STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
GUNTERSVILLE STATE PARK
Guntersville, Alabama
March 28, 2015

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Proceedings taken before Kayla Wilson,
Commissioner for the State of Alabama at
Large, at Guntersville State Park, 1155
Lodge Drive, Guntersville, Alabama, on
Saturday, March 28, 2015, commencing at
approximately 9:00 a.m.
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. If the
March 28, 2015, meeting of the
Conservation Advisory Board will come to
order.

I would like to welcome everyone to
Guntersville State Park. The board is
glad you are able attend today. The
invocation will be given by Mr. Bill
Hatley. Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: Let us pray. Our gracious and
ever eternal heavenly Father, we thank you
for this day. We thank you for this
place, its beautiful surroundings and
environment. We pray that you would bestow thy richest blessings upon this gathering and our endeavors be pleasing in thy sight. For we ask in Jesus Christ's name and for His sake, amen.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hatley.

Very good.

If everybody would cut their phones off also.

The next order of business is the introduction of the board members. I'd like to introduce our Commissioner of Conversation, Commissioner Guy.

Next I'd like to introduce our Deputy Commissioner, Curtis Jones. Mr. Jones, you can move up to this row if you want to.

Next I'd like to introduce our -- Alabama's Agriculture Commissioner, Commissioner McMillan.

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

Next I'd like to introduce the board members. And they'll give their districts, and we'll start down with Mr. Ainsworth.

MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, District 4.
MR. BUNN: T.J. Bunn, District 7.
MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, District 2.
MR. HATLEY: Bill Hatley, District 1.
MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, District 6.
DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland,

District 5.

DR. SHIPP: Bob Shipp, District 1.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, board, for attending today. We're absent of two members today. Both are traveling out of the country.

The next order of business is the approval of the February 28th meeting minutes. Those minutes, because of an illness in the family of the court reporter, we were unable to get those out. They will be posted as soon as
possible on the Website. So we will hold the voting on those minutes until the next board meeting.

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

COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Dan.

First I just want to thank Guntersville State Park, Michael Jeffreys, all of our staff --

Greg Lein is here, our Parks director, somewhere. Greg, thank you for allowing -- he's right here in front of me. I apologize.

-- all our Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries staff and other staff for being here. I want to thank them for all they do to help set all this up for everybody. Thank you very much.

I want to recognize a couple of special guests of mine. Mr. Connie Cook and Mr. Jack McQuinn are friends of mine that are attending today. And I really
appreciate them coming over. Connie has been a friend of my family's for a long time.

Right, Connie?

A long time. And Jack is a good friend as well. Thank them for coming along with everybody else today.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. I'd like to also thank the press for being here, Commissioner Guy. Hopefully they'll write favorable comments today,

Mr. Bolton.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's why Curtis is --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Curtis, Mr. Bolton is your responsibility.

The next order of business is the public hearing. When your name is called, please go to the microphone, give your name, the subject you wish to speak on. I will remind you that only you may speak and that any interference from the audience will not be tolerated.

The first speaker will be Steve
Carver speaking on Forever Wild. He's not on y'all's list on the board, so we added Steve at the end.

Steve, are you here?

MR. CARVER: Yes. Steve Carver. I sell real estate here in Marshall County, Alabama, and, of course, all over the northern region. And I have a few questions on Forever Wild as far as I've got some investors that have property and they're looking at Forever Wild and have several questions.

And one of the questions that they do have is -- the biggest concern is how we arrive at a price if I have a 500-acre tract in Jackson County, let's just say. Do we have an appraiser that comes out and looks and what's basically the process?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Okay. Is that your total time -- I mean, is that everything you want to speak on? Because once I start the comments back and forth -- I want
you to get your whole comments out
there, and then we'll let the board
address them.
MR. CARVER: That and the time frame that it
would take from start to finish to
contract the real estate through the
state, and the fact do we have earnest
money that's put up that's nonrefundable
when the state makes an option to
purchase through the Forever Wild
program, and then what have -- what kind
of funds have y'all allotted for Forever
Wild for this fiscal year, and do y'all
have a specific location you're looking
at. And that's basically it.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Okay. Those four
questions. Any other comments before we
start that?
Okay. Commissioner Guy, would you
like to take that --
COMMISSIONER GUY: Yes. So Ms. Powell is
here, and we might -- first of all,
she'll be happy to answer all your
questions more thoroughly probably
separate from the rest of the comments,
because you've got questions as opposed
to comments.

MR. CARVER: Right.

COMMISSIONER GUY: And we'll do that.

But, Patti, do you want to just try
to give him a brief overview of some of
the questions he has?

