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3 THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
4 AND NATURAL RESOURCES
5 ADVISORY BOARD

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14 FEBRUARY 10, 2007
15 GORDON PERSONS BUILDING
16 MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
17 9:00 A.M.

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S

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3 ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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5 Dan L. Moultrie, Chairman

6 M. Barnett Lawley

7 Bill Hatley

8 George Harbin

9 Ross M. Self

10 A. Wayne May

11 Warren Strickland

12 Gaines Smith

13 James W. Porter, II

14 W. Grant Lynch

15 Louis W. Coles

16 Johnny M. Johnson

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18 ALSO PRESENT:

19 Robin Nummy

20 Jim Goodwyn

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I N D E X

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5 Call to Order..... 4

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1 I, Bridgette Mitchell, a court

2 reporter on behalf of Legalink, hereby

3 certify that the above entitled meeting

4 came on to be heard before the

5 Conservation Advisory Board of the

6 Alabama Department of Conservation and

7 Natural Resources, in Montgomery,

8 Alabama, at 9:00 a.m., on the 10th day

9 of February, 2007, at the Gordon

10 Persons Building, 50 North Ripley

11 Street, Montgomery, Alabama, and the

12 following was had and done:

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15

CALL TO ORDER

16

17

MR. MOULTRIE: The 2007 meeting

18 of the Conservation Advisory Board will
19 come to order. I'd like to welcome
20 everyone to Montgomery and the Board of
21 Directors, who were all able to attend.
22 At this time, the invocation will be
23 given by Mr. Bill Hatley.

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1
2 (Whereupon, the invocation was
3 given by Mr. Bill Hatley.)

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5 *****
6 INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS
7 *****

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9 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
10 Mr. Hatley. For the next order of
11 business I'd like to call Mr. Lawley to
12 introduce the Conservation Advisory
13 Board.

14 MR. LAWLEY: Thank you, Dan.
15 We'll start at the end on the table,
16 which has become tradition, with the
17 Honorable Bill Hatley. If you will
18 state your name and what district you
19 represent. And we'll go around the
20 table.

21 MR. HATLEY: My name is Bill
22 Hatley. I represent District 1.

23 MR. HARBIN: I'm George Harbin
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1 and I represent District 4.

2 MR. SELF: I'm Ross Self and I
3 represent District 1.

4 DR. MAY: Wayne May. I
5 represent District 7.

6 DR. STRICKLAND: Warren
7 Strickland, Congressional District 5.

8 MR. MOULTRIE: Dan Moultrie,
9 Congressional District 6.

10 DR. SMITH: Gaines Smith,
11 statewide ex officio.

12 MR. PORTER: Jim Porter,
13 District 6.

14 MR. JOHNSON: Johnny Johnson,

15 District 7.
16 MR. COLES: Louis Coles,
17 Congressional District 2.
18 MR. LYNCH: Grant Lynch,
19 Congressional District 3.
20 MR. LAWLEY: Thank you
21 everybody. I appreciate everybody
22 being here.

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1 *****
2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES
3 *****
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5 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
6 Mr. Lawley. Are there any corrections
7 to the Minutes of the May 20, 2006,
8 advisory board meeting?
9 (No response)
10 MR. COLES: I make a motion
11 that we approve to accept.
12 MR. HATLEY: Second.
13 MR. MOULTRIE: Any discussion?
14 (No response)
15 MR. MOULTRIE: All in favor say
16 aye.
17 (All board members signify)
18 MR. MOULTRIE: Motion approved.
19 The Minutes stand approved as read.

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1 *****
2 MEMBERS REPORT BY DISTRICT
3 *****
4 MR. MOULTRIE: The next order
5 of business is the members report by
6 district. We'll start at District 1.
7 Ross Self? Or would you rather
8 Mr. Hatley go first?
9 MR. SELF: I'm fine. Thank
10 you, Mr. Chairman. As many of you may
11 recall, we authorized some experimental

12 dredging back in the 2005-2006 season
13 for oysters. And I wanted to report
14 that that's proved to be very
15 successful and it provided valuable
16 economic relief to Bayou La Batre.
17 Therefore, I'm going to recommend to
18 the director of marine resources
19 division proceed with the opening of
20 additional deep water areas in Mobile
21 Bay for this activity through authority
22 provided by the current regulation.

23 Secondly, of course, my area deals
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1 with offshore resources, red snapper
2 being -- being one of them. And any of
3 you that deep sea fish have probably
4 heard that the red snapper limit is
5 going to be cut back to a two-fish
6 limit beginning this -- this spring.
7 And this is being done by the National
8 Marine Fisheries division of NOAA and
9 for reasons provided in the
10 Congressional Act, the Magnuson-Stevens
11 Act. This was passed by the U.S.
12 Congress back in the late '80s. Many
13 people don't understand that while the
14 snapper population is growing, they're
15 not growing at a rate that satisfies
16 the requirements of the
17 Magnuson-Stevens Act. And I personally
18 have made three trips to Washington
19 trying to -- to reason with NOAA and
20 the Department of Commerce and they --
21 I understand why they're doing what
22 they're doing. They all agree that the
23 snapper stocks have been recovering for

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1 several years -- well, ever since the
2 act began -- but they they're not
3 recovering fast enough, so they want to
4 impose a two-fish limit. And I expect
5 there's going to be some lawsuits over
6 it before it's over with that may be
7 filed by various groups that have
8 interest in red snapper. Hopefully

9 something will be done about it. But,
10 anyway, at this rate, at this time the
11 limit is going to be two fish per
12 person per vessel and neither the
13 captain or the crew would be able to
14 claim any of the fish. So that's a
15 significant decrease in red snapper.

16 I wanted to report that the Gulf
17 State Park Hotel and Resort, which was
18 damaged by Hurricane Ivan, is being
19 removed and all suitable materials are
20 being placed in the bays, in Perdido
21 Bay and Bayou St. John, for fish
22 habitat, and that their will be parts
23 going offshore for other fish habitat;
0011

1 and that's underway now. The Bayou
2 Point launch ramp has been completely
3 rebuilt and repaved, new ramps put in,
4 increased parking, wave attenuators.
5 The Bayou Point bayou is really a very
6 nice boat landing now to accommodate
7 many more people than it has in the
8 past, and it's greatly used by
9 recreational fisherman. And we, in
10 fact, need another boat ramp, but I
11 don't know if that's going to come
12 about or not. The Commissioner might
13 reflect some on that.

14 MR. MOULTRIE: Commissioner,
15 you have a comment?

16 MR. LAWLEY: It's a discussion
17 right now.

18 MR. SELF: I'm not up on the
19 full details, so I guess we can't go
20 into it at this time. But I understand
21 there is a push to try to get another
22 boat ramp down there.

23 MR. LAWLEY: Well, it's Orange
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1 Beach's initiative, not a Department of
2 Conservation initiative.

3 MR. SELF: The parking lot at
4 Cotton Bayou ramp is scheduled to be
5 expanded and repaved starting this

6 coming Monday. This will reduce
7 congestion at the popular ramp.
8 We have received very positive
9 comments about the upper bay closure
10 implemented by this board last year.
11 The closure of that area for trolling
12 appears to have had a very positive
13 effect on the population of young
14 shrimp. However, we're unable to make
15 any positive conclusions at this time
16 because of -- due to the -- due to the
17 fact that it's -- we need about three
18 years to say that -- make some real
19 positive conclusions about it. But
20 right now the indication is that we're
21 getting a lot bigger shrimp in the
22 lower bay and a lot more shrimp in the
23 lower bay. And that concludes my
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1 report, Mr. Chairman.
2 MR. MOULTRIE: Ross, before
3 you get off. You talked with Bobby
4 Walker. What do they feel about the
5 red snapper, is it going to be
6 devastating on the charter boat fleets?
7 MR. SELF: Yes, it is. In
8 fact, Bobby and I went to Washington
9 together. In fact, I think she might
10 have made two trips with me. And
11 they're very well concerned it's going
12 to have a devastating effect on the
13 charter boat industry. And although we
14 call it charter boat there, it's
15 actually recreational fishing; it's not
16 commercial fishing. One other comment
17 I want to make about that, too, is with
18 the induction of this recreational
19 snapper limit, it's not going to apply
20 just to the recreational fishermen.
21 The commercial fisherman is also going
22 to be affected by a reduction in the
23 total liable poundage of fish caught
0014

1 during the year. So the commercial
2 fisherman is cut back, too. But he is

3 going to be able to harvest a smaller
4 fish. He's going to be able to harvest
5 a thirteen-inch snapper fish where he's
6 been held to fourteen inches; and the
7 recreational fisherman is still held to
8 sixteen inches.

9 MR. MOULTRIE: Is there any
10 idea how much this will decrease their
11 booking? How many people -- are 50
12 percent of the people red snapper
13 fishermen or were they combination
14 fishing? How much would that decrease
15 their business?

16 MR. SELF: I don't think
17 there's any forecast right now other
18 than it's going to be severe.

19 MR. HATLEY: The thing about
20 it, it's going to go through a down
21 period anyway. They're concerned about
22 the total economic impact on the whole,
23 not just for, you know, fishing, but
0015

1 what it's going to do to the tourists
2 in general. It's going to affect the
3 state park. It's going to affect all
4 the golf courses down there. It's
5 going to affect the restaurants. And
6 Ross has done a tremendous job to push
7 to make the feds understand that the
8 people of Orange Beach, Perdido, Gulf
9 Shores, are all concerned about what
10 the total economic impact is going to
11 have.

12 MR. MOULTRIE: It would be
13 interesting if y'all hear that figure
14 and bring it back to the board, the
15 economic impact.

16 MR. COLES: Mr. Chairman, I
17 have a question. Ross, I understand
18 that the limits on the red snapper now
19 are not going to include the charter
20 captains or any employees on board.

21 MR. SELF: Yes.

22 MR. COLES: I'm sorry. I was
23 snoring so loud, I couldn't hear

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1 myself.
2 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley, you
3 ready to report to District 1?
4 MR. HATLEY: Ross covered the
5 most important impact that's going on
6 down there right now. The only thing,
7 I try to handle the inland. We're not
8 having any dog problems in south
9 Alabama to pick up. And we are -- I've
10 already talked to Gary about some of
11 the concerns about the ruts in south
12 Alabama. People who hunt all the way
13 across the bottom of the state are
14 concerned about the dates.
15 Dr. May still has persistent
16 problems up in his county in Choctaw
17 that Mr. Self and I got involved in a
18 few years ago, if you remember. Some
19 of those people still remember my name
20 and my cell phone number and I have
21 been inundated by some of those people.
22 Other than what Ross has got going with
23 the shrimping -- I mean with the

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1 snapper, there's not much going on down
2 in our district. Everybody's satisfied
3 with dove season, too. I haven't got
4 any flak on that.
5 MR. MOULTRIE: Any report from
6 the golf course committee that you
7 chair?
8 MR. HATLEY: Yeah. The fact
9 is, we don't have any money to do
10 anything. I want you to know we're
11 touring and --
12 (Laughter)
13 MR. LAWLEY: Yeah, you're
14 representing that tour. One thing I'd
15 like to say. I want to thank Ross Self
16 for the efforts he's made. I made one
17 of those trips to Washington with him.
18 Your group has done such a great job in
19 the commercial fishing and recreational
20 fishing in creating the reef system

21 that Alabama has. You know, I've heard
22 estimates of up close to 20,000 reefs
23 that are some state, some private. We
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1 don't seem to have any snapper shortage
2 off the coast of Alabama. And this is
3 the thing, I guess, that really kind of
4 irks me, to a point. But National
5 Marine Fisheries will not consider
6 Alabama stocks when they start making
7 their recommendations. In other words,
8 they skip our area because we've done
9 what's supposed to be done. We have a
10 stock of red snapper. Isn't that
11 right, Ross?

12 MR. SELF: That's correct.

13 MR. LAWLEY: It's a point that
14 very few people know about and how much
15 do you -- how much do you do.

16 MR. SELF: Well, what's really
17 hard for the fishermen, the sport
18 fishermen and commercial fishermen, to
19 swallow is that NOAA and National
20 Marine Fisheries agreed that the stocks
21 are steadily increasing. And the way
22 they -- our belief is the way they make
23 their assessment as what the stocks are
0019

1 is wrong and that they're not taking
2 into consideration all the artificial
3 reefs and that they're just -- they're
4 just not doing this properly. And they
5 agree the stocks are increasing, but
6 they're going to knock us back anyway.

7 MR. LYNCH: Ross, I think -- I
8 was reading an article the other day
9 and I think it was the fluke situation
10 up and down the east coast. I just
11 read a big article on the plane this
12 week that's very similar to what's
13 going on with the snapper, it's
14 increasing but they're still talking
15 about cutting it back as well.

16 MR. SELF: On what kind of
17 fish?

18 MR. LYNCH: Flounder. They
19 call it a fluke up north. But it's
20 almost a similar correlation to what's
21 happening with snapper here. And even
22 though it's increasing, it's not going
23 fast enough for them and they're going
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1 to cut it back as well.
2 MR. MOULTRIE: All right.
3 District 2, Mr. Louis Coles.
4 MR. COLES: Well, our dove
5 season this past year was a poor to
6 average harvest. Conditions were
7 caused by a dry summer, as we all
8 experienced. Our duck season in
9 southeast Alabama was very poor to
10 poor. Warm season, again, was the
11 culprit there. Early on our deer
12 season was poor to average; the early
13 part of the season was extremely warm,
14 the harvest was low. Our ruts season
15 ended as usual, around the 23rd of
16 January.
17 The season was very quiet
18 complaint-wise until January 2. And I
19 happened to mention to my wife, I said,
20 Boy, our phone hasn't rung. It's been
21 ringing. And between the 2nd of
22 January and January 16, I received
23 seventeen phone call complaints from
0021

1 landowners concerning intrusion by deer
2 dogs. In November, I met with the
3 Henry County Landowners Association and
4 the newly-elected county officials in
5 Abbeville to discuss the business of
6 the permits in Henry County.
7 January 8, I met with the director
8 of the Wildlife Resources Division of
9 the Alabama Farmer's Federation and
10 landowners in Eufaula concerning
11 hunting issues. In the month of
12 January I also worked with two
13 different landowners and conservation
14 officers in Coffee County concerning

15 some night hunting going on there. And
16 that concludes my report.

17 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
18 Mr. Coles. District 3, Grant Lynch.

19 MR. LYNCH: District 3,
20 historically, it's been relatively
21 quiet. This year I did see a pick-up
22 in January, such as Mr. Coles
23 mentioned, in some phone calls to my
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1 office concerning dog deer hunting on
2 private property. But overall, about
3 like last year. Our season was kind of
4 like what Louis was just saying.

5 For those in the room, we are
6 having an Alabama Wildlife Federation
7 Wild Game Cook-off at the Speedway
8 today. So if you're headed back to the
9 north and want to stop in and see us,
10 please do on your way home. That
11 concludes my report.

12 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
13 Mr. Lynch. District 4, George Harbin.

14 MR. HARBIN: I met with Fayette
15 and Tuscaloosa County landowners in
16 Samantha, Alabama, on February 4.
17 There were about eighty people in
18 attendance. Dr. Wayne May and
19 Mr. Johnny Johnson were there. We
20 appreciated them being there at this
21 meeting. The main concern was dog deer
22 hunting. On February 7, I received a
23 report from the District 1 supervisor.
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1 He said that several counties in the
2 fourth district were just in a big mess
3 due to dog-related complaints. There
4 were eight arrests that were just
5 dog-related arrests. I understand this
6 is the highest in the state. And other
7 than dog complaints, District 4 is
8 really quiet.

9 MR. MOULTRIE: District 5,
10 Dr. Warren Strickland.

11 DR. STRICKLAND: Again, I think

12 District 5 reflects some of the same
13 problems we've been seeing in some of
14 the other counties. We had a lukewarm
15 deer season I think because of the
16 drought. It was definitely very warm
17 in the early season. Our dove season
18 was pretty down as well. I think our
19 dove numbers were down probably from
20 the drought and some other reasons.

21 The great majority of complaints I
22 get -- and I think that in my area
23 everyone looks at me when it comes to,
0024

1 or calls on me when it comes to,
2 archery-related or bow-hunting-related
3 issues. It still probably needs -- I
4 know that crossbows really didn't have
5 a huge impact on deer harvest, but
6 politically it's been a pretty big
7 issue in northern Alabama and that's
8 probably something that we're going to
9 have to address.

10 Deer quality, I'm still getting a
11 lot of calls about how we're managing
12 our deer herd in Alabama -- when are we
13 going to go to a tag system, when are
14 we going to be accountable for our deer
15 harvest. And I feel that's something
16 we're going to have to address as well.
17 But other than that, the season has
18 been pretty quiet. Not a lot of dog
19 issues around Madison County. Most of
20 the dog-hunting counties are in the
21 western part of the state.

22 One of the things I do want to
23 mention is that in the past, I've had
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1 lots of calls, lots of conversations,
2 with hunters in the area about night
3 hunting, trespassing, things of that
4 sort. There was a new game warden to
5 go in that area. He's been there about
6 a couple years. This guy is doing a
7 tremendous job, a great hire. He has
8 really gone beyond the call of duty. I

9 tell you, my calls have dropped three,
10 400 percent. This guy is everywhere.
11 They call him the ghost game warden.
12 He's in three different places. He's
13 done a great job and I wanted that
14 mentioned. That's all I have.

15 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
16 Dr. Strickland. I'd like to also
17 congratulate Dr. Strickland. He got
18 elected this last term as one of the
19 vice presidents --

20 DR. STRICKLAND: Second vice
21 president.

22 MR. MOULTRIE: -- second vice
23 president for the Pope and Young
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1 National Association. That's a huge
2 honor for Dr. Strickland and the State
3 of Alabama.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. MOULTRIE: In District 6,
6 Jim Porter.

7 MR. PORTER: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman. District 6 has had very
9 few calls. Most of the conversations
10 that I've had with folks were over the
11 continued good job the commission has
12 done for the hunting at Oak Mountain
13 and how successful that's been and the
14 support in controlling that population
15 out there. We don't have a whole lot
16 of dog deer hunting down near
17 Birmingham, so that hasn't been a
18 problem. Other than that, it's been
19 pretty quiet.

20 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
21 Mr. Porter. The commissioner and I
22 from District 6 met with the
23 superintendent of Vestavia Hills school
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1 systems, Dr. James Blair. It looks
2 like he's going to try to put in an
3 archery initiative into the Vestavia
4 school system. In the middle of
5 downtown Birmingham or the suburbs of

6 Birmingham to have that archery
7 initiative, to have a superintendent
8 that hunts and is into hunting and
9 wants to propagate that within the
10 school I think is very positive stuff.
11 I think the commissioner has already
12 passed that on to be looked at. And so
13 we took that as a real beneficial step
14 towards bringing outdoor knowing in an
15 area like Vestavia Hills.

16 District 7, Dr. Wayne May.

17 DR. MAY: As mentioned before,
18 Mr. Harbin, we were visiting some
19 people in Fayette County and up in
20 northern Tuscaloosa County. They're
21 having the same problem as a lot of
22 other counties relating to dog deer
23 hunting. Mr. Johnson and I met with
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1 some people in Perry County and north
2 Hale, and they have a serious hot spot
3 down there. We met several gentlemen
4 down there and they told us the area
5 and rode around for a couple hours
6 looking. Several of the dog deer
7 hunters have an acre here and forty
8 here and they turn the dogs loose in
9 the middle of that and let them go. I
10 talked to one person down there, his
11 house has been shot through from people
12 standing on the road running the dogs
13 and then shooting up and down the road.
14 Fortunately, his children were out in
15 the yard that day playing. If they'd
16 been in the house, they would have been
17 hit, killed, this sort of problem.

18 We still have a problem in Pickens
19 County on the north end, and Tuscaloosa
20 County joining that. There's a
21 gentleman who spoke the last couple
22 meetings we had. He's still having dog
23 problems.

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1 I know -- sometimes I wonder if our
2 dove hunts are not getting as bad as

3 the discussion of deer hunts. People
4 I've talked have seemed perfectly
5 satisfied with what we've had this past
6 season. I know a number of hunts
7 wasn't as well, but I've had a lot of
8 compliments on the November late hunts.
9 That's all I have.

10 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
11 Dr. May. District 7, Johnny Johnson.

12 MR. JOHNSON: I'd just like to
13 concur with something Dr. May said.
14 They called a meeting that we attended
15 concerning the dog deer hunters,
16 especially in Perry County and up north
17 Tuscaloosa County, west Tuscaloosa
18 County, and also over into Pickens
19 County have continued to increase. We
20 had, I know, from the count
21 seventy-nine people that were in
22 attendance Super Bowl Sunday that were
23 concerned about these issues in that
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1 particular area. They've got a real
2 problem up here and some things, it
3 looks like, has got to be done in
4 regard to it.

5 I would like to commend our
6 conservation officers. I've probably
7 visited with them at least eight or ten
8 times since our last meeting. These
9 people do an outstanding job. They're
10 a very professional people that are
11 real concerned about our wildlife and
12 our conservation efforts out there.
13 I'd just like to say a special thanks
14 to this group of people.

15 I talked with a number of people,
16 individuals, on the phone concerning
17 the issues that they're having. I met
18 with hunting clubs concerning the
19 complaining and so forth out there that
20 these hunting clubs deal with. I met
21 with the director of Wildlife Reserve
22 division of Alabama Farmers Federation
23 concerning some of the issues that

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1 they'll be presenting from the Farmers
2 Federation concerning a lot of issues.
3 We've had a busy time out there and
4 it's a pleasure to work with you and
5 see what we can accomplish. Thank you.

6 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
7 Mr. Johnson. Ex officio, Dr. Gaines
8 Smith, anything from the extension
9 service in Auburn that you'd like to
10 talk about?

11 DR. SMITH: I'll just mention
12 that we are looking at putting -- you
13 may be familiar with the southwest
14 Alabama committee with the research
15 center we've got down in the Camden
16 area with the livestock and crop area
17 for a number of years. That's been
18 basically closed out for right now, but
19 we're looking to put in its place a
20 national resource and education center.
21 There's about 2800 acres there that's
22 got river frontage, got a lot of trees,
23 lot of forested area. We're in the

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1 very early stage of putting something
2 together there. We think it's going to
3 make a tremendous educational center
4 down there based on natural resources
5 in the state. So we're looking forward
6 to that and we'll keep you posted as we
7 move ahead.

8 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
9 Dr. Smith. Commissioner, any other
10 comments?

11 MR. LAWLEY: No. I appreciate
12 the work everyone has done in their
13 district. I've talked to people that
14 were stirred up on dove season. People
15 that I talked to and a couple of dove
16 hunts that I witnessed, which was the
17 best that I have seen in fifteen years.
18 A whole lot to brag about in the last
19 ten or fifteen years. They're pretty
20 good.

21 MR. HARBIN: I'd like to add
22 something here. That meeting that
23 we had in Samantha, Alabama, on
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1 February 4, just this morning alone
2 I've received three notes from three
3 different people that one of the guys
4 that was at the meeting had been
5 threatened with burning him out,
6 beating him up, just general threats.
7 We've got three reports this morning.

8 MR. MOULTRIE: Please keep
9 comments in the gallery down.

10 MR. HARBIN: That's just the
11 situation we're facing. These people,
12 if they complain about a dog hunter or
13 about anything with hunting, they're
14 getting threats. We're going to have
15 to address that problem somewhere.

16 MR. MOULTRIE: I'd make sure to
17 get that to the appropriate sources.

18 MR. HARBIN: I will after I
19 talk with that person.

20

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2 DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

3 *****

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5 MR. MOULTRIE: All right. The
6 next order of business will be the
7 departmental reports. I'd like to all
8 on Mr. Lawley to introduce each
9 department.

10 MR. LAWLEY: All right. We'll
11 start with Marine Resources, Mr. Vern
12 Minton.

13 MR. LAWLEY: Before we get into
14 the report, I'd also like John Downey
15 and John Knapp to come up, if they
16 would, please.

17 Commissioner, I'd like to take a

18 moment to go over what these two
19 officers were able to accomplish this
20 last (inaudible) to take over here.

21 On the night of December 17,
22 CEO Jason Downey and John Knapp, they
23 were patrolling along Highway 193 near
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1 Cedar Point in Mobile County. Just
2 before midnight, they noticed
3 taillights about 50 feet out in Mobile
4 Bay. A young lady had lost control of
5 her vehicle and gone over the sea wall
6 in Mobile Bay. The officers, realizing
7 what happened, removed their gear and
8 ran to the water. The water
9 temperature was approximately 53
10 degrees that night. The young lady was
11 out of the car screaming someone was
12 trapped inside the car. A passenger,
13 approximately a nineteen-year-old male,
14 was injured trapped inside the vehicle.
15 The passenger side of the vehicle was
16 crushed and they couldn't get the door
17 open. They went around to the driver's
18 side and worked to get the passenger
19 out before the car filled completely up
20 with water. They were able to free the
21 young man through the driver's side
22 door by having to hold his breath, grab
23 his legs, and pull him out of the
0036

1 console and out of the vehicle. They
2 carried the young man to shore, gave
3 both the injured people their jackets
4 to help stay warm, rendered first aid.
5 Then after some first aid got there,
6 they assisted by directing traffic
7 until the scene was clear. The young
8 people realized that they were lucky to
9 be alive.

