminding us or come back to the board
21 meetings. And when we get ready to do
22 that, we will not only seek help from
23 you, but I hope your counterparts at

1 Auburn and any other universities here
2 in the state will also join in with you.

3 MR. JOHNSTON: Yes, sir. We'll have full
4 support from our committees throughout
5 the state.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Johnston, I appreciate
8 you coming. We've talked beforehand on
9 the phone. Excellent presentation.
10 Excellent point. Thank you so much.

11 MR. JOHNSTON: Thank y'all for the
12 opportunity.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
14 Avery Bates.

15 MR. BATES: I was faster this time, wasn't I,
16 Mr. Hatley? Flat ground.

17 MR. HATLEY: Sit down, Avery.

18 MR. BATES: My name is Avery Bates. I'm
19 vice-president of Organized Seafood
20 Association. It's always been a
21 pleasure to face the board.

22 I want to invite y'all to the
23 Seafood Bash on the 11th. And we're

1 going to have some farm-raised oysters
2 this year that are outstanding, the
3 Auburn sea grant, and then we're going
4 to have a number of our farmers that
5 produce the oysters. They're great.
6 Alabama produces some of the best
7 seafood in the whole country. In some
8 places we say the whole world.

9 But we want to maintain our seafood
10 bottoms. We had some things come up
11 last year with the outfall line in the
12 bayou. We either neglected to put the
13 outfall line in the proper place -- and
14 anytime that we lose oyster bottoms
15 because of possible pollution -- we've
16 seen it happen at Dauphin Island Bay.

17 Chris, interagency is so important,
18 as you know, just working with the FDA
19 and board of health.

20 We planted numbers -- so many
21 numbers -- thousands of barrels of
22 cultch in these areas. We can't afford
23 to let that outfall line stay where it

1 is. If it does, it's going to close
2 miles and miles of productive bottom.
3 We need to move this either with -- some
4 funding has got to be appropriated. I
5 don't know if it's going to be RESTORE
6 Act money that we can tap into. It
7 can't -- it can't be there because we've
8 got millions of dollars of upcoming
9 planted oysters by the farmers. And
10 we've got to have the state get behind
11 the seafood industry to try to get these
12 outfall lines moved away.

13 We've already got diagrams of where
14 the tide is running. They had them in
15 '03, 2003. We know where the possible
16 contamination is going. The FDA will
17 not allow us with the increased number
18 of people that's going to get online in
19 the future -- if it goes to two million
20 gallons through that pipe we're shut
21 down.

22 And right now we can live with what
23 we got, but it's got -- it's got to be

1 done through efforts of interagency
2 coming together and solving this
3 problem. It's happened in the past. We
4 want to get this thing solved so we can
5 keep our bottoms productive and not
6 polluted. And it's important to the
7 restaurants. It's important to
8 everybody that receives our seafood that
9 we keep these areas. It is productive
10 bottoms -- it has been historically
11 productive bottoms.

12 But we also want to thank Chris for
13 keeping both sides of the
14 Bay/Mississippi Sound open this year an
15 extended period of time. Our fishermen
16 was proud to see these areas open. Even
17 though it wasn't that many oysters out
18 there, they was able to glean a little
19 day's work. And we're trying to improve
20 our acreage, so --

21 MS. JONES: Time.

22 MR. BATES: -- thank you. And any questions
23 on what I said?

1 And we have some problems with
2 Louisiana trying to tax us with some of
3 our business too. I want to get with
4 Chris on that.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Does the board have any
6 questions for Mr. Bates?

7 Grady, Mr. Hartzog.

8 MR. HARTZOG: Well, it's funny you talk about
9 the farmed oysters. Several of us were
10 talking in the coffee room beforehand.
11 It's my understanding that -- I think
12 that Bob said there were 14 additional
13 farmers that got permits to do the
14 farmed oysters, so we want to keep it
15 going.

16 MR. BATES: Yeah. We have our farmers really
17 worried about these bottoms that we --
18 they have planted. And riparian bottoms
19 is what they're using. And you see when
20 you invest a hundred thousand dollars
21 and numerous man-hours of work to all of
22 a sudden be reclassified prohibited from
23 harvesting oysters in these areas.

1 So it's a multimillion-dollar
2 industry that's going to increase as the
3 years go by because people want to get
4 into this business. So let's keep it
5 open. Let's keep the waters clean.
6 Let's move these pipelines where the
7 conditionally approved areas will grow,
8 not decrease.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Bates.

10 Commissioner McMillan.

11 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Are there any cost
12 estimates on moving the outfall?

13 MR. BATES: There's several different people
14 that say it's a million dollars a mile
15 or even more than that. But we've got
16 to get it out to -- to adequate -- I'd
17 like to see it out in 15 foot of water.

18 We have the diagram of where the dye
19 will go. They knew this years ago. But
20 they always say the money shortage, they
21 stopped it inshore at four or five foot
22 of water.

23 FDA, David Wiggins, said it will not

1 work there, and he's proved it by the
2 dye check. So we must -- we must not
3 have another episode like we did in
4 Dauphin Island Bay. In other words, we
5 lost half of Dauphin Island Bay. We
6 don't want to lose all of Portersville
7 Bay, Grand Bay, and numerous other areas
8 down there.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Bates.

10 MR. BATES: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
12 Kenny Ford.

13 MR. FORD: I'm sorry. I was misinformed when
14 I came down here this morning, so just
15 skip me.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker
17 will be Clarence Hamm. Mr. Hamm.

18 MR. HAMM: I'm Clarence Hamm from north
19 Alabama up in Colbert County, Alabama.
20 We fishermens up there are really
21 concerned about catfishing, trotlines,
22 you know, the populations of the fish
23 and the amount of the lines that we're

1 told that we might be facing up against
2 and the population of the size of the
3 fish. And how can commercial fishermens
4 make a living when we cut down on our
5 size and cut down on the number of our
6 hooks, you know. That's what I'm here
7 for today. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Chuck, do you or Stan want
10 to address that just so we -- about the
11 hook limit?

12 It doesn't apply to commercial;
13 correct?

14 MR. COOK: Yeah. As reported by Chuck
15 earlier, we are not reducing the number
16 of hooks for commercial anglers.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: And let me just say the key
18 there is -- is to also help the
19 commercial anglers because we think
20 there were some commercial anglers who
21 were using the unlimited hook as
22 recreation when they should be
23 commercial. So it's actually going to

1 help the commercial fishermen by
2 limiting the size on the recreational
3 because then you've either got to
4 choose -- you're either a recreational
5 fisherman or you're a commercial
6 fisherman and you need to be one.

7 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. The next
9 speaker is Jeffery Harvey.

10 Jeffery Harvey?

11 MR. HARVEY: We was misinformed.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker
13 will be Mary Carole Jackson.

14 MS. JACKSON: I'm Mary Carole Jackson, and I'm
15 here representing the Sipsey tailrace
16 and trout anglers. The Sipsey Tailrace
17 Trout Unlimited made many
18 recommendations before the board in the
19 past, and I believe several of our
20 recommendations were probably
21 misunderstood.

22 It was believed by some that we were
23 trying to add regulations to the Sipsey

1 tailrace, Alabama's only year-round
2 trout stream, to make it a country club
3 and that -- that we were trying to make
4 a flyfish-only section. This is not
5 what we wanted at all.

6 What we're wanting to do is -- after
7 the addition of seven angler access
8 points in the last several years, the
9 pressure to the fishery has increased,
10 and so we're wanting a catch-and-release
11 section in the first mile or so of the
12 stream to increase the chances of
13 anglers -- of all anglers being able to
14 catch fish.

15 So as it stands, our proposal, which
16 you have a copy of, actually suggests
17 that we create the catch-and-release
18 section and that it be a single-hook
19 artificial-only section so that instead
20 of what we were misinterpreted before --
21 this is not flyfish only. You can use a
22 hair jig or, you know, single-hook
23 rooster tail to catch the fish. But

1 where the fishery has increased, the
2 pressure on it exponentially with the
3 addition of the seven stairways, the --
4 this makes it where you can actually
5 access and have continuous and
6 consistent catch rates. So in the top
7 portion you could come down with your,
8 you know, grandfather or grandchild and
9 still be able to consistently catch
10 fish.

11 We have people from -- and we have a
12 book that is up there in front of you as
13 well -- I think Mr. Moultrie has it --
14 that shows that people are coming -- I
15 know this is unbelievable, but we have
16 19 people from -- in the last year 19
17 people from Australia, 11 from New
18 Zealand, 23 from Europe, 35 from Japan,
19 and 36 states represented coming just to
20 our trout stream. We're the closest
21 place to catch trout year-round from
22 Louisiana, south Mississippi, south
23 Alabama. The closest place is north

1 Georgia, Tennessee, and then middle of
2 Arkansas. So we have anglers coming
3 from all over to catch fish.

4 So I end up taking lots of -- I know
5 this is surprising as well -- lots of
6 children and women and introducing them
7 to the sport. And what I see in the
8 summertime is once the trout are
9 stopped, people descend on the river and
10 they -- they catch the fish, they leave,
11 and then we're left with an
12 exponentially more difficult area to
13 catch fish. So that's --

14 MS. JONES: Time.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I want the board to be
16 aware. Ms. Jackson and her husband came
17 to me and asked me about this. I think,
18 Grady, you had looked at this last time.
19 I think that it was perceived that they
20 were trying to shut down a piece of the
21 Little River, which is actually not what
22 was going on. But I want to comment on
23 some of the comments she made.

1 I have a copy of her actual logbook
2 of who they take, and she was absolutely
3 correct. When you go through this,
4 there's Japan, Japan, Japan, Australia,
5 California. It's from all over the
6 world. People come and utilize this
7 trout fishery that we provide. And I
8 think it needs to be understood that
9 what they're trying to do is enhance it
10 and not to shut this area down.

11 So I'd like the board to relook at
12 this. And I would like to call on --
13 Director Sykes, can you look at this and
14 also make some recommendations of what
15 could possibly be done, that this can
16 enhance the fishing there, that this be
17 looked at positively?

18 MR. SYKES: Absolutely.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

20 Any other -- Grady.

21 MR. HARTZOG: Well, funny deal. I was with
22 Matt Bowden last week, which is the
23 Environmental VP, and under the

1 relicensing agreement, it's the Alabama
2 Power that stocks. And we were talking
3 about the trout fishery. I mean, it's
4 just odd that we talked about it last
5 week.

6 Stan, what is the status under that
7 relicensing? Are they going to have to
8 increase the amount of stockings, or did
9 it stay status quo?

10 MR. COOK: A little bit of confusion on that,
11 Grady. Alabama Power, because of our
12 efforts --

13 MR. HARTZOG: Right.

14 MR. COOK: -- has been put in a position where
15 they are helping us fund stockings.

16 MR. HARTZOG: Under the relicensing agreement,
17 yeah.

18 MR. COOK: Their stocking effort goes along
19 with a Fish and Wildlife agreement that
20 we have, and basically it's resulted in
21 doubling the amount of trout that have
22 been stocked in that area.

23 There is no requirement above their

1 current contribution. They do a
2 monetary contribution to us that grows
3 by the CPI. So as that amount of money
4 grows, if we're able, we can purchase
5 more trout with that money.

6 MS. JACKSON: And can I add one thing?

7 DCNR has done a fantastic job
8 getting us some amazing trout, bringing
9 them from Westover Farms. We were
10 getting them just from Dale Hollow in
11 the trade. With the money they've spent
12 it has been coming from Missouri trout,
13 which are much larger and healthier
14 trout. And they've done -- they really
15 have done a fantastic job working with
16 Alabama Power and -- to increase the --
17 what that fishery could be.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner Guy.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: I just want to thank
20 Ms. Jackson for her comments, but I did
21 want to add -- you beat me to it. It's
22 a nice problem to have because our
23 Fisheries division does an unbelievable

1 job, as you just mentioned, working to
2 get all that -- all those fish stocked
3 over there and --

4 MR. JACKSON: Oh, they do a great job. They
5 really do.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's overlooked a lot of
7 times. You know, those fish don't occur
8 there naturally. We've got to go and
9 work with folks and get those fish. And
10 it's a big -- it's a big economic
11 impact, I think, even for that area as
12 well over there.

13 So we'll certainly look at that and
14 work with you on that and let's see what
15 we can do. I know Stan -- we're always
16 talking about that. And thank you for
17 your comments.

18 MS. JACKSON: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Ms. Jackson, you better
20 get this back from me or I'll lose it.

21 MR. JACKSON: Yeah. I was hoping -- I don't
22 want to lose that logbook.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

1 Yes, Mr. Martin.

2 MR. MARTIN: Do trout reproduce? Do they die
3 out?

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Stan, is there any
5 reproduction whatsoever in these trout?

6 MR. COOK: No.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: No. All put-and-take,
8 Jeff.

9 All right. The next speaker is
10 Jason Kellar.

11 MR. KELLAR: I'm Jason Kellar from Huntsville,
12 Alabama. I'm a commercial fisherman.

13 And y'all had passed a big fish law
14 a few years back that the catfish had to
15 be 34 inches or smaller in order to keep
16 them. And Arkansas had done the same
17 law. Well, the other day Arkansas
18 overturned that law because they found
19 that it was not good for everything.

20 What it is, is a 34-inch catfish
21 only weighs 18 to 22 pounds. We release
22 so many of them that the river is before
23 long going to have nothing but big fish

1 that we can no longer keep. So I was
2 going to ask if y'all would consider
3 overturning that law on the big catfish.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

6 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman?

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

8 MR. JONES: Stan, I know we've done a lot of
9 work on the 34-inch-length catfish. Has
10 there been any more work done in the
11 Guntersville area?

12 MR. COOK: There has not been any additional
13 research done on that, but pretty much
14 the population dynamics that we depended
15 on making that decision from we don't
16 believe has changed since the last study
17 was done.

18 MR. JONES: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Jones.

20 The next speaker is Edward Whitmire.

21 MR. EDWARD WHITMIRE: Yes. I'm Edward
22 Whitmire. I'm one of the old-timers on
23 the lake up there now. Started fishing

1 in 1959. That's been a while ago.

2 So we got misled on the hook limit
3 that you mentioned a while ago because
4 somebody had told us they was going to
5 try to reduce our amount of hooks to
6 1,000 hooks per licensed fisherman. But
7 we got here and we see that's not the
8 case, so that's the reason we're here.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: We appreciate you being
10 here. We're sorry that was confusing.

11 MR. EDWARD WHITMIRE: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir. We tried
13 to get that information out,
14 Mr. Whitmire, as best we could because
15 we heard the rumors going. And we just,
16 you know, tried our best. I know
17 Director Sykes talked to a number of
18 people trying to get that out. So sorry
19 we couldn't have gotten that to you
20 sooner.

21 MR. EDWARD WHITMIRE: That's good. We're
22 happy that it's not happening.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Danny
2 Whitmire.

