STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Liberty Park Middle School
Vestavia Hills, Alabama
March 9, 2013

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Proceedings taken before Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, at the Liberty Park Middle School, 17035 Liberty Parkway, Vestavia Hills, Alabama, on Saturday, March 9, 2013, commencing at approximately 9:00 a.m.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Dan L. Moultrie, Chairman
Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner
Mr. John McMillan
Dr. Gary Lemme
Mr. Bill Hatley
Mr. Austin Ainsworth
Dr. Warren Strickland
Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
Mr. Grady Hartzog
Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.
Mr. T.J. Bunn, Jr.
Mr. Jeff Martin

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CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I'd like for the March 9, 2013, meeting of the Conservation Advisory Board to come to order. I'd like to welcome everyone to Liberty Park Middle School. The board is glad that you're able to be here today. The invocation will be given by Mr. Bill "Bubba" Bussey. Mr. Bussey.

MR. BUSSEY: Thank you. Join with me in prayer, please.

    Heavenly Father, we thank you for another beautiful day today. We thank you for this place together, and we thank you for the process that we're about to undertake. Father, we've all been blessed so much that we can't even begin to thank you for all those blessings. And, Father, we ask today as we continue the job that you have given us as the gardener that you would bring us together. We have a vast group here with different expertise, different interests, and we ask that you put us
all together in one corridor that would
serve you and that would serve the
people, the hunters, the landowners in
the state of Alabama in the best way
possible. Father, we ask all of this in
your name. Amen.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Bussey.

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

First I'd like to introduce our
Commissioner of Conservation, Mr. Gunter
Guy. Commissioner.

Next I'd like to introduce our
Deputy Commissioner, Curtis Jones.
Mr. Jones.

Next I'd like to introduce the
current Alabama's Agricultural
Commissioner, John McMillan.
Commissioner.

We have several people in the
audience I'd like to recognize: Former
Commissioner of Conservation Barnett
Lawley. Mr. Lawley.
Former Commissioner of Conversation
Riley Smith. Riley.

And first vice-president of NRA, Jim
Porter. Mr. Porter.

Our other ex-officio member here
today is Dr. Gary Lemme from the Alabama
Extension Service. Dr. Lemme.

And for allowing the board to use
their fine facilities here,
superintendent of the Vestavia School
System, Dr. Jamie Blair, and Jack
Pennington.

Next I'd like to let the district
members of the board give their name and
which district they represent starting
at the end. Mr. Ainsworth.

MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, District 4.
MR. BUNN: T.J. Bunn, District 7.
MR. MARTIN: Jeff Martin, District 3.
MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, District 6.
MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, District 2.
DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland,
Congressional District 5.
MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, Congressional District Number 5.

MR. HATLEY: Bill Hatley, District 1.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you. We're glad you're in attendance.

One other speaker -- and he hadn't arrived earlier, but if he is here, we'd like to recognize also Representative Wes Long, District 27 representative. Is he here yet?

He will be arriving.

The next order of business is the approval of the February 9th, 2013, Advisory Board minutes. Are there any changes to the minutes?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If not, the minutes stand approved as read.

The next order of business is the Commissioner's comments. Commissioner Guy.

COMMISSIONER GUY: If everybody will indulge me one more time, I was going to do a
short PowerPoint on a couple of issues.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. I think everybody really liked the PowerPoint you did before, and I've had a lot of people ask for it. So I think that would be excellent.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm going to try not to make it a practice, but I think with all the information or in some cases the misinformation, I would like to talk about a few of the issues that we have already talked about to further clarify. So I was going to ask the members if they could go down and sit. We have chairs.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great. Members, if y'all would file down, please.

Commissioner, I forgot to introduce -- and, Mr. Hartzog, you'll be glad. We have with us today another college student in training that would like to sit with us from the University
of Alabama. Mr. Hartzog, I know you approve.

Davis Blair, if you'd raise your hand. He's from the University of Alabama and wanted to have part college credit by participating in the Advisory Board meeting. He will be our timekeeper today, and we'll keep a strict three-minute rule.

So, Davis, thank you for being here and participating.

Representative Long, we recognized you just now, but we're going to recognize you again. If you'd just wave your hand so everybody will know who you are. Thank you for your attendance today. Representative Long, District 27.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm going to come over here and talk to you. That will be the easiest way to do it.

(Brief interruption.)

COMMISSIONER GUY: All right. So while
they're looking for some lights to be
turned off, which may help you, we're
going to briefly -- I was just going to
briefly run through some of the major
issues for today, and I'm going to try
to be quick about it. There are other
issues, I think, on the agenda. But,
Julie, if you would go ahead and get the
first one.

So this is the proposed February
deer season shifting area in southwest
Alabama. It's the same map that we
published. I've heard from a lot of
different -- the department has heard
from a lot of different people about
this, and I'm going to try to tell you
what we've heard.

Number one, we've heard from quite a
number of people that said we like it,
but you didn't put it in our county or
our area. We want it extended further.
So I want to be clear on the record that
in that regard, for that issue, we
are -- as I said last time, we have to have data to support what we're doing. And, quite honestly, we don't have all the data to support it. And if we're going to do it right, which we want to do, we need that data. And we have a plan for next year -- really this year. I'm sorry. This year we'll be doing this deer field study in other counties that are not included in this map.

And so my opinion is overwhelmingly people wanted the extension, but they didn't like the fact that they weren't included. Lots of people -- Barbour County -- well, I can just tell you, just about any county south of Montgomery, we got calls from people that wanted it there too. And I understand that. But we need to have the data.

So the second thing that I heard from, of course, is the dog deer hunters because of the fact that we cut out ten
days. And I've heard you loud and clear
and I understand where you're coming
from. And what I've tried to explain to
everybody that has an interest in that
is that even though we took out ten days
for both dog deer hunters and gun
hunters in December, we did that because
we didn't feel it was appropriate for
the resource or the other hunters in the
rest of the state to give that area
extra days, ten extra days which we are
tacking onto the end of the season.
Those dog deer hunters that stalk hunt,
which I'm pretty sure I can say is a
pretty good majority -- not everybody --
will still get those ten days. They're
not losing ten days. But, again, I do
understand that we took away ten
dog-hunting days.

Now, my commitment to those people
that have an interest in this is simply
this. I hope -- you know, it may not
satisfy you. But if we extend the
season into other areas of the state next year, we will be obviously including more of those that are affected by dog deer-hunting days. And my commitment is to try to figure out how we can address that so that maybe you don't lose that many days or maybe you lose some days but not all days. But it's very complicated. It's not simple. But I'm not saying that we won't go back and look at that.

The commitment I can make to you -- for those that know, this board and I have supported dog deer hunting. We try to do everything we can to support it. This was just a case of getting ten days. I took -- I needed to take ten days out. I felt that was the appropriate thing for the resource.

It may turn out sometime down the road that we may see that maybe this extension of the season is wrong. It may turn out that way. We're going to
use this game check to figure out how many deer, in particular, bucks and does, are being taken in this extended season.

If you'll remember, we've got the game check that's going to go into effect next hunting season. With that game check, you'll be required to report the bucks you kill. You're not getting extra bucks for this ten days. Same three-buck limit. And we're going to require you, which you should do, to keep that harvest record and to report it. Then we have the information to let you know how many deer are being taken during that extra ten days. And as a department, it's our duty and responsibility to evaluate that and to let y'all know whether that's a good thing or a bad thing.

When it comes to does, if you don't want to shoot does, don't shoot does. I know with most people, you know, it's
about shooting a buck in the rut. But certainly you need to manage your properties.

As you know, the public properties that are managed by the department, they will set what can be done within those public properties and -- but this is more about private owners, private lands, and your ability to be able to hunt into what the data shows in this area as a later rut by the information we have. It's not -- we're going to continue to get more information in this area, but the information we have supports this. Sure, you've got some days that are earlier. You've got some days that are way later where deer -- the does are bred. But what we're showing is that the information is that the generally average date is into the early part of February, the first ten days.

So, anyway, I'm just trying to
explain to you that I'm not going to forget about the fact that you say it. And I welcome the comments today. If we go into more counties, I think more than anything we need to look about how we decide to address dog deer hunting.

Next slide.

Oh, and one other thing. A lot of questions were asked about why parts of counties and not all of the counties. And the department, in particular, I think, Enforcement and Wildlife feel that natural boundaries are easier to enforce. That's all that's about, so -- and I believe that's true. If you think about it, counties, there's no line in the dirt right there. It's easier to enforce natural boundaries. That's why you see -- the way this thing is done, you see it by natural boundaries.

All right. If we could go to the next one.

So, again, this just shows you the
updated season and bag limits with all the different dates. And, now, in the -- where the season is not extended, there won't be a change, but in the extended part or shifted part of the season, the south zone, there will be these different days that we will need to pay attention to.

Go ahead, Julie.

Okay. The other issue was there was an area north -- the north part of Alabama where there was a recommendation to cut back on doe days. And after the proposal at the last meeting, there were some concerns about one area. And I'm going to see if I can do this. That's this area right there. And so that area was taken out. That's the only thing that was changed, except that we also went to -- instead of a season with -- for gun hunting -- I think 23 days is what was proposed for one doe a day. We went back to the entire gun season with
just one doe a day. So we cut it from two does a day back to one doe a day.

And, again, for those people that live in this area, two things I would like to say and that is -- I mean, in this whole area -- is that use good management practices because we are concerned about the does in that area, number one. And, you know, so if you don't have does, you know, talk to your neighbors, talk to everybody and say, look, let's be careful about it.

And then, number two, again, with the game check, we hope to get some really good information about the number of does that we're taking. And we can evaluate that and figure out whether our doe harvest -- we're setting these doe -- these seasons and bag limits right based on does. We might have to -- we may have to either further reduce does or maybe we find out that there's more does than we think. And so
we want to look -- now we can look statewide at this.

And that's, again, the reason for the game check. And so far the game check has been overwhelmingly -- the comments have been overwhelmingly in support of that. And we hope that everybody will help us work toward getting that word around and to getting that game check done in a very good manner so that everybody knows what's going on. We'll try to publicize all that.

Go ahead, Julie.

Again, that's just unantlered deer zone. It's just one unantlered deer per day in that area.

Go to the next one.

Okay. The other thing we talked about was area definition. Let me say why area definition is a -- is brought up and why it's a topic today. And many of you know I'm a lawyer, and I'm going
to be short about this.

But there was a time when the department thought that the baiting law that's in the statute was a strict liability statute. Just if you're out there and there's feed around you, you could be ticketed for it and you were guilty because the feed was there whether you knew or should have known about it. And that's been a concern among a lot of people.

Well, in 2000 there was a case called the Phillips case, and in that case it was decided that the officers had to approve -- had to prove that the hunter knew or should have known that bait was there for the purpose of luring that deer there.

Our officers -- our enforcement officers are great at what they do, but working within the framework of the law, there's no clearly defined definition of what the area is. It could be the size
of this auditorium for some officers. For other officers it could be the size of a parking lot or further. And that's not because it's a fault with them. It's because it's not defined in the law. So the case said that you have to prove that, and it talked about the issue of the area that's in the statute.

Go ahead.

Oh, go back. Can you go back?

So the other thing I want to mention is, in looking at this issue, we looked at the southeastern states. The states in yellow -- or any part of the states in yellow is where baiting is allowed. The states in green, north Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi, all have area definitions. We have nothing.

So another purpose of this area definition is to bring us in compliance with everybody else. And it's two-fold. Number one, it's so the
officers will know where cases should be made and, number two, so the public has an expectation to know where they can feed or not feed a deer and be okay with it.

Now, this proposed area definition -- go to it, Julie.

This proposed area definition -- let me be clear -- does not allow for baiting. It is not a circumvention of the law that says you can't bait. You still can't bait. The purpose of this is to give the officer and the public an opportunity to do what it already allows, which is feed.

You can feed 365 days a year in Alabama. Supplemental feeding is allowed. It's not prohibited by law. And some people want to feed on their property and want to do it -- want to do it in a lawful manner, but they don't know what the parameters are.

So we're trying to set those
parameters by this. We're saying that as it applies to the -- the statute is -- that's what I've been referring to. As it applies to the hunting of deer and feral swine --

Those are the two species that we're setting an area definition for. You will notice that we're not talking about turkeys or any other game animals in this area definition. It's deer and feral swine.

-- there shall be a rebuttable presumption that any bait or feed, as defined in that code section, located beyond "X" yards from the hunter and not within the line of sight of the hunter, is not a lure, attraction, or enticement to, on, or over the area where the hunter is attempting to kill or take the deer or feral swine.

We're taking that right from the statute. And the reason that the word bait or feed is used there is because
it's used in the statute. Because really what we're talking about is your ability to feed.

So what the consideration for this board is, is to adopt this proposal like has been done in other states which would give the hunter an opportunity to feed on his property, if he so chooses, as long as it's more than whatever yardage is set from him and not within the line of sight. So two things are required: It's got to be further than so many yards and it's got to be out of his line of sight.

The other issue here is, for purposes of this regulation, not within the line of sight means being hidden from view by natural vegetation or naturally occurring terrain features. And the regulation shall not apply on public lands.

