STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
ALABAMA AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES
RICHARD BEARD BUILDING
Montgomery, Alabama
March 1, 2014

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Proceedings taken before Tracey
Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR
No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama
at Large, at the Richard Beard Auditorium, 1445
Federal Drive, Montgomery, Alabama, on Saturday,
March 1, 2014, commencing at approximately
9:00 a.m.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Chairman
Mr. John McMillan
Mr. Bill Hatley
Dr. Bob Shipp
Mr. Austin Ainsworth
Dr. Warren Strickland
Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
Mr. Grady Hartzog
Dr. Gary Lemme
Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.
Mr. T. J. Bunn, Jr.
Mr. Jeff Martin

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CHAIRMAN GUY: I'd like to call to
order our March 1, 2014, meeting of the
Conservation Advisory Board.

First of all, welcome to everyone.
And I will be chairing today in the
absence of Dan Moultrie. Dan had a
family matter come up that prevented him
from being here, and he apologizes to
everyone. But hopefully we can do a
good job in his absence.

And if everybody will bear with us
today, we have a lot of people to
speak. I know we want to hear from
everyone that we can. And we're going
to try to move as quickly as we can
through the board agenda.

One thing I would like to say is
that I want to thank Commissioner John
McMillan for letting us use the facility
today. Thank you very much,
Commissioner McMillan.

You know, usually we have it over at
the Capitol. A number of reasons -- for
a number of reasons -- Ms. Jones and I
did the best we could to get a meeting
scheduled over there, but the
legislature came in session. And
Mr. McMillan and the Agriculture and
Industries folks were gracious enough to
let us have it here. So we appreciate
that.

All right. So with that, I would
like to call on Mr. Joey Dobbs to give
our invocation today. Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: Bow your heads.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for
this day. Be with our friends and
family as they move through this life.
Bless this group that's here today. See
to their safe travels home. Lead us all
as stewards, Lord. Bless our troops
that have provided the freedoms that we
enjoy. Thank you for your bounty. In
Christ's name we pray, Amen.

(Crowd responds.)

CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. At this time, for the
benefit of everyone here, I would like
for everyone at the table up here on the
board to introduce themselves and what
district they represent. And,

DR. SHIPP: I'm Bob Shipp, District 1, and I'm
primarily a fish guy. I don't know too
much about the rest of it, but I know my
fish.
MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, District 4.

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

DR. LEMME: Gary Lemme, ex-officio director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.

MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, District 5.

DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland, Congressional District 5.

MR. MARTIN: Jeff Martin, District 3.

MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, District 2.

MR. HATLEY: Bill Hatley, District 1.

MR. McMILLAN: John McMillan, Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries.

And let me tell you all something you might be interested in. Any of you that are interested, down at the Coliseum this weekend there's a big Alabama Horse Fair going on. So if any of you want to see some pretty horses and some interesting people, I encourage you to stop by.

MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, District 6.

CHAIRMAN GUY: And I'm Gunter Guy, the Commissioner of Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the State of Alabama.

Our first item of business is approval of the minutes of the last meeting. Those minutes were in your packet.

I would like to -- I would like to note a correction. In there on page 140, line 3 -- y'all might remember there was a young man named Kenny Guy at the last meeting. And the court reporter got Kenny Guy and Commissioner Guy confused a couple of times, and we got most of them changed.

But if you would change that, Tracey, on page 140, line 3. I think it should be Gunter -- Commissioner Guy as opposed to Kenny Guy.

Were there any other corrections to the minutes of the last board meeting?

MR. HATLEY: Move for approval.

CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Motion for approval. All in favor say "aye".

(All board members present respond "aye").

CHAIRMAN GUY: Board minutes are approved as noted.

All right. The next item of business will be -- will come under Commissioner's comments, but at this time I'm going to call on Director Chuck Sykes of our Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries division to make a presentation to the board and to the members of the public. Director Sykes.

And if you would like to, I think we're going to have to move down so that you can see the screen.

MR. SYKES: Can everybody hear me, or do I need to get a mic?

(Crowd responds.)

MR. SYKES: All right. Can y'all hear me now?

(Crowd responds.)

MR. SYKES: In an effort to try to answer what I feel is going to be a large portion of the questions that we've got today, we thought it would be better to do a short PowerPoint like the Commissioner did last year. So hopefully this will expedite the meeting today. I'm just going to touch on some of the -- what we feel are the most appropriate changes that people are going to have questions about this year.

The first one is the reduction of the antlerless bag limit from two does per day to one doe per day statewide. If y'all will remember last year, we did that in north Alabama. We had no complaints on that. It went off without a hitch.

This is just an attempt to respond to the desires of the hunting public that's been talking to our biologists, all of our staff. And I've traveled pretty much throughout the state and had the same thing brought to my attention, that a lot of the hunters out there feel
like the deer numbers are not where they need to be and we need to start by reducing the antlerless bag limit. There will still be an opportunity for landowners who feel that they need to harvest more than one doe per day. You can sign up for the Deer Management Assistance Program. It’s free of charge. Get a plan written up and you can harvest up to three antlerless deer per day. So this is not limiting the private landowner with their management program that need to harvest more antlerless deer. That is just a statewide reduction, but we’re still giving you that opportunity.

Another big topic was our February deer season shift that we had this year. Since 1995 more than 2500 deer have been sampled. We really stepped it up last year, and approximately 500 were taken in 2013. From all indications, the season was a success in southwest Alabama.

So last year this is the data that we had to work with. Each one of those dots represents a sample where antlerless deer were taken. Necropsies were performed. Fetal studies were done to check the average conception date of deer in those areas. That's the zone that we tested last year. It mirrors Mississippi's February zone that they've had for a couple of years. And, again, from all indications it was a success.

The 2013 data, you can see there's quite a few more dots popped up. Our challenge to our staff last year was to sample every county south of Highway 80, two spots per county. Like I said, we sampled almost 500 deer last year. The summary of the data is pretty convincing. South of Highway 80 a little over a thousand deer have been sampled during the study. The average conception date is January the 28th.

North of Highway 80 about 1300 deer have been sampled. Conception date average is January the 11th. Once you get over near the Chattahoochee Valley, the sample size is smaller. It's 300. But the average conception date is around December the 30th. So you can see that unlike any other place in the country, we have got quite a bit of variation from county to county, region to region as to the average rut time in the state.

The black line right here represents Highway 80. So you can see where most of the samples were taken this year. This coming season we plan to shoot intensively up through this region. There's only so many hours in a day and only so much time that our staff can get to this. So south of 80 is where we placed the highest priority last year. This year we will be shooting hard right in here, right in here on those areas where we can try to clean those lines up a little bit, and then we will be moving our collections northward.

The recommendations for the February -- or for deer season this year, the state will be broken down into two zones, Zone A and Zone B. In an attempt to fine-tune those boundary lines, as I pointed out, along the Chattahoochee Valley, our staff will be harvesting deer over the next month, prior to the next board meeting, where we can try to make those lines as clean and precise as we can. But y'all keep in mind, there's no way we're going to be able to get it 100 percent accurate.

We're having to look at large road systems, large river systems, a clearcut boundary where our officers know where the line is and where the hunters know where the line is. So we're never going to be able to make everybody happy, but we're trying to do the best we can.
Archery season in Zone A, which is going to be predominantly north Alabama, is going to be the traditional season, October the 15th through January the 31st; firearms season, November the 22nd through January the 13th -- I mean, 31st. I'm sorry.

Zone B, which will have the February extension, archery season will come in ten days later just like it did this year, October the 25th. It will run through February the 10th. Firearms season will come in November the 22nd, run through November the 30th, shut down the 1st through the 10th, then come back in the 11th and run through February the 10th.

We are recommending dog season go through the 25th instead of the 15th as it has traditionally. So just like we told everybody last year, it was a test. It worked. Conception data showed the rut was later. So we're proposing you get your ten days added on just like we said.

Here's what the map will look like. Zone A is in north Alabama that comes down the Chattahoochee River right here. And, again, we will be shooting this heavily in an attempt to fine-tune these lines, and then our collection will start moving north where we can see if we need to move it even further north for next year.

There's a blowup of the area over along that Chattahoochee River. We're just trying to -- these are the best boundaries that we have right now. Hopefully over the next month, before the next board meeting, we're targeting areas right in here where perhaps we can be a little more precise.

Some miscellaneous changes for this year. The United States Forest Service has requested a reduction in a daily bag limit on their property to one deer per day -- not a buck and a doe per day or not two does per day. Just one deer.

The remainder of Morgan County will be open to spring turkey season. There will be less than a one-percent increase in the CPI for all hunting licenses.

The bag limit on quail was reduced from 12 to eight due to population declines. This does not apply to preserves.

A special permit will be created to allow landowners to trap raccoons and possums for wildlife management purposes. It will be similar to our hog permit system that we have now.

And if y'all will remember the last board meeting of 2013, Mr. Jeff Martin made a proposal to reinstate 20 days of fall turkey season for 2013 and '14 seasons as well as '14 and '15. So, therefore, we made no recommendations for changes for the fall turkey season this year. It will be just like it was last year with the 20 days.

Just wanted to throw some population facts out there because a lot of numbers are getting thrown around right now as far as our turkey population goes. One thing I want you to understand, that 5,000 estimate -- population estimate was gained from data prior to 2006, published in 2009. These numbers were not scientifically-based. They were based on anecdotal data for habitat types.

Hunters across the state, just as with the deer numbers, have been expressing concern to us that turkey numbers are lower than what they have been. So in an attempt to look at that, our concerns were validated in our 2013 brood survey which showed our recruitment rate was the lowest it's been in the past 24 years.

With that being said, our division
has formed a turkey committee that is working with Auburn University to explore some standardized methods to measure turkey productivity and abundance in Alabama. And Alabama is also participating in a multistate research project with Georgia with Dr. Mike Chamberlain. Because that decline is not just in Alabama. We’re hearing that throughout the Southeast that turkey numbers are declining. And, finally, wildlife rehabilitation permits. Again, y’all remember at the last board meeting we had a discussion that we would work with the rehab facilities within the state and try to come up with revised policies and procedures. After many meetings and several discussions, we have developed a new policy that will allow the rehab of rabies vector species for one facility per district. So that will be five statewide.

We have a dedicated employee on staff that is a rehab owner herself. She will be working with our department, working with rehab facilities throughout the state to set up standard practices and procedures where it can be monitored. The new policies require the rehabilitators to adhere to the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association’s caging and confinement standards and also require pre-exposure shots to handle rabies vectors.

Thank you for your time and for coming today. I hope this answered a lot of the questions that we’re going to have today. Thank you.

Board, y’all can go back upstairs.

CHAIRMAN GUY: I want to thank Director Sykes for making that presentation to everyone. I hope that gives a little clarification to some of the issues that we will be looking at between now and the next meeting. As you know, we’re going to listen to everyone’s comments. We’re going to take in those comments over the -- between now and the next meeting, you know, before we actually have the board take up any motions on that.

I want to let everybody know that the conception data that he mentioned earlier in his presentation for the deer fetal studies, that is on the Website, Outdooralabama.com. Everyone can go to the Website and look at that information. I know the screen was kind of small today. If you desire to do that, it shows everything that he presented today.

In addition to that, I’m sure, Chuck, we can get that other information that you presented today put up on the Website so people can see that as well.

MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN GUY: And we’ll try to make that available for everyone.

All right. At this time what we would like to do is proceed with the public hearing. I think we have approximately 50 speakers. So let me go over a few ground rules that Chairman Moultrie always goes over.

Number one, when your name is called, please come up to the microphone.

Number two, give your name for the court reporter. Ms. Tracey sits right there, and she needs to be able to understand your name so she can correctly put it in the minutes. Also, tell everyone the topic you’re speaking on, if you would.

Number three, you know, please understand that you have three minutes to speak. And with the number of people we have today, we’re going to have to be very conscientious of that time. Ms. Jones will be doing the timing. She will call out “time” when your three
Mr. Bates: Put me last.

Chairman Guy: No, no, no. I just think you do a good job of getting up here and getting your name on the list first, Avery.

Mr. Bates: I don't do that.

Chairman Guy: Mr. Avery Bates.

I think it's because you know Chris Blankenship so well.

Mr. Bates: I know Chris quite well. I'm getting to know you, Commissioner Guy, all these functions we go to.

Anyway, my name is Avery Bates. I'm vice-president of Organized Seafood Association, a long-time commercial fisherman. I represent the area of Mobile County and Baldwin County, too, for our commercial fishermen, which is a tremendous asset to this state and this country. We deal with a lot of commerce down there.

But while I'm up at the mic, I want to -- representing some of the greatest volunteers of the state of Alabama, if you see Chauncey back there, boy, they work wonders through volunteer fire departments and rescue. And also dog fighters. They got a dog crew too.

Usually they're chasing criminals that's broke loose trying to track them with bloodhounds and beagles.

It works well, don't it, Chauncey?

Mr. Wood: Yes, sir.

Mr. Bates: So if you've got a criminal that's loose, call Chauncey. He'll put you up with some good dog hunters to help find your criminal. But to get back on our subject, we got a lot to discuss and a very short time to discuss it.