10 I think one thing about something
11 like this exemplifies the public
12 caretaking function of our job and the
13 whole department. And I'm always proud
14 of all our officers, but I'm really

15 proud of what they did that night.
16 (Applause)
17 MR. LAWLEY: We want to present
18 you all with this certificate of
19 commendation for your efforts. We
20 can't tell you how proud we are of
21 y'all and the way you represent the
22 department and the way you represent
23 yourselves.

0037

1 (Applause)
2
3 *****
4 MARINE RESOURCES
5 *****

6
7 MR. MINTON: Commissioner,
8 board members, I would like to report
9 from south Alabama. We finally made it
10 through a year without a hurricane.

11 (Applause)
12 MR. MINTON: I think people in
13 south Alabama would like to thank the
14 commissioner and the governor for the
15 personal time that they took in
16 restoring the area following the
17 catastrophic events. The commissioner,
18 I couldn't tell you the number of hours
19 he was down there. And it was really,
20 truly appreciated by the people who
21 were left with nothing at all. Thank
22 you, sir.

23 During this last year without the

0038

1 storms we were able to complete
2 extensive renovations to our Dauphin
3 Island office and laboratory. We were
4 also able to, with funds provided by
5 NOAA offer to law enforcement, the
6 facility, boat slips and lifts within
7 the next few weeks. We should also be
8 taking -- taking over two 30-foot
9 patrol vessels after they've gone
10 through their sea trials. That will
11 allow us to have a better offshore

12 presence.

13 This last year, Congress
14 appropriated \$128 million for
15 restoration and, again, due to the
16 efforts of Senator Shelby and our
17 commissioner, the State of Alabama will
18 receive 29.6 million dollars of this
19 money. We plan to have five jobs to be
20 accomplished in the next five years.
21 Those jobs include restoration of
22 oyster reefs of 7.1 million. We're
23 trying to utilize commercial oyster
0039

1 input of oyster catchers if we can.
2 Oyster, shrimp, and fish habitat
3 restoration, \$8 million to be
4 accomplished in cooperation with
5 Coastal Fisheries and Lands Division.
6 We're going to go through mapping
7 habitat, total habitat mapping. Within
8 Alabama our share is 2.5 million. We
9 also have to make a final distribution
10 6.5 million in cooperation with Dauphin
11 Island Sea Lab. This is particularly
12 important in light of the LNG, we need
13 that information. This money is very
14 critical for us. We also did a
15 cooperative research with 5.5 million
16 through the assistance of personal
17 (inaudible) capital. We continue our
18 public outreach efforts. We have
19 expanded our outreach from a wide
20 program to a more broad-based community
21 outreach effort. If you look in your
22 packets there, you'll also see our
23 current (inaudible) calendars and we
0040

1 have a new published of inshore and
2 offshore reefs and those are available
3 for the public now.

4 At this point, I'd like for Major
5 Jenkins to come up and he'll go over
6 some regulation changes that we'd like
7 to propose at this meeting that we hope
8 for action on in the near future.

9 MAJOR JENKINS: In 2003, we
10 started closing the front beach to
11 netting around the major holidays. On
12 every holiday that's on a Monday, we
13 close from a Friday through that
14 Monday. The Fourth of July is the one
15 holiday that causes a problem because
16 it doesn't always fall on a Monday. We
17 went back and we were advised by the
18 board to go to the tourism and business
19 associations in Mobile and Baldwin
20 County, ask what their biggest tourism
21 dates would be and come back with a
22 recommendation. This year in 2007 it's
23 strange because it falls on a

0041

1 Wednesday. Well, we have provided in
2 the packet to look at is several
3 alternatives of what would cover the
4 period. The next years after that it
5 falls pretty well easy with the tourism
6 where they fall. We'd like to address
7 that issue with closure on the front
8 beach.

9 The other thing that we have is any
10 time with -- as you've already talked
11 about, the red snapper changing under
12 NOAA and so has vermillion snapper size
13 limits and creel limits. We would ask
14 that you consider bringing us in line
15 with the regulations for enforcement;
16 it's a lot easier if we're all on the
17 same page. The one other thing that
18 came up is in our regs right now, we
19 actually list out some of the
20 management plans of where people have
21 to have permits, federal permits, that
22 they have to have those to land federal
23 fish in Alabama. They have added

0042

1 different management plans and
2 additional permits. We would like just
3 to go forward and state that if they're
4 required to have a federal permit to
5 take the species, they have to have

6 those permits to land those fish here
7 in Alabama.

8 The other thing that we have is the
9 commercial -- we have the commercial
10 taking and landing of red snapper reg.
11 at this time. As they have put in the
12 IQFs, individual fishing quotas, some
13 of that language has changed of what's
14 required. We would like to bring our
15 language up to match what is going on
16 with individual fishing quotas.

17 MR. MINTON: Any questions for
18 Major Jenkins?

19 MR. MOULTRIE: What was the --
20 you mentioned that there was some fish
21 that you had to have a federal permit
22 to take that you didn't in Alabama.
23 What fish -- what kind of fish?

0043

1 MAJOR JENKINS: You actually
2 have -- the only one that this
3 recreational permit would actually be a
4 tuna permit that you have to have.
5 Actually, all the red snapper permits,
6 all the reef fish permits, all the
7 permits -- every one they have on the
8 management plan -- there's actually
9 several of them. I don't know them off
10 the top of my head -- they mainly
11 follow along the lines of red snapper
12 permit, the reef fish permit, and
13 different things like that. Probably
14 will require to have them the whole
15 way, even the fish that were for sale
16 so we can follow those fish through and
17 follow the paper trail. If we don't
18 have them required in our regs they
19 have to have that permit, we lose track
20 of our commercial fish.

21 MR. MOULTRIE: What determines
22 if they're a federal or state fish,
23 where they're caught?

0044

1 MAJOR JENKINS: Yes.

2 MR. MOULTRIE: Outside that --

3 what is it, three miles?

4 MAJOR JENKINS: Yes, sir.

5 MR. MOULTRIE: Any other
6 questions from the board?

7 (No response)

8 MR. MINTON: We have recently
9 completed a stock assessment for
10 mullet. And I've got our chief
11 biologist here to speak. He's going to
12 go over some of that and make some
13 recommendations for some changes on
14 that fishery.

15 CHIEF BIOLOGIST: Well, I'm
16 pleased to say that the stocks of
17 (inaudible) are doing very well. All
18 indications are that they're holding
19 up, but we have noticed that they're
20 approaching what we call the spawning
21 stock ratio. And so to take a
22 proactive lead on this in preparation
23 for the future, we want to allow a few
0045

1 more of the age two described mullet to
2 pass through all the net pressure and
3 end up in the spawning stock. This
4 is -- age two is the first year that
5 they're able to spawn. And some of
6 those are getting through now, but in
7 order to let a few more through and to
8 really get a more robust population,
9 we'd like to increase our mesh sizes
10 just a little bit and go from one and
11 three-eighths inches to one and a half
12 inches on what we call the menhaden
13 fishery, which is for the majority of
14 the year. And then during the roe
15 fishery, increase that mesh size from
16 one and seven-eighths inches to two
17 inches. This is knot to knot.

18 And that is what we're requesting
19 at this time, or to be considered
20 during the March meeting. Are there
21 any questions?

22 MR. MOULTRIE: Board have any
23 questions?

0046

1 (No response)

2 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
3 much.

4 MR. MINTON: Thanks. Again,
5 this is a proactive approach before the
6 stock gets into the shape where we have
7 to take some drastic measures. We
8 think this should take care of it.

9 In summary, we've got five items
10 for you to take up in March. You have
11 the Fourth of July closure on the front
12 beach, the gill net mesh size, red
13 snapper and vermillion, the size and
14 bag limits in line with federal
15 regulations, and require all fisherman
16 landing fish in Alabama possess the
17 required federal permits, and update
18 the commercial red snapper regulations
19 to conform with the federal individual
20 fishing quota. Mr. Commissioner,
21 that's all I have.

22 MR. LAWLEY: What about the
23 license?

0047

1 MR. MINTON: Sir?

2 MR. LAWLEY: The license, the
3 change in license.

4 MR. MINTON: Yes, sir. We are
5 currently working with legal to help
6 increases for our recreational
7 licenses. We have asked for a license
8 increase to start with and that be tied
9 into the consumer index cost of living.
10 This will go before the legislature
11 this year. We would hope that we get
12 support for that. Like everybody else,
13 we've been running flat line for a
14 pretty long time. Our license passed
15 about fourteen years ago, so that was
16 the last time we had an increase. I'm
17 sure we'll be hearing more about it
18 through the papers.

19 MR. SELF: Are you -- in that
20 license increase recommendation, are we

21 including in there a requirement for
22 saltwater fishing license if the fish
23 are landed in Alabama or possessed in
0048

1 Alabama?
2 MR. MINTON: Yes, sir. It will
3 change from a taking to possession. So
4 regardless of where you're at, you're
5 coming in from offshore, if you're
6 possessing fish you have to have a
7 license. That makes us -- puts us in
8 line with, I believe, every other
9 state.

10 MR. SELF: Every other state.

11 MR. MINTON: Thank you.

12 MR. LAWLEY: Thank you, Vern.
13 Marine police division.

14
15 *****
16 MARINE POLICE
17 *****

18
19 MR. HUFFAKER: Mr. Commissioner,
20 Mr. Chairman, board members. I'm here
21 to speak today on a few of the
22 accomplishments and problems that the
23 marine police division is facing. This
0049

1 past year -- this past year we were
2 able to hire several officers. These
3 were not new positions but replacements
4 and -- which brought our total number
5 of officers statewide to sixty-four.
6 We're planning on hiring three
7 additional officers, not new officers,
8 to fill some vacancies that were
9 created by retirement. We anticipate a
10 turnover of approximately 18 percent in
11 our experienced officers and personnel
12 during the year '07. These personnel
13 shortages will be a critical issue that
14 faces this division.

15 In our licensing program, to date
16 we've licensed over 600,000 boat
17 operators in the State of Alabama. You

18 look at that and compare it with the
19 number of registered boats, which is
20 approximately 270,000. So our
21 education program and licensing program
22 continues to thrive throughout the
23 State of Alabama. And approximately
0050

1 33,000 boaters completed our boating
2 safety courses that were taught in
3 public schools by marine police
4 officers over this past year. So we're
5 getting the education and information
6 out to the boaters. And we find that
7 by presenting this information and
8 education, it's made our Alabama waters
9 a lot safer.

10 Our officers also are still under
11 orders to patrol all the critical
12 infrastructures in Alabama under the
13 homeland security. We had over 3700
14 hours patrol time extended on
15 patrolling these infrastructures
16 throughout the state this last year.

17 We plan on introducing legislation
18 in this session that we've attempted to
19 get through in the past, and one of the
20 bills is a boat theft bill. While we
21 continue to strive to give our boat
22 theft investigators and our officers
23 better tools to work with and to make
0051

1 the law a little clearer on it. And
2 this legislation will clarify the
3 parameters, penalties, and forfeiture
4 procedures associated with marine theft
5 and other accessories in boat theft.
6 Boat theft is a big industry in the
7 State of Alabama. In past times, some
8 of our officers have had problems
9 identifying boats and not having some
10 means of having those boats declared
11 through the court system on what to be
12 done with them. We've had to give them
13 back to the thieves. A thief steals
14 the boat, we recover the boat, and you

15 have no proof or procedures to take
16 care of that piece of equipment. You
17 know it's stolen and a lot of times it
18 goes back to the person that you've
19 obtained that boat from.

20 Another piece of legislation we're
21 attempting to get passed is we
22 increased the property damage threshold
23 which is required on any boating

0052

1 accident on property damaged items.
2 For years, since '59, the threshold has
3 been \$50 dollars. The U.S. Coast Guard
4 raised that threshold a couple years
5 ago to \$2,000 per accident. Any
6 accident occurs with property damage
7 less than \$2,000, a report is not
8 required to be filled with the Coast
9 Guard. We would like to bring our
10 state law in line with that, and all it
11 would take is to change from \$50 to
12 \$2,000 within the legislature.

13 And like other agencies within the
14 department, we're facing financial
15 problems. Our last boat registration
16 increase occurred in 1992. Marine
17 police division is, quote, a trust fund
18 agency. We depend on finances on
19 running our organization through boat
20 registration alone. We do not get any
21 money by the general fund. So this
22 year, we're going to attempt to
23 introduce legislation to increase boat

0053

1 registration in the State of Alabama.
2 At this time, this legislation is being
3 finalized by the legal section and we
4 will present it for the approval of the
5 commissioner to the legislature in this
6 session. Anyone have any questions?

7 MR. HATLEY: How much of an
8 increase on the registration?

9 MR. HUFFAKER: About 50
10 percent. That's what we're looking at
11 at this time.

12 MR. LAWLEY: It's 50 percent of
13 the revenue received, not -- is kind of
14 what they're looking at right now to
15 fill their needs, not adding people but
16 to have a solid budget?

17 MR. HUFFAKER: This will give
18 us a --

19 MR. LAWLEY: Right. It doesn't
20 mean that the classification your boat
21 is in is going to go up 50 percent, but
22 50 percent of money would go . . .

23 MR. HUFFAKER: Right. And we
0054

1 think that from this increase that it
2 would give us the opportunity to have
3 level funding through 2017.

4 MR. MOULTRIE: Bobby, how
5 many -- is there an idea of how many
6 boat licenses are out there?

7 MR. HUFFAKER: Yes, sir,
8 approximately 600,000.

9 MR. MOULTRIE: Six hundred
10 thousand boaters out there that are
11 able to legally craft a boat. What is
12 that, sixteen and older?

13 MR. HUFFAKER: Twelve.

14 MR. LAWLEY: Two hundred and
15 how many thousand registered boats?

16 MR. HUFFAKER: Two hundred and
17 seventy-one thousand.

18 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Self, go
19 ahead.

20 MR. SELF: I noticed that
21 during the year you had 99 new boat
22 thefts.

23 MR. HUFFAKER: Yes, sir.

0055

1 MR. SELF: I'm just curious as
2 to how many arrests and convictions you
3 got from that.

4 MR. HUFFAKER: I don't have
5 that figure, but I can get it for you.
6 We have an officer in south Alabama
7 that is very diligent in his work and
8 he has made -- busted quite a few major

9 boat thefts.

10 MR. SELF: I've been reading in
11 the paper there's been a good many of
12 them, a ring of them caught, and I just
13 wondered what that figure might be.
14 And like you say, it seems to be
15 growing, every year we've got more and
16 more thefts.

17 MR. HUFFAKER: Yes, sir. It's
18 a major problem. It's -- it hurts the
19 economy. A lot of these --

20 MR. SELF: Hurts my feelings.

21 MR. HUFFAKER: Hurts a lot of
22 pocketbooks, too. A lot of these
23 people that have their boats stolen

0056

1 from them, they're not insured. And
2 when that happens, you know, that takes
3 an individual out of the -- out of the
4 recreational circle of being able to
5 boat. And it not only hurts them for
6 not being able to participate, it hurts
7 the division because we've lost a
8 registration there. And what we're
9 attempting to do is increase the number
10 of boats registered in Alabama and to
11 increase our base. Any other comments
12 or questions?

13 (No response)

14 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you, sir.

15 MR. HUFFAKER: Thank you.

16 MR. LAWLEY: Jim Griggs from
17 the state land division.

18

19 *****

20 STATE LAND

21 *****

22

23 MR. GRIGGS: Mr. Chairman,

0057

1 members, commissioner, we provided to
2 you earlier a summary of the state
3 lands division activities, and I'll
4 just go through those briefly. I think
5 my presentation will be a little

6 shorter than the others, so we may be
7 able to make up some time.

8 I'm pleased to report to you that
9 this year we reached an all-time high
10 in revenue that the state lands
11 division generated. We generated \$378
12 million for various agencies in the
13 state of Alabama, 369 million of which
14 was from offshore natural gas
15 production. That money goes to the
16 Alabama Trust Fund -- most of that
17 money goes to the trust fund.

18 As all of you know, one of the
19 responsibilities of the state lands
20 division is management of the Forever
21 Wild program. Forever Wild, during the
22 fiscal year, we reported to you,
23 acquired about 8,000 acres of land on
0058

1 seven different tracts. That's a
2 little bit misleading, because that's
3 the fiscal year. Since October of last
4 year, we have acquired additional land
5 which more accurately represents how
6 aggressive the Forever Wild program is.
7 Of the roughly 8,000 acres that were
8 acquired in the previous fiscal year,
9 23,000 -- not 23,000 -- 2,300 of those
10 were acquired by Forever Wild in
11 Perdido down in Baldwin County. There
12 is a huge tract of land there that we
13 are buying piecemeal. The lands
14 division assisted with that purchase
15 for a total of 4,000 acres. Now, in
16 December of this last year, we acquired
17 an additional 9,000 acres, about half
18 of that was Forever Wild, half of that
19 was purchased by the lands division.
20 And we will acquire an additional 5,000
21 acres shortly after the first of this
22 year for a total of 18,000 acres. What
23 we have done is acquired basically a
0059

1 new wildlife management area. Of
2 course, the property will be used for

3 other purposes as well, but that's a
4 huge tract of land on Perdido River.
5 We're proud to report to you that we
6 were able to make that purchase. We
7 worked closely with the Nature
8 Conservancy in making that purchase.
9 The paper company was selling about
10 200,000 acres of land in several
11 different states and obviously we can't
12 buy land in other states and the
13 company would not break out the various
14 state parcels, so it was purchased
15 through the Natural Conservancy.
16 Our Natural Heritage program
17 continues to perform its functions. We
18 do inventories of plants and animals
19 across the state. Hugely invaluable to
20 industry, because if industry seeks to
21 locate a particular location, we're
22 their first point of contact to
23 determine if there are species there
0060

1 that need to be aware of and they need
2 to work around.
3 Our nature centers, as you know, we
4 have two Wehle nature centers, one in
5 Bullock County and one in Baldwin
6 County. They continue to provide
7 programs to visitors, tourists,
8 classroom programs for kids and
9 students in school. We also have the
10 Weeks Bay Reserve who does a similar --
11 performs a similar function down in
12 Baldwin County.
13 I reported to you that we're also
14 working on the new CIAP plan. CIAP is
15 Coastal Impact Assistance Program. As
16 you know, several years ago there was a
17 program and it was funded through NOAA.
18 We administer that program and had a
19 number of projects in the coastal area.
20 Spending that money is restricted to
21 the coastal area. The amount is
22 millions of dollars for the state of
23 Alabama. As you know, Congress has

0061

1 approved a new CIAP plan and it will be
2 implemented through a different
3 division of the federal government by a
4 different department of the federal
5 government. Instead of Commerce, it
6 will be through Interior. We look
7 forward to working with the two coastal
8 counties in the state of Alabama and
9 implementing that plan. It will mean
10 for the state of Alabama guesstimate of
11 about 13 or 14 million dollars per year
12 for a very long periods of time,
13 several -- over a period of years. We
14 are looking currently at projects that
15 are conservation oriented in those two
16 counties.

17 The Coastal Section continues to
18 operate as it has in coastal planning
19 and function and some coastal
20 management.

21 The last thing I want to do is to
22 call your attention to a brochure that
23 was in the packet about Five Rivers. I

0062

1 know many of you have heard about Five
2 Rivers. It's the new Delta Resource
3 Center down on the Mobile Causeway.
4 We're building that facility and it
5 really puts a new face to conservation
6 in that that gives us the tool where we
7 can promote hunting and fishing, but we
8 also promote boating. We promote
9 nontraditional kinds of outdoor
10 recreation as well, which we certainly
11 are involved in whether it's canoeing
12 and kayaking. You would be surprised
13 to find that there is a huge contingent
14 in the coastal area of fishermen who
15 fish from kayaks. They say part of the
16 fun is catching big fish and seeing
17 where he will take you. We're trying
18 to address some of those kinds of
19 outdoor activities. This will be a
20 huge tourist attraction we think for

21 the area and we see it as the gateway
22 to the Delta. The Delta, as you're
23 aware, the state even owns and manages
0063

1 a total of 100,000 acres of the Delta,
2 almost half of Mobile Bay.
3 I'd be glad to entertain any
4 questions about any other activities.
5 That's basically what we've been doing,
6 trying to generate money for the state
7 and various state agencies trying to
8 provide outdoor recreational
9 opportunities and conservation and
10 education. Thank you.

11 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you.
12 MR. LAWLEY: Before we get into
13 parks, John and Jason, if y'all can
14 come up front one more time and Vern
15 and J.T.

16 (Plaques presented and photos
17 taken.)

18 MR. LAWLEY: At this time, I am
19 proud to say the governor has appointed
20 a new assistant commissioner. Hobbie,
21 if you would please stand up. Hobbie
22 Sealy is a retired colonel from the Air
23 Force and doing a great job with trying
0064

1 to catch up to speed.

2 MR. SEALY: Good to be here.
3 MR. MOULTRIE: At this time,
4 we'll take about a ten-minute break.

5 (Short recess)

6 MR. MOULTRIE: I'd like to call
7 the meeting back to order. We'll
8 continue the departmental reports. The
9 parks division, Mark Easterwood.

10

11 *****

12 PARKS

13 *****

14

15 MR. EASTERWOOD: Good morning,
16 Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, members of
17 the board. Of course, like everyone

18 else, you have a write-up in your
19 package as well as a complete summary
20 of all the renovation projects that's
21 been completed as well as ongoing
22 projects. It's more comprehensive in
23 the report. This morning I just want
0065

1 to go over some highlights, some things
2 that we are doing now, some
3 accomplishments that we've had in the
4 last year, and some of our immediate
5 plans that will be coming up in the
6 future.

7 To start off with, we -- the parks
8 division operates off of about a \$30
9 million budget. So in the last few
10 years, we've been working on trying to
11 improve our information technology
12 programs in order to get our financial
13 statements in an electronic form so
14 that we can access them quicker, in a
15 real-time basis, have them transferred
16 to us in a more timely way, and really
17 be able to communicate back and forth
18 from the division office in Montgomery.
19 So we're working towards that and
20 making some progress.

21 We're also -- we're experimenting
22 with scanning cash registers at our
23 point of sales facility. We've got a
0066

1 total of five scanning registers in at
2 five parks right now that seem to be
3 working very well as far as speeding up
4 the process of getting the customer
5 out. It also adds inventory control,
6 which saves a lot of time and is much
7 more accurate.

8 We're also working on a property
9 management system primarily for our
10 hotels, which is a comprehensive
11 property management system that will
12 provide uses from other facilities in
13 the park such as if you stay at one of
14 our hotels and you go to the golf

15 course, you can charge back to your
16 room whatever you played at the golf
17 course; if you want to go to the marina
18 and rent a boat today, you can charge
19 all that back, put everything on the
20 master bill at the hotel. We currently
21 do not have that. We're basically
22 still, you know, most of our operations
23 is all paper, and we're trying to get
0067

1 more into the electronic version of our
2 financial reporting.
3 Along with that property management
4 system will be an online reservation
5 system where you can go online and make
6 your reservation. We'd also have a
7 call center that you can call and make
8 reservations through a professional
9 call center and professional people
10 that you will be talking with that are
11 trained to do that, do reservations.
12 We've looked at a number of new
13 systems, but the system that we
14 currently have, we put it in in about
15 1997, '98. Obviously, it's outdated.
16 But we priced them, some of the
17 comprehensive and new systems and
18 looked at those. Currently, we're
19 looking at upgrading the system that we
20 currently have, and I believe we can do
21 that a lot cheaper. The early
22 indications are that, yes, they can
23 upgrade what we currently have even
0068

1 into a more user-friendly format. So
2 we're looking at that. We're going to
3 be setting up a meeting with them to
4 come show us exactly what they can do
5 with it in the very near future, so
6 we're excited about getting that put
7 together.
8 For about a year now, or over a
9 year, we've been working on all
10 nonreservation systems for our
11 campgrounds and cabins. We should be

12 ready to put that into a trial in a
13 select number of parks probably in
14 July. It's been a long, tedious
15 process of being able to get that put
16 together because the information that
17 that company has to have in order to
18 design the system, they've got have
19 every rule of all the rates and all the
20 information concerning all these
21 different facilities and campgrounds.
22 It's a tremendous -- it's a package
23 about that thick (indicating) that they
0069

1 have to have in order to be able to put
2 all that information in on the online
3 system as well as their call center
4 needs to have that information. But at
5 the national parks director meetings
6 that I go to each year as well as the
7 southeastern, all of those people tell
8 me that once they went on the online
9 reservation system for, in particular,
10 campgrounds, their occupancy just went
11 up immediately. So we're looking for
12 that to happen with us as well. That's
13 our main way, quickest way, I think, of
14 raising our revenue more is to increase
15 occupancy all over.

16 Also, this past year we completed a
17 comprehensive customer service training
18 with Auburn University. They came and
19 did -- at certain parks we brought them
20 together and we trained everybody from
21 the maintenance people to housekeepers,
22 the entire staff including the central
23 office staff on customer service
0070

1 training. I think that's really
2 important with each stage, keep that on
3 the forefront. We're going to continue
4 to do that. We're in cooperation with
5 Auburn University to start going into
6 more detail with select job
7 responsibilities and have additional
8 training with them.

