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**STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE AUDITORIUM
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
May 19, 2018**

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Proceedings taken before Tracye
Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR
No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama
at Large, at the Alabama Fire College Auditorium,
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on Saturday, May 19, 2018,
commencing at approximately 8:58 a.m.

* * * * *

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

2 Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr., Chairman
Commissioner Christopher M. Blankenship
3 Commissioner John McMillan
Dr. Gary Lemme
4 Mr. Jeff Martin
Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
5 Mr. Grady Hartzog
Mr. Patrick Cagle
6 Mr. Ben C. Stimpson, Jr.
Mr. Gary Wolfe
7 Ms. Jessica Butler
Mr. Greg Barksdale
8 Mr. Brock Jones

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13 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: It's about time, and
14 everybody is here and settled in. So
15 let's bring this meeting of the
16 Conservation Advisory Board for the
17 Department of Conservation and Natural
18 Resources, May the 19th, 2018, to order.

19 First this morning, to all of our
20 sportsmen and sportspeople here, welcome
21 to the Fire College. We appreciate this
22 venue. It's very nice. We've been
23 talking about that. And I'd like to

1 thank David Thornburg and his staff --
2 he's the director -- for the use of the
3 auditorium and these facilities.

4 Thank you very much, David. Thank
5 you very, very much. We appreciate it.
6 It's wonderful.

7 To everybody that's attending today,
8 thank you. We've got a lot to get done.
9 We only have seven speakers. Our last
10 meeting in Montgomery went well thanks
11 to everybody that was there and was
12 considerate of our speakers, of the
13 attendees, and our board. So let's have
14 a great meeting today.

15 Let me take a moment to thank Tim
16 Gothard and the Alabama Wildlife
17 Federation for his and the Federation's
18 help. They have provided venues and
19 meals and meeting locations and all
20 kinds of support for activities and
21 programs, and we appreciate that.

22 Also, today Commissioner John
23 McMillan, our commissioner of

1 Agriculture -- this is his last meeting
2 with us. He's been here since he was
3 elected. We're going to miss his
4 counsel and his wisdom.

5 And would you like to come up here
6 and say something?

7 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Thanks a lot. It is
8 good to be with y'all. I thought -- it
9 looks like our crowd might be off a
10 little bit. I guess that royal wedding
11 has interfered with the hunters and
12 fishermen today. My wife has been
13 sitting on the end of the bed since
14 about 5:30 watching all that stuff. The
15 horses are sure pretty. I can tell you
16 that. I love watching pretty horses.

17 I just want to take a minute, and
18 I'm not going to say anything that
19 probably everybody here doesn't know.
20 But we are fortunate and we're blessed
21 in Alabama with our resources, but we
22 also are blessed with the professionals
23 that we have managing our resources --

1 attempting to manage our resources. And
2 that's one of the things -- there were a
3 couple of things I walked away from
4 being conservation commissioner with. I
5 firmly felt after being there a few
6 years that we've got the professionals
7 that know how to manage fish and
8 wildlife. It's when you throw the human
9 beings in there that you start having
10 such a problem. And that's a real
11 challenge to this board as well.

12 We also are blessed to have a great
13 Conservation Advisory Board. But that's
14 the thing that, I think, most impressed
15 me is the ability that our scientists
16 and our biologists and our professionals
17 have to do these things if we can just
18 all pull together behind them and help
19 them to do it.

20 One of the things I was thinking
21 about last night from my tenure as
22 commissioner, we had a heck of a dog
23 problem. Dogs were a problem, good

1 gracious. But you know what it was?
2 And, I mean, dog hunting with deer
3 wasn't even -- that never even came up.
4 It was dogs and trapping that we
5 struggled with back then. Big deal.
6 Trapping was a big deal. And there
7 wasn't a single meeting that we didn't
8 have a lot of trappers there and usually
9 at odds with the dog hunters. So that's
10 a problem.

11 It just shows you the challenges.
12 And that's one of the things that these
13 professionals are having to deal with --
14 and we all have to deal with it one way
15 or another -- is the changes in
16 technology. It's just absolutely
17 unbelievable what's happening with
18 technology. And in my opinion we're
19 just on the very fringes of that. What
20 if somebody had told us back in that day
21 that -- and it hadn't been that many
22 years ago -- that we'd be able to put
23 collars on dogs and GPS technology would

1 be there to just -- just that part of
2 the deal.

3 And we hadn't seen anything yet.
4 We're just starting to scratch the
5 surface with artificial technology and
6 things like that that are going to be
7 changing everything we all do from our
8 jobs to our businesses to whatever.

9 But the only thing -- thought that I
10 would really like to leave with y'all is
11 for everybody here. It is so important
12 that we try to be fair and balanced not
13 only with what our personal passion
14 might be but also in working and letting
15 our staff and our professionals at the
16 Department do their job and supporting
17 them. And there's one overriding reason
18 we all better remember how important
19 that is, and that is that there's not a
20 one of us here that can't get singled
21 out for whatever our interests might be.
22 And if we ever start isolating ourselves
23 in different sectors, then we're going

1 to see the end of all of it. Because we
2 are -- I think all of you would agree
3 with me that we're in a real minority
4 with the interests that we have. And if
5 we're going to be able to manage our
6 natural resources of all kinds, it's
7 going to take all of us pulling
8 together.

9 Thank you-all so much. I can't tell
10 you how much I've really enjoyed the
11 opportunity to get back and be involved
12 with the Department and the affairs of
13 the Department and game and fish in all
14 of its forms and everything to do with
15 it. And the only commitment I make to
16 you is that I'll be around one way or
17 another in the future and look forward
18 to having some sort of continuing
19 relationship. Thank you so much.

20 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Commissioner.

21 Good luck going forward.

22 If I can now, I would like to ask
23 Mr. Tim Gothard to please give the

1 invocation for us. If everybody would
2 bow their heads.

3 MR. GOTHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Lord, first I want to just thank you
5 for the wildlife, the forests, the fish
6 and waters and soils that you've blessed
7 us with here in Alabama. Lord, we have
8 a great responsibility to be great
9 stewards of those gifts and the pursuits
10 that go along with us enjoying our
11 outdoor passions. Lord, I thank you for
12 everybody here that is passionate about
13 all of those things, this group that
14 sits before us that weighs and makes
15 decisions on how we strike that balance
16 between use and management and
17 protection of those resources that
18 you've given us. I just ask you to be
19 with us and guide us to make good
20 decisions. In Thy Son's name, Amen.

21 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you. And, Commissioner
22 McMillan, will you lead us in the
23 Pledge, please.

1 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Yes, sir. Let's all
2 stand and face the flag.

3 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

4 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you.

5 Something that we've read that's
6 been on the big board is the Sportsmen's
7 Pledge. There's one in your seat.
8 Please take those home with you. It's
9 something that we're going to refer to
10 at every meeting. Today I've asked
11 Mr. Raymond Jones, our board member, to
12 read the Sportmen's Pledge. In the
13 future, for all of us, we'll try to read
14 it together, and let's adopt it as a
15 promise to our resource. It's as good
16 today as it was in 1908.

17 Mr. Jones.

18 MR. RAYMOND JONES: Thank you.

19 Since the state in its sovereign
20 capacity occupies the attitude of
21 guardian and custodian of the people's
22 welfare, it is therefore the duty of the
23 state by enactment of appropriate

1 legislation to endeavor to extend
2 adequate protection to those resources
3 in which the people have collectively a
4 natural right. Wise and discreet
5 individuals who feel no inclination to
6 make assaults on nature's storehouse
7 should have their rights protected by
8 the enactment of strong laws to restrain
9 the hands of the wanton and the reckless
10 whose vandalism would annihilate every
11 visible thing of fin, fur, or feather to
12 gratify their savage instincts.

13 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you very, very much.
14 Thank you very much. That was
15 wonderful.

16 I have one other person I would like
17 to introduce. There's a gentleman here
18 today that interacts with the Department
19 from time to time, Mr. Eddie Maxwell.

20 Mr. Maxwell, this is our board.
21 That's Mr. Maxwell there second behind
22 Nick and Fred just so y'all will know
23 Eddie in the future.

1 So, Mr. Secretary, do we have a
2 quorum today?

3 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: We do.

4 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Very good.

5 The minutes -- I assume that
6 everybody has read the minutes. Are
7 there any changes or additions to our
8 minutes?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: No changes and no additions.

11 With that, we'll approve the minutes,
12 and those stand approved. And you and I
13 both have signed them.

14 So next will be the introduction of
15 our board members. I think we'll start
16 with Mr. Martin at the far end. If he
17 will just tell us his name and his
18 district, please.

19 MR. MARTIN: Jeff Martin, District 3.

20 MR. WOLFE: Gary Wolfe, District 1.

21 MR. STIMPSON: Ben Stimpson, District 1.

22 DR. LEMME: Gary Lemme, Director of the
23 Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

1 MS. BUTLER: Jessica Butler, District 5.

2 MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, District 2.

3 MR. BARKSDALE: Greg Barksdale, District 4.

4 MR. RAYMOND JONES: Raymond Jones,

5 Congressional District 5.

6 MR. BROCK JONES: Brock Jones, District 7.

7 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: John McMillan,

8 Commissioner of Agriculture and

9 Industries.

10 MR. CAGLE: Patrick Cagle, District 2.

11 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Chris Blankenship,

12 Commissioner of Conservation.

13 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, District 6.

