STATE OF ALABAMA

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

JOE WHEELER STATE PARK LODGE

ROGERSVILLE, ALABAMA

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings taken before Celeste O. Riddle, RMR, RPR, ACCR #127, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, at Joe Wheeler State Park Lodge, 4401 McLean Drive, Rogersville, Alabama, on Saturday, May 4, 2013 at approximately 9:00 a.m.
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mr. Dan Moultrie, Chairman
Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner
Dr. Gary Lemme
Mr. Bill Hatley
Mr. Austin Ainsworth
Mr. Jeff Martin
Dr. Warren Strickland
Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
Mr. Grady Hartzog, Jr.
Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.
Mr. T.J. Bunn, Jr.

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CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. The May 4th, 2013 meeting of the Conservation Advisory Board will come to order. I would like to welcome everyone to Joe Wheeler State Park Lodge. The Board is glad you are able to be here today. The invocation today will be given by Mr. Bill Hatley. Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: Let us pray, please. Our gracious and eternal Heavenly Father, we are indeed grateful for the privilege of being able to serve this great State and we pray that you will bestow thy richest blessings upon this group in all of our endeavors. And now we pray that you would let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our heart be acceptable in thy sight oh Lord, our strength, and our Redeemer. Amen.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hatley. The next order of business is the introduction of the Board members. First, I would like to introduce our Commissioner of Conservation, Mr. Gunter Guy. Our Alabama Agriculture Commissioner cannot be here today. Deputy Commissioner Curtis
Jones is not here today. Our other ex-officio member here today is Dr. Gary Lemme from the Alabama Extension Service, Dr. Lemme. Next, I would like to let the District members of the Board give their name and what District that they represent starting with Mr. Hatley.

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


MR. BUNN: T.J. Bunn. I represent District 7.

DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland, Congressional District 5.

MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, Congressional District 5.

MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, Congressional District 2.

MR. MARTIN: Jeff Martin, District 3.

MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, District 4.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you Board Members in attendance today. The next order of business
is the approval of the March 9th, 2013 Advisory Board minutes. Are there any changes to the minutes? Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would refer you to page 140 and 141 of the minutes. I would like a clarification if it's proper.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: It is and it will be duly noted. Go ahead, Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: I made a motion on that starting with line 12. I would like to make the following motion, that the Department of Conservation eliminate all fall turkey hunting in the state of Alabama. Then Dr. Lemme asks a question of Gary. Said, Mr. Moody, is there a biological reason to close turkey season during the fall? Mr. Moody's response was no. My response was negative. My response was not directed to Dr. Lemme. It was directed to Mr. Moody in his response to Dr. Lemme.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: It's not a correction, you just want it clarified.

MR. HATLEY: Clarified. The negative was there, but I was upset to some degree with --
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The minutes will duly reflect that. Any other changes? Then so be the minutes stand approved as read.

The next order of business is the Commissioner's comments. I would like to call on Commissioner Guy. Commissioner Guy.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Dan. I have a small presentation I am going to make, a little powerpoint that the Board has asked me to do. Before I do that, I want to recognize a few people. Tim, where are you? Tim Haney. Tim, will you stand up. Tim is our supervisor here at Joe Wheeler State Park and I want to thank Tim and his staff for the great work they have done to get this set up for our meeting today. I would like to give them a round of applause.

(Audience applauds.)

COMMISSIONER GUY: The park is beautiful and it looks good, Tim, and I appreciate in hard times, hard economic times, I really appreciate what you and your staff do, a good job here. And, of course, Greg Lein, our Parks Director is here. Where are you, Greg? Greg is right here
on the front row and is doing a great job in his new position as Parks Director in trying to, as many of y'all have seen, in trying to keep the parks viable for all our citizens here in Alabama. This is one of our really good parks here in north Alabama and we need to try to keep it open.

The other thing I would like to do, because I know his daddy won't do it, Mr. Daniel Moultrie, will you stand up. This is Dan's son, Daniel Moultrie. And I want to recognize Daniel not just for being here today, but a lot of y'all might not know -- I know his daddy is proud -- that he is a -- I believe it's a -- I will probably get this wrong -- a charter member of the Alabama High School Bass Anglers Association or Bass Fishing Association. He has been doing that since it started. He is a junior this year. He has accomplished a great deal. I don't know all of his -- I know in one tournament just recently there were 196 entrants and I think he finished in the top 50. And I have been to some of those events and if you've never been to one
of those events, I didn't realize until last year how big they are, it's a great thing for the State. They are getting young people interested in bass fishing. And when you've got 196 entrants into something like that, it's something that we can all be proud of about our youth. We always hear about bad things, but Daniel is the perfect example of what kind of good young people we have. And I think we ought to give him a round of applause.

(Audience applauds.)

COMMISSIONER GUY: Maybe Dan has something else to add to that.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: The only thing I know, I've spent the last four years trying to accommodate him in the hunting industry and he is going into the fishing industry.

Go ahead, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: So I am trying to follow up on our last meeting. There were some questions and have been some questions about some of the actions taken by the Board. And I should always recognize, and I don't often do, how much
this Board actually looks at all these things very seriously. They work hard and they ask questions, which I think are good questions, and want to know why we are doing whatever we are doing and what decisions they make are based on that information. And so we try to give them information. It's not just something where they show up in here and make decisions on, you know, what they hear on each day. So what we talked about a couple of times, I didn't get a chance to show it the last few times, it was related to some of our other decisions about Game Check, elimination of fall turkey season, extension of the season. It has to do with where we get some of our information, and so this is online. Anybody can go take a look at it; it's published. And we want to be transparent, so you can go look at it, you can make your own decisions, but this has just been recently published. This is our Alabama Hunting Survey 2012. It's conducted every year. This is my highlighting. I was just trying to hit a few points that are important. This has been going on since 1963, so for 50
years, one of the methods by which we kind of determine season and bag limits and estimate harvest is based on a mail survey; and that's the way it's been working for 50 years. And I think it should be recognized that, you know, it has some reliable information in there. And I think at the time that it was started in 1963, it was a very good tool in the tool bucket is what I say, a very good tool, and maybe one of the only tools because we didn't have the electronic resources and the way what we have nowadays to do things. And getting a hunter survey through a sample was acceptable practice and still is acceptable practice, and I think it is a tool that you look at to determine. So anyway, you can read this. Basically what it says is we have been doing that since 1963 as you note. It says this year's survey forms were mailed to approximately 8,930 people drawn from 249,686 hunting licenses; 720 were returned undeliverable; a total of 3,097 completed forms is what they used from that survey. On the next line, you will notice that it says the estimates in this survey represent
hunting by licensed hunters only. What we have to remember in this State is that -- of course, we sell licenses. That's the information we generally have to send out these survey forms to people, but there are so many exempt hunters in this State, whether it is under 16, whether it is over 65, or whether in some cases it might be hunting on your own property, fishing on your own property, and those kind of things. We don't know what that number is. Those numbers have been estimated and you will see some of that information right there where it notes the survey, the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Recreation is done. In 2006, it indicated there were 397,000 people, licensed and unlicensed, and that year they estimated -- or it shows that we had 256,000 licensed. Compare that with this year where they are saying we have 163,000, so that's quite a difference. So this year, approximately 163,000 licensed individuals hunted in Alabama. And if I am reading this, the way I am reading it, in 2006 it was saying 256,000 were licensed for that year, so our
license sales are down, so we don't really know
what the total number of hunters are.

So anyway, going further, it says in
reviewing the current survey estimates, it is
important to recognize that a degree of
uncertainty must be associated with each of the
estimates. This uncertainty is due to the
estimates being based on a sample instead of a
complete census of all licensed hunters. So
again, it's a tool and I think our group, our
biology group, folks that work in our Department
do a good job using the tools they have, but it's
difficult at times. And one of the reasons that
I think this Board and I thought that the game
survey -- the Game Check was a good thing was
because number one, we will be able to get a much
better sample of information that will help us
make good management decisions on season and bag
limits because the larger the sample, I think the
better another tool for making those decisions
like other states are doing because the
technology is there now for us to do it when we
couldn't do it 50 years ago or maybe 20 years
ago. And with iPads and smartphones and
telephone and the prices have come down, we can
do that. And so we will be able to get better
information.

The other reason, of course, for the Game
Check is because this Board, myself, and I'm sure
a lot of you, have said well, we have these bag
limits, you know, like five for turkey and three
bucks or deer, but we don't really believe, even
though we have to carry our harvest information,
harvest record with us, that that can be enforced
properly. So a lot of people say we want tags,
we want tags, we need tags so that we can make
sure that we are not violating these bag limits;
and I agree. And if you look at other states,
again, a lot of them that went with the hard
tags, they have gone away from them for a couple
of reasons. Number one, it's very costly and
number two, because the technology is there for
very similar to what we are doing here where you
have to call in that data, you have to get a
confirmation number, and then our law enforcement
can use that to check against what they come up
on in a hunter. Say do you have your harvest records, have you confirmed that and got a confirmation number. And then we can for law enforcement purposes better, we believe -- I believe and I believe this Board believes, we can better enforce those season and bag limits so that we can manage the game.

So this talks about -- and you can, again, read it. I'm not going to go over every bit of it. But one thing it talks about is standard of errors based on sample sizes. And, again, it says estimates with a percentage standard error of less than 15 percent are reliable enough to be useful in making management decisions. It has a lot of good information in there. It says it's normal for the estimates to fluctuate from one year to the next.

You know, it's not perfect, but it's a tool. One thing it says that you will note here, County level harvest information was extrapolated from the raw data for the first time since the mail survey began in 1963. The county information has a higher standard of error due to the smaller
sample sizes. And it just tells you there -- so this year was the first year we asked for some county information. We figured if we are going to send out, why we don't just ask people to tell us what county they are killing in too. So we have got information on that.

This is a part of it I took out just to show you. These are the results for this season. You've got the deer, you've got the turkey. You will see the estimates on there. They talk about man-days of hunting and they talk about number harvested. So, you know, if you combine gun, archery, and muzzleloader, it's 155,800 estimated number of hunters that killed an estimated 254,800 deer.

If you go to the turkey, of course, there is one for spring and there is one for fall. Because it was a small sample size, you can see that the estimate for the fall, there is 2,900 hunters that killed 1,100 turkeys, and the standard error is 16.6 percent on the number of hunters and 36.5 percent on the number of harvested. So this just shows you the spring
season information. If you are talking about trends you can, you know -- if you ask ten people, you might get ten ideas what about what those trends may show. This is just the spring. What interests me there a little bit, I don't know if it interests you, is that compared to previous years, the number of hunters is way down, which concerns me and, you know, concerns the fact that I don't know, you know, why. The harvest is actually up. So, you know, that's part of what, you know, our Department has to do to analyze that and figure out what that means.

There is the fall season. Again, if you are looking at trends, you can certainly see that over the years, the number of hunters have gone significantly down. And you have got the harvest, which is consistent with last year but over time a little bit fluctuating there. 2007 is an interesting year, but other than that, it pretty much seems it's a fairly low number. And then that's just a combined, that's the combined season. So again, this is all on the website. All you have got to do is look at it. So
basically what you have got is an average of, it looks like, 49,600 hunters killing about one turkey a piece; in the spring, killing a half a turkey a piece.

Because we did ask for county information this year, there is some information on here that shows county by county for bucks, does, and turkeys. We couldn't get turkeys in by county in the fall, but we were able to take the numbers -- I asked the folks in the Wildlife section and I got this information. This is the fall turkey hunters from the sample. Just understand, it's just from the sample. So the sample they used from fall actually amounted to -- in the left-hand column is the type of license. I had to get them to explain that. That just tells you the different types of licenses. There are in-state and out-of-state licenses that vary on whether it's a 10-day or small game hunting or whatever or lifetime. So what you have got is you had from that sample that we got back, you had for fall, you had 33 hunters killing 17 turkeys, showing no jakes killed, but 17 adult
gobblers and the number of turkeys just relates to whatever that license number is. And I went ahead and just wrote it up in the top hand corner, so that represents seven non-resident license holders and it represents 26 resident license holders.

So a couple of people have mentioned, and I think it's fair enough, that Steve Barnett who works with our Department, wrote a book, a very good book about our turkeys here in Alabama back in -- I think it came out in 2010 and I think the way I read it, it's based on the number -- of course, you had to publish it. It's based on numbers that were current from 2007 because if you read it, it reflects a 2007 mail survey. And so, you know, I think what some people do is they look at it and they say oh well, it says we have got 500,000 turkeys. And so I think Steve and all the people that have worked on that, it's fair to say they have done a good job. They say in here, if you read it, it's an estimate, and it's based on -- the estimate is based on our habitat. It's not an actual count. And
sometimes if you are like me, you just read
something and you just look at a number and you
think, oh, it's 500,000. I think it's important
to recognize that the turkey population, it's
hard for our guys to come up with this and Steve
says in here -- what I understand they did is
they took habitat and they looked at the habitat
and, of course, based on habitat, they have a
method of determining what populations that will
support; but it's not based on any precise
counting of that information. They try to use
some other stuff like maybe some game camera
information and probably do some observation.
And while I am confident they do that -- is Steve
here today? He is not here. But I've been
meaning to ask him about this, I don't know
whether they -- I haven't seen any writings
concerning those kinds of things, but I know they
work at it all the time. But when somebody sees
that number and say our population is good, and I
hope it is, but what we are trying to do is put
new tools in the tool box to make sure that it
isn't, because I'm going to tell you -- and
everybody has their own opinion -- but I have
heard from this Board that a lot of people have
concerns about our turkey population in various
parts of the State and that it's been worse
lately than it has been over the years. And
because turkey populations are more, I think,
fair to say sensitive to a lot of different
things more so than deer, we have to be very
careful what it says. Anyway, if you read this,
of course, he says, you know, most of the
year-to-year fluctuations are based on brood-
rearing success, and there are a lot of things
that go into that.

So I just put this up here to show you that.
Of course, if you look at that number, the number
of hunters again show going down, but the harvest
is going up. He just reiterates generally what
has already been said here. It says the mail
survey format is a means of collecting harvest
data that's put in place, but you look at trends
and you look at trends over years of time. And
that's good except that that doesn't necessarily
give you an opportunity to react to problems in
the short-term with this kind of survey work, whereas Game Check will hopefully give us more opportunity to react in realtime to issues particularly on a county-by-county basis. Some other people have said other states have fall turkey season, and some other states do. There is a lot of variation in that. If you really look at it hard, and how they do it, different bag limits, Georgia doesn't have it. I pulled this up just because -- and, again, you can read this online, it's Georgia DNR. They go into some reasons that I think this Board has basically been looking at which is -- I don't need to read it all. Basically it just goes into some of the things they look at that the Board is looking at too about the consequences of fall hunting impact on the turkey population and how you have to look at years of hatching success and those kinds of things that can add to it. And Georgia believes, and I think this Board believes, that managing it for spring success is paramount, not to say that it hasn't been flawed and it hasn't been flawed in the past, but err on the side of caution. I'm
not trying to speak for everybody. Just what I hear is that it's better to try to manage it for a great spring success which is typically where most people hunt turkeys in Alabama. And you can read what they say. But harvesting during the fall can result in as much as 60 percent of the reduction in their spring hunting opportunities. So again, you can read that. I think that what they are just saying is they have elected not to do the fall season because they believe it adversely affects their spring season.