9 I also met with -- well, this week
10 we've been designing a one-year
11 customer service satisfaction survey.
12 We pretty much have it put together and
13 we'd like to get it into effect, put it
14 out there in -- probably in April.
15 Preferably, I would like to have it
16 about mid-March. I don't know if you
17 can get it ready by then, but at least
18 by April. And what that will do is
19 it's a custom-designed customer
20 satisfaction survey that they're going
21 to conduct for a year and they will
22 take that information and put it
23 together in a format and show us where
0071

1 we stand and what our customers feel
2 about us. And we can use that as a
3 baseline that will tell us where we
4 need to go with improving facilities,
5 whether it be customer service, upgrade
6 the facilities, marketing and
7 advertising. I think it will give us a
8 lot of information where we need to be
9 for the future. And every so often we
10 may need to do it again, maybe every
11 three years, five years, whatever it
12 takes. So I've been very excited about
13 working with them. They've been very
14 good. There's some other areas that
15 we've discussed that they might be able
16 to help us with. So I look forward to
17 really a long-term relationship with
18 them to help us to evaluate where we
19 are and where we're going to make
20 recommendations, and they've been very
21 good about that.

22 Even though it's been two, two and
23 a half, three years since Hurricane
0072

1 Ivan, we're still under recovery at the
2 Gulf. As a result of the hurricane
3 there, we lost about 80 percent of the
4 pine forest in Gulf State Park,
5 approximately. So we've got a major

6 problem with dead pine trees. We have
7 taken out a number of them where
8 they're in our public, developed areas
9 and subject to be run into or fall over
10 once they get rotten and damage
11 buildings or people in the public
12 areas. We got most of those out, but
13 there's a tremendous amount more that
14 are just dead in the forest. But we
15 have a plan in place and continually
16 working on that basically to
17 reforestation program to try to get
18 trees back in the park, in the
19 campground, and other areas as well as
20 burn programs to get rid of the
21 tremendous amount of debris that the
22 hurricane brought in which just
23 increased the fire hazard, wildfire

0073

1 hazard, tremendously there. And we've
2 had some wildfires there in the past,
3 and when they get out in dry weather
4 with some wind, it really, really
5 causes some problems. It's hard to
6 control. We've put in 2.7 miles of wet
7 fire lanes, 3.5 miles of dry to help
8 facilitate the prescribed burns that we
9 do so that we can reduce that fuel
10 load. We need an additional about four
11 miles of lines north of the campground
12 and also around the park perimeter to
13 cut it off as it gets off of park
14 property. This year in '06 we were
15 able to burn about 90 acres but the
16 weather just -- you know, we try to get
17 that window. We didn't have that good
18 a season. Last year we were able to
19 burn about 90 acres there. And we
20 would like to burn -- we have located
21 or plan for about 455 acres in '07, but
22 even now we're getting into the late
23 part of the season. We look normally

0074

1 into, I guess, about mid-March or so if
2 the weather is still conducive. We'll

3 try to do it then. And about the
4 reforestation, we've got a five-year
5 plan of a reforestation of the
6 campground which just basically is
7 clear-cut. Every tree in there,
8 including not only pines, just about
9 everything in there, we have to remove
10 it. So we've got a five-year plan
11 going to replant it with different
12 species, some pines but not that many
13 in the campground, more desirable
14 species that we've had some landscape
15 people go in and make recommendations
16 to us as to what would survive in there
17 the best, species that are more native
18 to the area, and we can provide shade,
19 wildlife, with a broad perspective of
20 variety in there to serve a
21 multipurpose. We plan to plant about
22 nineteen acres a year over that
23 five-year period.

0075

1 We also have the cooperation with
2 the National Fish and Wildlife
3 Foundation. We're planning to
4 establish a 128-acre longleaf pine
5 site, which is -- we're very close to
6 getting that area prepared now and
7 we'll bid that out soon. I don't know
8 the exact month right now. I can't
9 tell. We've still got to get the site
10 burned, cleaned, cleared off in order
11 to plant the 128 acres on that; that's
12 in the immediate future. And we also
13 plan to do an additional hundred-acre
14 site, which the longleaf pine there is,
15 of course, some of the original
16 species. And not only there, but I
17 guess all over the state there's been a
18 lot of initiatives to try to establish
19 longleaf pine forest. There's been
20 some good support. There's a large
21 variety of wildlife and I think
22 especially the -- one of my favorites
23 at the Gulf is the fox squirrels there,

0076

1 which quite typically you don't see any
2 there. They're really an unusual fox
3 squirrel, big size but they got real
4 light eyes and just real dark faces. I
5 like to watch them. There's been a lot
6 of them on the golf course. So once we
7 can get these forests back, it's going
8 to make a big difference to the looks
9 of the park. And it's going to take a
10 few years, but we are working on
11 getting it back to really better than
12 pre-hurricane condition.

13 On our renovations projects, I'll
14 just go over some highlights of what we
15 finished last year and what we have
16 going on now. The Gulf, if you haven't
17 been there, we were able to complete a
18 number of projects there that turned
19 out exceptionally well. I'm extremely
20 proud of them. The public seems to be.
21 And I think we just really made a big
22 difference in the facilities that's
23 available to the public on the Gulf

0077

1 Coast with these new buildings and
2 renovations. We did four -- renovated
3 four, the four public access areas,
4 which is County Road 2 which is right
5 at the end of our campground road,
6 Romar, Cotton Bayou, and Alabama Point.
7 And that Cotton Bayou and Alabama Point
8 is complete with restroom facilities.
9 We're working with Orange Beach now to
10 possibly put in a restroom facility at
11 Romar. So that's four renovated sites.
12 And on down below Alabama Point is what
13 we call the shell parking lot. There's
14 another public access there. So
15 there's five public access areas with
16 nice parking, some with bathrooms,
17 completely free for the public to go to
18 the beach. So I think that's -- we
19 really made a big difference there. We
20 completed eleven new cottages on Lake

21 Shelby; they're all three bedroom and
22 three baths, really what I would
23 consider some upscale cottage. They're
0078

1 very, very nice. They've been -- the
2 public has received those well.
3 The beach pavilion, a lot of you
4 may have seen pictures of it. It
5 certainly catches your eye when you see
6 it just driving down the road. There's
7 a purpose, as the architect says, that
8 the roof is built the way it is. But
9 it's an exceptionally nice facility.
10 There is a small charge to go there for
11 the day. And we also rent it out at
12 night, which people really -- it's very
13 popular for people to rent it out at
14 night. They have a big, big fireplace
15 if you want to have a function there at
16 night. And we cut down on the size of
17 the parking lot. We're not so sure.
18 We may have to enlarge it from what I
19 saw this last summer. It filled up
20 just about every week.

21 The campground, we completely
22 renovated the campsite and campground
23 area to about five hundred sites. Now
0079

1 all of those have sewer on, 50-amp
2 service, new water line. We're
3 starting to get our snowbirds back.
4 We're not quite back to where we were,
5 but we're getting them back and we --
6 by next winter, I hope we'll be back to
7 being 80, 90, close to 100 percent
8 occupancy during the winter months,
9 which really makes a difference for us.
10 Not only the campgrounds, but they play
11 a lot of golf, so that's really what
12 makes us and breaks us at the Gulf as
13 far as the profit margin there for the
14 year is that winter business.
15 The hotel demolition is going very
16 well. We're down to -- they've got it
17 down to basically the first floor

18 level. There's some of the first floor
19 slabs that remain, and they're still
20 working on the lodge restaurant part.
21 I was told this morning, I believe
22 Terry Broadway told me and Steve, that
23 at least four loads have gone into the
0080

1 bay, maybe five. And from what I'm
2 hearing, they are already very
3 successful. There's fish already being
4 caught around some of them, some of the
5 first one or two put in. So if that's
6 any indication, that will be a
7 tremendous project for putting that
8 debris in the bay areas, which I think
9 it really needs. It looks like it's
10 going to be very successful. Some of
11 it and then some of what we tear off
12 the pier will go offshore to add to the
13 number of reefs offshore.

14 The pier is -- the new fishing
15 pier, it's ready. It's designed and
16 we're basically ready to go with it.
17 We hope to move it over about three
18 hundred feet to the east, away from the
19 old pier. Really what we're waiting on
20 is the demolition of the hotel because
21 it will be over in front of the first
22 western -- couple westernmost buildings
23 there. Until those are gone and
0081

1 cleared up, we really can't start on
2 the pier. And there's still a little
3 bit of a permitting issue with the
4 Corps about moving it, but I think we
5 can get that worked out.

6 Our campground administration
7 building, we still plan on renovating
8 it. I have a proposal now that's not
9 finalized, but I think we can work on
10 that and get it finalized pretty soon
11 and probably get some plans finalized
12 by this summer on those. We want to
13 replace the swimming pool, which was in
14 the -- at the hotel building and build

15 a very nice swimming pool in the
16 campground which we believe would be
17 very, very popular for the people
18 staying in the campgrounds. And an
19 education center somewhere. There's
20 several different areas that we're
21 looking at. But that's another area
22 that we're trying to pick up on is
23 re-establishing our education,

0082

1 interpreting programs in the park. We
2 had a good system several years ago,
3 but as our budget money went down,
4 those programs and others kind of went
5 along with it. But we need to pick
6 that back up. I think it's very
7 important. And Gulf State Park is an
8 excellent place to do it and we want to
9 build a really nice facility there.

10 Joe Wheeler, we're building ten
11 waterfront cottages there.

12 MR. LAWLEY: Mark, I hate to
13 cut you short on any of this. We do
14 have a real time constraint. If you
15 wouldn't mind going to questions and
16 answers so -- if anybody has any
17 questions.

18 MR. MOULTRIE: Any of the board
19 have any questions?

20 (No response)

21 MR. LAWLEY: What he was
22 saying, we have new cabins at Joe
23 Wheeler.

0083

1 MR. EASTERWOOD: I only have
2 about another two minutes.

3 MR. LAWLEY: Okay. Go ahead.

4 MR. EASTERWOOD: We have ten
5 cabins and cottages at Joe Wheeler.
6 Lake Guntersville, been going on for
7 longer than anybody wants to know, but
8 we see the light at the end of the
9 tunnel; it should be ready by April or
10 May, be ready to open. Lakepoint we
11 received estimates on it. It's still a

12 little bit over. I believe we can get
13 there and, if we can, we should be
14 ready to bid it and probably in April
15 do that project to renovate the hotel.
16 At Oak Mountain, the 22nd -- they
17 should start February 22nd. They
18 should start and complete renovation of
19 the sewer system. And we also, with
20 the partnership with Samford University
21 we're converting another restaurant
22 building there to an education center.
23 And we have initiated a design -- not
0084

1 designed it. We have consultants who
2 are evaluating and recommending and
3 then will be estimating prices to
4 renovate campgrounds in ten parks. So
5 thank you. I'm sorry I went so long.

6 MR. LAWLEY: That's all right.
7 You have a lot of responsibility, a
8 whole lot to cover. Does anybody have
9 any questions for Mark?

10 (No response)

11 MR. LAWLEY: Thank you, Mark.
12 All right. Corky Pugh, wildlife and
13 freshwater.

14
15 *****
16 WILDLIFE and FRESHWATER
17 *****

18
19 MR. PUGH: Good morning. I'll
20 be brief here. You've got a seven-page
21 report from us, and what I'm going to
22 try to do is just hit the significant
23 accomplishments and challenges that we
0085

1 face. I'm going to begin with one that
2 I think illustrates what our division
3 does.

4 Our bald eagle restoration project
5 began in 1985. This year, our
6 biologists counted 77 bald eagle nests,
7 active nests, which is a 21 percent
8 increase over the last year. This is

9 the highest number of nests that we
10 have monitored since bald eagles began
11 nesting in Alabama in 1991. Now, think
12 about that. It illustrates several
13 things: One, is it takes time to do
14 what we do. We're dealing with wild
15 populations in wild habitats. And
16 sometimes at this meeting we hear
17 people get real impatient about what we
18 do. That success with bald eagles
19 illustrates how much time it sometimes
20 takes to accomplish what we're
21 accomplishing. It also illustrates
22 that we are, indeed, dealing with wild
23 populations. We're not raising
0086

1 chickens. And sometimes in these
2 meetings we hear people try to reduce
3 wildlife management to animal
4 husbandry. We're not in that business.
5 I think we can be very proud of what
6 our wildlife biologists have
7 accomplished with the bald eagle. The
8 other point that that illustrates is
9 how successful they can be when you
10 leave the politics out of it and let
11 the biology do what it can do.

12 Our wildlife section personnel
13 trapped and banded and released 972
14 mourning doves as part of a nationwide
15 project to provide information on
16 movement, reproduction, and survival
17 for mourning dove populations.

18 Our wild turkey production study
19 was continued in an effort to develop
20 methods of providing data needed to
21 construct population models for wild
22 turkey. That was something that
23 members of the board had asked us to
0087

1 put in place, and we have great hopes
2 for what we can gain from that
3 knowledge.

4 This deer hunting season is the
5 first season on record without a

6 fatality, without a hunting-related
7 fatality, since we started keeping
8 data.

9 (Applause)

10 MR. PUGH: Since we started
11 keeping records in 1973. That
12 illustrates how successful our hunter
13 education program has been. A lot of
14 the credit for that goes to the hunters
15 themselves -- they paid attention,
16 they're being careful. Our season
17 isn't over. We've got small game
18 season that runs through the end of
19 this month. We've got a turkey season
20 that will start March 15 and runs
21 through April 30 in most of Alabama's
22 counties. And what I would say to the
23 hunters who are present in this room is
0088

1 please help us keep this season as the
2 season without a fatality.

3 You know about the success of our
4 alligator season. Back in August,
5 there were fifty randomly-selected
6 hunters who harvested forty gators. As
7 far as the recommendation from the
8 staff, you're going to hear a
9 recommendation to expand that. I'm
10 very proud of that success.

11 On the fisheries front, those of
12 you who came in through the lobby out
13 here noticed a poster about the "Take A
14 Kid Fishing" tag. That specialty tag
15 has already generated over \$17,000 for
16 our program; that's with only 424 tags
17 sold. We've got to get to a thousand
18 before the tag actually becomes a
19 full-blown license plate with the full
20 image on it. All of that money is
21 dedicated to enhancing fish habitat,
22 providing education through expanding
23 kids' fishing events, and helping to
0089

1 serve and protect Alabama's aquatic
2 species.

3 If you look in your packet at the
4 activities for our fishery section, you
5 can see they've been very, very busy.
6 I'm not going to go into all the
7 details, but they've stocked millions
8 of fish into Alabama's fresh water.
9 On the enforcement front, our
10 offices scattered around the state
11 handled over 12,000 calls for service
12 last year -- 12,309 calls for service.
13 That doesn't count the individual
14 contacts that the citizens make with
15 our enforcement officers out there at
16 the local level. So we really
17 appreciate the kind comments that so
18 many of you have made about the work of
19 our enforcement officers. The truth
20 is, we're carrying nineteen
21 conservation officer vacancies
22 scattered around the state. That means
23 that nineteen of Alabama's sixty-seven
0090

1 counties have one officer or no
2 officer.
3 Early in this deer season, the
4 night hunting complaints from the
5 public were up 27 percent over last
6 year, and that was year to date at that
7 particular time. We've got to have
8 some help. Our division is going
9 through what you've heard the other
10 divisions talk about, it's part of a
11 trend nationally in natural resource
12 agencies. It has to do with the
13 retirement, the exodus of a whole
14 generation of employees. We're unable
15 to fill those vacancies as those
16 officers are retiring because we don't
17 have the funding to keep those people
18 on board. We can't hire a bright young
19 man and put him in a county as a
20 conservation officer and then lay him
21 off a year later. We can't do that.
22 So we've got to have a resident
23 license increase. I'd call your

0091

1 attention to the information in your
2 packet dealing with that increase. If
3 you look on page 3, probably the most
4 significant information in that whole
5 packet is the breakdown of our license
6 schedule. What you see from that is
7 that 84 percent of the number of
8 licenses we sell every year are
9 resident licenses. Only 16 percent of
10 the licenses we sell are nonresident.
11 Back about five years ago, the major
12 hunting and fishing organizations in
13 this state went on record and supported
14 a resident license increase. Instead,
15 what we got was a nonresident increase
16 and a first ever share of the marine
17 fuel tax. If you look at the
18 information in the packet, you see that
19 the marine fuel tax is only 7 percent,
20 that's not a whole lot of our budget.
21 Resident hunting and fishing
22 licenses are our bread and butter. We
23 get a three-to-one federal match on

0092

1 those state license dollars. The
2 federal aid dollars cannot be spent on
3 enforcement. That's part of the
4 Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson
5 Acts. The first program to suffer is
6 our enforcement program. And what that
7 translates into on the ground is that
8 the landowners of this state, the
9 hunting clubs, the hunters don't have
10 the enforcement protection that they
11 need at the local level.
12 I'd like to go into what we're
13 going to propose. The commissioner has
14 gotten approval from the the governor
15 to move forward on the license
16 increase. The major hunting and
17 fishing organizations in the state are
18 supportive of this. If you look in the
19 packet, you can see what we're
20 proposing. Some of this is sort of

21 new. What we propose to do is raise
22 the resident statewide all-game hunting
23 license from its present \$16 to \$24.

0093

1 The last increase we've gotten on
2 hunting and fishing licenses was in
3 1989. And you have information in your
4 packet dealing with the increased cost
5 and inflation that all of us have seen
6 during that time period.

7 We'd propose to take the freshwater
8 fishing license from \$9.50 to \$12 and
9 to create a wildlife heritage license,
10 which would be included within the cost
11 of those hunting and fishing licenses
12 at that price. With that heritage
13 license, we have the opportunity to
14 count the license buyer who buys a
15 hunting license on the fishing side,
16 and he goes into the count for federal
17 aid match that we get for fisheries.
18 The opposite would be true with
19 hunters, the person who buys the
20 fishing license, because a heritage
21 license includes some very basic
22 hunting privileges, could be counted on
23 that side as well. The heritage

0094

1 license, at some point, the
2 commissioner has talked about really
3 since he came to the department, as a
4 way for people who don't necessarily
5 hunt or fish but be able to help pay
6 for our program that we need. And that
7 basic heritage license is something
8 that could be marketed and sold to
9 people who wouldn't necessarily
10 participate in hunting or fishing.

11 Nonresident licenses would be
12 increased by similar amounts. You've
13 got that information in your packet.
14 The danger to us would be if the
15 legislature passes nonresident licenses
16 and didn't pass the resident licenses
17 and put us right back in the same

18 situation we're in. Those nonresidents
19 are only 16 percent of our licenses.

20 Also, as part of this initiative,
21 we would really like to see the
22 legislature allow us to increase
23 licenses on an annual basis with the
0095

1 approval of this board and the
2 legislative council as part of the
3 Administrative Procedures Act based on
4 CPI. It makes a world of sense. The
5 consumer price index to what a license
6 cost in 1989 and bring it up to date,
7 take the hunting license, for instance,
8 it's \$16. That's what it was set at in
9 1989. You apply CPI to it, it's \$25
10 and some change. We're proposing it go
11 to \$24.

12 If the legislation passes allowing
13 us to increase the licenses based on
14 CPI, then we can sustain the program
15 pretty much indefinitely into the
16 future with very modest increases of a
17 few cents a year. We would never again
18 find ourselves in a situation of having
19 to propose a gargantuan increase in
20 order to keep the program afloat. We
21 get no money except for the money that
22 hunters and anglers put into our
23 program through their licenses and
0096

1 federal matching dollars. We've got to
2 do this. We're in a no-choice
3 situation. If we don't do it, our
4 program goes belly up in about two
5 years. I'd ask for your support of
6 that increase not only here in this
7 meeting but as you go back into your
8 districts. And as the people in this
9 room go back home, I hope that you'll
10 talk to people and let them know what
11 our situation is and explain why we've
12 got to do this.

13 The next section of our report
14 deals with the proposals regarding the

15 seasons. And I'll call on assistant
16 director Fred Harders to present that
17 to the board. Just as a reminder, the
18 way this works in our division is the
19 staff out across the state provides
20 input. The assistant director and the
21 section chiefs then take that input
22 from our biologists and officers across
23 the state to make recommendations to
0097

1 the board. As director, I don't
2 participate in that process. I reserve
3 the right to disagree with staff on
4 their recommendations. However, I've
5 reviewed their recommendations to you
6 for this season and fully support what
7 the staff is recommending.

8 MR. HATLEY: I've got a
9 question. Have you already got this
10 legislation drafted?

11 MR. PUGH: There is a work in
12 progress. We're up to about the
13 eleventh draft. It's still not
14 finalized, but should be soon.

15 MR. HATLEY: I would propose,
16 Mr. Chairman, if it was appropriate,
17 that this board at this time adopt the
18 resolution in support of the proposed
19 legislation. Would that be premature?

20 MR. MOULTRIE: I don't think it
21 would. I think that would be fine.

22 MR. HATLEY: Then I do so at
23 this time.

0098

1 MR. LAWLEY: I'll second.

2 MR. MOULTRIE: There has been a
3 resolution to the board that supports
4 the wildlife and freshwater fishing
5 license increase. All those in favor?

6 (All board members signify)

7 MR. MOULTRIE: All opposed?

8 (No response)

9 MR. MOULTRIE: None.

10 Resolution passes.

11 MR. HARBIN: Mr. Pugh, I've got

12 a question. This increase, I've been
13 told, is going to cause some hardship
14 for some handicap hunters that are on a
15 set income. How about considering some
16 type of license for these disabled
17 people, the ones that need help? I've
18 already talked to Mr. -- to Gary Moody
19 about having to send this paperwork in
20 every year that has to be filled out by
21 the doctor. A lot of the doctors are
22 charging these people for these
23 applications, to fill them out. And by
0099

1 the time they pay for that, pay for
2 their increase in their license, some
3 of them are not going to be able to get
4 on these hunts. And if we lose one,
5 that's just one too many. So I would
6 ask you to consider these people that
7 need help, a license for some type of
8 break. I mean, it's not going to cost
9 us that much.

10 MR. PUGH: Mr. Moody, would you
11 address that?

12 MR. MOODY: Mr. Harbin and I
13 did have a chance to talk about this.
14 There's a couple of things that just
15 for clarity of everybody. The doctor
16 certificate he's referring to is one
17 for participating in our physically-
18 disabled hunting area program. We've
19 got sites all across the state, sixteen
20 sites, that are specifically managed,
21 designed, set up for people with a
22 disability. They're not hunted by
23 anybody else, only those people that
0100

1 qualify with a doctor certificate can
2 utilize those sites. It's been
3 extremely popular. We've gotten
4 compliments from other states. We've
5 had two states -- one state here on
6 site looking at it and another state
7 just last week called and wants some
8 information (inaudible) we're doing it.

9 And we've got a lot of nonresident
10 hunters coming and hunt and they just
11 brag on it very much. We do have a
12 requirement that you apply annually and
13 you send in a doctor certificate
14 annually. You use the same doctor
15 certificate for three years. You don't
16 have to have a new certificate every
17 year. If that is a burden, that the
18 three years is a problem, we can look
19 at extending that period of time or
20 maybe in some cases where there's not
21 going to be any change in the
22 condition, then we might not ever need
23 another doctor certificate.

0101

1 MR. SELF: If I might
2 interrupt. I understand what he's
3 saying, but just because a person is
4 physically challenged doesn't mean
5 they're financially challenged.
6 There's got to be some person-by-person
7 with that.

8 MR. HARBIN: I agree with that.

9 MR. MOODY: And it does. And
10 in my discussions with Mr. Harbin --

11 MR. SELF: It might get
12 complicated.

13 MR. MOODY: It can get very
14 complicated. And there are those that
15 might take advantage of certain
16 situations. And I have to say we've
17 seen that. That's the sad thing, too.

18 MR. SELF: I just don't know
19 how you can administer that.

20 MR. MOODY: It would be tough
21 to do. But we can work on the
22 administrative end for the permit
23 requirements and we can do that. And

0102

1 we'd be glad to look at that.

2 MR. HARBIN: I'm just passing
3 on second-hand information, you know.
4 I mean, we've had him out here
5 addressing us that's on a very low

6 income, and he is the one I was
7 thinking of.

8 MR. PUGH: Mr. Harbin, we're
9 certainly willing to look at that. One
10 other thing on the license increase.
11 We're talking about the heritage
12 license and so forth. We want to be
13 very careful with whatever we do with
14 this license structure to keep it to
15 one piece of paper. I had a very
16 amenable conversation with Mr. Self
17 over the phone about a month or six
18 weeks ago. He was trying real hard to
19 buy a duck stamp and was incredibly
20 frustrated. And I don't know if you
21 know Ross, but when he's frustrated
22 he's pretty tenacious. It turns out
23 that the computer-based system that
0103

1 we're operating under would not allow
2 somebody over a certain age to actually
3 buy stamps that they weren't required
4 to buy. But the point is, we all know
5 how much hassle it can be to have to go
6 buy a stamp for this and get a special
7 permit for that and so forth and so on.
8 And we want to try real hard,
9 regardless of what kind of privileges
10 may be part of this license, to keep it
11 to one piece of paper that the hunter
12 can easily acquire. Thank you.