3 MR. DANNY WHITMIRE: Yeah. My name is Danny
4 Whitmire, and I'm also with the
5 fishermen's group here from north
6 Alabama. And we all did get misled on
7 the amount of hooks that we could fish
8 on our commercial license.

9 But I also wanted to ask y'all to
10 look at the gillnet issue where they
11 closed it down on the Tennessee River
12 last year. It's going to make a big
13 dent in all the gamefish reproducing,
14 whatever, you know, taking the buffalo
15 and the carp and drum and all that out
16 of the river with the gillnets. I think
17 that if you open it back up it'll let
18 everything go smooth.

19 So, like I said, I did get misled on
20 the hook issue, but I wanted to, you
21 know, run the gillnet thing by you.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you,
23 Mr. Whitmire.

1 MR. DANNY WHITMIRE: Be real appreciative if
2 you'd get it opened back up.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you so much.

4 The next speaker is Jessica Flowers.

5 MS. FLOWERS: Hi, good morning. My name is
6 Jessica Flowers. I'm from Baldwin
7 County. I'm here representing the
8 Alabama Hog Dog Hunters Association. I
9 am a hog dog hunter.

10 The first thing I want to talk about
11 is possibly opening back up hog dog
12 hunting at night. There were some
13 issues way back, and it was
14 misinterpreted somehow in the books.
15 And it's gotten to where we can't hunt
16 at night at all, period. And during the
17 heat and during the summer months it's
18 really hard for us to run dogs. And, of
19 course, this would exclude deer season
20 and turkey season.

21 But at night, you know, you're still
22 having farmer issues. You're still
23 having issues with landowners having hog

1 problems. So we would like for that to
2 be considered and opened back up to
3 night hunting.

4 Also, we would like for the board to
5 consider opening up the WMA, as
6 Mr. Sykes already talked about. We
7 would like for that to be opened up to
8 be able to hunt with a limited amount of
9 hog hunters and also on a quota basis.
10 We don't want it to be a free-for-all
11 and everybody be out there, of course.
12 You know, we want it to be a limited and
13 structured environment.

14 And that's about it. I do want to
15 say thank you to Keith and Mr. Chuck and
16 everybody else that's helped us, you
17 know, try to work on the WMA and try to
18 get everything situated with it. And we
19 appreciate y'all.

20 Any questions?

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

22 Oh, Mr. Hatley.

23 MR. HATLEY: Ms. Flowers?

1 MS. FLOWERS: Yes.

2 MR. HATLEY: Where do you hog hunt primarily?

3 MS. FLOWERS: Primarily right now we're
4 hunting private landowners. We hunt
5 Mr. Billy Slaughter's property. We hunt
6 the Howard property in Stockton.
7 There's a few different areas that we
8 hunt that we have to get it signed off
9 on right now as far as, you know,
10 landowner -- private landowners.

11 MR. HATLEY: But primarily it's in the Delta
12 area?

13 MS. FLOWERS: It's close to it. As far as
14 Mr. Slaughter's, yeah. He owns about
15 10,000 acres, and that's going to be up
16 past Stockton area. And then the
17 Howards' is right -- a little bit past
18 Stockton area, too, but it's on the main
19 road.

20 MR. HATLEY: There's some things I'd like to
21 talk to you about after the meeting that
22 you brought up.

23 MS. FLOWERS: Yes, sir.

1 MR. HATLEY: So -- because I've got some of
2 those same concerns that you do. So I'd
3 like to talk to you about that.

4 MS. FLOWERS: Right. We will.

5 MR. HATLEY: Thank you.

6 MS. FLOWERS: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Flowers.

8 The next speaker is Lewie Helms.

9 Mr. Helms.

10 MR. HELMS: I'm old and slow. My name is
11 Lewie Helms. I'm from Headland,
12 Alabama. And I want to talk to y'all a
13 few minutes this morning about dove
14 hunting, which is my passion.

15 To start with, I want to -- I'd like
16 to make a few comments to Commissioner
17 Guy, Chuck Sykes, and Grady Hartzog.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Flip that microphone up,
19 if you will, please, sir. We're having
20 a hard time hearing you.

21 MR. HELMS: I would like to say thank you, you
22 fellows, the whole staff, for responding
23 in the last few years, especially under

1 your tenure, Commissioner Guy, that
2 y'all -- it seems to me that -- seems to
3 us in our area that y'all have responded
4 to a lot of our issues down there when
5 it comes to dove hunting. And what I'm
6 talking about is interpretation of the
7 regulations. We have -- we do a lot of
8 youth hunts. We had problems in the
9 past with interpretation of what's legal
10 and what's illegal, and it has run real
11 smooth the last couple of years -- two
12 or three years.

13 And all I want to say to you is -- I
14 was here in 2013 and talked about some
15 issues like when kids could hunt,
16 holidays, weekends, and also our
17 late-season needs in south Alabama. And
18 when I got the regulation in 2014, I
19 could not believe it. I called Grady.
20 I said, Grady, are you sure this is
21 right?

22 Y'all had actually -- what we had
23 asked for y'all had incorporated into

1 the regs and the dates. And I just want
2 to say I appreciate it.

3 And the last thing I want to say, in
4 60 years of hunting I think you've got
5 it just right. It don't need fixing.

6 Leave it like it is. Thank you, sir.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you.

8 MR. HARTZOG: Dan?

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

10 MR. HARTZOG: I'd like to thank Mr. Lewie
11 because I do know Mr. Lewie does an
12 awful lot with the youth hunts down
13 there. He does a good job. He and I
14 talk pretty regular. So he does a good
15 job with looking out for the kids of the
16 state of Alabama.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's excellent. We
18 appreciate his comments.

19 Commissioner.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'll just say this because
21 I was jumping on the feds about the
22 snapper fishing. But I will say on dove
23 hunting, Mr. Lewie, the U.S. Fish and

1 Wildlife Service has also worked with
2 us, and they do get -- deserve some
3 credit in this case because they have --
4 they are helping us get dove season
5 right. And we should thank them as
6 well, so thank you.

7 MR. HELMS: Well, we just -- it worked. We
8 had a fantastic season. And I don't
9 think you can do anything more for us
10 unless you can deal with the weather.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: We're working on that.

12 MR. SYKES: I need to make sure that
13 everything is recorded. That's two
14 speakers in a row that thanked us for
15 doing something.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I was going to comment on
17 that, Director Sykes. That's the first
18 time I remember two in a row.

19 MR. SYKES: Unbelievable.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is
21 Ralph Mirarchi.

22 MR. MIRARCHI: Thank you. It's Mirarchi.
23 That's better -- it's been pronounced

1 "Marichmari" too. They thought I was
2 Japanese for a while.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Ditchkoff told me to
4 say that.

5 MR. MIRARCHI: Well, thank you for letting me
6 take the opportunity to speak today. My
7 name is Ralph Mirarchi. I'm a Professor
8 Emeritus of Wild Science with Auburn
9 University, but more importantly I'm a
10 property owner in Lee County, Alabama.

11 First off, I'm going to make it
12 three in a row, Chuck. And I want to
13 commend the Conservation Advisory Board
14 and the Division of Wildlife and
15 Freshwater Fisheries for many of the
16 progressive moves that have been made in
17 just the last few years with everything
18 from buck harvest restrictions to the
19 main point I'm going to mention or talk
20 about today, which is coordinating the
21 deer seasons with the peak rut. I think
22 you've done a wonderful job, and I'd
23 like to see it continue.

1 One of the things that -- or the
2 main thing I want to briefly mention --
3 y'all have a handout packet that I
4 provided to you. In that handout packet
5 I have a map of Lee County which
6 indicates where the current Zone B and
7 Zone A deer-hunting seasons are located.
8 My property and some of the people that
9 I represent in that area are located in
10 section 18 in the northwestern portion
11 of Lee County as well. And as you can
12 see, we're in Zone A, which is still on
13 the January -- ending deer season
14 January 31st.

15 The first figure that I provided
16 there is a compilation of 30 years of
17 data that I have collected on that
18 property of frequency of sightings of
19 branch-antlered bucks. And as you can
20 see, from the beginning of the hunting
21 season -- and we hunt all season long,
22 to the very end -- this frequency
23 increases dramatically and reaches its

1 peak during the middle of January. And,
2 of course, the season ends January 31st
3 while the rut is still in full peak.

4 The second figure in that packet
5 indicates the size of the bucks, and the
6 size of those observed and those killed
7 increases as well during that period of
8 time.

9 The third figure on there is a
10 representation that I have made just of
11 what -- if the frequency of sightings
12 would be normally distributed what
13 would -- it would look like extending on
14 into February and into that late -- the
15 February 10th hunting season. And you
16 can see before it tapered off we would
17 still have a peak --

18 MS. JONES: Time.

19 MR. MIRARCHI: -- of about ten days' worth of
20 rutting.

21 So my point basically, in
22 summarizing, is those of us in northwest
23 Lee County would like to see that season

1 extended into February 10th because we
2 have visual data to support that, 30
3 years' worth.

4 I have -- I just want to mention
5 that I have been in contact with
6 Director Sykes and with Bill Gray, the
7 deer biologist, and they got in touch
8 with me very promptly after they
9 received this letter and indicated they
10 will be glad to come out and do some
11 sampling to verify these data as well,
12 and I greatly appreciate that. And I
13 hope that the board would see fit based
14 on the recommendation from their staff
15 to extend the hunting season in
16 northwest Lee County into the February
17 10th deadline.

18 From a standpoint of law
19 enforcement, I think it would be fairly
20 easy to handle because it's just north
21 and west of I-85. It would not affect
22 the eastern portion of Lee County which
23 does have a November rut.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, sir.

2 MR. MIRARCHI: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Until -- let's make this
4 point again that the board and
5 everybody -- until we get that data none
6 of that can be done or moved. So it's
7 important to us because everything we do
8 is going to be substantiated by the data
9 that Chuck and his staff provides us.

10 MR. MIRARCHI: I appreciate that and I
11 understand that. Being a research
12 scientist, I could see -- I could have
13 made this up. I didn't, but I could
14 have. So I understand that and will be
15 glad to work with y'all.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

17 MR. MIRARCHI: Good job by the way. Really
18 appreciate it.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Drew
20 Porter.

21 MR. PORTER: Good morning, everyone. I'm Drew
22 Porter.

23 First of all, I'd like to thank

1 y'all for giving us an opportunity to
2 come, you know, down and voice our
3 concerns and things.

4 And I want to talk to you today
5 about the art of stalk hunting using
6 man-drives. This is an age-old hunting
7 process. You know, who hasn't done it,
8 you know. You know, you hunt -- still
9 hunt in the morning maybe and on the way
10 out you and your dad, your brother,
11 whatever, walk out a briar patch, you
12 know. We've all done it, you know.

13 We really enjoy doing it, and there
14 really hadn't never been any problems
15 with it. And we came up to the Forever
16 Wild land at the Old Cahawba Tract
17 between Selma and Orrville this year,
18 and just out of the blue, you know,
19 there on the rule map it said that this
20 practice was prohibited.

21 So we go to investigating a little
22 bit, you know, and we talk to the game
23 warden there, David Hopper. And we

1 figure out what's going on. You know, a
2 landowner had complained about he had
3 thought some people had got on his
4 place. And, you know, my point was how
5 many people are caught on other people's
6 places in a year tree-stand hunting.
7 You know, you give them a ticket and
8 send them on their way. You don't ban
9 tree-stand hunting in an area because of
10 it. You know, the laws are there for
11 that.

12 And we'd just like to see this type
13 of hunting to be able to remain in
14 Alabama. It's something that lots of
15 people really enjoy doing.

16 I talked with Patti Powell and her
17 people, and I think that that situation
18 down there is going to be rectified.
19 They've got some -- you know, some
20 things that they think they're going to
21 do to fix that and get that language
22 removed.

23 I don't know of anywhere else in the

1 state that it is illegal -- or
2 prohibited, should I say, to do
3 man-drives, and we would like to see it
4 to continue to be, you know, a legal
5 form of stalk hunting.

6 And we just appreciate, you know,
7 like I said, y'all giving us a platform
8 to speak on things. And I appreciate
9 Patti and them's group. They got back
10 to me about three weeks ago on this
11 and -- but I still wanted to come today
12 and just, you know, let you know that
13 this is a form of hunting that a lot of
14 people in our state enjoy and we enjoy,
15 you know.

16 You know, hey, we're human beings.
17 We can read where the land lines are.
18 If somebody gets caught breaking the
19 law, give them a ticket, but don't
20 punish everybody who's trying to do, you
21 know, the right thing and hunt
22 correctly, so --

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Porter, I'm sure that

1 the concern was more from a safety
2 standpoint than it was anything else.

3 But, Ms. Powell, do you have any
4 comments on this?

5 MS. POWELL: I would like to thank Mr. Porter.
6 He did call my staff and express his
7 concerns. That always helps us to be
8 aware of the concerns and see what we
9 can do to begin addressing them.

10 Brief history. The Old Cahawba
11 Tract acquired in 2009, about 3,000
12 acres consistent with Forever Wild's
13 multiple-use theory of management, we
14 did open to open-permit public hunting
15 back in 2009 for that first '09-10
16 season. Shortly after that we did begin
17 to receive complaints from adjacent
18 landowners of trespassing, either
19 man-drive standers standing on their
20 land shooting in or saying that shots
21 were being fired onto their private land
22 shooting at deer.

23 As that continued, we investigated

1 those. It continued. We had posted
2 some additional signs clearly saying
3 specifically you are leaving public
4 land, now entering private land. That
5 did eliminate -- or reduce -- it didn't
6 eliminate but did reduce some of the
7 complaints. We continued to receive
8 them on into the '13-14 season. We
9 began to receive specific safety
10 concerns that were presented to my
11 staff.

12 As a result, this past season we did
13 close for a period of evaluation that
14 activity on that tract. That comes up
15 for review at our meeting. We have a
16 meeting each year normally after turkey
17 season, but we'll be sure to schedule it
18 this year prior to your next meeting.
19 We could prevent our -- present our
20 evaluation.

21 What we're hoping to do is reopen
22 some portions possibly using some
23 different boundaries internal to the

1 tract or creating some safety zones.
2 But prior to your -- in your next
3 meeting we should be able to give you an
4 update. And we have been in
5 communication with Mr. Porter, and we
6 will keep that communication going.

7 So any questions?

8 MR. HARTZOG: So, Patti, that was the only
9 tract that Forever Wild had that had
10 that regulation on it?

11 Because I know we passed -- well, we
12 usually pass a management plan on each
13 tract, so --

14 MS. POWELL: Yes. And that one did. And,
15 again, that was 2009 to the '13-14
16 season there were no restrictions.
17 There's just this past season that we
18 did implement sort of a halt for a
19 season to further evaluate both the
20 usage and the complaints and try to
21 understand and try to evaluate how we
22 could relieve the safety concerns but
23 return the activity. And so we'll be

1 able to tell you more by your next --
2 we'll be sure and have our annual review
3 of our tracts before this next
4 meeting -- your next meeting.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Powell.