We're probably going to see some reallocation of our commercial fishing trying to be done by various groups. One of them is red snapper. We saw some reallocation years ago with our redfish and our speckled trout, and now you can't get an Alabama-caught wild
redfish, an Alabama-caught speckled trout because they're gamefish. And as many of you know, we've had three proposals in the last few years to gamefish-status other species of fish, taking them away from the consumer and the market. And if you sit down in a restaurant, we are the ones, the commercial fishermen, that put that fish in that restaurant and in these markets that prefer Alabama wild-caught and Gulf-caught. One-third of our nation's seafoods come from our Gulf, and we want our nation to enjoy the products that the good Lord has blessed us with. Don't let user groups with special interests take them away from the people and the commerce of this state that flows through. They say, well, we're a small number. Well, we got a small number of farmers that feed this country. John can -- up there -- what, we have around close to eight million people and only a small part of eight million people in Alabama is farmers that feed and help feed not only our state but many other states and the world. So if you see in anything that's coming up in this -- people wanting to take this away from the commercial fishermen -- remember, we have constitutional laws. That is property that belongs to you and the people of this state, not for just one entity or one segment. Some of them say we got 120,000 members or 112,000 members. Look, we've got millions of people that has access to our seafoods, and that is their property too. Some that don't even fish can take their money and go buy it. 67 counties can enjoy seafoods through the markets. Let's don't cut our people out by special-interest laws and regulations.
St. Dominic's Catholic School, they've been at it for two months. And this was their second meet, and their scores were almost double what they were the first meet.

Of course, Bryant High School, which is near and dear to my heart, have seven or eight state championships. And there is a state championship coming up April 11th in Montgomery, and I urge you all to get involved if you can. It's -- hopefully it's a growing thing.

Commissioner, I'd like to lobby you right now to have somebody cover that and get some kind of publicity, get "Outdoor Alabama" or whatever. These kids -- what I've seen with our high school kids over the years, we don't lose them. They graduate. We have two kids on the -- coming back this year.

I wanted to rag Commissioner Moultrie or -- Moultrie, but he's not here today. He keeps saying that they're going to beat us. But we have two kids coming back from last year's team who made the All-American team and did a tour of Africa in last July. That's the kind of thing those kids would never have an opportunity to do.

But for so many other reasons -- we had one kid, an eighth-grader from Saraland, who just last season went bow hunting with his father, and he started talking about it to the kids as they waited their turns to shoot. And I saw ten or 12 kids go up in the stands and ask their mother and father if they can go bow hunting too. And these are kids that don't have an outdoor tradition in their families. That's the future. If we don't keep the hunting rights up, the environmentalists and people are going to try to shut it down.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. BARBER: And that's all I have to say. But, Commissioner, I would ask that you help with some kind of publicity. It would really boost these kids' morale. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, Mr. Barber. And thank you for -- thanks for those comments and thank you for your support of the Archery in the Schools program. And it's a great youth program. And our department does support it through our hunter education, and we'll continue to try to promote it as much as we can.

Ms. Jessica Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Hello. My name is Jessica Flowers, and I'm here today to talk about and discuss hunting feral hogs with dogs on wildlife management.

I am a hog hunter and I do hunt with dogs. And as a tax-paying citizen of the state, I should have the right to hunt wildlife management areas just as everyone else. The only difference is I use dogs instead of guns and bows.

It's obvious the state of Alabama has a problem with feral hogs on most wildlife management areas. And the state has been denying hog hunters the right to pursue the invasive and nuisance animals just because we use dogs to hunt them.

The legal section of the state said to pursue feral hogs is not enough to control the issue with wildlife management areas we face with the feral hogs. Methods including trapping, shooting have not been effective -- as dog hunting your hogs in the state that will not be in -- in other states but will not be in Alabama in controlling the population of hogs. Why not open the wildlife management area to hunters that are dedicated to hunting feral hogs with dogs.

Hog hunters are very compassionate about what we do. We put a lot of time and money into our dogs in an effort to breeding and raising and training dogs
for the purpose of hog hunting. The average hog hunter spends anywhere from 4,000 to $8,000 a year on hog dogs and care. And all we're asking is for you to please allow us the right to hunt on the wildlife management with dogs.

We do take the meat that we preserve and we do eat anywhere from 20 to 30 percent. The other meat that we preserve goes to feeding the hungry. We donate it to charity and churches in surrounding areas. We are compassionate about what we do. We do take our children out and they enjoy it. I have my son here today. He enjoys it. It's something that we love to do, but we're not allowed to do it on wildlife. And there are a lot of hogs on wildlife, and we would enjoy to be able to take the dogs out there and be compassionate about what we do.

It's not only just men that are doing it now. It's women and children.

And I'm sure you've all, if not seen it, heard it on TV. So it's becoming a big sport. And the reason it's becoming a big sport is because the hog population is getting bigger.

But all I ask is for you to please consider it. And, you know, we would appreciate any kind of leniency you can give us, whether it be a season or whether it be tags, you know, so we can have that opportunity to hunt hogs on wildlife. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, ma'am.

MS. GEORGE: I decline to speak. We're going to let John speak instead.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. Mindy Gilbert.

MR. MORSE: Trying to speed the process along.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you. I appreciate that very much. Thank you.

MR. MORSE: Hi. Hello, I'm John Morse. I'm from Enterprise, Alabama, Coffee County. I am the spokesperson for the Alabama Wildlife Alliance, AWA.

First of all, rehabilitators are not against hunters. We believe in hunting and it all has a process.

AWA comprises -- of the five districts of the wildlife conservation, we have five different people or -- correction -- five different alliances of the wildlife rehabilitators. We appreciate WFF to meet us with allowing us to continue rehabilitating.

We do have some problem areas. One of the big problem areas that just stands out right now, when you say we have a facility in each one of the districts, right now we have three facilities in District 1 because of the volume of the animals. That's going to cause a problem. What you're probably going to end up having to do is you'll shut down two nonprofit organizations that really do want to do this. They're already trained. They already have all the prevaccinations and everything.

So there is a problem there. We can work with you. We're willing to work with you. But we do have to address that because it does, in fact, cause a lot of problems, especially in District 1. Some of the other districts are going to be okay.

But one of the things that we would like the board to really think about and to kind of understand is that we would like you -- or we're asking for the board to kind of accept AWA as the rehabilitator -- rehabilitation authority or association with all the rehabilitators. We're a network. We don't do things just because we want to
do them. We do them because it's the right thing to do. Plus, we also communicate, because why should we relearn a mistake.

So we talk to each other. We have this network. And we would like the board to kind of accept the fact that you have a group of professional people that are doing this for free, on their own dime. And we do not do this in a vacuum. We try to do it in a good working order.

So we are just asking that, you know, as five districts that have all good quality rehabilitators, kind of accept us as an organization that is willing to work with you all. And that's what we're asking for today is just accept AWA as a working entity within the state that's willing to work with everybody; okay?

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

MR. MORSE: Super. Thank you very much, and we really appreciate the WFF to lengthen the -- our ability to operate as rehabilitators.

CHAIRMAN GUY: I know our WFF division has been working with you and they'll continue to work with you and talk with you more about this.

MR. MORSE: Super. We look forward to that.

CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Stephen Tucker. Did I get that name right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who was it?

CHAIRMAN GUY: Stephen Tucker concerning turtles.

Am I missing Mr. Tucker?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's out here.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. He's talking.

While I'm waiting on Mr. Tucker, let me make sure I didn't skip somebody that shouldn't have been skipped.

So for the rehab issue, was there a Richard McNabb?

MR. McNABB: Yes.

CHAIRMAN GUY: I skipped you. I think you --

you're not here on the rehab issue, are you?

MR. McNABB: No, sir, I'm not. A different --

CHAIRMAN GUY: A different part of the rehab.

Okay. Would you come up, then -- I'm sorry -- while we're waiting on Mr. Tucker. I'm sorry.

And before you start, sir, what I have for rehab is Ms. Gilbert, Mr. Morse. It's Terry. Maybe it's Ms. Morse. And then I had Mallie Smith. Okay. Did I miss anybody there?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. So I apologize, Mr. McNabb. Why don't you go ahead and speak to us at this time.

MR. McNABB: Mr. Chairman and esteemed Advisory Board members, thank you for allowing me to come before you today. I'm Richard McNabb, a 53-year-old medical professional and a resident of Semmes, Alabama, in Mobile County. I come before you to request a simple verbiage change in your nongame species regulation 220-2-.92. It reads it shall be unlawful to collect or offer for sale any box turtle of the genus Terrapene. The regulation also allows Alabama residents to own one box turtle of the genus Terrapene.

There are three non-native box turtles that have been caught up in this regulation because of that word "Terrapene." Since it's illegal to collect box turtles from the wild, many of the turtles owned are non-native. However, no one is allowed to breed them.

You, the department, and I are all on the same page. We need to protect box turtles native to our great state.

However, I propose that you simply add the words "native to Alabama" to the regulation to allow individuals to work with non-native box turtles. This proposal will continue to protect those
Out of all the surrounding states, Alabama is the only state to regulate owning non-native box turtles. Other states have native to, indigenous to, or exempted non-native box turtles in their regulation and have had no issues. Alabama also offers a free permit which allows individuals to breed, farm, and sell aquatic turtles. However, non-native box turtles are the only reptile singled out with regulation. I've heard officials comment no one should profit from the sale of wildlife. Nearly every pet store in Alabama sells non-native reptiles such as snakes, tortoises, and lizards. The majority of reptiles they sell are captive-born reptiles, not wild. They should be viewed not as wildlife.

Out of the thousands of non-native reptiles being kept and bred by Alabama residents, only the non-native box turtle, again, has been regulated. How could what I'm asking for benefit Alabama?

Allowing captive-born, non-native box turtles to be available would directly reduce the illegal collecting and trade. I could create the first box turtle rehab or placement facility in the state. I could accept unwanted sick or -- just unwanted or sick box turtles so they're not simply released back into the wild. They could be placed for adoption or kept for breeding. Native offspring produced could be turned over to the state for species reintroduction.

I'm also known by the Department of Conservation as I have already worked in breeding endangered black pine snakes in the past. I could also conduct educational programs regarding box turtles and the responsibility that goes along with keeping them.

Amending this regulation is not about giving up control. Guidelines or conditions could also be part of this change. This change not only benefits those that desire to work with non-native turtles. The real winners are the turtles themselves. Please support captive breeding by adding "native to Alabama" to the regulation.

Thank you for your time regarding this matter.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, Mr. McNabb.

MR. McNABB: Do y'all have any questions?

And I have a packet up there. It's paper-clipped. It shows some of the states' regulations as well as my presentation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

Now Mr. Tucker.

MR. TUCKER: I apologize.

CHAIRMAN GUY: No problem.

MR. TUCKER: So my name is Stephen Tucker.
I was waiting in the tag line -- of course, this is an imperfect analogy. But I've been in the tag line in Jefferson County for three hours and they come up and say, well, we're going home at 12 today. Sorry. You know, maybe come back tomorrow.

We just didn't have any warning. We didn't have any opportunity to prepare ourselves. And it's my hope that we'll be given the opportunity to go out and collect our brood stock.

And I just want to briefly -- you've all, I think, got a handout there. I just want to dispel some misinformation.

The main reason there was such a rise in the application for turtle licenses -- and that might have been alarming for you guys. I think there are only 35 of us doing it, but it went from like ten to 35 in maybe two years. And so the reason that happened is because this third turtle -- or, actually, the second turtle that we're looking at here -- the first turtle is a matamata from New Zealand, and they might pay $200 for that at the pet store here or in Asian/European markets. And the second turtle is our turtle. He is a Sternotherus minor minor, and he also sells for $200 in the pet trade.

We do not round up these things and throw them back into crates. This is not being sent over there for food. These are people that are becoming economically more powerful. And they have small spaces generally if they live in town, and that's where the economically powerful people are. And an aquarium is a perfect -- this little turtle is a perfect pet for them.

Also, this little turtle --

MR. TUCKER: -- has a great personality.

CHAIRMAN GUY: You have 15 seconds to wrap up, please, sir.

MR. TUCKER: Thank you.

So he has a great personality. And there are meat turtles, but he's not one of them. And this is what all the fuss is about. It's this turtle. He lives in Alabama and he's abundant.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir. We have your handout. The board will look at that. And thank you very much for your presentation.

MR. TUCKER: Thank you, gentlemen, very much.

CHAIRMAN GUY: O.C. Harrison.

Mr. Harrison. Thank you, sir.

MR. HARRISON: Thank you. Thank you, members of the board, for giving me an opportunity to voice my concerns about fishing on Lake Martin. My most concern is about the crappie in Lake Martin. It's getting harder and harder to go and catch a mess of fish.

But the biggest thing I see about the fishing on Lake Martin is light fishing at night. And I know we can't hunt deer at night with a light. So I would ask the board if they could consider doing away with portable lighting.

And another concern about the crappie is the saltwater stripe. I know we probably can't do anything about that, but they are eating a lot of our crappie.

And maybe consider raising the length limit to ten inches and lowering the creel maybe to 20. I think, you know, a family of -- if you had ten-inch crappie, 20, I think, would feed a family. And help us build our, you know, crappie population back up.