13 MR. HARBIN: We're not asking
14 for any major changes. We're just
15 blaming all these doctors for all of
16 our troubles.

17 MR. HARDERS: Good morning. In
18 your packet, you should have the
19 seasons and bag limit recommendations
20 from our division. As Corky mentioned,
21 each year I meet with the chiefs of
22 enforcement, fisheries, and wildlife to
23 take field staff recommendations,
0104

1 combine notes, and present them to you.
2 Major changes this year are listed

3 on a separate sheet, and they're
4 highlighted -- color highlighted for
5 you in the actual recommendations:
6 Liberalized antlerless hunters choice
7 seasons in several counties. We're
8 under development for an alligator
9 season for Lake Eufaula up through Lake
10 George. And we need to get fish and
11 wildlife's approval just like we did
12 for the Delta hunt. It would be
13 helpful if the board would give us a
14 verbal approval to go ahead with those
15 negotiations and talks. We increase the
16 October dove hunting season days in the
17 north dove zone. And we liberalized
18 shot size for fox, coyote, and feral
19 swine, and clarified feral swine
20 restriction verbiage in the
21 recommendations. If you have any
22 questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

23 MR. SELF: Fred, on the -- I
0105

1 noticed in the recommendations there
2 you've got for alligator season you've
3 just got Mobile Delta. What counties
4 does that include?

5 MR. HARDERS: Gary?

6 MR. MOODY: It's parts of
7 Mobile and Baldwin Counties, basically
8 north of the Causeway, west of 225 and
9 east of highway -- I'm not sure of the
10 number. Anyway, it just runs up the --

11 MR. SELF: The same as last
12 year?

13 MR. MOODY: Basically, the same
14 as last year.

15 MR. SELF: You're not expanding
16 that area?

17 MR. MOODY: Not at this time,
18 but we could certainly entertain that
19 in the future if there are other areas,
20 with concentration in other parts of
21 the state.

22 MR. SELF: Are you actively
23 doing any kind of surveys to determine

0106

1 the populations north of that?
2 MR. MOODY: Only in the Delta
3 area; not outside the Delta, no, sir.
4 MR. SELF: I would suggest that
5 that needs to be done.
6 MR. MOODY: Okay.
7 MR. SELF: Personally, you
8 know, my property zone is more in north
9 Monroe County and I've got alligators
10 running loose in the woods, they're in
11 the swamp, they're coming up in my
12 yard, they're getting in my pond,
13 they're in the road. You see them in
14 the road up there all the time. It's
15 just -- it seems like the population of
16 alligators in north Monroe County along
17 that river basin, along the Alabama
18 River, has really increased in the last
19 few years. It's exploded.
20 MR. MOODY: We'll look at it.
21 MR. SELF: All right. I
22 appreciate that.
23 MR. COLES: Fred, what kind of

0107

1 motion do you need to take this
2 forward?
3 MR. HARDERS: If we just had
4 verbal approval from the board to
5 proceed with those negotiations, that
6 would help.
7 MR. HATLEY: So moved.
8 MR. COLES: Second.
9 MR. SELF: Thank you.
10 (Conversation among board
11 members)
12 MR. HARDERS: It's very similar
13 to what you all did last time.
14 MR. MOULTRIE: All those in
15 favor?
16 (All board members signify)
17 MR. MOULTRIE: All opposed?
18 (No response)
19 MR. MOULTRIE: None.
20 Resolution carries.

21 DR. MAY: I noticed in the
22 north zone dove season we move a week
23 out of January and approximately a week
0108

1 out of November. We're going to add
2 five days of it in October. It's put
3 on the front end of September. And
4 that was probably too many days in
5 early September. And I'd like to see
6 the season remain as is or either I get
7 with you all and sit down and discuss
8 see whether we can work out something.
9 I personally think we're shooting dove
10 too early. It's hot weather. It's not
11 enjoyable to a lot of people. I know a
12 lot of people that are willing to sit
13 out there and sweat, but most of them
14 would rather -- I don't mind putting
15 the days in October, but I think they
16 should come out of September.

17 MR. HARDERS: Well, these came
18 out of the field staff and we would be
19 happy to work with you.

20 DR. MAY: Yeah, I'd like to sit
21 down, because I know my area. I know
22 the northern part of the north zone,
23 but the southern part of the north zone
0109

1 it's hot still in September. And I
2 think if you treat everybody right, we
3 need to maybe split September right now
4 starting with the 15th, if we started
5 the 15th and start the 8th, which is a
6 week earlier than we did last year. I
7 just think to be fair to the north
8 section of the northern zone, if we're
9 not going to change it we start in the
10 middle of September.

11 MR. LAWLEY: Fred, I think it
12 would be quite helpful if you bring
13 comments from your field that you have
14 in making this decision.

15 MR. COLES: I have a question.
16 On page 12, when you are referring to
17 fox, coyotes, and feral swine --

18 MR. HARDERS: Yes, sir.
19 MR. COLES: -- you have
20 highlighted in there, shouldn't that be
21 standard size No. 2 shot or larger?
22 MR. HARDERS: Well, it's --
23 it's consistent with -- if you look
0110
1 under turkey --
2 MR. JOHNSON: It's the number.
3 MR. HARDERS: We're going with
4 the --
5 MR. MOULTRIE: We need
6 clarification.
7 MR. HARDERS: It's size --
8 MR. LYNCH: Aught and double
9 aught would be smaller than a 2?
10 MR. LAWLEY: Yeah. And
11 classification --
12 MR. HARDERS: No. It's the
13 other way. Seven is smaller and -- is
14 that not correct?
15 MR. COLES: That's what brought
16 it to my attention. You're using shot
17 size 2 or smaller. I wouldn't want to
18 be shooting feral hogs with a 6 shot or
19 8 shot.
20 MR. HARDERS: Well, this
21 allows --
22 MR. COLES: You're talking
23 about numerical size as opposed to a
0111
1 number size?
2 MR. MOULTRIE: Gauge size.
3 MR. COLES: Gauge size.
4 MR. HARDERS: Allan, would you
5 like to address that?
6 (Multiple people talking)
7 MR. MOULTRIE: If the board
8 will listen, Allan Andress will address
9 the board.
10 MR. ANDRESS: The -- if you'll
11 notice, the highlighted blue area, it
12 says, During stalk only deer season.
13 So that's only during the stalk season.
14 So a buckshot is not permitted during

15 that time, so it would be a 2 shot or
16 smaller. A buckshot would not --
17 larger than that, a larger size
18 buckshot, for example, would not be
19 lawful during that time.

20 MR. COLES: Can we change the
21 wording a little bit? If it's
22 confusing to me, it could be to others.

23 MR. HATLEY: Not necessarily.

0112

1 (Laughter)

2 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Andress, do
3 you have any comment on anything?

4 MR. ANDRESS: I won't comment
5 on that.

6 MR. SELF: Just put an example
7 in there after that.

8 MR. ANDRESS: So your point
9 is --

10 MR. LAWLEY: Point meaning
11 double aught.

12 MR. ANDRESS: We'll work on
13 that, make the language more clear.

14 MR. LYNCH: Just tell us what's
15 legal.

16 MR. MOULTRIE: Very good.

17 MR. HARDERS: Any other
18 questions?

19 (No response)

20

21

22

23

0113

1 *****

2 PUBLIC HEARING

3 *****

4

5 MR. MOULTRIE: All right. The
6 next section of order of business is
7 the public hearing. When your name is
8 called, please go to the microphone and
9 give your name and subject of which
10 you're speaking on. Only speak at the
11 time that you are called upon. And any

12 interference to the speaker will not be
13 tolerated.

14 First to speak will be Tim Gothard.
15 We will have, again, the standard
16 three-minute rule. Go ahead,
17 Mr. Gothard.

18 MR. GOTHARD: Tim Gothard with
19 the Alabama Wildlife Federation located
20 in Millbrook, Elmore County.

21 Mr. Chairman and the board, let me
22 start by thanking you for what you do.
23 We deal with a lot of complicated

0114

1 issues and we recognize that it takes a
2 lot of time and listening and studying
3 to do the things that you do and we
4 appreciate you very much.

5 I wanted to focus on one thing in
6 particular this morning. Corky and his
7 group have identified the need for a
8 license increase. I want to commend
9 Commissioner Lawley, Corky and his
10 staff for reaching out to organizations
11 such as ourselves and multiple other
12 organizations in the hunting and
13 fishing community to ask our opinion,
14 seek input. I am very confident that
15 the proposal that's being made is
16 realistic, that it has been thought
17 through from the standpoint is there a
18 way that we can do this as cheaply as
19 possible but effectively, in a way that
20 we can avoid what I consider to be a
21 habitual repeat through time of boom
22 and bust cycle. So I commend you on
23 your work to do that.

0115

1 I also want to express to you today
2 the full support of the Alabama
3 Wildlife Federation and our board of
4 directors to work with the department
5 and to work with you to educate people
6 about these proposals, to work with our
7 elected officials so that they
8 understand this proposal, and that we

9 can work diligently to get this
10 proposal -- get this proposal passed.
11 I would encourage you as members of
12 the Conservation Advisory Board to call
13 on us. If you see specific arenas
14 where our involvement with elected
15 officials and user groups can be
16 effective, then I would ask that you be
17 receptive to us doing the reverse,
18 calling on you when we say, Look, we
19 see some areas we need to shore up with
20 some of our elected officials and our
21 user groups to get this bill passed. I
22 think it will signal, quite frankly, a
23 new day and a very positive outlook
0116

1 about the future.
2 Since 1989, seventeen years.
3 That's a long time since we've had an
4 opportunity to increase funding. We
5 have heard from quite a few of our
6 members regarding the lack of
7 enforcement officers, night hunting,
8 poaching, and things of that nature.
9 So we have felt this need to be real,
10 this need to be very real, and we stand
11 ready to work with you to get this
12 thing done this session. Thank you
13 very much.

14 MR. MOULTRIE: Do you have a
15 comment for Mr. Gothard?

16 MR. LAWLEY: Yeah, I sure do.
17 On behalf of this board, I just want to
18 thank you all for last night for
19 hosting that dinner. It was delicious.
20 It was a good time to get together and,
21 of course, it was all very impressive.
22 I have to find out how you all did that
23 quail.

0117

1 MR. GOTHARD: The quail was
2 good, but the Vietnamese potbelly pig
3 was the best. Whatever we do, don't
4 put any limits on Vietnamese potbelly
5 pigs. Thank you. It was our pleasure.

6 MR. MOULTRIE: Next to speak
7 will be Jack Williamson.

8 MR. WILLIAMSON: My name is
9 Jack Williamson, Evergreen, Alabama,
10 Conecuh County. And I know we have
11 biologists here in the room that will
12 tell you that they've checked the
13 fetuses of roadkill deer. Eighty-one
14 percent of them are bred during the
15 dates of our present hunting season.
16 And I understand that and I read an
17 article about it and agree fully with
18 it. You also have them state that the
19 average peak rut day for the state of
20 Alabama is January 22. If the average
21 day is January 22, you have deer that
22 peak day is in early December, middle
23 December, late December, early January,
0118

1 somewhere some place you got to have a
2 peak day in February. In Conecuh
3 County, our deer are in full rut right
4 now. I'd love to see the season dates
5 change, open Thanksgiving day, add the
6 five days that you gain to the end of
7 the season for the south part of the
8 state. And that's my proposal. That's
9 what I'd like to see done. If five
10 days is not enough, then close down the
11 Sunday after Thanksgiving, open it back
12 up the next Saturday and add ten days.
13 But we need some time in February.

14 The only other thing that I wanted
15 to mention and y'all have already
16 covered it, I want the license fees
17 increased so we can get more wildlife
18 officers.

19 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
20 Mr. Williamson. Next to speak, Randy
21 Yeargan.

22 MR. YEARGAN: Mr. Chairman,
23 Commissioner Lawley, board members.
0119

1 I'm Randy Yeargan with Bow Hunters of
2 Alabama. Most of you are familiar with

3 our organization. My purpose before
4 you today is not to come before you
5 asking for more liberal hunt dates or
6 more liberal seasons or anything like
7 that. It's somewhat opposite that. We
8 are here today in support of the
9 department and the recommendations that
10 you have heard from every one of your
11 departments about increasing the
12 license fees for hunting and fishing in
13 Alabama. We have taken a look at the
14 data that they have compiled. We think
15 it is something that is greatly needed.
16 The department is in bad shape and
17 getting worse and it will get terribly
18 worse over the next couple years if
19 something is not done to increase their
20 funding.

21 It's been since 1989 since there
22 was an increase. I think it's past
23 due. We looked at the numbers as far
0120

1 as the amounts of increases for the
2 resident/nonresident license. We think
3 they're very feasible. We think
4 they're reasonable, not out of hand at
5 all. With the liberal hunting limits
6 and the days that we have in Alabama,
7 being as liberal as any state in the
8 country, I still think they're low. I
9 still think we'll have some of the
10 cheapest licensing fees in the country.
11 So we are as an organization standing
12 by the Wildlife Federation, we are in
13 full support of that.

14 Our board met last week. We went
15 over these figures with them, what
16 figures we had gathered and got from
17 some of the department heads and from
18 Commissioner Lawley. We had a 100
19 percent vote to fully support that. As
20 an organization, we will do anything
21 that this department and this board
22 would have us to do in any way we can
23 help to see that that gets passed.

0121

1 I think it is terrible that we're
2 nineteen officers short right now in
3 the state of Alabama. And there are
4 times when we have hunters that were
5 calling on officers that need help and
6 they're not there. There's just not
7 support there. And we can't expect the
8 department to enforce the laws that we
9 have and enforce the licenses and tags
10 or whatever may be implemented if we
11 don't have the staff. We just can't do
12 it. So we're here today in support of
13 that. We would like this board to know
14 that anything we can do to help you, we
15 are here for that and support it 100
16 percent.

17 The only thing that they have not
18 mentioned in their proposals that our
19 organization asked me to address the
20 board with today is the possibility of
21 taking a look at -- and, again, this is
22 us. This is what we would like you to
23 do. We would like you to take a look

0122

1 at possibly either in the current
2 proposal or sometime in the future
3 adding to that, that legislation, a
4 possibility of an archery license, or
5 not necessarily an archery stamp. I
6 agree with the concept of making it as
7 simple as possible for hunters to
8 obtain their license. I don't know
9 that an archery stamp would be the
10 thing, but maybe an archery license as
11 an addendum on their current license.
12 And possibly a percentage of that
13 archery license, it'd be a small fee,
14 whether it be a five or \$10 fee, that
15 could be worked out in the future, but
16 maybe a percentage of that archery
17 license to go towards the
18 archery-in-school program. We're
19 heavily involved, as all of you know,
20 in that program. It's still growing

21 leaps and bounds. The archery in the
22 state and the school state championship
23 is growing tremendously every year.

0123

1 The expense for that championship is
2 great. It is very hard for the
3 department to come up with the money
4 and for us and other organizations to
5 help raise the money to pay for that.
6 If it's feasible to add an archery
7 license on to this license increase and
8 a percentage of it go to that, then it
9 would greatly offset the cost the
10 department has for trying to put on
11 that state championship. We're willing
12 to tax ourselves, like I said, to help
13 promote it.

14 MR. SELF: I would suggest that
15 you and Tim both urge, strongly urge,
16 all your members to let your respective
17 legislators know your feelings, because
18 that's the only way this is going to be
19 accomplished, by legislature.

20 MR. YEARGAN: We will
21 definitely try to do that. The only
22 other thing that I have is a comment
23 about something that Dr. Strickland

0124

1 made mention to a little earlier to and
2 it's not something we're asking the
3 board to vote on or make a decision on
4 at this time or anything else, but it
5 is something that in our industry and
6 our support that is getting brought up,
7 and that is things to do with the
8 crossbow licenses the past couple years
9 ago. I don't know that y'all have had
10 time, Mr. Lawley, in coming up with any
11 data as to what kind of real economic
12 input it would have or that we have
13 time for that. I think we -- I agree
14 the impact as far as we know the
15 research has been negligible.

16 The thing that we do see is the
17 same thing Dr. Strickland said, it's a

18 political thing. We get phone calls
19 and comments from our members and other
20 people that bow hunt, it's a political
21 issue about the crossbows being in the
22 archery system. I just think that
23 maybe that's something at some point in
0125

1 time when you have the data or able to
2 compile that, take a look at what
3 economic impact and so forth, if it has
4 any, and maybe this board might address
5 it again in the future as far as our
6 crossbow licensing season.

7 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you.

8 MR. YEARGAN: The only other
9 thing I'd like to say is reiterate what
10 Tim said and that's that we appreciate
11 what this board does very much. It
12 does not go unnoticed what the
13 department does and we appreciate what
14 you do and your hard work and the great
15 salary that you get paid to be on this
16 board. We appreciate the many hours
17 that all of you spend.

18 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you. The
19 next speaker will be -- Pete Barber was
20 signed up. He has been removed. He
21 asked to be removed. So the next
22 speaker now will be Steve Guy.

23 MR. GUY: Mr. Chairman, if I
0126

1 could, before I start, I want to take a
2 minute. I'd like to ask a question of
3 Corky on something he said.

4 MR. MOULTRIE: Yes, sir.

5 MR. GUY: We're not
6 privileged -- haven't been privileged
7 to the numbers that you have up there
8 as far as the budget is concerned.
9 Corky said that 84 percent of our
10 number, the number licenses of licenses
11 we sell are resident licenses and
12 16 percent are nonresident. What
13 percent of the budget is that as far as
14 the total amount of money that comes

15 in? Could you present that?

16 MR. PUGH: The resident hunting
17 licenses total 84 percent of the number
18 numerically, that amounts to, in
19 dollars, 44 percent of the total
20 license dollars that we bring in for
21 hunting licenses. By contrast, the
22 nonresident hunting licenses
23 numerically only make up 16 percent yet
0127

1 they make up 56 percent of the dollar
2 amount generated for hunting license.
3 Does that answer your question?

4 MR. GUY: That answers my
5 question. So what we're saying is, a
6 majority of that total comes from
7 nonresidents rather than residents; is
8 that correct?

9 MR. PUGH: Dollarwise.

10 MR. GUY: Dollarwise.
11 Numberwise, it's resident, but
12 dollarwise it's nonresident.

13 MR. PUGH: Correct.

14 MR. GUY: Okay. Thank you.
15 Commissioner Lawley, Chairman Moultrie,
16 members of the advisory board, my name
17 is Steve Guy. I'm director of the
18 Wildlife Resources Division of the
19 Alabama Farmers Federation. I'm
20 speaking today on behalf of the Alabama
21 Farmers Federation and our state
22 wildlife committee.

23 In the 1950s and '60s, farmers and
0128

1 landowners all across Alabama worked in
2 cooperation with the department of
3 conservation to protect wildlife
4 whitetail deer and reintroduce them to
5 their land. We did a good job, maybe
6 too well in some cases. We're now in a
7 new phase of not just protection of our
8 deer herd but management of that
9 resource as well. Thinking of changing
10 but not only quantity management but
11 quality management as well. Hunters

12 and landowners not only want to see
13 deer, they want to see good deer as
14 well.

15 The current system of season and
16 bag limits has turned out large numbers
17 of deer in this state, but of what
18 quality? We boasted Alabama has the
19 most liberal deer bag limit in the
20 country, one per day. This past
21 season, a hunter could legally kill 110
22 bucks during the regular season
23 regardless of size or age as long as it
0129

1 had a horn above the hairline. Is that
2 good for that resource? What kind of
3 message does that send to hunters,
4 landowners, and the general public? Is
5 this good for the quality of our deer
6 herd? Does that kind of management in
7 Alabama lead to proper buck/doe ratios,
8 good buck age structure, and a herd
9 that produces the numbers of those good
10 deer that we all want to see? We don't
11 think so. And we believe that we can
12 do better.

13 Alabama Farmers Federation wildlife
14 committee recommends an annual
15 three-buck limit per hunter be
16 implemented with a tagging system for
17 both deer and turkeys. We, in turn,
18 will help introduce and support a bill
19 to the legislature to impose a minimum
20 \$1,000 fine on those who violate that
21 tagging system. Last weekend, the
22 Alabama chapter of the National
23 Wildlife Turkey Federation endorsed the
0130

1 tagging system for turkeys.
2 We further recommend Commissioner
3 Lawley reappoint a deer special
4 committee to study implementation of
5 these buck limits and this tagging
6 system and make a recommendation to
7 you, the advisory board, what they may
8 need. I'll be glad to answer any

9 questions.

10 MR. HATLEY: I have one,
11 Mr. Chairman.

12 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley, go
13 ahead.

14 MR. HATLEY: First thing,
15 Mr. Guy, I would like to point out is
16 the statement you made there. You said
17 anything that had a horn. Deer don't
18 have horns. Deer have antlers. We
19 don't shoot at horns, you know, we
20 shoot at antlers. I just wanted to
21 make you clear of that.

22 As a comment, secondly, I can't
23 distinguish between what you're talking
0131

1 about here. You're talking in one
2 mouth antler restriction and then the
3 other you're talking about buck
4 restriction. I want to know, what are
5 you -- clarify that for me.

6 MR. GUY: I didn't say anything
7 about antler restrictions other than
8 the fact that our current --

9 MR. HATLEY: Yes, you did. I
10 want to get it straight and understand
11 what you're talking about.

12 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley, let
13 him answer. Go ahead, Mr. Guy.

14 MR. GUY: I didn't mention
15 antler restrictions other than the
16 current law says that it must -- the
17 antler must be visibly -- antler. I'm
18 not a biologist. The antler must be
19 visible above the hairline.

20 MR. HATLEY: So what you're
21 proposing is a buck restriction?

22 MR. GUY: A numerical.

23 MR. HATLEY: Give me a number.

0132

1 MR. GUY: Three.

2 MR. HATLEY: How did you arrive
3 at that figure? You're not a
4 biologist.

5 MR. GUY: We went back and --

6 if you go back and look at the survey
7 that the Alabama Wildlife Federation
8 did --

9 MR. HATLEY: Alabama Wildlife
10 Federation?

11 MR. GUY: Yeah. Did in 2002.
12 They looked at it. And what they did
13 with that survey and based on what
14 biologists from across the state tell
15 me is, a three-buck limit would cut
16 down on the number of harvest somewhere
17 between ten and 20,000. A two-buck
18 limit would cut down somewhere over
19 40,000.

20 MR. MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland?

21 DR. STRICKLAND: Corky, can I
22 ask you a question? Of the bucks that
23 are harvested in the state of Alabama,
0133

1 what percentage of them are two and a
2 half years old and beyond?

3 MR. PUGH: Dr. Strickland, I
4 don't know the answer to your question.
5 Gary, do you?

6 MR. MOODY: No, sir. Do we
7 have any way of knowing it?

8 MR. LAWLEY: Do we know what it
9 is like on, say, Baldwin County
10 management area?

11 MR. MOODY: I don't have them
12 with me, but we can get the management
13 for you.

14 MR. LAWLEY: I see Bill back
15 there. Could you give us an answer?

16 DR. STRICKLAND: I mean, that's
17 the question we need to know.

18 I want to ask you one other
19 question -- to this audience. How many
20 of you out in the audience have
21 received a survey?

22 MS. NUMMY: Received a survey.
23 If you received a survey, raise your
0134

1 hand.

2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What

3 survey?

4 DR. STRICKLAND: Deer survey.

5 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Didn't know
6 there was one.

7 MS. NUMMY: All right. We have
8 to control this for the court reporter.
9 If you are going to speak, you need to
10 stand up and say your name.

11 DR. STRICKLAND: I guess the
12 point that I'm trying to make is
13 that -- I've deer hunted all over the
14 country. I think you made an excellent
15 point. I think Alabama has done an
16 excellent job and reached out. We have
17 a lot of deer. But we have done a poor
18 job of managing our herds, in
19 particular managing our bucks.

20 (Applause)

21 DR. STRICKLAND: We're all here
22 for one reason. And that's not to
23 shoot four horns -- antlers. Excuse
0135

1 me. I'm sorry. We want to shoot a
2 quality deer. I think that's what it's
3 all about. Can I get a hand?

4 (Applause)

5 DR. STRICKLAND: We cannot do
6 that without knowing, first off, what
7 percentage of bucks that we're shooting
8 are young bucks. An age structure. We
9 can't do it. We don't have a tax
10 system. We will continue to have lots
11 of deer, but we will not have quality
12 deer. And what we're seeing now -- and
13 that's one of the things I am hearing
14 from a lot of my local deer hunters,
15 really all over the state, is that we
16 want to shoot quality bucks. A lot of
17 hunters are leaving the state --
18 they're going to Illinois. They're
19 going to Mississippi. They're going to
20 Texas -- to pursue these quality bucks.
21 Yes, the philosophy has changed. The
22 age has changed. We want good deer in
23 the state of Alabama and it is up to

0136

1 our Game and Fisheries, our
2 conservation office, to make that
3 happen.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. MOULTRIE: Corky, before I
6 call on you, Mr. Gray, do you have any
7 of the data on the top of your head
8 about what we were discussing, the age-
9 structure for the (inaudible) area?

