STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Pelham Civic Complex

Pelham, Alabama

March 26, 2016

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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 Pelham Civic Complex, Pelham, Alabama, on Saturday, March 26, 2016, commencing at approximately 9:00 a.m.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Warren Strickland, Chairman
Commissioner N. Gunter Guy, Jr.
Commissioner John McMillan
Dr. Gary Lemme
Mr. Austin Ainsworth
Mr. Jeff Martin
Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
Mr. Grady Hartzog
Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.
Mr. Patrick Cagle
Mr. Ben C. Stimpson, Jr.
Mr. Gary Wolfe

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: The March 26, 2016,

Conservation Advisory Board meeting will
now come to order. I hope every one of
you are enjoying this great spring
weather. Turkeys are gobbling.

The entire board would like to
welcome all of you to Pelham Civic
Complex. Great complex. And we
certainly appreciate the administrators
of the complex for allowing us the
opportunity to use it this Saturday
morning.

At this point please discontinue any
cell phone service.
The first item of business is the invocation. Mr. Ray Jones.

MR. JONES: If you will, bow with me, please.

Our Heavenly Father, we want to thank you for this beautiful spring morning, this time that we can come together and look outside and truly marvel at how great thou art. We ask your blessings on this meeting today, the men and women that have traveled here to make decisions based on the natural resources in this great state that you have so greatly blessed us with. Be with us. Help us to judge wisely and to make good decisions. Also ask that you be with all the people here as they travel home. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Audience responds.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr. Jones.

The next order of business is the introduction of the ex-officio members of the Conservation Advisory Board:
Commissioner Gunter Guy, Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Mr. John McMillan, Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Industries; Mr. Gary Lemme, Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System; Curtis Jones, Deputy Commissioner.

Thank you, gentlemen. We appreciate you-all's service to the Conservation Advisory Board.

Next we will have the introduction of the board members as well as the congressional district that they represent. And we can start on the far end of the table. Please speak into the mic. Give your name and congressional district.

MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, Congressional District 4.

MR. CAGLE: Patrick Cagle, District 2.

MR. WOLFE: Gary Wolfe, District 1.

MR. MARTIN: Jeff Martin, District 3.
MR. STIMPSON: Ben Stimpson, District 1.
MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, District 5.
MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, District 2.
MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, District 6.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, gentlemen. I think that's all of the introductions of the board members.

The next order of business is the approval of the minutes. The final draft is not available from the February 20th, 2016, Advisory Board meeting. As soon as that final draft is available, it will be online, and we will approve those minutes with a motion on our next meeting when that's held.

Commissioner, you have some comments.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Dr. Strickland, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the only thing that I wanted to mention today, there are a lot of people here. Appreciate everybody being here today. A lot of people that
I know and know are big advocates of our
game here in the state of Alabama and
we're glad to have you here.

There's a couple of things after the
first meeting that I wanted to mention
just in case you're here to speak about
it. One was we had a lot of discussion
at the last meeting about turkeys and
seasons and bag limits in the state, and
some of that information ran wild, like
it tends to do. But the discussion was
very good. It was an informative
discussion. And that's what it was
meant to be.

But what I wanted everybody to know
that's here today, in case they were
here to maybe address that, is that the
department, of course, has no plans at
the present time to change any season or
bag limits as it involves turkeys here
in the state. We will continue to do
the -- what I think is the good work the
department has started, and we want to
continue to collect the necessary data to make sure that we have a great and viable turkey population for the public to hunt. And that's the -- that's the emphasis that we want to make today there.

But, of course, you're welcome to come up and talk about that, but I did want to let you know that there are no plans, as I understand it today, for any motions based on turkey seasons or bag limits.

Also, I think there was some information -- we have been working diligently with the dog deer hunters here in the state and their association. And as social media tends to do, it gets out information that is incorrect. And so there is no department position on a statewide -- we're not advocating or expecting a change for any kind of statewide dog deer permit. That's not anything we are here to recommend today
or talk about. There are some other issues related to dog deer hunting. Hopefully y'all have been properly informed about that. But there is no recommendation for a statewide dog deer permit.

So I was just letting -- I wanted y'all to know that in advance. Of course, the board may have some discussion on various things today, but I wanted to try to allay some of those possible miscommunications that may be out there on social media.

And hopefully I have done that appropriately, Mr. Chairman. Other than that, just thank you very much for allowing me the time.

And, also, I wanted to think the civic -- administrators here at the Pelham Civic Center for allowing us to get this on some pretty short notice, and we really thank them, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Commissioner.
And, once again, we all realize how passionate we are about turkey hunters -- turkey hunting. We know most of the board members up here are pretty passionate turkey hunters as well. So we really are dependant on the Wildlife department to give us the data that we need. And hopefully there are no issues and we can continue with the same bag limits as well as the same seasons that we have in place. That's what we're all hoping for.

But, you know, we have to do our due diligence. We have to make sure that we protect our resource and make sure that there is not a problem. And I'm sure every one of you-all will agree with that, that that's the right thing to do.

Commissioner, thank you, once again.

The next order of business is the public hearing. We have a few rules for public hearing.

For those who will be participating
in the public hearing, when your name is called, please come to the microphone. You are limited to only three minutes, and we're fairly strict with that. Once the buzzer goes off, we expect for you to terminate your presentation. State your name, again, and the subject you plan to talk on. And there will be absolutely no interference from the audience. In addition, all board members are asked to please address the Chair before taking the floor.

Okay. So the first person we will have up is Stan Graves, and Avery Bates is on deck.

MR. GRAVES: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, and members of the board, first, I was here last month talking on the two subjects that I'm going to mention this time.

I had an issue with the Alabama Open Records and requesting information. This week I finally got information stating that I'm going to receive --
start receiving some next week. That's after $1400 in legal fees that should not have occurred if the -- if I had gotten any information back in July of last year.

So I just want to put that on the record that I had to go to legal advice to get help to get information under the law. And I have -- all I want to do is be assured that I'm going to get that information next week and that it's in full. And if Patti wants, I'll be happy to share that letter again.

The second item that I want to talk about is HB 236. That's a proposed bill that's in the house right now. There's a public hearing. And this bill deals with dredging sand in our navigational channels. There are three outlets: Perdido Pass, Little Lagoon, and Mobile. And this bill deals with putting sand -- dredged sands on the adjacent shores. This is extremely important. Alabama is
the only state that does not have a law on the Gulf Coast that addresses dredging and placement of sand.

The purpose of the bill is modeled after Florida. And we have gone out and secured a petition of 1400 people as of last night that signed the petition in support of the bill. Since the Department of Natural -- Conservation and Natural Resources is very much involved in that bill, I would like to ask that the board support the bill and the Department of Natural Resources support the bill, because it's vital and important as a first line of defense for Dauphin Island, for all of the coastline, for Mobile County, and even helping the barrier islands in Mississippi. So this bill is extremely important.

And I want to introduce this as part of the record, as well as my request for the information on the Open Records
I don't know what else to say other than the fact that for the first time we have a bill in place in the legislature that will do something very important for our coastline -- all of Alabama, not just Dauphin Island. But it affects all of the coast. And I hope that y'all will maybe have some influence.

And let me back up one second. If you had any influence in me getting any of the information that I requested, I thank you, because I know there were some questions last year -- last month.

Thank you very much and I appreciate the time.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr. Graves.

MR. GRAVES: I didn't speak in the mic well enough. I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Mr. Hartzog, you have the floor.

MR. HARTZOG: Sir?
MR. GRAVES: Yes.

MR. HARTZOG: Do you mind just giving us a short synopsis of what Senate Bill 236 says?

MR. GRAVES: Yes, sir. The bill addresses like if the Corps dredges the ship channel, that sand has to be placed on the adjacent shores to help with prevention of erosion. It's for the future. It doesn't address our immediate erosion problems that we have.

I can give you an example. I have property on Dauphin Island. I'm sorry. I live in Mountain Brook and have property on Dauphin Island. I've lost 150 feet of shoreline. It's four-and-a-half feet of elevation I've lost. So what this will do is help when they dredge into the -- the widening and deepening bill that's up there -- that they're working on now, that's going to be a lot of sand dredged out of that. And they put it in the SIBA, which is
the Sand Island Beneficial Area. It doesn't get to us. And prior to that they used to dump the sand out in the Gulf.

MR. HARTZOG: Okay.

MR. GRAVES: There's 20-million cubic yards of sand lost between 1974 and 2004. If you go back further, there's about 48 million cubic yards of sand. That's never been addressed. In part of the widening and deepening public scoping process, we are asking that they go back and address that issue because it was never addressed in the 1980 EIS, environmental impact statement.

So with -- unless that's addressed, you're going to have the same problem, and all you're going to have is what exists today. But the bill will help for the future because then they'll have to put that sand on the shorelines.

MR. HARTZOG: Okay. All right.

MR. GRAVES: Does that help?
MR. HARTZOG: Yeah, that did. Yes, sir.

MR. GRAVES: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any further questions from the board?

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

Ms. Patti, is the department in support of this bill?