I've lived on Lake Martin all of my life, and I'm getting on up in age. I kind of like to fish lazy, you know. Crappie is kind of a lazy way of fishing. Can't throw my shoulder away
no more on bass fishing.
But I wish you would consider that.
I'm not sure if you've had other people
with that concern or not, but I talk to
a lot of them that are. And I see
people just come in by droves fishing at
night with lights. I've seen boats out
there that look like condos out there
lit up so. And those lights attract
fish.
Brother Bob, I heard you say you're
a fisherman, so you probably know.
Well, you do know, I'm sure. But I
thank y'all and I wish you could
consider that.
CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.
MR. HARTZOG: Didn't this issue come up in
correlation and didn't we ask the
Fisheries to -- weren't they going to --
weren't they about to do some shocking
studies on the lake when it was brought
up last time?
CHAIRMAN GUY: Mr. Cook, do you want to
address that, or can you?
MR. COOK: That lake --
CHAIRMAN GUY: Why don't you stand up, if you
would, please.
MR. COOK: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.
CHAIRMAN GUY: Do you want to address that
just quickly with the board, just
anything that you -- or you just want to
talk to him and we'll just get back --
MR. COOK: Really you need to get into
in-depth conversation about population
dynamics, and I'd be happy to talk to
the gentleman about it and provide a
report to the board if they want it.
CHAIRMAN GUY: Mr. Harrison, if you would just
talk to Mr. Cook here and some of his
staff, and then we'll look at your
issue. Thank you.
Dwayne Moxley. Mr. Moxley. Thank
you, sir.
MR. MOXLEY: Good morning, gentlemen. I'm
Dwayne Moxley from Munford, which is in
Talladega County. I come to speak on
trying to get snatch fishing and spider
fishing stopped on the Coosa chain.
These guys go down there and tie on
these two five-dollar hooks with a
five-ounce weight. And when they're
generating water below these dams, the
fish come up there to spawn, and they're
snatching these fish. They do get some
of them and some of them they don't
get. The ones they don't get, the hooks
pull out of it and it just rips the
sides out of the fish. We catch them
with sores all over them, with one eye,
a lot of different things. And so I'd
like for y'all to take into
consideration of maybe trying to stop
snatch fishing.
And the spider fishing is on Logan
Martin Lake. You can have as many rods
as you can tie on a boat. There will be
boats down there with two guys in it
that will have 16 rods. And the dam --
the lake right above us, which is Neely
Henry, they're only allowed three rods
per person on that lake, and you come
right down to the next lake, to Logan
Martin, and you can have all that you
can put in your boat if you can -- you
know, and I think it's overfishing the
waters for my grandchildren that's
coming up that's going to like to fish
and do things.
And I'd just like for y'all to take
into consideration of stopping the
snatch fishing below the dams on the
Coosa and the spider fishing on Logan
Martin. And that's basically it.
CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, Mr. Moxley.
MR. MOXLEY: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN GUY: I think that may be illegal as
it stands; correct?
All right. So we appreciate your
comments. We'll look at that.
Howard O'Neal.
MR. O'NEAL: Hello. I'm Howard O'Neal from
Helena, Alabama. I'm a private landowner in Dallas County and in Shelby County. First of all, I want to thank you for your service on this board to promote the wildlife and fisheries in Alabama. I know there's a lot of thankless things that go on on the Internet and you all catch a lot of heat for stuff, but there are people that appreciate what you do.

What I'm proposing is -- I was introduced to air gun -- air-rifle hunting a few years ago, and I would like to see the air rifle be added to the special muzzleloader season that comes in right before rifle season. I've got a couple of reasons for that.

The effective range of the air rifle on an adult deer is probably -- is approximately a hundred yards. A modern-day muzzleloader has an effective range of 200-plus yards. So effectively you're lessening your chance of killing a deer. So it's not increasing your harvest rate, I don't think.

An air rifle is actually quieter than your muzzleloader, which will not spook the game. So if you have a predator that comes out that you want to take, you know, you could shoot a coyote or whatever and really not affect your hunt in my opinion. And other states, as well as us, have primitive weapons season, and I would consider an air rifle a primitive weapon.

Another point is, it adds another challenging form of hunting. You know, with a hundred-yard effective range, you're really decreasing your ability to harvest an animal. And you really have to have good shot placement and be a better hunter to harvest the animal ethically.

I'm pretty lazy. I hate cleaning my muzzleloader. So that's one reason I would like to do this. You know, cleaning a muzzleloader every -- you have to clean it every time you shoot it and fire it, and I just really don't like doing that. So that's one reason that I personally would like to get this moving.

The other thing is unloading the gun is -- to make it completely safe is easy. The model that I have has a magazine. You just disconnect the magazine. You do have to fire it to discharge the bullet. But then the gun is completely safe. So you can take it in your house. With a muzzleloader -- and I know I'm -- y'all probably don't want to hear this, but I'm as guilty as anybody -- but just taking the primer out, leaving the propellant and the bullet in the gun and putting it on the gun rack. Not the safest thing to do. You know, so if I've got a pellet rifle or my air-gun rifle, you know, I'm going to do away with my muzzleloader, so...

And another thing is my younger sons and my wife love shooting it. There's no recoil. It's about like the recoil of a .22, maybe a little bit more. And so like younger hunters, it's hard to get them to go in and pull the trigger on a 150-grain of black powder with a 200-grain bullet.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. O'NEAL: You got a pretty good amount of recoil on that. And so I think it would add effectiveness to the children and women as well. And, again, thank you for everything you do and thank you for the consideration.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you. Thank you for coming.

Commissioner McMillan.

MR. McMILLAN: What did you say the effective range would be for a deer?

MR. O'NEAL: I believe it's a hundred yards, maybe under that. But I wouldn't shoot
MR. HATLEY: What caliber?

MR. O’NEAL: I think the regulation now is a .30-caliber bullet. Mine’s a .357.

I’m not asking to change any -- the regulations. Just extend the same firearm that you can use -- just add it to that muzzleloader season, the same --

CHAIRMAN GUY: Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: Could I ask a couple of questions?

CHAIRMAN GUY: Yes.

DR. STRICKLAND: What about the kinetic energy? I guess my concern, is it -- I mean, is it effective to actually put a deer down at, you know, 50 or 60 yards without wounding the animal?

MR. O’NEAL: It’s effective enough for y’all to add it to the regular gun season. So it’s the same -- it’s legal starting November 22nd with regular firearms.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Dr. Strickland, I killed two does this year with an air gun, and Director Sykes killed -- I don’t know -- a couple of bucks and several does. We need to take you hunting with one. It’s very interesting.

MR. O’NEAL: It’s cool.

DR. STRICKLAND: You know, I’m just -- you know, I’m thinking of the air rifles I had, my Red Ryder.

MR. O’NEAL: Well, this isn’t your normal air rifle. And when you're talking kinetic energy, you’re way above my head.

CHAIRMAN GUY: And they’re not inexpensive either by the way. But thank you for your comments and -- Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: I was just curious how many days there are -- and I don’t have it in front of me. But you don’t get many extra days to --

MR. O’NEAL: No. I think it’s Monday through Friday.

MR. DOBBS: Yeah. Seven days, six days.

MR. O’NEAL: And it ends -- muzzleloader season starts the Monday after youth weekend, I believe, and runs through the Friday before regular gun season. So it’s only four or five days.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Have you talked with Director Sykes about that yet?

MR. O’NEAL: A little bit, yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. Well, we’ll take those comments into consideration.

And for all of you on the board that want to learn more about air rifles, you need to talk with Chuck. He very much knows a lot about it.

I’m sorry. Dr. Lemme.

DR. LEMME: The air-rifle program within the Alabama 4-H shooting sports program is one of our fastest growing, and it’s definitely -- what I think is really neat is the number of young ladies that are doing it. We’ve seen a decrease in the number of participants in our .22 and a huge increase in our .177 air rifle competitions. So there’s a growing interest.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you. Thank you, sir.

MR. O’NEAL: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Matt -- is it Passino or Passino?

MR. PASSINO: It’s Passino.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

MR. PASSINO: My name is Matt Passino. I’m from Hoover, Alabama. I typically hunt in Bibb County. I'm a landowner in Bibb County. And I’m here today to talk with you about supporting legal Alabama suppressor hunting or silencers, another name they go by.

I’ve got -- I’ve given y’all two packets of information. One is just kind of a PowerPoint presentation. The other one is a research study on a comparison between silencers and hearing protection, the differences between the two as far as what decibel levels you can get with them.

So I’m proposing to amend the current regulation that states it shall
be unlawful to possess fully automatic firearms or silenced firearms while hunting any species of wildlife and to delete the portion that says "or silenced firearms." And the rationale to that is suppressors reduce the risk of hearing damage to hunters and other bystanders without impairing safety and reduce general environmental noise impact enhancing the enjoyment of Alabama natural resources.

Exposure to noise greater than 140 decibels can permanently damage hearing. Almost all firearms create noise that is over 140-decibel level. Suppressors reduce the noise levels less likely to -- so they're less likely to damage hearing by hunters and bystanders.

Suppressors do not make firearms silent. They only reduce the noise level, and typically by 30 decibels is about the most that you can get out of something. And with the firearms we're talking about, 140 decibels is basically kind of an average of what the different calibers are creating as far as peak noise level.

So we're really talking about something that decreases it -- not to where it's silent -- to where it sounds more like a nail gun or something to that effect and to where it's safe to be next to it without having to wear hearing protection. Some of the benefits of that is it's easier to encompass more people by protecting hearing on more people. So if you had a minor with you while you're hunting, you don't have to worry about them keeping earplugs on or earmuffs on.

Also, it benefits the hunter in that the recoil will not cause you to miss or pull a shot. It's -- it's much less -- you lose the concussion out of it, and it's more like shooting a .22 rifle than it is like shooting a .223 or a .308.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. PASSINO: I've included a map for just different states and different regulations. A lot of states are changing laws. I think there was a perception in the past that these were silent and these were some sort of negative device, but they're basically just used for hearing protection now.

CHAIRMEN GUY: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it.

Wesley Peters. How are you doing?

MR. PETERS: Not too bad. Thanks for having me today. I may be the only person in the room concerned with trapping regulations. But in the interest of saving time, I've got a quick passage that I prepared I want to read to y'all.

I'd like to ask the board to re-examine the legal limits on land-set, body-grip type traps. As the relevant regulations stand, the use of a body-grip trap larger than five-by-five on land is illegal. This largely removes a very effective type of trap from the arsenal of the trapper in pursuit of animals, primarily raccoons, possums, and to a lesser extent bobcat. In comparison to other hunters and outdoorsmen, trappers number comparatively few, and there is no reason to handicap their effectiveness of managing fur bearer populations by not allowing them to have this tool.

Our neighboring states do not restrict fur catchers nearly so much with this type of device. In Mississippi, any size is legal on private land, and just recently they've made a provision where you can only go up to seven-by-seven on public land. In Georgia, away from the water up to a nine-by-five by -- 9.5-by-9.5 Conibear trap is legal anywhere, and within ten
foot of the water there are no restrictions.

In light of this, I'd like to propose that Alabama allow up to a 7.5-by-7.5 -- again, that's inches -- body-grip trap on land, allow up to seven-and-a-half inches by seven-and-a-half inches in jaw spread on land that's privately owned, and continue to enforce the five-by-five rule on public land. I feel like this will help cut out some of the issues.

I know there will be some people that are concerned about dogs and that sort of thing, but I think if we stick with the five-by-five on public land, that will help to mitigate some of the encounters that dog hunters may have with that. And on private land, I mean, that's private land, so -- and, you know, if the trapper has the landowner's permission, you know, we should be able to help head some of those problems off because they'll know, you know, hey, there's other people who hunt here. You know, it's all about communication.

But that's pretty much -- that's pretty much what I had to say. Any questions?

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

MR. PETERS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Mike -- is it Guillot? I'm sorry.

MR. GUILLOT: That's all right. I don't suppose you're the only person who's ever had a problem with that name.

Thank you, Commissioner Guy and board members. Thank you for the opportunity today. I have to -- I would like to speak with you about two words, two very small words. And I ask you to get your red pens out. And those two words are "no crossbows."

You all are aware that to hunt turkeys in Alabama you can use a 10-gauge shotgun, a 20-gauge shotgun, three-inch magnums. You can hunt them with a pistol, and you can hunt them with a compound bow. You may be wondering so why does anybody want to hunt with a crossbow.

Well, some of us don't choose to hunt with a crossbow. That choice is made by our age or by our joints or our arthritis. And that's my case. In addition, some of us -- many of us are on bow-hunting-only leases, particularly when those leases are around urban areas. And so it seems very logical and reasonable to me that we can take those two words out of the regulation and add one word, and that is, as a legal means of harvesting a turkey using a crossbow. One small line with your red pen on the next change.

The other option I would ask you to consider is if we are interested in expanding programs for youth, how do we do that. One of the ways to do it is to give them options. And one of those options is to allow them to go and hunt -- even more opportunities to hunt with a crossbow, one of those being turkey hunting.

I first spoke on this six years ago in 2008 over at the Capitol, and basically we've kind of been in a stalemate ever since. A very small change. Many, many other states are already allowing this. And crossbows have been legal for almost every other game animal in the state, especially when you consider you can hunt them with firearms. And it's just the right thing to do. So, please, I urge you to make the change.