14 Thanks, everybody. And now we've

15 got the Commissioner's report.

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Good to see

17 everybody here this morning. I don't

18 have much to report between the last

19 meeting and this meeting.

20 The legislature has finished their

21 legislative session since we met last.

22 There were not very many bills that

23 dealt with the Department of

1 Conservation. We did have one bill that
2 repealed deputy game wardens that passed
3 that related to the Department.

4 And there was also a bill passed at
5 the request of the oyster aquaculture
6 industry in south Alabama to establish
7 an oyster aquaculture permit and change
8 some of the tagging laws to make it
9 easier for them in the business and make
10 them more efficient and be able to
11 operate better to help that industry
12 grow. I'm thankful to say that that
13 passed with the support of
14 Representative David Sessions from south
15 Alabama really helping to shepherd that
16 through the House to get that done.

17 We've had a lot of events that have
18 taken place over the last few months.
19 One of the most encouraging from the
20 Department's standpoint is that we have
21 finished a revision to our plan for
22 chronic-wasting disease and our
23 surveillance and response plan for what

1 we would do -- what we're doing now to
2 detect CWD if it was to come into our
3 state and what we would do in response
4 to it if it is discovered here.

5 There's a lot of great work by Keith
6 and other people in the Wildlife section
7 along with our Enforcement section and
8 our Legal staff and Chuck to do all the
9 research and look at what's happening
10 around the country and for us to put a
11 plan together that takes the best and
12 most relevant science to ensure that we
13 as a state are ready, one, to keep it
14 out of our state and, two, that we are
15 ready to respond in the unfortunate case
16 that CWD is discovered here.

17 So we have that on our website if
18 you would like to go see that response
19 plan. It's available on the site to see
20 those things that would take place in
21 the unfortunate event.

22 But we had a great meeting with
23 various stakeholders. I've only

1 received positive feedback from all of
2 the different stakeholder groups that
3 participated in our meeting where we
4 made that public. And so I think that
5 that's a good sign.

6 They have CWD in Wisconsin. And
7 there's a lot of things that we have in
8 our plan that we're going to do strictly
9 if we do have that that in Wisconsin
10 they're just doing now several years
11 after CWD was discovered there. And,
12 really, I think their lack of attention
13 has caused that to spread further in
14 their state than it would have had they
15 taken the action that we have included
16 in our plan that we're ready to do if we
17 need to do that.

18 So, Mr. Chairman, with that, that's
19 my report.

20 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you very much. Well
21 done.

22 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Joey?

23 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Yes, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Excuse me. While
2 we're on that, our lab equipment and
3 technician have been certified by USDA.
4 So the Auburn Diagnostic Lab is testing.

5 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: And Commissioner McMillan is
6 referring to a machine that can test up
7 to 90 samples a day --

8 Is that correct?

9 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: I believe that's
10 right.

11 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: -- of tissue from deer. It's
12 housed at Auburn. As he said, now it's
13 certified. So we're going to use it
14 quite a bit. We're very proud to have
15 that machine.

16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: In the past we've
17 been dependent upon some other states.
18 As we've taken samples, we'd send those
19 off to Iowa or Ohio or some of the other
20 places that have a lab. There's a
21 little bit of a delay in getting those
22 samples back, and we're dependent on
23 other people.

1 Partnered with the Department of
2 Agriculture, Commissioner McMillan, we
3 helped purchase some equipment to place
4 into their lab so that now we are
5 totally self-contained in Alabama. We
6 don't have to wait on anybody or depend
7 on anybody else. We take our samples.
8 We can have those tested at the
9 Department of Agriculture lab in Auburn
10 and get those results back, and that
11 will really ensure that we're able to
12 respond as quickly as possible.

13 And I appreciate the partnership
14 with the Department of Agriculture. And
15 through this process we really have
16 partnered with the Alabama Department of
17 Public Health and Alabama Department of
18 Environmental Management to make sure
19 that we're all coordinating with each
20 other so that we have a very robust plan
21 and that it takes into account all of
22 those agencies and what they all do to
23 help the public. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Very good. Thank you,
2 Commissioner.

3 Our next item of business on the
4 agenda, sticking to the agenda -- we
5 have no special orders that I'm aware
6 of. So we move to the public comments
7 section of our meeting. Today we have
8 seven speakers.

9 We have a "ready" chair. We have
10 all that set up, but I -- I just say
11 let's roll. So I'm going to call the
12 first speaker, and that's who will come
13 up and begin; and when he's finished, I
14 will call the second speaker.

15 I'd ask you today, please, as we
16 have in the past, respect the speaker,
17 respect the board, hold your applause if
18 you have any, and let these folks finish
19 because there may be comments or
20 questions that come from the board.

21 And to the speakers, please direct
22 your comments or asks to the Chair.
23 That's me. And I will direct you to the

1 right person or to the board member.
2 And the same thing to the board. Direct
3 your comments to the Chair.

4 So with that, our first speaker
5 today is Brandon Jackson from Cullman,
6 Alabama.

7 MR. JACKSON: Good morning. I appreciate the
8 Department. I agree with Mr. McMillan
9 that we have a lot of wonderful
10 resources, and I think that we have a
11 lot of people who care about them and
12 want to use them to the best of our
13 ability. And I appreciate your care for
14 those things.

15 I'm here to talk about the trout
16 fishing below Smith Lake Dam on the
17 Sipsey Fork of the Black Warrior River.
18 You should have a copy of a letter from
19 the Walker County Commission about this
20 resource and their acknowledgement of
21 how important it is to the county. It
22 also says that the commission recognizes
23 this unique fishery is beneficial to the

1 attraction for our county.

2 It is -- in order to promote this
3 opportunity further, we would request
4 that DCNR utilize all avenues to meet
5 the desires of the various angler groups
6 as well as helping to increase the
7 potential of attracting tourism to the
8 stream.

9 There are a couple of things that I
10 would ask that you consider. One is a
11 single-rod use regulation for the trout
12 stream, especially from the 69 bridge up
13 to the dam, in order to help alleviate
14 any limitation to access from other
15 anglers. It's a regulation that's
16 similar to those used by Arkansas,
17 Georgia, Tennessee, and other states on
18 their trout fisheries.

19 Also to consider the establishment
20 of a quality zone for conventional and
21 fly anglers to increase their confidence
22 in the opportunity to catch a trout in
23 Alabama, which is significant since

1 there's one year-round trout stream, and
2 to help alleviate the conflict between
3 user groups that the Department
4 recognized in their creel survey results
5 in order to help with those issues.

6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you.

7 Are there any questions from the
8 board?

9 MR. CAGLE: Mr. Chairman?

10 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Mr. Cagle.

11 MR. CAGLE: My question is for Mr. Nichols.

12 Mr. Nichols, do we expect to have
13 the results from the study that Auburn
14 is currently conducting on the Sipsey
15 River fishery in the near --

16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: You have to get closer.

17 There you go.

18 (Brief interruption.)

19 MR. CAGLE: Do we expect to have the results
20 from that study by our next board
21 meeting early next spring?

22 MR. NICHOLS: We would expect to have the
23 report around the first of the calendar

1 year. We did have some discussions with
2 the principal investigator, Dr. Steve
3 Sammons, about a week or so ago. We may
4 extend the study for a few months to get
5 us more data, but what we can do is ask
6 for a preliminary report to provide a
7 synopsis of the data for the first two
8 years of the study and provide it to the
9 board at that time.

10 MR. CAGLE: Yeah, that would be great. Thank
11 you.

12 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: The next speaker is Michael
13 Key from Walker County.

14 MR. KEY: Hello, everyone. My name is Michael
15 Key. I'm a lifelong resident of
16 Alabama. I am owner of Sipsey Fork
17 Outfitters, LLC. And it is a fish and
18 wildlife management, habitat
19 stabilization and enhancement company.
20 I happen to be lucky, blessed by God, to
21 be an inventor of a patented H2O
22 animal-tracking device. And I'm a
23 veteran and acting ADC trapper.

1 Now, concerning the trout on our
2 Sipsey Tailrace, it is established and
3 developed as a put-and-take recreational
4 fishery. And as far as problems with
5 people using more than one fishing rod,
6 it's really ludicrous because --
7 especially that it takes two to three
8 times more area to fly-fish with one fly
9 rod than it does to spin-cast with
10 multiple rods.

11 Now, I'm a fly fisherman. I love to
12 fly-fish, but some people don't. And
13 let's just use this for example. As far
14 as it taking up too much shoreline for
15 people using multiple rods, when a
16 commercial guide or guides, when they
17 send more than one guide -- doesn't
18 matter -- comes up with multiple
19 clients -- and, like I said, y'all, if
20 you've ever fly-fished, you know it
21 takes a lot of room, a lot of area to be
22 clear and to successfully fly-fish. So
23 it's really not reasonable to limit

1 anyone in the way that they would like
2 to fish for these trout it being the
3 put-and-take fishery that it is designed
4 and developed to be.