MS. POWELL: I wouldn't speak on behalf of the department as to their support of the bill. I would ask the Commissioner to.

I will say that the reference to the department being involved in the bill, I think what Mr. Graves meant is the bill references the department as the state entity that would be in charge of enforcing the provisions of the bill if it is enacted.

A couple of potential differences that you might see between Alabama and Florida -- Florida does have a bill. Florida dedicated funding both for a baseline study to begin before work began and then funding to thereafter
provide what's referred to as the --

We call it the Delta difference. I'm not sure that's the technical term.

-- but the difference to the Corps from where their regulations require them to put the sand -- they will put it somewhere else for you. They are willing to do that. But you have to pay the difference, the State does.

So the bill that Florida enacted established both enough funding to do baseline studies to know where the sediments are, to know if you take from one place, where they're going and how to fill them back. It also provided dedicated funding that the Corps would then need to put the sand somewhere else.

The bill really doesn't set forth how Alabama would fund that similar type of work that formed the basis of the Florida work. And there is some -- some question, I would say, as to how much a
state agency can require a federal agency, frankly, to do anything.

As an example, you know, you deal a lot with Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. They have regulations and statutes that relate to their authority to regulate certain resources just as some of my statutes do, but that doesn't give Chuck the ability to just tell Fish and Wildlife what we want them to do and make them do what we want them to do. So there may be some question as to enforceability.

But that's really our involvement. It would be -- the Port Authority is -- handles and relates to the dredging in the port itself. The bill identifies, however, the Department of Conservation as the enforcing agency to, I guess, have to sue the Corps or whatever. I don't know. There is some question about how there would be any enforcement of the provisions.
MR. GRAVES: May I add -- may I comment on that, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Why don't we hold that comment until then and you can meet directly with Patti.

MR. GRAVES: Well, I think they need to hear what I've got to say.

The actual issue is related to the Port Authority, not the Corps of Engineers. Port Authority is a nonfederal partner, and they would technically be responsible if there was an incremental cost associated with that displacement of sand on the shoreline.

So Patti is not a hundred-percent correct.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr. Graves.

MR. HARTZOG: That's fine.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Mr. Bates. And Caroline Graves will follow Mr. Bates.

MR. BATES: My name is Avery Bates,

vice-president of Organized Seafood Association. Covering some of the stuff...
that was just mentioned is spoil areas. Can be catastrophic to the commercial-fishing industry and the bottoms of Upper Mobile Bay just for the silting of the oyster reefs in the areas on the west side with the silt coming down.

There was another group my grandfather and them had to fight for the shell dredge. They dredged all these big holes up the bay that was mentioned in the last meeting about covering up holes. It killed oysters then. It killed oysters a very short time ago.

You've got to watch the Corps of Engineers and their projects. We managed a number of years ago, dealing with Susan Reeves with the Corps, dredging of Coden Bayou. They wanted to put it in Portersville Bay where we just planted thousands of barrels of oyster shells and we got millions of dollars.
She said we want to go the short route.

Guess what the state docks wants to do?
Go the short route.

All the crabs. You got to eat some of them crab claws at the Seafood Bash.

If you lose crabbers and crab bottom and shrimp bottom and fishing bottoms, the people of the state of Alabama -- does the state of Alabama like to eat seafood?

I hope y'all do. But if you lose all the farming fields that belongs to these people by letting the Corps dictate where they're going to put this dirt, you're going to lose bottom and you're going to lose seafood and you're going to lose commercial fishermen.

You've got to have water to navigate in. We don't care about the channel, but we care about where the channel chooses to put their dirt. We want it beneficially used, not to degrade our water, our seafoods, our commercial
fishing industry, and our recreational fishing industry. They're catching speckled trout and redfish and sheepshead and all these other valuable resources that y'all like to eat. Flounder, all these things.

We fed some good mullet to them people the other day, and one of your legislators said -- Mr. Sessions said I love mullet. Why? He's from Grand Bay. He eats Grand Bay mullet. Well, I want to tell you, the people in Mobile Bay likes to eat Mobile Bay mullet.

If you let the Corps of Engineers do this and put that spoil on the east side of the bed, the spoil will be there for 40 years. The island will not go away. You will not be able to navigate. You will not be able to fish not only in this generation but many generations to come.

You're violating the public trust law, which is a common resource. You're
violating way back to Justinian law, which is just public. This belongs to you, this bottom. The seafoeds in the water belong to you.

We'd like to feed John some fish and shrimp and oysters. But if you let them cover it up -- it's in our backyard.

The State of Alabama --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. BATES: -- should have never let --

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr. Bates.

MR. BATES: -- Radcliff tear it up. They should never let the state docks tear it up. Put it somewhere it'll do us some good. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you very much.

MR. BATES: Any questions?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Next is Caroline Graves, and Brandon Jackson will follow.

MS. GRAVES: My name is Caroline Graves, and I would like my comments and this document entered into the record of the meeting.

I am putting the Department of
Conservation on notice that the Corps left out all erosional impacts to Dauphin Island in the original 1980 environmental impact statement for the Mobile Harbor; therefore, the 1980 EIS does not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The deletion of these impacts have been covered up by the Corps for the last 36 years.

I'm also putting the Department of Conservation on notice that the Corps intends to produce a supplement to the original 1980 EIS where they would only calculate the impacts from the current depths of the channel, which is 47 feet, to the new depths of 57 feet. By doing this, the Corps would arbitrarily narrow the investigation of the supplement study and leave out all past impacts to Dauphin Island, including the past sand losses and erosional impacts to the island before 2016.

First, how can the Corps supplement
a corrupted EIS that left out the impacts? Second, how can the Corps refuse to study all past sand losses and erosional impacts before 2016?

According to the United States District Court, an environmental impact statement must consider not only the direct effects of the proposed actions but the cumulative impacts and indirect effects of the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of the agency that undertakes it.

The Department of Conservation is going to be the head of three studies about Dauphin Island. I am putting the Department of Conservation on notice that they will have to make sure that all the new studies managed by the Corps do not include past studies that have corrupted data in them and make sure that there's no conflict of interest involving the study.
I'm also putting the Department of Conservation on notice that they cannot just decide by passing information to the POA, the town, and others that they've discharged their responsibility to keep all taxpayer citizens on the island informed of the government actions and decisions about Dauphin Island.

I'm requesting that you make sure that all of the Department of Conservation's meetings and the meetings that the Corps participates in --

MS. JONES: Time.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any questions from the board for Ms. Graves?

COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Ms. Graves, thank you. I know y'all have a lot of interest in this. Y'all are making the Corps aware of all these comments as well; right?

MS. GRAVES: Oh, yes.
COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

MS. GRAVES: But y'all -- I mean, you're the department that oversees the Corps.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I don't oversee the Corps, no, ma'am.

MS. GRAVES: No. I mean for the new -- all the new studies about Dauphin Island that are going to be incorporated into the study -- the new EIS for the deepening and widening of the channel.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Sure. Well, let me say this: I don't think we're overseeing that. We -- the Corps is doing all that -- all those studies, and there will be comments -- opportunities, as you well know, for you to comment with them. We'll, you know, do whatever we are -- or we can do, but the federal -- you know, the Corps is a federal agency we don't have any authority over.

MS. GRAVES: Well, y'all are managing all the studies. According to your documentation, you're managing the
studies. And I have contacted Patti quite a few times.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. Patti.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Chairman, may I let Ms. Powell respond.

MS. POWELL: Let me make one distinction. I'm not sure -- and I'm not sure this is what you're referring to.

There is a study of Dauphin Island funded with NFWF funds that is coordinated by this department -- we are overseeing, let me say -- that's a better word -- by this department. Any study related to deepening or widening the channel specifically would be the Corps and, I suppose, the Port Authority involved in that. We are not over a study related to the deepening and widening of the channel.

And I'm not sure that's what you're saying, but there seems to be some confusion. And we are not --

MS. GRAVES: Okay.
COMMISSIONER GUY: And, Ms. Graves, all I was just trying to make clear is since you had put us on notice of all this -- and that's fine.

MS. GRAVES: Oh, yes.

COMMISSIONER GUY: We're certainly going to watch everything like we always do. But I just wanted to make sure you're going to file your objections to --

MS. GRAVES: Oh, I have. I have.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay.

-- with the Corps. And that's what I wanted to make sure --

MS. GRAVES: Okay. But the studies that y'all are overseeing are -- according to y'all's document is they are going to be incorporated into the new EIS.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Ms. Graves.

COMMISSIONER GUY: And, Mr. Chairman, can I --

I would just say, if any of the board has any additional questions about that, so that we don't -- you know, we can -- Patti and I can meet with the board
members if you have any questions about that at a later time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you.

Next we have Brandon Jackson.

Following Brandon will be Adler Rothschild.

MR. JACKSON: Gentlemen, I appreciate the opportunity today. My name is Brandon Jackson. I'm here to speak on behalf of imploring you to move forward with some of the ideas concerning a quality zone on the Sipsey Fork of the Black Warrior River in order to improve the trout fishery there.