10 MR. GRAY: Well, I do for the
11 management area. I don't for the
12 county at large. We're, you know, just
13 in the second year of the county at
14 large and I don't have anything from
15 the county at large. I can speak to
16 the management area and I can speak to
17 management areas in general across
18 Alabama.

19 DR. STRICKLAND: Let me
20 introduce one. For the last three
21 years, I've gone -- we have deer
22 processors in Madison County, we have
23 two of them -- they do lots, thousands

0137

1 of deer a year, and I go there and I
2 look at these deer and 85 to 90 percent
3 of those deer taken out of Madison
4 County are two and a half years and
5 younger, 85 to 90 percent. And I bet
6 if we can get good statistics, that's
7 what we're going to find. I bet 85
8 percent are two and a half years old
9 and younger.

10 MR. GRAY: That's similar to
11 the WMA deer. The WMA deer is anywhere
12 from 50 to 60 percent year and a half,
13 and then -- so you have Barbour County
14 on the management area. It'd a little
15 different situation because of
16 restrictions, and in some places it's
17 80 percent two and a half and older in
18 Barbour.

19 DR. STRICKLAND: And that's a
20 problem.

21 MR. PORTER: As I understand
22 it, we implemented some changes for
23 Barbour County sort of in an incubator
0138

1 thing. Do we have any data at all to
2 enable us to understand what effect
3 that system in Barbour County, the
4 antler restrictions, have?

5 MR. GRAY: It's limited, at
6 best. We selected a little over sixty
7 deer last year, the first year. This
8 year we have, just from the processors,
9 about a hundred and -- between 150 to
10 160 that was collected by wildlife
11 volunteers. We have not looked at the
12 internet data because it's continuing
13 to trickle in. I'm hoping we'll be
14 able to input at least 200 animals this
15 year in that data. The problem, the
16 daunting task of Barbour County is
17 going to be we've never had any data
18 beforehand. So it's not like wildlife
19 management area where you had a lot of
20 data prior to a restriction or whatever
21 you put in place to do a pre and a post
22 comparison. The best we're going to be
23 able to do with this is look at maybe
0139

1 year one versus year five and we can
2 see how some things have changed in
3 terms of age structure of harvest, that
4 kind of thing. But, again, we're
5 really in -- kind of in the infancy of
6 collecting this data.

7 MR. PORTER: So we don't have
8 anything to judge by?

9 MR. GRAY: We don't have
10 anything to say this is great or this
11 is bad or this is indifferent.

12 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Other than
13 what went on at the management area
14 itself. We do have that.

15 MR. PORTER: The other question
16 I have is sort of following up on what
17 Dr. Strickland was asking. But do we

18 know -- you talk about -- I guess
19 you're talking about quality deer and
20 you may be talking about deer that are
21 three or four years or older. Do we
22 know what percentage of our deer herd
23 is in that age bracket? Do we have any
0140

1 way to measure what effect it would
2 have other than information about we
3 may be shooting deer older or
4 something? Do we have a target that
5 we're trying to reach in doing this
6 program from the standpoint of
7 percentage of the entire herd being
8 within a certain age bracket?

9 MR. GRAY: We don't have any
10 methodology in place right now to look
11 at what percentage currently exists or
12 whatever may change anything. We do
13 not.

14 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Pugh?

15 MR. GRAY: Are y'all done with
16 me?

17 MR. MOULTRIE: For a minute.

18 MR. PUGH: I feel compelled to
19 respond to Dr. Strickland's
20 observations. There is a line between
21 the usefulness, the practical
22 usefulness, of data and the imposition
23 on the hunting public. As everybody
0141

1 here knows, if I were to ask you would
2 you like to catch bigger fish, every
3 angler in this audience would jump up
4 and down and say yes. It's very easy
5 to say, Would you like to kill a deer
6 with bigger antlers? Sure, everybody
7 wants to do that. More data does not
8 necessarily equate to bigger deer. And
9 like anything, you can take it to an
10 extreme to the point where the
11 imposition on the hunting folks would
12 be so great that you would actually
13 have a detrimental effect on hunting
14 participation and harvesting deer.

15 We've heard proposals before at
16 these meetings that Alabama implement
17 some kind of check station arrangement
18 where every hunter had to bring a deer
19 by a check station. That would be
20 gathering more data for sure, but does
21 the practical usefulness of that data
22 that might be gathered turn into better
23 deer? Not necessarily. Just let me
0142

1 finish, if I may.
2 You talked about our survey.
3 That's a good example of practical
4 usefulness versus imposition on the
5 hunting public. We could require, I
6 guess if this board tells you to do so,
7 that every hunter in this state be
8 required to bring their deer by a check
9 station and gather the data that way.
10 Instead, what Alabama has done, like so
11 many other states do, is a random
12 sample survey, a statistically valid
13 random sample survey, of the hunters.
14 And we know from that survey what it's
15 been. We know other information that's
16 practically knowing precisely how many
17 deer are out there, for instance.
18 Sometimes we get asked that question,
19 Exactly how many deer are there in
20 Alabama? It's a lot like those eagles
21 I was talking about. These are wild
22 animals in wild habitats. The
23 practical usefulness of knowing exactly
0143

1 how many deer are out there, there's
2 none. What is useful is the kind of
3 information that we've gathered about
4 age and weight. That indicates the
5 overall health of the deer in that
6 population.

7 Mr. Moody, could you talk some
8 about this business of that balance of
9 practical usefulness versus imposition
10 on folks?

11 MR. MOODY: The survey we do is

12 like any other random sample. And
13 those of you that aren't familiar with
14 it, it's mailed directly to roughly
15 8,000 hunters in the state.

16 DR. STRICKLAND: Do you know
17 that (inaudible)?

18 MR. MOODY: Licensed hunters.
19 And we can tell you from that how many
20 of them hunt. But there are some of
21 them do answer, No, we did not this
22 year. And you are correct, it is
23 licensed. And a lot of information
0144

1 comes from that. We feel that -- and
2 we've looked at all kind of data, not
3 just our deer herd but studies across
4 the country that show that imposition
5 of rules and regulations tend to
6 decrease participation or it decreases
7 or discourages people from trying
8 different methods of hunting. They may
9 just get one thing and not be willing
10 to do anything else if the rules and
11 regulations tend to be too complicated
12 or they don't feel comfortable.

13 We are very, very proud of our deer
14 herd. Our biologists and officers have
15 worked diligently from day one to build
16 this deer herd the way it is. And if
17 y'all will remember, in the late '70s
18 and early '80s, it was us leading the
19 charge to try to get more information
20 out there, and a lot of people really
21 getting us down in the country because
22 we didn't know what we were talking
23 about. It was a long education effort
0145

1 to get there.
2 We have got people making choices
3 in this state right now to do what
4 you're advocating about harvesting
5 bucks and allowing our deer to change
6 their ratio on their own without us
7 telling them what to do. Now, we
8 support that. We're 100 percent behind

9 it. If you'll look at what -- the
10 information that we put in our own
11 digest for the last several years, it
12 will say that. If you will look at the
13 information that's in the books that
14 Bill Gray and Chris Cook, it says that.
15 Our biologists meet with landowners all
16 the time and we encourage that, by
17 individual request, by individual
18 choice. And that is the way to go. It
19 will build an ethic that will withstand
20 any rules and regulation. It will get
21 us where we want to go. Will that
22 change every single person's attitude?
23 Absolutely not. Will it change the
0146

1 great majority of people's attitude
2 that it will get this deer herd where
3 it needs to be or where we desire to be
4 without rules and regulation s? It
5 will. I'm absolutely convinced of
6 that. And we are willing to work with
7 this board and hunters of this state to
8 make that happen. We're open to ideas
9 and suggestions. But the less -- if we
10 can stay away from rules and
11 regulations and let hunters make that
12 choice, because it is their ethical
13 decision to make, in the long run our
14 deer herd and our wildlife resources
15 will be better served.

16 DR. STRICKLAND: Let me ask a
17 couple. Eight thousand surveys. How
18 many do you receive? How many do you
19 get back?

20 MR. MOODY: I can get four or
21 5,000. It's really high on survey-
22 basis. It's a pretty high
23 participation.

0147

1 DR. STRICKLAND: So it's
2 statistically significant?

3 MR. MOODY: Yes, it is very
4 high. We can give you the numbers.
5 Some of them are plus or minus error

6 margin. On some of the species like
7 rails, I will tell you, the margin of
8 comments on those is pretty high
9 because we have so few rail hunters.
10 But on deer and turkey, it is very
11 statistically represented.

12 DR. STRICKLAND: I would be
13 interested in seeing those numbers.

14 MR. MOODY: Sure. I'll be glad
15 to get them for you.

16 DR. STRICKLAND: One of the
17 problems with the way we manage our
18 deer herd now, particularly without a
19 tag system -- first of all, can you
20 tell me another state that may be out
21 there that doesn't have a tag system
22 that has the pressure that we have to
23 produce the quality deer? Do you know
0148

1 another state?

2 MR. MOODY: I can tell you that
3 every state --

4 DR. STRICKLAND: Just give me
5 one state.

6 MR. MOODY: Well, I don't. But
7 I can tell you that every state that I
8 have talked to that has tags, and
9 talking to the leaders within that
10 state, the directors and chiefs and
11 people in the program, every single one
12 that I have talked to have said, If
13 y'all don't have tags, don't get them.
14 They do us no good. We don't use the
15 data. We get very limited data. It's
16 something that we got and got it
17 politically and it's not something that
18 we recommend you do. Now, I know on
19 the surface it sounds like it does.
20 There's so many ways to abuse tags and
21 so many ways to get around tags. The
22 honest man will use his tag and go on.
23 The dishonest hunter it will not
0149

1 dissuade. And with just hunters, and I
2 think for the most part we do, we don't

3 need to impose upon them a tag system
4 to get them to comply with the rules
5 and regulations that we recommend.

6 DR. STRICKLAND: Give me one
7 state.

8 MR. MOODY: I don't know.

9 DR. STRICKLAND: That's all I
10 have.

11 MR. MOULTRIE: Okay. Any other
12 board member have questions?

13 DR. SMITH: I'd like to ask a
14 question of Steve. You're making your
15 recommendation or regulation based on
16 numerical?

17 MR. GUY: That's correct.

18 DR. SMITH: As opposed to an
19 antler restriction or something. Is
20 there some reason you went that way as
21 opposed to an antler restriction?

22 MR. GUY: Most state -- most of
23 the states right now, as Dr. Strickland
0150

1 was getting at, most of the states
2 started off with a numerical limit and
3 had gone -- since gone to an antler
4 restriction in combination with a
5 numerical limit. So it seems to me
6 that's the first step to get you down
7 the road to doing -- to doing that. So
8 that's why, you know, we're looking at
9 this. That had been the progression in
10 the other states that have started, in
11 that direction.

12 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Porter, do
13 you have a question?

14 MR. PORTER: Steve, would there
15 be some way to get the data that your
16 group has looked at and went over?
17 Could that be circulated to us?

18 MR. GUY: Yeah. We've looked
19 heavily at what Mississippi has done
20 and their research program. They have
21 research funds that go to Mississippi
22 State. And the findings from that
23 research drives their policy and the

0151

1 policy that you folks have to make.
2 And wouldn't it be a whole lot easier
3 if you had good data and good research
4 to look at to make the policy decisions
5 that you have to make? And so we need
6 a better research program in this
7 state. We're going to be working on
8 that to the legislature when they come
9 back into session. We're going to give
10 that data that we feel like to help
11 drive the policy decision that you have
12 to make.

13 MR. PORTER: If you can share
14 that with me in particular and maybe
15 others, but I'd like that.

16 MR. GUY: I'll do that.
17 Dr. Harrison will be in Birmingham with
18 us Tuesday, if you'd like to come over.
19 One other thing I'd like to
20 mention. If tags are so bad, why did
21 we use them in the DMV program when we
22 started off with our deer management
23 program. If tags don't work, why did

0152

1 we do that to start with? I think
2 that's a question we ought to ask
3 ourselves.

4 MR. MOULTRIE: Corky, either
5 you or Gary -- I was jotting down notes
6 here of the questions I have and
7 questions that I was thinking about
8 while we were going through this.
9 Do -- in knowing and trying to limit
10 bucks or limit does or limit deer, I
11 know there's a lot of other factors,
12 I've heard you say, that influence deer
13 and what you have to look at. Do we
14 know -- and I guess I don't know if
15 Gary would be the one to answer this.
16 Do we have any idea what our fawn
17 survival rate is in the state of
18 Alabama?

19 MR. MOODY: Bill, do you know?

20 MR. GRAY: Just intuitively,

21 looking and talking with some other
22 southeastern states with similar
23 habitat features and those kinds of
0153

1 things, we -- Chris Cook and I were
2 working on a population audit the other
3 day. We're using probably one
4 statewide. There are probably some
5 areas that do research, University of
6 Georgia is and Cherokee County,
7 Piedmont, that area, where it's
8 probably a quarter of a fawn because of
9 some severe coyote production. So I
10 think that safely, just an educated
11 guess, you'd probably be looking at
12 one.

13 MR. MOULTRIE: Again, I wrote
14 down about five items here just because
15 I want the board to make sure that we
16 understand in trying to limit deer or
17 limit buck or limit does or not
18 limiting them. I think these are
19 factors the board needs to look at, and
20 one of those being fawn survival rate;
21 not all the fawns that are born, but
22 those who survive.

23 MR. GRAY: I agree.

0154

1 MR. MOULTRIE: Next would be
2 buck mortality rates. Do you know that
3 for the state? We happen to have, I
4 believe -- Dr. Ditchkoff, are you still
5 here?

6 DR. DITCHKOFF: Yes.

7 MR. MOULTRIE: Dr. Ditchkoff, I
8 believe, didn't you do a thesis on buck
9 mortality rates for your thesis
10 information? If you could provide that
11 or help to establish that with us. And
12 I'm not sure, the people in the
13 audience may know or the board may
14 know, buck mortality rates, but even if
15 a landowner happened to see --
16 Dr. Ditchkoff, tell me if I'm wrong
17 here -- that buck mortality rates, that

18 if a landowner happened to see twenty
19 bucks at the start of the season, he
20 harvests ten, he's seeing ten running
21 around, post rut mortality of those
22 bucks at the end of the season, he may
23 not start with ten again the following
0155

1 season or have them around. Post-rut
2 mortality runs extremely high. Is that
3 correct, Dr. Ditchkoff?

4 DR. DITCHKOFF: Mortality of
5 the bucks following the rut, following
6 the breeding season for approximately
7 two months can be extremely high,
8 depending upon weather conditions,
9 depending upon bucks. The population
10 characteristics can probably range
11 anywhere from 10 percent to 50 percent,
12 but it's all going to depend upon what
13 those population characteristics are.
14 But you have a lot of deer that do die
15 to post-rut mortality and just -- kind
16 of just running out of gas following
17 the breeding season.

18 MR. MOULTRIE: And the coyotes
19 influence, which coyotes are on the
20 rise in Alabama. Would that be the
21 correct assumption.

22 MR. MOODY: They are here.

23 MR. MOULTRIE: That would also
0156

1 have a huge effect on post-rut
2 mortality, Dr. Ditchkoff?

3 DR. DITCHKOFF: Potentially.
4 Depending upon what the other resources
5 are.

6 MR. MOULTRIE: And then I
7 jotted down the age class of bucks
8 that's killed in this state. And over
9 the years I've heard that it was a year
10 and a half, 85 percent of the deer
11 killed were year and a half. We talked
12 about that may or may not be right. Do
13 we have any idea of that?

14 MR. MOODY: No, we don't know

15 state-wide. We have, I believe, and I
16 think most the biologists believe, that
17 that has changed significantly over the
18 past decade. There are still areas
19 where (inaudible) young bucks, but
20 many, many, many -- most the clubs are
21 making decisions on their own and they
22 have changed it on their properties
23 without us making them do it, with our
0157

1 biologists encouraging them and working
2 with them do it. So I think it's much
3 less on the year and a half as it was a
4 decade ago. But I do not have a way to
5 tell you what that percentage is, no.

6 MR. MOULTRIE: Okay. And then
7 also on does and bucks I wrote down --
8 and this was a hotter topic a couple
9 years ago, it seemed like, hemorrhagic
10 disease and what percentage of does and
11 bucks die from hemorrhagic disease each
12 year? Do we have that?

13 MR. MOODY: You will never know
14 that, but it's likely hemorrhagic
15 disease is a constant factor in the
16 southeast deer populations. It is
17 something that cycles through the herd
18 in a mortality event. You can have
19 some mortality every year, but a major
20 event every -- every five or six years.
21 It's not a constant, but it kind of
22 cycles up and down. Once a herd has
23 immunity to it, it lasts through that
0158

1 herd and then at some point in time it
2 gets less.

3 MR. MOULTRIE: But there is
4 some effect or die-off of a deer herd
5 from hemorrhagic disease?

6 MR. MOODY: There is some.

7 MR. MOULTRIE: Okay. And then,
8 again, I've just written down an age
9 class. I would be curious to see. I
10 like the poster that was provided to
11 us. Those are just some questions.

12 Again, I would encourage the board to
13 look at all of these items as you make
14 decisions. It's a very controversial
15 topic.

16 MR. COLES: If I might at this
17 time make a motion that the
18 commissioner appoint a committee to
19 study this proposal and then that
20 committee report back to this board at
21 our main meeting and then the board can
22 make a better-informed decision. Is
23 there a second?

0159

1 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

2 MR. MOULTRIE: The motion is
3 that the -- that there will be a
4 committee formed by the commissioner to
5 study the proposal of buck limits, I
6 guess would be the topic. Any
7 discussion?

8 MR. COLES: And tagging.

9 MR. MOULTRIE: And tagging.
10 Any discussion?

11 MR. HARBIN: I would like to
12 ask a question. Is this going to
13 concern the state of Alabama alone? I
14 don't live in Mississippi or Georgia.
15 I want the data to be on Alabama.

16 MR. MOULTRIE: You would like
17 to have the commissioner direct it to
18 be solely Alabama data; is that
19 correct?

20 MR. HARBIN: Yes. Not what
21 happens in Mississippi or Georgia or
22 anywhere else.

23 MR. MOULTRIE: It possibly

0160

1 would be influential to see the
2 numbers. But I agree with you that we
3 need to worry about Alabama.

4 DR. STRICKLAND: We might need
5 to use data from other places.

6 (Board members talking
7 simultaneous)

8 MR. MOULTRIE: Okay. All

9 right. The motion, again, if there's
10 no further discussion, the motion is
11 for the commissioner to set forth a
12 study group to report back at the May
13 meeting on the topic of buck limits and
14 tagging. All those in favor?

15 (All members approve but
16 Mr. Hatley and Mr. Self)

17 MR. MOULTRIE: All opposed?

18 MR. HATLEY: No.

19 MR. MOULTRIE: The record will
20 show that Mr. Hatley and Mr. Self are
21 the only two opposed. The motion
22 passes.

23 MR. GUY: Thank you. By the
0161

1 way, here is a one piece of paper Texas
2 license with all your tags on it, so it
3 can be done.

4 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
5 Mr. Guy. The next speaker will be
6 Ronny Wimberly.

7 MR. WIMBERLY: I'm Ronny
8 Wimberly. I'm from northeast Choctaw
9 and Washington County. One of the
10 topics I wanted to mention we just got
11 off of, so I won't go back there. The
12 only thing I have to add to that is
13 possibly the point rule. Rather than
14 going points, possibly antlers outside
15 the ears, you know. These are cowhorn
16 buck -- cowhorn spikes, horns outside
17 his ears. He's obviously got some bad
18 genes. That's a no-brainer.

19 Feeding or planting feed areas,
20 baiting. I've not hunted in two years.
21 I feed my property. Property owners
22 around me have lights in their back
23 yard. I'm trying to pull the deer,

0162

1 keep the spotted fawns from getting
2 shot.

3 I personally don't have a problem
4 with dog hunting if there's enough
5 property for the dogs to stay on the

6 land and not encroach the property of
7 someone else. I have a big problem
8 with poachers in Washington County.
9 They turn their dogs loose on twenty
10 acres over here and drive to another
11 twenty acres that a friend owns and I'm
12 stuck in the middle. I've been dealing
13 with it for probably eight years now.
14 I don't think any arrests have been
15 made. If there have, it hasn't stalled
16 a bit. Thank you.

17 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
18 much. Next speaker will be Mr. Frank
19 Fincher.

20 MR. FINCHER: I signed up to
21 talk about what the second speaker said
22 there on this. They want to run that
23 deer season into February. I like to
0163

1 rabbit hunt. I like to squirrel hunt.
2 February is our month. I don't think
3 we need that. You can't eat a deer
4 when you kill it in February. I was
5 raised up eating deer. I guess I've
6 made my point. February is not a month
7 for deer hunting; it's for rabbit,
8 squirrel, quail hunting. When you get
9 out there with them rabid dogs, they
10 all get teed off at ya. So give us --
11 leave us that month to do our hunting.

12 Another thing I'd like to say, too,
13 all this tagging system and everything
14 is not going to work if you don't get
15 more game wardens. That's the first
16 thing I think you're going to have to
17 do is get game wardens, if the State
18 will help us with it. And I think it
19 will help Mr. Harbin there if we get
20 game wardens to referee.

21 But the main thing is please leave
22 us alone with rabbit hunting and the
23 quail hunting. Let them deer hunters
0164

1 have theirs. Your bow hunters has got,
2 what, three and a half months already

3 to hunt. So please, if y'all will,
4 leave us alone in February.

5 MR. MOULTRIE: Yes, sir. Thank
6 you very much. The next speaker will
7 be Norris Lewey.

8 MR. LEWEY: Good morning,
9 gentlemen. I come here last year when
10 I got back from Iraq and asked y'all to
11 please look at giving dogs back to
12 Franklin County. I'm a county
13 commissioner up there. Mr. Lawley, you
14 had said you would set an appointment
15 up with me and you never showed up or
16 never called me. Can I find out why?
17 You said you would call me and set a
18 meeting up with me.

19 MR. LAWLEY: Well, yes, sir, I
20 did. I said we were going to try to
21 set up a meeting with some landowners
22 and y'all and me to get together. I
23 never heard back from you on the
0165

1 meeting that the landowners were
2 willing to sit down and talk with us.

3 MR. LEWEY: Well, I told you to
4 call me and we would have a meeting at
5 your convenience.

6 MR. LAWLEY: Well, I can come.

7 MR. LEWEY: Because we -- we're
8 sitting up there helpless now. We
9 can't get a dog hunt.

10 MR. LAWLEY: Yes, sir.

11 MR. LEWEY: We feel like we're
12 being discriminated against.

13 MR. LAWLEY: You just set the
14 landowners up and call me. I will be
15 there, I can assure you. Like I told
16 you, it's going to have to be a
17 cooperative meeting. And I'd be glad
18 to.

19 MR. LEWEY: When you own your
20 own land, you know, what's wrong with a
21 person running their dog on his own
22 land, Mr. Harbin?

23 MR. HARBIN: Biggest problem I

0166

1 got is the landowners, they don't want
2 you, they don't want your dogs. That's
3 the bottom line. If you've got enough
4 property, I don't have a problem with
5 it. But Franklin County alone, this
6 year alone, had 79 complaints and eight
7 arrests. That's the highest on the
8 record.

9 MR. LEWEY: What were the
10 arrests for? Y'all keep signing these
11 complaints. Well, I can get on the
12 phone with you a hundred times and
13 that's a hundred complaints.

14 MR. HARBIN: That's all we have
15 to go on, Mr. Lewey.

16 MR. LEWEY: I know. But who's
17 been convicted on all these? I've been
18 fighting for this country for y'all's
19 rights and my rights and everything and
20 y'all are taking mine away from me
21 every day. I got little grandkids
22 getting on me that I can't take them
23 hunting with my dogs. I was raised on

0167

1 a farm. And we own about 400 -- about
2 500 acres that we can't even run a dog
3 on. Now, y'all tell me what's wrong
4 with this situation.

5 MR. HARBIN: The wrong of it is
6 that the neighbors just don't want it.
7 If you own the property, Mr. Lewey, I
8 don't care how many dogs you run. As
9 long as you keep them on your property.
10 But you cannot get on somebody else's if
11 they don't want you on there. You
12 asked about the arrest -- there were
13 two during bow season, two without
14 permits, two from the road, and one
15 from a motor vehicle and one with no
16 license.

17 MR. LEWEY: How many dogs
18 involved?

19 MR. HARBIN: I don't know how
20 many dogs involved. There were 79

21 complaints.

22 MR. LEWEY: There's 79

23 complaints on dog-related complaints.
0168

1 I talked to our sheriff, he said, I got
2 no problem. He said he come to the
3 board two or three years ago and asked
4 that y'all treat north Alabama like you
5 do south Alabama. And how many
6 counties is it illegal to run dogs in,
7 fourteen?