So what that means is if you try to circumvent this and just go out and
stick the corn behind a bale of hay --
I'm just using that as one example --
that's not going to work, y'all. That's
baiting; okay? That's still baiting.

And that rebuttable presumption word
right there means this: These officers
can still make a case out against you.

Now, let me try to explain that a
little bit further. We'll go to the
next regulation -- next -- so we just
did an example of this for y'all's
review.

Here's the hunter. The distance is
an equal distance, whatever is decided,
around that hunter. Two things have got
to happen. We put this feeder over
here. And this is an example. It's got
to be more than the distance in this
circle and it's got to be out of the
line of sight.

I don't know if you can tell, but
those are all trees. We just used that,
trees, and that's what it says, natural
vegetation or naturally occurring terrain features.

The idea here is it needs to be out there where -- far enough beyond this -- beyond this and out of sight. And there would be a rebuttable presumption that it's not a lure for purposes of baiting. That rebuttable presumption is just like this. It can be overcome if there's other evidence that the officer thinks is present where you were really just trying to circumvent feeding and shoot a deer over bait. But it's his burden to overcome that presumption.

Now, somebody asked me and I had a thousand examples. And there are a thousand examples, again, because we are not allowing baiting. So you need to -- everybody should understand that. This is not a circumvention of the baiting statute in no way, shape, or form.

What needs to be understood is this can be done now. It can be done now.
People can feed now, but they just can't bait. And what we're trying to do is, again, make this so people understand what the parameters are.

Again, what I want you to understand here is in this circle, the way the law reads, you are presumed to know whether there's feed in that circle, whatever that circle comes to be. That's your responsibility. The officer, by virtue of this definition, will know that within that -- whatever that yardage is right there, you're presumed to know whether there's feed there. Outside that circle there's a rebuttable presumption that he has to overcome.

And the parameter is -- it's got to be -- so if you put -- it might be outside the circle, but if you put it right out there in plain view and just try to, like I say, hide it behind a bale of hay or stick it behind a piece of dirt or whatever you try to do -- and
this is only for a very small percentage
of people that we catch anyway. If it's
outside the line but still within the
line of sight, that's baiting. If the
deer and the bait are together there and
you can see them, that's baiting; okay?
That's just what it is. That's the way
it is now.

The majority of the people we give
tickets to are sitting right over the
bait. What we're trying to do is help
eliminate those law-abiding folks who by
definition now can feed -- supplemental
feed on their property. And we're
trying to help them understand what that
is and give our officers the same
direction.

There has been some misinformation
that this is allowing baiting. I
would -- I would challenge anybody that
that's what it's doing. And the other
states have done the same thing. The
other three states that I pointed to
have done the same thing. And they are anti-baiting states, too, but they've done it. One of the states -- can you go back, Julie, to that?

I'll share with you that Mississippi has a hundred yards as their distance. Tennessee has 250 yards. And north Georgia has 200 yards. So there's differences in opinion about that. They set it at whatever they want to set it at.

Would you go back to the other one.

Okay. So -- is there another one after that? There's not, is there?

MS. PERRY: That's it.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So, again, understand this is what the case says that I'm referring to. It's basically saying we're defining that area so that people, again, will have that expectation.

Can you go back to -- go back to that one, please. Thank you.
So, again, I want you to be able to see the statute and what it says. As regards deer and feral swine -- I want to make it clear, deer and feral swine. Turkeys, anything else, the statute as it now reads is applicable, which basically means we're not defining the area for any of those other game. And other states have done the same and mostly because they feel it's not appropriate to define it for turkey or other game, but they have felt it appropriate to do it for deer and feral swine.

This is the key language, not within the line of sight and -- excuse me -- the distance and the line of sight. So we're hoping by doing this we're allowing people who wish to feed on their property to do so.

I want to make another statement. You don't have to feed on your property. Nobody is requiring you to
feed on your property. So for those who are against it, don't feed. And I say that not to you guys, but just to the general public. If you don't want to feed on your property, you don't have to. But the law does allow you to do it. So what I'm trying to say is, if you're against it because you don't like feeding, don't feed. But the law says you can feed.

The other thing is I was going to say, too -- and I meant to say this, and I mean it all respectfully. Like where we extended the season in southwest Alabama, there are people that say, you know, I'm not all that crazy about it. I even got -- I even got a letter from one man's wife who, I think, threatened divorce if he got to hunt ten more days. My advice was don't hunt those extra ten days. Seriously, I mean, don't hunt those extra ten days. The three-buck limit still applies. Some
people may have killed their three-buck limit. And so, you know, if you're hunting bucks, we're not giving out extra tags.

So, you know, what I mean by that is, look, use good judgment, you know, with your property that you own or lease or whatever you do. And if you think you've put a lot of pressure on those deer and you've hunted it enough, don't hunt. But we're doing it for the reasons I stated earlier.

But the same thing applies to this. Nobody is telling you you have to feed. Our -- our -- the information that we have gotten in the department overwhelmingly has supported this and believes it's something good. It will be debatable, I'm sure, but overwhelmingly this has been supported.

Overwhelmingly the extension of the season has been supported.

What I want to do is try to
balance -- and I will always balance what's best for the resource. That's the primary objective. But I want the hunters in this state to have satisfaction of what we're trying to do. Because we depend on y'all to buy licenses and support this department, and without you we don't exist. And, you know, it's important that we have your buy-in on this.

And, certainly, if it turns out we've done something wrong, we'll change it. I mean, that's the good thing about what we're doing is we have an opportunity to always change it.

Now, on the yardage that's missing right there, I'm just going to say this: It's up to this board to decide. But we have found that most people have been in favor of a hundred yards. Not everybody -- I want to be clear on that. Not everybody is, but most people are. And I'm sure there will be some
people here that will speak to it.

So I appreciate everybody giving me this chance to do this. Like I say, I'm not going to try to make this every time. I know I did it last time. I just wanted to make sure that when you have an opportunity to comment that I gave this -- that I gave this talk beforehand so that you knew what we were trying to do here.

And thank you for your time. Thank you, Board Members, for your time, and we can go back and resume business.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Commissioner.

If everybody would take their seats.

We're going to take a recess during the speaking section where we normally would go all the way through the speakers because of the volume of the speakers. But we'll go halfway through and then we'll recess. Then we'll come back. And we may even take a second recess during that before old business
and new business. But we're going to start ...

All right. The next order of business is the public hearing. When your name is called, please go to the microphone and give your name and subject you wish to speak on. I'll remind you that you may only speak at the time you are called and any interference will not be tolerated. And because of the volume of speakers, it will be strictly limited to three minutes.

The first speaker on the first subject -- we're going to break it down by subjects -- is the supplemental feeding issue people signed up for, and the first speaker is Mr. Jim Porter.

MR. PORTER: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Commissioner, Members of the Board. I see my good friend and friends of the Lawley family over here, Barnett, who did such a great job as commissioner, Mr. Smith and
others. I appreciate the opportunity.

The purpose of my speaking here today is involving the regulation that was just discussed by Commissioner Guy. My concern doesn't go to the merits of the regulation. My concern goes to the fact that the National Rifle Association -- which I'm the first vice-president. My dad was the president. We have 76,000 members just in this state. We've got five million members across the country. We are involved in a preeminent status in dealing with conservation and hunting issues at a federal level and in -- in each national -- each state legislature.

We have probably one of the best wildlife departments and resources available. I myself have been involved on hunting issues in this state. I was very much involved in the reimplementation of the Forever Wild.
On behalf of the department, I was asked to speak to the legislature on the pending legislation on behalf of the rank-and-file hunters in this state. I've been asked to speak by the department at committee level in dealing with the baiting bill that had perennially come up the last four or five years in the legislature, which go nowhere, and the ones that are pending this year will go nowhere. The National Rifle Association is on record as being supportive of our anti-baiting statute we have in this state.

The National Rifle Association is on record from the standpoint of this board -- when we passed -- when I served on the board a couple of years ago, we passed a resolution that resolved that this board, on behalf of the people of this state, the hunters, support the principles of fair chase and support the baiting statute that's on the books.
The problem that I had with this particular matter is not merits but process. For the first time today --

MR. BLAIR: That's time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would sum it up, please, Mr. Porter.

MR. PORTER: Yes. The problem that I have is that no one has discussed this drastic change in policy with me or my organization. Commissioner Guy said the most important thing is a buy-in. We are a major stakeholder. We represent the overwhelming majority of rank-and-file hunters in this state. We have not -- it hadn't been discussed with us. It hadn't been presented to us.

All I ask is that this matter be laid on the table and give us an opportunity to provide our expertise, to provide the -- very possibly the good will and the support of the hunting public in this state. And that's the
purpose of my remarks here today.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Porter.

MR. PORTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The second speaker will be Tim Gothard.

MR. GOTHARD: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, Members of the Board, good morning to you. Tim Gothard, executive director of the Alabama Wildlife Federation. And first let me say this. Commissioner, I do really like the presentations that you give at the beginning of the meeting, and I hope that that's something that will continue.

I just want to come and speak today to the area definition that has been mentioned in that topic matter. The Wildlife Federation has been against baiting throughout its history, and in 2001 we formalized that. Since that time there have been numerous occasions where legislation has been introduced that, to us, we felt will exacerbate
baiting in this state. Our organization has not been opposed to supplemental feeding under the right circumstances, especially if it doesn't constitute baiting.

I will agree that clarity is a good thing. I will just say this: When I look at the statute, there's a lot of words there. And, Commissioner, I'm not a lawyer and don't claim to be. I can look at the words and say, well, I see what I think is trying to be done, but I don't have great confidence and I have concern about how that may play out on the ground. And if it does play out on the ground, then intentionally or unintentionally -- and certainly, Commissioner, I respect your comment that baiting is not driving you to do this. And I agree with that 100 percent. But I do have concerns about how that's going to play out on the ground.
I won't stand here telling you I have all the answers, but I would like to ask and recommend if this issue could be carried over so that we could huddle up in a room and see. Maybe the outcome of this is that finally the light bulb goes off in my head and I say, well, you know, what he described, that's -- that is good, a good thing.

But I don't claim to have the right answers. We do have concerns. And I would welcome the opportunity to gather around the table with parties interested in this and delve into that education some more, Commissioner, that you tried to do right here and see if there is something that we all could be on the same sheet of music. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. The next speaker is Riley Smith.

MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, Board. I appreciate the
opportunity to talk with you today.

I see some things in the proposal that appear attractive. I think about other things that Tim alluded to that might not work on the ground. Nothing is perfect though. You try as hard as you can to come up with something. And I've been on the other side of the table, and it's tough sometimes.

What I'm mainly concerned about is the fact that nobody in south Alabama -- and I use nobody kind of loosely there -- knows about this. I don't know if the media overshadowed the dog proposal and this never came out or not. I found out about it on Tuesday. I called Sandy Stimpson Tuesday morning. He thought I was crazy.

We lease -- our family -- we lease to 56 hunting clubs. We also donate 18,000 acres to the state of Alabama for public hunting. I started calling some of our hunting clubs. I stopped at 16.
None of the people that I talked to in these hunting clubs were aware of this proposal. To my knowledge -- and we don't have a very good paper anymore. But to my knowledge it's not been in the Mobile paper. I have seen nothing on it in the news. I've seen no announcement of it.

I think what you're trying to do is admirable. I think it needs doing. But I'm concerned that it hasn't been put out in front of the public. I know you've met the criteria -- and the criteria wasn't there when I was commissioner -- that, you know, you would talk about it and then you would vote on it the next meeting. But outside of the meeting room, I don't think the public -- and if it's like that way in southwest Alabama -- unless Mike or somebody in one of the other papers has written some things up here, it may be that way across the entire
state.

I, too, would ask respectfully that you table this matter, that you invite the various organizations -- I'm president of the Natural Wild Turkey Federation Foundation. I spoke to Dr. James Earl Kennamer three or four times this week, and he asked me to come down here and represent them as well.

You talk about buy-in. I don't think you've got a lot of buy-in, not in southwest Alabama anyway, because nobody knows about it. You talk about wanting to do the right thing. The right thing is to make the public aware of this.

Again, I think you've got something.

MR. BLAIR: That's time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: If you'll sum it, please, Riley.

MR. SMITH: Again, I would just simply ask that you table the motion today, get the groups engaged, and there may be some other ideas out there that will make
this a better regulation. And I would request that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. The next speaker is Wayne Harrell.

MR. HARRELL: My name is Wayne Harrell. I manage some property in Boligee, Alabama, a hunting club down there. I would like to address this issue on the proposed baiting in four areas.

The first one will be ethics. Ethically I think baiting is just wrong. I think it takes away from the aspect of hunting and paying the dues and doing the work that it takes. I don't believe that we ought to bait in any manner. I'm totally opposed to it, and we don't do it on our property, I can tell you.

People that do bait, when February comes, they've gone home. They tend not to plant the food plots like the rest of us do. They don't do anything to improve the habitat, and I think it
damages the resource.

Some surrounding states, as Gunter Guy put up there, do. And I've hunted in northwest Florida several times. And when they first started baiting, I went down there, and you could watch deer in the woods walk around the food they had put in front of them and they'd come in there. I went down there again this year on my friend's land, and he told me that since they have started baiting -- this is northwest Florida, around Defuniak Springs -- that since they started baiting and shooting deer, now they never see a deer over bait. They've become nocturnal over corn just like they do over a food plot. Because if you just constantly pound them, they're not coming in there. Get up the next morning and all the corn is gone. So they come in there at night.