And then we'll be sure to get with
you after the meeting -- if you've got
time, Patti, to try to answer his
questions. Or we'll give you contact
information as well. We'll give you a
lot of information about the program
though.

Patti, do you mind just trying to
address some of them so -- for the rest
of the board and some others --

Dr. STRICKLAND: And, Steve, I think the next
meeting is, when, June 25th?

COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah, June 25th.

DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. That would be a good
meeting for you, the next Forever Wild Board Meeting. And you can understand the process.

MR. CARVER: A lot of this may be answered through this meeting. I don't know.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Well, let Patti give a quick overview for you of your questions and we'll go from there.

MS. POWELL: And you're welcome to stay up here. I just moved up so that the court reporter can get me on this microphone.

Very generally as an overview, you asked about how we establish a price. Under the constitutional amendment that was voted in establishing the Forever Wild Land Trust program, the program will -- on a motion of the board if they take interest in a nomination -- and I'll discuss more about the nomination of a tract. If they take interest in a nomination, they will make a motion for a first appraisal. That motion comes at one of our public meetings.
Just like Dr. Strickland was mentioning, our next one will be in June. Everything the board does occurs out in front of the public meeting. There are generally roughly quarterly meetings that occur.

And after the board at a meeting makes a motion for a first appraisal, our staff, the State Lands Division -- I didn't introduce myself. I'm Patti Powell. I'm Director of the State Lands Division. My division administers the program.

So my staff would go through the appraisal process. If the appraisal is available in time for the next board meeting, the board is able to consider that appraisal and that tract and decide if they would like to begin the negotiation process toward purchase which would not be above appraised value. It would not be above appraised value. And we would begin, also, the
appraisal process for the second
appraisal.

Assuming the second appraisal comes
in within 10 percent of the first, the
process usually stops there. If it does
not, then we move into a process for a
third confirming appraisal. And that
would have to reconcile a
greater-than-10-percent difference
between the first two appraisals. All
of those actions would occur
quarterly -- roughly quarterly, not
exactly quarterly -- at a meeting.

Time frame?

There is no set time frame. It
depends upon after a tract is nominated
and scored it makes it onto our short
list. If the board decides to take
action for a first appraisal at a
meeting, the rest of the steps would
follow at a subsequent meeting.

There is -- really there is not
earnest money. That would be -- it's
usually not normally. Sometimes there are options to purchase, but those are usually tied to other tracts with separate funding and grant funding coming in. That is not standard for a Forever Wild purchase.

Each -- the funding for the program is capped at 15 million a year that comes into the program. The amount available for the board to spend depends upon the funds within the Board's spending authority and how much they spend in that year. So I would have to get that detail to you by June as to what that figure would be.

And then tracts can be nominated in any areas of the state. The board determines which tracts it's interested in. But I'll be happy to get with you and run through the entire process.

COMMISSIONER GUY: And there is a Website, Foreverwild.com, that has a lot of the information. Whatever you need
additional help with, just call the
Department or the Lands Division, and we
will put you in touch with somebody.

MR. CARVER: Okay. Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Powell.

DR. STRICKLAND: And, Steve, I think the next
board meeting is going to be in northern
Alabama. So it might give you a little
bit of insight. I think it's June 25th.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog, yes.

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

MR. HARTZOG: Patti, what do you think our
allocation is going to be this next
fiscal year?

MS. POWELL: We have been running and
receiving the cap of 15 million a year.
I just don't off the top of my know --

MR. HARTZOG: So we've been receiving the cap?

MS. POWELL: Yeah. We've been receiving the
cap, yes.

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Hartzog.
MR. HARTZOG: Hats off to Patti and Chuck and all by getting the Forever Wild dollars being able to be matched by Pittman Robertson because that gives us a great purchasing power for --

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: Absolutely. Absolutely.

MR. HARTZOG: So commend the two of y'all.

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: Thank you, Ms. Powell.

MS. POWELL: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: Thank you, Mr. Carver.

MR. CARVER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: Okay. The next speaker will be Randy Blelew.

MR. BLELEW: Randy Blelew. Limestone County. I'm here to speak about overharvest of catfish --

COMMISSIONER GUY: Step a little bit closer to the microphone, please, sir.

MR. BLELEW: I'm here to speak about overharvesting of catfish in the Tennessee River.

I am a commercial fisherman, have been. And to my knowledge we have got
people that has came in from out of state, and they're more or less just catching every fish they can catch on catfish. There's no limit on equipment. There's no limit on what size of the big fish.