A recent article that came out in the Alabama Wildlife Federation which Steve Barnett just published this last month or so, in that book talks about a couple of things that are interesting is that in this particular one he estimates the current statewide population at 400,000, so that's down a bit from the 500,000. But y'all can get this magazine and look at it and read it yourself for those who are interested in this particular topic. And he talks about poult. One of the issues you look at is poult. -- excuse me, hens with poult. And what he
says, I am going to paraphrase here, I am going to read, generally speaking, average survival of less than two poults per hen is poor; two to three is fair; and more than three is good. And although it is too early to observe a statewide trend, brood hens, hens with poults have been successfully averaging over three poults per hen since 2010. However, when productivity is measured by all hens, including hens with no poults, recruitment falls just over two poults per hen. And what he talks about in this article is that there is a -- they have looked at this and he says in terms of overall productivity including hens without poults, recruitment began to drop to poor numbers starting in 2006 in a sampled area they did. So he says the potential of reduced poult recruitment on population growth over time warrants close monitoring. The data in some southeastern states with many years of brood counts are exhibiting a common trend of increased harvest over time while experiencing decreased poult production. So these are some of the issues that I know that I have tried to look at.
and I have shared with this Board as to some of the decision making here. And what we tried to accomplish, not only with turkey but with all populations, is to try to best manage those populations, you know, to give the hunters in our state and those that participate in outdoors and buy our licenses or otherwise have opportunities to hunt here have the best opportunity to have good seasons. And, you know, it is tough to do that.

And again, I want to stress that I am not criticizing what has happened. I am just trying to say that I would like to see our Department use as many tools as we can possibly use to make those decisions if they are available to us, and I hope that they agree with me on that, and I think this Board agrees with me on that. That gives the public better information upon which you can understand what our decisions are being made on. And you can actually see that information and that's one of the things about the Game Check is you will be able to get that information the next day. You will be able to
see in both -- I have said this before for many
of y'all that have already been around is that if
successfully implemented like we hope and people
buy into it, you will be able to see the next day
deer and, you know, in the fall, deer that people
are killing by county. In the spring you will be
able to see turkeys that are being killed by
county. And depending on what happens here
today, if we extend the fall season for some time
to look at this, you could be able to see how
many turkeys are being killed in the fall season
each day, provided the people that we are asking,
you know, to work with us are obeying the law.
And, you know, that's what we need, everybody to
obey the law and the rules and regulations are
implemented.

Understand, that it's not us trying to be
burdensome on y'all or to try to make y'all do
something, you know, that we are -- I'm trying to
look for the right word -- trying to put more
process on you. But if you understand that we
are trying to actually help you and you will help
us by giving us that information, we can just
make better decisions. Our enforcement people, I think, can have an easier job in trying to enforce the laws, which are difficult at times because right now all we have got is somebody saying I did kill something and I've got to write it down. And without a confirmation number, that makes it difficult to enforce that.

So, Mr. Chairman, there is probably some other things I could say but I probably need to be quiet and I know there are some Board members that asked me to do that. Thank you. And if anybody up here has any questions at this time, I will be happy to answer them.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner, I had one question. I would like, again, to try to keep the Board with as much knowledge as they could have on any subject. In referring to the survey -- and I don't think you mentioned it -- what is the accuracy rate or deviation; do you have that?

COMMISSIONER GUY: I mentioned it for the fall turkeys. It's above what they mentioned to be an acceptable level; that's why I was noting it. For the fall, this is the first time we've
ever got any county data, county-by-county data. And while we didn't have those numbers showing up what county, we did know that 33 turkeys were killed — excuse me. 33 hunters killed 17 turkeys and that survey said that the acceptable deviation for it being reliable was exceeded. So if you look back at that particular graph, that would be under where I highlighted it there, the deviation for the number of hunters is 16.6 percent. So as I understand that, what it's saying is the sample survey is so low that it would not necessarily be reliable that that was the number of hunters.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Could be skewed.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Could be skewed. And 16 percent is somewhat over it, but when you look at the number of turkeys, the standard deviation is 36.5 which is way above that; because again, the sample was so small, as I understand it. If there is anybody that has a different opinion with the Wildlife group, but that's the way I understand it. And, you know, that's recognizable because it is a small sample. And
again, you don't have a trend here because that
was our first year, so the only thing you can
take from that is just understanding that -- and
then you look at those other trends, it's pretty
consistent is that in the spring the number of
hunters -- you are not taking county there on
this graph, understanding it's not county
information, it's just a trend over time of that
mail survey that goes -- this one just goes back
to '71, but you can clearly see -- I think the
reason that the 2002 is highlighted -- and, Gary,
you tell me if it's wrong -- I believe that was
the year there were some changes made to the way
the calculations were done positively.

MR. MOODY: We had used North Carolina State
for years and years and years. All the
southeastern states use them.

COMMISSIONER GUY: This is the one that went
to Auburn?

MR. MOODY: Yes, that's when we went to
Auburn. But it had changed over time and the
other states had started doing their own
statistics work and they just sort of got out of
it at NC State and people retired and then it
went to Auburn.

COMMISSIONER GUY: That's why that line is
there. That's all that means; it was a little
bit of a change. Generally it follows the same
methodology that everyone does. Other than that,
you can see there is a trend downward there. So
if you are looking at trends, that's what you
get.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Does the Board have any
other questions for the Commissioner? Mr.
Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Probably ask of Gary. Gary,
if you look in '71, we had an extremely higher
number of fall turkey hunters. Now in '71, how
many counties did we have fall turkey season in
'71?

MR. MOODY: It was considerably more than
now, but I don't know the number.

MR. HARTZOG: So the decline is not only the
more people in the spring season but also the
decline because the other counties gave up their
-- elected to give up their fall turkey season.
COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Hartzog, I didn't address that. While you brought it up, let me go ahead and mention, I went back and looked at at least 15 years, I believe, and for those that didn't remember this. So at one time there were more counties and eventually a lot of those counties had dropped off because counties that had fall turkey seasons, they had less days and also they gave up days in the spring. And so somewhere over that period of time, the fall season, the people in the counties that had fall season kept their fall season and they got the same number of days as everybody else in the spring. So like with these six counties here, they got the same number of fall seasons they always had and their spring season is the same as everywhere else in the State. But that was kind of -- well, I wasn't here then, but my understanding was one of the tradeoffs at that time for a fall season was less days in the spring. In some way, probably for whatever reasons, those two just kind of dissipated. So yes, to answer your question. I didn't go back
to 1971 or '75, but there has been more emphasis on spring hunting and the season has been lengthened to give the most prominent time of the year for turkey hunting, spring hunters more days, but no days were ever subtracted from the fall.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Any other questions for the Commissioner? I'm sure we will have a chance to discuss this on further later in the day.

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

Our standing rules will be in effect as always.

Let me back up. Dr. Lemme has some information on what the Extension Service has done concerning our dove season. Dr. Lemme.

DR. LEMME: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has recently
published an updated version of the publication
Mourning Dove Biology and Management in Alabama.

There are copies available in the registration
room there for you to take. They are also
available for printing on the ACES, aces.edu
website, where you can all get a copy. The U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for the
management of the mourning doves since they are
migratory. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
allows for hunting of mourning doves over or
around normal agriculture operations. The U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service defers to each State's
Cooperative Extension Service to define what a
normal agricultural operation is in that state.
The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service wants
to ensure that new agricultural technologies are
not impeded or that hunting over the fields is
allowed. And so spring planted fields that are
managed for agricultural production are not
generally a problem. They are planted outside of
the normal hunting season. The area of confusion
has generally been associated with fall seeded
wheat fields. We have defined in the publication
normal agriculture operations as though they have fields that are planted with less than 200 pounds of seed wheat, not feed wheat. There are four general areas of agricultural operations associated with fall wheat planting. Planting fall wheat can be planted any time between August 1st and November 30th. In other words, there are no zones within the State. That allows the annual variation in climate, also the variation in soils occurring across our State. Planting may be done using no-till technology where a no-till drill is used. Also, broadcasting of aerial seeding is permitted using agricultural ways in no-till operations. Seeds may be planted in the tilled seedbeds with a drill or with a broadcast seeder or an aerial broadcaster with an incorporation operation. Some seeds will be found on the surface of the soil as a result of incomplete incorporation. Wheat included in fall planted cover crops must be at rates less than 200 pounds per acre. Those things that are not normal agricultural operations are sowing seeds several times in succession unless there is a
drought or a flooding which has limited seed emergence. Piling, dumping, spilling, or concentrating wheat seed on the ground or not evenly spreading that seed is not considered to be a normal agriculture operation, so producers should be careful with turning at the end of a row to make sure their seeding operations do not result in concentrations in those areas above the seeding rate of 200 pounds. Generally, spring planted seeds such as corn, millet, and sunflowers are not planted in the fall. But if they are planted in the fall for fall foliage, they should not be top sown. In other words, hopefully these clarifications in an educational format will allow our farmers to farm and our hunters to hunt doves over agricultural fields in Alabama.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: That's great, Dr. Lemme. I'm going to start and I know the Board will -- I have got a question about it. I get asked all the time when somebody -- I think the name helps construe misinterpretation about in top sown wheat. The question we always get is if you top
sow wheat, which is an acceptable planting practice, does it have to be drug in, cult packed in, people drag little pieces of fences in, anything else, or can it actually be only the soil is well tilled up to an acceptable soil service, can you leave it alone and not do anything?

DR. LEMME: Well, you can top sow wheat in no-till operations also. But usually when you top sow seed in a till operation, it needs to be some type of incorporation, but normal operations. But you will get limited -- you will get spans if you do not incorporate and a lot of the people adjust their seeding rates, that's an acceptable rate.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Just like if they were flown in top cover. I guess, Kevin, this is a question that gets asked all the time. If somebody broadcasts it on a well prepared seedbed and does not do anything else after they broadcast it, are they in effect legal or not legal?

KEVIN: They are legal according to Dr.
Mask. Depending on soil types, if it's a well prepared seed bed, there is no need to drag it in or cover it.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Right. The seed would be the intent in having a well prepared -- if it was hard and had been broken up --

KEVIN: If it's hard ground and you throw out seeds, that's a problem. If it's a prepared seedbed, there is good soil-to-seed contact, there is no need, according to Dr. Mask, to drag or cover the seeds.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have talked about this. There has been so much misinformation about this. Mr. Hatley, do you have a question?

MR. HATLEY: You've still got to have less than 200 pounds or less?

DR. LEMME: Correct. You must use seed wheat, not feed wheat.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions?

DR. LEMME: Another thing that's really helpful for farmers, if you are part of the USDA farm program, you are telling people -- you are registering which field, agricultural field
That helps define it also.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I think, Dr. Lemme, this helps tremendously the public because our planting zones and our shooting zones were never exact with each other and it confused and depending on what the weather was and it really made for a bad situation there. Now y'all have clarified that and I think that's great putting it into one zone.

DR. LEMME: Thank you. And Kevin and his staff have been very, very helpful in working with us.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I want to just again, I told Dr. Lemme personally how much I appreciate him and his staff working on this because one of the primary goals that I have had since I have been in office was to try to make dove hunting fun again for people and mostly what I hear from the public is they are just scared because they don't know what the expectations are. And I think the actions by Dr. Lemme and the Cooperative Extension Service help clarify and
kind of broaden what other folks are doing in other states to make everybody understand and be on the same page about what their expectations are and that's what we want. We want the hunting public to know what is expected of our law enforcement and our law enforcement and them to be on the same page so when they go out there and they plant for doves, they are not scared that they are going to get ticketed because they just don't know what they are supposed to be doing. And I think what Dr. Lemme and his group have done has really helped us in that regard. We are going to try to make that more public, to try to get that information out so people can do that.

I want to also say that we are working closely with our friends at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because they are also part of this as a migratory bird. We have been having ongoing discussions with them to make sure they too are also on the same page and everybody's expectations are the same, and we sent them these revised practices that the Extension Service has put out for their comments. And we are hoping by
the time dove season opens, that we will all be together on that. And as long as we have a uniform interpretation of what the expectation of the public is, I feel like the public will have more opportunities to go out and have dove hunts which are great social occasions where they can bring family and friends and, you know, you can do more like it used to be when we all grew up. I know when I grew up, most everybody on this Board, except for the younger guys, that was a big deal, and it's just not a big deal anymore.

I would also note, as I think I did last time, license sales are down and there are a lot of reasons why our license sales are down because nobody gets invited to dove hunts anymore. How many of you out there that are 40 or 50 years old or maybe even 35, it used to be that everybody wanted to have a dove hunt and everybody wanted to invite you to a dove hunt and you would go out and buy a license so you could go dove hunting and go out with your friends and enjoy an afternoon and maybe listen to a football game. It just doesn't happen anymore. Small hunts,
people are worried about. We are trying to change that. I appreciate the work of Dr. Lemme and I appreciate the work of the Board. Hopefully we will get that turned around a little bit so it's a more -- can be enjoyed more. Thank y'all for that.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Commissioner. Let's go back into the public hearing section. I will go back over it again. When your name is called, please go to the microphone and give your name and subject you wish to speak on. I will remind you again that only you may speak at the time you are called and any interference will not be tolerated. The Board standing rules will be in effect as always. And our first speaker will be Mr. Avery Bates.

MR. BATES: My name is Avery Bates. I'm Vice President of Organized Seafood Association. Also many years commercial fishing, oyster, and shrimping, fishing. We love to produce good healthy seafood. You know, I have been to this thing a lot of times. Mr. Hatley did a beautiful prayer. Today I want to commend you on that
prayer opening this meeting. And, you know, ole
King David was told something by God in 2 Samuel
23 verse 3, he said that he that ruleth over men
must first be just ruling in the fear of God.
It's an awesome responsibility when you make
decisions that can affect a lot of people's
lives. And when you're appointed or take that
position, you must be just according to God. But
the things that I want to make known today, we
want to keep fishing. We want to continue to
harvest the fish of the sea, whether it's
pompano, mackerel, or whatever species it is. We
don't need gamefish status because you are taking
fish away from people's mouth. We've fed the
Governor, we've fed Pat Dye, and the agriculture
people, many hundreds of people fresh mullet.
We'd like to keep fishing for species and keep
using the gillnet. We heard something this year
that kind of -- or this past week, that kind of
stuck in my craw, as the old saying goes. A
fisherman tried to go fishing in the river and he
was told it's against the law to gillnet fish.
He wanted to go catch some suckerfish, which by
law they are legal to catch and whatever catfish they might catch in his net is a six-inch stretch law anyway. He said it's against the law. That's wrong because he bought a license. The license gives him the liberty to supply the market. That license of a commercial gillnetter might pay as much as $800 to supply the businesses. I heard Mr. Lemme say boy, he likes good seafood. Everybody that I have talked to -- I like good oysters. We supply the markets; that's state law. You can't buy them from a recreational fisherman. When you take them away from us, the people of the State and the commerce are affected in this State. Mr. Moultrie said it was going to be brought up in the last meeting about pompano. Pompano is a good eating fish. Don't take him away from our commercial fishermen. It is important that every species of fish out there according to defined law 9-2-80 stays seafood and that's important because my family's five generations plus is for supplying seafood to all the State and not only the State, this country. And being a citizen of the United
States, we should make sure that our laws are fair and just. Like God said let's make it just and fair.