5 Now, our quality zone has been
6 established for decades. I remember
7 when Smith Dam was built. I'll be 70 --
8 people tell me I don't look it, but I
9 tell them the reason I don't look it is
10 because I was born at a very early age.

11 So our quality zone isn't new. And
12 if these people don't want to come in --
13 and they can fish like they want to. We
14 don't try to limit them on how they
15 fish, but we have an obligation -- and I
16 won't get into it because Chief Nichols
17 and the study will verify most of it
18 when we get it.

19 But a lot of these fish are being --
20 we're not getting them back. And
21 they're just either being preyed on by
22 predator fish, they're dying or whatever
23 reason. We're fixing to find out, thank

1 goodness.

2 And we feel like that Alabama
3 anglers are sharing people and will help
4 others --

5 MS. JONES: Time.

6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Please finish.

7 MR. KEY: Yes. Thank you.

8 I'm just saying that this conflict
9 is brought in by commercial interests.
10 This conflict was never there. And
11 these different user groups, I don't
12 know who these other user groups are. I
13 would like to know. And it appears that
14 we need to stop commercial fishing on
15 the Sipsey Fork where it is a
16 recreational area.

17 And don't believe everything that I
18 say or someone else says. You'll find
19 it to be very, very beneficial to
20 fact-check on some of these half-truths
21 and things that are just outright not
22 true.

23 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you. Thank you. We

1 appreciate you coming and taking your
2 time.

3 MR. KEY: Thank you so much.

4 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Any questions from the board?

5 Mr. Hartzog.

6 MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman, I just have one
7 question of Mr. Michael.

8 How many commercial guides are there
9 on the river?

10 MR. KEY: I don't know. Honestly, I don't
11 know. But I do know that me and my
12 son -- I don't want to brag on him.
13 We're pretty good guides. We don't
14 guide anymore. But we were -- we're ADC
15 trappers, animal damage control. And I
16 know that some of the entities had
17 thought about contacting my son because
18 they were so loaded up that they had run
19 out of guides. So that's the only
20 reason I know that.

21 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Any other questions?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you very much.

1 MR. KEY: Thank you, sir.

2 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you for your time.

3 Our next speaker will be speaking on
4 trapping and trapping seasons, Mr. Steve
5 Phillips from Tuscaloosa.

6 MR. STEVE PHILLIPS: I'm Steve Phillips out of
7 Tuscaloosa. I own West Alabama Wildlife
8 Removal. I'm also a board member of the
9 Alabama Trappers & Predator Control
10 Association. I've been handling
11 wildlife, trapping for 47 years.

12 My issue on this one today is I'd
13 like to see the non-resident fur buyer's
14 license maybe come down. It's now
15 running \$500 to purchase \$15,000 worth
16 of fur. We're not getting no buyers
17 coming into this state. One of the
18 largest companies in North America is
19 swinging through the Carolinas into
20 Georgia and then crossing over into
21 Mississippi buying furs. They're
22 avoiding us.

23 We now have trappers that are trying

1 to fight coyotes and beavers and coons.
2 They're throwing these animals in the
3 ditches because they have no way to
4 market them. We don't have no fur
5 buyers in the state of Alabama. Every
6 now and then somebody will pop up, but
7 they don't stay in business long.

8 This is probably -- this is really
9 an old outdated law. It was basically
10 wrote years ago to kind of slow trappers
11 down, and now we're throwing millions of
12 dollars' worth of fur in the ditches
13 over the years. Because these guys now,
14 they're coming here and they don't know
15 what to do with this stuff. They call
16 me constantly wanting to know what can I
17 do with the animals I'm trapping,
18 because they're doing predator control
19 or beaver control.

20 You got to go to Kosciusko,
21 Mississippi, that's got a state fur
22 sale. New Pittsburgh and two or three
23 other places in Tennessee got fur sales.

1 These big companies are coming in the
2 South now looking for beaver pelts for
3 the hatter market to make cowboy hats.
4 Like I say, they're avoiding Alabama
5 like the plague.

6 This here where Alabama thought they
7 would benefit by a \$500 license, we're
8 literally losing money. We're throwing
9 it in the ditches. When I move fur and
10 I -- in the winter I like to -- I do
11 this year-round, coyote and beaver
12 control, but in winter I will skin. A
13 lot of times I have to haul it to
14 Illinois. I have to haul it to
15 Mississippi, to Tennessee. I get a
16 hotel room. I eat there. That's
17 revenue they're getting.

18 The same thing is happening to other
19 trappers in this state when they're
20 going out of state. What few are
21 keeping pelts are generating revenue for
22 the states they're having to go to if it
23 ain't nothing but McDonald's. Still,

1 we're losing all the way around. \$500
2 to buy \$15,000 worth of fur, we haven't
3 gained one penny on this. They're
4 avoiding us. They're not going to come
5 in the state.

6 We would like to see it get down to
7 \$125 or so for the fur buyers to come
8 into this state and buy fur. Actually,
9 I would love to see it compete against
10 Mississippi, Tennessee, and Georgia
11 and --

12 MS. JONES: Time.

13 MR. STEVE PHILLIPS: -- encourage people to
14 come into our state and sell fur to
15 these out-of-state buyers, meeting in
16 this state and let them spend the night
17 in Alabama, let them buy at Hardee's in
18 Alabama. You know what I'm saying.

19 We're losing money on this, and it's
20 really -- I don't see where it would be
21 that hard of an issue to change just to
22 try to get these buyers. Because I've
23 talked to them. They're willing to come

1 here. They're not going to pay that.

2 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Phillips.

3 MR. STEVE PHILLIPS: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Stay up there. There are
5 some questions. Hold on. Questions
6 from the board.

7 Mr. Jones.

8 MR. BROCK JONES: Steve, obviously it's going
9 to help y'all out being able to sell
10 these furs. How would you -- would that
11 change your cost to your clients?

12 In other words, you're going to
13 benefit by selling the furs. Are you
14 going to share the benefit with the
15 people you trap for financially?

16 MR. STEVE PHILLIPS: When you could get \$200
17 for an otter pelt, hell, I don't mind
18 coming on your land and trapping me a
19 \$200 otter.

20 MR. BROCK JONES: But, I mean, what I'm saying
21 is --

22 (Multiple speakers.)

23 MR. STEVE PHILLIPS: And right now -- the

1 markets are like stock markets. They're
2 up and down, up and down. Right now
3 they're dirt cheap. And they're so
4 cheap that a lot of these trappers
5 are -- hobby trappers are not going
6 to -- they can't afford to ship, you
7 know, at the high cost of shipping furs.
8 A lot of them don't how to put furs up,
9 dry them, tan them, you know, dry them
10 and get them ready to sell and ship to
11 the auction houses in Canada. They
12 can't do it. All they know how to do is
13 skin it and sell it green.

14 MR. BROCK JONES: That's good. That's all I
15 needed to know.

16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Hold on. Just one thing.

17 To recap that, what you're saying,
18 then, is that because of the \$500 fee
19 that the fur buyers have to buy that
20 license, they're not coming to the state
21 of Alabama and you don't have an outlet
22 for your furs unless you ship them
23 processed to Canada generally?

1 MR. STEVE PHILLIPS: Yes, sir. Right now I
2 have to manage to meet up with North
3 American Fur Auctions. They got
4 shipping agents in the lower 48 out of
5 Canada.

6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: I understand. I just wanted
7 to make sure that we all understand what
8 you're asking. Thank you.

9 I'm sorry. Mr. Hartzog.

10 MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman. Not a question of
11 Mr. Steve. But how many \$500 licenses
12 do we actually issue in a year's time?
13 Do we know?

14 MR. GAULDIN: Not sure on that. I mean, we
15 could pull it up and look, Grady, but --
16 (Multiple speakers.)

17 MR. HARTZOG: I mean, if it's not a major
18 income producer and it would help them,
19 I would like the Department to look at
20 the possibility of lowering that license
21 fee because nuisance-trapping beavers,
22 whatever, is a benefit to everybody
23 trapping-wise, you know. And so if it's

1 not a major revenue producer for the
2 Department, I would like to see maybe
3 looking at lowering that license fee so
4 we can maybe get some increased trapping
5 to improve the quality -- you know, get
6 rid of coons and coyotes and beavers
7 that cause detriment to our other
8 wildlife species.

9 MR. STEVE PHILLIPS: As far as I know one
10 outfit probably gets an out-of-state
11 license, and that's North American Fur
12 Auctions out of Canada will travel down
13 and pick up -- they got shipping agents
14 in the -- over in Mississippi is the
15 closest ones -- may come into -- you
16 know, they do come into Alabama, I
17 think, and pick up furs. At one time we
18 were driving to central Illinois just to
19 get rid of ours.

20 But, like I say, these younger guys,
21 these hobby trappers -- we can't
22 encourage young people to get into this
23 hobby because they have no outlet. You

1 know, a 15-, 16-year-old kid is not
2 going to haul butt to Illinois with 12
3 coon hides, you know. It's just a loss
4 all the way around for the state of
5 Alabama.