A few years ago we protected the big fish. What are we doing to protect the little fish? If you can catch a thousand fish a day, that's good. If you catch a thousand fish tomorrow, that's okay. Where are the rivers in the future? When do we say enough is enough?

You know, it ain't an endless supply, I don't believe. It's a natural resource for everybody. Where can we draw the line and have guidelines on smaller fish? Because we did protect the big fish, but there's nothing about how much gear can go to the river or how many small fish can be caught. There's nothing at all. That's about what I
needed to say.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I appreciate your concerns.

Dr. Strickland, this is in your district. You want to set up a time to talk with him at a future date?

DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. Randy, why don't we just sit down and just -- you know, these are some big issues that you're bringing up, and I don't think we can address all of them right now. And we'll sit down with some of my office and see what we can come up with.

MR. BLELEW: After the meeting?

DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. And maybe -- yeah, let's start after the meeting.

MR. BLELEW: Okay. Thank you.

DR. STRICKLAND: Thanks, Randy.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Blelew.

The next speaker is Tony Cooley.

MR. COOLEY: I'm Tony Cooley and I own Cooley Grocery just a few miles from here. My store is at the entrance to Guntersville
Dam. And I'm here to talk about the stocking -- or nonstocking of hybrid and saltwater stripe below the dam.

I started contacting the biologist at the Tanner office several years ago talking about this. And we've had a few stockings, I think, back in '07 and '08, but we haven't had any since. We did have a recent hatch last year, and some of these saltwaters now are up to three to five pounds. But we don't have a lot of reproduction, but we do have some.

And I contacted the -- been contacting the biologist and not had much luck getting any stock. And I'm not really satisfied with his answers, telling me that there's not much interest in saltwater-stripe fishing in Guntersville Dam. But there's a lot of interest. I've seen this, guys. I've been there -- my store -- for 36 years in one location. These guys are passionate about this. And we just
don't have any left. Back in the '80s and into the '90s we'd see a lot of 25, 30-pound fish. We might see two 25-pound saltwater stripe all year now.

And I've been urging the biologist to try to get some stocked, and his reason for not stocking, they're blaming it on the bass fishermen. They -- he says the bass fishermen complain about saltwater stripe eating the smaller bass. And that may be true to some extent, but I just don't believe that. As a matter of fact, he told me it was not true. And that's my problem. He's basing his decisions on what he's saying is a lie. I hate to say that, but that's what I've been told.

And I called him this week and same response. And he's also said something else and I don't think it's true. He said there's not many people fishing for these saltwater stripe. That's absolutely not true. The numbers are
down because there's not near as many fish. But there would be -- years there would be -- I mean, everybody down at the dam would be saltwater-stripe fishing or hybrid fishing. And these guys are passionate about this.

And, anyway, I'd like to -- I think we need to stock these stripe. You know, we stock a lot of them in other lakes. And Coosa River is loaded with them. But we just can't get any in the Guntersville Dam. And I really believe that would help our fishing. I don't believe it affects the other fish.

There's plenty of shad in the dam -- at the dam. They feed mostly on these shad, and they like topwater fish and other types of fish. And it's just -- it's a great sport and it could be big. I know it's centrally located. Most of the hybrid and saltwater stripe in Alabama are caught at Guntersville Dam. There's a few below Wilson and Wheeler.
But it’s a great activity. These

  guys are passionate about it. There's
just not much left anymore.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Director Sykes, would

  you -- would Nick like to give a quick
comment on that?

MR. NICHOLS: Nick Nichols, assistant chief

  with Fisheries.

  It's true we have stocked striped
bass and hybrid-striped bass in the
Tennessee River on numerous occasions
over recent years but not recently. And
he's referring to comments from the
district biologist that we do not appear
to have quite as many folks in the
Tennessee River Valley that are actively
pursuing striped bass and hybrid-striped
bass fishing. And we can look at that a
little closer and certainly evaluate
district stockings up here in the
future.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Nick, if you could do
that and get that back to the board,
that would be great.

Mr. Cooley, thank you for your comments today.

The next speaker is Michael Key.

MR. KEY: I am Mike Key from Walker County, owner of Sipsey Fork Outfitters.

Ladies and gentlemen, the myth that catch-and-release rainbow trout is a beneficial practice on the Sipsey Fork has surfaced again. According to a partial study and preliminary report --

CHAIRMAN MOULTIE: Speak into the mic a little bit closer, if you would.

MR. KEY: -- by the Freshwater Fisheries section, at least three of four trout stocked in the Sipsey Fork are never harvested by anglers. Even less are harvested from the proposed catch-and-release area where we have the highest trout densities. What happens to the remaining approximately 75 percent or more of trout?