Do y'all have any questions about the seafood?

We run into a little problem this week as a survey on our --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. BATES: When I mentioned our Director --

the time is up?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would wind up, Mr. Bates.

MR. BATES: We found an area that we were getting ready to plant that's been hurt pretty hard. It looked like drudging to me, as being a fellow that's been on the water. Drudging was okay back in -- remember the last meeting we had on drudging, Mr. Harmon, across the way when I handed you a petition with 300 and something people against it and 10 or 15 for it. We've had an area that's been affected negatively in Port of Mobile Bay, more than one area. We wish you would have listened way back then. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, Mr. Bates. That would be Mr. Hatley, not Mr. Harmon. The next speaker is Ashley Gray.

MS. GRAY: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak with you guys today. I am Vice President of Madison County Wildlife Rehabilitators. It's a hobby for us, we don't get paid; it is an unpaid profession. I am here today regarding the letter we received from Conservation basically saying they are going to shut down our operations pretty much completely. The public really needs us to be able to continue that. Yesterday we got over twelve calls on our hotline that's in Madison County. And over the past year we've had over 300 calls, so the public needs us to be able to continue. There are a few misconceptions that's kind of been associated with wildlife rehabilitators. We are not against hunting, we don't hate hunters, and we are definitely not members of PETA. There is another speaker coming up to kind of explain the letter to you more. It should be on the top of your packet. Thank you again. I am finished. Thank
you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead, Mr. Ainsworth.

MR. AINSWORTH: What exactly do y'all do?

MS. GRAY: We rescue and rehabilitate and release wildlife species in Madison County.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions?

Where are those released?

MS. GRAY: We have private lands, some that we own, some that our friends have. We have to have permission. There has to be a water source. We cannot transport them over county lines or over bodies of water.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: I got a chance to look at the Madison County Wildlife Rehabilitators Code of Conduct and also I think it's part of our packet as well. If you look at the criteria, it's a very organized organization and I think that we really owe our wildlife, you know, orphaned, injured wildlife. Euthanasia should not be the only option. And I think what you all are doing is great. I think it's a great service to Madison County. I certainly support it. And
I think one of the things that I would like to see from our conservation officers is reasons why -- were you all warned at all of this before it happened?

MS. GRAY: No, sir.

DR. STRICKLAND: I would like to know why this decision was made. If I am not mistaken, you have a veterinarian that kind of provides oversight?

MS. GRAY: We do.

DR. STRICKLAND: And both of you require a significant amount of training, a couple hundred hours?

MS. GRAY: Yes, and continuing education as well.

DR. STRICKLAND: And the purpose is really not re-establishing, you know, let's say racoons, opossum, but it's a place to go when you have an injured animal other than putting them to sleep through euthanasia. So I think what I would like to see is for our conservation officers to report back to this Board maybe at our next meeting before we terminate this service. Give us some
good reasons. I mean, I can understand the
public health risks, but most of these animals
are no public exposure at all.

MS. GRAY: Exactly.

DR. STRICKLAND: So I think this needs to be
emphasized to the audience as well as the Board
that these animals that are rehabbed, they are
not put on display, there is no public exposure
at all. Basically these orphaned animals, these
injured animals are brought in, they are rehabbed
by trained professionals and released back into
the wild under very controlled conditions.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland and Mr.
Ainsworth, would this be in your area? I know
y'all always dig into these things. And, Mr.
Jones, if y'all would dig into this one, it would
be good.

Mr. Hartzog, do you have a comment also?

MR. HARTZOG: Just a question. What do they
lack from the permitting? I mean, it looks like
the problem is they don't have a valid permit.
What is -- what's the process of getting them a
valid permit?
MS. GRAY: We have an actual new permit. But what's been taken from us is like the fur-bearing, the raccoons and the opossum. I think all we are really allowed to do now are squirrels and rabbits. We have a permit. We are basically trying to get the full extent of what we were able to do be reinstated at least until the end of the season.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions?

Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Of your 300 calls that you received, how many of those are fur-bearing?

MS. GRAY: Probably 90 percent. The other 10 being songbirds, which we are federally permitted to take them.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions from the Board?

COMMISSIONER GUY: If I could, Johnny, Mr. Johnson.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Captain Johnson, if you would speak on that.

COMMISSIONER GUY: He issued the letter.

MR. JOHNSON: Thanks. Actually, I have no
problem with any of these ladies in Madison County. In fact, they have been good to work with us throughout the year and I have nothing bad to say about any of them, but it came down to public safety; Dr. Strickland mentioned that. And to say it like this, there is a racoon in every garbage can in north Alabama. And actually landowners and people that manage the property are actually paying people to kill this wildlife that are being rehabbed by rehab. I know that may sound cruel to some people, but that's what's happening. Racoons mainly and sometimes opossums are being killed by permitted wildlife euthanasia. That's the reason that -- Jud Easterwood, biologist there in my office, and I came up with the guidelines that no longer would fur-bearers be allowed to be rehabbed in District 1. They are allowed to rehab birds, songbirds, birds of prey, if they have a Federal permit. So we didn't really shut them down. We just restricted what they could rehab and we did it for the people of Alabama. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I was looking at this
before when I got it, just looked at it.

Is there a regulation currently in place that
prohibits what they are doing?

MR. JOHNSON: There is a regulation that
prevents anybody from possessing any wildlife in
Alabama without a valid permit from you.

DR. STRICKLAND: So you're saying they've
never had a valid permit for fur-bearers?

MR. JOHNSON: They did in the past, Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: But you took it away?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. We did issue one
and we took it away.

DR. STRICKLAND: In Congressional District 5
or in Madison County, have you had any valid
complaints with regards to Madison County
Rehabilitation animals released or has there been
any public health risks that you are aware of?

MR. JOHNSON: We have not had any complaints
on the Madison County Rehab Group. We have had
numerous complaints -- I don't have the number
with me today -- about fur-bearers and human
contact.
DR. STRICKLAND: That could happen outside this rehab. I mean, most of us are at risk if you are in timber having some kind of contact with fur-bearers. You know, I just think before -- I personally would like to have more information before we pull that away from them. I personally feel that the risk, the public health risk, is certainly low for rabies, what they are doing, particularly since it's so organized and it's so well supervised. And again, I don't think they knew that this, if I am not mistaken -- did you all have any idea that this letter was coming?

MS. GRAY: No, sir.

DR. STRICKLAND: There have been no complaints, but I would just like to have it re-

visited.

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Dr. Strickland. Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One quick question or observation, you based your decision, Mr. Johnson, on the fact that people
are hiring nuisance predator hunters. We all suspect, we don't know, but we all suspect that we have an issue throughout the State with predation on a lot of our game species, turkeys certainly, possibly hogs, certainly from racoons, foxes, and skunks where they persist. So what I am seeing here or what I guess, and I want to be clear, is that because we have an overpopulation, as you have stated, and people are working to eliminate that and reduce predation, all you are doing by not letting them rehabilitate and reintroduce these animals back into our wildlife, the set of wildlife, is we are just helping that process along.

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

MR. DOBBS: What they are doing is wonderful work and I don't want to see anything killed, but I don't want an overpopulation of anything and that's my concern that maybe we have got an overpopulation, we all believe that, and let's don't contribute to that. I would rather you put all your energies toward rehabbing the raptors and the songbirds and the things that are having
issues or have had in the past. I wanted to be clear that this doesn't seem to be arbitrary on your part and it seems to make sense to me.

MR. JOHNSON: I think you cleared it up better than I did, Mr. Dobbs. I appreciate it. I think if you put a fur-bearer back into the wild, it's going to do one of two things is my opinion. It's going to fight to the death or it's going to move another predator from that area into another area because the area or the land is at maximum carrying capacity for racoons right now.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: How many fur-bearers do you think you are releasing a year at your rehab, actually releasing?

MS. GRAY: Within the last year in our group, two racoons.

DR. STRICKLAND: Do you think it's going to have an impact? It's the mission. It's what they are doing. I think we are missing the whole big picture. I don't think three or four racoons is going to have any impact on anything. It's
the message they are delivering, it's the
mission; that's what we have to look at.

MS. GRAY: May I please clarify that many of
the racoons that we pick up that we are providing
a public service, they have to be with us, they
need us. For instance, if it's been hit by a
car, we take it and we take it to the vet and
have it euthanized. It helps the public to know,
it eases their mind and stuff. Yes, two racoons.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Metzler, do you wish
to speak on this? Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I was just saying I think
he might address Dr. Strickland's concerns about
looking at it. If I understand, we are going to
look at some of this a little more in this
process maybe.

MR. METZLER: We started about six months
ago to review the rehabilitation policies and
permitting process that we have within the
Department. We should be able to finish up that
review in the next three or four months and maybe
provide some feedback on the direction we are
going, so everything across the State will be
standardized; that's what our hope is in doing this.

CHAIRMAN MOULTREI: Very good. Very good. Thank you, Ms. Gray.

MS. GRAY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTREI: The next speaker is Lindsey Wilmer.

MS. WILMER: Hi. Thank you for giving me the chance to speak today. My name is Lindsey Wilmer. I am the Vice President of Madison County Wildlife Rehabilitators. I have over 13 years of experience in wildlife rehab. I specialize in the Virginia opossum but, of course, I work with other species too. As wildlife rehabilitators, I really feel like we provide a service to the veterinarians in Madison County. Animal hospitals often serve as a drop-off point for those who find orphaned or injured wildlife animals. And when the wild animals don't need to be euthanized, they allow us to take the responsibility of rehabbing them and then releasing the animals after that. In that way I really feel like I'm like a PR agent to the
veterinarians of the area; I really do. They really appreciate our work. They need us. In addition to the service we provide for the veterinarians, we impact the public through what we do in just taking them away sometimes. Also education, we go to community events and educational programs in our area, also churches, Boy Scout troops, Girl Scout troops. Two weeks ago we received this letter. We knew nothing about it. We were actually at Save Nature Preservative Day when we got the letter. But anyway, it informed us that we are limited to basically squirrels and rabbits for our rehab and now we kind of feel like we are a dead end to the public and the veterinarians that we work with, so I think that's all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you so much.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I ask a question?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Ms. Wilmer, how many other groups are there like yours or are there any others?

MS. WILMER: There are several other groups
in the State. In our District there is one other group. Other Districts allow the groups to exist and they are permitted as far as we know.

District 1 has one other group, the North Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitators.

COMMISSIONER GUY: And are y'all part of the same organization?

MS. WILMER: No, sir, we are our own.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Thank you, Ms. Wilmer.

Yes, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Just for clarification, when you are speaking of District 1, that District 1 is the State District 1, not the Congressional District?

MS. WILMER: Right.

MR. JONES: I just wanted to clarify that.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Yes, Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I really need to ask Captain Johnson. Thank you, ma'am. Are the licenses provided on a case-by-case basis or how do they get a license?

MR. JOHNSON: In the past, Commissioner, if they applied for a permit, we would go by and
inspect the facility, make sure it had adequate
water and shelter for the animals, and basically
issue them to anybody. We don't have a lot of
guidelines in regard to who we have permitted to.

DR. STRICKLAND: You have a permit criteria?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

DR. STRICKLAND: Which is pretty thorough?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is

Stephanie Kern.

MS. KERN: Thank you, Commissioner,
Chairman, and Board for having us today. My name
is Stephanie Kern and I am the President of the
Madison County Wildlife Rehabilitators. We are
here today by invitation of Captain Johnson and
we appreciate the invite as well. We have
renewed and complied with Alabama Rehabilitation
permits for years. We received our 2013 permit
only two short months ago with the only animal
restriction being coyotes. We were shocked to
receive this letter in April terminating our
February license and restricting the
rehabilitation of all animals except for
squirrels and rabbits. Interestingly, we found that this letter was limited to District 1. Professional organizations such as ourselves in District 3, 4, and 5 continue today to be in full operation with allowances to rehabilitate all wildlife without restriction. Our operating standards are as rigorous as the other Alabama rehabilitation organizations, which include Wild Mammal Care of Alabama in District 3, the Big Ben Wildlife Sanctuary in District 4, and the Environmental Study Center in District 5. Again, these are State Districts. Our Code of Conduct is attached in your packet. Like Big Ben Wildlife, we are professionally trained and also members of the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. We also belong to the National Opossum Society. And our members adhere to the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council as well as the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association Standards. Toyota Manufacturing Plant and the Land Trust of North Alabama Executive Committee have expressed interest in our placing a rehabilitation facility
and a wildlife sanctuary on the Land Trust property in Huntsville, similar to what you would find at the Big Ben Wildlife Sanctuary as well as the Environmental Study Center. Our facility would serve to educate the public on wildlife conservation and further the mission of the Department of Conservation. The restrictions on our permit would completely remove the progress that has been made in this area. We are asking today for your approval to reinstate the permit of Madison County Wildlife Rehabilitators to include all wildlife except deer and coyote. Again, our standard rival rehabilitation organizations are still in full operations in District 3, 4, and 5. We do understand from Mr. Metzler that the State Wildlife Rehabilitation regulations are currently being discussed and if interim criteria would be required to reinstate the policy of District 1 in order to reinstate our full permit now, we have drafted criteria consistent with our neighboring states of Mississippi, Tennessee, and Georgia and they are included in your packet as well.
We continue to receive numerous calls daily to our hotline for injured and orphaned wildlife. Without your immediate approval, we will be forced to turn our callers away and then leave them to their own means of dealing with injured and orphaned wildlife. This will increase illegal holdings of wildlife.

MS. JONES: Time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You can go ahead and finish, Ms. Kern, you are fine. Go ahead and finish.

MS. KERN: I am complete. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Ms. Kern, we are going to -- and thank you for not including coyotes on y'all's list. I'm sure the members of the Board appreciate that as much as I do. I talked with Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson, you may want to talk about that you may want to rescind that letter until we have more time to study it and Mr. Metzler can look into it and possibly get a statewide program; is that correct?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. I agree with these ladies that we need something that's uniform
statewide, and I agree with them wholeheartedly. I'm not rescinding on my wishes as far as the fur-bearers being not rehabbed, but I agree with you, Chairman, we need to put it off and allow them to do what they are doing right now until we come up with something that's fair to everyone.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Would that be in acceptance with y'all, Ms. Kern?

MS. KERN: Yes, sir. And we fully support statewide regulations. We actually have offered for Mr. Metzler, we would like to see involved in that process.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great. And I would like to see Frank Boyd involved in that also, Mr. Metzler, with what they are doing with their activities. He could report back to the Board on that and I would like to get Frank's input on that also. Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: I have one question. I may have missed this in one of your presentations, but how are you funded?

MS. KERN: Sir, we are not funded. This is totally volunteering efforts. There are some
kind-hearted individuals that do donate personally to us from time to time --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: It's not privately funded?

MS. KERN: Yes, but it's a huge expense on our part.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I want to thank y'all for your presentation but also I know y'all recognize that Captain Johnson is probably one of our best -- well, we have got a lot of good folks and he does an excellent job and you realize that he is looking out for the best interest of everybody, not picking on you guys, because we have a lot of human-animal contact that we deal with every day that is very difficult to handle in some respects. So anyway, Johnny, I appreciate what you are doing, appreciate you willing to withdraw that until we can look at it.