8 MR. MOULTRIE: Corky, do you
9 know that?

10 MR. LEWEY: There's about
11 fourteen counties.

12 MR. MOULTRIE: Approximately
13 fourteen.

14 MR. LEWEY: So we're getting
15 abused on dogs.

16 MR. HARBIN: No, sir. Y'all
17 have been abusing. I'm sorry.

18 MR. LEWEY: Say what?

19 MR. HARBIN: I say the dog
20 hunters are doing the abusing.

21 MR. LEWEY: Well, now, you
22 might have a problem. As far as these
23 game wardens, let them catch them.

0169

1 We've got a sheriff's department I can
2 call at any minute if I see somebody
3 violating the law on deer hunting. It
4 ain't bothering me to turn them in.
5 And if we do get a complaint on
6 somebody's dog, pull their permit.
7 Don't punish everybody in the county
8 over three or four yo-yos running up
9 and down the road.

10 MR. HARBIN: All I'm asking you
11 to do is stop those yo-yos from running
12 up and down the road. That's the
13 problem. If they're out doing it, put
14 a stop to it. Help us.

15 MR. LEWEY: We've lost a -- a
16 bunch of hunters quit buying license.
17 All the businesses up there quit

18 selling. It cost the county money,
19 revenue.

20 MR. HARBIN: I can understand
21 that, but I'm sorry. I will not put
22 hunter privilege over a property
23 owner's rights. And to me, property
0170

1 owners have made their case. I believe
2 this report from Johnny Johnson, the
3 supervisor, makes the case.

4 MR. LEWEY: Is he over Franklin
5 County?

6 MR. HARBIN: As far as I know,
7 he is. He's District 1 supervisor.
8 And that's what I base my -- most of my
9 facts on.

10 MR. LEWEY: I'm a landowner in
11 Franklin County. He don't represent
12 me. I never seen the man 'til he was
13 down here last year.

14 MR. HARBIN: I'm not speaking
15 individual representative. I'm
16 speaking as the whole county.

17 MR. LEWEY: Is there any way we
18 can get a permit system for Franklin
19 County?

20 MR. MOULTRIE: Is that a
21 question directed at someone?

22 MR. LEWEY: That's you.

23 MR. MOULTRIE: Me?

0171

1 MR. LEWEY: Yeah.

2 MR. MOULTRIE: If the board
3 approves that, we would let that
4 happen. I guess that's the way that
5 would happen.

6 MR. LAWLEY: Not without an
7 agreement, just like we talked about
8 before, between the landowners that
9 surround you.

10 MR. HARBIN: That was three
11 years ago.

12 MR. LAWLEY: Mr. Moultrie and I
13 had met with several representatives
14 from dog clubs there from Cherokee

15 County, in that area, and they said
16 that -- and that was three years ago.
17 And as of yet, they are -- haven't been
18 able to come back to us with any
19 landowners that are willing to talk to
20 you about it.

21 MR. LEWEY: Well, you're
22 talking about --

23 MR. LAWLEY: Your situation may
0172

1 be totally different.

2 MR. LEWEY: Some landowners
3 adjoining my property; right?

4 MR. MOULTRIE: Contiguous
5 landowners is what we're talking about.

6 MR. LEWEY: See, I own a bunch
7 of land up behind (inaudible).

8 MR. HARBIN: That's in (inaudible).
9 That's in close proximity where the
10 dogs can reach.

11 MR. LEWEY: The way I hunt, I
12 get back in the woods, turn my dog
13 loose, and I stay on the stand.

14 MR. HARBIN: I'm not accusing
15 you of --

16 MR. LEWEY: I don't run them
17 down the road.

18 MR. HARBIN: I'm not accusing
19 you of anything. I'm just saying
20 somebody's doing it. Somebody is doing
21 it.

22 MR. LEWEY: That's why got law
23 enforcement. Catch these people, stop
0173

1 them.

2 MR. MOULTRIE: All right. Are
3 there any other comments you have?

4 MR. LEWEY: I may be on my way
5 back --

6 MR. MOULTRIE: Hold on,
7 Mr. Knight.

8 MR. LEWEY: I'll probably have
9 to go back to Iraq and I'd like to see
10 y'all be man enough to give the people
11 the choice to hunt. That's their right

12 in Franklin County.

13 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Knight, did
14 you have a comment on Mr. Lewey's
15 comments?

16 MR. KNIGHT: Yes, I do. I
17 don't want to stir anything up, but we
18 would like to have something in writing
19 showing what they have to have in
20 Franklin, Lamar, and all the counties
21 up there that are closed down. It
22 seems that every year we come and talk
23 about this, but it changes. Now, we've
0174

1 gone from the land around him to every
2 landowner in the county, and we don't
3 really know where we stand as what
4 we've got to come up with to get a
5 permit system.

6 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Knight, are
7 you scheduled to talk later on?

8 MR. KNIGHT: Sure. Yes.

9 MR. MOULTRIE: Instead of
10 breaking out of the order, let's
11 discuss this during your speaking
12 appointment, if that'd be all right.

13 MR. KNIGHT: That'd be fine.

14 MR. MOULTRIE: I hate to set
15 that precedent.

16 MR. KNIGHT: That'd be fine.

17 MR. MOULTRIE: Very good.
18 Thank you, Mr. Lewey. The next speaker
19 will be Mr. Steve Maxwell.

20 MR. MAXWELL: Steve Maxwell for
21 Master Rack Lodge, the outfitter that's
22 in Bullock County just south of Union
23 Springs. Some of the issues that I
0175

1 wanted to bring up have already been
2 introduced. About Barbour County, we
3 knew there was some test results going
4 on over there. Nobody ever heard
5 anything on how it's going, and I guess
6 that was pretty much covered today.

7 As far as the people talking about
8 February hunting, to touch on that

9 issue, it's not necessarily the month.
10 Who cares if it's January, February,
11 March? The bottom line is that Alabama
12 is the only state that actually doesn't
13 get to hunt the entire rut and has
14 never, ever seen a post-rut hunting
15 period before. And the thesis that the
16 doctor did on post-rut deaths, the
17 question I had for him was, is it all
18 based on Alabama or is this based on
19 the northeast, because post-rut deaths
20 on our property -- I've been there ten
21 years. I spend about 300 days on the
22 property. I've never seen a post-rut
23 death from a buck unless they get hit
0176

1 by a car.
2 As far as the license,
3 three-day licenses, it used to be seven
4 days, \$77. It got knocked down to
5 three days, which is fine with the
6 exception of the way the outfitters
7 work, if you come in on Thursday and
8 you check in at lunch and hunt Thursday
9 afternoon, then all day Friday, all day
10 Saturday and Sunday, you got to have a
11 ten-day license. It's really three
12 days of hunting, if you do the half and
13 half and two fulls. It poses a big
14 problem. And when it went from seven
15 days down to three days, the license
16 increase or whatever doesn't really
17 matter to us as far as the outfitters
18 go, a resident or nonresident license
19 increase, but the mere fact that you
20 got a three-day license, that
21 definitely draws a line if they check
22 in on Thursday and check out on Sunday.
23 It poses a big problem for us. We
0177

1 basically have to let people come in
2 and start hunting on Friday and then
3 rush them out on Sunday to get another
4 group in. If there's going to be an
5 increase, I would like to at least

6 bring it up be able to do a ten-day or
7 five-day instead of a ten-day and
8 three-day license, \$77 to \$127. A \$50
9 increase for five extra days is plenty.
10 As far as -- I support Steve Guy in
11 what he said earlier. One of the
12 issues was to increase the size and
13 restrictions. Basically, the law in
14 Alabama right now is if it's brown,
15 it's down. I've heard that a million
16 times this year from hunters coming in
17 from out of state. If it's a dark one
18 and you're hearing shots fifteen
19 minutes after dark, they're pulling the
20 trigger, the bottom line is, they don't
21 have to qualify a deer to pull the
22 trigger. As far as above the visible
23 hairline, the only thing -- the bottom
0178

1 line with all the rules is, if it has
2 spots, you can't shoot it. So if you
3 have to look at it and you have to
4 actually qualify a deer before you pull
5 the trigger, number one, it's going to
6 make you a better hunter and, number
7 two, the doe population will actually
8 go up a little bit as far as people
9 harvesting more does and a few smaller
10 bucks that spike three points, four
11 points, whatever, at least it will make
12 them have to make a decision before
13 they just pull the trigger on whatever
14 walks.

15 And as far as the -- I agree 110
16 percent on the license increase. We
17 need more support on the -- from the
18 game warden side of it. From the
19 outfitter standpoint, if we make a
20 call, we usually get -- they usually
21 come down and at least see about the
22 problem. One of the biggest problems
23 is when they go to address the
0179

1 situation, we get guys that come around
2 us all the time and say, The bottom

3 line is, if it's -- we're going to
4 trespass. There's no sense in getting
5 us land and pay ten or \$15,000 for a
6 piece of property. We'd rather take
7 the chance of getting caught, because
8 if you get caught it's only going to
9 cost \$500. So, you know, somewhere or
10 another there definitely needs to be an
11 increase in fines pretty much across
12 the board. Some of them have been
13 around since probably the '50s when
14 deer hunting was reintroduced. It will
15 at least make people think twice before
16 breaking the law and making their job
17 ten times more tough, because when they
18 go to break the law, they're just
19 taking a chance because they know the
20 fine is not going to be substantial
21 enough, if it's even enforced from the
22 judges. It's not a problem. Those are
23 just a few of the things I wanted to
0180

1 bring up.

2 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
3 Mr. Maxwell.

4 MR. PORTER: Can I ask a
5 question? How many acres do you have
6 in your outfitter --

7 MR. MAXWELL: We -- we manage
8 10,000 acres.

9 MR. PORTER: And you said you
10 are not aware of any post-mortality rut
11 for ten years?

12 MR. MAXWELL: In the ten years'
13 time since I've been there -- I'm on
14 the property every day, or at least
15 three hundred days out of the year, on
16 the property feeding, going over the
17 ridden-out areas. Like right now, the
18 main reason we're on the property
19 during post-rut is to find out where we
20 need to be isolating the stands for
21 next season and what survived.

22 MR. PORTER: What about those
23 around, are you aware of any post-

0181

1 mortality rut --
2 MR. MAXWELL: Around our area?
3 MR. PORTER: In your area at
4 all.
5 MR. MAXWELL: Not that I know
6 of, not unless from vehicles is the
7 only thing I know. I mean, we really
8 don't get a lot of -- listening for
9 shots at night and stuff, we don't
10 really get a lot of after-season
11 poachers and stuff like that.
12 MR. PORTER: That would be a
13 pretty large area in Bullock County,
14 wouldn't it?
15 MR. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, I did
16 want to point out in the new proposal
17 that Corky turned in, they upped the
18 nonresident to a four-day.
19 MR. MAXWELL: That's perfect.
20 MR. MOULTRIE: Corky, you got a
21 comment on that?
22 MR. PUGH: I wish the
23 commissioner had been here.

0182

1 MR. LAWLEY: He's here. I'm
2 listening to every word you're saying.
3 MR. PUGH: Yesterday he and I
4 had a discussion about the three-day
5 and four-day business. The upshot of
6 that conversation was the commissioner
7 asked us to change the four-day back to
8 three-day. And what I heard you saying
9 earlier is that --
10 MR. MAXWELL: It causes
11 problems.
12 MR. PUGH: Commissioner, were
13 you here when he was talking?
14 MR. MAXWELL: Well, the big
15 problem of it is -- we attract hunters
16 from all over the world. And there's a
17 big confusion when they -- they say,
18 What does a three-day license cost? A
19 three-day license costs \$77. They
20 actually go online to get this license

21 and they tell them -- or they instruct
22 them it's 127. So they call us back
23 and say, Hey, Mr. Maxwell, you lied to
0183

1 me about the license; it's 127. I
2 said, No, sir, your hunt is going to be
3 a three-day, and three-day license is
4 \$77. Anyway, to go through all that,
5 if they come in on a three-day, say any
6 of these guys that are not from
7 in-state, come from Florida or
8 wherever, Georgia, Mississippi, they
9 come in and they hunt Thursday, Friday,
10 and Saturday and decide to stay an
11 extra day -- because hardly anybody, if
12 they do get a chance, especially in
13 rut, is going to come in for an
14 extended weekend. Three days is
15 cutting the edge. You're asking people
16 to basically be dishonest, because
17 they're going to tell you, I'm coming
18 in for a Friday, Saturday, Sunday hunt.
19 If they come in on Thursday, you're
20 asking them to be dishonest because
21 they're not going to pay \$127 for a
22 ten-day when they're only here for
23 three or on the cusp of it.

0184

1 The biggest reason is because from the
2 outfitter standpoint -- and I know that
3 when you start talking about the
4 numbers and the license and stuff, we
5 produce anywhere between fifteen and
6 \$20,000 worth of out-of-state and
7 in-state hunting licenses for the State
8 of Alabama year after year after year.
9 And there's a bunch of hunting lodges
10 in the State of Alabama doing the same
11 thing. So -- and when it comes down
12 to a three-, four-, and five-day
13 decision -- before it was seven days --
14 charge whatever you want. If you want
15 to go up to \$100 for a four-day license
16 or five-day license, I don't think
17 you're going to get a big complaint

18 about that, the amount of money that
19 people are paying to come in the state
20 to hunt, because it's still lower than
21 any other state in the United States,
22 including Mississippi. The problem is
23 the number of days because of
0185

1 check-in/check out. Most lodges are
2 going to check in on Thursday. You're
3 going to hunt Thursday afternoon, all
4 day Friday, all day Saturday, and half
5 a day Sunday and check out at noon on
6 Sunday so you've got enough time to
7 flip the rooms to get everybody checked
8 in on Sunday afternoon. Now, on
9 Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, a lot
10 of people hunt Monday, Tuesday,
11 Wednesday all day, spend the night,
12 have a chance to check out Thursday
13 morning. But it just poses -- it's
14 right on the cusp of where
15 you're basically asking somebody to be
16 dishonest about it. And I don't think
17 anybody really wants to do that. It's
18 not about the money, just the
19 technicality of it. A guy coming in
20 with a three-day license that he got
21 off the Internet claiming Friday,
22 Saturday, and Sunday, we can't put him
23 in the woods on Thursday afternoon
0186

1 because his license is invalid. And
2 he's not going to pay \$77 for a half
3 day.
4 MR. LAWLEY: Exactly where is
5 your lodge located?
6 MR. MAXWELL: It's Master Rack
7 Lodge in Bullock County just south of
8 Union Springs. And we actually got
9 reprimanded for that, as a matter of
10 fact. I think you probably remember.
11 We got reprimanded last year because we
12 were writing the licenses up as --
13 well, it's got a time stamp on it,
14 which made perfect sense to me. Well,

15 if this guy checks in at two o'clock in
16 the afternoon on Thursday, then his
17 license runs out at two o'clock in the
18 afternoon on Friday, Saturday, and
19 Sunday. So that's the way we were
20 writing them up. We got reprimanded.
21 Thomas Ware ran me down in the woods,
22 said it took him half a day to run me
23 down. And he caught up with me and he
0187

1 reprimanded me about writing the
2 licenses the way we were. It made
3 absolutely no sense to me whatsoever
4 what he was talking about, because if
5 it's a three-day, a twenty-four-hour
6 period, if you check in on Friday
7 morning, your hunt is Friday, Saturday,
8 and Sunday, there's only three days
9 your license is good for, what's the
10 purpose of a time stamp? That was my
11 question to him. He couldn't answer
12 it.

13 MR. HATLEY: Question: Whose
14 responsibility is it -- if you have a
15 hunter paying you to hunt with you,
16 whose responsibility is it to see that
17 he does have a proper and valid hunting
18 license?

19 MR. MAXWELL: That's our
20 responsibility. We do -- we require
21 all of our hunters, if they say they
22 have a license, they have to present
23 it. If they got it online or
0188

1 offline -- that's what we were saying.
2 If a guy calls in -- we had a guy from
3 Canada, had a group from Canada come in
4 this year. They had licenses, they
5 were written up for Friday, Saturday,
6 and Sunday. What he showed me, he
7 said, Well, we already have our
8 licenses. When he showed me his
9 license, I said, Well, your license
10 isn't valid until Friday. Your hunt is
11 supposed to start today at lunch. He

12 had a choice. He could pay 77 extra
13 dollars for another license or he could
14 wait until Friday to hunt. They lost a
15 half a day of hunting. So it really
16 made us to be -- it was a hard
17 situation for us, because we had a
18 choice. We could either go against the
19 laws and our relationship with the game
20 wardens of the State of Alabama and let
21 these guys hunt illegally; or we could
22 either cancel half his hunt, because
23 there was no way we could get him in
0189

1 because we're back to back in January,
2 or he's going to have to pay 77 extra
3 dollars to hunt for half a day, because
4 his license was already written up.

5 MR. HATLEY: Well, you didn't
6 want to go against the laws of the
7 State of Alabama, did you?

8 MR. MAXWELL: We didn't do it.

9 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Maxwell, how
10 many hunters do you run through your
11 lodge a year?

12 MR. MAXWELL: It varies.
13 Anywhere between 150 to 250. Now,
14 you're talking about just deer hunting
15 or you're talking about deer -- all
16 deer hunting?

17 MR. MOULTRIE: This 150 to
18 250 --

19 MR. MAXWELL: Somewhere in that
20 range.

21 MR. MOULTRIE: -- what
22 percentage would be in state and out of
23 state?

0190

1 MR. MAXWELL: That's changed a
2 lot. That's another topic.

3 MR. MOULTRIE: Would you say 50
4 percent is fair?

5 MR. MAXWELL: I would say
6 probably 35 percent -- 25, 35 percent
7 would be from in state, the rest would
8 be out of state.

9 MR. MOULTRIE: Mostly out of
10 state. We're trying to get a little
11 more --

12 MR. MAXWELL: Used to be
13 about -- used to be 90/10, and now it's
14 more -- well, the biggest business
15 we're losing is out of state. And the
16 number one reason -- if you're
17 interested in that. The number one
18 reason that people say -- we ask
19 everybody that comes in how they heard
20 about Alabama, what do they think about
21 Alabama, what their perception of
22 Alabama deer herd is. The biggest
23 perception of Alabama right now is huge
0191

1 population. As far as the quality of
2 deer hunting in Alabama has actually
3 decreased in the last ten years.
4 People's vision of Alabama on the scale
5 of quality deer has actually gone down
6 dramatically. That's why more people
7 from the northeast that used to hunt
8 with us are now hunting in Mississippi
9 and other states, including Illinois.

10 MR. MOULTRIE: Say that again.
11 Your hunters' perception of the state
12 is we have high numbers but low
13 quality?

14 MR. MAXWELL: That's correct.

15 DR. STRICKLAND: Steve, let me
16 ask you a question. You do this for a
17 living.

18 MR. MAXWELL: Yes, sir.

19 DR. STRICKLAND: Do you support
20 a tag system or an antler restriction
21 system?

22 MR. MAXWELL: Well, my opinion
23 is if you do a tag system -- we're
0192

1 already having a hard enough time
2 coming up with -- manpower is one thing
3 we're having a problem with. How is it
4 going to be initiated and how is it
5 going to be able to be enforced with

6 the tag system? I think that would be
7 difficult. The antler restriction,
8 that was my question was how was
9 Barbour County doing, because there's
10 no way if you've got some type of
11 antler restriction to get valid
12 numbers. The reason being, we did a
13 process -- we had a process in place
14 for three years strictly to find this
15 information out: What's going on
16 around us, what are people shooting,
17 how many does are they shooting, what
18 quality of bucks they're shooting, on
19 and on -- how many deer they're
20 shooting, you name it. Well, the
21 perception that we got and the
22 information we got back in those three
23 years was if there's five deer standing
0193

1 out there in the field and it's five
2 minutes until dark and there's a spike
3 and four does out there, what do you
4 think they're going to shoot? They
5 shoot the spike nine out of ten times.
6 If you've got a four point on one side,
7 three point on one side and they were a
8 four point or better, however you want
9 to do it, one of the problems we have
10 with our lodge, when you say a total of
11 four point, six point, eight point, is
12 people can't make a judgment on a deer
13 when it's walking parallel to -- or
14 perpendicular to them. That's the
15 biggest problem we have when we have
16 eight point or better. Okay? Our guys
17 want us to do a four point on one side,
18 (inaudible). We couldn't judge him
19 because he was there and it's gone.
20 But a point restriction on one side --
21 three on one side, two on one side,
22 four on one side, whatever, in my
23 opinion, would be the best bet, because
0194

1 you make people actually make a
2 decision. Your doe count would

3 actually go up in harvest, especially
4 there at the end of hunt. You got a
5 spike or three-pointer, you got a four
6 or five point standing out there, you
7 make them have to decide on shooting a
8 doe instead of shooting small, immature
9 buck, would definitely be a move in the
10 right direction, in my opinion. You
11 can still take a deer. You're not
12 asking anybody to not shoot a deer.
13 You're just basically saying, I would
14 like you to shoot this doe instead of
15 this small, immature buck that you're
16 going to knock the rack off of, throw
17 them over in the corner, and when a guy
18 says, What did you shoot? Oh, I shot a
19 spike.

20 MR. HATLEY: Steve, what are
21 your restrictions?

22 MR. MAXWELL: Our restrictions
23 are eight point or better. We have two
0195

1 different blocks of property. One
2 block of property is 6,000, the other
3 is a little over 3,000 acres. It's
4 eight point or better with a 15-inch
5 inside spread minimum on the -- the
6 upper end, which is 3,000 acres. The
7 6,000 acres is eight point or better.
8 We don't allow you to shoot doe on the
9 green fields. We allow you to shoot a
10 doe every day.

11 MR. HATLEY: So what if I shoot
12 the wrong deer while I'm paying you to
13 hunt?

14 MR. MAXWELL: If you shoot a
15 spike, it's \$200. If you shoot a deer
16 that's inferior -- over a spike but
17 inferior of -- less than eight points
18 that doesn't score at least 110 inches,
19 it's \$500.

20 MR. COLES: Mr. Chairman, we've
21 heard nine speakers and we've got
22 twenty-six more to go. I just wanted
23 to make that known.

0196

1 (Applause)

2 MR. LAWLEY: To say three days,
3 four days, is strictly the amount of
4 money coming in to the department.
5 There's no relation to what you do at
6 your lodge or anybody does.

7 MR. MAXWELL: I understand
8 that.

9 MR. LAWLEY: We've got about
10 45,000 out-of-state hunters that come
11 in to this state on ten-day or
12 three-day licenses. You know, we've
13 got plenty of time to be flexible. We
14 will work on this even to the point
15 where you can choose how many days you
16 want hunt and we'll put a price tag on
17 it.

18 MR. MAXWELL: Well, the whole
19 thing was going from a seven to a
20 three.

21 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
22 Mr. Maxwell. One other thing,
23 Mr. Porter, before you go.

0197

1 Dr. Ditchkoff, are you still here? As
2 far as I know -- and it was interesting
3 hearing Mr. Maxwell's comments --
4 you're the highest authority on deer
5 biology I know of in the state. If
6 there's another one besides our own
7 state biologist, I don't know. You're
8 from Auburn University and you've
9 worked in the whole nation. Is it very
10 unusual -- Mr. Maxwell said that he had
11 never seen, ever, on 10,000 acres, a
12 deer die post-rut mortality. Do you
13 say that would be highly unlikely or
14 highly likely?

15 DR. DITCHKOFF: I think it'd be
16 highly likely. It wouldn't surprise me
17 that he hasn't run across it. I don't
18 know how much time Mr. Maxwell spends
19 out there. But I can pretty much
20 guarantee you that if you were to use

21 technology, put radio collars on these
22 animals, you would be finding the
23 animals that are dying.

0198

1 MR. MOULTRIE: Very good. And
2 we will probably call on you for some
3 more topics of post-rut mortality.
4 Thank you.

5 All right. The next speaker will
6 be Mr. Wayne Parker. Again, let's try
7 to keep it to three minutes.

8 MR. PARKER: Good morning,
9 gentleman. My name is Wayne Parker.
10 I'm from Coffee County. To start off
11 with, we don't want any deer management
12 or restrictions placed on us at all.
13 I'll tell you all that first thing.
14 The average hunter still likes to hunt
15 deer instead if we're going more to a
16 Texas-style hunting every day, that's
17 what every hunter in the state wants.
18 They're wanting to hunt a deer.
19 Everybody doesn't get to spend days to
20 sit up there and watch a deer and see
21 what he's doing and how many horns.
22 Last year we killed in Coffee County a
23 record buck. It outperformed the

0199

1 previous one by twenty points.
2 This year from November 18th to the
3 15th of January we killed fifty-one
4 bucks and thirty does. From
5 January 15th to the 31st we killed
6 forty-nine deer. Now, you hear people
7 say, We need to go to February. No,
8 don't we need to go to February hunting
9 season when you can kill twenty-nine
10 bucks, doe and we kill two that was
11 ten, eleven points.