The other thing that bothers me a lot about this issue, if you define a
200-yard area as what's legal to run a
feeder or dump corn on the ground or
whatever, I don't know if any of you
have done the math, but high school
geometry will tell you a 200-hundred
yard circle is 26 acres of land. And we
have 4100 acres at our club, The Oaks,
in Boligee. If ten feeders showed up on
our land, that's 260 acres that my
members can't hunt and they're paying
dues on it anyway. Well, that's another
reason I'm opposed to it. I just think
it's too much of a loss of land that
would be legal to hunt on otherwise.

And I really do question the legal
part of this. Since the law says you
cannot bait -- and I understand,
Mr. Guy, that there has been a case.
I'm not an attorney. But I really think
the law does state that you can't bait.

But one thing I'd like to say is I'd
like to see more of us just regular guys
represented other than just people that
are buying their way into the trophy
world. So I'd just like to take that
time to say that and thank y'all for
letting me have this opportunity to
express my thoughts.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you'll hold your
applause until the end, please.

The next speaker will be
Representative Long.

MR. LONG: Chairman and the Board, thanks for
having me. I want to thank y'all for
addressing the issue. I'm here to speak
on the supplemental feeding and the
distance. My area is Marshall County.
I've been in the State House the last
two years. I've carried a piece of
legislation that looked at this issue
based on the Mississippi law.

I think the board is the right body
to address it. I'm a hunter and a
fisherman, and all these things in the
legislature are tough to deal with, as
you know. I think this is the correct
forum, and I appreciate y'all addressing it today.

The other thing I wanted to talk about is in our area in north Alabama there's a lot of mountainous -- a lot of different demographics. And to put a defined yardage in, I think, helps clarify it to people. Because you're hunting in different elevations and different types of lands than you are in south Alabama, and I think that's an important point to think about.

I'd also like to put a good plug in to all the hunters here about no sales tax of ammunition that I sponsored in the House. Thank y'all for addressing this issue.

CHAIRMAN MOULTrie: Thank you, Representative Long.

The next speaker is former Commissioner Barnett Lawley.

MR. LAWLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I want to acknowledge Commissioner
Smith, Mr. Porter, and Tim Gothard.

I am in favor of the regulation that's before y'all today. One is consistency, consistency for the hunter. To carry this on -- let me give you just a quick history.

Ten years ago Corky Pugh and Allan Andress and a judge that used to live in Barbour County and I met. They promised him at that time that we would define area as regarding baiting, and that was ten years ago. It's been studied by Tim's group. It's been studied by anybody -- it's been up before almost every Advisory Board that I can remember on the eight years that I was here.

I think it does -- the reason I'm for it, if you plant your property and you try to create habitat for deer for 12 months out of the year and then you quit any supplemental feeding during the deer season to be legal, it's the illegal hunters that are doing the
baiting that's drawing the deer off of your land. And an outlaw is going to be an outlaw. I mean, they're just -- they're going to find a way to do it. And what we're doing is penalizing the good people that are trying to manage their land and maintain their land by using the outlaw as an example and saying that everybody is. Everybody is not.

But let me tell you, this kicking the can down the road and then put it off and do it and do it and do it. Like I said, it's my tenth year being aware of it, and it's been studied and restudied. And, you know, the best way to get a study on this is to pass this. It's a regulation, y'all. You can -- or Gunter can do it himself. If something goes wrong, you can quit it. You can change it. It's something you can balance.

But if you want a really good study,
let's pass it and look and see what it does. And I think that you'll find that most of the hunters -- I know the hunters in south Alabama were definitely -- in the survey that was done overwhelmingly came back in support of this hundred-yard rule. And I'm sure a bunch of those are NRA members, too, actually myself.

But, Gunter, I've talked on most of the points that I really wanted to bring up. But I think it would be really, really effective on the poaching aspects of it as you could -- you're allowed to put feed on your property to keep your deer with you and maintain the habitat you've spent your time and money on.

So, Dan, that's really -- I could talk on, but I would be reiterating what has already been said. But I think it's a good reg.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Commissioner.

The next speaker is Rob Grubb.
MR. GRUBB: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen of the board, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you guys this morning. My name is Rob Grubb. I'm a resident of Birmingham, and I have a farm in Lowndes County, Alabama, in the central part of the state. My purpose for being here today -- and I want to start with just a simple story.

About four weeks ago at the conclusion of our hunting season in January, I invited a state biologist, my next-door neighbor actually, to come over and do a site visit, a farm tour. My objective of this farm tour was pretty straightforward. I've been managing a piece of property that we own for about nine years, and I wanted to see what steps we could take to actually improve the overall farm operation, from feeding, to habitat, et cetera.

After about a three-hour visit, the biologist made several recommendations
to me. I will skip over a number of
them and start with one and that was
that the supplemental feeding that we
are doing currently, he said I would
enhance it; I would do it more.

Now, he wasn't advising me
necessarily in the month of January,
December, November, October, et cetera,
in the middle of the hunting season, but
he was advising me, in fact, that
there's a benefit to supplemental
feeding. So this expert is giving me
advice on my private farm that I'd like
to take advantage of.

Well, if you look around the
states -- and it was already mentioned
in the presentation before. If you look
around the other states that border us
and around the country, you can clearly
see that there's many people who have --
experts, if you will, who have decided
that the idea of feeding -- supplemental
feeding year around makes a lot of
sense.

As a landowner, my challenge is this: I am not going to breach the law. The people who hunt with me on my property is not going to breach the law. I'm not even going in the gray area because it's not worth it to me.

So as a landowner, the struggle I have is this -- this particular regulation -- this supplemental feeding regulation I struggle with because I'm not really exactly sure what the line in the sand is, and I'm not going to breach that.

So, inevitably, the piece of information valuable to me from this meeting with my biologist was that we need to supplemental feed. It will help enhance the value of our herd -- not the value of our herd, but the strength and the health of our herd. We'd like to do it full-time, though, year around.

States neighboring us around the country
agree with that. So for me, as a landowner -- and I'm not involved in all the legislative issues to the "nth" degree. I am a simple landowner, and I am here representing that piece or that part of the state.

So for me, my request is to give me the opportunity to follow the advice of the expert who walked onto my farm, suggested that supplemental feeding will help me and help me build a better -- a better wildlife habitat for all the animals that live and cross over my property. Allow me to do that in such a way that I know that I'm not going to be guilty of any gray area of any law or any issue with the state.

So today my recommendation and request is that you guys -- thank you for the opportunity to speak, first of all. But, secondly, I just ask that you take very close consideration. The baiting comment has been made. But as
it was articulated in the beginning, we're not talking about baiting. I'm not talking about hunting over bait. I'm literally talking about putting food sources on my property year around --

MR. BLAIR: That's time.

MR. GRUBB: -- to allow my animals to be as healthy as they possibly can.

So I am not supporting the baiting. I am simply supporting the idea of full-time year-around supplemental feeding. Thank you for your consideration.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

The next speaker will be Steve Guy.

MR. GUY: Commissioner Guy, Chairman Moultrie, and Members of the Board, my name is Steve Guy, and I'm here today representing the Alabama Deer Association whose members include the hunting lodges, whitetail deer breeders, and high-fence landowners throughout Alabama.
As Commissioner Guy has indicated, I believe there will be a motion here today to define the phrase on or over the area as it applies to hunting deer and baiting regulations. The Alabama Deer Association wholeheartedly supports your efforts to clarify this law. We would further encourage you to support a definition that allows a deer hunter to be legally hunting deer if they are beyond 100 yards and out of the line of sight of an active supplemental feeding site. This change will give both hunters and enforcement officers a clear and concise definition of the law. This change would also mirror the updates that have recently been made to baiting laws in our sister states of Tennessee, Georgia, and Mississippi.

Based on our review of other southeastern states, we've also seen no evidence of detrimental effects to other wildlife, such as turkeys, as a result
of supplemental feeding deer programs in those states. Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Guy.

The next speaker will be Terry Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Guy, I really want to thank you for your time in explaining what y'all are proposing to do this morning. I think you did a really good job of explaining why there's a need to define this area.

I think a friend of mine gave the example that our law enforcement officers don't ask us to drive at a safe speed. They have a particular speed limit they want us to drive by. So I think we need to have this defined area to give our law enforcement officers an opportunity to know exactly what's the law and to give the hunters the ability to do this supplemental feeding.
I've been hunting for over 35 years. I'm from Limestone County. My farm did not have a deer when I started hunting. I had to travel to south Alabama to hunt. I am -- I think our resource is extremely important. I am in no way advocating baiting whatsoever. I do think, though, that we need to be able to supplemental feed these deer throughout the year, including the hunting season, as long as it's done properly and ethically.

As you mentioned before, there's so many other states around us that's already doing this. I think we compete with not only the hunters of our state, but we compete with hunters throughout the country to hunt here.

I think the hundred-yard recommendation by several is in agreement with me. I think that out of line of sight would give everybody a defined position. It would be a
situation where they would know that they were legal and that they wouldn't be fearful of supplemental feeding and that they could do that to improve their herd. I appreciate your time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Kennedy.

The next speaker will be Trey Montgomery.

MR. MONTGOMERY: Dan, Commissioner, Advisory Board Members, thank you for this time. And the resources that you have for making the state of Alabama a better place to hunt and fish starts right here.

I'm a fifth-generation landowner. My family farm, about 25 to 30 years ago we started managing wildlife as an income. If wildlife was not part of the farm, I wouldn't be on the farm. My goal in life was to raise my three children on the farm and keep the family farm together. We've been able to do that through hunting and fishing.
years ago we started a commercial hunting and fishing operation. It's been somewhat successful.

Defining this bill is something I encourage you to do. I'm going to give you an example. I'm in the hunting and fishing business, but I can have a property owner right next to me that's putting out corn or bait. And if I have a hunter in there and I'm not aware of that and my enforcement officer comes in and he arrests my hunter, it's -- he can shut down my operation for ten days in the month of January. Ten days is a third of January. I'd be out of business.

So the true landowners in this country are the true conservationists in this country. I make my living hunting and fishing. I want to protect the resources to the best of my ability and be a good steward of the land. If I want to feed on my land or supplemental
feed, I feel like I have that right.  

We've got enough bureaucratic laws on the books that's bogging us down. I've got friends in the NRA and the Turkey Federation and the Alabama Wildlife Commission. This is something that I would like to see addressed, and I'm in support of this. Thank you for your time and everybody have a good safe trip home.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, sir.

The next speaker is Chip Stacey.

MR. STACEY: I'm Chip Stacey. My family -- we run a -- we're a private landowner and have run a hunting club around 35 years. We have collected data for over 28 years, and we have substantially managed our herd over the years. And I'm in for defining the area for supplemental feeding. I think it's a good management tool for increasing our herd health and helping to improve the herd -- quality of the herd.
I know over the years that records have been kept in our district office. I have voluntarily gave those records to them. My records speak for theirself. When we started an extensive feeding program in the off-season, we have definitely seen the increase in our deer herd, the health. And we've also collected data the last six years that has went into the study for the extension of the season in the south, and I hope to continue to work with the state with that. And I'm in support of it. And thank you for all y'all have done.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Stacey.

Our final speaker on supplemental feeding is Rick Oates. Mr. Oates.

MR. OATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, Board Members. I'm Rick Oates representing ALFA, the Farmers Federation. We appreciate this opportunity to comment on these proposed
regulations related to supplemental
feeding. We fully support this effort
to give landowners and hunters a clear
definition to work under so that they
know they're operating within the
guidelines established by this board and
the laws of the State of Alabama. Many
landowners feel -- are afraid that they
will be cited for violating the law
because there is no clear definition.
This regulation will help alleviate
those concerns.

We know that this is a biologically
sound management tool. It can be used
to improve our deer herd, and we think
it will help enhance and strengthen our
herds.

Regarding the distance the
Commissioner left up to the board to
decide, we would like to recommend and
support a hundred yards. We feel that
that will help especially small
landowners who may only have 40 or 50
acres that may be -- with a smaller acreage like that, it may be difficult for those landowners to get what they need, get situated so they can have a distance 200 yards or greater. So it may be difficult for them. So we support that hundred yards and would certainly ask y'all to consider that.

We also feel it's important and it brings it in line with other states so that all the southern states are working from the same set of regulations and the same basic set of rules. And, again, we appreciate y'all's time and consideration on this issue.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Oates.

All right. The next speaker on marine resources, Mr. Avery Bates.

MR. BATES: My name is Avery Bates, vice-president of Organized Seafood Association. Been before this board many times.

I also want to thank Commissioner
McMillan and Commissioner Guy for the Seafood Summit we just had. Great participation and millions of dollars -- well, actually, billions of dollars that goes to this state through Sysco and others. There were so many there that benefited from this summit. But we want to thank y'all for participating and financing that. I think Chris Blankenship is in Boston now pushing our seafood.