MS. KERN: Yes, sir, if I may.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, go ahead, Ms. Kern.

MS. KERN: Thank you, sir. We want to thank Captain Johnson. We work very well with him and
we do respect all of the statewide wishes concerning wildlife. Again, we feel that really our mission is a public service. The public finds injured and orphaned wildlife. As you can imagine, many, many people don't have the heart to just release it back into the wild or kill it themselves and they really don't have any other option but to call a wildlife rehabilitator. So ours is more of a public service to the kind-hearted, you know, peace-loving individual.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Well, Ms. Kern, Ms. Wilmer, and Ms. Gray, thank you for your presentations today. Captain Johnson, thank you, thank you so much.

DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Chairman?

COMMISSIONER MOULTRIE: Yes.

DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Jones is going to -- he has volunteered his service for fund raising for Madison County.

(Audience laughs.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Y'all are in great shape now.

MR. JONES: My first donor is sitting right
here to my left.

(Audience laughs.)

MS. KERN: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Kern.

Let's move on to freshwater fishing. Mr. Nathan Smith will be our next speaker.

MR. NATHAN SMITH: Good morning. My name is Nathan Smith. I'm a mortgage loan officer for a local bank. I've lived in this area --

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

MR. NATHAN SMITH: Thank you for having me here this morning. As a local fisherman and local crappie fisherman, myself and other sportsmen have become concerned about the depletion of numbers of management of natural resources with crappie fishing. In discussions with fellow sportsmen, we always come back to three alternatives. We would ask that you consider either limiting the number of poles the fishermen may use at one time when fishing for crappie, limiting the daily catch limit from 30 to perhaps 20, or raising the minimum legal catch
from 9 inches to 11 inches. My personal favorite is limiting the number of poles. In Alabama there is no limit on the number of poles that a fisherman may use crappie fishing and we tend to see 10, 12, maybe 16 poles used at one time, and this increases by at least a factor of 16 the chances of catching a fish over somebody who maybe uses just one pole. And the problem with it is more and more I hear conversations from that type of fishermen who brags that they exceeded the daily limits. I talked with a gentlemen a month ago who said well, two days before I talked with you he caught 66; the daily limit is 30. The day before he caught 55; the limit is 30. That day he was fishing again, he made it very plain that he caught 3,000 fish that season and he made money selling them. I listened to our -- looked on the Internet for a crappie forum. Earlier this week a gentleman talked about he and a fishing partner taking home 90 in one day. Three weeks ago a gentleman talked about bringing home 120 in one day. These are people that use what's called spider rigging
or more than one pole. I am not advocating that we reduce the number of poles down to one, but perhaps we reduce them from an unlimited number to a manageable number of maybe four. Those are the alternatives that we would suggest to sportsmen.

I have also been asked if you would consider -- a few years ago boaters were allowed to clean their fish on the water in their boat; that was denied, for lack of a better terminology for me, and I have been asked if you would reconsider allowing fishermen to clean their fish while on the water in the boat.

Thank you. That's all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Smith, are your concerns over crappie on a particular lake or statewide?

MR. NATHAN SMITH: I can only speak about northern Alabama, so I would talk about Guntersville through Pickwick when you cross the channel from east to west.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We want to have a comment back on the number of poles and what's in
effect in the State if we can have it right here.
Who is going to speak? Go ahead.

MR. GREENE: I'm Chris Greene, Assistant
Chief of Fisheries. We do have some limitations
on poles in certain areas. We don't have any on
the Tennessee River. Crappie populations are
kind of boom and bust. Some years you are going
to have a lot of fish, some years you are not
going to have a lot of fish. So for what we
would need to see to make any changes, it would
be that we really feel like over-harvest is
taking place. And what I understand this year,
they are having a good year.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. Okay. Very
good.

COMMISSIONER GUY: May I ask a question, if
I may.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: So it sounds like one of
the problems is just enforcement of limits?

MR. NATHAN SMITH: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER GUY: And it's not an excuse
but, you know, we are kind of limited, but I
don't know what we could do to maybe help out. If you could -- people are reluctant, and I know why, to tell on folks. But self-enforcement, if we can get information about that, at least we can check into those kind of things. We need the public to help enforce our laws and we have to have you. For the 98 percent of the people who abide by the laws, we need you to help us. I mean, I know that is not easy to do, but if you could tell our officer or call in that information, we certainly need to try to enforce limits.

MR. NATHAN SMITH: If your officers will give me their contact information, I can see that that happens.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: After the meeting --

MR. JOHNSON: Or give the District office information.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would meet with Mr. Johnson after the meeting. Thank you, Mr. Smith. Mr. Hartzog, you had one last comment.

MR. HARTZOG: Yes. Just a comment about the local officers. There is a 1-800 Game Watch
that's in effect 24 hours a day. You don't have
to identify yourself. Game Watch is there, it's
a 1-800 number, and you can report any game
violations you want, and it's been there for
years and years and years. So when you see a
violation, call 1-800 Game Watch and report it.
And it didn't sound like to me like a line
problem, but an enforcement problem.

CHAIRMAN MOULTREE: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

MR. NATHAN SMITH: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTREE: The next speaker is Ty
Smith.

MR. TY SMITH: Thank you very much. When I
walked in, I saw all these officers in the back.
I would like to say thank y'all for protecting
our natural resources. We appreciate what you
guys do very much. I would also like to follow
up on Nathan's about crappie fishing, and
particularly Wheeler Lake. I'm an avid crappie
fisherman, I love the crappie species myself. I
probably fish four to five days a week and have
since I was about 15 years old. Seemingly, the
number of fish, crappie, on Elk River in
particular, Wheeler Lake has decreased over the years to a concerning level for myself. I also would love to see a higher size of fish. We are currently at 9 inches. I would love to see it go to 10 or 11, the limit also reduced; it currently is 30. As far as trolling, trolling has really taken off in the last two or three years and gained popularity. You will see folks fishing with as many as 12, 15, sometimes the case may be 20 poles out. You could say well, the limit is 30, you can catch 30 in an hour or you can take all day to catch it, but I do think that with the amount of poles out, it entices the person that's not following the rules to break the rules by being able to catch so many fish in a short period of time. So therefore, I also ask that you review and please bring down the limit on the number of poles. I don't know what the answer is, but maybe some other states, some lakes if you have information on can be helpful to us. But anyway, I please ask that on Wheeler Lake in particular to raise the size limit of the crappie, reduce the creel amount, daily amount,
and also put a limit on the amount of poles that can be used in the method called trolling for crappie. Thank you. Appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Mr. Greene, I know there has been a lot of studies that have been done concerning, you know, the fish population in the Wheeler reservoir as well as the Guntersville Dam reservoir. Has any of these fish studies that are ongoing with Auburn University included crappie?

MR. GREENE: There has been some studies done with crappie. A lot of those were done back in the late 90s. What we found out was crappie populations are -- they are really tied to water levels during the wintertime. So if you have a really wet winter, sometimes you will have a big year class of crappie, so that's one of the things that's kind of hard to manage. And one thing that you would do if you raised the limit, you would have to keep in effect or keep in mind...
that crappie is a short-lived fish. So by raising the limit, you are going to have a lot of fish that would be dying by natural mortality before they would be exposed to fishing and we would rather have anglers catch those fish rather than dying by natural causes. So you have to kind of balance those two out.

MR. JONES: So it's a short life-cycle fish.

MR. GREENE: Yes, sir.

MR. JONES: I guess similar to quail in the way quail would be managed, to put it into a different type of term.

MR. SMITH: Me being a fish guy, I'd have to --

COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I ask just one follow up?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Chris, is there any problem -- I heard the other gentleman say something about a market, maybe that they are selling -- they are putting out a lot of poles and they are catching a lot of fish because they are trying to market those fish commercially. Do
you have any knowledge about that or can you
share with the Board anything? That would be
prohibited, I would assume?

MR. GREENE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER GUY: So again, if somebody has
knowledge of that --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Come to the microphone,
please, and identify yourself again.

MR. TY SMITH: Ty Smith. I agree. On
Wheeler Lake in particular, we have major water
fluctuations. It seems like TVA uses our
reservoir as maybe a holding or released points
and so the water fluctuations are great. A
9-inch crappie, you guys -- most people in this
room fish a lot. A 9-inch crappie is not even
really a harvestable fish, but yet it's legal to
keep. So all I am asking is it can't hurt a
thing to increase the size limit from a 9-inch to
a 10-inch has got to help us. But anyway, thank
you for your comments.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead.

MR. GREENE: I just want to also say that
our section does standardized sampling on
reservoirs on a rotational basis and on Wheeler Reservoir that equates to about every three years. So we are sampling these crappie populations on a regular basis and get information on that from which we provide information for regulations.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: For personal edification, what is the life span of crappie?

MR. GREENE: I would say probably five to six years would be a pretty old crappie.

MR. DOBBS: And how many of those years does it take for them to get to be 9 to 10 inches?

MR. GREENE: It depends on the reservoir. I mean, it's all about nutrient levels, prey availability. There are a lot of different factors. I would say probably a fast growing reservoir, maybe two to three years. And on nutrient poor reservoirs, slower.

MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions? Let's move to a new topic. This is on the fall turkey season. The first speaker is William
Oppenheimer.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Commissioner, gentlemen, my name is William Oppenheimer. At the last meeting, you voted to revoke fall turkey season in the counties which it existed, Clarke, Clay, Covington, Monroe, Randolph, and Talladega. I respectfully request that you gentlemen reconsider your action. Four of the six County Commissions, Talladega, Randolph, Clay, and Monroe, have voted unanimously to request you to restore fall turkey season to its traditional date, the Saturday before Thanksgiving through the 1st of January. Over 300 people have signed petitions requesting the same thing. These same petitioners have offered eight pages of mainly thoughtful comments regarding the tradition of fall turkey hunting. 49 states have spring turkey season and 40 states have fall turkey season. Alabama has among the highest density, even if you count 400,000 turkeys, of any state in the country. And the six counties in which fall turkey season existed have the highest density or among the highest
density of wild turkeys of any counties in Alabama. This is in the map on Mr. Barnett's study of the wild turkey on your website. Mr. Moody confirmed at the last meeting that there was no biological reason to eliminate fall turkey season. There was no reason given for Mr. Hatley's motion. In ten years of transcripts since 2004, not one person has complained about fall turkey season. In fact, there has been no mention of fall turkey season with the exception of Mr. Hartzog a few years ago as for fall turkey season at Fort Rucker. That's the only mention of fall turkey season in ten years aside from Mr. Hatley.

MR. HARTZOG: That's not true.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We will cross that. Mr. Oppenheimer, continue. The Board will address the Chair and Mr. Oppenheimer address the Chair. We will continue after his three minutes. He deserves his three minutes. Mr. Oppenheimer, continue.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: I beg your pardon. It has been stated that it's not fair to have fall
turkey season in six counties. People have complained to this Board over the past ten years about virtually everything, but not one person has ever complained, not one public person has ever complained about fall turkey season. In the studies the Commissioner showed us, it's clear, as Dr. Strickland said, that it's a matter of scale. Fall turkey season represents a drop --

MS. JONES: Time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead and continue since we interrupted you, Mr. Oppenheimer. Go ahead.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fall turkey season, whether the data is skewed a hundred percent, represents a drop in the bucket of the turkeys harvested. It's habitat, it's not harvest that controls the population. 50,000 turkeys are shot in the spring time, maybe a thousand are shot in the fall. So I ask you, gentlemen, please reconsider to restore fall turkey season in its entirety. If you remove fall turkey season, Game Check will not give us any results; we will have no information. But if
we keep fall turkey season, implement Game Check, if there is a problem caused by fall turkey hunters, we will be the first to insist that you make further restrictions. Thank you, gentlemen.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: From the Board -- and I know for a fact I would like to clear up and I'm sure the Board is very anxious to clear up some stuff, but I have in my minutes that I repulled on three separate occasions in the very near past, Mr. Hatley has brought up and spoken about fall turkeys during these advisory boards and I know I have been on the Board over 12 years and many times Mr. Hatley brought it up and talked about it and it was talked about with Commissioner Lawley. I know that because I have those minutes with me. Now to clear that up so we don't want any misinformation, and I think there has been misinformation spread on this issue, and I would like for the Board to have solid, concise data, so that has been brought up.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Sir, may I clarify?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Oppenheimer.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: I was referring to members

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of the public.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: But when you said it had not been brought up at all, I want to clarify for the Board and the public it has been brought up.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir, I agree. What I believe I said is no member of the public.

MR. HATLEY: Negative.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Okay. I do not remember a public member coming myself. I know Mr. Hatley has been very vocal on it. I want to make sure and clarify that point. Now let's go through. Mr. Hartzog, do you have a comment?

MR. HARTZOG: Well, Mr. Oppenheimer called me and asked me why I voted the way I did and I have gone back and done some research and asked some questions and the Commissioner brought it up during his presentation. When we had fall seasons in the past, those counties that had fall seasons had less days in the spring. And so apparently several years back, that went through the cracks and y'all got more days. And Mr. Oppenheimer called and asked one thing and because we had been hounded so much about the
February season and everybody getting the same number of days, one of the reasons I voted for it was because I didn't think it was fair for six counties to get more days than the rest of the State.

So, Mr. Oppenheimer, if you want an extension into the fall, would your six counties and the County Commissioners and your petitioners be in favor of reducing the number of days you got in the fall in the spring? Now I've talked to a lot of the turkey hunters. Since this issue has come up, I've talked with members of the Board, Wild Turkey Federation, and a lot of local turkey hunters and they said, look, spring season is our passion. I mean, so would the spring turkey hunters in those six counties be in favor of losing days in the spring?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Sir, I don't know. I can't speak for them to that extent. But I would say that there is no reason to make a change from the way it's been for the past 50 years.

MR. HARTZOG: Well, no, it hasn't been the same for the last 50 years.
MR. OPPENHEIMER: Last 15.

MR. HARTZOG: Y'all used to get less days.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Okay, the past 15 years or so we have gotten the same number of days. And if there is not a biological reason and if there is not a financial reason and if no one from the public has complained about that fact to this Board, why?

MR. HARTZOG: Again, the reason I just told you was because I don't think it's fair for you to have more days than the people in Mobile County.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir.

MR. HARTZOG: And the other concern I had --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Oppenheimer, I'm going to let Mr. Hartzog continue. Go ahead.

MR. HARTZOG: The other concern I had was since we passed the feeding during the fall was the possible abuse of corn, the deer hunting, for turkey hunting. So those are the two reasons. But, you know, in asking us to reconsider, are you willing to give up days in the spring in order to get your days in the fall? I'm asking
you.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Personally?

MR. HARTZOG: Yes, sir.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Personally, I would give up a day.

MR. HARTZOG: A day. And you want ten days for one day?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir.

MR. HARTZOG: Is that fair?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir.

MR. HARTZOG: You think that's fair?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: May I answer the question?

MR. HARTZOG: Yes.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: I think what would be fair and reasonable would be to expand fall turkey season into other counties. I would suggest, if I may answer your question, that fall turkey season could exist in most of the non-northern tier counties. In other words, in counties that have got substantial populations, because fall turkey hunters hardly harvest any turkeys. I know the data is unreliable, but the trend is clear and the empirical evidence -- and Mr.
Moody, correct me if I am wrong -- Mr. Moody, would you not say that fall turkey hunters only harvest a drop in the bucket of the turkeys harvested?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody, you can answer that. Go ahead.