6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Phillips.

7 Mr. Hartzog.

8 MR. HARTZOG: Could we have the Department
9 give us a report on comparable prices
10 with other states at the next meeting
11 and the possibility of lowering that
12 price for the ...

13 MR. STEVE PHILLIPS: Like I say, I would smoke
14 them other states and make them trappers
15 come over here. I would. I go to their
16 state. I spend money in their state.

17 MR. HARTZOG: Economies of scale. Sell it for
18 less.

19 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you.

20 Our next speaker is Shawn Phillips
21 from Tuscaloosa.

22 MR. SHAWN PHILLIPS: Yeah. And I'm his boy.
23 So I ain't going to spend long on

1 describing myself. But it's Shawn
2 Phillips. I own Down South Trappers and
3 West Alabama Wildlife Services, both.
4 I'm going to go over three topics to the
5 board real quick. I'm going to cover it
6 real quick, and I'm going to leave it up
7 to the board to come back at me and ask
8 questions.

9 The first one on the packet that I
10 gave you is permit to pen fur-bearing
11 animals for collection of urine.
12 Presently we're having -- urine is the
13 number-one resource that we use outside
14 of the trap in trapping. What we're
15 running into now -- because in the '80s
16 and the '90s the market dropped down so
17 low that the producers -- the people
18 that's been producing this for years are
19 now retired. There was not people my
20 age to pick up the slack.

21 We are having a very difficult time
22 gaining quality urine in the state of
23 Alabama. I'm having to get it out of

1 South Dakota. Half of what we're
2 getting is diluted. It's got feces in
3 it. It's got food in it. It smells
4 like sewage. That's a turnoff to an
5 animal rather than an attractant to an
6 animal.

7 What I'm proposing is to get a
8 permit to where Alabama ADC men like
9 myself have the ability to pen up
10 fur-bearing animals; coyotes, bobcats,
11 foxes, and things of that nature.

12 I've laid out -- I've got in the
13 back of the pamphlet I gave you -- I
14 gave out the very -- the set of rules
15 that South Dakota uses, their
16 guidelines. They actually have to
17 import and quarantine animals from
18 outside of the state. My recommendation
19 would let us -- the animals that are in
20 the state, let us pen them up. As far
21 as diseases, if the animal is already in
22 the state, we're not importing diseases
23 into the state.

1 I've dispatched tens of thousands of
2 predators between me and my dad. I wake
3 up killing coyotes. I go to bed
4 skinning coyotes. It's -- I'm not
5 worried about that aspect. I'm worried
6 about being able to catch that animal.

7 I also have a bait and lure company.
8 I provide for a lot of the Southeast. I
9 provide the baits and lures for other
10 people to do the same thing that we're
11 doing. The only thing that I cannot
12 provide them people is urine.

13 I've got the pen requirements and
14 all the regulations that some of the
15 other states -- Mississippi -- there's
16 not even a permit in Mississippi to pen
17 these animals up, but in Alabama it's
18 illegal for us to do it. That's number
19 one.

20 Skip number two. Number two was
21 what Dad just told you just then.

22 We'll go to three. I know I'm going
23 to hit some resistance on three, but I

1 do agree with Mr. McMillan.

2 Technology has come a long way. Dog
3 hunters and trappers have a bad past. I
4 realize that. I'm a dog guy and a
5 trapper. But what I'm proposing is that
6 in the summertime -- we hit a lot of
7 issues during the summertime. A lot of
8 the states surrounding us, cables,
9 snares, they're legal. I'm not asking
10 to legalize lethal snares. What we
11 would like to see only on private
12 land -- fences, livestock, whatever --
13 to protect the landowner's private
14 investment is to have a nonlethal cable
15 restraint legalized in the state of
16 Alabama.

17 I've got how to go about doing it
18 laid out in the writing. Basically have
19 a deer stop that doesn't catch
20 non-target animals. Cable restraints
21 are used by most -- in the majority of
22 states they're legal, and a lot of the
23 state officials, like the wardens that

1 are relocating animals --

2 MS. JONES: Time.

3 MR. SHAWN PHILLIPS: -- they use them.

4 There's nothing wrong with them.

5 Last, real quick -- and this is off
6 the wall a little bit. But the ability
7 to purchase a GPS -- a permit to put a
8 GPS collar on fur-bearing species. Why
9 you ask? I can catch a coyote in the
10 state of Alabama right now and I can
11 kill it. Well, the male will continue
12 to raise that litter of pups and
13 regurgitate and you did nothing but kill
14 one coyote.

15 I can get a GPS collar, click it on
16 that female and let her go for two days,
17 find the den, kill the alpha male, kill
18 the female, kill the whole litter of
19 pups and get my GPS collar back. Right
20 now the only people able to put a collar
21 on is college kids. I'm more qualified
22 than a college kid to put a GPS collar
23 on a coyote and take care of it. That's

1 it.

2 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you.

3 Any questions or comments from the
4 board?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you very much,

7 Mr. Phillips. Very informative.

8 Our next speaker speaking about dog
9 deer hunting in support of same is
10 Mr. Don Knight from Calhoun County,
11 Alabama.

12 MR. KNIGHT: Good morning, all. I'm Don

13 Knight from Anniston, Alabama. I'm a
14 director in the Alabama Hunting Dog
15 Alliance.

16 Last time -- well, first off, let me
17 tell you, Ms. Susan is not here today.
18 I know you all know her. Her husband
19 had a serious heart attack, and she's at
20 the hospital with him. This happened
21 about a week ago, and he's still in bad
22 shape. But he's getting better. So I
23 just wanted you to know why she wasn't

1 here. She'll be back.

2 But I spoke to you last time about
3 the Constitution and the right to hunt
4 by traditional method. I also want you
5 to understand the first commercial -- I
6 guess you'd call it -- that Kay Ivey put
7 out was how she wanted to protect the
8 Constitution of Alabama. And I agree
9 with her wholeheartedly on that, and
10 that's what we want to do.

11 I spoke to you on the Constitution
12 saying we had the right to hunt by
13 traditional methods and under reasonable
14 rules and those rules will be satisfied
15 by the legislature due to the Alabama
16 Administrative Procedures Act.

17 All right. If you go another step
18 or two down another line or two, it says
19 the preferred method of maintaining the
20 populations of deer, fish, whatever --
21 game and fish should be the people --
22 the people of the state. They're
23 supposed to be the first line, the way I

1 read it, to take care of these
2 population problems in Alabama.

3 And I find when it comes to hog
4 hunting -- you know, I understand we've
5 been doing some trapping in the state --
6 well, some of the management areas. I
7 would like to say that it seems to me
8 like since the people are the preferred
9 method, they should have first
10 opportunity in these management areas to
11 go in and hog hunt and get these hogs
12 out.

13 There's no reason -- and don't
14 misunderstand me. Trapping is a great
15 way to get rid of these hogs, and I
16 think it very much needs to be used.
17 But there's no reason the hog hunters
18 and the trappers can't work together.
19 If you've got one management area that
20 you need to run dogs in to kill those
21 hogs and you have another one open that
22 they would be trapping in, then reverse
23 them. When you reverse them, those dogs

1 get the remainder of the hogs where they
2 were trapping.

3 I think it's a super good way to
4 work together with people, get our dog
5 hunting going, and it's a lot cheaper
6 for the state, I assure you, to run the
7 dogs in there and get the hogs out than
8 it is to trap. Because trapping is very
9 expensive. It's very good but very
10 expensive for the state.

11 I think y'all have done a little of
12 that, haven't you, Commissioner?

13 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: We have.

14 MR. KNIGHT: Okay. And we just want to touch
15 base with y'all and let you know that
16 we're willing to work with you. But we
17 are at a very strong disadvantage right
18 now because people that are against dog
19 hunting know all they got to do -- they
20 don't have to get along with us. They
21 don't have to work with us.

22 MS. JONES: Time.

23 MR. KNIGHT: They don't have to work with us.

1 They know they can come to you and
2 probably get us done away with.

3 Now, that's a bad situation. It
4 needs to be where they're under some
5 kind of limitation, also, to where we
6 can work with them. I've had people at
7 one meeting -- and I'm sorry -- at one
8 meeting told me we ain't got to do
9 nothing. We don't want to work with
10 them. We know you're going to get done
11 away with. You're going to be put on a
12 permit system.

13 Mr. Jones, that's in your area.

14 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Don.

15 MR. KNIGHT: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: We appreciate that. Thank
17 you.

18 Mr. Hartzog.

19 MR. HARTZOG: Don, if you would send Susan our
20 prayers and wishes that her husband
21 recovers quickly from the board, please,
22 sir.

23 MR. KNIGHT: Sure will. And prayers will be

1 accepted and really good. We'd like to
2 have them. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Don.

4 Our next speaker is Lonnie Miller
5 who has -- are you going to speak?

6 MR. MILLER: No, sir.

7 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: He's declined. All right.

8 Lonnie Miller has declined and is not
9 speaking.

10 Our last speaker, he's not here
11 today, so -- I'm just kidding. He is
12 here.

13 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: I thought he was
14 watching that wedding.