6 MS. POWELL: Thank you. And thank you,
7 Mr. Porter.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
9 Tony Boatwell.

10 Thank you, Mr. Porter.

11 MR. PORTER: Well, I just wanted to tell
12 y'all, you know, I'm an honorably
13 discharged infantry marine taxpayer.
14 And I just wanted to let y'all know
15 that, you know, we want to be able to do
16 the things right and be able to hunt
17 like -- you know, like we need to in our
18 state and just that we appreciate, you
19 know, everything that y'all do for us as
20 hunters. And thank you for your time.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

22 Tony Boatwell.

23 MR. BOATWELL: Hey, I'm Tony Boatwell. I dog

1 hunt in Baldwin County in the Rabon
2 Sportsman Hunting Club. And there's
3 some complaints supposedly about dog
4 hunting on the -- in the county.

5 And I talked to Mr. Hatley. I
6 talked to some of the game wardens
7 there. And some of the stories are a
8 little bit different. You know,
9 Mr. Hatley said there's a bunch of
10 complaints, and they said they got just
11 the normal regular complaints. And, you
12 know, I talked to a bunch of the
13 presidents from the other hunting clubs,
14 and none of them knew nothing about none
15 of the complaints. No one came to us
16 and told us about anything.

17 And I guess what I'm trying to say
18 is, you know, we can't make no
19 corrections if there's a problem if we
20 don't know about them. And, you know,
21 y'all can tell us something -- you know,
22 we can go talk to someone and tell them,
23 hey, y'all are doing wrong, y'all

1 straighten up. And if they don't
2 straighten up, then y'all can do
3 y'all's -- whatever the thing is with
4 the permit system if y'all have to, you
5 know. But that's all I have to say.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

8 The next speaker will be Jason Fox.

9 MR. FOX: How y'all doing? Good morning. We
10 appreciate everything y'all do for us,
11 and we appreciate the opportunity.

12 My name is Jason Fox. I'm from
13 Brantley, Alabama, which is in Crenshaw
14 County. And I'm here representing Dead
15 Run Hunting Club really this morning for
16 support of deer hunting with dogs,
17 running dogs, and mainly to support or
18 defend any issues that may be ongoing
19 with our club. And I don't have
20 anything directly to discuss. Mainly it
21 was if anyone had any complaints. Just
22 wanted to discuss that.

23 As Mr. Sykes said, there are outlaws

1 out there, and we would appreciate that
2 the entire state does not suffer from
3 the actions of some wrongdoers. Thank
4 y'all.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

6 The next speaker is Clifton Smith.

7 MR. SMITH: All right. Good morning. I'm
8 Clifton Smith. I hunt at the Blue Sand
9 Bed Hunting Club. We also -- it's been
10 brung to our attention that there's a
11 lot of complaints going around about dog
12 hunting.

13 We -- we have not received no
14 complaints. We haven't heard about no
15 complaints. We haven't had no game
16 warden come to us and present us with
17 any complaints. If there's any
18 complaints, if y'all know anything about
19 any, y'all let us know. We can see what
20 we can do to make it better. Without
21 knowing what it's about, you know, just
22 hearsay, what can we do?

23 Do any of y'all know anything about

1 any complaints?

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The board has received
3 more complaints on dog hunting this
4 session than, I think, any session I've
5 seen in the last 12 years. Whether or
6 not your section, I don't know that.

7 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: But what we need to do is
9 make sure that you communicate with your
10 representative from your area, and then
11 those complaints -- I assure you every
12 one of those letters is mailed -- or
13 letters or comments is taken by each
14 board member and all of them very
15 responsibly look at those. And so those
16 complaints will be echoed back through
17 either the enforcement officers or these
18 meetings.

19 But there is a multitude of
20 complaints. I'll go ahead and assure
21 you of that. But I don't know if
22 they're from your area or not.

23 Mr. Hatley, this is in your area,

1 I believe.

2 MR. HATLEY: Yeah.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Have you had complaints?

4 MR. HATLEY: I'd like to talk about that at a
5 later time. But, yes, I certainly have.

6 But I'll be glad to talk with you
7 about it too.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Thank you very
9 much.

10 Okay. The next speaker will be
11 Randy Barefoot.

12 MR. BAREFOOT: I'm Randy Barefoot from
13 Covington County, and I'm here -- first
14 off, I'm not here to complain about dog
15 hunting. I'm here because we have a
16 dog-hunting club in Covington County
17 that is taking advantage of all the
18 landowners around their club.

19 Our county is actually split.
20 Highway 84 splits our county. And north
21 of 84 they have to permit dogs. They
22 still can run dogs, but they have to
23 permit them. South of the county, wide

1 open. And I have not talked to one
2 person that has a complaint north of 84.

3 And all of our neighbors around --
4 we're landowners there. I've got
5 y'all -- I give everybody a map. There
6 should be a map there that just shows --
7 shows our property and our neighbor's
8 property there.

9 This club, they have probably --
10 it's around 4,000 acres leased from
11 Rayonier and from Dixon Corporation
12 there. And the way -- if you look at
13 your map, the way our property lays in
14 there, the green line there is a paved
15 highway, and we're kind of in a wedge.
16 The hunting club has us on the west and
17 on the south, and then the highway has
18 us, I guess, on the east and north. And
19 they use that highway to cut their dogs
20 off.

21 And they -- I've called the game
22 wardens -- I mean, I've talked to our
23 local game warden there, Patrick Norris.

1 He's doing an outstanding job. Every
2 time I call him he's going down there,
3 going down there, but his hands are
4 tied. Because these guys know that as
5 long as he's not catching them turning
6 their dogs out on me or shooting a deer
7 on me there's nothing he can do; right?

8 And I've talked with the --
9 Rayonier. I've talked to Dixon. I
10 talked with Mr. Hartzog last year. I
11 think -- and you may talk to that
12 hunting club and they'll probably say,
13 oh, we haven't had any complaints. Oh,
14 I've heard the -- you know, a dog can't
15 read signs, all that garbage.

16 The reason a lot of people aren't
17 complaining, I think everybody's give up
18 because we haven't been able to get
19 anything done. And we have -- we can't
20 hunt. We can't hunt at our private
21 property.

22 And I'm not against dog hunting. I
23 think everybody ought to be able to hunt

1 the way they want to hunt and the way
2 they enjoy to hunt as long as it's
3 within the law. But when our rights are
4 being taken away -- this past season --
5 I'm sorry -- '14 season, I went and
6 actually talked to a couple of the dog
7 hunters, and two different guys told me
8 I'm sorry that your land lays the way it
9 lays; we love to dog hunt; we're going
10 to do it; and when dog season goes out,
11 you can start hunting your property
12 again. I was told that out of their
13 mouth. And you can't tell me that's
14 right when I can't hunt my own piece of
15 property --

16 MS. JONES: Time.

17 MR. BAREFOOT: -- that I own because of
18 somebody else. That's -- we need
19 y'all's help, please. Help us get the
20 permit system. They can still dog hunt,
21 but it'll force them guys to care a
22 little bit. Thank y'all.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Barefoot.

1 The next speaker is James
2 Cunningham.

3 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Good morning, members of the
4 board, Mr. Chairman. As you said, my
5 name is Caleb Cunningham. I'm from
6 Washington County, Alabama.

7 Before you is a packet that I have
8 prepared. I have actually been one of
9 the people encouraging people to send
10 you these letters. They keep telling me
11 anecdotes and stories, and I wanted to
12 focus on facts when I came to y'all
13 today.

14 This practice of dog hunting has
15 long plagued Alabama and been banned but
16 in the small minority of states.
17 There's an old saying that the freedom
18 to swing your arm stops where my nose
19 begins, and unfortunately that's not the
20 case when you allow dog hunting.
21 Property owners have long been
22 defenseless against rampant trespassing
23 and damages caused by dog hunters.

1 MR. MARTIN: Excuse me. Will you speak in the
2 microphone, please.

3 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. I'm sorry.

4 The hunters often say that it's a
5 tradition and they should be allowed to
6 continue their tradition. I say that
7 property rights are an even more
8 important tradition that we should
9 protect.

10 Further, in the modern era of
11 smaller and smaller hunting parcels,
12 it's a dangerous and risky practice.
13 Dog hunters often shoot deer that are
14 running, making dangerous shots that
15 cripple and maim deer or could strike
16 people. They or their animals
17 indiscriminately cross onto others'
18 properties thwarting the efforts of
19 still hunters and harassing game not on
20 their property.

21 In the seven states that allow dog
22 hunting it is unpopular. Georgia has
23 recently done a study that only 39

1 percent of hunters are in favor of
2 allowing dog hunting deer to continue.
3 South Carolina found only 3.3 percent of
4 hunters are dog hunters. It is
5 illustrious of the problem of dog
6 hunting that such a small population can
7 cause this many problems.

8 Further, a lot of hunters and
9 nonhunters alike find the practice
10 barbaric, inhumane, both for the dog and
11 the deer. As hunters, we are the gross
12 minority of individuals, and we have to
13 be cognizant of how we appear to these
14 people or else we could lose their
15 trust.

16 Included in your packet is a
17 memorandum and an order from a federal
18 court case in Louisiana. The United
19 States Forest Service did obtain
20 numerous complaints as you have and did
21 their own study -- complaints, reported
22 problems such as personal property
23 vandalism, livestock harassment,

1 personal confrontations, shots being
2 fired across roads, road damage, blocked
3 roads, and that's just getting started.
4 And that's sworn deposition testimony in
5 your packet.

6 And based on the complaints and its
7 research, the U.S. Forestry Service
8 decided to ban dog hunting. It
9 interfered with recreational land use.
10 It was against public safety. It
11 created social issues and had negative
12 economic impacts. Of particular note,
13 the U.S. Forestry Service found that
14 there were more still hunters after they
15 banned dog hunting.

16 You will also find an interesting
17 article -- and the director was speaking
18 about turkeys. Dogs are one of the
19 greatest predators of turkeys -- and
20 it's located in the table there for your
21 reference purposes -- as a lot of times
22 these dogs escape, are abandoned at the
23 end of deer season, and they become

1 feral.

2 The researchers in that article also
3 found that the mere presence of dogs
4 deters use and habitation of wildlife.

5 MS. JONES: Time.

6 MR. CUNNINGHAM: I respectfully ask that you
7 review the materials I provided. And if
8 you have any questions, I'll be glad to
9 answer them. But I know after you
10 review those materials you'll believe as
11 I do and move towards banning this
12 practice.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Cunningham.

14 The next speaker is Dewayne Flowers.

15 MR. FLOWERS: I'm just here today to ask y'all
16 for y'all's help to put Halls Fork on
17 the permit system because of the dog
18 problem we have down there, turning dogs
19 loose, running across everybody's
20 property, and that's all I'm here for
21 today.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And you're in Bay Minette,
23 Alabama?

1 MR. FLOWERS: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Very good. Thank
3 you, Mr. Flowers.

4 The next -- per our standing rules
5 that there's only ten speakers on each
6 subject, I randomly selected three out
7 of the -- we're not going to allow more
8 to speak against dog deer hunting than
9 to speak for dog deer hunting. Because
10 there were 13 against dog deer hunting,
11 I randomly selected three: Clarence
12 Herring, Jim Roberts, T.J. Thompson.

13 If any of the other speakers would
14 like to give up their time for one of
15 those three to speak, that will be fine,
16 but right now I'm going to go by them
17 and if someone at the end wants to give
18 up their time to speak. But there's not
19 going to be more speak against dog deer
20 hunting than speaks for it.

21 Yes, sir.

22 MR. THOMAS: Sir, I was told to come up here
23 and voice my opinion. I don't think

1 that's right. It don't matter if it's a
2 hundred or two. Everybody ought to have
3 their right to talk.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's correct, but --

5 MR. THOMAS: I got some ideas that them other
6 fellows didn't say that I think would
7 help the --

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, sir. But we have
9 these standing rules that we go by, and
10 that's why I'm giving y'all the chance
11 to get together on who you'd like to
12 have speak.

13 What's your name, please, sir?

14 MR. THOMAS: My name is Joe Thomas. My name
15 is down yonder to speak.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Well, then, you're
17 on to speak; right?

18 MR. THOMAS: Well, you just said they wasn't
19 going to speak on dog hunting no more.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Jim Roberts, T.J.
21 Thompson, and Clarence Herring.

22 MR. THOMAS: My name is Joe Thomas. I was
23 going to talk about the dog --

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Oh, no. You're T.J.
2 Thompson?

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: No. He was going to get to
4 speak.

5 MR. THOMAS: No. I'm Joe Thomas.

6 (Audience responds.)

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We'll, we're still not
8 going to abandon our standing rules.
9 We're going to do what we have.

10 Okay. Clarence Herring, we're going
11 to go by you. If there's somebody who
12 will give you their spot later, then you
13 can speak for them. But the next
14 speaker will be Doug Kaiser.

15 MR. KAISER: My name's Doug Kaiser from Atmore
16 in Escambia County. My concern is about
17 the abuse of the habitual deer dog
18 trespass in my community.

19 The sheet that I gave y'all is the
20 list of some of the people in my
21 community that I went around, they
22 signed it. And they also had a --
23 wanted me to, you know, represent them

1 here today with their complaints as well
2 as mine, and that's the trespassing,
3 endangered livestock, neighboring dogs
4 missing or run over from the speeding
5 traffic that goes by. Some were afraid
6 of being shot as well.

7 I'm here today for your help. I
8 have gone through the game wardens.
9 I've gone through the local law office.
10 I cannot get help in getting my own
11 private landowner rights to be seen
12 because I feel like I'm being overrun.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Kaiser.

15 The next speaker will be Randy
16 Marshall.

17 Mr. Marshall, before you speak, the
18 Commissioner just noted that the three
19 people, Mr. Herring, Mr. Roberts,
20 Mr. Thompson, if you'll submit your
21 comments in writing to us, we will make
22 sure that the board gets those from your
23 area. I'm sorry you're not able to speak

1 today, but we'll take those in writing and
2 look at those appropriately.

3 All right, Mr. Marshall. Go ahead.

4 MR. MARSHALL: Good morning. My name is Randy
5 Marshall. I'm from Monroe County.

6 I am a landowner. My adjacent land
7 neighbors, they lease land, a thousand
8 to 1500 acres. I've owned my property
9 for five years. Progressively it's
10 gotten worse. We've had -- I hate to be
11 a broken record, but we've got -- we've
12 got a problem with dogs. We've caught
13 the dogs. We've taken them to the
14 owners. Very little support.
15 Basically, you know, the dog can't read.
16 We've all heard it all.