MR. MOODY: Currently, that's the case.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You say you believe that, Mr. Moody, of the -- state that again. I would like to hear your opinion of that.

MR. MOODY: If I understood the question right, the current harvest has a very small portion of that made up by fall harvest.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: So you believe the survey numbers are fairly accurate then?

MR. MOODY: I think they are reflective of what's going on out there, yes.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley, you raised your hand.

MR. HATLEY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead.

MR. HATLEY: I have a question, Mr. Oppenheimer.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Please speak up, Mr. Hatley, so that I can hear you.

MR. HATLEY: Have you ever attended one of these Board meetings in your life?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Years ago, sir.

MR. HATLEY: How many years ago?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Oh, my goodness, 30 years.

MR. HATLEY: You are quoting --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let him answer, Mr. Hatley. You asked him a question, he deserves to answer the question.

MR. HATLEY: Answer the question.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: I'm sorry, sir.

MR. HATLEY: Answer the question.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: The question is have I ever attended one of these Board meetings?

MR. HATLEY: Yes, sir.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir. Years ago, many years ago, maybe 30 years or 35 years ago.

MR. HATLEY: So how old were you at that time, 15?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: No, sir. I will be 60 years old on August the 16th.
MR. HATLEY: A couple of questions. Do you believe in either sex turkey hunting?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: No, sir.

MR. HATLEY: Then why do you insist on fall turkey hunting?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: I have hunted fall turkeys, sir, for 52 years. I have never killed a hen. And by the way, the Georgia study that was referred to earlier presupposes that the people would kill hens.

MR. HATLEY: You can identify a jake between --

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Absolutely.

MR. HATLEY: Fine. Where do you hunt --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: There will be no other comments from the gallery. Go ahead, Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: Where do you hunt in the state of Alabama?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: I hunt, sir, in Monroe County on the Alabama River.

MR. HATLEY: On the Alabama River?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir.

MR. HATLEY: In your propaganda that you
sent to us, from Monroe County there were two
respondents, two, out of your -- what do you say
to that?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Two respondents?
MR. HATLEY: In your 300 you keep quoting, you had two people that responded from Monroe
County. I hunt in Monroe County.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir. May I --
MR. HATLEY: No.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let him finish, Mr.
Oppenheimer. Go ahead, Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: I'm not through. How many did
you kill this year, how many turkeys?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Sir, he asked --
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's okay. We are
going to go back to that. Let's stay with the
current questioning. Mr. Hatley asked what your
current kill was for the year.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: I killed three gobblers
this year, sir.

MR. HATLEY: Spring or fall?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: I killed two in the fall
and one in the spring.
MR. HATLEY: Do you have your harvest report with you?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: No, sir.

MR. HATLEY: Did you fill it out?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir. The season is over, sir.

MR. HATLEY: Did you fill it out?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir, I did fill it out, but the season is over so it's not required to carry it now.

MR. HATLEY: I didn't ask you to carry it. I just asked you if you filled it out.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: I beg your pardon, Mr. Hatley, I thought you asked me did I have it with me.

MR. HATLEY: It seems like we are not on the same page and evidently we are not on the same page with a lot of your innuendos and statements about this Board. You questioned the integrity of this Board.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: In what way, sir?

MR. HATLEY: In your responses, did you not read what you sent us?
MR. OPPENHEIMER: Sir, I didn't write the responses.

MR. HATLEY: Did you not read what you sent?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir, I did read what I sent you.

MR. HATLEY: Did you not question why someone would question the integrity of this group? You didn't question why your responders said that we did this under the table in the dark of night? Did you not read those things?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir, I did read those things.

MR. HATLEY: Then why did you send them to us? Do you think this Board does not have integrity?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: I think this Board has integrity.

MR. HATLEY: Then why did you make those statements?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: I did not make those statements, sir.

MR. HATLEY: You sent them to us as your representative?
MR. OPPENHEIMER: I forwarded the statements that were made by petitioners. I cannot control and would not dare try to tell someone else what to say.

MR. HATLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have no more questions for this gentleman.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That will be fine.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Mr. Chairman, may I answer one of his questions?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Oppenheimer, go ahead.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: He asked why there were only two respondents from Monroe County. There were many respondents who hunt in Monroe County, but whose residence is listed on the form.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I believe who Mr. Hatley was referring to, if I remember reading the petition in detail, and I think I do, is Mr. Garstecki's comments. I have known Mr. Garstecki a long, long time and that I believe was probably not appropriate. But in knowing Gary, that may be what his comments were. So we did get a better --
MR. OPPENHEIMER: May I apologize for the untoward comments, if any were made, by people that I could not control.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: There was one more comment I wanted to ask you about. I don't believe this is you, but again in attacking this Board and its integrity from a Jay Harris Oppenheimer. Is that any relation?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: That's my son.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: He had written on Tuesday, April 16th to Dr. Lemme and he says in that: From what I can tell, you are the only member of the Conservation Advisory Board with any sense at all and I wish the Board consisted entirely of honorable people like yourself. Now not only in that comment did he accuse this Board of being not honorable and having no sense, he accused the Governor, two Commissioners, and long-time members of this Board. I thought that was -- from the Chair, I believe that's very inappropriate also.

Any other questions from the Board? Mr. Jones.
MR. JONES: Mr. Oppenheimer, of the 300 petitioners, how many of those have a hunting license in the state of Alabama?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Sir, I have no way of checking that, but may I give you an estimate? I would say probably half of the petitioners had a hunting license would be my estimate.

MR. JONES: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: If I could, thank you for your comments. You know, you and I have talked about this and as I told you, I appreciate your comments. I might differ with them, but I appreciate your comments and where you are coming from. I did want to clarify, and I will answer Mr. Jones' question, but I wanted to make sure I understood. This petition, it was just an online posted petition?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER GUY: So I will represent to you I had our staff look at the names and it's not an exact science because there are some duplication of names, but just for your
information even, and I will be glad to show it
to you, we went back and looked and where there
was like a name like Mr. Alexander, there are
several Alexanders, so we gave them the benefit
of the doubt, went through it. And so, Mr.
Jones, what we came up with is there are
approximately 128 with some type of license.
That includes a hunting license, fishing license,
or saltwater license or possibly a HIP or duck
stamp or anything that might indicate they would
have had a license of some kind, so we had 128
that we identified. And again, that's what I was
going to share with you. So the rest could have
been -- there could have been some others on
there -- to be fair with Mr. Oppenheimer, there
could have had been some that were exempt or non-
hunters, you know, people that may have signed up
just because they were a family member or
somebody like that, which I am sure you are
recognizing. There were 19 out-of-state and two
of those had licenses. I am pretty confident in
that because you can check an out-of-state
license much easier.
I just wanted to answer your question, Mr. Jones, and direct that to you.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: May I respond, Mr. Commissioner?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, sir.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: That would agree with my estimate of about half.

COMMISSIONER GUY: And that's what I was letting them know.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's correct. Any other questions for Mr. Oppenheimer? As I told Mr. Oppenheimer last night and this morning, the one thing I do appreciate, and from the start we have requested that people come voice their opinions, approach the Board, and tell us that and from that I appreciate you doing this and opening this subject up, Mr. Oppenheimer.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Oppenheimer, I have one more question from the Chair and from the Board again and you touched on it, but I want to get a concise statement from you. Why do you
believe that -- if we are looking at opening up
fall turkey season again, why do you believe when
the State has a lot of passionate turkey hunters, why do you believe that those six counties should have that right when the other counties don't and we don't have the data to open those counties because we don't know if the population could sustain that, why should you and those six counties have that right?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: May I answer?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I want you to answer it. Go ahead.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Anyone can come to those six counties to hunt. I live in Mobile, I hunt in Monroe County, so it's not restricting fall turkey hunting to just residents of those six counties. But the reason to keep it is in order to measure what effect fall turkey hunting has on the population through improved data collection. And more importantly, frankly, it's a tradition that is keenly felt. And I apologize for my son's comments, if you will attribute them to youthful vigor.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I would agree with that. I appreciate you apologizing for those.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: But fall turkey hunting is unlike spring turkey hunting. There is very little chance of success, but there is every chance of having a fantastic experience in the fall woods and I would invite you gentlemen to try it. I would be happy to take you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you for your comments. The next speaker on this subject will be Mr. Kenny Guy.

MR. KENNY GUY: I appreciate y'all giving me the opportunity to come up here and talk today.

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

MR. KENNY GUY: I'm not real good with microphones. If I lose my voice, I will just give you a written statement; all right. But I talked with Mr. Guy earlier, I don't know if we are cousins or not, but maybe we will make a connection later on.

(Mr. Guy and Commissioner Guy talking at the same time.)
(Audience laughs.)

MR. KENNY GUY: Anyway, my name is Kenny Guy from Childersburg, Talladega County, and I drove up this morning to voice my opposition to the decision this Board made on eliminating fall turkey hunting. I got most of my information out of the Daily Home articles, and one of the publishers -- editors is here today. There was several reasons given for doing it and to me none of them would hold water. One said we are going to unify the season. Well, I believe it was two board meetings before y'all ununified the seasons in deer in the south Alabama deal, if I could use the word ununified. Another one was -- and I did agree with this, y'all are going to be shocked, but I agreed with one of the members, and I forgot what his name was, when he said it's not right for six counties to have fall turkey hunting; it's just not right, and I agree with that 110 percent. What is really right is to allow those counties to keep their fall season and test and analyze and open up fall turkey hunting in every county in this State where the
numbers would justify it. It's simple. I don't know why there has been such a big deal made out of it. The centerpiece of Pilgrim's Thanksgiving dinner was a wild turkey in November. So I don't guess they had any biologists back then, but there are still turkeys around. I guess that does make a difference. And you can go through the pastures and fields in most counties in this state and see a multitude of turkeys out. And I have seen an analysis that estimated between nine and a half and ten turkeys per square mile on average in Alabama which ranks Alabama number one in that. I think Mississippi was number two with about seven, seven and a half turkeys. We have got 30 more percent than Mississippi; they have fall turkey season. To me, if something isn't broke, my daddy never did try to fix it. When it broke down, he tried to fix it, but not before. As an example of economics, I spend $500 every year in Talladega County on a hunting club for the sole purpose of turkey hunting in the fall. If my opportunity is taken away and it won't be --
MS. JONES: Time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead and sum it up.

MR. KENNY GUY: If this decision won't be reversed, I'll take that money and add a little bit more to it and go to the surrounding states and buy their permit, stay in their motels, eat at their restaurants, buy their gas. It's just a two-barrel loss of revenue with people coming in and in-state hunters going out. That's basically it. I would like for Mr. Hatley to ask me a question.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I'm sure that can be accomplished.

MR. KENNY GUY: The same thing he asked about attending the meetings. This is my first one.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We appreciate it.

MR. KENNY GUY: This is my first one. Come on, please.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Guy --

MR. KENNY GUY: I've never had to attend one before because of the radical changes. The boards before us, State Board of Conservation,
has done a tremendous job with getting the
numbers up. I mean, years of turkeys, it's just
unbelievable. And while the number is up here
and before our opportunities to enjoy our natural
resources goes down, it's just --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I think you will find
this Board very concerned about these numbers and
just like during the -- to give you an example of
that, during the last meeting, this Board
questioned why the number of doe harvest in
northeast Alabama radically had to be changed
immediately and the brakes put on it and
everybody, oh, there are plenty of does. And
guess what, there may not be plenty of does.
There is a study out that Director Sykes and I
have looked at that could justify why that
happened and, again, this Board takes that very
seriously. And we don't want to have happen to
turkeys what happened to quail populations. If
you look at turkeys and quail, a turkey isn't
anything but a bird, then we lost that with quail
and we don't want to lose that with turkeys. And
we, in the hay days of turkeys, and I remember,
I'm old enough to remember the hay days of quail, and we want to be extremely careful guarding that resource and that's why this Board is very concerned about that. I don't want anybody to be mistaken. There isn't a personal thing with this Board, it's concerning the resources. But, Mr. Guy, we appreciate you coming to your first meeting and hopefully you will be at a lot more.

MR. KENNY GUY: The reason I never been to one because I never thought I had to. Nothing upsets me very much but that upsets me.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Guy, I want you to answer the same question I asked earlier. Why do you think that you should receive a fall turkey season when the other counties right now cannot have one?

MR. KENNY GUY: Well, see, here again, this Board is looking at the glass half empty. I believe we could keep turkey hunting those six counties and do that, increase to every county that will support it. I am looking at the glass -- I'm calling the population of turkeys in Alabama a glass, is full and overflowing. Let
the people enjoy the natural resources, I mean.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you for your response and thank you for coming today. We have a question from Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: You say you would like it expanded, I want you to know that County Commissions and Sheriff offices and people all over this State for the past 30 years have systemically closed down fall seasons throughout, so I don't think it would be necessarily a welcome back across that because it was purposely set about to be closed down systematically one by one. That's why it's reduced down to six counties. And --

MR. KENNY GUY: Did they give the reasons?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Guy, let Mr. Jones finish.

MR. JONES: There were lot of reasons. It's what the public wanted. And again, that is what everyone wanted; that's been going on for a long time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: I'm going to ask the same
question I asked Mr. Oppenheimer. If we were to agree to give you some fall days back, are you willing to be fair to the rest of the people in the State and give up days in the spring and do you feel like -- the majority of the turkey hunters I talked to, their love is spring turkey season.

MR. KENNY GUY: I love it too.

MR. HARTZOG: How many names would be on the petition -- how many names would be on the petition not to lose their spring days? How many days would you be willing to give up in the spring for you to get fall days?

MR. KENNY GUY: I don't really see a give and take thing really. You know, why should you give up something that the population supports, the population of turkeys supports it. I know used to the season went from March 20th to April 25th. We give up -- we added ten days in the spring and we got six weeks in the fall, five and a half or six weeks.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: A little less than six weeks.
MR. KENNY GUY: Five and a half. Why would you even ask what would I give up. I mean, it's a God given right to go out and harvest. We pay for the -- the hunters and the fishermen pay for this Department. I am telling you the Department of Conservation has done a tremendous job through the years, but why take away privileges now, why even consider swapping out this for that. Those charts, I can't see many people killed over one a year anyway. Is that the way that I was looking at it right?

MR. HARTZOG: But, I mean, in trying to be fair to the other people in the State --

MR. KENNY GUY: Give them turkey hunting.

MR. HARTZOG: We have given them more days as the years have gone by. They have got a longer season now than they had five years ago; right, Gary?

MR. KENNY GUY: Give us more days.

MR. HARTZOG: Well, why don't we just make it 365 days a year.

MR. KENNY GUY: That's the question you asked me, what would I give up. I don't see
where --

MR. HARTZOG: My whole concern is being fair to the rest of the people out there that don't live in the six counties that y'all live in. And, of course, you say they can come in but, you know, in years past, y'all lost days in the spring for having that privilege.

MR. KENNY GUY: Ten days.

MR. HARTZOG: And so --

MR. KENNY GUY: Ten days and gained five and a half weeks. I mean, y'all can look at that. This year the gobbling was over 15 days before the season went out basically.