The majority die of malnutrition,
starvation, or natural predation because the fishery cannot support enough food to sustain them or provide to them. We have increased the number of some of these trout released and increased the number of fish released to approximately 20,000 annually, which means more and larger fish in the same habitat with the same amount of food available. The previous size and number of stocked trout before the increase in itself is actually more than the fishery can support. Bait fish, aquatic, and terrestrial insect populations are not sufficient to even maintain the original body weight for most of these trout. Even if we had a trout population that reproduced naturally in the Sipsey Fork, that was -- the Sipsey Fork -- the Sipsey Fork cannot support these trout.

The overall health of the Sipsey Fork that was correctly developed as a put-and-take trout fishery should be our
major concern. The partial creel limit showed the need for an increase in the creel limit and the need to encourage and to harvest more trout as very practical and sound management to ensure a healthy fishery, especially in the proposed catch-and-release area. But a complete study by Freshwater Fisheries is needed before any creel limit or other changes are made.

Catch and release is a personal choice that is actually poor management on this fishery. And I've been guilty of it myself. How many decades did it take us to convince hunters that we drastically needed to harvest does in order to prevent habitat destruction and gain a balance that benefits and will improve the overall health and quality of our deer herd?

It is our responsibility as stewards to manage and utilize our natural resources wisely. It is also our
responsibility to treat everyone fairly and equally. We should never promulgate or legislate any regulations, codes, or rules, particularly for private commercial interest or gain, that causes a separation or exclusion in any part, in any whole, to any lawful person or group upon public land and waters within the state of Alabama. We should never prohibit from or penalize anyone for lawful harvest of a renewed resource that is otherwise wasted.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. KEY: Sound fishery management involves the harvest of surplus, sustaining the balance of the habitat and aquatic populations while providing an intended use and benefit for all.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Thank you, Mr. Key.

MR. KEY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Yes, Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: How did you ascertain the data on three-fourths of the fish were dying
from malnutrition and not being harvested?

MR. KEY: I talked with --

CHAIRMAN MOUNTRIE: Speak into the microphone, please, Mr. Key.

MR. KEY: I talked with Chris McKee and the other biologist in my section on the Sipsey Fork, and I talked to Freshwater Fisheries. And a preliminary report gives that data that 75 percent of those fish are never harvested by anglers.

And some other data -- some other numbers that I didn't have time to mention is there's an average of 16 anglers on a weekday on the Sipsey Fork, and it's a two-and-half-mile fishery. That puts an angler every 300 yards apart if you were to space them out, so pressure is not a problem. On the weekends there's about 21 average on that two-and-a-half-mile stretch, so that's over 200 yards right there between anglers.
So that's where I got my data. And, like I say, it's a preliminary or partial report. It's ongoing and we need to see it completed, you know, and finished out.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We're currently reviewing all the trout-stocking data and have spoken with the Commissioner on it. We'll get back with you at a future date. We appreciate that, your report today. That is currently being reviewed. Thank you very much, Mr. Key.

MR. KEY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Dawn Anderson. Ms. Anderson.

MS. ANDERSON: I apologize. I am not going to speak because I was misinformed about an issue.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I couldn't hear her.

COMMISSIONER GUY: For the record, we've got a court reporter. You said you didn't want to speak because you were misinformed?
MS. ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN MOULTTRIE: She's not going to speak because she was misinformed about an issue.

Okay. The next speaker, then, is Tony Boutwell.

MR. BOUTWELL: I will not be speaking either.

CHAIRMAN MOULTTRIE: Tony Boutwell also will not speak.

The next speaker is Douglas Hamrick.

MR. HAMRICK: Good morning. I'm Douglas Hamrick from Good Ol' Boys Hunting Club in Fayette County, and I want to say some positive things about our hunting club.

It is a dog club. We have 55 members in our club. And each year we hold a youth hunt for the youth. We had 67 to show up this past year. A lot of those was kids that did not have a father to carry them to the hunting club and things like that.

We do everything in our power to --
the club is managed by Mr. John Ward, who does an outstanding job. He stays on top of everybody and keeps us all straight. We have tracking collars that -- that keep our dogs -- and two-way radios that keep our dogs from getting on other people's land, and we get along great with the people around us. But there is some very good dog clubs out there that is doing that.

And we do realize there are some rebels out there that does not do as they're supposed to do. And we agree with them. They make us all look bad. But there was also some rebels on the roadway coming up here today, you know, people passing on two lines and everything else.