17 We are on a strict management
18 program. We are a trophy club. I can
19 give you deer pictures February 14th
20 that deer -- that dogs are running
21 through our property. I am a bowhunter.
22 I carry my bow through January and
23 February. Opening day of bow season,

1 the dogs.

2 And, again, I don't -- I want people
3 to understand -- I think the first
4 hunting trip I ever did was a
5 dog-hunting trip. And it was fun. We
6 had a good time. I believe if this --
7 what I'm asking for is Monroe County to
8 be put under a permit system. And I
9 believe what the regulations are is
10 you've got to have 2500 contiguous
11 acres.

12 With that being said, I believe
13 someone can be effective with that.
14 What we have is about 240 acres that
15 dogs are being put on, and they're
16 through there in about two-and-a-half
17 minutes. So with that being said, now
18 the dogs are venturing off onto us.

19 I've sent emails. I've actually
20 talked to Mr. Hatley. I greatly
21 appreciate the response and just for him
22 to talk to me.

23 We've actually talked to game

1 wardens. I know this has been said
2 before. Their hands are tied.

3 MS. JONES: Time.

4 MR. MARSHALL: So what I'm asking for is
5 Monroe County to be put under a
6 permitting system.

7 Any questions?

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

9 Okay. The next speaker will be
10 Robert Mason.

11 Mr. Mason?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. If Mr. Mason
14 doesn't come to the microphone, we will
15 take our first alternate.

16 Clarence Herring?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. How about Jim
19 Roberts?

20 Oh, here we go.

21 MR. ROBERTS: I am Jim Roberts.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay.

23 MR. ROBERTS: And I thank you for letting us

1 voice our opinion. All the other guys
2 have stole my thunder.

3 I'm requesting that you gentlemen
4 please give serious consideration to a
5 permit system for dog hunting in Baldwin
6 and Monroe County. I've been hunting
7 that area for 25 years or better, and it
8 just progressively gets worse every
9 season. And it's -- I work for a
10 living. We only get to hunt on the
11 weekends, and at 8:15 -- you can set
12 your watch and the hunt's over for that
13 weekend.

14 We're losing club members as a
15 result of it. And we spend a lot of
16 money in the community. And we just
17 want our voice to be heard, and I
18 appreciate the opportunity for that to
19 happen. Thank you.

20 MR. DOBBS: Mr. Chairman?

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Dobbs.

22 MR. DOBBS: Are you a private landowner in
23 that area?

1 MR. ROBERTS: I have -- both. I have private
2 land and I lease property from timber
3 companies that I would rather not name.

4 MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

5 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you for your time.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Roberts.

7 The next speaker will be Steve
8 Pierce.

9 MR. PIERCE: Good morning. My name is Steve
10 Pierce from Andalusia, Alabama.

11 I put on there I'm against dog
12 hunting. I'm not totally against dog
13 hunting. I'm against the way it goes --
14 the way they do it down home. That's
15 the bottom line. And I say it's
16 partially the board's fault.

17 You've got them permitted north of
18 84. Down south all you've done is
19 turned all the drunks and thugs loose on
20 us. You got zero complaints north of
21 84. That's from both of the game
22 wardens telling me that. They're both
23 in my cell phone.

1 I've asked y'all before to help us.
2 It's time something is done. I'm not
3 saying permit them down there. I don't
4 know the cure for that. That's for
5 y'all to figure out. But we need
6 something done down there before
7 somebody is hurt. Because you got a
8 bunch of drunks hunting in the roads,
9 riding young'uns around in the back of
10 pickups and on these ATVs,
11 four-wheelers, whatever you want to call
12 them.

13 Somebody is going to get hurt. I
14 don't want to see a young'un hurt.
15 I want people to hunt and enjoy it. But
16 the problem with that is that that bunch
17 is just like -- it's like anywhere else.
18 It's not all of them in that -- in the
19 club. But the main thugs is the ones
20 with the money, and the rest of them
21 either got to go along with them or not
22 hunt. And when you can't hunt on
23 private land because you got a bunch of

1 thugs out there, it's not right, period.
2 Something needs to be done.

3 We've got two fantastic game wardens
4 in Randall and Patrick. And they're
5 busting their hiney trying to do us --
6 trying to help us, but they got to catch
7 them. When you call them to come out
8 there, they know they're coming before
9 they're there and they're gone. But you
10 ride down the county road -- you go down
11 there and ride down it during hunting
12 season. You'll see them standing on the
13 side of the road -- on the side of a
14 paved road hunting. That's wrong.

15 Something needs to be done, now.
16 I'm not asking you. I'm telling you. I
17 won't be back to bother y'all no more.
18 But if something happens, now, it's on
19 y'all's conscience because a young'un or
20 something got hurt down there because of
21 stupidity.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Have you talked to anybody
23 on the board, Mr. Pierce, your

1 representative?

2 MR. PIERCE: I have tried to call
3 Mr. Hartzog's office, and he hadn't been
4 in, sir, when I did. And I just -- I
5 got tired of it. But I'm not joking.
6 You can ask our game wardens. I'm in
7 both of their cell phones and they're in
8 mine. And they know I don't mind
9 calling them.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog, can you get
11 in contact with Mr. Pierce?

12 MR. HARTZOG: (Nods head.)

13 MR. PIERCE: And, you know, that's what I'm
14 saying. It's -- where it's south of 84
15 there, you know, in Covington County.
16 It's not just one, you know. And, like
17 I say, I'm not saying that the permits
18 will cure it --

19 MS. JONES: Time.

20 MR. PIERCE: -- you know, to permit the dog
21 hunting. That ain't it. But something
22 needs to be done.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you for your

1 comments, Mr. Pierce.

2 The next speaker is Joe Thomas.

3 MR. THOMAS: My name is Joe Thomas. And
4 I talked to Mr. Hatley on the phone and
5 I talked to Mr. Don Knight. I don't
6 know who he is, but --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hey.

8 MR. THOMAS: My name is Joe Thomas. You
9 remember talking to me?

10 Dogs have run over us so bad in
11 Citronelle we had to leave and go home.
12 We couldn't even hunt. So I bought some
13 land in Baldwin County up in Perdido,
14 and I went up there and dog tracks were
15 everywhere. And, I mean, I was just --
16 you couldn't hunt at either place.

17 So I called Mr. Hatley, then I
18 called Mr. Knight, because I was
19 aggravated. And Mr. Knight told me -- I
20 told him I was aggravated because my
21 hunting rights were taken away. And he
22 said, no, ain't nobody took your hunting
23 rights away. He said, it's a proven

1 fact that a dog, when he runs a deer off
2 of a piece of property, that deer will
3 be back within 24 hours. So I told
4 him -- I said, well, you just, you know,
5 lost my time -- hunting time for 24
6 hours, then, being that their dogs had
7 run through there. They would run all
8 the deer off and the turkeys too.
9 But -- because I couldn't hunt that
10 morning. I had to work and all I could
11 hunt was that evening.

12 But according to him, he said it's
13 proven that when folks run dogs across
14 land that they don't hunt it, the deer's
15 not going to be back for 24 hours. I
16 know there's some places that you can go
17 and the people run dogs and then the
18 deer will be back that evening. But
19 it -- that's very seldom. I mean, they
20 run the fire out of them.

21 I don't know what to do. I mean, I
22 got to quit hunting. Y'all act like
23 y'all want people to hunt, but I don't

1 have -- Mr. Blalock, the game warden in
2 Baldwin County, told me I didn't have a
3 leg to stand on. I asked him could I
4 get a lawyer or what do I need to do.
5 He said, son, you can go to that board
6 meeting. He said, that's all I can tell
7 you. He said, you don't have no
8 right -- he said if I shoot a dog that's
9 a felony charge against me, that they're
10 going to take my hunting rights and my
11 gun rights away. But that dog can come
12 on my land and do what it wants.

13 But I talked to a fellow that hunts
14 in Perdido and Florida. He told me if
15 the dogs come on across their land in
16 Florida the dog owner gets a fine for
17 trespassing. But he said they don't
18 have no problems in Florida. He said
19 the problem's in Alabama. Because the
20 dog hunters, they -- the first thing
21 they do is buy a tracking collar. They
22 know that dog is going to run. Why
23 don't they buy a shock collar.

1 I sent you a letter and asked you
2 about it. Why don't they put a leash on
3 him when they go down through there with
4 a driver. There's ways you can stop it.

5 Well, it's either that or just -- I
6 mean, what do you do?

7 (Audience responds.)

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: No comments from the
9 crowd.

10 MR. THOMAS: Oh, I don't want to take nobody's
11 hunting. I don't want to take away
12 nobody's hunting.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would address the
14 board, please, sir, not the crowd.

15 MR. THOMAS: Yes, sir.

16 But I just don't know what to do. I
17 mean, I don't -- nobody has the answer
18 except Florida and where they got
19 permits. Then them folks, they do
20 what's right once you -- once you guys
21 make them, but until then they ain't. I
22 sit here today and y'all know good and
23 well it's a problem. I ain't the only

1 one talking.

2 MS. JONES: Time.

3 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Thomas.

5 We're going to go back. Mr. Mason
6 came back that missed his time.

7 Mr. Mason.

8 MR. MASON: Thank you for doing this. Hi, my
9 name is Robert Mason. I'm from
10 Alexander City, Alabama, and I'm here on
11 behalf of Briar Patch Hunting Club and
12 J & P Hunting Club. And our issue is
13 kind of -- kind of the same of what
14 you're hearing with the dogs.

15 But Clay County, the county we hunt
16 in, right now is not in the permit --
17 that you have to have a permit to run
18 the dogs up there, and what we would
19 like to ask is if somehow we can get
20 Clay County permitted, best way we can
21 put some restrictions and stipulation on
22 these guys. Because it's the same
23 everywhere, whether you're trespassing,

1 turning dogs loose.

2 And we have actually had somebody
3 else in our group to get in touch with
4 Jeff Martin about the guys, how they got
5 their camp set up. It's killing the
6 poultries. You know, and where we hunt
7 at, these guys -- when their dogs kill
8 their poultry -- you know, that's a way
9 of life for these guys. That's food.
10 That's a source of income to them, a
11 source of food.

12 But, if you would, just kind of keep
13 in mind on Clay County, see if we can't
14 get, you know, at least it permitted.
15 That would really help us out some with
16 keeping this kind of resolved and
17 keeping down on that end of it. But
18 everything else is pretty well much what
19 you've been hearing up here.

20 We do appreciate it. Thank you for
21 your time.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Mason, have y'all sent
23 letters to Mr. Martin or to the board?

1 MR. MASON: Yes. I believe I got one in my
2 group that has got in touch with him. I
3 think he has talked to him. But we have
4 also had game wardens and everything
5 else involved. But one of the fellows
6 here with me today, I believe he has
7 spoke with Mr. Martin on something.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Just as you're
9 doing today, make it a documented case.
10 We have to have documented cases, and
11 you need to get those to Mr. Martin.
12 Just if it's for or against, either
13 way -- not saying one way is right or
14 wrong. But whether you're for dog
15 hunting or against dog hunting, those
16 cases for or against need to be
17 documented with the board member in your
18 area.

19 MR. MASON: And what do you do about trying to
20 get like the county -- well, you know,
21 when you're running dogs, you really
22 need a wide spread of property. I mean,
23 you just can't turn a hound dog,

1 especially a deer dog, a'loose on, just
2 say, 40 acres of land and expect him to
3 stay on that 40 acres.

4 Now, when you're small-game hunting
5 or maybe even hog hunting -- I'm not
6 familiar with hog hunting or how far
7 they run. But a deer can run, you know,
8 across a county or two before he stops,
9 so, you know --

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Mason.

11 We'll get into those issues after the
12 public segment.

13 MR. MASON: Okay. Thanks a lot.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker
15 will be Randall Thompson.

16 MR. THOMPSON: I heard more bragging on you
17 folks today than I've heard in three or
18 four meetings I've been down there.
19 But, seriously, what I'm here for -- and
20 I'll be brief -- is to brag on you
21 again.

22 I'm Randy Thompson from Cherokee,
23 Alabama, which is up in west Colbert

1 County. And we have been down for the
2 last two or three years in meetings
3 because we had some of the same
4 problems. And I'm glad you let me speak
5 because I've got a success story here.

6 But we had some of the same problems
7 that a lot of these guys have shared
8 today. We documented our problems with
9 dog hunting. We were being just ran
10 over. It was five of us landowners that
11 were on a perimeter where there was a
12 lot of dog hunting going on. We were
13 just being overrun, not allowed to hunt
14 our greenfields and the shooting houses
15 without just dogs laying on the
16 greenfield or running around our
17 greenfields and property.

18 This past year you folks put this
19 area on a permit system, and I'm going
20 to tell you it worked. We had a very
21 good year this year. Dr. Andre Taylor,
22 Rod Wallace, Carnell Goodlow, Mike
23 Worsham, and myself are the owners

1 there. All of us had the same report.
2 There were only -- most of us just maybe
3 heard dogs a couple of times in the
4 distance. I can't say that there was a
5 dog on my property at all. May have
6 been when I was not there.

7 But I'm just here to say there's a
8 way. I appreciate you folks helping us
9 with it and doing the right thing. And
10 we understand the frustration of so many
11 of these others today, but it worked for
12 us. The permit system has worked up to
13 this point, this year. It really made a
14 big difference. So thanks for your
15 help.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

17 The next speaker is Mike Worsham.

18 MR. WORSHAM: My name is Mike Worsham. As
19 Randy said, my property adjoins his in
20 Colbert County. And you've heard us
21 complain the last couple of years. We
22 wanted to come back and say thank you.
23 Because you put our area on the permit

1 system last year and, as he said, the
2 difference was tremendous.

3 In past years we would see deer the
4 first week or so of the season and then
5 we wouldn't see a lot until the last two
6 weeks when the dog hunting had stopped.
7 This year we saw deer the entire year.
8 We saw rutting activity, does chasing
9 bucks, and it's been eight or ten years
10 since we've seen that. It was just a
11 much more pleasant year, much more
12 enjoyable, and we just want to thank the
13 board for doing the right thing and
14 protecting our property owner's rights.
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Worsham.

17 That's --

18 MR. HARTZOG: Chairman Moultrie?

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

20 MR. HARTZOG: Out of curiosity, if Kevin can
21 answer this, when we put Colbert on the
22 permit system, did we lose any -- did
23 all the clubs get a permit or did we

1 actually lose any clubs?

2 MR. DODD: I'm sorry. When we first put who?

3 MR. HARTZOG: Colbert.

4 MR. JONES: To clarify, there was only a small
5 section of Colbert County put under a
6 permit system.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If y'all will address the
8 chair.

9 MR. JONES: It's not the entire county.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dodd, do you
11 understand the question? Do you
12 understand Mr. Hartzog's question?

13 MR. DODD: I'm not sure I entirely do.

14 MR. HARTZOG: If there were five clubs in the
15 area that were put under the permit
16 system, did all five clubs stay with the
17 permit?