CHAIRMAN MOULTIERE: Thank you, Mr. Guy. The next speaker will be Sammy Schillaci. Mr. Schillaci. One more time, Mr. Schillaci.

The next speaker will be Johnny Ponder.

MR. PONDER: Thank y'all for letting me come, Commissioner Guy, Board members. Some of you I've talked to, I think, in the last few weeks. Probably some of you have taken me off your Christmas list; I'm not sure. But I've been a turkey hunter all my life, my daddy and my
granddaddy. My granddaddy used to look down on a man that would kill a turkey in the spring because he said it was too easy. But because our hunting culture has changed, it makes it easier to kill a turkey and we want a fast drive-through way to harvest our game now. It's a culture change is what it is. The same principle is behind the ten days given to the six counties or parts of the six counties down in the south because they wanted to hunt in the rut. It's easier to kill a deer in the rut. Am I wrong or right about that? That's the reason for it. So that's the way it was. Traditionally, every county in the state of Alabama had a turkey season in the fall, but they didn't have a spring season; there wasn't a spring season; it was all fall. Now you go to Colbert County, there wasn't any turkeys, but you can go up there and roam around if you wanted to legally. In Clay, Talladega, and Randolph County -- I can't speak much for Monroe, Clarke, and Covington because I don't know a lot about it, but in our three counties, we have a huge amount of public land
that people can come from Henry County and hunt
in if they want to. I cannot go to Henry County
and hunt because I don't know anybody that owns
any land down there. It's public hunting, but
they can come up here and fall turkey hunt and
have the entire Talladega National Forest. A
huge majority of it is in Talladega and Clay
County and some of it goes up into Cleburne
County. Now Cleburne County is another county
that you could possibly do a fall season in
because it's got one of the highest incidences of
turkeys, I think, in the state of Alabama
according to Steve. It's a traditional thing for
me. And another thing about that too, the
tradition, let's talk about that just a second.
I may be older than some of you, but the season
comes in now the Saturday before Thanksgiving.
It used to come in the Friday before
Thanksgiving. Do you know why they changed that?
Because the schools were complaining because too
many people were skipping school to go hunting on
that first day of season, and that's when deer
hunting started to become popular. And, Mr.
Hartzog, that's when they started doing away with the fall seasons systematically through the State because deer hunting became more of what we were doing. Back in my day, we never saw a deer track. If we did, we would all pile in the car and go look at it if somebody was to find one because we had never seen one. It was something we read about in Outdoor Life; that's the way it was. But let me just tell you a little story and then I am going --

MS. JONES: Time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: Very quickly tell the story.

MR. PONDER: There were two brothers. One just graduated from high school and the other was still in grade school. The older of the two got a summer job before he started college. The younger one day asked him, said will you take me fishing tomorrow and the brother looked at him and said sure, when I get in from work tomorrow, I'm going to carry you fishing. So the next day the little boy, he turned over everything in the yard hunting grub worms and everything and picked
up his little 202. He couldn't wait for his brother to get home because they were going fishing. Well, when the brother got home, he ran in the house and he said hey, I'm ready to go fishing. I can't now, I've got to go to my buddy's house and listen to music. Well, the little boy was devastated beyond words. He had planned, planned on going fishing all day. He had his little Zebco 202 and he was ready to go. And I guess the moral of that story is just because something seems unimportant to you, it doesn't mean it's not very important to another group. And me being an 18-year member of the Talladega County Board of Education, I live by that every day with those little kids. And that's kind of the way that I feel like we have been done with the turkey season.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any questions from the Board for Mr. Ponder? No questions. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I have a question.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: And a comment. First of all, I want you to know that I think all of us on
this Board respect individually the fact that y'all want fall turkey season. It's not really a personal issue and I even respect -- there are a lot of traditions that I miss. You know, talking about dove season and how things change. What does happen is the way our public goes about looking at what they want, when they want to do it, how they hunt and all that, is part of what we have to consider. And it's not always a reflection on what we do up here that I feel is on a personal nature that we are trying to look out for the vast majority of the public and what they want, as opposed to unfortunately that affects a few adversely. And it's not -- so I hope you understand that I don't ever see this Board taking action in a way that is meant to harm or hurt anybody else's personal, you know, kind of enjoyments, you know, in what we do. It's not that way. It's not something we want to do, but you have to in certain cases balance those interests for the betterment of the whole hunting public. So I just want you to understand that. And let me say this, so in that regard
what is important too then is when you write
things or people say things, you know -- you
know, it is important that you are careful about
what you say because I don't know one person on
this Board in the two years I have been here that
has had a personal agenda or come to me with
anything. They have always been interested in
what's good for the public, what's good for the
resource, because that is what we have to
balance, what's good for the resource and what's
good for the public. And trying to just do the
best job we can, as long as you understand that,
we can accept your complaints as long as you will
just understand where we are coming from and I
think we can all get along better where there are
not innuendos and insinuations or anything like
that. At least don't say them unless you are
willing to give us the, you know, backup for
saying there are back room deals or there is
something like that. So what's important for
this Board, you know, is for people to come
forward and just tell us what, you know, your
problem is and let us try to evaluate it and then
respond appropriately. We may not agree that's fair, but it should be done in a way that it's not harmful to each other. I mean, I hope you would agree with that.

MR. PONDER: I understand that. I didn't mean to insinuate that y'all were careless people about that. I just meant to tell you that I am trying to show you how important fall turkey season was to me and my family and my kids; it's always been that way. Another reason that the fall season came in on that Friday is because the hunters of those days wanted that turkey for Thanksgiving. They needed it at least a week. I actually saw that written down where they said they would like to have a week before Thanksgiving; and that's when they first started turkey season.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I follow up?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Look, we all understand your passion and the people that have said something. But understand from the Board, that we can look at you as an isolation. But just as
Mr. Hartzog was saying, if we took away days from the spring, what do you think the reaction would be. It would be overwhelming. I can guarantee you that people would be mad at us for taking away spring days. And so we are trying to balance a lot of interests here.

(Mr. Ponder and Commissioner Guy talking at the same time.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Address the Chairman.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Let me ask a question.

On the 25th of April, you wrote an email that basically talked about a meeting that I was in where I was quoted with a bunch of law enforcement. Can you tell me -- there were misrepresentations in that email, wherever you got that information. Could you tell me your source of that information so I can address them personally somewhere because I felt like that they apparently told you some things that weren't true. Can you tell me who the source of that information was from that email you sent me about a meeting where I addressed the law enforcement?

MR. PONDER: Well, I would rather not reveal
COMMISSIONER GUY: Why wouldn't you if --

MR. PONDER: Even though it's not affiliated

with any of y'all.

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: Mr. Ponder, please

address the Chair.

MR. PONDER: I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Why wouldn't you want --

I mean, what is wrong -- I am willing to talk

about anything openly, but if there is a source

out there that felt like they had to go around my

back and tell you and you can't tell me, I am

concerned about that because that's what we are

dealing with right now is misinformation and

stuff. So it seems like to me it's only fair

that whoever told you that should be identified

because it had to be somebody at that meeting, I

assume.

MR. PONDER: If it's untrue --

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: Go ahead and respond,

Mr. Ponder.

MR. PONDER: If that information is untrue,

let's just forget about it.
COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm sorry, I can't forget about it.

MR. PONDER: I will retract the --

COMMISSIONER GUY: You won't tell me who gave you the information?

MR. PONDER: No, sir, I would not do that.

COMMISSIONER GUY: And that's because -- why would you not tell me?

MR. PONDER: Well, I don't think it's fair to who told me.

COMMISSIONER GUY: In what regard? There were 180 officers there. Why wouldn't it be fair? Why wouldn't it be fair?

MR. PONDER: I don't know about the meeting or how many people were there. I am just telling you the person that told me, I am not going to tell you who it is.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Did he ask you not to say who it was?

MR. PONDER: You know, I don't know, but he may have, but I wouldn't have done it anyway.

COMMISSIONER GUY: It affects his credibility and in some respect I hate to say
this, if you are not willing when you make an allegation -- and I respect you, what you are trying to do but you know, carefully what I am saying is there was 180 officers and if that person, whoever it is, can't stand up and man up so I can address the misinformation, then I don't think he is very credible, especially not to stand up publicly.

MR. PONDER: I didn't say it was an officer.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Was it somebody in the meeting?

MR. PONDER: Okay, I tell you what let's do, let's just say that I fabricated the whole email; okay.

CHAIRMAN MOULTIE: Mr. Ponder, I have one last question, unless the Board has any more. As the rest has been asked, why should you have a fall turkey season when others in this State that are just as passionate can't have one in their county?

MR. PONDER: Well, it's been a longer tradition in our county than it has in other counties, even though they had a fall season too
at one time or another; right?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You are answering the question, not me, Mr. Ponder.

MR. PONDER: They had -- why theirs was taken away, whether it's just the Department or whatever was alluded to a while ago, I don't know, but they had one at one time. They are very much welcome. Any of these other counties are welcome to come to the Talladega National Forest land, it's all Federal land, and hunt turkeys in the forest. That's where I hunt. I'm a forest land hunter and always have been.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

We have one more question. Mr. Bunn.

MR. BUNN: I don't have a question. I just want to make a comment and change gears a little bit. I'm an avid turkey hunter myself. Me personally, my personal preference, I can't speak for the rest of the Board, is I think that turkey hunting is a spring sport. And the method that I understand that you use to kill a turkey in the fall is real receptive to kill jakes. Now do you mind telling me the method you use to kill a
turkey and do you agree with me that a jake is more receptive to that method than, say, a mature gobbler?

MR. PONDER: I am going be honest with you, I don't know if I really got a method or not because generally nothing I have ever done that worked, it worked two times in a row. So I can't tell you that I have got a method.

MR. BUNN: I go out, I find a turkey on the roost gobbling, I set up, I try calling the turkey, that's the method I use to kill a turkey. Now do you hunt out of the ground blinds, do you use calls, do you sit on the row, do you hunt over --

MR. PONDER: What I try to do is get out and do a lot of walking and try to bust up a bunch of old gobblers. If y'all think you hear a lot of gobbling in the spring, bust you up a bunch of old two or three year olds and you will hear you some gobbling in the fall. And a lot of people say they don't gobble in the fall, well, they've never fall turkey hunted if they believe that.

MR. BUNN: How do you make them gobble?
MR. PONDER: You don't have to make them gobble. They can take care of that themselves.

MR. BUNN: You know, I've busted up a lot of turkeys on that while I was deer hunting and when I've busted them off the roost, I've never heard them gobble.

MR. PONDER: Are they like old gobblers?

MR. BUNN: Yes.

MR. PONDER: I don't know about your turkey, I haven't figured mine out yet.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you, Mr. Ponder.

MR. PONDER: May I add one last little comment about the story I told?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very quickly get to the end of the story.

MR. PONDER: That little boy was my baby brother and I was the careless one that let him down, so I just wanted to let you know about that.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

The next speaker is Clark Carpenter.

MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Chairman. My
name is Clark Carpenter. I live in Talladega as well. If I seem a little nervous, it's not because I'm addressing you fellows, it's all these game wardens in this room. Usually when I am surrounded by that many, I'm trying to make sure the feed seeds, our seeds -- feed wheat like you guys were talking about. But thank you. I've talked with Gunter and I have talked with you, I believe, and Don on the phone about this matter and I too appear before you to ask you to reconsider --

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

MR. CARPENTER: I guess it's on; right? I usually don't need one. I usually talk loud enough. I too would ask you to reconsider your decision on fall season. Let me say, and I think Gunter will tell you this, Gunter has told me that all you fellows are acting in good faith in what's in the best interest of game management in the State of Alabama, and I don't question that one bit; I accept that. Good faith is the standard. And I appreciate the fact that -- I
come making no accusations about inside dealings or special treatment; I think Gunter will tell you that as well. I have said that to him.

I want to talk to you, though, about the basis of your decision, if I may. Gunter, you were quoted by a fellow, and let me tell you I have been around long enough to know if you get quoted, that doesn't necessarily mean you said it. I don't know this David Rainer fellow, but I hope he quoted you correctly.

COMMISSIONER GUY: He may have; I don't know.

MR. CARPENTER: Because I agree with him 100 percent. You were quoted in the March meeting, I think as saying, we need to have data to support what we do and I hope that's an accurate quote because, gentlemen, that's right. Gunter is absolutely correct, and that should be the policy of any organization that's managing wildlife. No other consideration other than let's do the right thing based upon data. But then I have to be honest with you, I have a hard time squaring that good policy which should be the principle that
guides this Board with what I read and what's been represented to me. And Mr. Hatley quoted it so it must be right about what happened in the March meeting. The motion was made, let's cut out fall turkey hunting period. Do we have a second? Yes, Mr. Jones. Any discussion? Yes, Dr. Lemme. Is there a biological reason to close turkey season during the fall? Answer, Mr. Moody -- and I understand that's your wildlife biologist that you rely on. No. When I read Mr. Hatley's negative, I took it to mean nothing against Mr. Lemme, but that he was agreeing no, there is no biological reason to eliminate fall turkey hunting. And, gentlemen, I can't square those two statements. I can't square we need to have data to support what we do versus let's do this, is there any data to support; no. I can't square those two things. And if you can, I'm all ears. But what if you can't, does that dictate --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. CARPENTER: Then good faith dictates it to be considered enough.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You can sum it up, Mr. Carpenter.

MR. CARPENTER: To say to us fellows, you are right, we want to act on data and we acted without data, so we are going to reconsider this and see if we can't maximize hunting in Alabama everywhere we can to the extent that we can and do that. And, Mr. Martin, you are new to this Board, you are our District man, I am on your side. But I have got to tell you in a short period of time, you've sure got a lot of people frustrated and mad at you, and I really don't think that's fair because I don't think you really knew that you were really aware of these things in your District or that there was a lot of opposition to it. But I am asking you as our representative to make a motion to reinstate the fall season and let this Board have an opportunity to say okay, we've proved we are in good faith and you are right, Clark, it's a fact we didn't have the right data. We'll get the right data.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Carpenter, we are
going to sum it up right there. Does the Board have any questions for Mr. Carpenter?

I've got one question for Mr. Carpenter and then the final question that everybody had. I understand that the Commissioner had asked you if he could try to ask the Board to get you part of your days back around those traditional days to fall turkey hunt, would you be acceptable to that and that your answer was that you came back and said no, you would rather not have it, that you would rather proceed without those days or get it all back; would that be correct?

MR. CARPENTER: Not exactly. He asked me to check the temperatures, so to speak, because I know a lot of the old boys. I checked around and it was a real negative response and I told him, I said, you know, as a matter of fact, I don't think that's the right way to go either. Here is why. Grady, I know you from somewhere. I've seen you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: Would you address the Chairman.