15 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Our friend Avery Bates.

16 Thank you, Avery.

17 MR. BATES: My name is Avery Bates. I'm vice
18 president of Organized Seafood
19 Association, a long-time commercial
20 fisherman. My body quit on me, so I had
21 to quit commercial fishing. I like to
22 cook the commercial fish, though, and I
23 like to cook it for conservation people

1 all around the country and citizens of
2 the state of Alabama. We want to keep
3 doing that.

4 But I want y'all to know we've had
5 some vicious attacks on the commercial
6 fishing over the industry. I heard
7 someone today wanting to do away with
8 commercial fishing. According to
9 Alabama State Law -- and y'all know
10 this -- under 9-12-125 the only access
11 that they have is through the
12 licensed -- properly licensed commercial
13 fishermen. And I like to feed
14 commercial fish, shrimp, oysters, and
15 crab to everybody in this state who
16 wants to eat it, whether it's pond or --
17 I say pond.

18 Aboveground oyster raising,
19 Mr. Lemme's group has had a lot to do
20 with that, the University of Auburn.
21 And I want to tell you, we've got a real
22 good industry coming along now with our
23 off-bottom oystering.

1 But I want to tell you something.
2 Nature can be vicious against nature.
3 Nature in ourselves, if we do not manage
4 it properly, have a proper balance, you
5 can see things happen like it's happened
6 in the crab industry when you let one
7 side of nature dominate, even whether
8 it's in the shark industry or when the
9 red drum come in and eat all the crabs
10 up -- the majority of the crabs and you
11 see the crabbers crying.

12 We are the managers. God put us in
13 control. Let's do it right. Let's not
14 run our commercial fishermen out of
15 business that wants to feed all
16 Alabamians with proper wild-caught
17 seafood and shrimp. We have some of the
18 best shrimp and oysters and crabs in the
19 world right here at our fingertips.
20 Don't stop us.

21 Include us in some of these what we
22 call advisory boards. We have many
23 advisory boards or planning boards. Had

1 a meeting in Bayou la Batre. Told Chris
2 about it. Had over 300 people. Got
3 real upset about what the mayor was
4 doing. Bayou la Batre is a unique
5 community. What I mean by unique, we
6 have businessmen, whether it's a one-man
7 business or a three to 500-man business.
8 It makes no difference.

9 We want to stay in business, see the
10 resources that God blessed us with,
11 everybody to enjoy it and to protect it
12 and to use it, not take it away from one
13 segment of the population and only give
14 it to one segment of the population.

15 Recreation has taken some parts of
16 our resources and only given it to one
17 user group. That is a violation against
18 the Magnuson-Stevens Act, part of the
19 ten National Standards. Read that
20 number four of that Magnuson-Stevens
21 Act. 301 if you want to look.

22 This is important --

23 MS. JONES: Time.

1 MR. BATES: -- to get all of Alabama to reap
2 the bounty of the sea and let our
3 businesses have a voice at these boards
4 and let us talk to the people, whether
5 it's the Corps of Engineers or whether
6 it's to any other group that wants to
7 take your right to that access away from
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Avery. Thank you
10 so much. We enjoy you being here.
11 Thank you for coming. Don't stop.

12 That concludes the public comment
13 section of our meeting today. Does
14 anybody need a relief break before we
15 move on?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: No. Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Chairman, I
19 would like to make one comment.

20 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Just for
22 information on the fur dealer's license,
23 the man who spoke to it, that's in the

1 Code of Alabama. That's not a fee
2 that's set by the Department. That's
3 set by the legislature. So any change
4 in that fee would have to be done
5 through legislation.

6 And I think the fee is \$300 instead
7 of \$500. I just wanted to clarify that
8 and provide y'all that information.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All right. Moving on in the
11 agenda, our next item is unfinished
12 business. Do we have any unfinished
13 business?

14 Mr. Cagle.

15 MR. CAGLE: Mr. Chairman, I want to give an
16 update on the CWD subcommittee that the
17 board voted to create at the last
18 meeting.

19 We've met -- or spoken by conference
20 call on at least one occasion and spoken
21 individually about the issue. And we've
22 been working with the Department and
23 feel like we need a little more time to

1 look at all the options. We're looking
2 at ways that the deer processors and
3 taxidermists can help us ensure that the
4 deer that they're handling are from
5 Alabama as a way to prevent CWD from
6 coming across the line.

7 We don't want to make a
8 recommendation, you know, without
9 considering all sides of it. Because we
10 want it to be effective at meeting the
11 goal, but we also don't want to place an
12 undue burden on any of -- on any user
13 group there.

14 So, you know, with your approval, I
15 would like for us to continue that until
16 the next board meeting so that we can
17 continue to look at all options and then
18 come up with a well-thought-through
19 recommendation.

20 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: The Chair approves. The
21 subcommittee will remain Mr. Cagle,
22 Mr. R. Jones, and Mr. B. Jones, and they
23 will continue to meet and will report

1 back to us at our first meeting or at a
2 time when they find it necessary.

3 MR. CAGLE: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Very good.

5 Any other unfinished business?

6 Dr. Lemme.

7 DR. LEMME: Mr. Chairman, I'd like Chuck to
8 give us an update on the public
9 information sessions that he's been
10 having on CWD.

11 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Director Sykes, would you
12 like to come to the mic?

13 MR. SYKES: Anyway, as Dr. Lemme said, we are
14 working with Alfa and the TREASURE
15 Forest Association. They are hosting
16 seminars around the state that I am the
17 guest speaker informing the public about
18 the issues with CWD. Mr. Jimmerson was
19 at one last week up in Oxford. We had
20 one at AWF on Thursday. I'm sorry. It
21 was this week, Tuesday and Thursday.
22 We've got four more scheduled. One will
23 be here in Tuscaloosa on June the 7th.

1 And I see William back there now.
2 William Green with Alfa and the TREASURE
3 Forest Association is the one who's
4 hosting those events.

5 So far it's been outstanding.
6 Comments have been good. It's just
7 getting people to come. The people that
8 come are getting a lot out of it, but as
9 you well know, if William can't provide
10 a good meal and get more than 20 or 30
11 people to come listen, I don't know what
12 else we can do. It's being advertised
13 on radio, TV, through our social media,
14 web pages, the whole nine yards. So if
15 y'all are interested in it, I think it's
16 something that everybody needs to know.

17 We're not trying to scare people to
18 death. We want them to be informed.
19 This is a serious issue. I'm sorry. I
20 don't want to pour water on anybody's
21 issue that's here now, but dog hunting,
22 baiting, night hunting, poaching, all of
23 that pales in comparison to the problems

1 that we're going to have if CWD ever
2 gets into the state.

3 And as Commissioner McMillan said,
4 this is something that we all need to
5 band together. This isn't a dog issue
6 or a private landowner issue. This is a
7 hunter issue. So I encourage all of
8 y'all to convince your friends and
9 family and all of your hunting partners
10 to come to one of these seminars and
11 listen and ask questions.
12 Misinformation is running rampant out
13 there right now, and we need the right
14 information out there.

15 Thank you, Dr. Lemme.

16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: To backstop that, our
17 subcommittee is working, too, with a
18 private-public alliance with our
19 resource stakeholders, all the large
20 landowners in the state, timber
21 producers. Everybody has become an
22 integral part of looking for and working
23 to keep CWD out of the state of Alabama,

1 out of our white-tailed deer herd. It's
2 devastating.

3 So we'll move on. Any other
4 unfinished business?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Okay. No more unfinished
7 business.

8 Our next order for the day is going
9 to be new business. I know that there
10 are some motions because I asked for
11 those to be submitted to me for content.
12 And at this time I will ask our board if
13 there are any new motions or motions to
14 be brought.

15 Mr. Hartzog.

16 MR. HARTZOG: I noticed during the Pledge
17 that -- this has nothing to do with
18 motions, but I noticed during the Pledge
19 when we turned around that Mr. Fred has
20 a seat back here. And I think Mr. Fred
21 needs to be recognized and come sit in
22 his seat.

23 MR. HARDERS: I looked at the chair, and when

1 I saw a cord going into the wall --

2 (Applause.)

3 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Hartzog.

4 Any motions?

5 MR. STIMPSON: Mr. Chairman?

6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Mr. Stimpson.

7 MR. STIMPSON: I'd like to make a motion to
8 modify the Waterfowl Regulation
9 220-2-.77 for the area known as Bay
10 Grass that may only being accessed using
11 paddle power, poling, or electric
12 trolling motors during the period of the
13 second Saturday in November through the
14 second Saturday in February. This
15 regulation will become effective with
16 the 2018-19 waterfowl season.

17 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All right. For clarity
18 again, I'm going to reread the motion --
19 that's what we're doing -- so that
20 everybody understands what we're voting
21 on and what the motion is before us.
22 This is a motion.

23 This motion services to modify

1 Waterfowl Regulation 220-2-.77(1) (d).
2 They are known as -- the area known as
3 Bay Grass may only be accessed using
4 paddle power, poling, or electric
5 trolling motors during the period of the
6 second Saturday in November through the
7 second Saturday in February. This
8 regulation becomes effective with the
9 2018-2019 waterfowl season.