18 MR. DODD: I cannot answer that, but
19 Lieutenant Askew should be intimately
20 familiar with that.

21 MR. ASKEW: There were three clubs and one
22 voted to discontinue dog hunting.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear him.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: There were three clubs.

2 One voted to discontinue dog hunting.

3 Is that right, Mr. Askew?

4 MR. ASKEW: Yes, sir.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog, anything

6 else?

7 MR. HARTZOG: No, sir. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Jones?

9 MR. JONES: No.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. We're going to

11 go -- I'm going to move the reduction in

12 hunting day to the end. We're going to

13 take the ten supporting dog deer hunting

14 immediately after the other. So we're

15 going to move that behind the dog deer

16 hunting support.

17 The first support for dog deer

18 hunting is Jack Hall.

19 MR. HALL: My name is Jack Hall, and I'm from

20 Bay Minette, Alabama, which is located

21 in Baldwin County. I'm also a member of

22 Tensaw River Hunting Club, and I'm also

23 a member of Halls Fork Hunting Club.

1 Both of those hunting clubs are probably
2 the oldest dog-hunting clubs in Baldwin
3 County.

4 I enjoy dog hunting. I'm a
5 dog-hunting person. My father is still
6 a dog-hunting person. I pick him up
7 every Wednesday night and take him fox
8 hunting up around Stockton, and he's 91
9 years old. And we'll stay up till about
10 11:30, 12 o'clock listening to dogs run.
11 In the morning he fixes breakfast and I
12 catch the dogs.

13 So we are walker-dog-type hunters.
14 And when I joined Halls Fork, I
15 realized, number one, I can't hunt that
16 type of dog out there at that hunting
17 club. So this year I hunted something
18 called a Beagle/Feist, which is about
19 this tall. Very energetic. He runs
20 extremely fast for about five minutes.
21 After that the deer has done got
22 distance on him and he turns around and
23 he comes back. That's one of the steps

1 that we've taken out at Halls Fork,
2 changing the breed of dog to meet the
3 environments.

4 Number two, we've added 200-plus
5 acres to our club to give more buffer
6 zone. We hope to add to that and build
7 a little larger buffer zone. Right now
8 we're creeping up on right at 4,000
9 acres.

10 So we have a pretty good hunting
11 club. It's well organized. It's a
12 family-organized club. We allow no
13 alcoholic beverages at all, period,
14 whether it's during the hunt, after the
15 hunt, or just hanging around the camp
16 house. There's no drinking allowed at
17 all, period.

18 Some of our complaints come from our
19 neighbors that used to be members of
20 this club. They chose to get out many,
21 many years ago. One or two of them was
22 caught illegally hunting over corn, and
23 they were asked to get out of the club.

1 Some of that is some of the anger from
2 this community.

3 We also have things that we do for
4 the community out there. We had a
5 community cleanup day where we cleaned
6 up about 11 miles' worth of road on both
7 sides. We picked up a 1010 trailer full
8 of trash that we paid for ourselves to
9 carry to the dump.

10 We also have a community fish fry
11 which we invite everybody in the
12 community to come out. And this year we
13 had about 50/50 as far as members and
14 people --

15 MS. JONES: Time.

16 MR. HALL: -- in the community.

17 And one other thing that we did do
18 is we had a youth hunt early in the year
19 where most of the hunters that came were
20 nonmembers. We opened it up to not only
21 the community, but to the people of
22 Baldwin County.

23 Again, it's a good club, and we're

1 working to satisfy our neighbors and
2 satisfy anybody in that area. I thank
3 you for your time.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

5 The next speaker is Stanley -- if
6 you'll hold your applause until the end,
7 please.

8 The next speaker is Stanley Hamrick.

9 Mr. Hamrick?

10 There you are.

11 MR. HAMRICK: Hello, everyone. My name is

12 Stanley Hamrick, and I have a hunting

13 club at Good Ol' Boys Hunting Club.

14 It's a dog-hunting club. It is one of

15 the best clubs.

16 I have a hearing issue since I was

17 born, and when I was stalk hunting, I

18 couldn't hear deer moving or anything.

19 And December 31st, 2013, I heard dogs

20 getting louder and louder and louder and

21 I saw my first deer and I killed it.

22 And it's a very good club. We had

23 67 kids that come to a youth hunt, and

1 we teach them how to play safe -- man,
2 teach them how to dog hunt very safely.
3 And there is no drinking and we -- if
4 any people is not playing safe, we kick
5 them out of the club.

6 Another thing is that if somebody
7 like is being mean or any hatefulness or
8 anything, we get rid of them and we try
9 to straighten them out.

10 Another thing is that people will
11 tell us to shoot the right direction, do
12 not shoot down the roads where people
13 may get hit by bullets or something.
14 Like, for instance, last hunting season
15 I saw -- I heard this noise with the
16 dogs, and there was a big ol' buck
17 right -- right behind me. People done
18 told me in that hunting club do not
19 shoot down the road where that deer was.
20 And there was somebody behind it and I
21 couldn't shoot. But it would be better
22 for me not to shoot the deer than
23 someone get hurt. That's all.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hamrick.

2 MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Hartzog.

4 MR. HARTZOG: If you notice the lady that was
5 sitting right next to him, she had a big
6 smile on the way her son presented
7 himself.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That was an absolute
9 excellent job by that young man.

10 The next speaker will be Don Knight.

11 MR. KNIGHT: I'm Don Knight. I'm president of
12 the Alabama Dog Hunters Association.
13 Seems like today I feel like I ought to
14 be in an orange jumpsuit or have a
15 target on me somewhere. It's been a
16 little rugged.

17 A couple of things that I want to
18 touch base with you on this morning is
19 for some reason this year I didn't get
20 many calls from any of y'all at all
21 about any problems. We've set it up in
22 the past that you can call me. I'll get
23 in touch with the club. We'll try to

1 get the problem solved.

2 That didn't happen much this year.
3 We seemed to have backed off of it. So
4 what I want to do is come back to you
5 and ask you to return that. Let's do
6 it. I think we had some success with it
7 and it worked real good. So let's try
8 it again. And if you don't have my
9 number, I assure you they got it in
10 Montgomery. But most people have it;
11 okay?

12 Now, these gentlemen got up here
13 from Colbert County and said it was real
14 good, and we're very proud that that
15 happened that way up in Colbert County
16 this year. But I want to tell you
17 something. The permit system did very
18 little.

19 What happened was the guys in the
20 club that they were having trouble with,
21 we sat down and talked and we decided to
22 do exactly what we offered to do before
23 we was ever put on the permit system.

1 That was give up their Saturday hunts,
2 cut down on their hunts during the week,
3 and not hunt on Wednesday. That's a lot
4 of give-up and it worked.

5 So it's the people. I told you last
6 year it's the people. If we can get
7 that going and the people want to do it,
8 they'll come in better.

9 Down there in Baldwin County this
10 year we thought everything was going
11 fine. Then Mr. Hatley shot me with a
12 shotgun right in the chest with all the
13 problems we had; okay? We didn't know
14 about them. How can we fix something
15 that we don't know is broke?

16 And I'm going to be honest with you.
17 And I'm not being ugly. I'm not
18 being -- whatever it is. I'm not trying
19 to cause trouble. But if you people let
20 all these people call you individually,
21 they're going to drive you crazy; okay?
22 They're going to drive you crazy.
23 Because they need to be working with the

1 game warden. And if they call you, if
2 you'll call me, I promise you we'll get
3 something done in the first couple of
4 days. We'll have you some answers.
5 We'll have some remarks. We've done it
6 before; okay?

7 We'll do that. We want to work with
8 you every way we can. And Colbert
9 County was an excellent -- I'm so glad
10 those people were happy up there, but
11 most of it is due to the change in the
12 club. One of the clubs got out. They
13 didn't want to put up with the permit
14 system.

15 I've got a nice letter at the house.
16 So you'll have to excuse me. I'm
17 getting old. I left it on my desk.
18 It's from the Colbert County Commission.
19 It's got their little seal on it. And
20 it's a resolution --

21 MS. JONES: Time.

22 MR. KNIGHT: It's a resolution where they want
23 to back dog hunting and keep it going

1 just like it has been going. Okay.
2 I'll send each one of you a copy of that
3 letter when I get back to the house.
4 I'm sorry I didn't have it with me.

5 Any questions?

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Knight.

7 The next speaker is Wynnton Melton.

8 MR. MELTON: I'm Wynnton Melton, Geneva. I
9 feel like I should have brought an
10 absentee slip because last year is the
11 first year in about 43 years that I
12 didn't attend at least one of your
13 meetings. And I've seen a lot come and
14 a lot go, and I appreciate all that you
15 do. And I fully understand and have a
16 lot of empathy for what you're going
17 through.

18 Actually, what I signed up for is a
19 little bit on coon hunting. And I
20 noticed the -- there's a regulation now
21 which would allow you to trap coons with
22 a special permit beyond the trapping
23 session. And I read the Commissioner's

1 article in one of the magazines and saw
2 that on the -- in the regulations.

3 What I was wondering, if there's any
4 way we might could extend that privilege
5 to coon hunters with hounds on a permit
6 system like that, a special permit, on
7 our own private property or on leased
8 land.

9 Last night I was hunting with a
10 friend. I don't coon hunt a lot because
11 I'm a 1941 model and my friend is a 1943
12 model. So we don't hunt if it's under
13 40 degrees or if the water's over
14 three-feet deep or if the foot logs are
15 slippery. So our hunting is limited a
16 little.

17 But, anyway, we were talking about
18 it. Today is the last day for coon
19 hunting that you can take a coon. And,
20 my goodness, we haven't had a lot of
21 good days to go. We like to take -- we
22 got a group of little girls that we like
23 to take. And that's fun, real fun. I

1 mean little girls, nine, ten-year-old
2 girls. And what we're just trying to do
3 is to see if we could figure out a
4 way -- I know enforcement has issues,
5 but we think it could be worked out.

6 And we aren't going to overkill. My
7 goodness. No hound dog man is going to
8 overkill his game because then he don't
9 have anything to run. I think last
10 night we did quite well. We did take
11 three in just a little while. And, my
12 goodness, there are coons everywhere,
13 but that's only five we've taken off of
14 that entire 2200 acres last year. And
15 my friend owns about 12,000 acres of his
16 land. And, you know, he's just not
17 ready to quit. He would like to go a
18 few more times. And that's what we
19 would like to do is see if we can do --
20 make that happen and cooperate in every
21 way to see that it was successful.

22 Now, as far as a dog permit, I
23 helped draw up the permit system in many

1 of the south Alabama areas, worked at it
2 for a long, long time. And it's working
3 well with us. We got our letter, I
4 think, this week that we had no
5 complaints, either verified or
6 unverified. Now, what's been said
7 around the corner somewhere I don't
8 know. But we had very, very few dogs --
9 I mean very, very few -- to get off our
10 property.

11 It's challenging. It's difficult.
12 But it can be made to work. And if at
13 any time that I can assist --

14 MS. JONES: Time.

15 MR. MELTON: -- in any way -- yes, ma'am -- in
16 any way to share with you what we have
17 done and in any way to help in any
18 matter whatsoever, I'm here prepared to
19 do. And I thank all of you for what
20 you've done for all these many years.
21 Thank you so very much.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Melton.

23 Director Sykes, did you get that

1 request?

2 The next speaker will be Susan
3 Morrow.

4 MS. MORROW: Good morning. Or is it
5 afternoon? I'm not sure. I'm Susan
6 Morrow. I'm from Mobile County. I'm
7 the vice-president of the Alabama Dog
8 Hunters Association.

9 I guess this will be number four,
10 Mr. Chuck.

11 I want to thank the Advisory Board
12 for giving us back our ten dog days. We
13 really appreciate it. But I would also
14 ask y'all to look at maybe putting those
15 back in December because the stalk
16 hunters are really complaining about us
17 being in the woods with our dogs till
18 the 25th of January. And I think that
19 it would cause less problems and cut
20 down on some of our problems if we run
21 our dogs during the ten days in December
22 and we was out of the woods by January
23 the 15th with our dogs.

1 And, also, I would like to ask y'all
2 to look at opening up more management
3 areas for dog deer hunting. On the
4 Scotch Management Area this year they
5 said that they had to take the two days
6 that y'all so graciously gave us away
7 because of the -- there was too much
8 pressure on the deer, too many people
9 coming to the hunts.

10 Well, the people coming to the
11 hunts, if you look at the numbers, the
12 numbers are actually down there of the
13 dog hunters that have been coming
14 because it's been spread out because of
15 having the three hunts. Because a lot
16 of the hunters are in clubs, not all of
17 them. But a lot of us just hunt
18 management areas.

19 So this year we only got to have two
20 hunts two days each, and we would like
21 for y'all to look at that. We did kill
22 some really nice deer. And my question
23 is -- also, Keith Gauldin told us

1 that -- well, he told me. Him and I
2 talked. And he told me that we was
3 killing too many deer with the dogs.

4 Well, if that is the case, then when
5 we have a dog hunt at Scotch, 16
6 years -- under the age of 16 and women
7 are allowed to shoot does. Everybody
8 else has to shoot bucks. Well, when we
9 have a stalk hunt there, you get to kill
10 two deer a day, whether it's a -- if
11 you're not tagged out on your bucks, one
12 of them can be a buck and one of them
13 can be a doe. But you get that doe
14 anyway.

15 So if the deer population is down,
16 let's reduce the stalk-hunting number on
17 that, also, to get that deer herd back
18 up at Scotch. Because it is a very good
19 place. It is one of the best organized
20 hunts -- dog hunts that you will go on.

21 And I would ask the board, also, to
22 look at putting in the rules and
23 regulation book the rules, the law of

1 shooting a dog. We had a lot of dogs
2 that were shot this year. We have one
3 guy in Washington County --

4 MS. JONES: Time.

5 MS. MORROW: -- that shot a dog ...

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Sum it up, Ms. Morrow.

7 MS. MORROW: Sum it up?

8 Anyway, he shot a dog, and then he
9 admitted to busting the GPS collar. And
10 when he was arrested, he said that he
11 shot the little Beagle because it was
12 being aggressive to him and his
13 eight-year-old son. But then he took
14 the collar off and he busted the collar.
15 So if he was being aggressive, I don't
16 think I would have messed with him or
17 anything. But he was not aware that it
18 could be very serious. So I would ask
19 y'all to please put that in the books.
20 We don't want our dogs shot.

21 And thank y'all for what you do and
22 thank you for your time.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Morrow.

1 The next speaker is John Pfeffer.

2 MR. PFEFFER: My name is John Pfeffer. I'm
3 with -- out of Baldwin County, part of
4 Halls Fork Hunting Club.

5 I actually was going to kind of tell
6 y'all how the season went this year, you
7 know, from -- we had our little bumps in
8 the road last year, and we made, you
9 know, quite a few adjustments for this
10 year -- of how everything was going as
11 far as hunting.