But I heard something that was real concerning at a public meeting with our new commissioner, Jerry Carl, about the deepening of the ship channel up to eight feet. That could be very detrimental to some of our marine life, in some of the areas that we're having problems with oyster creel. It can bring more saltwater into the bay. So we need to plan in the future any mitigation that might be done with either the clam or oyster beds in Mobile
Bay to move that resource way ahead so that we can increase our oysters and good bottoms so that marine life that flourishes around these reefs we've got reproduce.

We also had a great Seafood Bash, one of the best bashes we ever had, in Montgomery a few weeks ago. We fed our representatives. They ate good oysters and fish and just -- even the Governor was bragging. And even in this summit we had, the Governor said we had some of the best seafood in the whole Gulf Coast. He wasn't lying.

But let's make sure that our seafoods are healthy. We thank the Commissioner for backing our reef building program that's coming up. We still do not have a member sitting on the board for the seafood capital of Alabama for the last two years. It's been vacant. I want y'all to know any regulations that might come through
that's detrimental to our gillnet fishermen, whether it be -- because they produce food. There's one place called Sysco that has 5,700 restaurants that he's supplying with seafood. We have so many -- like Wentzell's. They use our products.

We want to make sure any regulation that's put before you that would hurt these having access to our seafoods, whether it's caught by hook and line, gillnet, or whatever -- let's improve our acreage. Let's improve the quality of our waters. And this is of grave concern, this project in Mobile Bay, because of the reefs, the mother reefs that's at the Bay. And if we can move some of this stock, if it's got to be done, let's move it in the right location so we can have sustainability of jobs, improved acreage and production that will help the recreational fishermen and the commercial fishermen.
And, also, boat ramps in Mobile County. We only have really four that commercial fishermen and recreational fishermen use. This is important for our working waterfronts.

MR. BLAIR: That's time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: Sum it up, please.

MR. BATES: Okay. That's a major disaster in Mobile County for launching boats. So if y'all would, Commissioner, you need to work with Chris Blankenship to get more access to the water for both user groups. Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I just say something?

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I want Mr. Bates to know that he's got 11 people on this board to represent the Organized Seafood Association and its interest.

But I do want to -- I want to commend Avery and the Organized Seafood
Association of Alabama for all they do. They -- since this oil spill, they have been working and working and working and working to promote Alabama seafood and what it means to the Gulf. And I can't thank Avery enough for what their group does, and I just want to publicly acknowledge that. Thank you.

MR. BATES: Thank you.

Mr. Moultrie?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

MR. BATES: We're having a cookout with Pat Dye, one of your favorite people -- he is a famous Auburn man -- on the 5th of April. Come eat some good seafoods.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, Mr. Bates.

All right. The next set of speakers is going to be under miscellaneous, and one of our long-time speakers, Ms. Sybil Deschaines. Mr. Deschaines.

If somebody would help her down, please.
MS. DESCHAINES: That's the longest walk.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Please speak into the microphone, Ms. Deschaines, because we all want to hear what you've got to say.

MS. DESCHAINES: I guess it pays to have gray hair because look at all the help I got coming down those steps.

It's been a couple of years since I've been here. I only know two or three of the members on the board now. I don't know any of the new appointees to the department. And I just wanted to recognize some faces and to say welcome to the new members and hello to the older members that I've worked with a number of years. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Deschaines.

The next speaker is Tammi Hudson.

MS. HUDSON: Good morning, Commissioner, Chairman, and Board. I'm back again to talk about the disabled hunting area. I once again thank you for having those.
I understand we're going to have a new one in Clarke County, and I'm real excited about that. I don't know about other areas, but I'm excited about that.

I wanted to make sure that I clarify what I talked to you about in February. Our verbiage right now says that when you are using one of these disabled hunting areas you are only allowed to harvest deer. That's all. So one of my -- one of the things I'm asking is that verbiage be changed so that you can kill whatever game is in season where you're at with whatever weapon is approved at that area.

We have an area that we can only use bows at. So, obviously, I would also talk to you about a spring turkey hunt at these areas. Obviously, if you can't use a crossbow to kill a turkey, you wouldn't turkey-hunt on that area. Does that make sense? I felt like maybe I
didn't clarify what I was saying before.

I also understand and want you to know that I understand that shooting can only be done from the shooting houses. So I'm not asking for that to be changed in any way. I'm telling you that every single disabled area I have hunted at over the past two years there has been plenty of gobblers. And that's why I'm asking for the right to go there during spring turkey season and kill a few of them, because I can't kill them the normal way.

But there's some in Monroe County that I'm telling you, you can set your clock by when those gobblers is going to come out. And they walk right in front of you. So I'd like the opportunity to harvest some of them.

So I wanted to make sure that those things were clear. I understand that you can only do it from the shooting
house, and I'm only asking to harvest what is in season with whatever weapon is approved for that area.

Also, while I'm here, I am just going to say that I am against the extension. Every area I've hunted this past year has -- the deer has been in rut during January.

Also, the other thing that I was concerned about that was said at the last meeting was that y'all are going to discuss a proposal for a minimum acreage for dog hunting. I am for dog hunting. And, you know, I feel like we have so many regulations now that if we now go ahead and regulate that, it's just going to be difficult. Because we've got -- at Scotch Wildlife Management Area -- and I'm not sure of the exact number of acres there, but it's somewhere --

MR. BLAIR: That's time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would sum it up, please, Ms. Hudson.
MS. HUDSON: Yes, sir.

My thing is it doesn't really matter how many acres you've got. Those dogs still don't know boundary lines and you still have to be good neighbors with your neighboring landowners. That's all. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Bob Slocum.

MR. SLOCUM: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, Members, I'd like to speak to you this morning about the muzzleloader season and maybe having it extended from the present five days which runs Monday through Friday. The average hunter, maybe 90, 95 percent, have to work during the week. This does not give them even a weekend to exercise their muzzleloader hunting.

Also, just to bring us more in line with the archery hunters, who last year had 32 days prior to the gun season opening for hunting, we would like to
have 14 days for the muzzleloader. And I think this would also increase the interest in muzzleloader hunting which would involve people buying muzzleloaders and supplies. Not many people will go out and spend the money for a five-day season.

That's about all I have. I just would like to respectfully request that you consider extending the season for us. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Slocum.

The next topic area is legal arms/any species. The first speaker is David Shiflett.

MR. SHIFLETT: Good morning, Members of the Board. My name is David Shiflett.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Pull that microphone up, please, Mr. Shiflett, and speak into it. Thank you.

MR. SHIFLETT: Yes, sir. I am local here in Jefferson County. I hunt a lease long-term in Perry County. And I want
to kind of discuss our pig problems.

We all know that it is an ongoing concern. We are spending as a state billions of dollars in attempting to reestablish longleaf pine, which apparently the feral swine think is catnip for them.

Accordingly, I would like to ask that -- excuse me -- that the rules be modified to allow attached light sources and night vision for feral swine hunting.

Additionally, I would like the board to consider to allow the usage of Judas collars or other electronic tracking devices in an effort to take this population back.

The last thing I would like to bring up is that currently in somewhere between 25 and 28 of the 40 states that allow -- of the 40 states that allow suppressors, they allow it in hunting. Mississippi has not passed a law that
allows it. I think it is time to consider it as civilization or neighbors move into our hunting areas. I think it's a courtesy. I think it allows the next generation to avoid hearing loss. And I would just like to bring it up and have it considered.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Shiflett.

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: I'm hard of hearing. You said something about electronic and I --

MR. SHIFLETT: I would just like to ask that the board consider the allowance of tracking collars or Judas collars specifically with regard to feral swine.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Define what a Judas collar is.

MR. HARTZOG: Yeah.

MR. SHIFLETT: It's just basically a locator collar.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay.

MR. SHIFLETT: If any of you hunt with bird
dogs, it works off the same thing.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: It's a beeper collar?

MR. SHIFLETT: Well, it's actually a GPS collar.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay.

MR. HARTZOG: What are you attaching it to?

MR. SHIFLETT: Essentially what you would do is you would trap a young feral swine --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone, please.

MR. SHIFLETT: You will trap a young feral swine, put the collar on it and release it and allow it to take you back to the entire --

MR. HARTZOG: Okay. I got you. I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I have a question to ask Director Sykes.

Is it a legal practice in the state to track these swine and release it with an electronic collar on it, or do we need to look at that?

I hate to catch you off guard, but when he said that, I want to clear it up
right now for the board.

MR. DODD: I can't say that it's illegal to trap and release it on the property. There is some verbiage that has to do with electronics. But this type activity would certainly be allowed through a depredation permit. We're all for getting rid of the pigs, so we can make it happen.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. Very good. Excellent. That's good to know. Thank you.

Okay. The next speaker under bowhunting is Brad Sullivan.

Yes.

MR. DODD: Point of clarification.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. You want to pay attention here.

MR. DODD: You're welcome to release hogs you trap on your property -- you can release them back onto that property. You cannot legally transport them off the property.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Right. And you can't bring in new hogs and release; is that correct?

MR. SYKES: That's correct.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you.

Okay, Mr. Sullivan.

MR. SULLIVAN: My name is Brad Sullivan from Northport. I was just wondering -- I know we got some wildlife management areas that have archery on the areas. And I hunt Oakmulgee some, and I noticed that it's almost 45,000 acres that has no archery on the area.

And the reason I ask, I know we want our management areas and all public land to be multiuse, but I've run into some situations down there where there's been some squirrel-treeing competitions over the vast area of the management area, and we all know once that happens it's no longer multiuse. It's treeing squirrels.

But, you know, they -- everybody has
got -- you know, got their own right to hunt and do that kind of stuff. But I was just wondering if we could set aside maybe -- it's such a vast area -- if we could set aside some areas that are archery only. I know like we're doing the game check now like some of the other states. People up north, for instance, do that. They've actually got some resident-only areas in some of their management areas that are that way and archery only also. And I just wanted to approach the board about that and see what y'all thought and maybe something could happen. I don't know.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Where do you live?

MR. SULLIVAN: I live in Northport.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. That would be in --

MR. SULLIVAN: Tuscaloosa County.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: -- Mr. Bunn's --

MR. BUNN: Well, it's actually in 6.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dobbs, if you could look into that, please, sir.
MR. SULLIVAN: The land I'm talking about is south of -- it's in Hale and Tuscaloosa and --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dobbs will be your representative, so that would be great. Very good.

The next speaker under turtle harvest is Missy Harbin.

MS. HARBIN: Hello. My name is Missy Harbin. And I own Refuge Turtle Farm located in Scottsboro, Alabama, in Jackson County. My husband spoke with you guys at the meeting in February. I just wanted to tell you a little bit about us and what we're asking of you today. I'm going to read because I get a little nervous when I'm public-speaking.

So we are a small farm. We have three breeding ponds where we harvest eggs and incubate them. We also have one grow-out pond that we started last year when you guys changed the regulations on turtle harvest. We
started this grow-out pond so that we could start raising up turtles for our breeding purposes. That process can take at least five years, sometimes maybe more, depending on the maturity of the turtle.

I'm asking you today to allow turtle farmers to select so many turtles each year to give us breeding stock. I'm not asking for you to open it up to everyone, only turtle farmers that have been completing and turning in the required documents to the state office. Permits could be given out on a case-by-case basis. The state could also charge a fee for the permits each year. We've discussed this several times with Mark Sasser, and he seems to be willing to work with us if he can get the approval from the board.

I just want to thank you today for allowing me to speak and considering my recommendation. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Harbin.

MR. HARTZOG: One question, Ms. Harbin.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a question, Ms. Harbin.

MR. HARTZOG: I hate to be the only one that keeps asking questions.

How many turtles would it take for -- first of all, how many commercial turtle farms do we have in the state of Alabama?

MS. HARBIN: How many commercial turtle farms do we have in the state of Alabama?

I'm not accurate on that number. I know of at least four.

MR. HARTZOG: And how many turtles would you need to take to replenish your breeding stock?

MS. HARBIN: I think my husband asked for about 300 last -- at the last meeting. And that's only, you know, for the first couple of years till we can start getting our own turtles to breed.

Because right now we just started that
program last year. So it's going to
take us at least another five years to
get those turtles to a breeding size.

So we're only asking for you to
allow us time to catch some turtles to
replace our breeding stock that dies off
from, you know, natural causes or
whatever. Because turtles are just like
any other animal. They're going to die
off.

Anything else?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: May I ask, how many turtles can
you harvest currently per day?

MS. HARBIN: Currently per day you can't
harvest any according to the
regulation. Before we could harvest ten
turtles per day per permit.

MR. DOBBS: You can't harvest any turtles for
commercial purposes?

MS. HARBIN: Right.

MR. DOBBS: But as an individual you can
harvest how many?
MS. HARBIN: I believe the way the regulation is wrote up is that you can take two turtles, but you can't use it for propagation or anything like that. You can only use it for personal use.

MR. DOBBS: So you can't take those two turtles back to your farm and turn them loose in your pond?

MS. HARBIN: That's the way I understand the rule.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Do you want to clarify it?

MR. DODD: I think she stated it very well.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

MS. HARBIN: Is that it?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much. Are there any other questions from the board?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. We're going to take a brief 15-minute recess and be back promptly in 15 minutes.

(A brief recess was taken.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. We'll start with
the against February extension. Let me
put some glasses on so I can see. Our
first speaker will be Paul Farmer.