10 Is that the motion that you
11 understand?

12 MR. STIMPSON: (Nods head.)

13 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Very good. Is there a
14 second?

15 MR. CAGLE: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: We have a second from
17 Mr. Cagle.

18 We'll ask for a vote on this motion,
19 and it's going to be a show of hands.
20 Let's have a show-of-hands-motion period
21 today, please.

22 So I will ask for all of those in
23 favor of this motion to please hold your

1 hand up.

2 (All board members present raised
3 their hand in favor of the
4 motion.)

5 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Any opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: The "ayes" have it.

8 Are there any other motions before
9 the board today?

10 Jeff, Mr. Martin.

11 MR. MARTIN: This motion is for the Talladega
12 National Forest to eliminate dog deer
13 hunting on the Piney Woods/Ivory
14 Mountain area. I'll define those
15 borders in a minute.

16 No dog deer hunting on Monday,
17 Tuesday, or Wednesday of each week
18 unless a holiday falls on those days.

19 Dogs must be boxed at or before
20 2 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays.

21 Dog deer hunting allowed on weekends
22 during legal shooting hours during the
23 2018-2019 dog deer season.

1 This motion has a sunshine
2 provision. A review and recommendation
3 regarding the continuation of this
4 change will be made by law enforcement
5 prior to the first Conservation Advisory
6 Board meeting of 2019.

7 The area referred to as Piney Woods
8 and Ivory Mountain is bounded by the
9 Cleburne County line north running east
10 and west and then to the west by County
11 Road 3 running south to State Route 49.
12 The south border is County Road 66
13 running east and west from State
14 Route 49 to Highway 9. The eastern
15 border is Highway 9 running north from
16 County Road 66 to the Cleburne County
17 line.

18 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Jeff. I'm going
19 to reread it again for clarity and so
20 that we all understand what we're voting
21 on.

22 This is a motion. It's to eliminate
23 dog deer hunting on Piney Woods/Ivory

1 Mountain area of Talladega National
2 Forest, and the borders are defined on
3 the back.

4 There's no dog deer hunting on
5 Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of each
6 week unless a holiday falls on those
7 days.

8 The dogs must be boxed at or before
9 2 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays.

10 Dog hunting is allowed on weekends
11 during legal shooting hours during the
12 2018-2019 deer season.

13 There's a sunshine provision
14 attached to this motion. A review and a
15 recommendation regarding the
16 continuation of this change will be made
17 by law enforcement prior to the first
18 Conservation Advisory Board meeting of
19 2019.

20 And I will dispense with the
21 definition. It will be in the
22 regulation.

23 Is that the motion?

1 MR. MARTIN: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Do we have a second?

3 MR. KNIGHT: Mr. Chairman, point of order.

4 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: I can't take it.

5 MR. RAYMOND JONES: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Second.

7 MR. KNIGHT: Why?

8 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Any discussion?

9 MR. KNIGHT: (Inaudible to court reporter.)

10 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: We're conducting business
11 following Robert's Rules of Order. And
12 thank you, Don. Please.

13 We have a second. Is there any
14 discussion?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: With no discussion, we'll
17 vote. This again will be a
18 show-of-hands vote.

19 So all of those in favor of the
20 motion as described, please signify
21 their being in favor by raising your
22 hand.

23 (All board members except Mr. Gary

1 Wolfe raised their hand in favor
2 of the motion.)

3 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Those opposed?

4 (Mr. Gary Wolfe raised his hand in
5 opposition of the motion.)

6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: The "ayes" have it. The
7 motion carries. There was one opposed.

8 MR. KNIGHT: Please make a note of my point of
9 order (inaudible to the court reporter).

10 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: You're not a member of the
11 board.

12 MR. KNIGHT: (Inaudible to the court
13 reporter.)

14 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Any other motions from --
15 Mr. Hartzog.

16 MR. HARTZOG: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. I'd
17 like -- you know, the one thing that we
18 really need to promote is fair-chase
19 hunting in the state of Alabama. And so
20 the motion that I'm fixing to make is to
21 try to promote fair-chase hunting and to
22 try to make the perception of canned
23 hunting where it won't bite us in the

1 butt later on.

2 So, anyway, my motion is a motion
3 that would require all deer transported
4 ten days before and during hunting
5 season to have its antlers removed
6 between the G-3 and the pedicle as
7 described by the Boone and Crockett Club
8 of America. This motion is to begin on
9 January the 1st, 2019.

10 This would basically keep -- and
11 there are unethical hunters where they
12 basically drug the deer the night before
13 and move him to a closed-in pen, charge
14 somebody \$5,000 to shoot them the next
15 day, and that's in my opinion unethical
16 hunting. And so by enacting this
17 rule -- Texas has enacted this rule.

18 So, again, the motion is to require
19 all deer transported ten days before and
20 during the hunting season to have its
21 antlers removed between the G-3 and the
22 pedicle as described by the Boone and
23 Crockett Club of America. This motion

1 to begin January 1st, 2019.

2 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: That's usually my job to read
3 it the second time.

4 MR. HARTZOG: Oh, I'm sorry.

5 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: That's okay. We'll accept
6 your reading.

7 Is there a second?

8 MR. STIMPSON: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: There is a second.

10 We're going to do this again. We're
11 going to do a hand vote.

12 All of those in favor of this
13 motion, please raise your hand.

14 (All board members raised their
15 hand in favor of the motion.)

16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All those opposed, please
17 raise your hand.

18 (No board members raised their hand
19 in opposition of the motion.)

20 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: The "ayes" have it. It's
21 carried. No "no" votes.

22 Any additional motions today?

23 Mr. Barksdale.

1 MR. BARKSDALE: I have a motion that will
2 disallow the use of any deer urine
3 products in the state of Alabama
4 beginning March 1st, 2019, in an effort
5 to prevent CWD from entering the state.
6 And as discussed by the U.S. Department
7 of Agriculture, the use of
8 deer-urine-based products should be
9 discontinued. The use of synthetic
10 urine-based products is recommended. I
11 would like to bring this motion before
12 the board.

13 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Barksdale. I
14 will read it again.

15 It is a motion that will disallow
16 the use of any deer urine products in
17 the state of Alabama beginning March 1
18 of 2019.

19 Is that -- that's the motion?

20 MR. BARKSDALE: Yes, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you.

22 Do I have a second?

23 MR. HARTZOG: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Second is had. We'll have a
2 vote. Again, we're going to do -- we're
3 going to raise our hands.

4 So all of those in favor of this
5 motion, please let it be shown by
6 raising your hands.

7 (All board members raised their
8 hand in favor of the motion.)

9 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All of those opposed?

10 (No board members raised their hand
11 in opposition of the motion.)

12 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: The "ayes" have it. There's
13 no opposition.

14 Any additional motions?

15 MS. BUTLER: Mr. Chairman, I have three.

16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: You have a motion.

17 MS. BUTLER: First is I move to change the
18 beginning date of spring turkey season
19 statewide from March 15th to the third
20 Saturday of March going forward
21 beginning in the 2018-2019 season.

22 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All right. I'm going to
23 repeat it for you because I didn't hear

1 that well, but I have it.

2 Your motion is to change -- I move
3 to change the beginning date of spring
4 turkey season statewide from March 15th
5 to the third Saturday of March going
6 forward beginning with the 2018-2019
7 season -- spring season.

8 That's your motion?

9 MS. BUTLER: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Is there a second?

11 MR. WOLFE: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: We have a second. We're
13 going to vote again. We're going to
14 raise our hands again.

15 So all of those in favor of the
16 motion that I have just read, please let
17 it be known by raising your hands.

18 MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

19 Before we take a vote, could we
20 have -- there have been several letters
21 that have been written --

22 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Are you asking for discussion
23 and debate?

1 MR. HARTZOG: Well, just basically discussion.

2 -- that the perception -- I actually
3 contacted the three directors of the
4 Wild Turkey Federation that are in my
5 district and talked to them, and then
6 later Craig Harris sent an email. And
7 everybody has got a copy of that email
8 in front of you. And if you'll read his
9 remarks where all the directors of the
10 Turkey Federation that they talked to
11 say in pushing back the opening date to
12 the third weekend of March annually
13 would result in an opening date falling
14 somewhere between March 15th and 21st,
15 depending on the year. The purported
16 purpose of this is to allow gobblers to
17 breed before they start getting
18 harvested.

19 This is -- apparently the data
20 indicates that most turkeys are killed
21 during that season, and so I think that
22 would be a good motion for us to try to
23 protect the resource.

1 MR. STIMPSON: Can I make just one comment?

2 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Mr. Stimpson.

3 MR. STIMPSON: Just since it's public record
4 and all, the gentleman that I talked
5 to -- and it's in this email, too --
6 asked the NWTF -- that this was not an
7 official recommendation from them. They
8 wanted that to be clear. This was their
9 personal opinions.

10 MR. BROCK JONES: Can you get closer to the
11 mic?

12 MR. STIMPSON: I was saying that they
13 requested -- the NWTF wants it to be
14 known that this is not their official
15 recommendation. These were personal
16 opinions of some of their -- most of
17 their directors. And I just wanted to
18 clarify that.