And I encourage those "anti" dog hunters to get videotapes. You know, I heard a lot of reports in Montgomery about this one did this and this one did that. They called the game wardens and
came up short. So I would encourage
some of the "anti" people to, you know,
get videotape. Everybody has a camera
phone. Everybody has a video camera on
their phone. You know, kind of help
some of these game wardens, you know,
get out and prove what you say they're
doing.

But there are some good clubs out
there. We're in a great club and
well-managed. Any questions?

CHAIRMAN MOULTTRIE: Thank you very much,
Mr. Hamrick. Thank you.

The next speaker is Clifton Smith.

MR. SMITH: I won't be speaking.

CHAIRMAN MOULTTRIE: Mr. Smith also declines to
speak.

The next speaker is Calvin Crowder.

MR. CROWDER: Good morning. My name is Calvin
Crowder from Talladega, Alabama, in
Talladega County. We own property
adjacent to the national forest and also
have a leased property that's adjacent
not only to my property. It is adjacent to the forest as well.

I have an ongoing problem with dog deer hunters repeatedly running their dogs on my private property as well as my hunting club. I'm here before the board today to request that we push for some type of law that gives private property owners some type of recourse in regard to dog deer hunters that repeatedly run their dogs on private property and on land that is leased for hunting that does not belong to them, of course.

I have read something that there is a possibility of a permit system that may be in place. If y'all feel that that is the best way to approach the situation, I would support that.

And just so that everyone's aware, those in the audience and you, the problem I particularly have is with a particular club out of Pell City who,
it's my understanding, has lost their lease in their area, and they're all coming into the Talladega Forest where I am at. And I have spoken with them in a very defiant manner, I guess you might say, to make them aware that they do not have permission to run their dogs on my property and yet they continue to do it.

And, also, in reflection of their disregard for my private property owner rights, I have also personally witnessed them breaking the law by having shooters on the road. And I understand that's a law-enforcement issue. That's not what I'm here to ask for. But it just is an example of how they have a total disregard of how they run their hunting.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTREY: Mr. Crowder, just a minute.

Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Jeff is -- you might want to just say something --
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Our district representative for your district, Jeff Martin, is out of the country today. We'll make sure and get your information to him. Have you talked with him?

MR. CROWDER: No, I have not.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. We'll make sure and get that -- you can contact or get with Betsy after the meeting, and she'll give you Mr. Martin's contact information. But start at your district representative and then go from there.

MR. CROWDER: Appreciate it very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

The next speaker is Eric Ray.

MR. RAY: My name is Eric Ray. I own property adjacent to the Talladega National Forest. But I'm here to represent a group of other landowners in our area that -- and I want to address a problem that we have -- that we've had for the last several years. And it's the same problem that Mr. Crowder has.
Dogs that are owned by dog hunters are driving deer off of our property onto the national forest where they shoot the deer.

I'd like to point out that with current GPS technology the dog hunters know exactly where their dogs are. And, therefore, I think the dog hunters should be held accountable for their dogs being on private property. I don't like to make complaints without coming up with some kind of thoughts to correct the problem.

So we think there should be a regulation that states that when tracking a dog that is on private property without written permission, that the hunter, slash, dog owner should stop the dog and whistle his dog to him rather than continue hunting.

Further, a hunter who knowingly hunts, trespasses, shoots on or toward private property or allows his dogs to
hunt on private property should be subject to stiff penalties including but not limited to fines, revocation of hunting license, revocation of dog-hunting permit, and prosecution for repeat offenses.

None of the landowners we represent would harm a dog that runs on their property. We also have dogs. And we do not advocate preventing the use of dogs for hunting. We just want the dogs and the hunters to stop trespassing on our land. We know that the hunters know that their dogs are on private property.

We have observed the practice of releasing dogs in locations that would result in them driving deer across private property onto public land. We would like to see regulations, rules, and laws --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. RAY: -- enforced and have sufficient penalties to discourage that practice.
If that doesn't stop the practice, we would advocate for the elimination of dog hunting in Talladega County.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Ray.

Director Sykes is in the ongoing evolution of the permit system. If you would take those comments and please keep them in a folder whenever y'all discuss that.

And, again, that's Jeff Martin's district. If you would contact Mr. Martin. Betsy will give you the contact information after the meeting. Thank you very much.

MR. RAY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That concludes our speakers for the day. The next order of business is old business. I'll start down the list of our notes here.

Mr. Hatley, I show you have old business.

MR. HATLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At the last board meeting -- well,
let me preface something. At the last board meeting I told the board and all present that I would take -- I told everyone present that I would pursue some activity and action in south Alabama in reference to Monroe County and Baldwin County relating to dog deer hunting.