It would be enacting certain regulations to benefit the anglers who seek to utilize Alabama's only trout stream. It would be for the enjoyment of all the anglers to be able to easily access some of the easier areas to wade that river in order to gain access more easily, to benefit the catch rates in an area proven to support numbers of fish,
in order to improve the quality of the fish that are caught in that area, in order to provide for Alabama anglers a greater opportunity and a better opportunity in order to fish for those fish.

None of the proposed regulations would be oppressive unless we view Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas, and North Carolina as being oppressive towards their anglers by enacting the same regulations that have been proposed to benefit this section of the stream.

There's three miles of wadeable access. We're looking at one -- less than one mile of area for this quality zone, so that if little kids, if grandfathers, if people who have a little more difficulty with mobility want to access that area and be able to have a high probability of catching trout, they can do that.

This river has great potential. In
2007 Chris Scalley, who was recognized by Field & Stream as a "Conservationist of the Year" finalist, came to the Sipsey Fork and conducted three different studies. He was -- he was the founder of the Chattahoochee Coldwater Fishery Foundation, and they conducted long-term studies of aquatic life. That began in '98.

After about ten years of doing that study, he came to the Sipsey Fork. His conclusion after setting up scientific studies to examine the bug life in the river -- his conclusion walking away was if we had that on the Chattahoochee, I'd be happy. There is great potential within the river. That was before any of the improvements that have taken place in the last several years were enacted. So that was back in 2007.

If you want evidentiary evidence, I can sit you down in front of a computer and start a slide show and let you look
at thousands and thousands of pictures
of Sipsey Fork trout and see that none
of them display the typical evidence of
a malnourished or a starving fish. None
of them look that way. None of them
appear that way. None of them show any
tell-tale signs of starving or being
malnourished or being in a difficult
situation.

As an angler, being there on many
different occasions, I've been able to
witness some amazing hatches, bug life,
and opportunities for that fishery --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. JACKSON: -- and we want Alabamians to be
able to take advantage of it.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Mr. Jackson, so your
issue, then, is that you want more
access to the river? You said it's only
a mile of access or --

MR. JACKSON: No, sir. It's three -- there's
three miles of wading access where
people can enter the river and wade in
order to catch fish. We -- we want one -- less than one mile of that section to be designated as a quality zone to provide a yearlong benefit to the fishery.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So that's fly fishing only, then?

MR. JACKSON: No, sir. It has nothing to do with fly fishing.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. So what is -- what do you mean -- what qualifies as a quality zone?

MR. JACKSON: Okay. So we provided the board previously with a list of recommended regulations that would impact that area of the stream. It would be single hook, so jigs, spinners, crankbaits, anything with single hooks. The reason for that regulation would be because treble hooks with trout tend to injure the fish's jaw, create a lot more damage than a single hook. So anybody who can fish with a spinning rod or a baitcasting rod...
will still be able to access that area and continue to fish it. No -- artificial bait only. So no natural bait so that the fish don't swallow the hook too deeply.

For creating an area where it's all catch-and-release so that those fish are able to continue to live, thrive, and survive in that stretch of the stream. And then there's some others that go along with that.

Creating additional stocking opportunities, brown trout, brook trout, as well as the rainbow only.

But each one of you should have a packet of information that I provided that has some of those regulations that we would like to see.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you.

Damon, would you like to address this issue?

MR. ABERNETHY: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you.
Thank you, Mr. Jackson.

MR. ABERNETHY: We can -- we can certainly take a look at that, but this is also a put-and-take fishery. We -- we put all of those fish in there. We stock it -- I don't know -- seven to eight times a year. I'm not sure of the exact number. But we support that fishery. We basically created it. So we can -- we can take a look at that though.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Damon.

MR. CAGLE: Does this proposal that Mr. Jackson put forth -- is this --

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Patrick.

MR. CAGLE: It looks to me, from what I know about the river, it's kind of making the middle ground. I mean, I think it's very important for kids, you know, to be able to access it if they use natural bait or whatever.

So the way I see this, you would be able to use natural bait and it would be a -- you could keep it past -- from the
waterworks down. Does that preserve a lot of the easy public access? Is this the middle-ground approach?

MR. ABERNETHY: Well, the power company has created quite a few access areas there. I don't know the exact number, but I'm --

MR. JACKSON: There's four below the pumping station, three above.

MR. CAGLE: So -- okay. Well, will y'all continue to look at this and see if you can make a recommendation for next year that's a middle-ground approach that allows fly fishermen and, you know, people using spinning rods that kind of meets that middle road that ensures that children, you know, and handicap have access, which is that area at the waterworks, but, you know, it balances the competing interests there as best as possible.

MR. ABERNETHY: Sure.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, Mr. Dobbs.
MR. DOBBS: Damon, there's no recruitment in this fishery. These fish don't reproduce. As you said, it's put-and-take.

MR. ABERNETHY: Right.

MR. DOBBS: And you put in "X" number of fish every three months, two months, depending on the season, funded by the power company in part.

MR. ABERNETHY: Right.

MR. DOBBS: And how many fish get taken out? Do you measure?

MR. ABERNETHY: We do. I don't know those exact numbers, but we do. We're in the process of doing a creel survey there now, and we have some preliminary numbers. I don't know exactly what those are. But we are looking at that currently.

MR. DOBBS: So the way I -- maybe this is the simple approach. If you looked at the fish that are in the river today and if you didn't touch them for a year and
began to stock again, how many of those fish would be there given that nobody had done any angling?

MR. ABERNETHY: Well, I'm not sure what the natural mortality rate is there, but I guess you would expect probably 30, 35 percent of them to die naturally. You know, there's no reason not to take them. You know, they're going to die. And we can put more, so ...

MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Damon.

Any further questions from the board?

MR. MARTIN: I've got one.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Jeff, you have the floor.

MR. MARTIN: Do you think the reason they -- just like the guy said, they look so healthy and everything is because we don't have catch and release, that they do take them out?

MR. ABERNETHY: Well, I think that has more to
do with the density of the population, you know, the number of fish that we're putting in there. There's so much food there for them to eat, and if we begin to put more and more and more fish, then you're going to see their -- you know, their health decline.

MR. MARTIN: Right. Okay.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Mr. Hartzog, you have the floor.

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman, I was the one that -- I don't know -- several years ago when this measure was brought forward before about setting up a trophy section of the stream and I got with Matt Bowden -- he was the environmental vice-president then at the power company -- and got with him. And they had under -- because of the requirements of them to comply with some water regulatorys, they had put in more access and all.

But in talking with the biologists
at that time and talking to some other people in other states that had trophy streams -- number one, generally where you see trophy streams is where you've got natural reproduction. From what I understand, most of these fish, the people follow the hatchery truck after the fish is released. The majority of the fish are gone afterwards. Shortly thereafter the striper population takes a big density on them.

So, you know, asking how many would be left at the end, some of the power company biologists felt like probably very little. And so at that time it was -- after much thought and discussion, you know -- because I'm an advocate of fly fishing, you know -- but just felt like that by creating that would not really help the population and the density of the fish other than protecting a short section for supposedly a trophy section where
there's no natural reproduction or
anything.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr. Hartzog.

Any further questions from the
board?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: The next public speaker
is Adler Rothschild.

Damon, thank you.

Tammi Hudson is on deck.

MR. ROTHSCCHILD: Gentlemen, I don't know
whether you remember or not, but I made
a presentation in Montgomery at the last
meeting of Chief A.J.'S Sling Bow. I
was told --

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Please don't load that.

MR. ROTHSCCHILD: I was told that y'all had
been threatened with a spear, and I
promised that I wouldn't threaten you
with this.

Anyway, it's just been approved now
in Texas. So that makes ten total
states for big game. I believe it's
already approved in Alabama for small
game. It has the same power as a
40-pound bow.

I hope -- many of you have been on
"Chiefaj.com," his site. He's got a lot
of videos and pictures of game that have
been shot with it. So I'm here today to
ask you to -- somebody to make a motion
and vote on this so we'll know where to
go.

We want to move the advertising
to -- you should have black-and-white of
this, and I also mailed each one of you
a copy of this this week.

We would like to move some
manufacturing to Gaylesville, Alabama,
which is in Cherokee County. And I'm
not going to take up any more of your
time, but if anybody would make a motion
and vote on it, we would certainly
appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you,
Mr. Rothschild.
MR. ROTHSCILD: Are there any questions?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any questions from the board?

MR. ROTHSCILD: Can anybody suggest to me what we can do to move this along?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chuck, do you have any suggestions for Mr. Rothschild?

I think you've had the opportunity to really look into this.

MR. SYKES: I did and I -- honestly, I would defer to Mr. Martin. He was there when we saw the demonstration and ...

MR. MARTIN: I would like to make a motion to keep it for small game. I don't think it's for big game at all. Based on Chief A.J.'s demonstration that Chuck and I witnessed at the ATA show, it is not for big game.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you. Jeff, we appreciate that response.