I would offer one other thing in reference to the meeting, Commissioner Guy. It would be really nice if we could give you these questions online, on the Internet, on your Website even before we show up. And I appreciate
it. I yield the rest of my time. Thank you for the opportunity.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

Jason Knight.

MR. KNIGHT: How you doing? I'm Jason Knight from Wetumpka, Elmore County. The previous gentleman stole most of my thunder. But I'm with the Alabama Bowhunters Association, and we were formed in 1967. We've been coming to these CAB meetings for almost 50 years. One of the first topics that we brought up was trying to have a season just for archery equipment just for bow hunters.

I sent -- in your package you should have a map of the state of Alabama showing crossbow use throughout the United States. Just to be brief, I'm going to read the letter I had in your packet.

Today we are asking the CAB to legalize crossbow during turkey season. Alabama classifies crossbow as archery equipment when it became legal during the archery-only deer season. At one time Bowhunters of Alabama fought against crossbows in the archery-only deer season, and today we welcome crossbows to members of our organization and will advocate on their behalf.

If you look at this map, you'll see that all these states that are in red, crossbows are illegal, but they also do not classify crossbows as archery equipment. The only three states in the United States where crossbows are classified as archery equipment but they're illegal during the turkey season is Alabama, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. So I think it would be best if we didn't include ourselves with Rhode Island and New Hampshire as the only other states in the United States that are -- where crossbows are illegal. All of the southern states, pretty much every state below the Mason-Dixon line, you can use crossbows during the turkey season.

So that's all I have. If anybody has any questions ...

CHAIRMAN GUY: Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: I think I've probably been one of the members on the board that has consistently been against crossbow hunting for turkey. One of the reasons, if you look at, truly, the recovery rate for shooting a turkey with an arrow, it's less than 50 percent. And that's -- you know, I'm really against killing a turkey with a compound bow or any arrow. Because of all the game animals that I've hunted, recovering a turkey after you hit it with an arrow is incredibly difficult. You know, the kill area is very small, and it's -- you know, you're talking about a kill area of about like this.

As far as crossbow hunting itself, you know, I am a, you know, firm supporter of it, but any weapon other than an arrow is not meant for turkeys. And that's -- I mean, it's -- you know, we have a -- you know, our turkey population is fairly sensitive. And, you know, again, I've hunted them with an arrow myself. I stopped. I think I mentioned it last year that, you know, I use a 12-gauge, three-and-a-half-inch Hevi-shot for turkeys because I've just had a hard time.

I've hunted everything in North America. Turkeys are incredibly difficult with an arrow regardless of who you are, how good a shot you are. It's just -- you know, unless you use a guillotine, shoot them in the head, you know, but it's -- you know, it's a tough proposition.

MR. KNIGHT: And I agree with your statement that it's very difficult to kill a turkey with a bow and arrow, whether it be a longbow or compound. I think a
crossbow is actually more effective than the current longbow or crossbow or compound that we do that is already legal.

DR. STRICKLAND: It's about shot placement though. That's it.

MR. KNIGHT: And that's right. You're talking about an egg and --

DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. I'm talking about putting it in the right place. And most of the turkeys that I see, you know, they're just not sitting there waiting for you to shoot them. You know, the gobblers are moving.

MR. KNIGHT: Correct. Correct.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir. Any other questions?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

For some of us on the board up here...

For some of us on the board up here, it's difficult just to kill one with a shotgun. But, Mr. Hatley, I was not talking about you.

MR. HATLEY: Thank you, Mr. Moultrie.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Doing the best imitation I can.

Mr. William Oppenheimer.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Mr. Commissioner, gentlemen, thank you for having me. My name is William Oppenheimer. I'm from Mobile County. I hunt in Monroe County. I love Alabama, and I've worked all my life to help protect wildlife resources and preserve hunting traditions for future generations.

Less than a year ago I presented a petition of 300 concerned citizens and unanimous resolutions by four county commissions calling for the complete restoration of fall turkey season in the six counties where it exists. Now that we've experienced the first abbreviated fall season in those counties and aside from denying fall turkey hunters three weeks of hunting, what has been accomplished? I would submit nothing.

Commissioner said repeatedly the game check would provide information, and it has. In the fall-winter season just completed over 19,000 deer were recorded as harvested. Five turkeys were recorded as harvested. Even recognizing that these are fractions of the actual harvest, it's clear, as DCNR members have said repeatedly before this board, that the effect of fall turkey hunting is a drop in the bucket. If the population is down, I would recommend that you first outlaw decoys or reduce the limit.

One point made by board members last meeting is that these six counties ended up having more turkey-hunting days than other counties, but there are many other situations where certain counties get fewer or more days for one species or another. There are different dates and limits for doves, alligators. Some counties allow dogs for deer and some counties do not. Two counties have a 15-day snow goose season and the rest do not. And there are different days for turkey season. Some counties have 47 days. Some have 30 days. Parts of other counties just have five days. But the total limit is just five gobblers.

And, again, if the population is really down, why don't we reduce the limit a little bit rather than eliminate fall season where it has traditionally been observed.

Now we have a resolution in the Alabama House of Representatives, HJR 212, adopted February 26, 2014, calling...
on you to please restore fall turkey season. We also have HB 534, an act pending in the House which requires you to restore fall turkey season. Time does not permit me to read these documents, but I've distributed to you a packet that has them in there.

Therefore, I respectfully call on you on behalf of the petition signers and reiterate what the county commissioners have requested explicitly and passively and in keeping with the legislature's expressed opinion to restore fall turkey season back to the dates we have enjoyed for over 50 years. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Charles Borden.

Thank you, sir. Anybody have questions for Mr. Oppenheimer?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Thank you.

MR. BORDEN: Good morning. I'm Dr. Charles Borden. I live up in the Bankhead National Forest in Lawrence County. Three issues I wanted to address with you today.

I came before this board before -- maybe not the same composition -- and advocated for a deer-restocking program up there. We got that initiated. I came and asked and we got two zones, a Zone A and Zone B, established in the wildlife management area.

We have two or three different issues altogether I wanted to talk to you about today. One is I'm an archerer and all I -- I'm die-hard and all I do during the entire deer season is bow hunt. When gun season opens in the management area up there, when it opens in Zone A, Zone B is closed during that time for bow hunting. And as you know, bow hunters like to hunt in a relatively undisturbed area, and so it puts me in a situation where I'm forced -- if I'm going to hunt on the management area, I have to go on the days of the gun deer hunt and go hunt on the side with all the gun hunters. And that's just not the way I like to hunt.

So I'm requesting that you change that so that bow hunters will have the season where they can hunt on the opposite side of the management area when all the gun hunters are on the other side. When Zone A is open to gun hunting, as it is now, Zone B is closed to bow hunting, and I would like to have that changed. And that's noted on the form there.

The other thing is, on Zone B we have a restricted antler harvest -- buck harvest so that it has to be four points on one side. I came down and requested that with the Conservation Department, and that was implemented. Our district biologist at the time assured me that if it were successful, then they would also institute a four-point on the opposite side also.

So the present biologist up there indicates that the quality of the antler -- buck harvest on the side where the restriction has been in place for a few years has improved, and I'm requesting that we implement that same restriction on Zone A that's in effect and has been in effect now for a few years in Zone B.

The second thing is that this past year -- or the third thing. This past year the wildlife management area was open on the opposite side. Again, we've got two zones, A and B. When the gun deer season was open on Zone A, Zone B became open to small game hunting even though bow hunting was not allowed.

They've had real enforcement issues up there this past season. We have a
few small game hunters that are totally legitimate, and I totally support that. But we had --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. BORDEN: -- one arrest for people who were carrying .22 rifles and .30-06 guns. They were deer hunting and pretending to be small game hunting. We have 90,000 acres outside of the wildlife management area that is available for small game hunting as well as deer hunting with state season. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

Dr. Strickland.

Hold on, sir. I think Dr. Strickland has a question.

DR. STRICKLAND: And, actually, I would like to address our conservation officers. Is there a reason that the archery season is closed in Zone B? Is there a biological reason?

(Brief interruption by the court reporter.)

CHAIRMAN GUY: Hold on. Hold on. I'm sorry. The court reporter said you have to stand up, please.

MR. SYKES: We're looking at that right now. Give us just a little bit. I agree with you.

DR. STRICKLAND: Okay, Chuck.

MR. BORDEN: Any other questions?

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

MR. BORDEN: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Burk Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. My name is Burk Williams. I'm from Chatom. That's in Washington County. I have addressed some of my issues with Chuck and Mr. Dan Moultrie.

I am the fourth-generation owner of property in Washington County, and my grandfather, my father, and now I'm trying to manage game. It seems like the harder that -- the more I spend, the more lax on hunting regulations and seasons get longer. I am yet to find a landowner in Washington County that has agreed with February deer hunting.

I'm here today on behalf of my children and my grandchildren. I would like to see some kind of accountability for the number of deer or bucks that are harvested and a size limit. I've hunted from Alabama to Alaska, and everywhere that I have been I had to have a tag. And when I killed a deer or whatever I killed, turkey, I had to tag it. And you don't have to do that here. And there are many, many people, especially in my area, that does not tag or report any game. That is my concern, and I would appreciate it if you would look into it and have some kind of accountability for bag limit and size limit.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

I just would note that we did have game check ready to institute to address those concerns and we also have a harvest record. So we'll continue to work on that as we're allowed to do so.

Ron Nummy.

MR. NUMMY: I'm Ron Nummy. I'm a home builder in Prattville, Alabama. And our family, we own about 930 acres in Autauga County. We lease about 900 acres next to us.

And I could be raising a flag -- red flag prematurely, but this past deer season our population -- I've been seeing it decrease fractionally for the past four years. But this year, with the new corn-baiting situation -- and I say that because I feel like that's what it is.

We had a guy next to us that had 90 acres next to our 1800 acres. He shot more deer than we saw. I'm -- we can go and set on some of our fields for a week and not see a deer. And, like I say, this could be just an anomaly that just happened, could be just this year
by itself. But I feel like this corn deal is -- it could domino into something bigger.

I've got some landowners next to -- Chuck Sykes, he's -- he's familiar with one of them. He says he's through planting for deer. He's been planting 15 years, summer crops, winter crops, trying to nutritionally help the deer herd like I do. I mean, we spend thousands of dollars every year trying to help the deer. And if we resort to just pouring it out on the ground, I'm afraid we're turning these deer into welfare deer. I mean, they just -- they'd rather go over there and just eat it out of a pile.

Because I've got a ten-acre field that I hunted this year. Set up there for three days straight. The corn today is still hanging on the stalk. They have started coming back for the past couple of weeks because everybody around them quit feeding them. They're gradually coming back a little bit.

But, like I say, I could be raising a flag prematurely. But I'm just afraid, like my adjoining landowner, if he quits planting, I quit planting and itdominos, you know, what's that going to do to the nutrition of our deer. I'm just concerned about it.

And I've got a letter here, and Ms. Jones, she's going to scan it and get it to you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: We have a question.

MR. SYKES: Since my name was brought up, what's the neighboring landowner?

MR. NUMMY: It's Leon McCord.

MR. SYKES: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: David Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Commissioner, committee members, thank you. It may not be an appropriate time for mine, but I wanted to speak to supplemental feeding and attractants as well, but mine is in favor of.

I wanted to ask that you consider giving another tool to small private landowners who want to better manage the herds in the areas, especially in areas -- I'm sorry. I live in McCalla, Alabama. I hunt in Crenshaw County. And I tried to set up a small quail habitat in Jackson County where I grew up. But the swamp and cutover is so thick in the Crenshaw County part that you can't afford the equipment to get it open enough to hunt.

I have nieces and nephews coming up that I'd like to be able to take them to the shooting house, help them to observe deer and learn more about management and the type of deer that need to be taken out. The big concern I have is in that area we are still having spotted fawns in December. The majority of bucks that I have been seeing have been malformed racks with four or five points on one side, legged spike or a four-point on the other side, and that seems to be dominating the area. And we would like to have a better opportunity to see those deer and to get them out of the swampy area.

You know, my preference would be landowner permits so that it can be controlled and data collected to support the function, but to make it more available for the small private landowners to manage the herds and try to get rid of some of the genetics that are there.

Occasionally we see a nice rack or a typical-rack buck, but for the most part we're seeing those one-sided racks, seeing three-year-old 150-pound spikes. But they go nocturnal very quickly.

We're not seeing them in the greenfields. And we, too, put a lot of money into greenfields and try to provide year-around nutrition for the
Supplemental feeding has helped make the animals healthier, but they've developed -- they're much smarter sometimes than we give them credit for. They develop a beeline from one -- from a bedding area to a feeder, and as I read the regulations, it's illegal to put a stand on that trail.

So those kinds of things have made the deer healthier, but the genetics are still there. And I think small landowners need an opportunity to better manage their herds if they choose to. It's not -- shouldn't be a forced thing, but the opportunity should be there if a private landowner wants to manage a herd and to teach kids more about what type of deer to take out. There should be an opportunity to the small landowners of Alabama. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

MR. ABERCROMBIE: I'm Don Abercrombie. I'm from Barbour County. You had received this letter here that is basically from the Barbour County mayors that are asking for a 15-day extension into February versus the ten days. And what we -- what I want to kind of get across to you today is why is that extra five days important.