MR. CARPENTER: I know your Board member,
Mr. Grady, from somewhere. I think he and I went to school together or something. It's not a matter of what we give you and what we don't give you. It's not a matter of fairness to other counties. It's this, we have got a great resource here. We are going to manage it best on data and based on that data we are going to open up as much as we can to as many people as we can. We are not going to worry about who is happy because they don't have it. Let me tell you something, I don't want you to make this decision because we are up here raising cain. That wouldn't be right. That's not doing your job. I don't want you to make this decision based upon what some people whine about it being fair. That's not the basis for your decision. The basis for your decision is let's manage this turkey population so that we can open it up to as many people, as many places as often as possible, and at the same time make sure that we are not hurting the resource. Now I cannot figure out one way if you don't have turkey hunting in any fall county, how in the world are you going to
collect data to decide whether or not fall turkey hunting hurts spring turkey hunting. What are you going to compare it to? How are you going to compare counties that do that and don't have it? That makes no sense to me. And I know y'all want to, I know you are trying.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's a good point you bring. And in closing, again the same question, why would you be in favor of your county having a fall season when other counties with passionate turkey hunters cannot?

MR. CARPENTER: First of all, it's not my county and it's not only the residents of my county that can hunt. It's six counties that this article that was put up here a while ago pointed out our turkey population -- and I wrote it down because I read the last sentence of the excerpt that you gave us -- shows an overall population growth in Alabama. These counties have plenty of turkeys and therefore let's let people hunt in those counties and as the data justifies it, let's open it up to other counties or as the data doesn't justify it or militates
the history, let's close it in one of those counties or two of those six counties, but not arbitrarily say no more fall turkey hunting without any doubt.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I agree with your comment and I want to speak for the Board. The Board has gotten a lot of information they have conveyed to me during this past month of turkey populations. I think a lot of them went to the public to find out what they thought turkey populations were. There is a great concern of turkey populations and it seems to be in the southern half of the State right now, Mr. Carpenter. I know myself, not counting what the rest of the Board surveyed, I called who I believe is the largest landowner in Marengo County, Mr. Walter Tutt, and asked Walter what he thought. He said it was by far and away the worst season they have had. I said was that due to the late spring, he said absolutely not. He said places where we used to see turkey tracks in the road, he said now all you see is hog tracks, and their families can't truthfully say -- he
said he thought there was far less turkey hunting in the State. They didn't kill one turkey off that tract this year and he believes the problem is hogs destroying the turkeys' nests.

I have talked to Director Sykes about getting some data about hog and turkey interaction to study exactly what you said, let's get some data and find out because we are interested and this Board is interested to make sure the resource was substantiated by harvest and let's find out if there truly is a decline in turkey population in these counties and look at all of them. I'd like all y'all's answers to the question. I think they bear relevance to this situation. But let's be sensitive, let's not have happen to turkeys what happened to quail also. And in that not only from Mr. Tutt, I talked to Sumter County, there seems be large tracts. I talked to the owners of a 10,000-acre tract that said turkeys, where we used to be one of the best tracts in the State, were non-existent right now. So I want the Board, and the Board is going to make this decision, but I
want the Board to look at all these facts, then I
want to look at these guys, please, and for what
we bring forth, I and the Commissioner
appreciates negatively the misinformation that
was put out there, but sometimes in the heated
moment, that happens; we understand that. But I
assure you this Board is very concerned about
this topic and it's going to review it very
carefully today. We appreciate all y'all coming
and all y'all speaking on that.

Now is there any other comment?

Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Clark. I know
how tough it is as an attorney for you to stand
up there. I know you want your time. I just
want to say this. I understand that there is
also -- there is a lot of reasons -- we discussed
-- it's multi-faceted, it's not just one, and I
think you realize that. But understand that when
we say there is data, there are some of us who,
not necessarily saying that data is just totally
bad, but there is a debate about the reliability
of the data particularly on a county-by-county
basis. So I just want to be sure on what when
you say well, there is no data to support taking
it away or whatever, I am just telling you and I
believe there is a reasonable debate that you can
say, as we say in our business, about that
amongst many people on the Board as well as in
the Department and otherwise about that. Again,
trying to use the tools we have and improve on
those, which we are trying to do for the public
through all kinds of different things, game
cameras, you know, we didn't used to have
surveys. I just want to say when you say that
there is no data, I'm just saying I don't
necessarily agree with that.

    MR. CARPENTER: I --

    CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Carpenter --

    MR. CARPENTER: He is addressing me. Why
can't I address him?

    (Talking at the same time.)

    COMMISSIONER GUY: All I'm saying is that
Gary and I have had this discussion. It's a fair
discussion that I should have with my staff, I
think --
MR. CARPENTER: Absolutely.

COMMISSIONER GUY: -- is to reasonably
debate these issues to make sure it's not a
reflection on us disagreeing, but just having the
same debate that I would think you would want me
to have as a taxpayer to make sure that I think
and the Board knows that we are doing the right
thing. When you say that, just please understand
the context of that where we say do we think
there is data. Some do, some don't, there is
reasonable debate on that.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Carpenter, any
comments?

MR. CARPENTER: I was going by the fact that
your own Wildlife biologist when asked the
question is there any biological reason to remove
the fall turkey season, turns to this Board who
employs him and I assume relies upon him and he
says no. And you give us this survey, and I
think it's very good and agree. By the way, I'm
all for Game Check.

COMMISSIONER GUY: You said that, thank you.

MR. CARPENTER: I think it's very good. I
would challenge somebody to show me anything in that survey data that you have that calls for taking turkey season away in the fall from these six counties when the idea is to maximize it. Now everybody has an opinion; hogs is true; bad years is true; drought is true. I can't leave here without telling you my opinion why you have got reduced population in some counties. It's decoys. Y'all never should have done that. There is a lot of, lot of, lot of, lot of turkeys killed on decoys that I'll never kill. If I had been there that day without decoy, he wouldn't have gotten killed. But everybody's got an opinion and that's mine. But I mean, you've got two percent of the total turkeys are killed in the fall based upon that 1,100 versus 47, 48. How in the world with two percent ever -- the statement made was it might get you to have a 60 percent effect in the spring. How is 2 in 100 turkeys killed in a year, killed in the fall, have any chance of having a 60 percent effect on turkey hunting in the spring. It can't be.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Carpenter, thank you
for your comments. The next speaker will be Paul Farmer.

MR. FARMER: My name is Paul Farmer. I'm from Shelby County, Alabama and I'm here about small game hunting. I noticed that everybody here today is pretty much about turkey hunting. I would like to see this reconsideration of all this stuff going on about extending the deer season go any further than where it's at. All of us at the Alabama Dog Hunters Association have been going around to all of our groups and trying to get the small game hunters involved in our groups to give them somewhere to go small game hunting now. You know, times are getting tough and they just ain't got no place to hunt. But maybe it can stay down there and then as they were saying, the data, up here where I live at, our bucks are rutting way before deer season ever goes out, so we kill our does too so we don't have to worry about that. We don't have an over achieve of doe problems. I would just like to see more and more stuff done about solving the issues with dog hunting period, whether it's
rabbit hunting, dog deer hunting, coon hunting, 
hog hunting. You know, us guys, we just love to 
hear dogs run. It don't matter what it is, we 
just want to hear them run. And I would like to 
see y'all think more about the way to get us back 
into the hunting. License sales would go way 
back up. I've got a group of guys I know right 
now that would go back to buying licenses if they 
could go back to running dogs. Once they were 
doing away with all the dog hunting, they just 
said to heck with it, they would just quit. 
That's all I had to say today. Appreciate it. 

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much. 
The next speaker is John Ward. If everybody can 
hang in there, we are going to make it through 
our speakers and then we will take a break. 

Go ahead, Mr. Ward. 

MR. WARD: Good morning, I know you have a 
rough time, but maybe God will be with you. I 
want to speak on our Dog Hunting Association. I 
know Don does a good job. I hear a lot of the 
people working with him, I am working with him in 
different counties. We want more dogs open up,
you know. And with our young youth being on the street, I used to be a narcotic agent in Texas and I have seen a lot of kids messed up on drugs. And also, you know, to keep these kids occupied by hunting, they are not going to have time to get in trouble. We had a good youth hunt last year. I hope we have a good one this year and I hope we have a good year. Bucks and picket go in the rut earlier a lot of places around and it goes out, but really all I say is to be fair, be equal, don't give in and don't give up. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much. The next speaker is Jim Dye.

MR. DYE: Good morning. My name is Jim Dye. I live in Leeds, Alabama, hunt in Greene County. I would like to reference an article in the 2011-2012 Hunting and Fishing Digest. Are you doing your part to protect and ensure the future of Alabama, the hunting heritage of Alabama. I have to ask that question over. When it comes to dog hunting, that's my heritage and my group's heritage. A lot of people go way back to years
and years to dog hunting, whether it's deer
hunting, rabbit hunting, you know, we like to
hear our dogs run like John Ward just said. And
I have to ask that question. We want to keep
doing what we are doing, we want to do it
legally, we don't want to offend anybody else,
but we do want to keep our hunting the way it is.
And it will bring more people in.
My children like to hunt. Very far in the
distant future when I have grandchildren, I want
them to be able to go with me. I want to take
them dog hunting, want to show them that, what my
heritage was.

In reference to the southwest Alabama, ten
days of dog hunting have been taken away from
that area with an extension and I ask if there is
a way to find out how to get those ten days given
back to that area for dog hunting -- you know,
it's already a shorter season anyway, but there
is ten days there that these people in that area
that lease lands and put money into that area to
dog hunt on their hunting club, they have lost
that ten days of dog hunting. Mr. Hartzog asked
the question about, you know, is it fair to give
turkey hunters, you know, in the fall, is it
fair. Well, is it fair for those people there
that's paid money to hunt in that area to lose
their ten days; is it fair? I want to see the
heritage continue. I'd like the Board to
consider anything they can in that period. Thank
you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Do you stalk hunt after
the season is over?

MR. DYE: Very little; very, very little. I
do take my children. They get bored with it
pretty quick; they are young. Like I said, we do
go just because, you know, an opportunity to
harvest the deer, take advantage of it. I do
very little stalk hunting.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Dye.

Any other questions? Mr. Bunn.

MR. BUNN: You hunt in Greene County; right?

MR. DYE: Yes.

MR. BUNN: So this doesn't affect you?

MR. DYE: It doesn't affect me right now.
I'm just really speaking on behalf of the Dog Association.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, sir. The next speaker is Susan Morrow.

MS. MORROW: Commissioner Guy, Chairman, Members of the Board, I'm Susan Morrow. I'm from Mobile, Alabama. With the loss of the ten dog days in the southwest area and the season being short six days, that's going to be a total of sixteen days of dog hunting that we are going to lose. And we have 37 management areas in this State. We are allowed to dog hunt on four of them and two of them December 1st falls on Boykin and Blue Springs and I ask that you consider moving that date for the dog deer hunters so that we don't lose that on the management area. Also, I would like to ask y'all to look at on the Scotch Management area to cut back on the does that are being taken there because when we go there, we are not seeing the deer that we have been seeing. And when we turn our dogs loose, it's taking 45 minutes to an hour to jump. They are hearing a lot of cutting and so to a lot of
our hunters, we are thinking about not going there because there are too many does being taken there. And also I would like y'all to consider the hog hunting to open up the management area because we have several that already have special hunts for hogs. We would just like to please be able to bring the dogs in and take care of the hog problems there.

And also I would like to ask the question, I don't know this answer so I would like to ask, is there a law in Alabama that only allows us to deer hunt so many days a year? Mr. Dodd?

MR. DODD: No.

CHAIRMAN MOURTRIE: Go ahead, Ms. Morrow.

MS. MORROW: I'm in deer mode right now; okay. So I don't know that question and can somebody answer that for me, please.

CHAIRMAN MOURTRIE: Mr. Dodd.

MR. DODD: No, there is no law that restricts. Those seasons are set on an annual basis by the Commissioner.

CHAIRMAN MOURTRIE: Ms. Morrow.

MS. MORROW: Thank y'all so much. Please
consider my dates.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Commissioner Guy.

COMMISSIONER GUY: But there is a reason we have to set season and bag limits, you understand, for deer and every other species because biologically we have to look at those issues. What I want to know is you mentioned -- how many Wildlife Management areas do we allow dog hunting on?

MS. MORROW: Four.

COMMISSIONER GUY: How many are in the zone that we have extended the season? Any?

MS. MORROW: Three.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Three of them are in that zone; is that right, Gary? Have you talked to Mr. Moody or Ray or anything about what we might could do on the WMAs more this year? Have you had an opportunity to talk with them?

MS. MORROW: No, sir, I haven't.

COMMISSIONER GUY: We don't need to go into it now, but I would like for you to get with them and then I'm sure I will talk to them and understand if there are other opportunities on
some WMAs, which I think I mentioned to you at
the last meeting that we need to look at. So I
appreciate you bringing that up again. Thank
you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Morrow.

One more question. Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Question, Susan. You were
talking about extending in the hogs, will the
same dogs that you run deer with run the hogs?

MS. MORROW: No, sir. You have bait dogs,
you have catch dogs, and they are usually
catahoula curs or bull dogs. And all the hog
hunters that I know, their dogs don't do anything
but the hogs. They will bait them and catch them
and that's all they want and it will cut down on
the hog population, I promise you that.

MR. HARTZOG: You know, in hearing the
concerns on the turkeys for hog degradation and
all and in order to compensate since southwest
Alabama is the area where you said we've got
three management areas that y'all hunt something
-- and we will discuss it later in maybe new
business -- but something maybe for them to think
about is after the February 10th, give them, since they have lost ten days, give them ten days of hog hunting on those WMAs; I mean, as a possibility. And that will be doing us a favor getting rid of the hogs.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Morrow.

MS. MORROW: Thank y'all.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Next speak is Don Knight.

MR. KNIGHT: Good morning. My name is Don Knight. I live in Anniston, I hunt in Barbour County, and I'm State President of Alabama Dog Hunters Association. The first thing I would like to say is, Commissioner, you are right in one thing you said a while ago about in the heat of a lot of things that have been going on between the Advisory Board and myself and a lot of other people that are here, a lot of things have been said in the heat that's pretty tough and we need to try to cut those out, work together as we have in the past, and make things go on. We need to do what's good, not what's bad. And I want to bring a little something to
you. We get a lot of bad publicity and stuff from a dog running across somebody's land; we understand that. But I want to tell you about a meeting we had Saturday, we had a big fish fry down at Stockton. Susan and the group did a magnificent job. We had 400 people come in and sign our book that were there. They didn't all stay, but they came and went. We had 200 new members join our Association on this one day; that's fantastic. We had enough fish to feed a thousand people, I believe, but I am so proud of our organization and our association. When the meeting was over, they took that fish, some of the local people knew where there were some needy people, families that needed fish, and we went out and gave those people the fish that was left over. So I want you to understand the dog hunters also want to try to do what's good. That's why we have been trying to get our counties to make our image better. People are still living in the past. 15, 18, 20 years ago, people used to beg us to come in with our dogs and kill every deer we seen on their property
because it was killing their crops. Nowadays they think there's a profit in it and it's not as popular. We understand that and we are trying to work to make things where we can keep it going because it is a heritage, been around forever. I had a couple of things. One of them is, Dan, Commissioner, when y'all do your hunting survey, Dan you mentioned to it before, I would like to have a place on that survey in the counties where deer hunting by dogs is allowed to place how many deer we kill. I think you will find on the basis of equal numbers, that the dog hunters kill a lot more deer than standard still hunters.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You're talking about on Game Check, Don?

MR. KNIGHT: Yes, I'm talking about on Game Check. If we could put that on there somewhere in the counties where it is accepted to see how many deer we do kill, I think it would be interesting data to maybe help us in the future or maybe help us get some places open with the permit system that had been closed down. It may be profit, it may get more people back in
hunting, and that's what we are looking for. One
other thing --

MS. JONES: Time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead and sum it up.