MR. ROTHSCILD: Thank you, gentlemen.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Tammi Hudson.

Following Tammi will be Guy Moore.
MS. HUDSON: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioner, board. My name is Tammi Hudson. I'm from Clarke County. And I'm fighting a hoarse voice. I'm sorry. I come to talk to you again about the disabled hunting area trail. I really appreciate that. I've asked several times about having turkey hunting on that, and it's been explained to me that that's just not the way turkey hunting works. And I -- I do understand that, but I believe that some of us with mobility issues should have the ability to try this in the disabled hunting areas.

We already have the area. We already have the prerequisite for who's able to hunt there, and everything is already set up. When I'm there in the fall and during deer season, I see plenty of gobblers in most of the areas that I go to.

And so I see that this past season
it was opened up at Cherokee for turkey hunting. And so what I'm asking is if you don't open it up to all areas, if we open it up to some in a few different areas of the state just as a trial to see how many people make use of it and then if turkeys are actually harvested and do a little bit of like a trial run and see if that would be a viable thing to try.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chuck, can you address that?

MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

There are a couple of areas that we could possibly do a test on. A lot of these PDHAs are small pieces of property where you don't want -- when you register, you go to a specific spot and that's where you hunt. So some of it is not going to yield itself to turkey hunting. But Chief Gauldin and I will look at some of the areas, and we'll try to get with Ms. Hudson and do a couple
CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Chuck.

Ms. Hudson.

MS. HUDSON: Well, I'm not really wanting to get out and move all around like I understand normal turkey hunting is, because, like I'm saying, most -- most of us who are hunting these disabled hunting areas do not have the mobility to do that. I'm saying let us stay in that shooting house and see what happens; okay?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Ms. Hudson. We'll address that.

MS. HUDSON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Mr. Sykes will make contact with you. Thank you.

Guy Moore. Following Mr. Moore will be Calvin Crowder.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, board members, thank you for the opportunity today. My name is Guy Moore. I'm from Jefferson County. I hunt at Sipsey Wilderness...
Hunting Club in Winston County. I'm also a member of Wiley Creek Hunting Club in Marion County and Pine Creek Hunting Club in Jefferson County. I also manage my own properties in Jefferson County and Shelby County, and I also help a friend in Lamar County.

My concern today is that I would like to see the deer season extended into February statewide for bucks only. And I would like to see trophy bucks myself personally on -- for bucks only, though, especially. With a three-buck limit, I mean, what difference does it make? You're only going to kill three anyway.

And so I think the 10th of February is probably appropriate. In Winston County where I hunt, the rut starts at Thanksgiving and it's over. At Christmastime there ain't no need in trying to -- I mean, you're not hunting deer in the rut up there where I'm
hunting. In Marion County it's just
getting started around Christmastime,
goes all the way after -- into February.
Lamar County, it cuts off towards the
end in there. In Jefferson County, I've
still got bucks right now with horns
that I got this week. In Jefferson
County I got fresh rut and scrapes.

And I hunted in Shelby County this
morning. By the way, the turkeys are
gobbling in Shelby County. And if it
hadn't been -- that would have been the
first thing I would have spoke to if it
hadn't been my turkey cooperated this
morning, so I got here on time.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr. Moore.
MR. MOORE: But, anyway, I hunt five counties
with regularity. And so there's no way
to -- I just think it needs to be
statewide.

And, plus, I think we're entirely
overharvesting does in our state. We
got plenty of predators. The coyotes
are doing a good job. With the exception maybe of guys that are privileged and get to hunt areas where you're seeing a lot of big -- a lot of does on big fields and stuff, for the common hunter in Jefferson -- in -- anywhere in the state, we just don't have the does. I've got one area of all five counties that I'm hunting on with regularity that you could kill does off of. The rest of them you don't need to kill any. So I would appreciate if the board would think about these matters and figure out a way we could do these things.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr. Moore. And your question is being looked -- we will probably address that today.

MR. MOORE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Calvin Crowder.

MR. CROWDER: I'm going to have to pick this up. I don't want to bend over so much.

Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, and
board members, my name is Calvin Crowder. I'm from Talladega in Talladega County. I'm here to address the ongoing problem we've had in my area with the dog hunters. I'm not sure about the Commissioner's comments just a minute ago. I'd like to bring that up.

But, you know, as we get away from the season, it seems like we -- fewer and fewer people show up to speak about the problem we have. But at the last meeting that I spoke at that we attended, we had a lot of people that spoke with you. And I appreciate y'all's time in listening to us moan and complain about the problems we have. But it's a real issue, and I was thankful that y'all addressed it by making a motion to vote on a statewide permit. And I believe that was seconded.

So, first of all, Commissioner, if you could address the issue of whether
we're going to take a vote today or not.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Chairman?

So I don't know what the board is going to do today, but I can tell you that the department is not recommending a statewide dog deer permit. That's all -- we are working with the dog hunters association on some things that we think will be helpful to everybody that people like yourself have been concerned about and others that have come before us. And we're trying our best to work with them, and they have been working with us. And we're starting to make some positive, you know, progress on that.

And so all I was saying is that there was some information out on social media that the department -- I'm not talking about Conservation Advisory Board and the Game and Fish Division -- were going to make a recommendation for that, and I was saying that we were not
recommending that.

MR. CROWDER: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm not sure what the board will do today. They obviously, you know, have a decision to make on those kind of things, but we were not recommending it.

MR. CROWDER: Okay. Thank you. I understand.

COMMISSIONER GUY: That's fine. I appreciate you asking the question.

MR. CROWDER: Okay. So I still -- as I said before, the last meeting, as private landowners, we have no recourse in a situation where -- everything that I know and everything I understand, everybody I've spoken with says if a dog comes on your property and if you're able and lucky enough to catch that dog, you're supposed to call the owner of that dog and bring it back to them. So it puts the burden on us.

And I have done that in the past, and it's tough to go catch a dog,
especially on my property. It's very hilly. And if I take the time to go find a dog and catch it and call the owner and he comes and gets the dog and you ask him not to come back and they keep coming back, there's no point to that. So I wish you would --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. CROWDER: I wish you would vote for a statewide permit. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chuck, would you like to address some of the great work you've done with the Alabama Dog Hunters Association over the last several months.

MR. SYKES: We've met with the new leadership at the dog hunters association on numerous times through actually face to face and conference calls to address the constituents that Mr. Martin had around Talladega National Forest. We met with Carl Petrick, who is over all the forest system, and rather than eliminating it
totally, what Carl and our department
decided to do this year was just reduce
the number of days that can be hunted in
the national forests -- I think it went
from 58 to 36 -- and to stop running
dogs in the afternoons. We felt like
that was where the majority of the
conflicts were arising with people
sitting on food plots in the afternoons.

So you can hunt from -- you know, up
until 12 noon, then get your dogs out.
And that would be a first step to help
mitigate some of the problems that
Mr. Martin's constituents are having.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Chuck.

Any questions from the board?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: David Clapp. Joey

Flowers will follow.

MR. CLAPP: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, thanks
for the opportunity to speak. My name
is David Clapp. I own property in Clay
County, Alabama. It's just a direct
follow-up issue to what you guys were just talking about that we were discussing.

So my property runs on Horns Valley Road. County Road -- or Forest Road 662, which comes into the national forest, comes directly parallel to the western border on my property. My property is bordered on three sides by the national forest. So it's -- we've had constant problems ever since we bought this property eight years ago with dog hunting.

I think it's virtually impossible for people to run dogs from that section of the forest, that County Road 662, without them coming across our property. So, literally, I have never experienced dogs being released up there where they don't just come across my property and then they're picked up on the public road out there. So it happens again and again and again and again and again. It
ruins tons of hunts.

You know, I totally respect the place where I think the dog hunting association is coming from too. You know, I hate that there's conflict over this. It's just as a private landowner investing thousands and thousands of dollars in my property -- I've taken my family out there to manage the property in a QDMA-type fashion -- and then to literally -- I didn't see one deer last year, not one. And that has happened a couple of years since we bought it. So I don't know. I think my price per pound is about a hundred thousand bucks per deer right now on the property.

So I'd love for you guys to do something. I don't know if you can manage it from a micro level, just on that county road, but I just don't see how it can even work there. And so I'm very sensitive to the issue statewide. I think it's a tough one. I respect the
position of the dog hunters. I'm a big freedom guy. I just want to hunt my land and hunt it without having dogs across it again and again and again and again.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chuck, do you think you will be able to get with Mr. Clapp and maybe --

MR. SYKES: We spoke earlier. And I will get with Carl, and we will look at that Road 662 and see if there is maybe a buffer zone or something that we can put right there if it's an area like that where there's no reasonable way to put a dog and then catch it before it crosses that property. So we'll get with Carl on that.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And, David, one other question. Is it private land that surrounds you, or is that --

MR. CLAPP: It's national forest.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: It's national forest.

MR. CLAPP: The property that's south of me is
national forest, you go a couple of hundred yards further south and it's the WMA, and then directly to the west and then half of my north. So I am three-fourths national forest boundary. That's why we bought the property.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yeah. That's the problem.