Since that time I have done some thorough investigation. I have talked with Don Knight. I have talked with Susan Morrow. And I feel like they have made tremendous strides in Baldwin County particularly. And at this time, Mr. Chairman, I will not make any motions as it relates to Baldwin County.

I will, however, make a motion at this time relating to Monroe County. I hereby move that all of Monroe County be placed on a permit system as it relates to dog deer hunting within the confines of said county.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a second?
DR. SHIPP: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: There's a motion and a second.

Mr. Hatley, any further discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I'd like to ask,

Mr. Hatley, do you feel there's enough evidence or data of continued ongoing problems with landowners and dog hunters to justify a permit system?

MR. HATLEY: I do. And, like I said,

Mr. Chairman, we have this motion on the floor, but I think there is enough evidence. And, also, that's why I backed off on the Baldwin County issue at this time, because they're making tremendous strides.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Any other discussion from the board?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. With Mr. Hatley's motion, all those in favor, please raise their hand.
(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show that
the motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Hatley, any other motions? Any
other new business?

MR. HATLEY: No.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Old business. Excuse me,
Mr. Hatley.

The next I'm showing is Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have two
motions I'd like to make. The first
motion is I hereby make a motion to
approve all departmental regulations
adopted since the last approval.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. I tell you what.

Let's move those motions -- Mr. Hartzog,
we're going to move those into new
business instead of old business.

MR. HARTZOG: Okay.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And no other motions

besides that general-housekeeping motion
that you just referred to?

MR. HARTZOG: No.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. Next, Mr. Joey Dobbs. Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have a comment and a motion.

After multiple letters from and conversations with landholders in Chilton County, all of them voicing complaints about dog deer hunting and continued encroachment on their properties, and knowing that there is maybe only one permit in that -- in that county --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, could you get them to speak into the microphone?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Hold on just a moment. Thank you very much.

Mr. Dobbs, if you'd start back over.

MR. DOBBS: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I'd like to make a comment and a motion.

After multiple letters from and conversations with landholders in
Chilton County, all of them voicing complaints consistently about dog deer hunting and continued encroachment on their properties, I would like to offer the following motion, that motion knowing that there's only -- that I understand there's only one permit holder in that county.

CHAIRMAN MOULTTRIE: Let's confirm that.

Director Sykes, is that correct, how many permits in Chilton County?

One. That's correct, Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: So at this time, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that deer hunting by the use of dogs in Chilton County be prohibited beginning with the 2015-2016 hunting season.

CHAIRMAN MOULTTRIE: There's a motion. Is there a second?

MR. AINSWORTH: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTTRIE: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion on this issue with the board?
Please reread the motion, Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: A motion that deer hunting by the use of dogs in Chilton County be prohibited beginning with the 2015-2016 hunting season.

CHAIRMAN MOULTIE: Any other discussion?

Mr. Ainsworth?

MR. AINSWORTH: Nothing.

CHAIRMAN MOULTIE: Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTIE: No discussion from the board.

Mr. Dobbs' motion is to eliminate dog deer hunting in Chilton County. All those in favor raise your hand.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTIE: All opposed?

All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTIE: Let the motion -- the motion passes. Let the record show that it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dobbs, any other business?
MR. DOBBS: Not at this time. Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: Okay. Down my list,
that's all I see on the list. Any other
old business from the board?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: Okay. We'll move into new
business.

Mr. Hartzog, you've got two motions
of general housekeeping, I think, or one
of the two motions.

MR. HARTZOG: Yes, sir. I hereby make a
motion to approve all departmental
regulations adopted since the last
approval.

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: Is there a second?

MR. BUNN: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: We have a motion and a
second on a housekeeping reg. All those
in favor raise your hand.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: All opposed?
(No response.)
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: None. Let the record show that it passed unanimously.

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman, I have another motion, please, sir.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

MR. HARTZOG: I hereby move that the department adopt the seasons and bag and creel limits and other regulations as contained in the packets provided to the board for the February the 28th, 2015, meeting, which packets are attached to this motion as Exhibits A and B, with the understanding that there could be some additional minor revisions during the administrative procedural process.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Read that one more time, Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: I hereby move that the department adopt the seasons and bag and creel limits and other regulations as contained in the packets provided to the board for the February the 28th, 2015, meeting, which packets are attached to
this motion as Exhibits A and B, with
the understanding that there could be
some additional minor revisions during
the administrative procedures process.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Another housekeeping
motion. Is there a second?

MR. BUNN: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a motion and a
second. Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All those in favor?

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The motion passes
unanimously.

One minute, please.

Okay. Director Sykes, I think you
have something on CPI you'd like to
address.