12 This land is hunted with dogs every
13 day during the season. The only
14 problem we have, and what most people
15 hunt, when they're hunting these small
16 places, the buck and deer ratio is
17 wrong. It's not going to get any

18 better until you get the does in line
19 with them. You're not going to see
20 them. He's not going to be up there.
21 You know, February hunting season,
22 you know, we get more and more of this
23 restriction. Next spring you'll be
0200

1 wanting us to go out and check their
2 teeth. We don't need to be doing all
3 that. We have as good a hunting club
4 as there are. We've been here since
5 1967. We continuously kill good deer
6 every year. And it's like Corky and
7 them said a while ago, when you hunt in
8 a place -- we have various different
9 places. We got between six and 7,000
10 acres. You got a lot of different deer
11 in different places. There's no way to
12 tell how many deer is on that property.
13 If you're not on that property every
14 day and you're not there, you don't
15 know how many is there. You might
16 hardly see no tracks one day, you go
17 there tomorrow and it's full. So
18 that's a lot to do with it.

19 And like I said, we just -- we
20 don't need to go to a February hunting
21 season. Just like the man who spoke up
22 earlier when he spoke of small game
23 animals and stuff and the small game
0201

1 hunter -- quail hunter, rabbit hunters,
2 even the hog hunters, and it's just --
3 we need to leave February to small game
4 hunters, and that's my opinion.

5 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
6 much, Mr. Parker. Next will be
7 Mr. John Pritchett.

8 MR. PRITCHETT: My name is John
9 Pritchett. I'm from Deatsville,
10 Alabama. I would like to address a
11 topic. I think that the -- there's not
12 a significant advantage to being a
13 resident hunter in the state of
14 Alabama. If you go out west, you go

15 hunt out west, they have restrictions,
16 their license are higher. You go out
17 and get a tag in, say, New Mexico or
18 something, you'll probably pay \$400 for
19 an out-of-state license. We're not
20 doing that here. The advantage is not
21 here. There's not a lot of difference
22 between out of state and in state.

23 I really think that we need to do
0202

1 some things to help the residents of
2 Alabama, and one of those things I
3 think is to have a strictly resident
4 season for the first two weeks of
5 February. It's something that would be
6 good for citizens of this state, only
7 this state. And, you know, the ruts
8 there. I just think something needs to
9 be done. And when you -- I hear all
10 this talk up here about the size racks
11 that we're growing and our quality deer
12 and you keep here hearing Illinois and
13 Iowa. You got to look somewhat at what
14 those deer in Illinois and Iowa are
15 eating. I mean, there's thousands and
16 thousands and thousands of acres of
17 corn fields and bean fields and we
18 don't have that in the state. I mean,
19 there's some things you can work on to
20 improve that, but then somebody's got
21 to look at that and say, Hey, you know,
22 you got to look at what they eat off
23 of, too. I don't know.

0203

1 I'd just like to end up saying that
2 I think we can take that increase in
3 our out-of-state hunting license fees
4 and I also agree with the in-state and
5 help fund those nineteen vacancies that
6 we've got to fill those places and have
7 a better state to hunt in.

8 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
9 much. Next speaker will be Claude
10 Aultman.

11 MR. AULTMAN: I'm Claude

12 Aultman. I'm from Perry County and
13 I've been to the board meetings before.
14 I want to thank the advisory board.
15 Some of the men came out when we were
16 having problems there and let them see
17 firsthand themselves what we are
18 putting up with with dog hunting. You
19 got some dog hunting groups that still
20 are so far out yonder to, you know,
21 they don't respect other people's
22 property. And Mr. May and Mr. Johnson
23 went out there and we showed them where

0204

1 they own an acre here, but that gives
2 them the right to run ten acres with no
3 road in or out whatsoever. They said,
4 There's no way they can run these dogs
5 without getting on somebody's property.
6 I said, That's what we're talking
7 about. I'd like to see something done
8 about that.

9 They visit with some of the people
10 at the houses. They talked to some man
11 that he talked to, his house was shot.
12 He's getting pretty old. And since
13 I've talked to you at the board meeting
14 up close to Tennessee, back years, I
15 had a friend got killed by a dog
16 hunter. Since then, there's another
17 one shot but not killed or anything.
18 Anyway, I like to see them -- I give
19 them a map with the road outlined where
20 I'd like to see this problem area -- if
21 I see dog hunting -- this is a problem
22 area. It's not all over. It's right
23 there. This is a dangerous place where

0205

1 we're talking about. When houses get
2 shot and people get shot over dogs, I'd
3 like to see them outlawed. I give them
4 a map. We've outlined it. I hope that
5 they look at that, consider that.
6 Another question right quick, what
7 is the law on crossing property to some
8 other property? We got one place where

9 they lease the land from Weyerhaeuser.
10 I called Weyerhaeuser and they said,
11 Well, we lease the land. It's up to
12 them to find a way to it. So I called
13 the game warden in. I talked to him
14 many times and let them know what we're
15 going through. And the game wardens
16 come out there and they don't know what
17 to say. They said, Well, I don't know
18 whether -- because the landowners said,
19 I don't want you to cross this
20 property. I don't want them on it or
21 crossing it. What is the law on that
22 to get to property ?

23 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Address,
0206

1 would you like to address that real
2 quick?

3 MR. ANDRESS: Well, what -- my
4 understanding on Mr. Aultman's
5 particular problem is apparently a
6 complex issue involving various
7 different landowners and accesses and
8 things like that. It's not a very
9 simple legal matter, and not even sure
10 what the -- whether it's an enforcement
11 thing or more of a landowner conflict
12 issue. But that's sort of a complex
13 issue going on there. We'll deal with
14 Mr. Aultman directly. And if he'll
15 leave his name and number, we'll deal
16 with him more on it to get it sorted
17 out. But it's sort of complicated.

18 MR. AULTMAN: This guy lives in
19 Ohio. And he's the one that came by
20 and said, I want you to oversee it, and
21 I said, I can't do nothing about it.
22 But, anyway -- I've brought it up
23 before. Whenever you got property
0207

1 and you got feeding -- I've asked it
2 before. I'll come up with ideas so you
3 can get good information to help them.
4 And everybody that I talked to has
5 said, I'd be willing to pay \$100 for a

6 feeding permit. When you quit feeding
7 them, all my deer tracks are headed
8 that way over there. And I said, I'm
9 not going to feed deer on my property
10 and keep them, just be able to do feed
11 them. I'll pay \$200.

12 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Aultman,
13 your time has come to a conclusion.
14 Just sum it up.

15 MR. AULTMAN: Okay. I'd be
16 willing to pay a feed permit of \$100 or
17 \$200 for a feed permit to feed deer so
18 they can -- that money can go to the
19 game warden, get more game wardens in
20 here, give them a raise, whatever.
21 These folks would like \$100. I
22 appreciate it.

23 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
0208

1 much, Mr. Aultman. The next speaker
2 will be Monica Carroll.

3 MS. CARROLL: Good morning,
4 Mr. Commissioner, Mr. Chairman, and
5 members of the board. I am Monica
6 Carroll. I'm from Ozark, Alabama,
7 which is in Dale County. And the
8 reasons for my being here this morning
9 is to try to propose to you all to ban
10 dog deer hunting in our county.

11 Mr. Louis Coles, I've given him a copy
12 of a petition that I have, and it has
13 680 names on it, gentleman. We are
14 having so many problems in our area
15 with dogs crossing our property.

16 As I've heard with other
17 situations, we, me and my husband, own
18 a small family farm there in Dale
19 County and we have cattle. And to our
20 avail, we cannot cooperate with the dog
21 deer hunters and have them contain
22 their dogs on their property only. We
23 had an incident where fifty calves got
0209

1 out. We got twenty of them back in
2 relatively quickly, but thirty of them

3 did not. It took us a week. We had to
4 hire labor. We had two that got hit on
5 the road, 123, boarding our property.
6 So there were two that were in an
7 accident that were killed -- calves
8 killed. But the situation, we got back
9 to the backside of the property to see
10 what happened with the calves and there
11 were two deer dogs running around an
12 empty lot. We tried to catch the dogs
13 trying to make the owners responsible,
14 to no avail. But we're having these
15 problems.

16 Also, we have a small outfitting
17 business. We had hunters that come in
18 from South Carolina and, sure enough,
19 had a problem with deer dogs crossing
20 over on our property. And I saw the
21 dog deer hunters coming up and down the
22 road, went down there and tried to talk
23 to them and told them our situation and
0210

1 asked them to contain their dogs, saw
2 that they were parked -- they were
3 blocking some gates, so I called the
4 game warden, told them I was going to
5 need help with the situation. There
6 were two citations wrote that day.

7 The hunters, when they come out of
8 our woods, they were unhappy about
9 that. I heard another gentleman talk
10 about the hunters that are coming in
11 from other -- out-of-state hunters,
12 which seems to be quite a bit. If this
13 situation keeps happening, our
14 outfitting lodge will not be
15 successful. Me and my husband, we farm
16 full time. This is our -- 100 percent
17 income comes from our farm. We need
18 help with the situation in our county.

19 Also, I was washing dishes one
20 day. I have two small children. I
21 looked up and there's two deer dogs
22 running in my backyard. Now, if that
23 had been a deer running in front of

0211

1 them, I fear it could be a dangerous
2 situation. We can't enjoy our
3 property. I just think it's unfair
4 that I pay property taxes and they have
5 more rights than I do. They're causing
6 me to change the way that I live off my
7 land because of these interferences.
8 We try to take initiative and build an
9 extra barbed wire fence around the
10 perimeter to keep our calves from
11 getting out. I'm not allowed to let my
12 cows run all over Dale County. I mean,
13 it's my responsibility to keep our
14 cattle on our property. And I try to
15 tell the dog hunters, If you want to
16 hunt dogs, why don't you high fence
17 your area? Well, that's too much
18 money. But I just think it's unfair
19 that we have to keep putting up with
20 our property rights being violated. So
21 I ask for your help on this issue.

22 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
23 much. Next speaker will be Billy Cook.

0212

1 MR. COOK: My name is Billy Ray
2 Cook. I live in Berry, Alabama,
3 Fayette County. I have been bothered
4 lots of times from deer dogs. My
5 family has been bothered, my friends
6 and neighbors. I was fortunate enough
7 to host a handicap hunt this year. It
8 was interrupted by the deer dogs. I
9 have made attempts to talk to some of
10 them. You can't talk to them. They
11 tell me, I can hunt through the woods.
12 They tell me the dogs came through.
13 They tell me they don't own the land.
14 So I ask the board to ban the deer dogs
15 in Fayette County. Give us the help
16 that we need. Thank you.

17 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
18 much. Next speaker will be Mr. Jay
19 Cox. Jay Cox, are you here?

20 (No response)

21 MR. MOULTRIE: The next speaker
22 will be Mr. Richard Davis.

23 MR. DAVIS: Mr. Chairman,
0213

1 members of the board, I appreciate the
2 time. I want to thank Mr. Harbin and
3 Mr. Johnson and Dr. May for coming to
4 our meeting February 4 down in
5 Samantha. I don't want to be
6 repetitious. They heard a lot of the
7 problems we're having in Fayette
8 County. I'm personally more in the
9 north Tuscaloosa area. We have a club
10 that has about 700 acres. Mr. Abbott,
11 our president, he's eighty-one years
12 old, hunted there for twenty-four
13 years. He couldn't make it today. But
14 we haven't been able to manage our own
15 property. There's no possibility of
16 managing our own herd because of the
17 running of the dogs. They're strictly
18 absolutely running our land,
19 disregarding property lines,
20 disregarding public roadways. Just
21 disregard for everything other than
22 what they want to do.

23 But we have had the game warden out
0214

1 there and they're going to try to do a
2 good job -- they do a good job. He has
3 a large area to cover. He can't be
4 everywhere. We understand that. We
5 don't want to get confrontational with
6 these hunters because out there with --
7 we have limited number of guys out
8 there. We're definitely always
9 outnumbered and everybody's got a gun,
10 so it's not a good time to be
11 confrontational. We just want some
12 type of help to stop -- to be able to
13 use our land the way we want to use it,
14 to hunt it the way we want to hunt, and
15 to manage our herd in a safe manner.
16 One other thing I'd like to say is
17 on the tag system and everything like

18 that, I'm not big on making up a lot of
19 rules. Our club itself, we don't have
20 a lot of rules. We go under ethical
21 hunting and things like that. And I
22 think the hunters in Alabama, for the
23 majority, is ethical and can -- don't
0215

1 have to be regulated on how we want to
2 hunt. To get information that we need
3 to look at that can be very voluntary.
4 We just started with our club, which is
5 just a fifteen-member club, but we have
6 at least three years that we can say
7 every deer that's killed on our
8 property. And that can be voluntary
9 with the conservation and wildlife
10 departments that we -- a lot of clubs
11 would give them that information and we
12 know that without having a tag system
13 or something like that.

14 But the main thing I wanted is we
15 need some help in Fayette County and
16 Tuscaloosa County. I gave you a copy
17 of the names we got during that
18 meeting. We could have got a lot more
19 from landowners. Our club represents
20 four landowners in that area, there's
21 more in Tuscaloosa, that don't dog
22 hunt. And the main thing we're looking
23 for is some type of relief on the
0216

1 problems we're having. Thank you.

2 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
3 much.

4 MS. NUMMY: Mr. Cox is back.
5 He was out in the lobby.

6 MR. MOULTRIE: Mr. Cox, would
7 you like your chance to speak?

8 MR. COX: Yes, sir. My name is
9 Jay Cox and I'm from Chambers County.
10 And not to hop on the bandwagon, I just
11 don't want this dog hunting. Who is my
12 representative up here from Chambers
13 County?

14 MR. LAWLEY: I believe it's

15 Mr. Lynch, and he had to leave.

16 MR. COX: How many complaints
17 did he say he had gotten?

18 MR. MOULTRIE: I don't know
19 that he said that or not.

20 MR. COX: I own land between me
21 and my father. We own 1,000 acres.
22 And they'll just put the dogs out, just
23 drop them at the road and let them run

0217

1 through. They have no respect for
2 anything, no respect for our leaser.
3 We have our land leased to hunters.
4 They're trying to do something. I
5 would like something to be done about
6 it. It's not all the dog hunting clubs
7 up there. It's one in particular that
8 keeps causing the trouble that the game
9 warden says, you know, whatever the
10 citations or whatever it is.

11 We've caught dogs before. And back
12 the last weekend of the season, we were
13 down in the woods catching a couple
14 dogs that ran through. And these guys
15 will pull up and intimidate -- try and
16 intimidate my father and my seven-year-
17 old nephew. Now, we need to do
18 something about this, because just like
19 the gentleman before me said,
20 everybody's got guns. And, you know,
21 when you're asked to leave our property
22 and you want to line up there on the
23 county road that's a public road and,

0218

1 When are we going to get our dogs back?
2 Well, you're going to get your dogs
3 back as soon as the game warden gets
4 here, get your information. But I
5 really hope y'all will take a look at
6 it and see about something about that
7 for us. Thank you.

8 MR. MOULTRIE: Did you report
9 that incident to the game warden in
10 that county?

11 MR. COX: Yes, sir. There's --

12 there should be several. You should
13 have several reports, at least five or
14 six.

15 MR. ANDRESS: Is that Mike
16 Pollard?

17 MR. COX: Yeah. John Davison
18 was the game warden.

19 MR. ANDRESS: John Davison.

20 MR. COX: He's very good. He's
21 a very good game warden. He's very
22 good.

23 MR. ANDRESS: I'll get more
0219

1 details on that.

2 MR. MOULTRIE: Very good.
3 Thank you. Next speaker will be Sybil
4 Deschaines.

5 MS. DESCHAINES: Can you hear
6 me from here?

7 MR. MOULTRIE: No, ma'am.
8 You'll have to approach the podium.

9 MS. DESCHAINES: You know it's
10 very difficult for me to be brief. And
11 as I've said, I'm only going to say a
12 few words today. How happy we are to
13 have this governor come back to serve
14 us again, how happy we are to have
15 Mr. Lawley to come back and serve us
16 again, and to welcome our new assistant
17 commissioner. And I would like very
18 much for this -- for our organization
19 and others in the audience to support
20 the new bill if -- when it comes before
21 the legislature on increase on license
22 fees. And I would like to see some of
23 it earmarked for enforcement officers.

0220

1 Thank you.

2 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
3 much. The next speaker will be Truman
4 Herren.

5 MR. HERREN: My name is Truman
6 Herren from Fayette County. I'm a
7 landowner. I'd just like to express my
8 concern about the volatile deer dog

9 hunting situation in Fayette County.
10 And in order to save time, I'd like to
11 defer the rest of that to Mr. Red
12 Harden. Thank you very much.
13 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
14 much. The next speaker will be Paul
15 Jeffreys.

16 MR. JEFFREYS: Good morning,
17 members of the board. My name is Paul
18 Jeffreys and I'm from Lamar County.
19 I'm coming to you today to thank you
20 for the deer season that you have set
21 in the northwest corner of Alabama in
22 Lamar, Marion, Franklin, and Lawrence
23 County -- I mean Winston County. This
0221

1 has been a hot area of interest in the
2 past, as you notice today. Our deer
3 hunting has improved in this area of
4 the state. It has never been better.
5 We ask that no changes be made to the
6 deer season in this area.

7 And on the second topic, the point
8 being is in 1995, I enrolled at
9 Mississippi State University and
10 changed my state of residence. On that
11 day, I bought an out-of-state lifetime
12 Alabama hunting license. I have never
13 had that hunting license checked. Some
14 people will say that I am lucky. I
15 don't think I'm lucky. That's like
16 buying a brand new rifle and never
17 getting to shoot a deer with it.

18 I think there's not enough game
19 wardens in the state. And I would like
20 to express my support for a hunting
21 license fee increase and for it to go
22 straight to our enforcement officers.
23 Our officers in Lamar County were very
0222

1 instrumental this season in
2 apprehending some offenders. And we
3 have excellent, excellent law
4 enforcement officers, but we need more
5 of them. And that's all I have to say.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
8 much. The next speaker will be Levi
9 Lastrapes.

10 MR. LASTRAPES: Good morning.
11 Thank you. I'd like to thank
12 Mr. Johnny Johnson and Mr. Wayne May
13 for coming by and looking at our
14 property. Mr. Aultman, we're
15 neighbors. We're having the same
16 problem, they're pulling my gates down,
17 they're running through us. Thank God
18 Mr. Pugh had a good report, nobody got
19 killed, but it's going to happen with
20 us. Thank you.

21 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
22 much. The next speaker will be Keith
23 McNaughton.

0223

1 MS. NUMMY: He had to go. He's
2 a coach. But he gave you all something
3 in the package.

4 MR. MOULTRIE: The next speaker
5 will be Dudley Reed.

6 MR. REED: Good morning. I am
7 Dudley Reed. I'm from Madison County.
8 I'm a leaseholder on about 1,000 acres
9 in Chambers County. I think the board
10 has heard quite a bit already about the
11 deer dog hunting. I've got a -- we
12 have a problem with that in our area.
13 Like I said, it's roughly 1,000 acres,
14 and the same old story, typically
15 they'll turn loose on around 300 acres
16 and let them run a whole area. This
17 year, John Keith Davison from that
18 county, we basically called him almost
19 every weekend. So as you can imagine,
20 there was very little peace.

21 Typically what would happen every
22 day, or every Saturday that I was in
23 there, the dogs would be turned loose

0224

1 on small acreage. They'd run them to
2 our area. We'd spend most of our time

3 catching dogs and calling the authority
4 and have them come and get them. I
5 didn't plant twenty-one green fields
6 and spend the money on 1,000 acres to
7 catch somebody's dogs.

8 I take my kids sometimes. I have
9 two little boys. I'm kind of concerned
10 for their safety. This one crew that
11 operates in that area, Union Hill Hunt
12 Club, has around twenty-five members.
13 I know that Mr. Davison probably wrote
14 them on the order of around eight
15 citations. And I'd just like to ask
16 the board to work with the folks in
17 District 4, Captain Hicks and John
18 Davison, to ensure that their permit is
19 not renewed next year and any other
20 year after that. That's all I have.

21 MR. MOULTRIE: Good. Thank
22 you, sir. Next speaker will be Adam
23 Schober.

0225

1 MR. SCHOBBER: Adam Schober. I
2 hunt in Fayette County. First of all,
3 I'd like to thank you all for the job
4 you do. I thank you for the
5 opportunity to speak. For fear of
6 repetition, there are quite a few
7 individuals here from Fayette County
8 who are having the same problems that
9 we have. You have a list of names who
10 attended the meeting last Sunday.

11 With respect to hunting deer with
12 dogs in Fayette County, we're being
13 threatened. We're being intimidated.
14 We're being interrupted. I spend
15 thousands of dollars annually. I
16 travel a long distance to hunt. Due to
17 a personal situation, I was not able to
18 see the woods a lot this year. But
19 more times than not I was interrupted
20 by the dogs and the dog hunters. What
21 I ask this advisory board is that you
22 assist these landowners or to help
23 these landowners hunt the land that

0226

1 they lease and that they own and that
2 they enjoy in the manner by which they
3 would like to do it, free of
4 intimidation, free of threats, and free
5 of interruption. Thank you.

6 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
7 much. Next speaker will be Mr. Joey
8 Stewart.

9 MR. STEWART: My name is Joey
10 Stewart. How are y'all doing this
11 afternoon? It's already about that
12 time. I would like to say that I'm
13 from Jasper, Alabama, which is in
14 Walker County. I hunt down towards
15 Oakland, which is around Berry. Half
16 my land is in Fayette and Walker
17 County. For the last six years, you
18 cannot go deer hunting without the dog
19 problem. We are constantly trying to
20 keep the dogs off our land. There's a
21 pretty big hunt club behind us that
22 moved in behind us. We have taught a
23 management program for twenty years,

0227

1 shoot a six point or better or eight
2 point or better. We have close to
3 fifteen acres of corn and soybean,
4 clover and wheat fields planted for our
5 deer. We want to shoot quality deer,
6 and it's kind of hard if you let a six
7 point or, for example, any kind of deer
8 that you don't shoot get shot on the
9 next land when you're trying to do
10 that.

11 My question was, too, how does the
12 dog hunting affect the deer breeding
13 and the rut? Because I hunt usually
14 three days a weekend. My job is Monday
15 through Thursday, so I'm in the woods a
16 pretty good bit, and I didn't see the
17 deer rut this year where we hunt at.
18 Does it affect the rut and the
19 breeding?

20 MR. MOULTRIE: That's another

21 good question that I'll jot down and
22 we'll make sure the committee gets a
23 hold of. That's a good question.

0228

1 MR. STEWART: Because --

2 MR. MOULTRIE: Gary, do you
3 have anything on that at present?

4 MR. MOODY: I don't.

5 MR. MOULTRIE: If you'll add
6 that to your list, please. I know that
7 we've had something for the turkey
8 season and not running dogs for certain
9 hours per day. I don't know if we need
10 to look at that on deer rut. That's an
11 excellent question.

12 MR. STEWART: I mean, when --
13 you know, every trophy is in the eye of
14 the beholder, but we put an awful lot
15 of work, and I'm sure everybody else
16 does, too, but we put an awful lot of
17 work in planting corn, soybeans, and it
18 seems like we're growing these deer for
19 someone else to run their dogs and
20 shoot. These deer are stressed out by
21 the end of the year. They see a
22 vehicle, they're gone. They see a
23 hunter, they're gone. They're totally

0229

1 stressed out. And I don't see how you
2 can have -- how you can actually have a
3 rut where we hunt at. I mean, I know
4 they're going to come in heat and
5 everything, but you do not see the
6 signs that we used to do when we first
7 got the hunting club seven years ago,
8 and it's totally gone. It's a constant
9 battle with dogs coming in and laying
10 down in the green field.

11 I'm a deer hunter. I'm a seasoned
12 bow hunter. That's all I do is bow
13 hunt. And like I said, it was six
14 years before I killed a rack of deer
15 down there.

16 MR. MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank
17 you very much. The next speaker will

18 be J.A. Tucker.

19 MS. NUMMY: They had to go.

20 MR. MOULTRIE: The next speaker
21 will be Beth Wine.

22 MS. NUMMY: She also had to go.

23 MR. MOULTRIE: The next speaker

0230

1 will be James C. Bingham.

2 MR. BINGHAM: Thank you for
3 allowing me to speak, Commissioner --
4 Honorable Commissioner Lawley, Chairman
5 Moultrie, and the conservation advisory
6 board and conservation law enforcement
7 officers. I come to you here today to
8 tell you that you have in your packet a
9 letter from -- I am James C. Bingham
10 from Colbert County. You have a
11 letter, I think, where we passed on
12 January 11, 2007, to ask to keep dog
13 hunting and all other game like they
14 are in our county. To our knowledge,
15 this was voted on through a motion and
16 second unanimously by the commission.
17 We got six county commissioners to keep
18 that. I believe Dr. Strickland maybe
19 you got a letter from the sheriff, too.
20 I don't know what it was. I think he's
21 in north. He hasn't had any problems.
22 We've had no complaints come through
23 our county commission. We'd like to
0231

1 keep it, if possible. I'd like to ask
2 a question, if I may.

3 MR. MOULTRIE: Go ahead.

4 MR. BINGHAM: I'd like to know,
5 if you have an answer to it, how many
6 people bought residential hunting
7 license in the year 2000 to this date?