One other question. How many acres do you have?

MR. CLAPP: I have 200 acres.


MR. CLAPP: Thanks.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Next, Joey Flowers. And following Joey will be Wynnton Melton.

MR. FLOWERS: Morning, board members. My name is Joey Flowers. I'm the president of the Alabama Hog Dog Hunters Association. I'm here today to speak on behalf of our association, our members, about a few issues that we have hopefully we can get fixed. And one of them is being able to
hog hunt at nighttime.

Since feral swine is considered a game animal, it's illegal without a depredation permit to hunt them at nighttime. And before, a few years back, I guess, there was a misprint in the Digest, and they had them classified in the same category as a coon and opossum allowing us to. And then it changed. They found the mistake and cut it off.

We would like to go back to trying to classify them back into that category so we can -- we can hunt more at night without having the problems of trying to go through the hassle of getting a depredation permit. And don't get me wrong. The department has done great trying to work with us, but sometimes when you get a landowner that calls you at the last minute and wants you to go, it might be a week or a few days down the road before you can even get a
permit to do that.

So we would really be grateful if you guys would look into that and try to help us out with that. I know I've talked to Chuck, and he's trying to work with us on that also.

This year on our wildlife management area hunt we got flooded out on the Lower Delta. I'm sure y'all saw some of that. We didn't have as many hunters down there just because of the flooded water. So we want to try to spread out our days hopefully next year if we're able to do this again so in case we do have a day that's flooded out, we don't get a whole entire eight days that's flooded out for us.

But I appreciate what the department is doing, working with us. We're very grateful, and hopefully we can continue to work with everybody and keep making our efforts better on controlling the hog population in Alabama. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Joey.

Wynnton Melton. Following Wynnton will be Susan Morrow.

MR. MELTON: If I bend over to this, I won't ever straighten back up.

But I think this is my 46th consecutive year of coming to at least one of these board meetings. And a good point -- let's see. The good points are that I've learned a lot, had a lot of good opportunities. The bad is I miss seeing so many folks that aren't here anymore. We've lost a lot of good dedicated people in the last 46 years, and we appreciate what you do.

And I understand you -- you don't have a hard job. You have an impossible job. When you try to balance all the needs, all the wants between all the user groups, you just ain't going to do it without getting some of us mad one way or another.

And my challenge to you is to let's
look at everything very thoroughly, not make hasty decisions. Research them well and let's be sure that whatever we do is as fair, equitable, and in the best interest for the most people for the longest period of time.

About 40 years ago we sat down in south Alabama and we formed the South Alabama Dog Hunters Association. We expanded it out statewide to the Alabama Dog Hunters Association. And I was the field director. I was younger then. And I traveled the state of Alabama many, many times, from Lauderdale County to Mobile County, from Geneva County to Calhoun County and all in between. We had meetings.

Our focus was 80 percent, at least, on good quality, legal, ethical hunting. Be a good citizen. Keep everything clean. Don't throw your deer on the dog box and run to Hardee's at lunch. Know your people. Know the neighbors. Get
along with them. Shake hands not just
during deer season. Go by and talk to
them at other times. We did everything
we could to try to focus on the good.
And I can tell you that about 80 percent
of the people that I met and I worked
with are good people. About 20 percent
of them, their mamas wouldn't be proud
of them.

So you had to work with all of that.
I've heard the story, oh, if my dog's
running a deer and he runs right across
somebody's drive, I'll shoot him. It's
my dog. Oh, bologna. You know better
than that. And I made a lot of enemies
by standing up to that kind of nonsense.
But you hear some of it.

But, hey, folks, that's just a
handful. Out in these woods, your quiet
folks, they're out there hunting and
having a good time, bringing their
families. There's so much good. I
promise you that no animal harvested in
the state of Alabama brings more
enjoyment to more people than a deer
killed on a well-organized, ethical dog
deer hunt. One deer can make 20 people
happy. It sure can, all the joking that
goes on, you know.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. MELTON: It's just a good --

Thank you.

It's just a good activity.

Now, I'm proud of these young folks
getting back with the dog hunters
association.

One closing thing. I mentioned coon
hunting before. We have a lot of coon
hunters, a lot of fox hunters. When I
was here, I said two of us old dudes are
doing a lot of coon hunting. We
treed -- we went to about 60 trees. We
saw 51 coons. We knocked out about 40
of them. Think of how many turkeys we
saved out there. And ten or 12 trees we
went to, pretty leafy, we couldn't find
a coon, but I know he was there because
two of our dogs are running for public
office and they don't lie.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you very much,
Mr. Melton. Now you all have words from
an experienced and a very wise man.
We're going to give him two slots next
meeting.

Susan Morrow.

Excuse me, Grady. Do you have --

MR. MELTON: Did I have a question?

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman, I was glad to see
Mr. Wynnton here. In fact, when he
showed up today, I said where were you
last meeting. Because one thing about
Mr. Wynnton, he's always positive and
he's always helped and he's always
enjoyable.

So thank you, Mr. Wynnton, for doing
all you've done over the years.

MR. MELTON: Well, thank you.

MR. HARTZOG: And I will tell this one story.

You're talking about trying to do what's
right and all this kind of stuff, and
maybe I can make this crew laugh, not as
good as you just did.

But, anyway, a biologist one time
told me, he says, Grady, when you took
this job, he says you've got to realize
you've got to try to do what's right and
hear all the sides and everything. He
said but you just got to realize, he
says, if there was a deer behind every
tree in Alabama, somebody would come
fuss there weren't enough trees.

MR. MELTON: I promise you -- I know I'm out
of time. But I promise you we have
people that tried to get rid of all the
hunting 30 years ago that's in our
hunting club now. Like I say, it -- you
just can't ever tell what the next
generation is going to want to do, so --

MR. HARTZOG: Thanks, Mr. Wynnton.

MR. MELTON: When you kill something, it's
dead though.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Susan.
MS. MORROW: Good morning. My name is Susan Morrow. I'm from Mobile County, but I hunt all over the state.

A few years ago -- well, I asked the board to give us more dog days on our management area, and y'all graciously did. But then we lost them, so -- because we was killing too many deer with the dogs was my understanding.

Now, I could be wrong on that.

But we did lose a management area, Boykin, that we got to run dogs on.

And so we have 34 in the state. We need to look at -- or we -- I would appreciate if y'all would look at opening up another one for dog hunting and maybe adding a couple of days. The most -- in the Delta, we don't hardly ever get to go in it because of the flood. The water's up; the gates are locked. And you've got to have so much land that is not under water to be able to legally hunt deer there.
So I gave every one of y'all one of our magazines. Look at these pictures. Read the story on page 10 about the young man that harvested his first deer. Look at page 14 and 15. Look at these kids' faces. These are kids that the only place that they get to hunt -- a lot of them -- is in management areas. Look at the smiles on their faces.

That's what it's about. It's not about harvesting the deer. It's about working, the fellowship with the dogs, and the kids getting together and they're making memories that will last a lifetime. And I ask y'all to please look at giving us some more days for us common people. Because we can't afford to go to these pay-per-day places, especially if you have two or three kids. Everybody can't go as a family because it's going to cost you too much and you're only going one time. So if y'all could look at this, you can make
me a happy women.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Susan.

Chuck.

MR. SYKES: I may actually make Susan happy.

I want this on the record.

We just purchased over the past couple of years pretty sizable holdings around the Geneva National Forest. And Keith and the biologists there are looking -- they're exploring some ideas where we can do some limited dog hunts down there to make up for it.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Chuck.

Susan, thank you.

MR. HARTZOG: She smiled, Chuck. Did she?

MS. MORROW: I smiled, Chuck.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Rick Baxter.

MR. BAXTER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, board members, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'm Rick Baxter. I'm from Washington County. I'm vice-president of the Alabama Dog Hunters Association, recently elected.
And my wife will wish that would have never happened many times.

But, Mr. Melton, thank you for your support in the years that you've been involved.

We need more people -- and I can only hope that one day that I will be in that situation to where I've grown and I've represented our organization and our user group as well as this gentleman has.

It's been an honor to meet you and a pleasure, so thank you.

First off, with retrospect to what's been going on with the statewide -- with the rumors going around with that and the social media, we want to thank Director Sykes, Chief Dodd, and the other individuals, Gunter Guy -- Commissioner Guy, that has worked with us, talked with us, and tried to come up with some answers and ways to make everybody happy. And that's not going
to happen, but we are trying. And we appreciate that. We want to continue those efforts.

I ask you today as an advisory board to make your decisions based on facts, information given to you by our game wardens, our officials that are out there gathering the information, not just by a phone call, please. We have made some recommendations on things that we think would work better by communicating with the game wardens, the game officers in those counties/areas that there are some problems. We made some recommendations that -- made harsh recommendations and restrictions on some things. But we ask that you use the information that's there in some counties that we hear are being considered, particularly Baldwin County. We don't think it's justifiable by the information that we're getting that that whole county goes on a permit system.
Please be patient with us. Give us time. We're working with every club. We've made trips all over the state. We are trying our best to make every individual accountable for his or her own actions, accountable for his or her own dog. We don't want our dogs --

The gentleman from Talladega, we want the same thing. I don't want my dog on your land.