MR. SYKES: I do. And this is basically
another housekeeping -- at the last
meeting Dr. Strickland proposed this,
but just some terminology.

    Director Blankenship and I
    recommended that the board approve the
    CPI cost adjustments to hunting and
    fishing licenses and the issuance fees
    as they appeared in your packets on
    February the 28th and that the board
    recommend approval of these increases to
    the legislative council.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Okay. I need a motion to
approve the CPI increases to both
hunting and fishing licenses and
issuance fees and to recommend approval
of the increases to the legislative
council.

DR. SHIPP: So move.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: We have a motion. Is
there a second?

DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: We have a motion and a
second. Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: All those in favor raise
your hand.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: Let the record show again

it passes unanimously.

Any other old or new business from

the board?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: All right. The next order

of business is the date and location of

the next advisory board meeting. The
date has not been set, and the location

will be announced as soon as possible.
The Commissioner has assured we'll get

that out as soon as possible on the

Website.

Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: I am sorry to interrupt you,

but there is one new business that I

would like to bring before the board at

this time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: Let's go back to revisit
new business. Go ahead, Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: Jackson County -- a lot of the counties in northern Alabama turkey season opens March 15th. Jackson County is adjacent to Madison County, and I've had quite a few of the turkey hunters to ask why can't Madison County not open with the earlier season, March 15th or mid-March. And I had talked to some of the biologists -- Chuck -- to ask Chuck if you could look into that to see if there are any biological reasons why we could not consider opening Madison County March 15th instead of April 1st.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Director Sykes.

MR. SYKES: We'll be more than happy to look at that and have a presentation for you before the next board meeting meets.

DR. STRICKLAND: Thanks, Chuck. Sorry to interrupt.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: No. That's fine,

Dr. Strickland.

Director Sykes, we also had a
comment before the meeting about a
restocking effort in this area up here.
I don't know if they approached you
about that, but if we could also look
into that.

MR. SYKES: They did. Michael spoke to me.
I'll have someone come up and evaluate
the habitat to see if it's suitable for
a restocking effort for turkeys up here.
We'll start working through that process
as well.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great.

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: While Chuck is up, did we ever
do any more research down in the area
where -- I believe it was Geneva County
where the parks were closed for turkeys?

MR. SYKES: I'm going to let Ray address that
since he's in charge of that.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Metzler, if you could
come to the mic.

MR. METZLER: Our local biologists there, John
Powers and Bill Gray, did some camera
studies -- game camera studies that
basically showed that there were very
few turkeys in that area, and they
recommended keeping the season -- I
believe that's closed if I'm not
mistaken.

MR. HARTZOG: It's closed, yes.

MR. METZLER: And that was the recommendation
to keep it closed.

MR. HARTZOG: Yeah. I had several calls
wanting it opened and said that there
were tons of turkeys. And so, anyway --

MR. METZLER: We're going to continue to look
at it. We'll do more camera surveys
again next spring, this winter.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Ray, would you just state
your name for the record so the court
reporter --

MR. METZLER: Ray Metzler.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I'd like to remind the
public and the board again and we've
mentioned it at several past meetings.
Director Sykes, you may have a quick comment on this also. Eastern wild turkeys seem to show a decline now in the states where they are. We're looking at that very seriously in Alabama. There's other states that have made adjustments to that.

Director Sykes, anything on the eastern wild turkeys that you want to bring to the forefront right now?

MR. SYKES: Pretty much southeastern-wide, when I go to the meetings with my counterparts in the other southeastern states, they are all experiencing somewhat of a decline in their turkey population. We did not have the data to support whether we did or not. Common sense said that we're not in a vacuum. If they're seeing declines, more than likely we are too. So we just embarked on a major study with Auburn University, that they are actually trapping turkeys right now to
do a five-year research project on
predation rates, survivability, and
things like that. So we are in the
process of gathering that data.

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: That's great. Yes,

Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Sykes, where are we or how many
turkey harvest reports have you gotten
with regard to Game Check? Is that --
are we getting information?

MR. SYKES: We are actually -- turkey hunters
seem to be reporting better than deer
hunters. The numbers are pretty decent
right now. Still I think it's probably
less than 10 or 15 percent, but it's
better than 3 percent that we had during
deer season.

Each one of y'all in your packet had
the first edition of the "Full Fans and
Sharp Spurs" publication with our brood
studies and our gobble counts. We've
got an avid turkey hunter survey out now
where hunters from all over the state are helping us gather quality information from people on the ground listening to turkeys, hunting turkeys. We are doing everything we can to get caught back up right now. And our staff is doing a good job, and I thank the turkey hunters from the state who are participating in this as well. Between Game Check information, the study with Auburn, our avid turkey hunter survey, and what our biologists and enforcement officers are doing, as well as landowners with our brood counts, we're going to have some hard numbers over the next couple of years that we can make some quality decisions on.