We appreciate the boundaries and the whole nine yards of what y'all -- what you've done with it and we agree with that. So the five extra days -- you know, we grew up -- you know, I grew up on a farm. We have a lot of landowners down there that's been managing deer for the last 30 years. And what you see is that five extra days and an extra weekend in February, it would be instrumental in improving the demand for deer hunting and proper deer-herd management. I want to tell you how both of these complement one another.

One, improving the deer herd in a lot of cases means just letting the deer walk another year, having more mature three-and-a-half-year-old bucks, creating demand for that product and also allowing the hunters to hunt that rut. And it's more or less just the timing of the season.

We're more like -- we're more like -- I think it's Commissioner Guy's property over in Lowndes where 75 percent of our deer probably start rutting the last three or four days of January. So we fit into that category in most of Barbour County.

But what is important is the five days. I was fortunate enough through the years to do -- I was heavily involved in the passage of the Boll Weevil Eradication Program in 1985. Tommy Paulk with Alabama Farmers Coop was my spray pilot during that time. Also, I wrote an off-peak power rate for the catfish industry in '97. And the best way to describe the five extra days is that if we had written the rate -- if I wrote the rate that Alabama Power passed and it hadn't been to where you saw the benefit of the total package, then you wouldn't have had the result that it's had.

So as far as the deer hunting and the season is concerned, you know, this extra five days better aligns the timing. Plus, it allows these deer hunters to be able -- and the hunting camps to have a hundred-percent capacity. And that would, in turn, be able to allow those hunting camps to enforce their rules or the landowners to be able to go in and say, okay, we've got to have proper deer-herd management.

So all of this works together in a way that it's hard to understand. But I've analyzed this. Y'all have seen...
me -- this is the second time now.

Three years ago -- or four years ago we started with this. And the whole point is, is this is from not only the mayors of Barbour County, but I will say all the way across the state to where you got to look at this as a starting point. You give ten days. You give 15 days. It doesn't matter. What you got to look at now is where does the vision come for you to be able to take this and not only see how we can make the most out of it from a deer population/deer-herd management but, also, how do we take all these other interests here --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. ABERCROMBIE: -- and do the most for all of it. But we want to thank --

CHAIRMAN GUY: Go ahead and finish up.

MR. ABERCROMBIE: Well, the one thing -- the other thing I wanted to thank y'all for -- I would like to encourage everybody to go to the Alabama Seafood Summit, the best meeting I've ever been to last year that Gunter and John McMillan put on. They're having it again. But Chris Blankenship, the whole nine yards. So, anyway, we appreciate that.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

MR. ABERCROMBIE: And we appreciate the season. So, you know, we're happy with that.

CHAIRMAN GUY: We're working hard. We're working hard.


MR. MARSHALL: Good morning. I'm Andy Marshall. I live and hunt in Henry County, Alabama, the northern part of the county. And I'm here to speak in favor of extending the season into February for Henry County.

I noticed in the presentation it looks like the recommendation is for a part of Henry County. And I manage 400 acres that I lease. I have managed that property for five years. This year we had 135 hunts on the property, and we did not experience any rutting activity until the last six days of the season.

Unfortunately, two of those days we didn't get to hunt because we had ice everywhere.

But I appreciate the changes that have been made, and I look forward to the recommendation being approved that we saw here today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you. And I think you heard Mr. Sykes say we're going to continue to look hard at those other areas along the Georgia border.

Yes, Mr. Sykes.

MR. SYKES: If you could please get in touch with me after the meeting where I can find out exactly where your property is in Henry County. That may be an area that Mr. Gray is wanting to look at.

MR. MARSHALL: Will do.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Tyler -- is it Sansing? Tyler Sansing.

Okay. Thank you, sir.

MR. SANSING: I'm Tyler Sansing, a landowner in Hale County and also a member of C & W Hunting Club in Greene County, a dog-hunting club. A lot of my concerns have been addressed at the beginning of this meeting, so I'll try to keep it short.

You know, my biggest concern is a loss of the ten days in the areas where they want the February extension. I like what you're doing about adding ten days back to the dog season. I hope you follow through with that. That will be a good thing. It still doesn't address the problem with the small game season.

I would like to also see that pushed forward by the same amount, too, on into March. I like what you said about limiting the does. I'm not sure that's enough, but I believe that's a good thing.
start.
So I guess that's all I've got to
say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

D.R. Stallworth.

MR. STALLWORTH: Good morning, gentlemen. I
guess I'm here mostly in concern of the
latter discussion on the extension of
the season, also, in combination with
the subsidization of the feed for the
deer herd.

As a private landowner, I can't
agree with that because I've watched
extensions of the season previously, and
I haven't seen any benefit from
extending the season concerning the
herd. It seemed like it deplenished the
herd. And I'll cut my time short
because most of it is shadowed. Thank
you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

Mitchell Foster.

MR. FOSTER: A couple of us are talking about
the same thing. I'm going to let him
talk about it.

CHAIRMAN GUY: And who is that?

MR. MORRIS: John Morris.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay, Mr. Morris. You can come
on up. Thank you, sir.

Thank you for yielding your time,
sir.

MR. MORRIS: I want to thank the board for
allowing us to speak before you today.
My name is John Morris. I'm from Pell
City, Alabama, but hunt in Crenshaw
County.

Dr. Hartzog, Larry Hornsby wanted me
to extend my -- his best regards to
you.

One of the things that we're
concerned about in our little group that
hunt here in Crenshaw are the things and
motivations that's driving the board's
opinion about tagging and -- or possibly
tagging and tags and the health
situation that -- of calling in and what
have you. It looks like it's shifting
the onus more and more over to the
hunter again and again, and it seems
like, based on discussions that we've
had in our group, that there's easier,
better, more accurate and quicker ways
to handle that by polling processors or
whatever. There are a lot of ways.
We'll be glad to sit down with any
member of the board and talk with them
about our opinion to get that census
taken care of.

But aside from very few individuals,
in my opinion the hunters in Alabama do
a very good job of maintaining,
protecting, conserving the Alabama deer
herd. So I would like to see less and
less onus put on the hunter as far as
reporting that information to the
Department of Conservation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

Randy Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Gentlemen, I'm Randy Thompson

from Cherokee, Alabama. That's in west
Colbert County. I'm a property owner
there where my family and friends and
myself hunt. And I'm here today to
address one of your favorite topics and
that's dog hunting.

And we're having a problem with that
still, as are some of our -- my
neighboring property owners, being able
to hunt without being disturbed with our
family and friends. And this past year
I personally didn't -- because of some
family issues didn't get to hunt as much
as I usually do, but the times that we
did hunt, I'm saying 75 percent of the
times we were there we had dogs running
around our greenfields or on our
property lines. And we spoke a little
bit about this last year, and we have
some other property owners here today.

But, you know, we have -- have our
kids and our grandkids and our family
members sometimes come from out of
They don't get to hunt but two or three times a year. We spend money on greenfields and spend money on shooting houses, and then the one time or two that they get to hunt is spoiled by dogs coming through your greenfields or down your property line right at the prime time in the afternoon. And we're just asking you to help us to do something, you know, about that.

And, you know, some of these hunting club members are our friends, and they're not intentionally trying to disturb us or cause problems. But when you don't have any more property than some of them have to run dogs on, there's no way you can turn dogs loose without them getting on top. And it seems like no matter where they turn the dogs loose, they end up on our property or some of my neighboring landowners' properties. And, you know, it's just very frustrating. And we found out during this last year that some more landowners that are our friends and neighbors are having the same problem and we were not even aware of it. And we just ask that you might help us do something about this problem.

And had a friend of mine that was going to ride down with me today who is a landowner. He is sick with the flu. And, anyway, he -- he actually asked me to share this brief statement concerning the same thing with you, if I could. Sorry I can't make it. I've got the crud that's going around and feel like the crud. I didn't have as much problem as you guys did this year, but still the dogs were there. Three different Saturdays I was on a stand and someone came up to the edge of my property and dumped their dogs out. It was on management area land that they dumped them on, and I could never catch up with them. I caught a dog one time that I think was one of the ones they dumped out, and it had a Blanton Hill collar on it. I can't prove it was them, but every time I do catch dogs over the past three or four years it's been from the Blanton Hill Hunting Club and never from the Hog Hollow Hunting Club.

And this is Rod Wallace. I have his phone number and address if any of you would like to talk with him. He may --

During this last year that some more landowners that are our friends and neighbors are having the same problem and we were not even aware of it. And we just ask that you might help us do something about this problem.

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And this is Rod Wallace. I have his phone number and address if any of you would like to talk with him. He may --
Choctaw County were placed under the dog-hunting permit system because of complaints from an individual. Several hunting clubs were affected by the actions of one group of hunters. Several of us that were affected by the permit system were assured that after a couple of years with no complaints against us that the dog-hunting permit restriction would be lifted. We done a good job of obeying the conditions of the permit system, and we had no complaints against us. We would like the dog-hunting permit system lifted off of this area of Choctaw County.

We'd also like to thank you for not banning dog hunting completely out of Choctaw County and allowing us to prove to you that we can and will hunt within the rules and laws set forth for us. Thank you.

Mike Worsham. Mike Worsham from Colbert.

MR. WORSHAM: My name is Mike Worsham. Our property is in Colbert County north of Cherokee. My dad and I own 271 acres that adjoin Randy's property, and we've had trouble with the same dog-hunting club to the north of us.

We spend a lot of time and money creating food plots, orchards, shooting houses to hunt, and we rarely have a hunt that's not disturbed by the dog hunting. We can even hear the dog -- hear the four-wheelers fire up in the morning when they start and get very close to the property lines. We can hear conversations when they're turning the dogs loose sometimes when we're on a stand.

Here's an example of -- last year I took a little bit better records than Randy, and I got to hunt a little bit more last year. On the 24th we had a dog on the north side of our property milling around one of the shooting houses. And then we had a couple of days we thought things were getting better, but then we realized it was a strong north wind and the property was to the north of us and the dogs were going north.

It took back up on the 29th. Had dogs on the north end of the property at 8:50. 9:25 dogs on the south end. At 9:40 dogs running to backtrack across the south end.

On the 14th -- didn't hunt any more till the 14th. At 0900 we had dogs on the center of the property.

On the 23rd we had three beagles, one hound in the middle of the property at 8:52. At 9:02 we had a hound through the middle of the south end of the property. At 9:38 another hound came through the middle of the south end.

On the 28th, 7:54, dogs on the north end. 8:57 another pack on the north end. One of those dogs stopped by one of the stands and treed the hunter in the stand. And then we had a -- that afternoon at 2:26 we had dogs in Sullivan Hollow.

On the 29th at 8 a.m. we had dogs on the middle of the property. At 8:17 another pack came through the middle. At 8:20 another pack came through on the same track. At 8:24 more dogs. 8:28 the same dogs crossed the middle of the property. 8:44 more dogs on the center.

On the 10th at 5 p.m., sitting in the shooting house, a dog just came walking out in the middle of the greenfield.

On the 12th at 9:22 a dog came through the south end. About five minutes later another dog came through on the same track. Have a video of that dog running. It was a really nice race. At 9:49 we had more dogs on the...
north-central part of the property.

Last year I had written letters to my members on the board and the DCNR and the Wildlife Commission. We've called the sheriff and reported on five -- on four separate occasions that we've had these disturbances. And we don't ask that you outlaw or eliminate dog hunting. We just feel like these folks have the responsibility for controlling their dogs so that we can enjoy our hunts the same way that we would like to, undisturbed.

There's another property owner that Randy talked about, Rod Wallace. There's another property owner, Carnell Goodlow, that was going to be with us today, but he had to work. He hunts 250 acres in that area. He has the same disturbances, probably not as many as we have because our property is the one right adjacent to the property.

We just ask that you would consider putting them on a permit system or some sort of restriction so that we can get some relief.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

At this time we have a large group that are speaking in support of dog deer hunting and the association, and Mr. Don Knight and his group have helped me out with our ten-limit rule.

So, Don, would you come first. Don Knight. Appreciate you doing that. Thank you, everybody, for cooperating in that regard.

MR. KNIGHT: I'm Don Knight. I'm the state president of the Alabama Dog Hunters Association, and I'd like to take just a second for the dog hunters and let them know that I am the one that had them cut it back. And so if you don't get to speak today, at the first of the next meeting or the next meeting you're there, we'll put you at the top of the list. It was just we had 20-something people to speak. I try to give everybody as much representation as I can. If you want to get mad at somebody, come after me.

CHAIRMAN GUY: No. Don't get mad at Don. It's just one of our rules.

But, Don, why don't you have everybody stand that is here in favor. That would be good.

MR. KNIGHT: Dog hunters stand, please.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

MR. KNIGHT: That's a real nice group. I want to first off thank the --

CHAIRMAN GUY: And sorry for the accommodations, by the way, Don. Just did the best we could.

MR. KNIGHT: That's fine. We're used to being out in the woods. We'll take it any way we can get it.

But I want to thank the board and Commissioner and Mr. Sykes and all for working and getting our ten days back, and we just appreciate it so much. We just enjoy our hunting the way we like to hunt.