And we're making efforts. They're systems out there. We're introducing people to whistle breaking a dog to where you can stop that dog on a dime. It's working. I never thought it would, not with my dogs. They're crazy sometimes.

But I've learned. I've had to learn. I hunt in Choctaw County. Our neighbors there are good neighbors. We get along with each other. But we have learned and we're getting better. We are stopping our dogs. Most people will
if they -- given the opportunity to make
a change, we will make that change, and
we're pushing it hard. So I ask that
you please --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. BAXTER: -- please consider the
information that we're being given and
make it to where you're making your
decisions on facts and not just a phone
call, please. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Rick. And,

Rick, the Conservation Department as
well as the board really appreciate the
effort that the Alabama Dog Hunters
Association has made over the last
several months in working together in
trying to solve some of these issues.

And, you know, we can't do it fighting.

MR. BAXTER: Right. Right. I agree a hundred
percent. And we've got to --

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We have to work
together.

MR. BAXTER: -- keep the doors open, you know,
to where we can communicate.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So if we can just continue to, you know, work together. It's going to be some give and take, but things are really moving along well. I appreciate you-all's efforts.

MR. BAXTER: As long as she will allow me, I will continue to. She's the boss.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you.

Lonnie Miller.

MR. MILLER: Good morning, Commissioner, Mr. Strickland. I want to just -- I'm not going to get up here and bore you with the same things that Rick just said.

Everything that he said I'm in agreeance with. And the decisions that we've made as a group, working with Chuck, the Commissioner, and Chief Dodd, we all know that we have to make some changes. And as the president of the dog hunters association, we've been through countless phone calls, meetings,
and what we want to do as a whole is
pretty much get the word out that we
need to be responsible for our dogs.
And that's ultimately what this is
about. It's about my dogs being on
somebody else's property. And if we
didn't have that issue, we wouldn't be
here today fussing about it. We're
taking that message through the state,
and the folks -- 90 percent of the
people we talk to are receptive to that.

Like I told Mr. Hartzog earlier,
when we go to these meetings, the people
at this meeting are the people that care
about dog hunting. They're the ones
that want us -- they want to keep doing
it. Probably a few people at the
meeting that we attend, they don't want
to keep up with their dogs like Rick is
talking about. They may say, well, I
want it the way it is, I want -- I don't
want the permit system, I don't want
this or that.
But the point is -- we tell them like it is -- you're going to make a change. We have to make a change if you want to dog hunt. Do you want to kill deer or do you want to dog hunt?

I want to run my dogs. I want to be able to. And whatever I need to do to conform, that's what I'm going to do. And that's the message that we're going to put forth to the people.

Now, you know, the bottom line is we must keep up with our dogs. And like Rick said, I can tell you, just because somebody makes a phone call, that don't mean it's a fact, and for me, I would much rather let's go by the facts.

Chief Dodd gave us a report back, I guess, before the February 20th meeting. That report is so inaccurate only because of the -- there's 198 clubs on that report. Out of the 198 clubs, there was 1.22 complaints per club. And really that's not that bad. But I know
like -- I believe it was Colbert County had 19 supposed complaints.

But to me a phone call -- if I kick a member out of my club and he calls you, all of a sudden he's the anti-dog hunter, it's not fair. Or if you have a crazy homeowner like a landowner that we have in Covington County, it's not fair for him to have David Craft arrested, the guy that -- in February in Montgomery -- David Craft got arrested. It cost him 3500 -- excuse me -- $1500 to go to court to get it thrown out by a judge. This is a retired Air Force veteran. It's going to cost another 3500 to get it expunged from his record. It's not fair for those people.

But, now, then, these folks in Talladega, I understand. I agree with you.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. MILLER: We need to make sure that we keep our dogs off their property. But only
when it's a legitimate -- when he gets the dogs in his hand, that guy needs to be held accountable. That dog needs to be an extension of me. A lot of people may not agree with that, but the majority of us do. I need to be responsible for my dog, and if my dog -- if I can't keep it off this man's property, hold me responsible.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Lonnie.

Patrick, you have the floor.

MR. CAGLE: Thank you, Lonnie, for your leadership.

I wanted to say to the public that's here, this board and this department is committed to trying to minimize the issues that come up. There's been a lot of work. Director Sykes has done a lot of work, other members. Chief Dodd has done a lot of work in trying to come up with innovative ways to try to minimize the conflict that happens.

As we go through this, you know,
we're going to be working, you know, doing things now and working over the next year, to come up with solutions. Every one has got to realize that no one is going to get exactly what they want. Everyone is going to have to give a little bit.

I encourage everyone to stand behind, you know, to support us on this. The goal is to allow -- to continue for dog hunting to be allowed and to minimize the conflicts where it's going on private property because ultimately that's where we've got to get. But just give us some time and work with us and just know everyone is not going to get exactly what we -- what they want. But our goals are the same in coming up with that solution. Thank you.

MR. MILLER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Patrick.

I think this concludes our public hearing.
MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes.

MR. JONES: As a point of order prior to moving into old business, I did want to -- I was negligent in my prayer offering a little while ago with the invocation to recognize Mr. Charles Kelley. He was the director for Game and Fish for 42 years.

But Mr. Charles, I'm sure some of you know him. He, unfortunately, is terminally ill with cancer, and he's in his last days. But I did want to recognize that and apologize for that. But y'all keep Charles Kelley in your thoughts and prayers.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr. Jones.

Any further comments from the board, the department?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: This concludes the public hearing. The next item of business is old business.
We have quite a bit of house cleaning. There will be a lot of motions that we will have to vote on. I would like to take it -- we'll take it in order. And what I will do is call the name of the board member that basically represents that particular motion. Please use a microphone. If you could read the motion twice, make sure the court reporter clearly can get the wording down properly, and then we will go ahead and vote on it.

Commissioner, any questions?

COMMISSIONER GUY: No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. The first motion will be for Game Check, and the sponsor is Raymond Jones.

Raymond, if you would read that motion for us.

MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Currently our harvest information program, Game Check, is voluntary and it
is reportable via electronically or by
telephone to call to report the harvest
of a deer or turkey. This motion is to
make Game Check and harvest reporting
mandatory beginning with the 2016-2017
season.

Making Game Check mandatory, we
will -- as a state will have much more
information with which to make decisions
about our deer and turkey hunting
resources.

You need me to read that again?

COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Chairman, I will say
that we will provide our court reporter,
too, with a copy of the motions. That
will help her.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you.

Motion for approval?

MR. HARTZOG: Second.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?

(All board members present respond
"aye.")

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion carries.

Thank you, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: The next motion will be for the CPI increase, and Mr. Joey Dobbs is the sponsor of that motion. Joey.

MR. DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This is a motion for an increased fee and license cost based on a formula pursuant to the Consumer Pricing Index, or CPI, that has been recommended by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This motions asks for a vote in favor of the license and fee increases and recommends its approval to the Legislative Council.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion for approval.

MR. AINSWORTH: Second.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Have a second, Austin.

Any discussion?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?

(All board members present respond "aye.")

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion carries.

Thank you, Mr. Dobbs.

The next motion is for Delta waterfowl regs, and Mr. Ben Stimpson is the sponsor.

MR. STIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd first like to compliment Keith Gauldin and Chuck on communicating and having several meetings with the duck hunters in south Alabama. They did a great job of getting feedback. And because of all that, I would like to make a motion, and I'll go through it.

One, to establish the Apalachee Refuge Area located between Interstate 10 and the Mobile Causeway, east of their intersection and west of
the west fork of the terminus of the
Apalachee River. There's a map that
goes along with this to indicate the
area.

Second, to establish Big Bateau Bay
as a zone that prohibits the use of any
gasoline-powered motors from the second
Saturday in November through the second
Saturday in February. There's also a
map that goes with this to identify it.

And, third, to modify the shooting
days and times within the Mobile-Tensaw
Delta Waterfowl Management Zone defined
as the area north of Battleship Parkway,
west of Alabama Highway 225, south of
the CSX Railroad tracks, and east of the
west bank at the Mobile River. The
recommended shooting days and times are
Monday and Tuesday, closed; Wednesday to
Sunday, 30 minutes before sunrise to
1 p.m.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Can we get a second?

MR. HARTZOG: Second.
CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?

MR. JONES: Hold up.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Excuse me. Patrick.

MR. CAGLE: I just want to thank Ben Stimpson and Gary Wolfe and the department for the work they've put in on this, meeting with the public, trying to make sure that they've, you know, made the public aware that they've gotten buy-in. And thank you for all the effort you've put into this.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any further discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?

(All board members present respond "aye.")

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion carries.

Thank you, Mr. Stimpson.

The next motion, we have two motions
for dog deer permits. The sponsor is Grady Hartzog. Grady.