12 Like Mr. Jack Hall was saying, you
13 know, about the dogs and stuff, as far
14 as breeding the dogs down to actually
15 get away from these longwinded dogs,
16 which is actually got us all the way
17 down to, you know, just a small Feist or
18 Beagle, or some of the guys has even
19 went to a Beagle dog which is -- you
20 know, really don't have no wind to them
21 at all. If you hear the -- if you hear
22 the dogs running, then, you know,
23 it's -- you better be looking for the

1 deer, even if you hear the dog a hundred
2 yards or so away, because they're just
3 really slow and they don't get out of
4 pocket a lot.

5 As far as our days hunting, we've
6 cut back on our days hunting. We didn't
7 hunt as much this year as what we did
8 last year and the years prior to that.
9 As far as, you know, trying to help out
10 the neighbors and trying to make for
11 sure that we wasn't causing no issues of
12 dogs, you know, interrupting anybody as
13 being accused of.

14 But we have been making the
15 adjustments of trying to make all of
16 this work. And with us, it went very,
17 very well for us. We -- you know, we --
18 we just now -- it was brought to our
19 attention three days ago -- which we had
20 a meeting about coming up here and what
21 we was all going to discuss and how
22 everything was going to go and how we
23 was going to tell y'all that -- you

1 know, the good year that we did have,
2 when we got the phone call stating that,
3 you know, there's been complaints, not
4 necessarily on us, but throughout
5 Baldwin County.

6 We haven't heard of anything through
7 Baldwin County that has actually stated
8 that we've -- that Baldwin County has
9 had any issues. But, you know,
10 therefore, we're only hunting on our
11 club, but you still -- word gets around,
12 you know, from people talking.

13 So with that being said, you know,
14 if there was any issues, then we should
15 have been addressed the issues, no
16 matter what hunting club it was, to
17 where they could have been fixed.

18 Also, you know, through Baldwin
19 County how many tickets was issued to
20 the dog hunters about us doing something
21 that was not right, that was against the
22 law, versus how many -- which me and my
23 boys is -- from the time deer season,

1 turkey season -- it don't matter --
2 whenever it comes in, that's what we do.
3 It's either climbing a tree or running a
4 dog or setting on the ground hunting a
5 turkey.

6 But versus -- dogs versus stalk
7 hunters -- how many tickets was give out
8 to stalk hunters this year versus how
9 many tickets was give out to dog hunters
10 this year. I'm not saying that all dog
11 hunters are doing the right thing when
12 they are dog hunting, but all of the
13 clubs that I know that's around our
14 area, about 100 percent to the tee
15 they're doing what they're supposed
16 to --

17 MS. JONES: Time.

18 MR. PFEFFER: -- and actually trying to make
19 things work a lot better.

20 So with that being said, on our
21 part, on our club of Halls Fork, the
22 adjustments we have made seemed to work
23 for us this past year and seemed to work

1 for the neighbors. So maybe, you know,
2 this coming up next hunting season we
3 can do a little bit more and we won't
4 have no complaints at all even, you
5 know, to be concerned about. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, sir.

7 The next two speakers will be our
8 last two, and after that we'll take a
9 brief recess. But the next speaker will
10 be Rick Baxter.

11 Mr. Baxter, are you still here?

12 MR. BAXTER: Good morning. Thank you for the
13 opportunity to speak this morning.

14 I had a long list and a speech made
15 out, but after hearing some of the
16 things, I'll get straight to the point
17 and leave a little time for someone
18 else.

19 I'm Rick Baxter. I'm from Deer
20 Park, Alabama, Washington County. I
21 hunt with dogs primarily. I hunt in
22 Washington County. Also, I'm a member
23 of Ararat Hunting Club in Choctaw

1 County. This year we've had about the
2 same success as we always have at
3 Ararat. We've killed some good deer
4 there, some very good deer. We have had
5 in the past -- this is a 40 or
6 50-year-old club. I've been in it for
7 about five years. I have relatives that
8 have been there for 20 years in this
9 club. And we've had no complaints
10 really of neighbors in our area. It's
11 all went well. Up until this year we've
12 had, like I said, very little.

13 Now, this year with the new hunting
14 into February we have had some
15 complaints of neighbors directly to us.
16 As far as I know we haven't had any to a
17 board member or anything like that.
18 They've come to us or we've met them at
19 the River Store down the road or
20 whatever. And just in talking, these
21 people hate the fact that we can run
22 dogs into January, to the 25th. They
23 state this early in the year.

1 Dog hunting to me is a privilege and
2 it's a privilege that can be taken away
3 from me at the drop of a hat, and I
4 don't want that. I want to respect it.
5 I want to respect the game and the
6 conservation of the game, but I want to
7 get along with my neighbor.

8 Well, as you stated, we've had way
9 more complaints. To me this is a simple
10 fix, and I'm a simple-minded person.
11 But I get to travel the state and the
12 whole United States in the business that
13 I'm in and I get to talk to people. I'm
14 an avid hunter, and I get to talk to
15 hunters all over the United States. And
16 I get to talk to the people in Louisiana
17 that have lost those privileges that had
18 them taken away because they abused
19 them. I get to visit with people in
20 Georgia once a month. On the south end
21 of Georgia they get to run dogs still,
22 the north end of Georgia they don't.
23 And those people are in the same boat.

1 Well, what we're up against now is
2 those privileges being taken because of
3 a few rogue people. And we have those.
4 We have them on still hunting. We have
5 them on dog hunting.

6 But I'm here today just to ask you
7 to revisit the ten days in December.
8 Because anybody that I talk to that's a
9 still hunter, even in early season, even
10 as a bowhunter, was already "anti" dog
11 hunting because of this ten days that we
12 got into January. They were already
13 upset and hadn't even heard a dog bark
14 yet.

15 So I'm asking you, please, to
16 revisit that, to think about it, to give
17 those days back, and let's give the
18 still hunters an entire month
19 unharassed, untroubled. They get to
20 hunt the places that they spend
21 thousands and thousands of dollars to
22 hunt. And I understand that. I feel
23 for them. If I go out and I spend 15,

1 \$20,000 or whatever it may be -- in our
2 club it's 800 bucks, and I don't want
3 anybody harassing me. And I feel the
4 same way they do.

5 MS. JONES: Time.

6 MR. BAXTER: So let us help them to where they
7 get a whole month. They can go out and
8 hunt the rut. I can hunt the rut,
9 whatever, and they can do that. And
10 that way they're not harassed by us at
11 all. And maybe we can close that gap
12 and we all get along, you know, kind of
13 like Alabama and Auburn fans. We can
14 all get along. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Baxter.
16 Very good presentation.

17 The next speaker is Jon Warr.

18 MR. WARR: I'm kind of like that gentleman
19 earlier. When I prepared this, I
20 thought it was five minutes, so I'll try
21 to go as quickly as possible.

22 My name is Jon Warr, and I'm a dog
23 hunter from Washington County, which is

1 located in the southwest corner of the
2 state. When I entertained the idea to
3 come and speak on behalf of the dog
4 hunters, I asked myself what does dog
5 hunting mean to me.

6 I was introduced to dog hunting by
7 my grandfather, John S. Wood, in 1975.
8 It was a Saturday morning ritual that
9 started the second Saturday in November.
10 My grandfather would awaken my brother
11 and me early on that morning. After a
12 quick breakfast, it was always our
13 responsibility to go out and load the
14 dogs.

15 He would come out and get in the
16 pickup with us. We would pull out to
17 the end of the drive, and there would be
18 a group of men, granddaddies, fathers
19 and sons and occasionally a lady or two,
20 even back in those days, would be
21 convened at the end of the drive. We
22 would all get together and some guys
23 would be already gone out and ridden the

1 roads. And they'd find a buck to track,
2 and we'd come back and they'd have an
3 idea of how we was going to hem him up
4 and kill him.

5 That never worked out very often.
6 However, it was always the comradery of
7 the people in the community getting
8 together and spending that time together
9 that was remembered by all. That is a
10 tradition that my family as well as
11 others in our community have continued
12 for the last 40 years.

13 I am proud to have raised my three
14 sons as dog hunters. It has been
15 invaluable in molding them into good
16 woodsmen as well as young
17 conservationists. We still gather up on
18 Saturday mornings somewhere throughout
19 the community or we actually go up to
20 Dollarhide Hunting Club in Greene County
21 on the banks of the Black Warrior River.
22 We also have several thousand acres of
23 private lands as well as leased lands in

1 Washington and south Choctaw County.
2 The biggest trans -- somewhere between
3 15 and 40 people would attend these
4 hunts. We pride ourselves on doing it
5 the right way.

6 The biggest transition that my
7 hunting group has made over the last 15
8 years is -- I'm sorry. The biggest
9 transition that my hunting group has
10 made over the last 15 years is going to
11 shorter-running, better-handling dogs.
12 These dogs have worked out well for us.
13 However, our style dogs may not fit the
14 dogs of dog hunters across the state due
15 to varying terrains and topographies.

16 We always put a tracking collar on
17 our dogs so we know their whereabouts at
18 all times. We make every effort to have
19 the dogs back in their pens shortly
20 after lunch so we do not disturb
21 afternoon still and stalk hunters. We
22 also invite all adjoining landowners to
23 attend all of our hunts. These things

1 seem to go a long way in landowner as
2 well as lessee relationship.

3 There are rogue deer hunters just as
4 there are rogue still and stalk hunters
5 and turkey hunters and every other
6 hunter across the state. We try to
7 police ourselves as much as possible and
8 report the ones giving us blackeyes to
9 the authorities.

10 Successful relationships are
11 possible between both stalk hunters and
12 dog deer hunters. It requires a
13 little --

14 MS. JONES: Time.

15 MR. WARR: -- give and take from both parties.

16 The next question I asked myself is
17 where do we go from here. I've polled
18 numerous hunters from both the
19 dog-hunting and stalk-hunting
20 communities. The general consensus in
21 our area was that deer dogs are expected
22 to be out of the woods on January the
23 15th. Now, how is this possible with

1 the season extended to February the 10th
2 and the dog season extended to January
3 the 25th?

4 We as dog hunters certainly don't
5 want to lose the ten days so graciously
6 given back by you guys. In our opinion
7 the scenario that would be most
8 beneficial for both parties would be to
9 allow dog deer hunters to hunt the
10 previously closed dates of December the
11 1st through 10th, the same idea that a
12 couple other speakers have had. That
13 would enable us as dog deer hunters to
14 have ten days that we didn't have to
15 worry about interfering or with
16 disturbing the still and stalk hunters.
17 This would basically translate into one
18 Saturday that we would be able to hunt
19 for the majority of us who have straight
20 day jobs. Dog deer hunting would then
21 close on January 15th, which is the day
22 hunters are accustomed to. That would
23 give them -- the still and stalk hunters

1 26 days from January the 16th through
2 the close of season on February 10th
3 that they wouldn't be bothered by dogs
4 or dog hunters.

5 The dates of January the 6th through
6 February the 10th are the days most
7 coveted by the stalk hunters due to the
8 fact that this is pre-rut and rut times
9 of the year in our region of the state.
10 On the hunts that I went on -- I was
11 able to hunt two days on the extended
12 period -- the deer did appear to us to
13 act differently. Whereas our deer will
14 normally make loops, small loops to
15 large -- they're eventually going to
16 come back. Them jokers left the country
17 those last ten days. The deer are
18 rutting. The dogs smell them a lot
19 better. And they just left the world
20 where they normally -- we have large
21 enough properties they don't get off.
22 They crossed three different landowners
23 on those days. So that did appear in my

1 eyes to be a problem.

2 With the ten days of December the
3 10th through the -- 1st through the 10th
4 being strictly used as dog hunting, it
5 would be a great opportunity to invite
6 non-dog hunters as well as "anti" dog
7 hunters to hunt with us, to see what we
8 do, to maybe give them an opportunity to
9 do something that they hadn't previously
10 done.

11 I invited a friend of mine that I
12 actually went to high school with. He
13 was not actually an "anti" hunter, but
14 neither was he an advocate of dog
15 hunting. I took him on a hunt one
16 morning, and by the time we got our dogs
17 gathered up he had already left. But he
18 called me the next day, and he said, I
19 want to let you know that I don't ever
20 intend to miss that hunt again.

21 But the state actually took the --
22 the hunt actually took place on State
23 Representative Elaine Beech's land. And

1 he had called her and said, Ms. Beech, I
2 do expect to be able -- an open
3 invitation to hunt on your land, and she
4 said, you're welcome at any time. So
5 that was a good thing.

6 Thank you all for your time.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Warr.

8 That will be the last speaker.
9 We're going to take a brief recess.
10 It's about 11:40 now. We'll start back
11 at 12 o'clock even. That will be a
12 20-minute recess.

13 Commissioner McMillan said there's
14 additional bathrooms if you go straight
15 down the hall here and those right in
16 front of the auditorium.

17 So we'll convene back at 12 o'clock.

18 (A recess was taken.)

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next order of
20 business will be the Advisory Board
21 district reports. And we'll just start
22 at the end of the table and work our way
23 this way.

1 Mr. Ainsworth.

2 MR. AINSWORTH: Sure. I'm in District 4. I
3 had a lot of great reports from people
4 killing nice deer, mature deer, four and
5 five-year-old deer, many over 150, which
6 is great for Alabama. Had a pretty
7 quiet year. Didn't have a lot of
8 issues. You know, didn't have a lot of
9 issues. And duck season was a little
10 slower than normal. It seems like the
11 ducks came in later in February. But
12 other than that, it was quiet, a good
13 year. Everybody seems happy.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Are people seeing more
15 does?

16 Does were an issue last year in your
17 area. Have you heard anything on the
18 doe issue in your area?

19 MR. AINSWORTH: I haven't heard a thing. I
20 think that's good.

21 MR. BUNN: T.J. Bunn, District 7, which is a
22 majority of the Black Belt.

23 I heard my district had a bad deer

1 season quality-wise. From what I'm
2 hearing, a big acorn crop, I think, that
3 played a lot into it, and, of course, we
4 had -- we didn't have really good
5 weather.

6 The popularity of the extended
7 season, it looks like it's really
8 popular with people. A lot of deer were
9 killed. Talked to the processors. I
10 think a lot of people utilized the ten
11 days. A lot of people that usually
12 don't hunt in the area came down from
13 the north and people from out of state.
14 And so that's a good thing.

15 I didn't get a lot of complaints on
16 dog deer hunting, but I think it's
17 because -- Mr. Knight might could tell
18 me. I think the three clubs in Greene
19 County do not -- don't exist anymore.
20 So maybe that's the reason for that.

21 Had a good turkey hatch, I believe,
22 in my district last year. It looks like
23 a late hatch. But just talking to

1 property owners, a lot of people have
2 seen a lot of poults.