MR. KNIGHT: One thing I wanted to be clear
with this Board, I sent y'all a form on some
information about the conception dates on deer.
Back before the last meeting, I sent each member
one and I hope you got it. There seems to be
some question as to that being written up
favorable in my area. It's not meant that way.
I want you, if you will, I want to ask you to
take the report I sent you, get the report on
conception date up through 2012, look at what I
put on there, and make your own judgment; okay.
Look at what I put on there, read my comments
because I don't want this Board to ever think I
am doing anything wrong or construing anything
unfavorable or favorable for me. I've stood
before you too many years and got a whole lot of
folks on this Board and everywhere. And
understand when I tell them something it's a
fact. And sometimes I can't -- as we heard
recently, I still can't get the backup on those facts and I hate that and I won't accept any more information unless we get those facts as to who backs them up and all. We can tell you we won't do that. But that's all I have got to say.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Knight.

Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Don, you told me some good news this morning that you didn't relate to the group about what the Dog Hunters Association was going to do to try to help small game hunters.

MR. KNIGHT: We are promoting our organizations. We've got four new chapters down in southwest Alabama just last Saturday that opened up. And what we are trying to promote with our organization is for our dog deer hunters to bring the rabbit hunters in, let them hunt during the week when we've got the land, I will let them hunt on our land down there after our season goes out in Barbour County. We want to take the responsibility of giving our small game hunters more opportunity to hunt on our land.

MR. HARTZOG: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Knight. The next speaker is Chris Hill.

MR. HILL: I'm Chris Hill from Franklin County. I believe y'all had a letter handed to each one of y'all from the Sheriff of Franklin County about the dog hunting in Franklin County. We would just like -- the dog hunters in Franklin County ask that we be given a possibility of a permit system or whatever for Franklin County for dog hunting, even if it's just in part of the county, the west end of the county. There is a lot of land in the west end of the county suitable for dog hunting and a lot of good clubs and a lot of good members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much. Okay. The last speaker will be Paul Jeffreys.

MR. JEFFREYS: Chairman, Commissioner, thank you for allowing me speak. I'm Paul Jeffreys. I'm from Lamar County in the northwest section of the State. I have been coming to these meetings for a long time and I think the only two that's left is Mr. Hatley and Mr. Moultrie. I think y'all -- when I started, y'all were on the Board.
I see a lot of new faces. Y'all have my sympathy because I look at y'all as y'all are judges and being in the legal field, you can tell me that a judge has to make a decision. And when he makes that decision, he has got both sides there and somebody is going to get upset about it. But that being said, I want to thank you for the decisions that you have made because it seems as though you are basing it on the biology and the statistics that you are getting from the biologists in the Department. We came to y'all in our county, Lamar County, we came to y'all several years ago, my son who is 13 now had just been born, so that's when we started asking y'all for help in our section of the State. You gave us help. It has been a wonderful, wonderful experience, has improved everything, and I just want to ask y'all to maintain our seasons and bag limits in our section of the State as they are. Don't change anything. It's great. We are enjoying better seasons. We are enjoying better hunting. The wildlife populations are great. And just being the last speaker, I want to thank
y'all for what you have done and ask y'all to keep up the good work. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Jeffreys. The Board will now take a recess and we will convene back at 12:30 promptly. Thank you.

(Recess.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If everybody would take their seats, we will reconvene. The next order of business will be old business. I will start with some open issues I show from the last meeting. We had a turtle harvest regulation that has Wildlife and Fisheries materials on this, Raymond Jones question. Director Sykes.

MR. SYKES: At the request of Mr. Jones, looking into Mr. Harbin and Ms. Harbin's request for being able to trap breeder turtles, our staff, both Enforcement and Wildlife, looked into it. We have come up with a permit system that we feel that is very fair. It's in all of y'all's package. What needs to be done, if y'all approve of the permit, Mr. Jones, I assume you need to make a motion because we will have to amend one of the regulations.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any more questions from the Board? Mr. Jones? Very good. Thank you, Director. The next one is Mr. Dobbs. You asked about the discussion of a vanity tag. Any other further discussion on or recommendations?

MR. DOBBS: No motions today, Mr. Chairman, but it's certainly something that over the period of the next few months we are going to explore with Dr. Moody and Director Sykes about how we can bring this to fruition.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good, Mr. Dobbs. Dr. Lemme, anything else on the dove hunting and agricultural planting? I think you went over it thoroughly, but anything else?

DR. LEMME: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions from the Board on that? We appreciate your work on that.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I just as an addendum?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Just to make sure -- maybe we did say it, it's been a long day
already. This is posted online; right?

DR. LEMME: Yes. It's available online through the ACES website and there is a hundred copies out in the other room for pickup.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I just ask? It's kind of hard sometimes to get through that website. What is it under for the people that want to go look, if you don't mind.

DR. LEMME: Why don't I also -- I will work with our staff so it gets cross listed so it can be accessible on your website.

COMMISSIONER GUY: That would be awesome.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's on our website in two different places.

COMMISSIONER GUY: The new stuff is?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Is it just a link?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: outdooralabama.com/hunting.

COMMISSIONER GUY: But is there a link for like dove hunting on there specifically? We will work on that. We will work on that and make sure we get it.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: One question for Dr. Lemme. Is this final? You made a comment about the fact that NFWS was going to review it, talk to them. You are going to?

COMMISSIONER GUY: I made the comment the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will -- my understanding is they go by what the Extension Office puts out. What we did as a courtesy is we sent that to them just so they would know there had been some changes and I am just working with them to see if there are any comments. If there are comments, as I told Dr. Lemme and staff, I will let them know. All the enforcement and everybody will know. We will share that with the Board. We are hopeful that they will just say we got it. And then I am trying to just work to make sure, again, that we can start promoting dove hunting, legal dove hunting, but something that everybody understands what they can and can't do.

MR. DOBBS: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Lemme.
DR. LEMME: What Commissioner Guy and I are trying to do is to make sure the enforcement group from both the State Division and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife have the same understanding in Alabama.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's excellent. Very good. The next order of old business and, Mr. Martin, I think you wanted to bring forth a motion on the fall turkey season.

MR. MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would read that.

MR. MARTIN: I make a motion to approve fall turkey season for the counties of Clarke, Clay, Covington, Monroe, Randolph, and Talladega for 2013-2014 hunting year as follows: November 23rd through November 30th, December 21st through January 1st, 2014 and further to approve similar dates for those counties for the 2014-15 hunting year, the exact dates which will be approved by the Advisory Board at a later date. The above season for fall turkey hunting will be subject to review on a yearly basis based on data received by the Game Check system and other available
information.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a second?

DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We've got a motion and a second. Discussion on the topic? Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Thanks, Dan. I just want to say that for the Board to consider this, that everybody does have a passion for what they love and I appreciate, as I told Mr. Oppenheimer and the others, that they have a passion for what they love, and while we often disagree on how we get to places, you know, what we do need to do is continue to talk in this thing. And I think that this is a good compromise in the short term understanding, as I have explained to them that, you know, as we get data, we can share that data, we will go over that data, and we will try to do what's right. One of the reasons that I have looked at this and thought it was a good idea is because it really concentrates on the traditional times when the children and other family members can be available, which is around Thanksgiving holidays, and the Christmas holidays, all the way
through the end of the year. And while I realize that probably the ones that spoke do not believe that's enough days, we have also talked to some others, and I'm not representing any names that, you know, acquiesced it, it's fair, may not like it but it's fair as a starting point to try to get to where we are. And for those on the Board that have some concern, I am just asking that considering that it is a small number of -- you know, the information as it exists is a small number, that it's a reasonable request to at least give back some days and let's see where we can go forward.

So anyway, I just appreciate everybody's attention to that and I appreciate everybody's concern, as I said earlier, and how much the Board wants to know about these things and makes good decisions and I just want to acknowledge that again.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. Any other comments? The motion as read by Mr. Martin just now to approve the following fall turkey seasons for the counties of Clarke, Clay, Covington,
Monroe, Randolph, and Talladega for the 2013-14 hunting years as follows: November 23rd through November 30th and December 21st through January 1st, 2014. Further to approve similar dates of those counties for the 2014-15 hunting year, the exact dates of which will be approved by the Advisory Board at a later date. The above season for fall turkey hunting shall be subject to review on a yearly basis based on data received through the Game Check system and other available information. All those for the motion, raise your hand? We have Mr. Ainsworth for, Mr. Martin for, Mr. Hartzog for, Mr. Dobbs for, Dr. Lemme for. All those against? Let the record show Mr. Hatley against, Dr. Strickland against, Mr. Bunn against, and Raymond Jones against. The motion carries and passes.

Mr. Martin, I think you had one more motion you wanted to make.

MR. MARTIN: The Conservation Advisory Board members --

CHAIRMAN MOULTY: Speak up, Jeff.

MR. MARTIN: I would like to make a motion
that the Conservation Advisory Board members representing the six counties of Clarke, Clay, Covington, Monroe, Randolph, and Talladega and the Commissioner of Conservation shall upon request be committed to meeting with citizens in those counties during the coming 2014 hunting year for the purpose of giving further input on the subject of fall turkey hunting season in future years in those counties.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Do we have a second?

MR. AINSWORTH: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion, Commissioner, on that.

COMMISSIONER GUY: No. I think that it is important as we continue and we have been starting out with deer and I think we need to do it with turkeys. We need to just try to have meetings and we will do it with everybody. We have a lot of user groups out there to the extent we can try to get around the State and particularly here since we got this issue and meet with some folks. I am making a commitment on behalf of myself and the Governor and
everybody else that we are willing to do that so we can receive input. And not only on fall but on spring so, you know, that we balance those interests and we understand what everybody wants and how we do that. So I would like to see this motion pass so I can make sure those people know we are committed to go out there and do that.

And by the way, it not only says me and those representatives, but we welcome anybody else that would be willing to come down there and hear the conversation too. So I just thought the motion could be more or less restricted to me and the people from the representative counties.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We got a motion and a second. Discussion is finished. The motion stated again: The Conservation Advisory Board members representing the six counties of Clarke, Clay, Covington, Monroe, Randolph, and Talladega and the Commissioner of Conservation shall upon request be committed to meeting with citizens in those counties during the coming 2013-2014 hunting year for the purpose of getting further input on the subject of fall turkey hunting.
seasons in future years in those counties. All those in favor, raise your hand. All opposed? Let the record show all for except Mr. Hatley, one opposed. Motion carries.

All right. Any other old business?

MR. JONES: Do we need to make the turtle motion now or in new business?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You can make it now.

MR. JONES: Thank you, sir. I would like to make a motion to approve the recommended proposed regulation by the Department to permit a licensed turtle farmer to trap turtles for breeding purposes.

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

(Seconded by two Board members.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? The motion as Mr. Jones has read it, all those in favor, raise your hand. All opposed? Let the record show that the motion passes unanimously. Any other motions? Any other business?

(Discussion held.)
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a written motion or do we just need to say as presented by Game and Fish or Dr. Lemme? If the Board will stand at ease until we get a motion.

Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: I would like to make a motion, Mr. Chairman, it shall be unlawful to hunt mourning or white-winged doves over fields that are planted or prepared outside of or contrary to the recognized practices or methods prescribed by the most recent Alabama Cooperative Extension Service Publication.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Do we have a second? We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? No discussion. The motion being voted on as read by Dr. Strickland, all those in favor, raise your hand. All opposed? Let the record show that the motion passes unanimously.

DR. LEMME: Let it be noted that I abstained.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Please note in the record Dr. Lemme abstained from the voting. Any other old business?

MR. HARTZOG: I still think there is a lot of confusion on Game Check. I talked to Chuck not long ago about the possibility of having within our cities each by Districts within two or three of the major cities within each District putting on a little seminar or presentation like at the Chamber of Commerce or a school building or whatever going over because it's still an awful lot of people -- you know, I say something to them about Game Check and they still scratch their head and say what's what. So, you know, the more public information we can get out there, and it's not really in the form of a motion, but maybe challenge the Department to take an extra effort to get that information out through publications, but also through public meetings, you know, and each District to handle that. Chuck.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Director Sykes.

MR. SYKES: We are currently looking at a PR
campaign where we will be addressing this because you are right, a lot of people don't know, so we are going to be looking to do a PR campaign to advise people of all the new rules and regulation changes including Game Check, area definition, southwest deer zone, and the new dove regulations. So that's something we are going to be working on. And the Town Hall meetings like we went to in Ashford, if y'all's Districts line them up, I don't have a problem at all with coming and talking and answering questions.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. How did the test run during turkey season of Game Check go? Is there any report on that so far?

MR. SYKES: We haven't talked to Mary Beth and Alabama Interactive since it was over with, but during the process we regulated it, met several times on it, and everything was moving very smoothly.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: That's a good question. We did do a test run and we have worked out kinks and we think we have worked out all the kinks.
And getting back as a means of addressing this, we are keeping it simple at the beginning. And Mr. Knight's, you know, request about include some information there, ultimately that would be good and I think when we get the Game Check established, we could go to some extra questions if we feel necessary, but we could also address those questions in the mail survey, which I don't see that we will discontinue; we will just still do that. But so far we think we have worked out the kinks in the Game Check. You know, the technology is there, we believe we have got it down. So to answer your question, we think we will be ready and we have talked about a lot of different public relation efforts, radio possibly is a good one, we think, and the local counties and stuff, meeting with people. So we have been talking about that. We welcome anybody's input. If they have some specific input, they can either direct it to myself or to Chuck or any of the other gentlemen within our Department.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I think I know a morning show that would be more than happy -- would be
well received to present that.

COMMISSIONER GUY: We would really like that.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other new business? Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: One other point concerning the crappie issue. When will the study you said you did that's like every three years --

MR. GREENE: I will have to look and see when the next study year is. I think it may be coming up in 2013 or 2014. I will have to double check on that.

MR. HARTZOG: If you would, why don't you send all the Board members a copy of your report.

MR. GREENE: Those reports are actually put online once they have gone through review.

MR. HARTZOG: A lot of times you will specifically mail those.

MR. GREENE: We can do that.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other issues at hand that need to be talked about by the Board? Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: Very possibly we have discussed
this in past years. Opening up some additional
days in the management areas for hog hunting and
opening up some management areas that
traditionally didn't have those days for hog
hunting where they were prominent.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I think, and the Board
has acknowledged, as we've heard throughout the
entire meeting, that hogs are continuing to be
the probably, if not the single most concerning
point in our conservation efforts in watching
their growing and the damage they do and the
damage they possibly are doing to the turkey
population. I think that's a great comment and I
think we need to open it up any time we can with
hogs. And if that can be further looked at and
studied, I would applaud that. That's an
excellent point.

Any other comments? With that being said,
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 has not
been set, but probably it will be at the Capitol
as it generally is with most. The date hasn't
been set, but we will probably try to have it at the Capitol and then further meetings throughout the State as we normally do.

Being there is no further business, this meeting is adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.)
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Celeste O. Riddle, RMR, RPR, CCR, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting on May 4, 2013.

The foregoing 166 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.

Done this 12th day of September 2013.

/s/ Celeste O. Riddle

ABCR #127 - Expires 9-30-14