MR. HARTZOG: Actually, I have three motions, Commissioner -- Mr. Chairman.

The first motion is this motion is to enact new standards for the dog permit system as detailed in the attached prepared by Chief -- by Kevin Dodd for clubs added only after March 26, '16, this date, the substantial changes in standards and procedures including the increase of a minimum prerequisite acreage to 500 contiguous acres and increased attention to recordkeeping as it relates to dog-related comments.

I think this will address some of the issues that some of the dog hunters have brought up about, well, a phone call. This gives us a better means of documenting complaints.

But that is the first motion. You want me to read it again, Doc?
CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I think we have it.

MR. DOBBS: Clarification. Motion to read the document again slowly. You missed one item at the end, please.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Grady.

MR. HARTZOG: This motion is to enact new standards for dog permit system as detailed in the attached prepared by Chief Enforcement Officer Kevin Dodd for clubs added after April (sic) the 26th, 2016, the substantive changes in standards and procedures including the increase in a minimum prerequisite acreage to 500 contiguous acres and increased attention to recordkeeping as it relates to dog-related complaints.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Discussion?

Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I just want to make a clarification.

Grady, you said April, I think, unintentionally. Do you mean March 26th?
MR. HARTZOG: March 26th. I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER GUY: So we can make that correction to the motion. Is that okay?

MR. HARTZOG: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HARTZOG: I keep hoping for April the 16th to pass.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I understand.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Can we get a second?

MR. JONES: Second.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any further discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?

(All board members present respond "aye.")

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion carries.

Grady, next motion.

MR. HARTZOG: Next motion: This is a motion to recommend revisions to the Regulation 220-2-.112 as provided in the draft, which is attached, which would prohibit
a hunter after being warned from
allowing his dogs to encroach on lands
of another without permission.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Does anyone need this
motion repeated?

If not, may I get a second.

MR. CAGLE: Second.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?

(All board members present respond "aye.")

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion carries.

MR. HARTZOG: The last motion.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Grady, your third and
final motion.

MR. HARTZOG: Final motion: This is a motion
to place both Baldwin and Marengo
Counties under the dog permit system
starting with the 2016-2017 season.  

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Second?
MR. STIMPSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor.

(All board members present respond "aye.")

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion carries.

Thank you, Grady.

The next item that we have is a motion for deer season and zones. And Mr. Ainsworth.

MR. AINSWORTH: This motion is a request for a vote to allow an extension of the deer season, stalk hunting only, of ten days for the north zone or Option 2 as discussed February 20th, 2016.

Archery season: Zone A, October 15th to February 10th; Zone B, October 15th to October 24th is buck only; and then October 25th to February 10th is either sex.
Firearm: Zone A, November 19th to February 10th; Zone B, November 19th to February 10th.

Dog statewide, November 19th to January 15th.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Can I get a second, please?

MR. MARTIN: Second.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Thank you.

I really think the biology does not back this decision up. And I do want to point that out and go on record as saying the biology that we have worked and our biologists have worked so hard to do.

I've yet to receive one phone call, one e-mail, one bit of knowledge stating that this was wanted or needed in the
northern Alabama region. On the contrary, I've received several people saying it needs to stay and be left as it is.

So I do want us as a board to think about that. Only 14 percent of the deer in this entire zone were bred after the season goes out. And this board has a history of basing decisions based on biology, and in this case in my opinion it does not support that.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr. Jones. Well stated.

Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: Discussion. And thank you for that.

Understand, too, that the north zone is an area that begins somewhere south of Montgomery, actually along Highway 80. So there are a number of people who are very close to what we're calling the south zone who would like to have the same opportunities to hunt the
extra ten days.

A gentleman spoke earlier -- and I hate to use this term. But I live in a state and a world where people obey the rules. You're allowed to kill three buck deer in the state of Alabama. So whether you kill those deer at the beginning, the middle, or the end of the season is up to you, and the fact whether you continue to hunt through the final days of January or the early days of February is up to you as a private landowner, a leaseholder, or someone with an interest in a piece of land.

So that being said, this is -- we're not talking about just Limestone, Madison, Cleburne, Clay Counties. There are a number of counties beginning with Marion and Perry and across the eastern part of the state that we're voting on. This is not just a few northern counties. Is that clear?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr. Dobbs.
MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Grady, you have the floor.

MR. HARTZOG: Well, if y'all remember, when we first enacted the extended season in southwest Alabama -- and Chuck can tell you that when we went to a certain fish camp, it was a little difficult because everybody wanted it and what difference does it make. And we told them -- we said, well, when we get the biology, you know, you'll get the season.

And I think the -- I'd love to know the number of deer -- because Barbour, my county, is actually split right up Highway 49. So the data they got determined where that split was on Highway 49. And I understand from talking to the biologists, you know, what we told Barbour County at that time -- you know, Henry, Dale, Houston, all those counties that didn't get the first extension, I mean, they were
jumping on us, well, we got to have it, what difference does it make, it's February the 10th.

But I think this board needs to rely on science more than just hunting pressure. And so -- and I think the number of deer that have been taken in north Alabama to do the statistical sample has been far less than the number of deer that's been taken in the south. Is that correct, Chuck?

MR. SYKES: Right now Chris Cook, who's sitting over there, is our deer project leader. He's the one that's in charge of the fetal study and analyzing all the data. If I'm not badly mistaken, it was 14 percent above the line that were bred after February the 1st.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So, Chuck, what you're saying, then, is that the biology does not support moving the season --

MR. SYKES: If you look at specific biology, no, sir. But, unfortunately, I've
learned that biology doesn't always dictate what we do. And with y'all passing mandatory Game Check, that makes me feel better that we can get data.

So whether the board chooses to extend it or not, the department will support it. We're going to continue to gather data. We're not going to stop getting the biology that we have, but, unfortunately, we don't live in a world where biology dictates everything.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chuck, do you feel pretty good about your biology?

MR. SYKES: Absolutely. Absolutely. The numbers -- the numbers are there.

DR. LEMME: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, Mr. Lemme -- Dr. Lemme.

DR. LEMME: If the Game Check is mandatory, we'll be getting more data next year. And since the biology is marginal to support the rut after -- into February, maybe we should be thinking about not
doing it this year but waiting for more data.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Dr. Lemme. Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: I'd like to make a motion for an amendment to the motion on the floor. And may I read my motion?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: A motion that would declare an amendment to be added to the proposed motion which allows a Sunshine provision or mandatory review and vote on the continuation of this rule at the beginning of the 2018-2019 season.

So let me read that again.

It would be an amendment that would be added to this proposed motion which allows a Sunshine provision or mandatory review by the Conservation Advisory Board and vote on a continuation of this rule at the beginning of the 2018-2019 season.

Discussion.
CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So we need a second.

DR. LEMME: I'll second so we can discuss.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Discussion?

We have a second. Dr. Lemme seconded that amendment to Austin's motion.

We have that?

(Court reporter responds.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any further discussion?

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I just --

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Are you -- is Mr. Dobbs -- are you suggesting that we go ahead and enact that and then review later? Is that what I'm understanding?

MR. DOBBS: Since we have Game Checks -- will have Game Checks and we will have more -- more thorough information, more scientific data, then, yes, that's what I'm suggesting. That's what I'm saying.

MR. JONES: Okay. I guess a point of order that I would like to discuss on that is it seems like that's working in reverse.
It seems like you would want the
information before you made a change,
particularly a change that's as sweeping
and covers such a wide area as we
discussed.

Furthermore, it just -- it seems
like you would want that. You know, the
north Alabama region, we're already
talking about limiting the antlerless
days. We're already talking about a lot
of things, and we're -- February is the
leanest month of the year as far -- if
you're a deer. There's -- the food is
gone. You don't have anything to eat.
And you're going to be pressured for ten
more days while you're out there. And
they have to evade hunters. You can
say, well, just don't hunt. Well,
that's not reality. I think all of us
will be out there hunting when we can.

So it makes it -- in an area where
we're already struggling with numbers,
we're already struggling with data, and
yet we're going to just add more days to
that again. I want to point that out as
a point of order to that discussion.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you.

Mr. Hartzog, you have the floor.

MR. HARTZOG: Just the one point. So, Joey,
your Sunshine would be a two-year
Sunshine, not a one-year Sunshine is the
way you've read it; right?

MR. DOBBS: That's correct.

MR. HARTZOG: Okay.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Joey, you have the
floor.

MR. DOBBS: Again, I live in a world where
there are rules and regulations. And
you can only kill three deer. The ten
extra days are not going to impact --
under those circumstances the ten extra
days will not impact the resource or the
herd, not the way I see it. And we can
ask Chuck, but I'm -- if it's going to
make a difference.
MR. SYKES: I mean, I wish I could tell you definitively. We have not seen a negative impact so far in the south. Three bucks is three bucks whether you kill them in June or January. So, again, that's going to be up to the board. We'll support it whichever way it goes, whether it goes statewide or stops.

MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

So if I still have the floor, one thing back for Raymond and Grady. Would it be more palatable if this were a bucks only period of time?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Probably the bucks would have the most stress.