MR. FARMER: Commissioner, Board, I'm Paul
Farmer from Chilton County, Alabama.
I'm an avid rabbit hunter. And by
giving two weeks into February for an
extended deer season, that's when all of
us rabbit hunters really get to use our
dogs is that one month out of the year.

We have October to rabbit hunt in,
but as y'all all know, it's going to be
hot. Fleas and ticks and mosquitoes eat
you up the whole time you're trying to
hunt. So we really don't have but just
one good month of hunting. Because then
the dog -- I mean, the deer hunters
allow us to come on their property and
run rabbits. And by extending this into
ten days into February, that's ten days
that -- we have fed these dogs for 325
days a year just to get to hunt what
little bit of chance we get. I don't
know about where y'all are from, but the
deer-hunting clubs where we're at, they
don't want you on their property during
deer season at all and frown at you if
you even call and ask them.

So we've got a little bit of time in
October to hunt and then the month of
February to do our real hunting. And by
letting them have ten days into
February, it's just going to mess us up
tremendously. And we wish y'all would
really think about this.

Think about us small game hunters.
I mean, it ain't all about deer. It
ain't all about these people out here
spending money to deer hunt. I spend
just as much money on my beagles and my
tracking collars and my shock collars
and my gas as those guys who deer hunt.
And I'd really appreciate y'all thinking
about us small hunters and giving us the
opportunity to have our month of
February to keep hunting. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, sir.

The next speaker is Roger McElroy.

MR. McELROY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, and Advisory Board. I would echo what the --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone, please, Mr. McElroy.

MR. McELROY: I echo what the previous gentleman said. As a small game hunter, that's been my tradition from day one. And instead of extending the deer season, I would suggest that they back the deer season back to January 15th. And I've talked to adjacent states, the state of Mississippi and Georgia, and theirs pretty well ends January 15th in both states except southeast Mississippi.

So that would certainly give us, the small game hunters, more opportunities to hunt small game in Alabama if they would do that. And why not? I mean, officials in Mississippi said that
the -- they've never -- they would never change it from the 15th and extend it because of the deer changes that undergo around the 15th of the month.

So -- and, also, I wonder how many small game enthusiasts we have on this board. Seems like we are -- you know, we are certainly the minority today.

But, anyway, I've talked to -- I only knew about this meeting about a week ago. And I've talked to many members of the Alabama section of the American Treeing Feist Association and also the Quail Forever organization, and they are opposed to any extension of the deer season beyond the 31st. And they, too, would agree with me if I had time to contact them -- some I had -- of backing it up like Georgia and Mississippi to January 15th for gun deer season.

Also, I would mention the Yates Wildlife Management Area. They gun deer
hunt there two weeks out of every month, and that's a dangerous situation over there for the simple reason it's a small wildlife area and residential homes are all around that area. And shooting these high-powered rifles poses a big threat just waiting to happen over there. And that's another concern I have with that area. It seems like open season on gun deer season over there, and it forces me, the small game hunter, in a hole.

Also, I would encourage the Conservation Department to do more on the wildlife management areas as far as the quail situation. In the past I've found quail, particularly in Lowndes County, that the hogs and the pines have overrun that place. And so I haven't even been there in the last couple of years.

So, again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak --
MR. BLAIR: That's time.

MR. McELROY: -- to this forum, and I hope my consideration on backing this gun deer season up to January 15th is considered. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. McElroy, I think you spoke to all Auburn fans as being small game enthusiasts. That's about all we had last year. Hopefully we'll be a little bigger game enthusiasts this year. We understand where you're coming from. Thank you so much.

The next speaker is Jerry Temple.

MR. TEMPLE: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, thank you for letting me have the opportunity to talk to you this morning.

This data that we are getting from the Conservation Department and all about this extending the season, I understand that a lot of it is coming from these management areas and maybe some of the plantations in the area. But I don't know that we're getting all
the data that we need.

I was over in Wilcox County for the big roundup the other day on the hogs, and everybody we talked to over there said that they harvest mature bucks during the regular season as it is. I know where I live we don't have any problems with our rut. There are plenty of mature bucks that are killed every year during the time span that we've had for the last hundred years. You know, if I'm being force-fed it, I'll have to swallow it today. I don't really do a whole lot of hunting over there except on management area hunts, but I'm not for cutting out any type of hunting for anybody.

And I know good and well, looking across the board up there, Dr. Warren Strickland, I'm sure the Commissioner -- Dan, I know that you've been involved with hunting all your life. We have got a level of intelligence here that can
come up with an alternative method to satisfy everybody. If you're trying to get these people over here in this area to be able to hunt into February because that's when their rut happens, so be it. Let them do it. But don't take anything away from nobody else. I don't think that's fair. And if it works out like the Commissioner said, maybe next year we can do it different, you know, if we find out that it doesn't work the other way. But I'm sure there's an alternative way. We've got way too much intelligence in this room to just rule out everything; okay?

Another thing I want to talk about is these dogs that are being shot in the woods. Now, we had an incident down in Clarke County this year where a man lost three or four dogs. I'm sure some of you seen it on the Internet. Now, folks, I'm going to tell you, this is going to cause problems.
I talked to a fellow in Wilcox County the other day that said he had got out of dog hunting 25 years ago. Him and his father was hunting with a group of people, and he witnessed a fellow shoot four of his dogs. And before he even thought about what he had done, he had near about beat this man to death with his bare hands. His father tried to stop him. Him, a young fellow and had worked with them dogs for years and years, he almost killed him with his bare hands. He don't dog hunt anymore. He don't even own a Chihuahua. The judge told him if he was involved in anything else like that he would put him away.

So I really wish you would think about it and look at it. It's a serious situation. I know that I saw -- Allan Andress six or eight years ago was on TV. They was fighting --

MR. BLAIR: That's time.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Sum it up, please.

MR. TEMPLE: They were fighting to try to find out who shot some people's dogs that were just out of their yard. So really I think we need to take a look at that. Thank you for letting me talk.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

The next speaker in the category against February extension/dog deer hunting is Kevin Mock.

MR. MOCK: My name is Kevin Mock from Florala, Alabama, Covington County. I would like to thank Commissioner Guy and the Advisory Board for the opportunity to express my opinion on the proposed changes to the season dates for gun deer season.

Commissioner Guy, you said that there's no loss of days for the hunters in the state of Alabama. Here are the numbers. In 2012 the dog season in Alabama was 60 days. Under your proposal for 2013 we will have 44 days.
That's over a 25-percent reduction in our season one year to the next. Have 70 days for stalk hunting.

And to hear you say that dog hunters will hunt even if dog season is not tells me you do not have an understanding of the traditions of the sport of dog hunting. Dog hunting for the majority of the dog hunters that are represented here today is not about harvesting the biggest deer or hunting in the rut as you have said in your previous statement.

It's about fellowship among hunters and friends that have the same -- that have the same passions that we do for dog hunting. It's about watching the kids jump out of the truck to catch a dog after the race is over, or it's about the people gathering up and talking about how the big one got away or why we didn't kill this one or that one. It's about raising our kids up the
way we were brought up.

I've got two boys ages three and seven. I've tried to get those two boys involved in the outdoors, and the only way that I'm able to do that at this point is through dog hunting. You can't get them to go sit in a blind. You can't get them to go sit and be quiet and do any type of other hunting. But you can take them to a -- dog hunting. They've got other friends in the club. Every time we stop they're out playing with their friends or talking to them on the CB radio, vice versa. Get to the house and they're riding around with a mic -- CB mic on their bicycle, their plastic guns -- guns across their handlebars playing hunting club at the house.

Would we hunt into February if this was passed? Maybe. Is that what we prefer to do? Absolutely not. We would prefer to keep our ten days that you're
trying to take from us. We're not opposed for the season to go into February for the stalk hunters if that's what is determined is best from this board, but we are opposed to removing any amount of dog -- any amount of days from the dog hunter.

MR. BLAIR: That's time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you'll sum it up, please.

MR. MOCK: I would just ask for consideration from the board to come up with a -- to come up with a proposal that does not -- that does not take days away from the dog hunters. When you start taking away 25 percent, you start losing memberships and you start losing your leases and you have trouble filling those spots and those leases you start losing. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is --

COMMISSIONER GUY: The only point I wanted to make -- and I brought this up last
time -- is he referenced the number of
days. Everybody is losing days because
of the calendar this year. So just so
we're clear on that, it's -- there is a
calendar event every year where the
season changes and because of the
calendar everybody's losing days. So
just a point of clarification.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you for the
clarification.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Total number of days,
everybody is losing days this year.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Mock.
The next speaker will be Amos Fowler.

And if the gallery will hold their
applause until the end of the session,
please.

MR. FOWLER: My name is Amos Fowler. And
thank you, Commissioner Guy and Members
of the Board.

My name is Amos Fowler. I represent
Bear Head Hunting Club. We are about 55
members strong down in Choctaw County.
Also, two other clubs asked me if I
would speak on their behalf, Mount Zion,
which has 15 members, and South Choctaw,
who is threatening to just delete their
club out -- and they've been in business
for about 30 years -- because they're
having membership problems if they lose
ten days.

Our club, we had a big meeting on
this and discussed it. Our problem was
we're not really against any changes you
guys might want to make as far as
extending the season if that's what we
think. I mean, we lost 10 days or 15
days years ago, you may remember, when
we used to could dog hunt through the
29th. And we seem to have got along
fine with the situation the way it has
been.

Our biggest concern is -- like this
gentleman just said, I'm a product of
dog hunting. My dad left when I was
small. Had a neighbor that fox hunted and deer hunted with dogs. My brother and I probably would have never been hunting. And this old fellow used to put us in his truck and take us. Well, I have done the same thing.

A lot of these men over here have hunted with us at Bear Head. We put tremendous effort there bringing kids each week. We invite as many children. They don't have to pay guest fees. They don't do anything. I have kids. I've taken them to the stand. I still hunt every once in a while.

Mr. Guy, you said most guys will stalk hunt. Most dog hunters, they don't stalk hunt. If you're going to fool with a dog, that's mostly -- that's what they enjoy doing.

But I take kids to deer stands. They get bored to death and want to leave. But I can load my truck up full of kids and go out there and turn dogs
loose and they'll hang with me all day
running dogs, going through the woods.
I drive a lot in my truck because we
have a lot of thickets. And I've got
eight or ten kids a lot of times going
in there with us.

We're not opposed to anything that
you guys want to do as far as if you
want to extend the season. We certainly
don't want to hurt small game hunters.
We allow them there. Our problem is
it's tough enough -- we spend $56,000
just on leases alone. It's tough enough
to get 55 members and be able to
generate those funds. I spend
personally about $300 a month because
there's three of us that have dogs. And
we raise dogs. We keep them in a
kennel.

At our club I don't believe we've
had any complaints through the board.
Most of our guys, we are required that
we put a tracking system -- I actually
have two tracking systems, and most of our guys do -- to prevent our dogs from going on other folks' land. I will actually pull off of a deer hunt and go try to cut dogs off -- and we set guys up that do that -- to prevent disturbing other folks that have still lands and larger clubs around us.

I just appreciate you giving us the opportunity to be here today. And, really, think about it seriously. It's been a thing of tradition in the past for dog hunting. I have no problem with extending the season. I'd just like to see us not lose the days. It's tough enough on the amount of money we spend between the vets and the dog part people that we keep in business. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Thank you. The next speaker is Susan Morrow.

Please hold your applause until the end.

MS. MORROW: Good morning, Chairman, Members
of the Board. I'm Susan Morrow from Mobile, Alabama.

We have 37 management areas in the state. We have four that we are allowed to dog deer hunt. Two years ago y'all gave us more days on those areas, and I thank y'all -- each and every one of y'all for it. And now I have also asked for y'all to open up more management areas for us dog hunters.

And, also, I asked you at the last meeting to look in, since we have such a hog problem in Alabama, allowing the guys and the women and kids that hog hunt with dogs to come into the management areas and do it. You have special seasons set for them. But it's really hard to walk up on a hog. So I wish that y'all would look into that for the hog hunters.

And as far as extending the season, we are not for it. I understand that Commissioner Guy feels like that the dog
hunters will just be losing a tool, that
all of us will continue to hunt. I
stalk hunt and dog hunt, but I do not
stalk hunt as much as I dog hunt. My
love is dog hunting.

And a lot of our hunters, they will
not hunt. If we keep losing days, they
are going to stop hunting, and they will
stop buying hunting licenses. Leases
are going to go up. We're going to have
out-of-staters coming in and leasing our
land and killing our bucks. We're not
going to be able to afford the leases,
the everyday people. We're going to sit
in our living rooms and watch them kill
our Alabama deer on TV. I hope not
because that wouldn't make me happy at
all.

And I understand that regardless of
what any of us say here today that this
is going to happen anyway, that
Commissioner Guy can do it, that even if
the board opposes it, it's going to
happen. We're not happy about it.

I understand there was a petition, Extendingtheseason.com, and they had 12,000 signatures for it. Well, anybody can get on a computer and put all those signatures on there. But as far as the meetings in the last two years since this has come up about extending the season, I've only seen three or four people come before the board and ask to extend the deer season. And it seems like every time we dog hunters come up here we are begging and asking for y'all not to take away from us. And we're constantly asking not to lose days and not to --

MR. BLAIR: That's time.