And I also want to tell you that the problems that you heard here already and maybe some to come a little later, I am very well aware of them. I have been involved with them. And Mr. Hatley is mad at me, but I've been involved with them. And we will get in touch with you. We -- call me. We will talk about them. I have -- I've been to meetings. We've done a lot of work on these problems. So if you'll let me know, we'll talk about it.

We've got enough people talking about other things. What I want to bring to your attention today is the partnership of the Alabama Dog Hunters Association and the Seasons of Hope. The Seasons of Hope is an organization that has handicapped children and terminally-ill children that want to hunt, want to fish. They want to do
these things.

We had two hunts with them this year on dog hunts. I've never seen kids enjoy anything so much in all my life. We had one little man that he had a bone disease, breaks his bones very easy. He was there and he got to kill a spike. It wasn't like it was his first deer. He had had some pretty good deer killed on different lands. Never heard a kid get more excited. He got on that radio, and I'm going to tell you what, it brought tears to my eyes just knowing how excited this kid was. Because everything happened so quick. His adrenaline was flowing. We had a couple of great hunts with them.

We had another -- on the second hunt we had a young man that has a brain tumor, and he went out on the stand with his mother and daddy. And I was one stand down from him with a young lady that has also a tumor. And I'm just thinking to myself, oh, please let him see a deer. Well, we heard some shots right before we turned the dogs loose. And when they picked us all up, we went up there, and they had a real fine eight-point. And I've never seen a little kid so excited.

This is a great organization for us to work with. The dog hunting, they love it. They enjoy it. There will be somebody at the next meeting to let you -- to speak for them.

But if people would go to one of these hunts and see these kids, the hardships they have and see what we got, you would probably hear a whole lot less people fussing about a dog coming across their property. You would also hear a lot less dog hunters having to turn their dogs loose on somebody's property. What I'm saying is, go to these hunts and look at who's really got a problem, and you won't have a problem. You will be thankful for what we've got going on in the state of Alabama. You will be thankful to be able to still hunt. You will be thankful --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. KNIGHT: -- to be able to turn your dogs loose. So I just wanted to let you know that.

And appreciate Mr. Hartzog. He's going to let us use his lake. We're going to have them a fishing trip. We're also lining up some still-hunting trips for them. We're not just dog hunting. These kids deserve better than what they've got, and we've got so much it's pitiful. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Yes. I'd just like to thank Don because on occasions when I get calls concerning problems with dog hunters, I can always call Mr. Don and tell him.

I've got a problem, and he within a day or two is calling me back telling me that he's already addressing the issues, contacting the landowners, contacting the club that we're having problems with and trying to get it resolved.

Last year, if you remember, we put Elmore on a permit system. And I've had half a dozen calls from Elmore citizens saying how well it works. And so the permit system works. And I want to thank Don for the work he does in trying to -- when we do have a problem, trying to get it resolved.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

Dwayne Allen.

MR. ALLEN: Good morning, men. I'm Dwayne Allen. I'm the president of the Baldwin County Chapter of the Alabama Dog Hunters Association. And I'm going to keep it real short because Mr. Don, he talked about a lot of things I want to talk about.
I’ve spoken to a few of you about the issues we have in Baldwin County, and I will continue to speak to you. But I want to thank you for the proposal of giving us our ten days back. It means a lot to us. We did real good, few complaints out of Baldwin County, but we had a few hiccups. Like I say, a few of you are aware of them, and I will be talking to you some more in depth about these problems. But thank y’all very much for the job you do and continue the good work. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

Jim Dye.

MR. DYE: Hello. My name is Jim Dye. I hunt in Greene County with C & W Hunting Club.

I want to thank the board for the ten days y’all gave back for the extension. I think that’s great. I appreciate y’all listening to everybody and taking that into consideration and being fair with everything. I give you a hard enough time, so I want to congratulate you too. Like I say, we hunt in Greene County. I think we had a good year this year, uneventful, no problems that I’m aware of. Just want to keep that going. We want to keep working with everybody to keep dog hunting alive and going.

I do want to say about the extension for small game hunters, as a dog hunter, we do want to look and keep some fairness there to be able to still do the small game hunting and rabbit hunting with the dogs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

Jack Hall.

MR. HALL: My name is Jack Hall. I’m from Bay Minette, and that’s in Baldwin County. I’m a retired schoolteacher with 35 years’ experience. I just recently moved back to my hometown of Bay Minette where I got involved with hunting.

My dad, G.P. Hall, and my uncles, Tommy Hall and Gene Hall, introduced me to dog hunting many, many years ago hunting in the Tensaw Delta, and it’s something I’ve cherished all my life. Even when I would come home during the Christmas holidays, I would go hunting with my dad after I graduated from college, and we would go to a place called Halls Fork Hunting Club, which is located in the Phillipsville community in Baldwin County. That’s where I was first introduced to this hunting club.

I learned a lot about Halls Fork Hunting Club before I joined it several years before I retired, and I also learned a lot about the community too. There are some problems there. But the main thing I learned about the hunting club was it’s not just a dog-hunting club. We have people that hunt squirrels only. We have people that are rabbit hunters, dove hunters, turkey hunters, stalk hunters, bow hunters and, of course, dog hunters also.

One thing I liked about this particular club is the older members always nurtured the younger members. And from there -- my stalk-hunting experience at Halls Fork before was to simply climb in a shooting house over a green patch and simply shoot the deer whenever it comes out to eat. At Halls Fork I’ve learned to not only scout, but read signs, get my climber, climb the tree, and kill the deer simply on his terms, not on a human term. So I enjoy that very much.

It’s also a type of hunting club that is more than just a hunting club. It’s more of a brotherhood with a bond that’s very unique for this day and time. Myself, as well as others, work together. I’ll give you a few
A few years ago one of the campers blew up and four members of one family was burned. We helped them with food. We helped them with transportation to the hospital. We helped them with money. We helped them with moral and spiritual support. Even our own president had his house burn down and again the members came forward and helped him with his recovery.

We're planning many things in the Phillipsville community to try and bring that community back together again.

MR. HALL: We're planning things such as a community cleanup, trail rides, community fish fries, and many other things.

One thing is our hunting club is family-oriented. We have husband-and-wife hunters. We have father-son hunters. We have father-daughter hunters. We have whole families that hunt together. And we even have one family that represents four generations in this one hunting club. I believe Halls Fork is a great place to hunt as well as fellowship, and to me fellowship is just more powerful than the hunt. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

Mike Holston.

MR. HOLSTON: I was one of them that they pulled.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Well, he had you down, but that's -- I mean --

MR. HOLSTON: I won't be speaking. That's okay.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. How about Lonnie Miller?

Mr. Miller. Thank you, Mr. Miller.

MR. MILLER: Good morning. I'm Lonnie Miller. I'm from the Last Chance Hunting Club in Covington County.

We had a few issues this year. Some of you guys probably heard about that, and I wanted to come represent our club.

Basically we're making some changes this coming year -- upcoming year. We're going to go still-hunt-only on some of the club land where the majority of the property is where the problem came from. There again, they may be valid and may not be. Just, you know, everybody's got an opinion about different issues.

We're going to go mandatory GPS units. This day and time, you know, some guys use Quick Tracks. I don't. But the club itself is going to use mandatory GPS units.

We're also going to mandatory whistle-breaking dogs, whatever. My dogs are whistle-broke, and that's what we're making mandatory. If you turn a dog out, it will be GPS-collared and whistle-broke.

Some of the positive things that we do as a club, we have -- we really push for the youth hunt every year, have a good time with that. Usually have probably 30, 40 kids there. During the year we encourage youth to come from our community, and, you know, some of them may not have a parent that will bring them hunting. Some people still hunt in the club. Some people take a dog with them. It doesn't matter. We just want to encourage the sport of hunting.

This year we had a Wounded Warrior hunt. We took probably, I think, five or six Wounded Warriors hunting. Two of those guys killed a deer. One was from Birmingham, and one was from Hartford, Alabama.

So that's pretty much it. I just want to represent the club, and we're going to address our issues.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir. Appreciate that very much.

Susan Morrow. And while Ms. Morrow
is coming up, when we get through with
those speakers here, we'll be through
with our public comments section. And
then we'll take a short break for
everybody just to kind of give you a
sense of what's coming.

Ms. Morrow. Thank you.

MS. MORROW: Good morning. My name is Susan
Morrow. I'm from Mobile, Alabama. I'm
also the state vice-president of the
Alabama Dog Hunters Association. And I
hope I heard all this right from
Mr. Sykes that our ten days might be
given back to us if y'all vote it in.
Thank y'all so much. I hope y'all do.
And, also, I would like to ask y'all
to look at opening up some of the
management areas for hog hunting with
dogs. I got to actually go on a hunt
with dogs this year, and it was
awesome. It's not like deer hunting
with dogs by no means. These dogs are
very well-mannered, and they -- they're
only going to catch a hog. They're not
going to catch anything else -- or bay a
hog. They're not going to run a deer or
any of that because they're not going to
have them if they do.

But, as you know, we have 37
management areas in this state. We're
allowed to dog-deer hunt on four of
them. And a couple of years ago y'all
gave us some extra days, and thank y'all
so much. We appreciate that. But we
would like to see some of our other
management areas opened up because we
have a lot of land, especially in the
Forever Wild, that we could go and run
our dogs on and we wouldn't have any
problems with anybody. Because there's
a lot of us that's all we do. We hunt
management areas. Because a lot of us
can't afford the dues to get in some of
the clubs, the real high, especially if
you have kids. So if y'all could open
up some of these management areas.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

Ronny Rolin.

MR. ROLIN: My name is Ronny Rolin. I'm from
Escambia County, Alabama. I'm the
president of the Alabama Dog Hunting
Association in Escambia County. And
what I come for is to talk about the ten
days -- getting the ten days back.
Because I'm a member of the Poarch Creek
Indians, and we have finally bought
enough land so we can have dog hunting.
And so that's what I come for. And I
appreciate it.

And, you know, we enjoy dog
hunting. And I was talking to my -- we
was figuring up and we probably got, you
know, seven or eight clubs right there
together that dog hunts. And we got a
few still hunters around, but -- you
know, we've been getting along with
some, but, you know, we have our
issues. But if, you know, you got any
complaints in Escambia County, just let
me know, and I'll try to talk to the
dog-hunting clubs and try to work things
out. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

Charles Smith.

MR. SMITH: My name is Charles Smith from Baldwin County, Alabama, Phillipsville community. Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak. We have exhausted almost all of your options in resolving a problem in our community. For the past several years we've experienced problems with Halls Fork Hunting Club. The problems this year have led to me being here today. My family has lived in one place in the community since the 1940s. My grandparents started our family homestead here. My father, myself, my children have all been raised there.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Mr. Smith, will you speak closer to the microphone so people can hear you.

MR. SMITH: Excuse me.

CHAIRMAN GUY: That's okay.

MR. SMITH: I'm a little bit nervous.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Don't be nervous.

MR. SMITH: In the beginning the club was a well-respected club that used to respect others in the community. The club used to never hunt on Sundays, only on Fridays, Saturdays, and holidays. Now they hunt seven days a week. The club president stated anytime we have four members we'll make a drive. The club used to keep fair control of their dogs. Controlling their dogs has taken a back seat to making another drive.

My personal problem has also cost me money in the past several years or past few years. I raise cattle, just like my granddaddy. My daddy and I have some. And these dogs have run them through fences, chased them, even chewed on one. So it has cost both my father and me money. This year alone I've had to run the dogs out of my cows four or five times. I run them out during calving season because it's detrimental to the health of the cow and the calf.

We met with the dog hunters association, state vice-president, county president, who listened to the community members' concerns and tried to work with us and the club. I personally until that night had not realized the threats of violence to persons in the community by the club members. As a hunter, I know this type thing is very detrimental to all hunting. It's hard enough to hold on to your rights to hunt.

The Alabama Dog Hunters Association set what was supposed to be a meeting with Halls Fork and the community members on neutral ground in another community. When we got to the meeting, there were members of clubs throughout the county. It felt like we were at a witch hunt instead of an arbitration.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. SMITH: In spite of this, we tried to reach some neutral ground in resolution to the dog problem. The club assured us they would make an effort to catch the dogs and work with community members. The next weekend everything returned to the same old thing.

There seems to be a feeling of defiance in the club. I cannot continue even one more year. Local sheriffs and game wardens and the dog hunters association have tried to resolve the issue. We ask for your help.

MR. DOBBS: Commissioner?

CHAIRMAN GUY: Yes.

MR. DOBBS: May I ask a question, please.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Yes, sir.

MR. DOBBS: The hunting club that you refer to that you're speaking about, you didn't say, but I think you said just now -- is that Halls Fork?

MR. SMITH: Halls Fork.