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, just to say that, you know, we have no way of knowing what that would do. The post-rut mortality, if they have to evade hunters for ten more days in the month of February, will increase. I do know that. Now, at what percentage it will increase, I don't
know, but it will increase.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Mr. Ainsworth, you have the floor.

MR. AINSWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to reiterate. It's not a mandate to hunt the ten days in February. This puts the power in the landowners' hands, and no -- nobody knows the land better than the landowner. If the landowner -- the rut is in the middle of January, generally the deer are going to be lazy and you're not going to see a buck in February. They've already been through the rut. They're going to be laid up getting their body weight back.

And so if you -- the rut has already been, don't hunt. It just gives tools to people like Mr. Guy Moore who has property that has different ruts in Alabama. He's a perfect example. And he's really close together. Some deer are rutting in Thanksgiving, some late
January. It's -- it puts the power in the landowners' hands. That's why I'm supporting it.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr. Ainsworth.

Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: Call the question and vote.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?

No further discussion?

MR. WOLFE: We're voting on the amendment?

MS. WEBER: Right. Yes.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yeah. So we have to vote on the amendment. Okay.

So we have a second for the amendment?

MR. WOLFE: I second.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?

(Board members McMillan, Lemme, Ainsworth, Martin, Dobbs, Cagle, and Wolfe respond by raising their hands.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Can we get a count?

What do you have?
COMMISSIONER GUY: Raise your hands again.

Seven.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: That's seven for.

Okay. Opposed?

(Board members Hartzog, Jones, and Stimpson respond by raising their hands.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion carries.

So it looks like it -- okay. So the amendment has passed.

MR. CAGLE: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Now we have to vote on the main motion.

MR. DOBBS: Call the question.

MR. CAGLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer an additional amendment to the main motion.

Since Game Check is a contingent part of it, I move that we add this is contingent on Game Check. We've passed Game Check. It still has an administrative process it has to go through. So to add to this motion that
as long as Game Check is in place and
mandatory, if this passes, that would be
the season; otherwise, we would revert
to the 2015-2016 season.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any discussion?

MR. CAGLE: Do we have a second?

MR. McMILLAN: I'm not sure I understand the
motion.

MR. DOBBS: I don't understand the motion.

MR. CAGLE: I'll repeat it.

That the passage of this season
would -- is contingent on Game Check
being mandatory.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: How do we need to handle
that? Do we need to vote on that or --

MR. CAGLE: It would be an amendment.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Can we get a second?

MR. HARTZOG: I'll second that.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any discussion?

MR. HARTZOG: Could I just --

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Sure.

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman, I think what

Patrick is trying to get done, if you
remember, we tried to do Game Check before, several years ago, and several legislators from north Alabama more or less -- because anything we do still has to go before legislative review -- more or less put the quietus on the Game Check. So I think Patrick's bill, just to kind of explain it, is just to make sure that the legislative review doesn't knock down our Game Check provisions that's going to give us the data of whether we're right or wrong.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you.

Now, are we ready to vote on the original motion?

COMMISSIONER GUY: No. We have to vote on the amendment first.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. Vote on the amendment, then.

Can we get a second?

MR. WOLFE: Second.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?

(All Board members present respond
by raising their hands.)

COMMISSIONER GUY: I can't -- y'all raise your hands again.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Can we get a number count?

COMMISSIONER GUY: Unanimous.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So Patrick's amendment has been passed. Now we can vote on the original motion that Mr. Ainsworth put on the floor.

MS. WEBER: Mr. Ainsworth, did you oppose the second amendment?

MR. AINSWORTH: Oh, no.

COMMISSIONER GUY: The vote was unanimous.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor for the original motion that Mr. Ainsworth put on the floor and that's Option B approval -- Option 2 approval?

Any further discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?
(Board members McMillan, Lemme, Ainsworth, Martin, Dobbs, Cagle, and Wolfe respond by raising their hands.)

COMMISSIONER GUY: Seven.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. Seven.

    Opposed?

    (Board members Hartzog, Jones, and Stimpson respond by raising their hands.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Two against? Three against?

COMMISSIONER GUY: Three.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Three opposed.

    So it looks like that the motion has passed to extend the deer season throughout the Zone A and Zone B into February.

    Do we have those dates yet?

MR. SYKES: We got it all.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So that will remove the blackout period as well, right, the December blackout period?
MR. SYKES: Correct.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Very good. Thank you.

Joey, it looks like you have the floor again, and that's a motion for seasons, bag and creel limits.

MR. DOBBS: I have two motions, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you.

One, a motion for Conservation Advisory Board: A motion that the Department of Conservation adopt the seasons and bag and creel limits and other regulations as contained in the packets provided to the board at the February 20, 2016, Conservation Advisory Board meeting with the understanding that there could be some additional minor revisions during the administrative procedural process.

Would you like it again?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: One more time.

COMMISSIONER GUY: She said she's good.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Can we get a second?

MR. AINSWORTH: Second.
CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any discussion?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?
(All board members present respond by raising their hands.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion carries.

Thank you, Mr. Dobbs. You have one more motion.

MR. DOBBS: I do. And thank you again for the floor.

This is a motion for Conservation Advisory Board: A motion to approve all the department rules and regulations adopted since the last approval.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Do we need it read again?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Get a second?
MR. AINSWORTH: Second.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All in favor?
(All board members present respond
by raising their hands.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion carries.

And I think that concludes all the motions --

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes.

MR. JONES: I have a -- in the old business we had -- I had considered bringing a youth waterfowl season motion. I want to just let the record note I've tabled that for now. We're going to collect -- I'm working with Chief Gauldin and Director Sykes. We're going to try to gather more pertinent information with that.

So for the sake of this meeting, that motion will be tabled. Going forward, that motion would -- you know, I would like to keep that open for discussion in upcoming future meetings.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Is this an actionable item? Do we need to vote on that
motion?

MR. JONES: I don't think so.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So we'll discuss it in old business at our next meeting.

MR. JONES: That's correct.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Very good.

Grady.

MR. HARTZOG: In regards to that, Chuck and I talked this morning, and because of the data that they got from the Mobile hunters versus in other areas, what we have talked about and want to challenge Chuck and Keith and them to get done is to look at the possibility of setting the two different zones as allowed by the Feds so that we can still accommodate Mobile and give them their early days and then give north Alabama the second -- the days that they would like. You know, and Raymond has graciously tabled that so that -- you know, but next year when the -- when they go to the board meeting set -- each
state has two regulatory members that
attend the waterfowl with the Feds to
set the seasons and zones and bag
limits -- that we push to try to
establish that zone.

Chuck and I have talked about where
that zone line might be. So I just want
to challenge the department to get that
done before next year.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Grady, for
the clarification.

This concludes old business. Is
there any new business?

Yes, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
bring up for discussion in our next
meeting the CPI increases -- that's
assuming we don't have another meeting
this year -- but for the CPI increases
for the 2017-2018 season.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr. Jones.

Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: A discussion for -- that we had in
our previous meeting but some
discussions that we'll have going
forward on the issuance of depredation
permits, something we would like some
clarification on going forward.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay, Mr. Dobbs. How do
we need to address this?

Chuck, do you want to address that?

MR. SYKES: Yes, sir. We are currently -- I'm
working with Chief Dodd and Chief
Gauldin to come up with a more
standardized system of issuing
depredation permits, and we will have
all of that ready for the board at the
next board meeting.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Chuck.

Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I just was -- and
particularly with regard to hogs; right?
I mean, that's one thing we're looking
at particularly, aren't we?

MR. SYKES: Well, that and -- I mean, there
are deer depredation permits as well.
So it's all -- all-encompassing there.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you, Chuck.

Any further new business that needs to be brought before the board?

Patrick.

MR. CAGLE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask that over the next year before the 2017 Conservation Advisory Board meeting -- I would like to ask Chief Dodd, Chief Gauldin, and Director Sykes to work with the board on reviewing some methods to enforce the provision which we passed which will make it unlawful for a deer-hunting dog to be unlawfully on the property of another.

I would like us to look at other states, particularly Florida, on an online registration process for dogs and just to review what's out there over the next year.

And then I ask that the department make recommendations on how to best enforce this provision and, also, to
look at a system of penalties to where there is a penalty if your dog is on the land of another unlawfully and at some point that a number of those violations would prevent you from being able to have your own deer-hunting dogs.

So if we'll just look at that and then make some recommendations to the board in 2017.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chuck, will you be able to work on that project?

MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any further new business from the board?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Finally, if there's no further new business, next we have selection of date and location of the next advisory board meeting.

Presently we do not have a third meeting scheduled. If a special situation arises, we will post that meeting date. Until then, I think this
concludes today's meeting. If there's no further business, we're adjourned.

Thank you.

(Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:44 a.m.)

** * * * * * * * * * * * * REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE * * * * * * * * * * *

STATE OF ALABAMA:
MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting on March 26, 2016.

The foregoing 118 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 September 2016.

Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2016
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large