MS. MORROW: -- take away from the --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you will sum it up, please, Ms. Morrow.

MS. MORROW: Well, to sum it up, I'll try to be really quick here.

Basically we are against it and we
wish that y'all would relook at this and
table this to the May meeting and move
the meeting down towards the area where
the season will shift to allow everybody
there to have their three minutes to
speak in this state that wants to speak
against this. At least allow our people
to do that. If it ain't broke, don't
fix it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. The next
speaker is Don Knight.

MR. KNIGHT: I am Don Knight. I live in
Anniston. I hunt in Barbour County.
I'm the state president of the Alabama
Dog Hunters Association. Had a nice
little speech for today but it's been
kind of shot out of the water.

I hope all of you got the film I
sent you. I hope you got to look at it
and see how the kids that have enjoyed
dog hunting so much react.

Commissioner, I'd like to answer one
of your questions -- or maybe not a
question -- one of your statements. And it's already been approached. But you said people will continue to hunt whether they dog hunt or not. Let me give you an example on our hunting land.

We got -- normally on a weekend we'll have 40 to 60 people there hunting with our dogs. The last two weeks of the season when they stalk hunt, we may have five people in those woods and that's it. Because I know because I go down there to try to keep the poachers out. So we might have five. The rest of them are home. That cuts out a lot of money.

And now that you're talking about cutting back ten days of the southwest corner down there, why is what we can't understand. We keep hearing resources. If its resources, which I assume means the deer, why would you extend the season if we got any problem with any
sort of resources that would cut the dog
hunters back ten days. That doesn't
seem to be one and one be two.
Something is wrong there.

I sent all of you a letter showing
the dates of the deer being --
conception dates, and that didn't show
anything that needed to go into
February. And don't get me wrong. I'm
like the rest of these people. I'm
asking our dog-hunting clubs to work
with our rabbit hunters and get them
more time on our land so they can hunt.
But if you want to extend the season,
that's fine if our biologists say that.
If the people down there say so and our
biologists say no, it shouldn't be
done. But I don't think our biologists
are saying there's something wrong with
the deer down there and that we
shouldn't be able to dog hunt.

You know, dogs are a tool like Susan
said, I think. And you're taking that
tool away from us and the way we like to
hunt and the method that we like to
hunt. You know, tree stands are a tool
of still hunters and stalk hunters.
More people are hurt in those tree
stands every year than anything else.
Nobody is down here trying to take away
their tool. I'm not either. Because
I've got tree stands; okay?

MR. BLAIR: That's time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Sum it up, please,

Mr. Knight.

MR. KNIGHT: But I want you to understand that
the dog deer hunters losing their days
will get out of hunting. We're trying
to increase the population of hunting,
and it seems like somebody is always
trying to decrease it to please somebody
else. Help us out, fellows. We need
those ten days to keep our method of
hunting going. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Bobby
Pack.
MR. PACK: Thank you, sir. Board Members --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone, please, Mr. Pack.

MR. PACK: I'm sorry. Thank you for letting me speak.

Dog hunting is like a family thing. Like I say, I know some of you older men remember your daddies and your grandpas telling you about the days they'd go hunting and they'd come home -- my dad was from Huntsville, Alabama. He would tell me stories about there wasn't no deer in Huntsville. If they found a deer track, they would go to all the neighbors and get them to come and see the deer track. If they had a dog that would take it, then they would hunt him all day till they killed him.

Well, that's exactly what they want to do now is kill all the deer out it sounds like. They want to extend the season longer so you kill your mature bucks, and that's not what dog hunters
are about. We're about tradition, family-oriented. We teach our kids respect for one another, respect for the animal. Just like they were saying today, a man -- a guy killed a dog in his yard; they want to put him in prison. They kill them in the woods; they say nothing about it. They had to beg a game warden and a police officer to come down there to even find this dog and prosecute anybody and to our knowledge has not been prosecuted yet.

And people talking about a dog is a tool. A dog is not a tool. They assume it is, but it's not. To some people it's a pet. For some it's friends. For others it's hunting, hunting partners. And for kids it's a loved one.

If the proposal goes through, like the man was saying before me, that's a tool -- the stalk hunters have tools. They have tree stands, the side-by-sides, the four-wheelers. And
all that should be taken -- till the end of the season should be taken away from them too.

And with regard to the ten days -- if this proposal goes through, those ten days December the 2nd through December 12th, then the only people who will be hunting will be outlaws. You'll be making people who are usually honest people that have been hunting their whole life that are used to hunting the whole time -- they're going to consider -- these older people -- they'll consider themself to be able to keep on hunting. They're going to hunt them ten days.

I was in enforcement for a while. I'm a public servant now still. But these people -- these game wardens are understaffed as they are. Those ten days they're going to be answering more calls than they would on an entire season on a regular hunting season.
There will be more people doing things they shouldn't be doing, even stalk hunters.

I talk to a hundred people a day. I have a thousand -- I'm a mailman now. I have a thousand stops on my route. I talk to people of all races, creeds, and color and stalk hunters, rabbit hunters, everything. 90 percent of all deer hunters with dogs are part of the honest people. They trespass just to get their dogs and all. Stalk hunters will tell you they will put out corn. They will, you know, climb a tree where they ain't supposed to be climbing a tree on a land line. I mean, 80 percent of those -- and that's just a random number.

In closing, all I can say is if you put the shoe on the other foot and take ten days out of stalk season, back it to the 15th like one of the gentlemen said, you would have all kind of stalk hunters coming out and be complaining about
CHAIRMAN MOULTIE: Thank you.

The next speaker is Dennis Russell.

MR. RUSSELL: Good morning, gentlemen. I'm not totally against the extension of deer season. And there's a few things you need to look at when you talk about this.

First off, the major thing I think you're hurting, you're hurting our kids and our youth. Because there's not enough days in the outdoors to start with. We got 20,000 acres. Another gentleman just talked about -- we rent it for dog hunting. We don't rent it for nothing else. We rent it for dog hunting. Once dog season goes out, we're not down there. We got our own private leases we go to because it's smaller acreage. We rent those big blocks of land because we can dog hunt.

We got 60 to 70 kids in our club.

That's 60 to 70 kids you're fixing to
take out of the outdoors in those ten
days. That's not right. That -- I
don't know how you look at it, but it's
not right. When you take a kid from the
outdoors, it's just not right.

Second off, the leases are so high,
we're fixing to have a problem leasing
our land. The economics that you're
going to create by this is going to put
small businesses in a financial strain
because we're not going to be there
buying gas. We're not going to be there
buying food. It costs us 130-something
thousand dollars a year to rent that
land to dog hunt. 99 percent of those
people that's in my lease is the working
man that works five days a week. He
only gets to hunt the weekends. But if
you go figure that out, that's a lot
just to hunt a few weekends a year.
Well, if you go ahead and you cut ten
days out, that's going to be that many
more days he's not going to get to
So I just ask you to look at all aspects of this. Because we are a dog-hunting club. I don't want to see the dog hunters lose anything. Don't want to see any hunter lose anything. But if we're going to give to the stalk-hunting side, let's look at the dog hunters as well. Thank you, gentlemen.

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: Thank you.

The next speaker is Donald Nelson.

MR. NELSON: Good morning, gentlemen. My name is Don Nelson. I am an avid Alabama fan before you start your watch there. So take that into consideration a little bit. I do have brothers that went to Auburn. I am a South Alabama graduate. But I do want to thank you for the opportunity this morning. I'll try to be brief.

I want to thank Mr. Hatley and some of the representatives who came down to
a meeting we had in Mobile. It took a lot of courage. He listened. And really that's what you have to do as a board member. You have a hard decision, hard choices. I'm a mayor. I have a council. We have to do the same type thing. But the point I want to make is we try to get out and I have to listen to my constituents. And I hope that you'll listen to your constituents this morning here as we wrestle with this hard decision.

Now, one thing I took out of the last meeting in Montgomery was -- and I listened to each one of the district reps say that this was the best year, they had the least amount of conflict between stalk and dog hunting in their areas this year. And I believe I'd be correct in what I heard when y'all said that. And that's what we strive for, to be good neighbors, to do it the right way. Of course, you know and I know,
you always have a few bad folks that do
it different ways in any organization.

There was an article that come out
about that meeting we had. We had it
packed to the rafters. We had -- it was
a tornado watch and they still came
out. People stood in the rain because
they were concerned and I understand
why. You heard all the reasons,
economics, families hunt, it's a great
opportunity to gather. But there was
also a comment made talking about --
it's like we have to look at this thing
as the glass half full. Well, if I did
this thing here, you would say that's a
hook 'em horns thing there. There's
four quarters of deer-hunting season for
the dog people. If you take one out --
and that's in essence what you're doing
-- we only have 75 percent. So please
consider that.

And, once again, I've only known of
one time -- the board can always reverse
itself, but I only know of one time that I can recall where we actually -- we lost days in January and a year later we got those days back. It's a hard thing to do once you've crossed that line. So please consider that once you do it.

I've had the chance the last several days to look at some of the reports coming out, and I would like to read one -- of course, it talks about extending it, the rut season. But one thing on your December 2011 report that kind of concerns me a little bit -- and I'll talk about the other report we just got. It talked about the conception date and said the majority, 77 percent, of the conception dates were within the current hunting season structure while 22 percent of these dates were from February 1st or later.

Now, gentlemen, I spent 30 years in the Marine Corps.

MR. BLAIR: That's time.
MR. NELSON: Okay.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you'll go ahead and sum it up.

MR. NELSON: Okay. I would ask that you consider that. I would ask that you table this to the next meeting, get more data. This report -- there's some differences in the reports on the reporting areas and the numbers. It doesn't quite jive up. So I'd ask that y'all consider that.

And the last thing I'll share with you, this thing about the bond between dogs. And I got this yesterday from The Call News in Mobile County. And the headline reads, My Hero, a Dog Saves Homeowner From Mount Vernon Fire. The gentleman's name was Mr. Douglas Byrd, a big fox hunter. His dogs alerted him. There is a definite bond. Just like I have a four-year-old grandson. He loves to go with my dogs. He wouldn't get in a shooting house with me. Thank you,
gentlemen, for your time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mayor.

The next speaker is Jim Dye.

MR. DYE: Good morning. My name is Jim Dye from Leeds, Alabama. I hunt in Greene County. But I am here to talk about the extension and what it's going to do taking away from deer dog hunting as far as losing the ten days.

You know, like I said -- it's been said before. It's just not right that stalk hunters are going to gain ten days, because no matter what happens, if you live in those counties where the extension is going to be and they're going to shut down in December, those guys are going to go to a different part of the state, hunt there, and then come back. You can still hunt ten more days, which is great. Dog hunters don't get any opportunity. I mean, you know, they're going to lose their ten days even though they can go somewhere else.
They're leasing property that they can't hunt.

Secondly, the rabbit hunters in February, that's their prime time. That's when they do get to get out and hunt these lands that they can't really hunt during deer season because of obvious conflicts. So they're losing out in those areas, and if it goes statewide, you know, the rabbit hunters are really going to lose out. So I just encourage some thought there. And if you are going to extend it, extend dog season from the 15th to the 25th of January. Just add some days in there for the dog hunters to give them a chance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. The next speaker is Leslie Sikes.

MR. SIKES: My name is Leslie Sikes. I'm from Silas, Alabama, which is in Choctaw County. And I believe that's District 7, which would be your
district, Mr. Bunn.

I'm a member of Willow Road Hunting Club. We have about 4500 acres in the southern part of Choctaw County. We strongly oppose this proposed bill. We just don't -- we just don't think it's right for the dog hunters to lose ten days. You know, we -- it's just -- it's no different us going dog hunting and somebody going stalk hunting. We just don't believe we should lose those days.

I also hunt with Hebron Hunting Club, which is in the northwest corner of Choctaw County, and they've been under permit system for the past four years. And it's my understanding that Captain Blalock and Enforcement Officer Dodd recommended for Choctaw County to be off the permit system. There's been no complaints in four years. I would really like it if you would talk about it and see if maybe you can drop the
permit system since there hasn't been any complaints in four years. I don't think that would be a bad idea.

But this deal where you would extend the season for ten days for stalk hunters on into February, is it really what's best for the state or is it what's best for who's got the money, because I don't believe that's -- I don't believe -- like Ms. Morrow said earlier, you know, us as a state, we don't -- we don't want everybody from out of state coming in and killing our deer and running our leases up. You know, this is our state. You know, this is for the state of Alabama, not for other states. We just believe that you should do what's best for the state as a whole, not for everybody else. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is John Ward.

Mr. Dodd, did you want any rebuttal
of that, what he said? Was he referencing you?

MR. DODD: I'm not sure. I didn't have any comment on the matter.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Mr. Ward.

MR. WARD: Good morning, Commissioner, Board.

    My name is John Ward. I hunt with Good Old Boys Hunting Club. Don't give to one and not give to the others. I'm a dog hunter. That's all I live and breathe, dog hunting.

    (Inaudible portion).

    We got about five, six bowhunters and probably about seven, eight stalk hunters.

    (Inaudible portion.)

    We've got young kids. You can't give to one kid and not give to the other ones. It's the same thing.