19 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All right. Thank you.

20 That concludes the debate. Let's
21 have a vote, please. We're going to
22 raise our hands again. We'll do it one
23 more time.

1 All of those in favor of the change
2 as stated in the motion, please raise
3 your hands if you're in favor.

4 (All board members except Mr. Jeff
5 Martin raised their hand in favor
6 of the motion.)

7 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All of those opposed to the
8 change in this motion, please raise your
9 hands.

10 (Mr. Jeff Martin raised his hand in
11 opposition of the motion.)

12 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: One. Let it be known that
13 one opposes and that motion carries.

14 Is there another motion before the
15 board here?

16 MS. BUTLER: The second one is I move to
17 reduce the bag limit from five gobblers
18 to four during the combined spring and
19 fall seasons statewide beginning the
20 2018-2019 season.

21 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Okay. I heard that. Your
22 motion is to reduce the bag limit
23 from -- the current bag limit of five

1 gobblers to four during the combined
2 spring and fall turkey seasons statewide
3 beginning with the 2018-2019 season.

4 Is that your motion?

5 MS. BUTLER: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Very good. Do I have a
7 second?

8 MR. WOLFE: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: We have a second.

10 Is there any discussion?

11 Mr. Jones.

12 MR. RAYMOND JONES: Mr. Chairman, I've had the
13 privilege of being around this board for
14 a very long time. My father was on this
15 board in the late '70s and early 1980s.
16 He actually served in your position. So
17 I grew up going to those meetings. I
18 had a stint on the board in the '90s.
19 I've had two stints in the 2000s. So
20 I've been around almost as long as
21 Mr. Avery Bates has and almost as many
22 meetings.

23 But this board has always prided

1 itself on transparency. This board has
2 always prided itself on having sound
3 biological data with which to make
4 decisions. This motion in reduction has
5 not been discussed. And in all of those
6 years of going to meetings I can count
7 on one hand with fingers left over how
8 many times turkey populations have come
9 up where they're in steep decline.

10 Simply reducing the bag limit is
11 going to do nothing to help with turkey
12 populations. Game Check data, as good
13 as what we have, there's 7.3 percent of
14 the hunters in the state of Alabama that
15 are killing four or more turkeys. 7.3
16 percent. So why penalize a very few
17 that are doing -- that are able to have
18 better opportunities and more land to
19 hunt on for that reason? What would you
20 be saying?

21 In the state of Alabama, if you
22 extrapolate that out, that's -- and
23 let's just say we don't believe Game

1 Check numbers. They're too low. Let's
2 say we up it. You would save 1400
3 turkeys throughout the entire state,
4 1400 gobblers. That's one turkey for
5 every 24,285 acres. That's like going
6 to the Gulf of Mexico with a 5-gallon
7 bucket and saying I'm going to -- I'm
8 going to drain the swamp. It can't --
9 that's not going to be done.

10 This also asks why now, why the
11 rush, why the push to the 2018-2019
12 season. We have not had the opportunity
13 to have any input or feedback. And in
14 reference to Mr. Hartzog's letter that
15 he put before us, this is based on the
16 hypothesis that the population is
17 declining is correct. That's all it is,
18 is an hypothesis.

19 I can tell you firsthand in some
20 areas of the state, my area in
21 particular, we have turkeys running out
22 of our ears. The limits in this state
23 have been five or six my entire life.

1 We have -- based on biological data, the
2 data that's turned in by our own state,
3 we have somewhere in the neighborhood of
4 400,000 turkeys and have had for 50
5 years during that time when we had
6 limits of five or six.

7 So I want to question the validity
8 of this, and I also want to question the
9 fact that we should not be pushing
10 forward with a motion based on knee-jerk
11 reactions. We should not be pushing
12 forth on a motion that the public has
13 had zero input, zero warning that this
14 is even going to be discussed. And I
15 may have another comment in a minute,
16 but I'll reserve that for the time
17 being.

18 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: I'm going to limit debate,
19 and I'm going to ask the maker of the
20 motion -- the bringer of the motion has
21 the right to the next debate -- to the
22 next comment.

23 Please lean into the mic.

1 MS. BUTLER: This is coming from the 2014
2 committee that was formed. I don't
3 think it's a new thing. It was -- the
4 turkey committee was formed because
5 neighboring states have reported a
6 decline in their turkey populations, and
7 our statewide surveys have indicated a
8 downward trend in our reproductive
9 success. Alabama has the highest turkey
10 limit in the nation at five. So it's --
11 I mean, I've received several comments,
12 emails, calls. I don't think it has not
13 been discussed in the public.

14 But, also, with the increase in
15 turkey hunters and technology, the
16 improved chokes, ammunition, decoys,
17 there are so many additional ways, and
18 we should look at being more
19 conservative --

20 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Please lean into the
21 microphone, please, so that we all can
22 hear.

23 MS. BUTLER: I also included from South

1 Carolina for a comparison -- they were
2 the last with a bag limit of five, and
3 in 2016 they reduced it to three.
4 That's in your packet if you want to
5 look over the reasons, too, for that.

6 And then, also, I've spoken with
7 Steve Barnett, the Turkey Project Leader
8 for the state, and based on their
9 recommendation right now, in four years
10 out of the five they would with their
11 model suggest that it would be reduced
12 to three. So I feel that four is just a
13 step in the right direction and we're
14 being proactive rather than reactive to
15 go ahead and ...

16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you.

17 Mr. Wolfe.

18 MR. WOLFE: My concern is the same thing with
19 the CWD. I want to get ahead of this.
20 I don't want to wait until it's too
21 late. The people in my area are not
22 killing the turkeys that they've killed
23 in the last three years. The landowners

1 that have 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 80,000
2 acres, they have plenty of turkeys, but
3 I'm representing the entire -- my
4 district in the state of Alabama. And
5 the people that I'm talking to is the
6 people that have 500 acres, 200 acres,
7 1,000 acres and on down the road.

8 There are -- the last three years we
9 have not killed the turkeys that we've
10 been killing -- which I don't think
11 we're getting the true number when we
12 get them with Game Check, but hopefully
13 that will get better.

14 But, to me, I want to address the
15 dates. I think that's in a positive
16 direction. I think this is in a
17 positive direction. I think this board
18 has to be stewards of the animals in
19 this state, and I think the turkeys is
20 one of the best we have. Everybody
21 loves to turkey hunt. But we've got to
22 be real. The people that are large
23 landowners are having a great year.

1 They can burn their land every two
2 years. They can plant food, fields for
3 them because they've got a large
4 acreage, but the younger small guys
5 that's got a small club, I think they're
6 hurting. And I think this board needs
7 to help them.

8 And I think that's the situation
9 we're in. I think we being the large
10 number of -- and I think that's right
11 for Alabama -- number of five and all
12 the other states have one, two, three --
13 and I think that's just the direction we
14 need to go, and I agree with Jessica
15 that we've got to address this. And I
16 want to address CWD before it gets here,
17 and I want to address the turkey
18 population before we have to address it.

19 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Wolfe.

20 Mr. Stimpson.

21 MR. STIMPSON: I'd like to just say that
22 this -- I agree with Mr. Jones that
23 changing the bag limit on this will do

1 nothing. And if we truly think that we
2 have a decline in population, we need to
3 look at really effectively saving our
4 resource. I mean, shortening the
5 season -- every day that you don't hunt
6 saves a lot of turkeys. I mean, if we
7 want to get serious, instead of talking
8 about reducing the bag limit by one,
9 let's talk about decoys. Let's put
10 limits on how many decoys or ban them
11 altogether. Let's talk about shutting
12 down hunting at noon like we do with
13 duck hunting at certain places. You
14 know, look at your season dates. Look
15 at baiting with corn that's out there
16 now that's got aflatoxins in it that
17 will absolutely wipe out certain turkey
18 habitat or turkeys themselves.

19 But the point being is that we could
20 do some things that make a real change
21 and not just penalizing the smallest
22 percentage of the people that are out
23 there killing turkeys.

1 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: I'm inclined to let's close
2 debate and -- Mr. Martin.

3 MR. MARTIN: Yeah. I kind of agree with
4 Raymond. In my district we don't have
5 an issue with the turkey population.
6 And, you know, when we were going to
7 extend this deer season, we just didn't
8 do it initially statewide. We saw that
9 there was a need to have that extended
10 season in the south, and then they did a
11 great study and they kept doing it and
12 kept increasing it slowly until the
13 entire state did it. I would recommend
14 something like that.

15 I don't -- I don't disagree that
16 there might be some issues and decline
17 in certain districts, but there's no
18 sense in punishing the whole state for
19 that in my opinion. That's -- I would
20 recommend getting something where --
21 doing it in the districts where it's
22 needed.

23 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All right. Thank you,

1 Mr. Martin.

2 We've closed debate, and let's vote
3 on this issue as we have before. This
4 is going to be a show of hands.

5 All of those opposed to this
6 issue -- this motion as has been stated,
7 please raise your hands.

8 MR. HARTZOG: Hold on. Opposed or --

9 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All opposed.