MR. DOBBS: How many acres do they control?
MR. SMITH: I don't know.
MR. DOBBS: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Buddy Willis.
MR. WILLIS: Board, Chairman.
CHAIRMAN GUY: How you doing, sir?
MR. WILLIS: Some familiar faces. Look at him shaking his head up there. I'm on this side this time.
MR. HATLEY: Yeah, I got you, Buddy.
MR. WILLIS: But I'm here on behalf of Blanton Hill Hunting Club. This club has been in existence for over 40 years. And during this time we don't turn our dogs loose on nobody. We didn't turn our dogs loose on a management area. And the reason that especially Mr. Worsham is mad at Blanton Hill Hunting Club is that they were members of the club. We give them a paid membership, et cetera, et cetera, and they wanted -- Mike especially. He wanted to bring his friends and put them on the property and tell us that we couldn't hunt there on

So, therefore, we hadn't broke any laws. If they did, the warden up there didn't give us no ticket. I'll put it that way. And as far as us doing anything, the way it looks to me -- and I don't want to make this a domestic problem.

They even went so far as to go to the courthouse and get papers saying that we couldn't cross this land that we had crossed for 40 years. So we had to go get a lawyer and get all that straightened out, so forth and so on.

But, now, there's always one thing to remember. When they heard a dog coming and they was hunting, they knew there was a deer in front of them. And if we turn our dogs loose now on Blanton Hill Hunting property and they go toward their property, it's running deer that come off our property. We've got over 40 greenfields that we plant every year.

So the way I see it, I don't -- I can't see that we're doing anything wrong. As far as the noise, there's a guy that lives close to where Mr. Thompson's land is that's got coon dogs, and they bark all day long. I mean, you know, that don't seem to bother him too bad.

But, anyway, I don't want to make it a domestic problem, but I don't think that we've done anything wrong. And I don't think that you should limit us to our hunting, especially the northwest part of the county.

I went to the board, the Commissioner. I think maybe y'all might have got a thing saying that -- and they all voted to leave the dog hunting in Colbert County alone. It brought in revenue. And the sheriff's saying he feels the same way about it. And I talked to the officers up there. I

Mr. Johnson. I will call their names. Let's put it this way. We didn't get no ticket.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. WILLIS: They couldn't find nothing we was doing wrong.

So I know Dan ain't here today, and I'll use this 15 seconds to say this. Last year we was down here and Dan made a remark that the Tide is killing Auburn. This coming year we're going to give the Tide another second and we're going to do the same thing again.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Well, it sounds like that ended on a good note for some of us.

And that brings us to the end of the public hearing portion of our agenda. Just to kind of give everybody a break -- I know we've been in here for a while. A lot of people are standing. There might be some people that want to leave. We're going to take a
15-minute -- would that be okay?
We'll reconvene in 15 minutes at
11:20.
(A recess was taken at 11:08 a.m.
and proceedings resumed at
11:28 a.m.)
CHAIRMAN GUY: In the interest of getting
things accomplished as quickly as
possible -- it's a pretty day outside.
We want everybody to have a chance to go
outside.
We had a little bit of a mishap on
the public speaking part and a couple of
people came up to me. You know, it
was -- it seemed a reasonable request.
So we had two people that were
overlooked that should have been called
on, and so I'm going to let two people
speak.
We generally don't do that, but
since we were able -- some other people
yielded their time and we were able to
go through it quickly, then I'm going
to -- I'm going to allow them, if the
board will let me do so, because I think
that's the fair thing to do. It was
just a mistake in what information was
given to me. And no blame needs to be
placed anywhere.
And let me make sure I've got the
names. It was Mr. Holston; right?
MR. PFEFFER: No. John Curtis Pfeffer. John
Pfeffer. You overlooked me.
CHAIRMAN GUY: Mr. Thompson and who else?
MR. PFEFFER: Mr. Pfeffer, me.
CHAIRMAN GUY: What was your last name?
MR. PFEFFER: Pfeffer with a "P."
CHAIRMAN GUY: Oh, okay. Pfeffer.
All right. So, Mr. Pfeffer, would
you come on up, please, sir.
MR. PFEFFER: Yes, sir.
CHAIRMAN GUY: And we're sorry about the --
MR. PFEFFER: That's fine. I appreciate y'all
giving us time to do this after all
this.
But my name is John Curtis Pfeffer,
and I'm part of Halls Fork Hunting Club,
which is in Baldwin County. I've lived
in Perdido pretty much all my life.
We're just right there at -- I'm within
five minutes of our hunting club. And
some things was brought to y'all's
attention earlier about some agreements
that we had come up with during the
meeting that the Alabama Dog Hunters
Association had come up with and the dog
hunters and some of the landowners that
was there.
I personally was there that night.
I personally asked, you know, the
gentleman that was up earlier
speaking -- I asked him personally,
along with the other gentleman that was
there -- what they was asking for was
basically more communication of what
makes this -- you know, to make all this
work.
So, therefore, that evening, you
know, I had asked them, you know, is
this what you want, is it okay. We
asked the one gentleman about his
pasture. He said he would rather see us
go out in his pasture -- if our dogs was
out there, see us go out in the pasture
to actually get the dogs than what he
would see, you know, fooling with his
cattle. Which I haven't heard of any of
our dogs fooling with any cattle if they
have gotten on his property. He has not
made a phone call to me to come get any
dogs nor anybody that I know of to come
get his dogs.
The dog that was brought to our
attention that was -- supposedly that
attacked the cattle that -- or the calf
that was actually attacked by the dog
was not even a hunting dog. It was a
bulldog. I'm assuming that that's what
that was, was a bulldog. That's what it
was told by us. Because we went and
asked the guy's father about actually
going and paying for damages.
We have done several different things over this past year to make things a lot better on our hunting club. We’ve all started trying to run GPS tracking collars, and if not GPS, just a Quick Track tracking collar to get us close to our dogs.

I’m not going to stand here and say you can catch the dogs every time they come by because it’s very, very hard. But we know exactly where they’re at. We’re trying our best to get our hands on them. A neighboring stalk club that was -- you know, that was kind of communicating with us a few years ago and last year said this year -- even at the meeting that we had said that this year -- said that they are -- you know, seems like we’re getting a whole lot better handle on what he thought was a dog issue from the get-go.

But our club is not no bad club. Threats being made, no, there’s no threats being made by nobody. I ain't got a threat bone in my body. And the people that’s in my club don’t -- I don’t feel that way. Because I’ve got my children that’s in this club. And if we’re doing all these bad things, we should have citations wrote to us for all these bad things. The game warden ain’t even come out and seen us. So, I mean, if it's such bad stuff that we’re doing, I figure that the game warden would come out and see us.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. PFEFFER: And what I would have to say about this is, you know, it's not -- it’s not about the trophies that you bring home. It's about the memories you make with your family and your kids, and that's basically what Halls Fork Hunting Club is about. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

Hold on. Hold on. Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: How many acres do you -- long as it don't affect others.

I have a complaint with Halls Fork Hunting Club in my area that has no consideration for others. They will let their dogs run loose on others’ property. They leave their dogs out, don’t pick them up. We had a meeting with -- let me back up here.

I’ve had their dogs on my property almost every day during the hunting season. I asked how many days a week they hunt. They replied that if they got four members they make a hunt. They asked me how often I hunt, and it really don't matter how often I hunt because I don't disturb their property when I go hunting like their dogs do when they go hunting because nine times out of ten they’re coming to my property.

You can’t catch their dogs most of the time. I asked the members in the club about -- asked a couple of members in their club about that. They said a
few years ago their dogs got into Florida and it cost them a lot of money to get their dogs back. So they make their dogs like that so they're the only ones that can catch them. Well, then we can't catch them to get them off our property.

I've called the game wardens on many occasions. I forgot. I had Clem's cell phone, SouthernLINC. Got Thad's cell phone, SouthernLINC. They won't come. They said they got to see it actually on -- actually see it happen. I didn't know until this year you could call the sheriff's department. And I got three formal complaints with the sheriff's department, could have had many more.

But I don't want, you know, to kill dog hunting in Baldwin County, but something has got to be done in this area. Our small community needs something done about Halls Fork Hunting Club.

The landowners and stalk hunters had a meeting with the Alabama Dog Hunters Association and Halls Fork Hunting Club to try to work out some of these problems. The meeting went totally one-sided. There were several dog-hunting clubs there that was not involved in these problems at hand.

Dwayne Allen of the dog hunters association had talked to Tony several times about the things that was going on wrong, and he just ignored it. Mr. -- he ignored Mr. Allen's requests.

The things that we agreed upon did not work. So I called Tony, the president of Halls Fork Hunting Club, and told him that 12 dogs on our property in three days was unacceptable, we needed to do something different.

His reply was do whatever it is you think you need to do. So that's why I'm here today.

MR. THOMPSON: It's just -- they have made the statements that they've hunted this way for 40 years and it's going to continue to be that way. And we're asking for a little bit of relief. Thank you.

MR. HARTZOG: Commissioner?

CHAIRMAN GUY: Yes, Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Is Baldwin under a permit system now?

CHAIRMAN GUY: Stand up. Tracey has got to hear who's talking.

MR. DODD: Kevin Dodd, Chief of Enforcement. And, no, Baldwin County is not under a permit system at this time.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Mr. Hatley had to leave, so we'll pass that information on to him.

Okay. Thank y'all very much. And remember this. I know it's hard. But when y'all sign up, our staff does such a good job. You fill out the report. If you say you're for something or if you're against something, that's where it goes. So sometimes we get overlapping information, and we try to do it in categories. So just remember to be careful when you sign up is all I'm saying. But, otherwise, everybody is doing a great job.

All right. At this time on the agenda we have our Conservation Advisory Board district reports. I know y'all have all submitted those reports. And I don't want to call on everybody necessarily to talk about that, but I did want to first -- if I could have a little bit of latitude here. Chris Blankenship, our Marine Resources director, is here. And I think he and Dr. Shipp want to talk a little bit about some red snapper issues and maybe some other Gulf Coast issues.

Director Blankenship.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

In your packets that we provided we did have two proposed regulations that deal with coastal fisheries. One of
those is to make the limit for vermilion snapper ten per person that matches what their limit is in federal waters. But, more importantly, we have a proposed regulation to require the mandatory reporting of red snapper data from the charter fishermen and from the recreational fisherman.

And just to give a little bit of a background on why we’re asking to do this, this is not something just from us. It is also a request from the fishermen. I don’t know if you’ve noticed, but the red snapper fishery manages -- the way that that’s managed by the federal government is inadequate.

We have had -- that is the largest topic of conversation amongst the fishermen in south Alabama and really all over the state of Alabama that come to the coast to fish. So we’re working diligently to improve the management of red snapper and to take over more of the management of red snapper from the federal government, that we think that we can do a better job of that here in the state.

The need for this data collection for the number of red snapper that are being landed in Alabama, over the last several years the number of red snapper using the federal data collection program has ranged from somewhere on some years around 400,000 pounds to last year’s estimate was four million pounds. So the landings in Alabama don’t fluctuate that much over the course of a year. You know, you don’t go from 400 to 800 to four million pounds over the course of a season even as the season is getting shorter and shorter under the federal management.

So it’s imperative for us to know exactly what is being landed in Alabama. And with that, that will help us take over maybe some more of this management from the federal government and will help provide data to them to refine the red snapper management program.

There’s some letters of support in your packet that I’ve provided today from the Orange Beach Fishing Association which represents most all of the charter boats in Baldwin County, from Zeke’s Marina, which is the largest marina in Baldwin County, from the Dauphin Island Marina, and also from Ben Fairy with the Orange Beach Marina. So we have good support from the charter industry and from the recreational industry for this reporting of red snapper.

And we also received funding -- we’ve applied for a couple of grants and we received funding to help with this data collection program and our increased validation from our staff. And we were the only Gulf state that received that funding in order to help with our program and trying to be a leader in what’s going on with the data collection of the red snapper in the Gulf.

So, Dr. Shipp, did you want to add anything?

DR. SHIPP: Yeah. I’m fully supportive of what Chris has said. This snapper management issue has reached a tipping point or is very close to it, and the states -- some of the states are going off on their own. Florida is on their own. Texas is on their own. It’s in Congress. There are bills to fix this problem.

It’s absurd what’s happened. And the season is down to about 40 days, and the stocks are stronger than they’ve ever been. I would urge certainly our board members and anyone else to read this issue of “Guy Harvey” that was included in your packet of stuff. It really does a good job of summarizing
the problem. And I think what Chris is proposing is -- will address one of the problems and that's data. The data are just terrible and they get worse. And the states have to be ready to go on their own, and I think that's what this program is going to enable Alabama to do. We have the best snapper stocks in the Gulf, and we need to be ready to go on our own.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Does anybody have any questions about that whatsoever at this time? (No response.)

CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. And then, Chris, you might want to talk about some legislation that we have too.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: We do have a piece of legislation that we're supporting. It's House Bill 403. It would extend our state waters for Fisheries management out to nine miles. Texas and Florida currently have nine miles that's recognized by the federal government. Louisiana and Mississippi have passed similar legislation through their states that extend their waters to nine miles, and we have legislation to do the same. And there is a part of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act that's being talked about in Congress now. It has a provision in there that would give federal concurrence to those states on the Gulf that we could extend our state waters out to nine miles. So we would appreciate support of House Bill 403. That would put us on equal footing with the other states.

MR. McMILLAN: What's the status of it?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: It has passed -- it passed the House. It passed the Senate committee this week with an amendment. And so it's, you know, poised to -- for the special-order calendar sometime hopefully this next week on the Senate floor.