    And these rabbit hunters -- we run ads all the time for members to hunt with us. We don't mind rabbit hunters coming to hunt, because we want to do
the same thing, run dogs. That's what we want to do.

And you keep putting these young kids -- you going to put them out on the streets. They ain't got nothing to do. They want to dog hunt. Give them something to do. Don't take the dogs away from us.

And these ten days, if you're going to give it to one, give it to the other. Don't give it to one and not give it to the other. That ain't right. Be fair to everybody. I'm fair. I'm just as fair as I can be to everybody.

And, you know, we're all human. We're all going to be sitting together and doing things together. My hunting club is based on a family-oriented club. We eat together. We joke together. We set around the campfire with a bunch of young kids. You know, come on guys, be straight with them. Thank
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is -- we've got standing rules that's been in for ten years if we've got ten speakers. But in an effort to be totally fair, we've got one more speaker. And I'm going to use the chairman's prerogative, and we're going to allow him to speak. And that will be John Kiel. John K-I-E-L.

MR. KIEL: Hey, I'm John Kiel for the panel and the Chairman. I am from Clarke County. And I am here and just like everybody have said this morning -- you know, we're going over the same thing, but I would not like to see the deer season extended simply because, you know, that would shorten the dog season. I'm a dog hunter, been for all my life.

And as you know -- some of you may know that we had an incident in Clarke County -- and that's where I'm from --
that they shot our dogs. And they got off on some property, and they shot the dogs. We tracked them and it took us to where they were shot. And we had the county sheriff to come -- actually, we blocked the guys in, wouldn't let them out. And we had the county sheriff to come. They said it wasn't nothing they could do. The game warden came and said there was nothing he could do.

But the dogs were shot. We got pictures of them. We went and got the dogs, piled them up. And Ms. Susan Morrow, she is familiar with that story. And it just -- it's just not right to kill a dog. And we've all said that. And I just want you-all to know that we don't appreciate that. And we don't want to take the days away, but -- and I'm a rabbit hunter too.

It was another incident down in Greensboro. Three weeks after they shot our dogs down there in Clarke County, I
was rabbit hunting. They shot two of our dogs down there rabbit hunting, the guys I was hunting with. We heard the rifle go off killing our dogs. And that's just not right. And I cannot understand why the sheriff or the game warden couldn't do anything about it.

However, we have -- Ms. Morrow have -- they have a reward out trying to pinpoint the people that did this. And I just wanted -- that's all I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, sir.

Now y'all can have your round of applause.

Okay. Now, in the support February extension we have Mark Proctor.

MR. PROCTOR: I'm Mark Proctor. I'm the state president of Bowhunters of Alabama. I'd actually like to take this opportunity to thank the Department of Conservation and the board for everything that you do. We really value the relationship
that we have with the department and
look forward to continuing that
partnership.

Additionally, basically what I would
like to do is say the Bowhunters of
Alabama support the proposals that are
being brought forward today. Thank
you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much,
Mr. Proctor.

That concludes our public speakers
time. The board is going to take
another quick recess, and then we'll be
right back at it in ten minutes.

(A brief recess was taken.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. We will start
back. The next speaker is Jeff Bowden.

(Brief interruption.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Jeff Bordon.

MR. BORDON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Commissioner, Board. I want to
speak just a few minutes on our youth
hunt. I'm from the Good Old Boys
Hunting Club in Fayette County. And, guys, you're talking about the look on the little guy's and little girl's face when they kill their first deer. It's just amazing. We had eight this year that killed their first deer. Had one kill a little seven-point and you would have thought he had killed old grandaddy. But the look on the kids' faces when they kill their first is just -- it's worth everything that we have to go through to keep our -- and it was on a dog hunt. So, guys, whatever we got to do, we got to keep our dogs running. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. The next speaker will be John Haville.

If y'all would hold the applause, please.


UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's already left.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is Truman Herren, H-E-R-R-E-N.
MR. TRUMAN HERREN: Good afternoon. I'm Truman Herren from Fayette County. We petitioned you in 2006, 2007, 2008, and finally got a dog ban in Fayette County. It took until this year we had an excellent season with no disruption, and we'd just like to thank you for what you have done for us there.

We would encourage you to continue the ban in Fayette County. Thank you for your time and thank you for your service.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, sir.

The next speaker will be Bill Herren.

MR. BILL HERREN: I'm Bill Herren. I live in Walker County, and we own property in Fayette County. We just want to say specifically that we are specifically thankful that we have the ban in the area where we do for our children and grandchildren and we hope for the future.
We appreciate the work you do.
In attending these meetings, we've come
to appreciate the fact that you truly
work for conservation. You work with
the people. And we believe that we as
people are to be good neighbors. And
you worked in this case in getting a
ban. Our neighbors have been better
neighbors. We've not had any problems.
We have a better working relationship.
And so we just express our appreciation,
our gratitude, and our thankfulness for
the work that you do and the work that
you've done. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you for your kind
words for the board, Mr. Herren.

Is there anybody else that I missed
or that wishes to speak?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next order of
business, then, will be old business.
I'll start with an open issue from the
last meeting.
There is a motion to be considered regarding the CPI increase for licenses. Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I move the entire increase in license fees for Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and Marine Resources licenses, based on the Consumer Price Index as provided under Sections 9-11-68 and 69 of the Alabama Code, be approved.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a second?

DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a second. Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The motion as Mr. Hatley just read it, all in favor raise your hand.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show that the vote was unanimous.
Okay. We have a motion regarding revisions to 220-2-.02, including use of laser sights for disabled. I believe, Mr. Jones, you have that motion.

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion to approve all the DCNR regulations adopted since the last Conservation Advisory Board meeting.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. That is a housekeeping motion, but we need that approved also. Can we get a second on that?

MR. AINSWORTH: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. This motion is a housekeeping motion. Okay. We'll get to the other motion for you.

But on this open motion we've got on the table, we've got a second. Is there any discussion?

(No discussion.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: It's a housekeeping motion. All those in favor raise your hand.
(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Show that the motion passes unanimously.

Okay. There is a motion --

Mr. Jones, I thought we gave it to you.

Hold on. I'll find it. Let's see.

MR. JONES: I've got it.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion to approve the proposed revisions to the legal arms and ammunition regulation as set forth in the revised 220-2-.02 regulation contained in the Conservation Advisory Board packet for this meeting.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Is there a second?

MR. HATLEY: Second.

DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Okay. Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: A motion as Mr. Jones just
read it, all in favor raise your hand.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show it was unanimous.

Okay. The next motion is --

Mr. Hatley, you had -- the last two or three meetings in a row you had talked about fall turkey season. Do you bring a motion to the board?

MR. HATLEY: I have, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make the following motion: That the Department of Conservation eliminate all fall turkey seasons in the state of Alabama, period.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Do we have a second?

MR. JONES: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any discussion?

Yes, Dr. Lemme.

DR. LEMME: Mr. Moody, is there a biological reason to close turkey season during the fall?
MR. MOODY: No.

MR. HATLEY: Negative.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. All that are in favor of the motion that Mr. Hatley has as he just read it, raise your hand.

(With the exception of Dr. Lemme, the remainder of the board members raise their hands.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(Dr. Lemme raises hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show that one opposed, the rest in favor. And the opposed was Dr. Lemme.

Okay. Motion number four, Mr. Dobbs. You had talked about the game check system and wanting a method to tally deer. And do you have a motion on the game check system, Mr. Dobbs?

MR. DOBBS: Yes, I do, Chairman Moultrie.

My motion that I would like to bring before is to approve a regulation
establishing a game check system as
described by Commissioner Gunter Guy at
the February 2013 Conservation Advisory
Board meeting.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Okay. Is there a second?

MR. AINSWORTH: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: We have a motion and a
second.

Is there any discussion on the game
check system as described by
Commissioner Guy?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Okay. If there's no
discussion, all those in favor of the
game check system, raise your hand.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Let the record show it is
unanimous.

Okay. Mr. Dobbs, you had a motion
on delineating an area around feeding.
Do you have a motion today?
MR. DOBBS: I do, Mr. Chairman. The motion I'd like to bring is for this board to approve the proposed regulation delineating an area around supplemental feeding, which should read as follows:

For the purpose of Section 9-11-244, the Code of Alabama 1975, and Rule 220-2-.11, the Alabama Administrative Code, as it applies to the hunting of deer and feral swine, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that any bait or feed, as defined in Section 9-11-244, located beyond 100 yards from the hunter and not within the line of sight of the hunter is not a lure, attraction, or enticement to, on, or over the area where the hunter is attempting to kill or take the deer or feral swine. For the purpose of this regulation, not within the line of sight means being hidden from view by natural vegetation or naturally occurring terrain features. This regulation shall not
apply on public lands.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Is there a second?

MR. AINSWORTH: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a second.

Is there any discussion?

And I want to start with one item of discussion. Dr. Lemme during a break came up and made a point to me. And, Dr. Lemme, I think it would be worthwhile for you to describe that to the audience about that it could assist someone who is trapping hogs with their property rights.

DR. LEMME: Just wanted clarification on the impact of this proposal on the ability of a landowner to be operating a feral hog trap and using a grain attractant in that trap. They're not hunting deer. They're trapping feral hogs. Will this prevent that?

MR. DODD: No.

DR. LEMME: They'll still be able to trap feral hogs; right?
MR. DODD: Right.

DR. LEMME: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Any other discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If no further discussion, all those that are in favor of the delineating area as Mr. Dobbs just read it, please raise your hand.

(With the exception of Commissioner McMillan, the remainder of the board members raise their hands.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

Mr. McMillan, do you have -- I mean, Commissioner McMillan.

COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Yeah. I was just -- I don't think we're clear on the feral hog.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Let's back up, then. We'll hold the vote.

Mr. Dodd, would you go to the microphone, please, and clear this up.

DR. LEMME: The question is does it impact the
ability of the landowner during the deer season.

MR. DODD: No, sir. Currently we pretty much allow folks to trap pigs during deer season as long as they're not hunting in the immediate vicinity of the trap.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Everybody clear?

Commissioner McMillan, would you like to make a statement?

COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Not right now. Later.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. That will be fine.

Okay. Back to the vote. As the motion was read from Mr. Dobbs, all those in favor?

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show unanimous.

The next motion is for Mr. Blankenship, who is not here.
Mr. Hatley, I believe you're going to have that motion.

MR. HATLEY: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. I move that the proposed regulations concerning the saltwater fish, creel, possession, and size limits -- size limits that was presented by the Marine Resources division at the February 9th, 2013, Conservation Advisory Board meeting be approved.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a second?

DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a second. Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Being no discussion, all those in favor as a motion as Mr. Hatley read it, raise your hand.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show the vote is unanimous.
MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Just out of curiosity, where do we stand -- I saw where Senator Sessions raised the issues on the snapper. Do we have anything to report on that, Gunter?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner Guy.

COMMISSIONER GUY: The short answer to that is not really. I will call on the Marine Resources folks that are here to add to anything I have. But we have been talking with all the legislative delegation trying to get their help on expanding, really, our ability to manage out to a further distance. And, actually, at first most of them were talking about nine miles, but we've actually been trying to get it out to 20 fathoms, I believe.

They're shaking their head that I'm actually getting that right.

And so I think there is some support
for that, Mr. Hartzog. But it's going
to take a lot of work and it's going to
take a lot of calls up there to try to
get anybody on board. And anybody that
can help with that cause, we would
appreciate it. And we're still working
on the very short snapper season and
hoping that maybe we can get some help
there too.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is that sufficient,
Mr. Hartzog?

Is that sufficient?

MR. HARTZOG: Uh-huh (positive response).

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

Okay. The next motion we show was,
Mr. Hartzog, that you had a motion on
Elmore County.

MR. HARTZOG: Yes. And I want to reintroduce
that motion for Elmore County for a dog
deer permit and the motion to read as
follows: To place the following portion
of Elmore County under the permit
system. And the description is the line
should run along the Coosa County/Elmore County line from the east bank of Lake Jordan to Highway 9, then south along Highway 9 to the intersection of 231, then south along 231 to the intersection of Highway 14, then west along Highway 14 to the east bank of the Coosa River, then north along the east bank of the Coosa River and Lake Jordan back to the Coosa County/Elmore County line.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a second?

MR. HATLEY: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a second. Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Being no discussion, all those in favor of the motion as Mr. Hartzog read it, please raise your hand.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show
unanimous vote.

Okay. The next motion shows -- was by Mr. Bunn, had talked about Wilcox County. Mr. Bunn, do you have a motion to make?

MR. BUNN: I have a motion to put Wilcox County -- the whole county, that is -- under the permit system.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Is there a second?

MR. MARTIN: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Second. Any discussion on Wilcox County?

MR. HARTZOG: The motion reads here "close."

MR. BUNN: That's right, but I'm going to put it under permit.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: He's changed that motion.

MR. HARTZOG: Okay. Okay.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog, if you'll address the chair. He's changed that.

MR. HARTZOG: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Mr. Bunn, you've got a motion and a second on the table. Any more discussion?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. All those in favor of the motion as Mr. Bunn read it, please raise your hands.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show unanimous.

We've got an item that was brought up several meetings ago, Florida pompano, by Dr. Shipp. That's going to be continued with no action today until that is addressed more.