3 I want to encourage everybody to get
4 involved with Game Check. Y'all don't
5 realize how vital that information is to
6 us. When y'all come up here and ask us
7 to make decisions, if we don't have any
8 data, it's hard for us to make an
9 educated decision. So please encourage
10 your friends and please participate in
11 Game Check.

12 And I also want to commend Chuck and
13 Chris and all their staff on what a
14 great job they do. Y'all don't realize
15 how lucky we are here in the state of
16 Alabama to have such quality people as
17 Chuck and Chris and Gunter leading our
18 department. We are extremely fortunate
19 to have people of their quality and
20 their character to lead us. And I can
21 promise you they want to do what's best.
22 But I guess that's it.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Martin.

1 MR. MARTIN: Jeff Martin, District 3.

2 I'm kind of like Austin. The
3 processors I went to had a real good
4 year. A lot of big bucks killed.

5 I was going to say fishing season
6 was -- looked like it was going to come
7 kind of early until last week. I think
8 we're going to be delayed a little bit.
9 But I know last year the season was real
10 good for fishing and everything.

11 So all kind of quiet. Had a few
12 complaints on dog hunting, but they came
13 actually last week. So other than that,
14 it's been pretty good.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: No comments on fall turkey
16 from your area at this time?

17 MR. MARTIN: Not yet. But you had to bring it
18 up, so I'm sure they will.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's our job.

20 Mr. Jones.

21 MR. JONES: Yes. Raymond Jones, District 5.

22 I helped host and organize an event
23 for duck hunters in north Alabama where

1 District 5 is. The state is taking a
2 new, very proactive approach to
3 improving duck habitats on state lands,
4 which has really not been -- it's been
5 absent for many years. So that was the
6 event that we did.

7 I also worked closely with Officer
8 Askew, and he did an outstanding job
9 monitoring the dog deer hunting permit
10 situation in Colbert County, and as we
11 said earlier, the permit system worked.
12 Had only one complaint in that area.

13 Working, also, with local
14 processors, talking to them. It was --
15 had an extreme acorn crop this year.
16 Not many deer were killed -- as many
17 deer were killed in our area as normal.

18 Also hoping that the "Hunters for
19 the Hungry" program continues to expand,
20 and we're looking and talking about some
21 ways to possibly do some of that.

22 The duck hunting in our area was
23 fabulous. It was by far probably the

1 best duck season that I personally have
2 ever seen with many large numbers. And
3 the only thing is Curtis Jones shoots
4 too many of them. But other than that,
5 it was good.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

7 Yes, Commissioner.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Raymond, was it you that
9 talked about the "Duck Hunting for the
10 Hungry" as well?

11 Why don't you mention that. I think
12 it's a good idea.

13 MR. JONES: It was an idea I had. There's a
14 lot of ducks killed in the north Alabama
15 region, and the idea was to expand the
16 "Hunters for the Hungry" program.
17 Because oftentimes, you know, when you
18 kill several hundred ducks or -- you
19 know, in a year's time, that's a lot of
20 ducks to put in your freezer. It's a
21 lot of ducks to ask other people to put
22 in their freezer.

23 And, for instance, a friend of mine,

1 I know on their farm -- this is going to
2 sound like Arkansas, but they killed
3 over 1400 ducks on their farm this year
4 in one place, one pond. And that's a
5 lot of ducks to get rid of. So we're
6 looking at expanding the "Hunters for
7 the Hungry" program to accept ducks,
8 which I think we've figured out a way to
9 do that. And that will be a good thing.
10 So the duck can be donated to the
11 processor. The processor would clean
12 the duck, get it to the food banks or to
13 the charitable services that have that.
14 So that's an idea that we're kicking
15 around.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's excellent. Very
17 good.

18 Dr. Strickland.

19 DR. STRICKLAND: You know, I've told Ray that
20 I would take all of his ducks, but he
21 wouldn't clean them for me. Same thing
22 about his fish. I'll take all your fish
23 if you'd just clean and dress those fish

1 for me.

2 But Ray and I both are in the same
3 district, Congressional District 5, and
4 basically exactly the same thing as Ray
5 has just said. We had a very good duck
6 season. Lots of duck killed in northern
7 Alabama.

8 Deer season was a little slow. A
9 bumper acorn crop. So most of the deer
10 late were peeling the timber. Very few
11 came out to the food plots. But overall
12 we had lots of hunters in the field.
13 Everyone loves the -- you know,
14 basically the antler restriction that we
15 put in place. It has really, really had
16 a huge impact.

17 We were just talking about Jackson
18 County. Jackson County really produced
19 some outstanding white-tails this year.
20 We had -- what did you say -- 40 bucks
21 over 150 -- yeah, 41 bucks over 150
22 inches for the state of Alabama.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Unbelievable.

1 DR. STRICKLAND: But it was a good year and
2 everyone is looking forward to turkey
3 season.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog.

5 MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, District
6 Number 2. Everything went good, I
7 think, in the -- is that better?

8 All right. In talking with the
9 processors, everything went good.
10 Everybody really enjoyed the extra
11 ten-day season. A few of the commercial
12 operators got confused on them not
13 having archery days during those ten
14 days, which they -- you know, they know
15 better next year. But everybody was
16 pleased with the extended season.

17 I talked to the processors, though,
18 and it was an interesting fact. We
19 always talk about disturbance on deer
20 and that being a factor on the number of
21 deer you're killing. Several of the
22 processors told me they processed as
23 many deer the week after December

1 the 10th as they did during the last ten
2 days of the February season. So
3 disturbance is a big factor. I was glad
4 the extended season worked. But they
5 killed an awful lot of deer that second
6 week in December.

7 Barbour County is still very happy
8 to keep the three-point rule. I think
9 Bill will attest to that. It's working
10 on the management area. We've added
11 some more ground on the management area
12 which ought to be real good for the
13 Barbour County Management Area. So no
14 real problems to report.

15 Did start -- and Mr. Don Knight came
16 to me and asked me about the complaints.
17 And I said, well, Don, I normally call
18 you, but I said, I didn't really start
19 getting my complaints until after the
20 season was over and so I hadn't had a
21 chance to call.

22 I did take exception to the young
23 man -- or the man that said he called my

1 office a half-dozen times and I was
2 always out. My secretaries are always
3 instructed to take numbers and I return
4 the calls. And I think if you talk to
5 anybody else that's ever called me, I
6 called them back generally within the
7 day I got the call, so --

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Even during tax season.

9 You get back with them extremely --

10 MR. HARTZOG: Even during tax season. Well,
11 in fact, this last week I got a call and
12 the guy said -- he says, you're an
13 accountant. He said, you called me
14 back. I said, well, that's my job,
15 so ...

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's right. Very good.

17 Bill, I know you probably keep a lot
18 of data -- Bill Gray -- the age class.
19 Have you seen that going up or is it
20 steady in y'all's area or on the
21 management area or on the age class of
22 bucks being killed?

23 MR. GRAY: It's -- you're talking about on

1 Barbour Management Area?

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

3 MR. GRAY: Yeah. I mean, compared to, you
4 know, five years prior to the
5 three-point and then we looked at the
6 five-year evaluation and then on. So
7 it's probably been 50-plus percent of
8 the bucks that are killed are three and
9 a half or older with that regulation.
10 And I guess it's the same in the county
11 now. It's three on one side.

12 We did the study with some Auburn
13 students that collected data at
14 processors, and we saw an increase in
15 the age class of the harvested deer
16 every year. So there's no doubt that
17 it's improved, you know, the age
18 structure, both bucks in the harvest and
19 you could infer, you know, a standing
20 crop that's out there every year.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's great.

22 MR. HARTZOG: Dan, one more point. And Chuck
23 may want to answer a few questions on

1 this.

2 With doing more research and talking
3 about banding and radio-tagging the
4 turkeys, the Department has also taken
5 on a program to try and find out what's
6 going on with the coyote population.
7 Some of the coyotes are tracked at
8 Barbour County, and it's my
9 understanding from some of the
10 landowners that they track them on that
11 some of those coyotes have already
12 traveled 50 miles in less than a week.
13 So it's amazing the range territory the
14 coyotes have got. But the state is --
15 you know, it's been brought up at
16 several meetings we've got less does and
17 they felt like the coyotes are having an
18 impact on them, but we've now started
19 radio-tagging the coyotes to see what's
20 going on so we can better understand and
21 manage the population accordingly.

22 Thank you, Chuck, for doing that.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

1 Dr. Shipp.

2 DR. SHIPP: Thank you, sir.

3 Yeah. Commissioner mentioned
4 earlier legislation -- excuse me. Let
5 me back up a little bit. District 1 and
6 we're going to go back to red snapper
7 for a few minutes.

8 Congressman Byrne has introduced a
9 bill to extend the territorial seas of
10 the state of Alabama to nine miles. The
11 way things are now, Florida has nine
12 miles, Texas has nine miles, but
13 Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana only
14 have three miles, which really restricts
15 our ability to manage the red snapper
16 stocks. Whether that will pass or not,
17 his bill may not, but it might well be
18 incorporated into the reauthorization of
19 the Magnuson Act which oversees the
20 management of marine fisheries.

21 Kudos to Kevin who was elected
22 chairman of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
23 Management Council which oversees

1 management of fishes in the Gulf.

2 I just can't applaud more Chris and
3 the guys gathering the data on snapper.
4 My personal and professional opinion is
5 that we could have 180-day season, two
6 fish bag limit, and it wouldn't make a
7 dent in the population. But,
8 unfortunately, we have a procedural
9 problem with the federal government that
10 is preventing us from really moving
11 ahead.

12 But the data that Chris is putting
13 out is going to really improve the stock
14 assessment. The stock assessments are
15 finally starting to catch up. We may
16 have a slightly extended season this
17 year, but, you know, when you're talking
18 about nine days rather than 180 days, it
19 really doesn't make much difference.

20 The last thing I'd mention is one of
21 the favorite fishing spots on the coast
22 is underneath the Perdido Pass Bridge.
23 It's probably second only to the state

1 pier in terms of land-based fishing
2 opportunities. Unfortunately, that area
3 has been shut off, I guess, for security
4 reasons. I know the City of Orange
5 Beach is very active in trying to find
6 out what the problem is there so that
7 people would have an extra access to
8 fish there.

9 So that's pretty much it from 1 at
10 the waterfront.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: So following up on

13 Dr. Shipp's comments there about the
14 Perdido Pass, just so I can clarify for
15 the record -- because a lot of people
16 don't know this, but we do not -- we own
17 the land, but we do not own the wall.
18 And so the Department of Transportation
19 owns the wall, and it's their
20 responsibility to fix, Mr. Chairman.
21 And we have contacted them and asked
22 them to proceed with all due speed, and,
23 of course, their answer is, of course,

1 we don't have any money.

2 So, you know, I have heard from the
3 City of Orange Beach. And everybody,
4 including us, is interested in getting
5 that area fixed. Chris and I have
6 talked about that, of course, on a
7 number of occasions. And, really, I
8 don't know what we can do other than to
9 continue to work toward a solution.

10 But I just did want to make sure
11 anybody that's interested or anybody
12 that might be reporting on this that
13 they understand that the Department of
14 Transportation for whatever reason --
15 and I don't know -- that they own the
16 wall. And the wall is the issue there,
17 and it is a safety concern. And they
18 are the ones who put up the fence and
19 are keeping people from being able to
20 fish there. But I understand, you know,
21 why, because of the safety.

22 So bear with us for all those who,
23 you know, want to see that fixed, and

1 we'll do everything we can to find a
2 solution.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

4 Dr. Lemme, we want you to talk --
5 and we had a -- I had a lot of comments
6 from people that were planting last year
7 and that people were utilizing y'all's
8 Website. You may want to tell us how to
9 do that for people such as the
10 Commissioner that had problems with
11 armyworms and didn't know how to control
12 those and they about ate all his crops.
13 So if you want to explain how people can
14 get to your Website to learn about that.

15 DR. LEMME: Well, there's -- what Dan is
16 talking about is the Extension
17 publications and information that's out
18 there for what's a standard agricultural
19 practice which influences the dove
20 plantings and food plot plantings. And
21 you can use a couple of different
22 approaches. You can, of course, always
23 stop at your county extension office.

1 All of our publications are online at
2 "aces.edu." And then there's also an
3 app of field crops, Alabama, and you can
4 read that information and get periodic
5 insect inventory data.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: Now you tell me.

7 DR. LEMME: We do a sentinel plot system
8 across the country, across the state, so
9 we can see as the armyworms begin to
10 emerge in the fall how close they are to
11 you and then what are the legal ways of
12 controlling them.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If somebody has never used
14 that, y'all have an excellent resource.
15 It is very, very good, Dr. Lemme.

16 DR. LEMME: Well, thank you.

17 The thing that I've been hearing
18 from the agricultural organizations is a
19 lot of concern over feral hogs, both
20 damage being done to pastures, peanut
21 fields, places like that, and the
22 increased erosion and sedimentation in
23 their ponds and their creeks as a result

1 of that. And that's almost a universal
2 concern across our state from the south
3 going north. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley.

5 MR. HATLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 I want to tell you, I've been on
7 this board since the mid '90s, and this
8 has been the most exasperating year that
9 I've ever spent on this board. I feel
10 like I've been a traffic cop, a
11 counselor. I have toured the largest
12 county in this state, Baldwin County,
13 and been from one end to the other, and
14 90 percent of the people who spoke here
15 today on dog deer hunting -- I have met
16 with them. They all live in my
17 district. And it's really been
18 frustrating.

19 I tried to make ends meet with --
20 piecemeal with different people, but it
21 really -- usually I'm a pretty good
22 negotiator. This year has just really
23 been tough. There's a lot of things and

1 a lot of people that I've talked to, a
2 lot of people that I'm going to continue
3 to talk to -- i.e., dog hunters,
4 landowners, game warden, and
5 enforcement -- to try to work out
6 solutions on some of these things.

7 And, Mr. Chairman, at a later point
8 I will have some things that I would
9 like to discuss about the future of dog
10 hunting in these counties, Monroe County
11 and Baldwin County.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be in new
13 business, Mr. Hatley. Very good.

14 Mr. Dobbs.

15 MR. DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 I can only follow onto what my
17 colleagues have said. Some of the hot
18 buttons that I hear that are reported to
19 me, the red snapper management and
20 seasons, I think that, again, Chris has
21 done a wonderful job. The state has
22 done a wonderful job. Thanks to
23 Dr. Shipp as well for the data that he's

1 provided. But that's very important to
2 people across the state. It comes to my
3 district as well.

4 The Game Check is important to the
5 landowners. People ask what we're going
6 to do next. We can't do anything. It's
7 hard to make management decisions
8 without information. So Chuck's --
9 Director Sykes' slides showed the lack
10 of participation, the lack of what I
11 would call complete data, I guess. And
12 that's tough. That's tough for us to
13 decide.