CHAIRMAN GUY: So we're acceptable to the amendment; right?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN GUY: And so what we need is anybody that could help us just to contact their legislator and ask them to get that bill through. I'm not sure what actual legal effect it may have, but I think if the other states have it, we need it so that if there are some changes there we would already be on board. We wouldn't be behind the curve.

Yes, sir, Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: Who sponsored that bill?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: In the House, Representative Sessions from south Mobile County was the primary sponsor, but he had about 25 or 26 co-sponsors for the bill.

MR. HARTZOG: But it's subject to the feds later accepting the state --

MR. BLANKENSHIP: That's correct. But by having it in our state code, it would be easier to get that federal concurrence.

CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Now, Chris, do you have -- you already have things that you need passed for, you know, seasons and bag limits, all that. Is that already in your packet?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: It is. It's just one change this year with vermilion snapper. Everything else has stayed the same.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. So we'll just take that up at the next meeting by motion; correct?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. So we'll need to do that by motion at the next meeting. All right. Anything else?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: No, sir. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GUY: And speaking of legislation real quick, I'm going to let Fred, Mr. Harders, stand up. There is a bill -- a fishing bill that we think is of interest, also, that we have over there that we think there should be
really good support for. I was going to
let Mr. Harders speak to that.

MR. HARDERS: That's House Bill 356. And it
does a multiple of things not only for
us, but it does one thing for Marine
Resources also.
In Marine Resources it corrects some
language, allows some privileges on the
fishing pier -- the marine fishing pier
license that they have. But for us it
creates a disabled fishing event similar
to what passed last year for military
hunters. This is for all disabled
anglers. We get requests for exemptions
from license for different groups that
come in and want to put on trips, which
we can't do by law. So this would allow
up to ten disabled anglers to fish under
one license along with their helpers.
It also provides for a state lakes
fishing license, a daily license. Right
now we've kind of created barriers to
those state lakes by requiring a regular
freshwater fishing license. We get people that come in --
we've talked with our lake managers.
Folks come in and when they hear what
it's going to cost them to fish, they --
oh, that's too much. This would provide
for a discounted fishing license so they
could utilize the lakes.

Also, this bill provides for a
nonresident three-day family fishing
license. Again, folks come into the
state, utilize our state parks, want to
go fishing. When they find out how much
it's going to cost for everybody to
fish -- this will allow about five
family members to fish under one
license. And it also allows us to count
those five people towards our federal
aid count, which provides more money.

But that's House Bill 356. It's
coming up on the House floor this week.
We think it's going to pass. Once it
does that, it goes to the Senate to
committee. We hope it's on a fast
track, and we hope it gets done this
year. And that's Representative Fincher
and Jones along with some other folks.
They're the major sponsors.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Any questions about that?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN GUY: And the other thing that we
don't want to lose on the radar for
those fishing licenses and particularly
the family fishing license is it
promotes tourism in our state.

And, you know, really what it is, is
a guy or a lady comes in and they've got
their whole family with them and it
allows them to all fish off the same
license without having to buy multiple
licenses when maybe they just catch one
fish or something. So we think it's a
really good -- really good license.

So anybody can contact their local
legislators to make sure that gets a
good push. I think they're really good
deals. And I really don't think they
have much opposition. They just need
that push along.

Yes.

MR. CURTIS JONES: It's already passed the
Senate. It's waiting to get on the
special-order calendar in the House.

MR. HARDERS: No, no, no.

CHAIRMAN GUY: He's saying no, Curtis.

MR. HARDERS: That's the disabled military
hundred percent license.

MR. CURTIS JONES: All right. SB 206.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Well, either way, keep pushing
it.

MR. CURTIS JONES: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. And then, Grady, you
also have -- is the Ducks Unlimited --

MR. HARTZOG: No. We're going to hold that
until the Republicans get elected.

CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Now, does
anybody -- Dr. Shipp, you took care of,
I think, everything you had on your --
does anybody else have a district report
or any other matters in their district
that they need to bring up at this time
that they want to discuss?
(No response.)
CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Any old business?
I don't recognize from looking at
the minutes that there was anything held
over from the last meeting, but does
anybody have any old business to take up
at this time?
(No response.)
CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. New business. I
know we've got a couple of things.
Mr. Dobbs.
MR. DOBBS: I'd like to make a motion, please,
that $38,000 be appropriated from the
Wildlife Heritage License fund that is
within the scope of the monies there,
and these funds would be used for a
research effort with Auburn University.
CHAIRMAN GUY: Do I have a second?
MR. JONES: I second.
CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Second from
Mr. Jones.
All right. Is there any
discussion?
This is -- we've done this before,
folks. Just so you remember, this is a
statutory issue Legal says that we can
pass at this time. It's just taking
money that is allocated for this and
actually transferring it so they could
use it. That's simply all it is, is a
matter of complying with the statute.
All in favor of the motion say
"aye".
(All board members present
responded "aye.")
CHAIRMAN GUY: All opposed?
(No response.)
CHAIRMAN GUY: Motion carries.
All right. Just so we're safe here,
I'm going to look to Legal to make
sure. You know, we have to -- anything
you want to bring up at the next meeting
that needs a motion for, you know,
seasons and bags is we may tweak the
line just a little bit if another road
or major river system falls into that
where we can get that line a little bit
more precise. But the gist of it stays
the same.
CHAIRMAN GUY: Well, yeah. Just so we're
clear on the record, could you do a
motion for the seasons and bag limits
for Marine Resources division?
MR. HARTZOG: So move.
CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Second?
DR. STRICKLAND: Second.
CHAIRMAN GUY: All in favor say "aye."
(All board members present
responded "aye.")
CHAIRMAN GUY: All opposed?
(No response.)
CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. I think we
sufficiently have addressed everything.
My understanding is all we have to do is
bring the matter up at this time so it
can be addressed and a motion next time

so that we're just not bringing up
something that we haven't talked about;
correct, Mr. Dean?
MR. DEAN: That's correct.
CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. So I think we've covered
that. And we've talked about a lot of
things.
Chuck's PowerPoint presentation is
sufficient for that to be done, number
one. But, number two, you have it all
in your packet too. So everything in
your packet that we've discussed we can
bring up at the next meeting.
Let me just ask anybody -- Grady --
if anybody has any other matters they
want to talk about today.
MR. HARTZOG: I'd like to make a motion that
staff reports back to us as to their
recommendation on the -- it's real
interesting about the air rifle -- come
back to us with their recommendation as
to whether to include or not to include
the air rifle in the muzzleloader

season.
CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. There was obviously some
discussions today, too, about some dog
hunting and some permit issues that I
think are sufficiently before us, but if
anybody just needs to talk about that or
bring it up just so we can address it,
now is the time to do that as well.

Mr. Jones.
MR. JONES: Thank you. I would like to --
we've heard some from the Colbert County
area. And I would like to -- for Don
Knight to continue and maybe we talk
about that some as well. But we also
would like to possibly look at putting
part of the area of Colbert County under
a permit system.

MR. HARTZOG: Raymond, can I make an amendment
to yours?
MR. JONES: Absolutely, yes.
MR. HARTZOG: Well, since we've heard so many
complaints about Hall and Mr. Hatley is
not here, since it's his district to

address that and since he -- you know,
if he was here, he probably would -- I
would like us to look at the possibility
of a recommendation on Baldwin County
also.
CHAIRMAN GUY: It doesn't mean we have to do
it. It just means that we can do it if
we want to. And we will start working
with -- we'll continue to work with
Mr. Knight on those issues.
You know, I'm a lawyer, but when a
lawyer comes up and gets up in my ear on
something, you go "what?
Grady mentioned some stuff about the
air rifle. Let's go ahead and make a
motion on any of those matters we
discussed as being appropriate for
consideration at the next meeting.
Would you do that, Grady.
MR. HARTZOG: Yes. So done.
CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. Second?
DR. SHIPP: Second.
CHAIRMAN GUY: All in favor say "aye."
(All board members present responded "aye.")

CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Any other matters?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. There was one thing I did want to -- yours is in there. That's what I say. That was an all-inclusive motion for Mr. Dean.

Is that all right, Tracye?

That was an all-inclusive motion for all of those things we just discussed if they were sufficiently addressed for Mr. Dean's purposes.

All right. While Chuck is making sure we've got everything covered, I do want to mention something else just briefly. I'll take a point of privilege from the chair here to say a couple of things.

Number one, Dr. Lemme, thanks to your help and all the board and everything, I think we had a great, successful start on the new dove regulations. And I've heard nothing but positive responses about that. I have had some inquiries from some folks still a little bit confused, which I understand, about what they can and can't do and how it affects them. And we're going to continue to work with the landowners and all that, everybody that's interested in the dove hunting, to try to bring that back to the place it used to be particularly for you.

And so I just want to encourage everybody to look closely at that. That's a great opportunity -- social opportunity to have fun with kids, family, and everything else that also brings us back much needed license sales, you know, through dove hunting and gets corporations involved and businesses involved and that type of thing. And as you all know, we don't get any general fund money. Strictly -- you know, we're a, you know,
going to happen, but unneeded deaths, I mean, that’s just something we need to try to all eliminate.

So, anyway, I know everybody agrees with me on that. But every year -- we see it maybe more than the public sees it because they all come to us through our hunter education. We’re in charge of making sure we look at those, and they’re just unnecessary.

Yes, sir.

MR. McMILLAN: How many deaths did we have related to hunting?

CHAIRMAN GUY: You know, too many. But Marisa is not here. Is it seven?

It was seven. And some of them were just -- some of them were just -- you know, most of them were just unnecessary. I mean, you know, some of them were kind of those you just would never contemplate.

And, of course, we had a number of nonfatalities, particularly where people come out of their stands and either don’t have -- you know, don’t have their hunting straps on or -- some of them are just coming down the steps of stands and don’t have their guns unloaded and they go off on them. You know, so just some things like that. But most of it can be prevented if -- with the people that you’re with. If you see something, don’t be afraid to say something to them. You might be saving their life.

All right. Sorry about that soapbox, but it’s important.

Yes, Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: One more proposal motion. We talked about the game check system. Just so that we have the opportunity to amend, change, add, or detract from it for the next meeting or the meeting beyond that.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. We’ve got a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. AINSWORTH: Second.
CHAIRMAN GUY: But, really, we -- again, like
I said earlier, we got set back a little
bit. The legislature meets early in
election years, and that threw us out of
killer here. And so usually this is our
second meeting where we pass motions.
I'll talk with our staff. There's
issues related to getting all this done
and in the books and printed. And so we
will work with you the best we can. I
will not make any promises.
And so, anyway, just bear with me,
and we'll select a place. If anybody
has a specific request, please let Betsy
and I know, and we'll certainly give
that serious consideration, where we
might want to meet that is convenient
for everybody.

DR. STRICKLAND: I think Huntsville is pretty
convenient.

MR. AINSWORTH: Or Mobile. He can take us
fishing.

CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. And we'll certainly
post all that on the Web and let all the
public know so that they can certainly
attend those meetings.

Anything else?

MR. DOBBS: One question of Mr. Harders.
Do we need to consider migratory
birds now or next meeting?

MR. HARDERS: They're in the --

CHAIRMAN GUY: Seasons and bag limits.

MR. DOBBS: Okay.

MR. HARDERS: But one thing to note, that
there's probably going to be extra days
for doves.

CHAIRMAN GUY: There's extra days for doves?

MR. HARDERS: Possibly.

CHAIRMAN GUY: Possibly. Okay.

So really anything in the seasons
and bag limits is what we covered in our
motion, didn't we?

Okay. So all of that is
encompassing for consideration. That's
okay. Chuck gave that handout, and that
was part of his presentation.

All right. Anything else?

I'm looking down here to make sure
we didn't miss anything.

Yes, Mr. Harders.

MR. HARDERS: One thing I might mention,
including in that packet -- you've
probably seen it or maybe not, didn't
get to it. We're recommending what that
one gentleman asked for is the use of
suppressors.

CHAIRMAN GUY: That was Fred Harders.

It's in the package. But, yes, the
gentleman mentioned the use of
suppressors, and I believe that is in
there for consideration as a proposal.

Mr. Dean, are you satisfied that
we've got all the seasons and bag limits
covered by motion?

MR. DEAN: Yes. I like those final motions
that Joey made. They were very good.

CHAIRMAN GUY: So we have an all-inclusive
motion -- let's just one more time --
all-inclusive motion --

How about making one. David will
drive me crazy if he looks at the
minutes later.

-- for passing any of the matters
that are proposed in seasons and bag
limits. Is that okay, Mr. Dobbs? Can
you make that motion?

MR. DOBBS: Yes. I make that motion that all
seasons and bag limits that have been
proposed, that we make a motion we will
vote on those and deal with them at the
next meeting.

CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Second?

DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

CHAIRMAN GUY: All in favor say "aye."

(All board members present
responded "aye.")

CHAIRMAN GUY: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. That's good. With
that, we're adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at
approximately 12:06 p.m.)
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ALABAMA:
MONTGOMERY COUNTY:
I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting on March 1, 2014.
The foregoing 180 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held.
I further certify that I am neither of kin nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor in any manner interested in the results thereof.
This 1st day of April 2014.

___________________________
Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2014
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large