Mr. Dobbs, you had brought up about a minimum acreage for dog deer hunting. I understand there's no motion today, but would you like to discuss that issue?

MR. DOBBS: No motion today, Mr. Chairman. But it's something that we're still reviewing and I have some questions. And once I get the answers to those and
provide those to you, we will discuss
that at the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Very good. I would
suggest in your thoughts to make sure to
contact Don Knight and get all their
input as thoroughly as you can on such a
sensitive issue.

MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next item
showing in old business is,
Dr. Strickland, I believe you were going
to bring forward the season and bag
limits motion, which includes to
generally approve seasons and bag limits
and including shifting deer season in
the proposed area of southwest Alabama
and includes a reduction in unantlered
deer harvest in northeast Alabama in the
mapped areas included. And it includes
reopening southwest Mobile County
turkey, and it includes Mr. Hartzog's
proposal to shift dove season in the
south back one day to include Friday of
Thanksgiving.

   Dr. Strickland, do you have a
   motion?

DR. STRICKLAND: Yes. Thank you,
   Mr. Chairman. I guess I will just
   reiterate that motion.

   I'd like to make a motion to approve
the revised proposed seasons and bag
limits as set out in March 9, 2013, the
Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources draft, including, but not
limited to, the shifting of the deer
season in southwest Alabama, the
restricted unantlered deer season in
portions of northern Alabama, the
reopening of the southwest Mobile County
turkey-hunting area, and the shifting of
the dates of the south zone dove season
back one day to include the Friday
before Thanksgiving.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Is there a second
   for the motion?

MR. HATLEY: Second.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: There is a second.

Discussion? Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: No discussion.

Okay. All those in favor of the motion as Dr. Strickland read it, please raise your hands.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show the vote is unanimous.

The next order of business is new business.

(Brief interruption.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We had one more item. Let me go back to old business.

We have a motion to approve an expenditure of the Wildlife Heritage License funds. I need someone to bring this motion, please, Mr. Hatley or Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move to
approve the expenditure of the $73,000
of the Wildlife Heritage License funds
for the research project of Auburn
University to determine adult mortality
rates and home range movement patterns
for whitetail deer as required by
Section 9-11-71 of the Alabama Code.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a second?

DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: There is a second.

Any discussion?

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Just out of curiosity, what
areas are they going to study? I mean,
what exactly is the research project?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

MR. HARTZOG: I mean, that was a broad
definition of mortality rates and home
range --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody, would you
approach the microphone.

MR. MOODY: If it's okay with you,
Mr. Chairman, I would like our assistant chief of Wildlife who is in charge of the Auburn research project, Ray Metzler, to address this.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That will be fine.

MR. METZLER: We're going to do this study on four sites, Barbour and Oakmulgee WMAs and two private sites, one located in Pickens County, one located in Marengo County. Tentatively what Dr. Ditchkoff, the primary designee at Auburn University, would like to do is 15 VHF collars, which is a mortality collar, on each site. There will be 15 VHF collars and then 30 GPS collars split between the four sites. 15 VHF collars on each site and 7 or 8 GPS collars on each site.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I would like to ask before we open other discussion on this -- because the issue, especially with extending the season -- and Dr. Ditchkoff has raised this issue time
and time again -- on post-rut mortality, that an emphasis be placed on post-rut mortality within the study. Let's get a full report on post-rut mortality because that's something we need to look at in an extended season.

MR. METZLER: I'll certainly bring that up to Dr. Ditchkoff and make sure he's aware of it.

MR. MOODY: Mr. Chairman, I was just going to make sure that everybody remembered -- and I thought Ray could address this. This is required by statute, I believe, from that -- from those funds as I understand it. So for anybody that wondered why we're doing it, it's required by statute.

MR. DOBBS: We discussed it.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: With deer mortality rates and home range, does the board have any other things they would like to be emphasized during the study?

    Dr. Strickland?
DR. STRICKLAND: Pardon?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You're our deer expert most of the time. Do you have anything else that you would like to see emphasized during the study?

DR. STRICKLAND: No. I think it sounds like that it's going to be a fairly comprehensive study that you have.

And you said there's going to be one private landowner?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Two.

MR. METZLER: Two private landowners, one in Pickens County and one in Marengo County. I mean, that's tentative. We haven't signed any contracts with anybody yet. Right now those are the intentions.

DR. STRICKLAND: And, again, how long will the study -- how long will this take?

MR. METZLER: Two years.

DR. STRICKLAND: Two years. Okay.

MR. METZLER: Two study seasons and in the third year the -- it will be two
master's degree students at Auburn.

They'll have the third year to analyze
the data and get --

DR. STRICKLAND: And that will be presented
back to the board?

MR. METZLER: Oh, yes.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: Will there be -- I didn't hear for
sure, but there are fetal studies in
this as well, or is this just collar?

MR. METZLER: The reproductive -- the
whitetail deer reproductive health
study, we're doing that in-house.

MR. DOBBS: Okay.

MR. METZLER: We're going to continue with
that. This basically will be limited to
mortality and home range.

MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Well, one point. You said it
was a two-year study and the report
coming out the third year. Is there any
way of giving this board interim reports
as to what they are finding so that we
can be better -- more knowledgeable as
to --

MR. METZLER: Yeah. I don't see any problem
with that. Do you, Gary?

MR. MOODY: No.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Excellent.

Anything else?

    Yes, Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: One other -- how are you
going to track -- what methodology are
you going to use to track or establish
mortality?

MR. METZLER: We'll have our yagi antenna with
a little receiver. The transmitter on
the deer -- or on the collar, when it
goes into mortality mode, it puts off a
different tone. So they'll pick that up
on their receiver.

DR. STRICKLAND: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Okay. We've
got a motion and a second. Any more discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If not, as Mr. Jones read the motion, all those in favor?

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show unanimous.

Okay. Now we get to new business.

One thing I'd like to say in new business is, especially during these key issues, one of the speakers brought forth that these board members are pulled many, many directions and they do an awful good job doing what they do representing everybody. And they really, really do a good job, and I'd like to congratulate the board on their efforts to continue doing the good job in researching that y'all do.

Also, in new business I'd like to
say -- we were talking about doing it
every meeting, for a college student to
come and enlist and join us and help us
to get a meeting up under their belts to
put on their resume.

David Blair, thank you for
attending.

Okay. Any other new business?
And I'd like to start with Wildlife
and Freshwater Fisheries.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Director Sykes, would you
mind just addressing the plans for the
fetal studies for this year that I
mentioned earlier. Just an overview, I
think, would be helpful to the board.

MR. SYKES: The studies have already started
in some parts of the state, and we
are -- I've met with Gary, Ray, and
actually some of the division
biologists. We are looking to close
some of the gaps. We've got new
landowners participating. We're
actually using some private individuals
this year to help. We understand that
we've got to get more data, and we are
headed in that direction. So we are
trying to close in the holes.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Does anybody have
any questions?

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: The board -- I am anxious
for this board to ask new Director Sykes
some biological questions because he's
as good as I've ever seen. He is very,
very sharp on the issues.

Okay. Any other new business?

Commissioner McMillan, yes.

COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Yes. Thank you,

Mr. Chairman. I felt compelled to make
a couple of remarks this morning.

For one thing, I'm the only member
on this board that has to go before the
voters of the state. I came -- and I
could do what most commissioners of
agriculture have done and that's just
skip these meetings. I feel like I can
be a productive member of this board.

I came here this morning really undecided on the two key motions that we voted on and actually felt like I had more problems with the supplemental feeding motion than I did with the extension of the season. After listening to you folks and listening to my fellow board members here, I felt like, particularly with a commitment from Commissioner Guy and the comments that he made which went into my decision-making as well, that, number one, the worst thing that could ever happen with this board would be if the legislature starts passing laws to make decisions that need to be made by this board because we've got the flexibility to come back and correct any mistakes that get made.

I'm extremely interested in seeing how the game check system is going to work. I think that's going to be a huge
asset to this board. And I'm also extremely supportive of Chuck and having him on board. And as soon as he finds out where his marketplace is and a few more things, I think he's going to be a huge asset to us.

But I just wanted you-all to know, particularly those of you that I had conversations with this morning and before, that I think we're on the right track. I think that we've got the right people in the right spots. And if we do make mistakes, I'll be -- number one, I'll be one of the first ones pushing to see that we do what needs to be done in the way of research. And, secondly, I'll be the first one to say we made a mistake and that we need to reassess it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Commissioner McMillan. And, Commissioner McMillan, Mr. Hatley and I have the longest tenure on the board, and I will
reiterate you're the only agricultural commissioner that has never missed a meeting, has been here, always offers input. And I think anybody looking for a good agricultural commissioner should take that into their mind when they go to vote.

Okay. Other new business?

Yes, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: I was just going to ask if the department would take a look at the turtle harvest regulations and get back with us on a recommendation.

MR. SYKES: I spoke with Mr. Harbin and his wife earlier, and I'm going to meet with Mark Rouleau and Mark Sasser who are ultimately familiar with the turtle issue. We will address that next week, and we'll keep you informed.

MR. JONES: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Yes, sir. In looking at the small game hunters losing supposedly the
ten days because of the influx of losing
their hunting rights during the February
extension, in talking with Gary Moody,
biologically -- he said, in fact, in
some states the squirrel season is going
on into May or whatever. Is it -- I'd
ask that if Gary would give us a
recommendation at the next meeting for
us to consider and maybe vote on maybe
extending the season for small game
into -- somebody told me at one time it
used to run to March 15th anyway. Is
that true?

It never has. Okay.

MR. MOODY: Not that I'm aware of.

MR. HARTZOG: But look at the possibility of
extending that season until March the
10th to give the small game hunters the
same opportunity we give everybody else.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions from
the board on small game?

I think, Mr. Moody, they're asking
for any reason to or not to extend that
season. If you could provide the board with that information.

Any other questions in new business, items that need to be discussed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next order of business is the date and location of the next Advisory Board meeting. The date has not been set and the location hasn't been set. We're open to listening. We're looking at many areas. And it will be announced as soon as we get a location and a date.

DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

DR. STRICKLAND: I just want to remind you in our last discussion you said you were going to look at northern Alabama. I'm going to hold you to that.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That will be fine.

Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I've got it down.

DR. STRICKLAND: And my good board member is
going to volunteer his place.

CHAIRMANN MOULTRIE: Mr. Jones, I appreciate that.

MR. JONES: Thanks. Appreciate it.

CHAIRMANN MOULTRIE: I believe we had it the last time in north Alabama at Guntersville; is that correct? Would that be a good location, do you think, Dr. Strickland?

DR. STRICKLAND: That would be very acceptable.

CHAIRMANN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dobbs?

MR. DOBBS: One thought that may be a piece of new business going forward is that the Department of Conservation, while we've got some tags, maybe they consider the issuance of a vanity tag of some design that would promote the Heritage fund, that would promote programs for youth or whatever the recommendations would be from Mr. Harders or Dr. Moody.

CHAIRMANN MOULTRIE: Okay. Dr. Moody, again, please handle that for us.
Okay. Very good. Anything else?

Mr. Hartzog again.

MR. HARTZOG: One last comment and I'll be quiet.

On the extension of the February 10th -- you know, we look at mean conception dates, and apparently that is the data we are going to rely on. But I really think we -- we really need to study the data that comes back from the game check in making our decision and not just use mean conception dates. Because the concern of a lot of people that I've heard from -- and, of course, it's perception, again -- is that do we have as many does out there as we used to; are the coyotes taking the does that they have taken; if we increase the season and 77 percent of the does are already bred by January the 31st and we now look at also allowing take of the does during the February season, are we doing the resource justice for future
growth and maintaining of that herd.

So I'd love for us to not only look at mean conception dates, but look at the data that comes back to us from the game check as to what actually is being taken out there and what the percentage of population has been taken and make our decision not just on mean conception dates but on other data other than mean conception date.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I think our data will be so much better than anything we've ever had.

MR. HARTZOG: Oh, I know. I mean, we don't have any.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The game check is going to be unbelievable.

One thing that we want to bring up -- and Director Sykes and I had talked about it. There was a study done at Cedar Creek Institute. Director Sykes was familiar with the guy doing the study. And, you know, we've had a
lot of people saying that we've had more
doe mortality than usual in the state of
Alabama, especially in the northern
season. And we tried to figure that
out. And this study is pretty
interesting, that it went into saying
that the -- like when we closed the gun
season, probably there was additional
pressure on the does because people were
used to killing a deer a day and they
probably continued that for a while.
And if they shot the does that they had
studied, the mama does -- the older mama
does were shot and left to the younger
does to reproduce, that the study
confirmed, just as in the cattle
industry, they're not good mamas and
that population will drop and quality
will drop until they get time to be good
mamas.

Now, that being said, that may be a
possibility of what happened in lieu of
what -- when we closed the buck season
from adding pressure on those. But that study is in Director Sykes' hands. He knows the guy who did it. He's going to look at it. And I think it's good that we look at anything like that. And, Director Sykes, we appreciate you looking at that. But that could be one reason of our doe mortality.

Anything else?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Being there's no further business, this meeting is adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:39 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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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 9, 2013.

The foregoing 174 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 15th day of April 2013.

___________________________
Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2013
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large