8 MR. MOULTRIE: 2006 or year
9 2000?

10 MR. BINGHAM: I want to know
11 how many bought them in 2000 --

12 MR. LAWLEY: A six-year
13 comparison. We've got it, but I don't
14 have it with me.

15 MR. MOODY: There hasn't been
16 an appreciable difference.

17 MR. BINGHAM: There has been a
18 decrease.

19 MR. LAWLEY: It's been a
20 decrease.

21 MR. BINGHAM: I challenge y'all
22 to -- something's not right. I don't
23 know what it is. We don't -- in our
0232

1 area, we hunt deer and we exercise. We
2 run them with dogs. We don't have a
3 problem with them not coming back.
4 Ours come back. And they don't leave
5 the county. We kill some good deer.
6 But I just think y'all need to seek
7 provisions, try to treat everybody
8 similar, let everybody hunt by their
9 choice.

10 And I believe that you can get
11 these hunting license up whatever you
12 want to increase. I know -- I'm a
13 Colbert County Commissioner, and I know
14 you got budgets to meet. But I think
15 that you can get a lot more people to
16 hunt and buy a license and get this
17 thing back going in a sound way. I
18 know we're just not headed in the
19 direction some way. There's too much
20 diversity. And I know people misuse
21 their judgment on -- all type hunters,
22 but we've got a good state here and I
23 think we need to look at our provisions
0233

1 and maybe come back and -- let some of
2 these counties that don't have dogs
3 hunt them. Give them a chance, an
4 opportunity to try it. Give them an
5 opportunity. We're not having that
6 trouble. And I don't know -- we're
7 adjoining counties up in north Alabama
8 and I don't know why they're having
9 that trouble like that. We just don't
10 have that type trouble, and we're
11 thankful for that.

12 But, you know, we lost some
13 hunting, I know, when the Forever Wild
14 come in and bought all that land in
15 Colbert County. We lost a lot of dog
16 hunting in that area. I think you
17 ought to look at all that.

18 Another thing we got is these deer
19 pens. Some states now out west
20 beginning -- I'm sure y'all are aware
21 of it. But I heard something about
22 they're talking about -- I think one
23 state might be trying to abandon
0234

1 that, using pen for the deer. I know I
2 owned a piece of property I sold nine
3 years ago to a man, a group of people,
4 I guess --

5 MS. NUMMY: All right. Coming
6 up on time.

7 MR. BINGHAM: Okay. Thank you.
8 I just wanted to tell you there's been
9 a lot of deer (inaudible) in that pen,
10 though.

11 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
12 Mr. Bingham. Next speaker is Randall
13 Carlton.

14 MR. CARLTON: Randall Carlton,
15 Coosa County, Hatchet Creek Hunting
16 Club. We've been on the dog permit
17 system for years, also the doe tags.
18 We've killed fifty does or more. We
19 take the (inaudible) out of the does
20 and the bucks. We all had problems
21 with them, so we cut a tube off, let
22 the game warden, if he needs to look at
23 them or not. It was just a hassle, doe
0235

1 tags were.

2 But the main thing is that we still
3 have a problem with our dogs running
4 off our hunt club. We got 12,000 acres
5 that we run dogs on. We hunted in
6 five, six different sections. We just
7 hunt on Saturdays and Sundays and
8 Wednesdays. We don't run them every

9 day on the club. We still have
10 problems with a landowner. We got two
11 complaints this year that I know of
12 right now. One folk said we was
13 running all the quail off the property
14 with our dogs.

15 We may turn eighty dogs loose at
16 one time, and naturally there's going
17 to be two or three dogs that gets off
18 the property. And I can turn mine
19 loose. I've got five hounds I turn
20 loose. I guarantee you three of them
21 is going to be back where I turn them
22 loose if somebody don't catch them.
23 I'm not saying they're going to stay on
0236

1 our hunt club. But they're going to
2 come back to where I turn them loose.
3 I told the game warden I'll meet with
4 these landowners anytime, anywhere,
5 just let me know. They're supposed to
6 be setting up a meeting with them.

7 The first complaint we had, later
8 on he said, I don't know what you done,
9 but no problems now with your dogs. We
10 didn't do nothing different. We just
11 kept hunting. The deer just didn't go
12 across the property. A deer is not
13 going to run the same trail every time
14 you turn them loose, the dogs.

15 A lot of our dogs has tracking
16 collars on them and we -- on our dog
17 permits, we're required to have no
18 loaded guns in the vehicle on a public
19 road. That's on our dog permit. And
20 we have been checked. Nobody's been
21 wrote up this year for it. But if we
22 have to get on a county road to catch
23 our dog or somebody's dog when they
0237

1 cross on the county road, and one of
2 these complaints is the fellow that
3 owns land beside this county road is
4 griping at us for catching our dogs.
5 We're not letting them out at the road.

6 But we have to -- we're trying to get
7 our dogs off his property. Like I
8 said, it might not be but two or three
9 dogs a day. It's hard to keep
10 everybody satisfied, is what I'm
11 saying.

12 I'm just asking -- we've been --
13 this past three months we've been in
14 business hunting since 1963, it
15 started.

16 MS. NUMMY: Time.

17 MR. CARLTON: Thank you.

18 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
19 Mr. Carlton. Next speaker is John
20 Dover.

21 MR. DOVER: Thank you, sir. My
22 name is John Dover. I'm from Berry in
23 Fayette County. I've been elected by a
0238

1 small group out there to speak for
2 them. I'm a landowner and a cattle
3 farmer and a dog deer hunter. I've
4 hunted my local area and I have my
5 neighbors. We all try to be good
6 neighbors. But good neighbors mean
7 that everybody tries to get along with
8 everybody else, you know. When you
9 have a problem, you come to your
10 neighbors and you try to resolve it.
11 When you have rogue hunters -- and you
12 have them on both sides. You have
13 people spotlighting. You got people
14 that road hunt, whether they're a dog
15 hunter or not.

16 We've got a law enforcement issue.
17 In the ten years -- for the last ten
18 years in Fayette County, I can count on
19 one hand the game wardens out there
20 driving down the highway. And I hear
21 we have no law enforcement presence.
22 If you have a law enforcement issue,
23 then you need to have a law enforcement
0239

1 officer to enforce it.

2 You know, this has been a

3 traditional method of hunting. It's
4 how I was introduced as a young man,
5 get out in the wild, you get off the
6 couch, you know. If you wasn't doing
7 something else -- it is a group
8 participation.

9 I have a short letter I would like
10 to read to you. To whom it may
11 concern: The J.C. Shepherd Family
12 Partnership is the sole owner of 9,000
13 plus acres in Fayette/Tuscaloosa/Walker
14 County area. The partnership of J.C.
15 Shepherd Family Partnership owns
16 properties. The land is -- this
17 partnership is open to permit hunting
18 only. No one outside the J.C. Shepherd
19 Partnership has a voice input on the
20 property and how it should be hunted.
21 The land will be up for lease in 2008
22 for hunting purposes. The J.C.
23 Shepherd Family Partnership members can
0240

1 hunt and have a dog. David Shepherd,
2 the Shepherd Family Trust.

3 Like I said, I own land in
4 Tuscaloosa County myself. I own around
5 300 acres. Also, when I arrived here
6 today, Mr. Bill Cook, you've already
7 heard from him, Fayette County and the
8 City of Berry, is apparently inviting
9 everyone to a public meeting here for
10 everyone to discuss the pros and cons
11 of dog hunting at two o'clock Sunday,
12 February 28. I'd like to invite you,
13 Commissioner, to attend. I intend to
14 attend myself.

15 MR. LAWLEY: Give me the time
16 and date.

17 MR. DOVER: Two o'clock Sunday,
18 February 18, (inaudible) Berry,
19 Alabama.

20 MR. LAWLEY: Is that extended
21 to all members of the board?

22 MR. DOVER: It's extended to
23 all members.

0241

1 MS. NUMMY: Time.
2 MR. MOULTRIE: We'll allow an
3 extension to him, Robin.
4 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This
5 meeting is open to the public, to
6 anyone. I invite all the board to
7 attend to hear what the citizens of
8 Fayette County, regardless hunting with
9 dogs, against hunting with dogs.
10 That's what it's about, find out which
11 one we're going to do. Apparently we
12 can't do both.
13 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
14 much. We won't have any comments from
15 the floor, please. The next speaker
16 will be Charles Drummond.
17 MR. DRUMMOND: Good afternoon.
18 I'm Charles Drummond from Talladega,
19 Alabama. I'm a landowner. I have a
20 problem with dog hunting. I can't hunt
21 my own land. I got a road that has
22 about 60 acres between me and the road.
23 They drop them off at the road and run

0242

1 through me. Then I have a road on the
2 other side which goes up between my
3 property and some more property, and I
4 can't even take my grandsons over
5 there. I've had confrontations with
6 them. They shoot everything that
7 moves. I used to go out on my property
8 and see ten or twelve deer every time I
9 went out there. I didn't see the first
10 deer until a week after hunting season
11 went out this year. So it's a big
12 problem. I appreciate it.
13 MR. LAWLEY: Where in
14 Talladega?
15 MR. DRUMMOND: Talladega.
16 MR. LAWLEY: Where?
17 MR. DRUMMOND: The Renfroe area
18 down close between Talladega and
19 Childersburg.
20 MR. MOULTRIE: I'm quite

21 familiar with the area.

22 MR. DRUMMOND: I'd appreciate

23 it if y'all would give some

0243

1 consideration for it. I bought it

2 about seventeen years ago to hunt on,

3 me and the grandkids and my family.

4 I've fought this -- well, I retired

5 about four years ago and I got where I

6 could hunt pretty good. And I've

7 talked to these people, I've had the

8 game warden down there, and still every

9 Saturday, every Sunday -- I don't hunt

10 on Sunday because of church, but I know

11 they're down there on Sunday. Every

12 Sunday I go there after church and

13 they're over there. They hunt every

14 day, run dogs across my property.

15 MR. MOULTRIE: Very good.

16 Thank you, Mr. Drummond. The next

17 speaker will be Phillip Ferrell.

18 MR. STEWART: Mr. Ferrell had

19 to leave early and I will speak for

20 him.

21 MR. MOULTRIE: Pardon?

22 MR. STEWART: Mr. Ferrell had

23 to leave to go to a business trip to

0244

1 Orlando. I'm David Stewart and I'll

2 speak for him in a few minutes. I've

3 got my name on that list.

4 MR. MOULTRIE: All right. Very

5 good. The next speaker is Red Harden.

6 MR. HARDEN: Gentlemen, I

7 appreciate the opportunity to speak

8 with you this morning and I appreciate

9 what you all do. I know that it's a

10 thankless job. But I'm here on behalf

11 of some folks from Fayette County and I

12 can speak for them. Some of them have

13 already spoken, some of them have had

14 to leave. I'm also speaking for the

15 silent majority in Fayette County. I'm

16 a landowner in Fayette County and I

17 hunt there. And the silent majority in

18 Fayette County is the group that's been
19 intimidated to the point where they're
20 fearful of coming forward to voice
21 their animus as to what is happening to
22 them from dog deer hunters. In other
23 words, they are fearful of bodily harm,
0245

1 property destruction, destruction of
2 livestock, destruction. They will not
3 come forward. And there are many, many
4 of them out there that we don't hear
5 about. But if you went down each road
6 and talked to them, they would tell you
7 what kind of problems they have and
8 they're scared to death.

9 Now, that being said, this is a
10 problem that has been around a while.
11 I guess the first time in '98, and
12 since that time the problems continue
13 to fester and it has now gone to a
14 point where it's unattainable. It's
15 been a complete deprivation of our
16 property rights by the dog deer
17 hunters. And, you know, we're sitting
18 on a powder keg and we need help. The
19 only place we know to come get that
20 help is y'all.

21 And we're here today to give you
22 our opinion of what is to be done, and
23 that is a request that you grant a full
0246

1 countywide ban on deer dog hunting in
2 Fayette County. We don't see any other
3 way around it. It's that bad there.
4 For y'all who were there on the 4th in
5 Samantha, you heard some of the things.
6 The meeting for the 18th, I have had
7 the Fayette Times Record, asked them to
8 make a public service announcement so
9 that will be in the paper so that we
10 are notifying everyone in Fayette
11 County, whether they are pro or con in
12 regard to dog hunting, and they have
13 the to opportunity to come. And we
14 would like as many of y'all come, if

15 you would like. And it will be at
16 Billy Cook's equipment shop there in
17 Berry, and it will be at two o'clock on
18 the 18th, which is a week from Sunday.
19 MR. MOULTRIE: Can you provide
20 Robin this week the date of that
21 meeting and time so that she can send
22 it to all the board?

23 MR. LAWLEY: And a map?

0247

1 MS. NUMMY: I'll call you.
2 MR. HARDEN: That being said,
3 that is my mission today. I want to
4 also compliment Johnny Johnson --
5 Captain Johnny Johnson and their group,
6 particularly (inaudible) Warden Stevens
7 who have been very responsive to our
8 needs. I am certainly a supporter of
9 the increase in hunting fees. We need
10 them. Everybody needs them throughout
11 the state. We hope to see you next
12 meeting.

13 MR. MOULTRIE: I want to
14 commend you all in Fayette County and
15 the people that have spoken for having
16 that meeting. We'll do everything we
17 can do to be there. That's the way you
18 solve problems.

19 MR. HARDEN: The only way that
20 we can find out if there is a solution
21 is to talk and hear both sides of the
22 story. We don't see a solution other
23 than a full county-wide ban, but we're

0248

1 willing to talk. That's what the
2 meeting is for.

3 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
4 much. The next speaker will be Don
5 Knight.

6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Can I
7 address something on that, his
8 comments?

9 MR. MOULTRIE: No comments from
10 the floor.

11 MR. KNIGHT: I am Don Knight.

12 I live in Anniston, hunt in Barbour
13 County. I'm the state president of the
14 Alabama Dog Hunters Association. I was
15 intending to come down here today with
16 a beautiful story of a trophy hunting
17 season I had this year which included
18 no antlers or horns. We had several
19 young people kill some really nice deer
20 this year. We had a thirteen year old
21 kill a ten point, another thirteen year
22 old killed a nine. We had a ten year
23 old kill his first deer; it was a doe.

0249

1 I don't think anybody was any more
2 proud of a ten point or anything else
3 than that kid was of that doe.
4 When you see kids getting
5 together -- we had an increase this
6 year coming to our camp. We had a
7 father, a son, and his nephew and a
8 friend come up the second week of the
9 season because the father's son was
10 fifteen years old and he said he knew
11 he was going to lose him before long
12 because he was going to be in the car
13 and be all around. They wanted to join
14 our club. They did. To make a long
15 story short, before the season was
16 over, there was ten of them driving up
17 from Dothan to hunt with us every
18 weekend, fathers and sons. This is
19 just to show you, to me that is a
20 trophy season. I couldn't have killed
21 a big enough deer to make up for seeing
22 these fathers and sons hunting
23 together. I couldn't have killed a big

0250

1 enough deer to see that kid kill his
2 first deer and my grandsons kill their
3 first deer. This is what hunting is
4 supposed to be all about, not all this
5 fighting and feuding that we're doing.
6 Now, we totally want to support the
7 law. We want to support -- if there's
8 an individual causing the problem, put

9 him in jail. I don't care if it's a
10 dog hunter or a non-dog hunter. We
11 have had enough problems on our land
12 with non-dog hunters because we are a
13 dog hunting club. As y'all have heard
14 me say before, they burnt down our
15 church that was built since the 1800s.
16 They come in there and they tear up our
17 roads. They build a fire right there
18 in the middle of the road. We have
19 picked up as many as 300 beer cans and
20 bottles from public roads because we
21 know we're going to get blamed for it.
22 The sheriff came -- and to show you
23 what some of our problem is about your
0251

1 youth hunting, sheriff came in on our
2 request and arrested a bunch of them.
3 Eighteen of them, from the information
4 I have, underage drinkers. This
5 doesn't have anything to do with
6 hunting, but it's affecting our club.
7 But the sheriff is doing all he can.
8 What happened? The majority of the
9 parents called and cussed out the
10 sheriff. You want to know what's wrong
11 with our youth and what's causing a lot
12 of our hunting problems, it's the
13 parents. We need to stand up and find
14 out some way to reach the parents of
15 these kids.

16 And that's what made that so
17 important this year with those groups
18 coming up from Dothan and Eufaula to
19 hunt with us, the fact that the kids
20 need to be out there hunting somewhere.
21 Don't punish a method of hunting.
22 Don't do that. That's wrong. Take
23 care of the individuals. We support
0252

1 the license increase. We don't support
2 going into February -- let me rephrase
3 that. Some of our club does. Some of
4 our association does support that. I
5 don't. I want our rabbit hunters, our

6 squirrel hunters and all them to have
7 their season.

8 MR. MOULTRIE: As a club, do
9 y'all support it or not support it?

10 MR. KNIGHT: As a club, we do
11 not support it. We don't support going
12 in February. You know, you had one
13 fellow who stand up here -- and I'm not
14 going to get on anybody -- talking
15 about not seeing the signs of dogs come
16 through. We dog hunt this land
17 thirty-something years. We're killing
18 nice deer. That ten point that the kid
19 killed was a 200-pound deer. We have
20 them all the time. We're doing
21 something right to manage our herd. We
22 feed them legally with planted green
23 fields. We don't leave corn out or
0253

1 anything like that. And after the dog
2 season goes out, we have a six point or
3 better. You just don't shoot them. We
4 don't shoot does after the dog season
5 goes out.

6 So I just want to say I'll try to
7 make that meeting in Fayette -- I mean
8 in Berry. And I think that's a great
9 opportunity and we appreciate them
10 setting that up. I hope you can be
11 there. If there's anything we can do
12 or any questions, please let me know.

13 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you. Next
14 speaker will be Paul Koster.

15 MR. KOSTER: We're Old Liberty
16 Hunting Club in Fayette County. We're
17 a dog hunting club. And some of these
18 people that's in Fayette County that's
19 against dog hunting, they haven't been
20 over to the hunting club or they'd
21 enjoy it. We have a lot of members.
22 And if we lose our dog hunting in
23 Fayette County, we're going to lose a
0254

1 lot of hunters. That's a lot of state
2 licenses, hunting licenses. But I'm

3 here to represent the club to see -- to
4 try to keep our dog hunting.
5 We don't have any complaints, that
6 I know of, where we hunt. We've got to
7 hunt around 4,000 acres. We got some
8 good neighbors. We don't have a
9 problem. I think if you do away with
10 dog hunting, that you'll have a lot of
11 outlaw hunters worse than it is now. I
12 think it will get worse. But I'd just
13 like to see -- try to keep dog hunting
14 in Fayette County, myself.

15 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you very
16 much. And the final speaker will be
17 Wynnton Melton.

18 MS. NUMMY: We've got Dave
19 Stewart for the gentleman that wasn't
20 here. And I believe this gentleman
21 wanted to question something.

22 MR. MOULTRIE: Okay. Wynnton,
23 go ahead and we'll let David Stewart
0255

1 follow you.

2 MR. MELTON: Wynnton Melton,
3 Geneva County. I'm sorry I wasn't the
4 last individual to talk. The word
5 "final" had a good ring to a lot of
6 ears out here. But, anyway, thank you
7 for the opportunity. I have two quick
8 points I'd like to make. One, I'm
9 certainly not a biologist, but I am an
10 educator. And I know that when you get
11 into when you have more variables in
12 the situation than you have control,
13 then management has a problem; and
14 that's certainly true in game
15 management. But I came across here an
16 old game inventory of Alabama in 1939
17 to 1941. It was supposed to go a
18 little longer, but World War II cut it
19 short. And sometimes you need to
20 document some of the things you say.
21 According to this, extensive inventory
22 was made and we had between fourteen
23 and 16,000 deer in the state of Alabama

0256

1 in 1940. Thirty-five counties had zero
2 deer; another, about fifteen, had less
3 than twenty. The largest deer
4 population, in Sumter County, had
5 3,500; Baldwin was second with 2,000.
6 There wasn't a lot of deer as far as
7 trends and interest, which I think is
8 important in everything.

9 Forty-two pages were dedicated to
10 quail, fifteen to beaver, and eight to
11 whitetail deer. I think it's obvious
12 here today the trend has definitely
13 changed. Deer is the high-interest
14 game in the state of Alabama. It might
15 not have always been that way. We may
16 not have a deer management plan, but I
17 want to commend all these folks over
18 here and all of you all for bringing
19 two million deer to the state of
20 Alabama in the last sixty-seven years.
21 That is some good accomplishment, I
22 think.

23 Now, as far as -- I am a lifelong

0257

1 advocate on the legal and ethical
2 handler. That's what I like. I've
3 always enjoyed the dog. In Geneva
4 County, we have a permit system. I
5 hope it's working. I hear that things
6 are pretty good. They may not be
7 excellent. The way we did ours --
8 Mr. Coles came to our meeting -- and we
9 took a small group of about five -- I'm
10 not going to say landowners. I'm going
11 to say beginners, because we had about
12 five dog hunters that owned about
13 12,000 acres, and beginners owned about
14 500 acres. But we sat down and we
15 hammered out an agreement that seems to
16 be working pretty well. As long as
17 three (inaudible) takes place anywhere
18 on this planet, whether it's in England
19 with all the controversy of the fox
20 hunting, whether it's in Afghanistan

21 with the Taliban, the first thing they
22 did when they came in was stopped all
23 hunting with dogs, whether it's in
0258

1 Geneva County, there will be some
2 conflict between a hound crossing
3 property all throughout the country
4 with coon hunters and fox hunters,
5 coyote hunters and bobcat hunters,
6 cougar hunters, bear hunters, there's
7 going to be some conflict.

8 MS. NUMMY: Time.

9 MR. MELTON: But it can be
10 reduced greatly. Now, we did ours in a
11 small group. A small group worked well
12 for us in Henry County. We tried to do
13 it in a large group, and I don't know
14 if they're here or not, but we had one
15 group over here, one group over here, I
16 was there by the telephone. The game
17 warden did a tremendous job. It worked
18 well for us to have small groups to
19 hammer out pretty rigid regulations and
20 then to really, really push our hunters
21 to go by those regulations and not just
22 to make a ploy to keep hunting but make
23 it a general interest to take care of
0259

1 all the needs of people in Geneva
2 County. Thank you very much.

3 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
4 Mr. Melton. And the final speaker will
5 be David Stewart.

6 MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman,
7 Commissioner Lawley, and members of the
8 board, I'm David Stewart from Pike
9 County. I own a place in northeast
10 Pike County. Mr. Ferrell was here this
11 morning earlier and he owns some land
12 just separated only by another plot of
13 land that belongs to our neighbor. I'm
14 here this morning to propose that dog
15 hunting be abolished in Pike County.
16 I bought this land nineteen years
17 ago to hunt and fish and enjoy the

18 outdoors. About eighteen years ago, I
19 appeared before this board with the
20 same recommendation, and since then we
21 have endured dog hunting. We've just
22 endured it. This year was the worse
23 we've ever had. We were just inundated
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1 by dogs all year long. Dogs were left
2 in the woods. We saw little activity
3 at all in our green fields that we
4 spent the money to plant and saw very
5 little activity during the hunting
6 hours. We saw absolutely zero deer,
7 zero, until late in the season. We did
8 get three little deer. My nephew, who
9 is in the Army, had just come home from
10 Iraq after eighteen months and he
11 killed a spike, somebody else killed a
12 small doe, and somebody else killed
13 another spike, all of them first-time
14 hunters. And we enjoyed that.

15 The dogs are left in the woods
16 after the season is over. We've taken
17 care of dogs all year long. After the
18 season if the dog would come up to the
19 house, we'd make a pet out of it and
20 take them to the vet and get all their
21 shots and then come deer season next
22 year the dog would be gone. They would
23 pick them up with their dogs and take
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1 off again.
2 There's no need for us to even
3 think about a deer management program
4 in our area, no need whatsoever. I
5 bought the land, like I said, to enjoy.
6 My general plan is first wildlife and
7 hunting, fishing, and then timber. But
8 there's no need in us having a
9 management program down there. There's
10 just no need to even begin to try. I
11 believe we could do that if we didn't
12 have the dog hunters. Dog hunting is
13 ruining the enjoyment we have in our
14 property that we have the right to

15 enjoy. And we just appreciate you
16 hearing us this morning. Thank you.
17 MR. MOULTRIE: Thank you,
18 Mr. Stewart.

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1 *****
2 SELECTION OF LOCATION
3 FOR MARCH 10, 2007 MEETING
4 *****

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6 MR. MOULTRIE: The next order
7 of business is the announcement of the
8 next advisory board meeting. It will
9 be in Spanish Fort at The Five Rivers
10 facility on March 10, 2007. This
11 hearing is adjourned.

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1 * * * * *
2 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
3 * * * * *
4 STATE OF ALABAMA
5 COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

6 I hereby certify that the above
7 and foregoing proceeding was taken down
8 by me by stenographic means, and that
9 the content herein was produced in
10 transcript form by computer aid under
11 my supervision, and that the foregoing

12 represents, to the best of my ability,
13 a true and correct transcript of the
14 proceedings occurring on said date at
15 said time.

16 I further certify that I am
17 neither of counsel nor of kin to the
18 parties to the action; nor am I in
19 anywise interested in the result of
20 said case.

21
22

23 Bridgette Mitchell
Reporter and Notary Public