MR. DOBBS: Good stuff. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Commissioner Guy.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Dobbs, I was just looking on our app, and we're showing 36 jake kills statewide, 644 adult kills. And so I appreciate you bringing that up
because Chuck and I talk about this often. The more we can get that reported -- it's done by county -- and you start seeing trends, that helps us with the data that we need to evaluate this.

So we do appreciate all the turkey hunters reporting, you know, their harvest. You know, it's no -- we don't make anything -- you know, their private information public. It's just the information that we get. That's all we're using, another tool, as we talk about, to get it right.

And so thanks for bringing that up. But we encourage everybody to go and see that. And it actually indicates, you know, each county and who has reported turkey harvesting. It's very important, so thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Commissioner.

Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman, one more question.
Chuck, I know it's early in the study, but has anything interesting come up on the coyote trackings?

MR. SYKES: Right now it is way too early because we've got some that we put the collar on them and they change two or three counties. We've had some that are staying in the same area. So give us until the next board meeting, and we'll have some preliminary information for you.

I think it's going to prove that they are having an impact, but it's going to be like most things in wildlife management. It's not a cookie-cutter formula from one end of the state to the other one. It's going to be site-specific, habitat-specific, and there's going to be a lot of factors that's going to play into it. So the more information we have on this the better we're going to be.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Director Sykes, and I
think it's pretty interesting. You and I have talked ongoingly this year about predator control. I talked to one of the members of the Georgia coyote study that actually was -- his job was to band female coyotes, track them to the dens. First he said it was very hard locating the den. Immediately when they put cameras in those dens the female abandoned the den. They're very hard to track.

But one of the neatest deals that the board needs to know, they're ranging -- some of the coyotes down in south Georgia range 150-square miles of travel. And I know you have reports of that being, also, that they have huge, huge ranges.

MR. SYKES: And they're just like people. Each one of them is different. One may go for that. One may stay in 500 acres their whole life. So it's -- it's complicated.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: We look forward to that.

As those predators numbers increase, I think that's going to be -- have huge impacts on our game population, so we welcome that as a board.

Mr. Bunn.

MR. BUNN: Chuck, what are the other southern states saying the biggest contributing factor is in the decline of the wild turkey?

MR. SYKES: You know this as well as anybody.

There's not going to be one thing. There's going to be changes in habitat. There are going to be changes in hunters and the way they act. There's going to be changes in predator populations. Tennessee right now is looking at spreading chicken litter on areas to see if that's an issue.

I mean, there's -- there's a lot of things. There are weather factors. I mean, turkeys are very weather-dependent. You get a cold, wet
spring and the hatch is not going to be as good. So there's a bunch of things that not just us are looking at, but there's a lot of states that's looking at it right now. And that's one of the beauties of us getting together with my counterparts. We don't have to reinvent the wheel. If Tennessee is looking at something, we don't have to do that. We can use their data and we can look at another aspect of it.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: Chuck, you know, probably the biggest threat to turkey numbers are predators, as we pointed out. Do we have any management program to try to address nest predators?

MR. SYKES: We do. We do. The board passed that last year. Commissioner signed the regulation. We do have a nuisance permit just like farmers can get for deer on ag crops. Any landowner can contact their district office and get a
permit to trap raccoons and possums 365
days a year for wildlife management
purposes. So we did get that changed
last year.

DR. STRICKLAND: And has that been -- I guess,
has that been communicated to the
landowners?

MR. SYKES: We have communicated the best that
we could. I know Mr. Bunn has taken
full advantage of it. He told me last
night he's caught 90 on his property
since February the 1st. So there are
landowners that are taking full
advantage of it. It's there -- it's the
same way with the hog and the coyote.
We're giving the landowners every
opportunity they can to manage their
property the way they see fit.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. I think the
board can applaud Chuck and his staff.
They are providing tools in a toolbox
for landowners, and that's all that we
can ask for as a board.
Any other new or old business?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Mr. Hatley, have you
game-checked the two turkeys you killed
this year?

MR. HATLEY: Yes, I did.

(Brief interruption with multiple
speakers.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Okay. Being no further
business, this meeting is adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at
approximately 9:56 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

State of Alabama
Marshall County

I, Kayla Wilson, 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 28, 2015.

The foregoing 60 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 2nd day of October 2015.

/s/Kayla Wilson

KAYLA WILSON

TL# TL2029

Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large