10 (The following board members raised
11 their hand in opposition of the
12 motion: Mr. Martin, Mr. Stimpson,
13 Dr. Lemme, Mr. Barksdale,
14 Mr. Brock Jones, Mr. Raymond
15 Jones, Commissioner McMillan.)

16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All of those in favor of this
17 issue, please raise your hands.

18 (The following board members raised
19 their hand in favor of the motion:
20 Mr. Cagle, Mr. Hartzog,
21 Ms. Butler, Mr. Wolfe.)

22 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Motion doesn't carry. The
23 "nays" have it.

1 MS. BUTLER: I have one more.

2 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: You have another motion?

3 MS. BUTLER: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All right.

5 MS. BUTLER: This is a motion to request a
6 vote for the approval of the seasons,
7 their dates and times, all bag limits,
8 creel limits and restrictions, and all
9 other items set forth in the current
10 proposed regulations and recommendations
11 as relates to all sections and divisions
12 of the Department of Conservation and
13 Natural Resources.

14 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Okay. I'm going to repeat
15 this one. This is our housekeeping.

16 This is a motion to request a vote
17 for the approval of the seasons, their
18 dates and times, all bag limits, all the
19 creel limits and restrictions, and all
20 other items set forth in the currently
21 proposed regulations and recommendations
22 as relates to all sections and divisions
23 of the Department of Conservation and

1 Natural Resources.

2 Is that the motion?

3 MS. BUTLER: Yes, sir.

4 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: And all of our chiefs and
5 everybody here are in agreement with
6 that. They're all good.

7 Do I have a second?

8 MR. CAGLE: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: And we're just going to take
10 a voice vote on this. All of those --
11 I'm sorry. Discussion.

12 MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman, if you go to
13 migratory birds, Keith -- if you go to
14 the migratory birds, where it says
15 waterfowl hunters shall not possess any
16 lead shot, period, and then it just says
17 longbows, compound bows, or crossbows --
18 but that's not a complete -- shouldn't
19 there be a comma after lead shot and
20 then include long bows? Isn't that a
21 typo?

22 MR. GAULDIN: Are you on the legal arms page,
23 Grady?

1 MR. HARTZOG: Huh?

2 MR. GAULDIN: Are you on the legal arms page?

3 MR. HARTZOG: Where it says waterfowl hunters
4 shall not possess any lead shot, period,
5 but then it doesn't say -- it just says
6 longbows, compound bows, or crossbows,
7 but it doesn't say what pertains to
8 them. So shouldn't that be after lead
9 shot, comma, so it reads waterfowl
10 hunters shall not possess any lead shot,
11 comma, longbows, comma, compound bows,
12 comma, or crossbows?

13 MR. GAULDIN: Yeah. We'll correct that.

14 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All right. This motion --
15 and we stipulate that that correction is
16 going to be made as stated by
17 Mr. Hartzog and agreed to by
18 Mr. Gauldin.

19 So we're back to voting. We have a
20 second.

21 Any further discussion?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Let's have a vote.

1 All of those in favor of this motion
2 say "aye."

3 (All board members present respond
4 "aye.")

5 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Any opposed, please let it be
6 known by saying "aye."

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: The "ayes" have it. This
9 motion passes.

10 Are there any other motions?

11 Anybody else?

12 MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

13 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Yes, Mr. Hartzog.

14 MR. HARTZOG: Not a motion or anything. But
15 when is the Auburn turkey study supposed
16 to be finally completed?

17 MR. GAULDIN: Next year.

18 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Next year before our next
19 meetings or after our next meetings?

20 MR. GAULDIN: I believe before the meeting.

21 MR. HARTZOG: Okay.

22 MR. GAULDIN: Highly anticipated.

23 MR. HARTZOG: Okay. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Dr. Lemme, do you know the
2 exact date? Have they set a date,
3 Dr. Lemme?

4 DR. LEMME: I thought it was October 1, but
5 I'll find out for sure and report back
6 to you.

7 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you.

8 Any other business before the board
9 today?

10 Commissioner.

11 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I just wanted -- in
12 my Commissioner's remarks, the one thing
13 I left out, surprisingly, is the red
14 snapper season has been set since our
15 last meeting.

16 The red snapper season this year --
17 the states were granted exempted fishing
18 permits to be able to manage the red
19 snapper recreationally off of our
20 coasts. That was done primarily through
21 the work of Senator Shelby, including
22 some language that allowed these to take
23 place. Alabama's exempted fishing

1 permit was worked on by Scott Bannon,
2 the Director of Marine Resources
3 Division, and Kevin Anson, the chief
4 biologist from the Marine Resources
5 Division.

6 And so our state season this year is
7 going to be Fridays, Saturdays, and
8 Sundays beginning June 1st, and that
9 runs through Labor Day and includes
10 Labor Day. And it will also be open the
11 whole week of the 4th of July. So it
12 ends up being 47 days, and that's how
13 long that we anticipate the season will
14 be this year. The season could be
15 longer if we have some bad weather days
16 and the catch is lower, and it could be
17 shortened by a few days if our catch
18 rate is above what we projected.

19 But I do want to commend Scott
20 Bannon and the work that's been done by
21 the Marine Resources Division to get
22 that done in a very timely manner and in
23 a very short period of time to be

1 approved by the National Marine
2 Fisheries Service to get that in place
3 for this year and also be managing that
4 fishery next year.

5 The charter season is going to be --
6 it's still managed by the federal
7 government, and that will open June 1st
8 and will run through July the 20th. So
9 that season will be open. So if you're
10 going on a charter-fishing vessel, it's
11 open during the week during some of
12 those -- some of that period of time
13 during the summer. But the
14 recreational -- private recreational
15 season is only open Fridays, Saturdays,
16 and Sundays.

17 And if you have any questions on
18 that, Scott Bannon is here, and he'd be
19 glad to answer those. Thank you for
20 your work.

21 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Colonel Bannon,
22 very much. That's huge.

23 MR. CAGLE: Mr. Chairman, I think we also need

1 to recognize the effort that
2 Commissioner Blankenship has invested in
3 this over the years. A few years ago we
4 thought that --

5 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Hold on. She can't hear.

6 Would you start over for her.

7 (Brief interruption.)

8 MR. CAGLE: I want to recognize and commend
9 the work that Commissioner Blankenship
10 has done on this. A few years ago the
11 idea of the states managing red snapper
12 in federal waters seemed impossible.
13 But Commissioner Blankenship, you know,
14 led a great team with not only Alabama
15 but the other states, even helped
16 convince Texas last year to give up some
17 days to reach this goal.

18 So we appreciate all the effort you
19 did. I mean, it's a major
20 accomplishment with more moving parts
21 than probably any biological issue our
22 state has ever faced between the federal
23 government and the state. So we

1 appreciate all that you've done on that.

2 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Patrick.

3 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you.

4 One more thing I would like to
5 recognize. Dr. Lemme has lost a valued
6 employee and one that was with DCNR at
7 one time. Would you tell us about that.

8 DR. LEMME: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Mr. Chris Jaworowski, who had
10 retired from the Department of
11 Conservation and Natural Resources and
12 then became an employee of the Alabama
13 Cooperative Extension Service working in
14 its wildlife management agency focusing
15 primarily on feral hog management,
16 unexpectedly passed away this week. A
17 young man with a family who served
18 conservation in our state for many
19 years.

20 The visitation will be Monday from
21 five to eight with a Rosary at
22 eight o'clock at the Gassett Funeral
23 Home in Wetumpka. The funeral will be

1 at ten o'clock on Tuesday at the
2 Catholic Church there in Wetumpka. And
3 I would ask that the Department express
4 the CAB's sympathy to the Jaworowski
5 family. We've lost a true educator and
6 manager of our resources.

7 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you. He was one of the
8 first folks I met when I came on the
9 board, a larger-than-life gentleman.
10 And if y'all will just say a prayer for
11 him and his family, we would appreciate
12 it.

13 I think that's going to be it.

14 Mr. Hartzog.

15 MR. HARTZOG: One last thing. In recognition
16 of Dr. Lemme's friend and supporter,
17 would it be appropriate for us to draft
18 some type of resolution to present to
19 his family at a later date?

20 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: I think that is an excellent
21 idea, yes. Would you like to do that?
22 Can we task you to do that, Grady, or do
23 you want --

1 MR. HARTZOG: I'm not very good at being
2 verbose, so --

3 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: I will take that. I will do
4 that. I will handle that.

5 MR. WOLFE: I'll second that.

6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Is there any other business
7 before the board today from the board?
8 Any other questions or comments or
9 thoughts?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you very much.

12 Our next agenda item would be the
13 location and time of our next meeting.
14 It will be sometime in 2019. That is
15 the plan unless some issue arises. So
16 that time is to be determined.

17 Thank you very much. That concludes
18 this. We're adjourned.

19

20 (Meeting adjourned at
21 approximately 10:13 a.m.)

22

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF ALABAMA:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting on May 19, 2018.

The foregoing 94 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held.

I further certify that I am neither of kin nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor in any manner interested in the results thereof.

This 16th day of August 2018.

Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2018
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large