14 I hear from people that they're not
15 seeing the does that they think they
16 should be seeing. They're not seeing
17 the does that they saw in the past. I
18 don't know whether that's from
19 predation -- however, we're dealing with
20 that now, which is fabulous -- or
21 whether it's just recruitment because
22 the deer aren't there. So those are
23 some of the questions that I get.

1 We've talked today about the
2 processors and speaking to the
3 processors. As part of new business,
4 I'd like to talk about enlisting their
5 help with expanding the "Hunters for the
6 Hungry" program and look at the pitfalls
7 of asking the processors to help provide
8 some information. And I don't know how
9 that would work, but maybe it could.

10 Several other issues that come from
11 landowners and leaseholders as well. I
12 got two letters this year and several
13 conversations about tags -- big game
14 tags for turkeys and for deer. And as
15 well people have recognized the fact
16 that the three points to one side for
17 one of the three bucks that you kill and
18 then looking at Butler County -- I'm
19 sorry -- Barbour County that has the
20 rule and the size deer that are coming
21 from there, they wonder why can't we do
22 two deer instead of just one.

23 So that is -- that and the issues

1 with -- to mirror what Mr. Hatley says
2 with the dog hunters, the problems with
3 the dog hunters in my district, which is
4 something we'll address again in new
5 business. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

7 Commissioner McMillan.

8 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Yeah. I'd just like
9 to expand on the feral hog comments that
10 Dr. Lemme made. I see Tim Gothard back
11 there with the Alabama Wildlife
12 Federation. Tim was instrumental in
13 getting Commissioner Guy and I together
14 to start this Feral Hog Council in
15 Alabama. We've got all the various
16 state and federal interest groups.
17 That -- there's more going on than most
18 of us realize with trying to address
19 this problem but not nearly enough going
20 on.

21 Other than that, the Auburn vet
22 school research on a specific
23 contraceptive is looking -- continuing

1 to look promising. That's probably
2 the -- it may be the best hope we've got
3 anywhere.

4 But, Tim, we're going to have some
5 legislation to increase the penalties
6 for transporting live feral hogs, aren't
7 we?

8 MR. GOTHARD: We hope so. We're talking to
9 some legislators right now, and the
10 results of those conversations will
11 dictate what we do or don't do this
12 session.

13 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner Guy, any
15 other comments?

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: No, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The main project that I've
18 been working on lately is the Governor's
19 Turkey Hunt. Everybody thinks that's
20 just a bunch of folks getting together
21 to turkey hunt. It is not. Let me
22 clear that up. And that is because of
23 your Commissioner -- Commissioner Guy

1 has pushed this event. He has this
2 event rolling.

3 What this event funds is the
4 foundation's money for all the projects.
5 Just as Grady told me, they got a
6 thousand dollars for a youth hunt. The
7 "Hunters Helping the Hungry," the
8 "Becoming an Outdoors Woman," all the
9 sundry projects that go on within the
10 state that aren't -- that don't have
11 funding from anywhere else come from
12 this foundation. The foundation is
13 funded almost solely from the Governor's
14 Turkey Hunt.

15 Anybody can come to that. It's a
16 Monday night. I believe it's the 16th
17 of next month at the train station.
18 They'll have an open social event.
19 There's all kind of stuff for sale and
20 auction, and it's a very, very good
21 event. But everybody needs to give
22 Commissioner Guy a round of applause for
23 having this event.

1 Commissioner.

2 The next order of business will be
3 old business. I'll start with the open
4 items from last time that I show.

5 Okay. Do we have -- and I'll take
6 it up in old business now since we talk
7 about it every time. But,
8 Dr. Strickland, you were going to make a
9 motion. Let's go ahead and make a
10 motion to approve all of the
11 recommendations and the tax -- I mean,
12 the CPI increase on the licenses.

13 DR. STRICKLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

14 Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a
15 motion to accept all proposed 2015
16 Wildlife and Fisheries creel and bag
17 limits as well as game regulations in
18 addition to accept the 2015 CPI.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Do I have a second
20 with that motion?

21 MR. JONES: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. We've got a motion
23 and a second. Any discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. All those --

3 Commissioner, yes, sir.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: You said creel and bag --

5 season as well?

6 DR. STRICKLAND: Season, yes. Did I not?

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Just wanted to make sure

8 that was included.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Fishing, hunting, and all
10 inclusive; correct?

11 DR. STRICKLAND: Correct. All of the above.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other discussion?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. On the motion
15 stated by Dr. Strickland, all those in
16 favor raise your hand.

17 (All board members raise hand.)

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show it
21 passed unanimously.

22 Is there any other old business that
23 anyone on the board has?

1 MR. HARTZOG: In the report, Chairman
2 Moultrie --

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, sir.

4 MR. HARTZOG: -- there was the catfish study.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

6 MR. HARTZOG: And, of course, that's been
7 addressed by the new line recommendation
8 and hook recommendation, but I think
9 that was brought up in old business.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: It looked like everything
11 else had been discussed.

12 Anything else in old business?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Very good.

15 All right. The next order of
16 business is new business. Any items --
17 Mr. Hatley, I think you had something in
18 new business.

19 MR. HATLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If you would,
20 at the last meeting we did discuss some
21 things on permit systems in particular
22 counties and I deferred that.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Permitting system for

1 what?

2 MR. HATLEY: Permitting system for dog deer
3 hunting in Baldwin County at the time.

4 In light of that fact, I've talked
5 to some people in some other counties in
6 the area, and at this time I want to do
7 a little more research before our next
8 meeting as it relates to Barbour -- I
9 mean, Baldwin and Monroe Counties. And
10 so I would like to -- and, also, there's
11 another thing I would like to bring up
12 at this time.

13 As it relates to permits, I want to
14 get with staff --

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Again, you're talking dog
16 deer permits?

17 MR. HATLEY: Dog deer permits.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Be specific,
19 Mr. Hatley.

20 MR. HATLEY: Dog deer permits, gentlemen.

21 I would like to -- I'm going to meet
22 with Chuck and Kevin to look at the
23 ramifications of acreage for permits.

1 So if you guys would bear with me and
2 give me some time on that.

3 So at this time I'm not going to
4 make any motions pertaining to anything
5 in Baldwin or Monroe Counties as it
6 relates to permitting anybody or
7 anything.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You're leaving it open
9 until the next meeting?

10 MR. HATLEY: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. Any other new
12 business?

13 Mr. Hartzog.

14 MR. HARTZOG: Chairman Moultrie, I also have
15 received some complaints on some areas
16 which we -- that I've talked to Mr. Don
17 in years past. And like I said earlier,
18 I didn't call Don because I didn't get
19 the complaints until afterwards. But I
20 also want to reserve that we may want to
21 look at permits in Covington and Coffee
22 and ...

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And I know Coffee

1 County -- it seemed like we talked a lot
2 about Coffee County and then there
3 wasn't a problem and then it's back now
4 or not?

5 MR. HARTZOG: Well, there's some complaints
6 filed. Haven't gotten to the bottom of
7 it. But because of our system of not
8 being able to vote on anything unless
9 we've brought it up the meeting before,
10 I wanted to put it in the record that
11 those were possible considerations.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Any other new
13 business?

14 Mr. Dobbs.

15 MR. DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 In light of the issues in my
17 district regarding dog deer hunting, I
18 am asking Mr. Sykes and his group to
19 review the rules and regulations, asking
20 enforcement as well to review the rules
21 and regulations of the dog deer hunting
22 permit program and -- for Chilton
23 County. And I reserve the time for the

1 next meeting to discuss this with --
2 during that period of time to discuss
3 this with the director and his staff.

4 As well I would like to ask them if
5 there is some viable way to involve the
6 deer processors in the state of Alabama
7 for some information as just one more
8 tool for the tool chest to gather data
9 so that we as a group -- and y'all, of
10 course, can make decisions, advise us on
11 the decisions that need to be made.

12 That is, I think, the only new
13 business I have. We've talked in the
14 past meetings about big game tags.
15 That's something, again, that I would
16 like to explore, and we may discuss that
17 as well.

18 That's what I have. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you,
20 Mr. Dobbs.

21 Commissioner.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman and
23 Board, if you'll bear with me a little

1 bit.

2 I was talking to my directors
3 because sometimes seasons and bag limits
4 don't cover everything they had in their
5 handouts. And, specifically, I think
6 Chris Blankenship has some items that
7 wouldn't be covered under that. So if
8 you would not mind, I would ask him to
9 stand up and go through that item by
10 item and probably request a motion from
11 you just so we're completely legal,
12 Mr. Chairman, on those issues.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Absolutely.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: So, Chris, would you do
15 that.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go to the microphone,
17 Chris.

18 MR. BLANKENSHIP: I'll run through these
19 pretty quickly.

20 Some of these that we have were
21 season and bag limits, but there are a
22 couple of regulations that we've
23 proposed that are in your packet.

1 One deals with oystering. There's
2 an FDA requirement for the
3 oystercatchers to go through a certain
4 amount of education every two years
5 before they're licensed so that they
6 can -- to reduce Vibrio and illnesses in
7 people that eat oysters. So we're
8 asking to put that in our regulation.

9 To allow taking of oysters in one of
10 our areas by swimming or wading, which
11 there was a prohibition on that.

12 Just clarifying who issues permits
13 for dredging.

14 And then making -- making it clear
15 that if you have more than a hundred
16 oysters that those are for commercial
17 purposes.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Why don't you stop reading
19 there. A motion on that, then?

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Can we do it
21 all-inclusive, Commissioner?

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: I don't know. Let me ask
23 legal.

1 Can we do it all-inclusive?

2 MR. GUNTER: You can.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go through them and if
4 y'all will keep track of them, we'll do
5 it all-inclusive.

6 MR. BLANKENSHIP: On our use of nets and
7 harvest of mullet, there has been a
8 prohibition on taking the mullet with a
9 cast net of only 25 fish, and so we just
10 want to clarify on the regulation that
11 that is for recreational purposes, that
12 if they're using a cast net under the
13 commercial fishing license, they can
14 take more than 25 mullet with a cast
15 net.

16 In our miscellaneous and public
17 access regulation, it's just a
18 clarification. There's a line called
19 the inside waters. So it designates
20 what's inside waters and what's the Gulf
21 of Mexico or outside waters, and that's
22 used in many of our regulations. And so
23 we're just adding GPS coordinates to

1 some points on that line for Fort
2 Morgan, the east end of Dauphin Island,
3 the west end of Dauphin Island to make
4 it clearer for the public and for us for
5 enforcement.

6 And then Major Scott Bannon has done
7 a lot of work going through our
8 regulations over the last year looking
9 for inconsistencies, and one of those
10 areas is we had three regulations that
11 deal with spotted sea trout and red
12 drum. Some of those go back to the
13 '80s. One of the -- two of the
14 regulations there was really very little
15 difference except for one paragraph.

16 And so we're trying to consolidate
17 all three of those regulations into one
18 regulation. So we're asking to repeal
19 two of those regulations and add that
20 one provision into the third regulation
21 with some clarifying language. Nothing
22 is really changing. We're just trying
23 to clean that up for the public so they

1 can have one regulation that deals with
2 our gamefish.

3 And then just want to point out one
4 other thing. On the amberjack size
5 limit, the National Marine Fisheries
6 Service and the Gulf Council, they're
7 going to change the size limit for
8 amberjack probably at their next meeting
9 or, if not, in their June meeting. And
10 we want to be consistent with what they
11 do, which it will probably be either 34
12 or 36 inches. And so we just ask for
13 the ability to match that whenever that
14 is decided by the Gulf Council.

15 And that's all. That's all of our
16 regulations that are outside season and
17 bag limits.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Thank you, Chris.

19 Director Sykes, do you have anything
20 to go through?

21 MR. SYKES: We're good.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Can I get a motion,
23 Dr. Strickland, to include those?

1 DR. STRICKLAND: A motion to include the
2 regulations that Chris put forth --
3 (Inaudible portion.)

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All of the recommendations
5 that he just went over and we heard,
6 that you would have those be --
7 (Brief interruption by the court
8 reporter.)

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland, your
10 motion would be ...

11 DR. STRICKLAND: Yes. A motion to include the
12 regulations that Chris has just --
13 Blankenship has just put forth, and that
14 was, what, FDA oyster education
15 regulation, cast net regulations, inside
16 water regulations, amberjack size limit
17 regulations, from 34 to 36, Chris. And
18 there was one other you --

19 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Repealing the spotted sea
20 trout.

21 DR. STRICKLAND: I'm sorry?

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Repealing the spotted sea
23 trout.

1 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Repealing -- or
2 consolidating the spotted sea trout and
3 red drum regulations into one
4 regulation.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Is there a second?

6 MR. JONES: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Jones.

8 Okay. Any other discussion?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: This is just, again,
11 inclusive of all points that
12 Mr. Blankenship just made.

13 Okay. All those in favor?

14 (All board members raise hand.)

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show
18 unanimous vote.

19 Okay. Any other old or new
20 business?

21 MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

23 MR. HARTZOG: Just for clarification, on the

1 proposed regulations that we were
2 adopting, did that proposed regulation
3 include the buffer zone for the
4 waterfowl rest area or was that --

5 MR. SYKES: It did not between the Causeway
6 and I-10. It did with the hunting
7 afternoon hours. The area that we
8 wanted to make for the rest area, we
9 were going to give y'all time to talk to
10 duck hunters and we were going to --

11 DR. STRICKLAND: So that was a discussion?

12 MR. SYKES: That was a discussion.

13 DR. STRICKLAND: We cannot vote on that on
14 this meeting; right?

15 MR. SYKES: Well, I would recommend that we do
16 that next year and give y'all time to
17 talk to the public.

18 DR. STRICKLAND: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Anything else?

20 Mr. Dobbs.

21 MR. DOBBS: One additional piece of new
22 business is that I would ask the
23 director and his group as well to look

1 at other states -- review adjoining
2 states and other states and their
3 minimum requirements for dog deer
4 hunting with regard to acreage. I think
5 Mr. Hatley brought that up, but it
6 wasn't clear.

7 MR. HATLEY: I'm sorry.

8 MR. DOBBS: That's okay.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other old or new
10 business?

11 Is that it, Mr. Dobbs, or have you
12 got anything else?

13 MR. DOBBS: No. Thank you. that's it.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Anything else?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next order of
17 business is the date and location of the
18 next Advisory Board meeting. The date
19 has not been set or the location because
20 we're polling to see where we can get
21 our biggest majority of folks there. As
22 soon as we can get that information,
23 we'll make that available to the public

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immediately.

Being no further business, this meeting is adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:39 p.m.)

* * * * *

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

* * * * *

STATE OF ALABAMA:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting on February 28, 2015.

The foregoing 214 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held.

I further certify that I am neither of

1 kin nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor
2 in any manner interested in the results thereof.

3 This 18th day of May 2015.

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Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2015
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large