



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

News Release

Contact: Melissa Scallan

Phone: 228-523-4124

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MDMR hires CFO, COO

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources has hired a chief financial officer and a chief operations officer, Executive Director Jamie Miller announced Wednesday.

Bill Feidt, 42, of Pascagoula, will be the agency's CFO, and Brig. Gen. Joe Spraggins, 60, will serve as COO, Miller said. Both will start work Oct. 8.

"Bill Feidt and Joe Spraggins both have the kind of experience we need at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources," Miller said. "They bring a unique set of skills and proven leadership that will be an asset to this agency and Mississippi moving forward."

Feidt graduated from Pascagoula High School and received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Mississippi and a master's of business administration from Dartmouth College.

Previously he served as the director of finance and planning for WorldCom, Inc. and Skytel Corp. He most recently served as vice president of Strategic and Tactical Support, Inc., a professional services firm dedicated to providing financial support to private-sector firms.

"I am eager to serve and provide financial oversight to the agency," Feidt said. "Financial compliance is critical within any large organization, especially one as important to Mississippi and the Gulf Coast as the MDMR. I am looking forward to being part of the team and contributing to the agency's success."

Spraggins grew up in Alexander City, Ala. and graduated from Troy University with a bachelor's degree in resource management. He served 34 years in the military and attained the rank of brigadier general. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2006.

Previously he served as commander of the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport and chief of staff of the Joint Force Headquarters in the Tennessee National Guard. Spraggins was appointed director of Emergency Management, Homeland Security and the E-911 Commission for Harrison County. He began work days before Hurricane Katrina made landfall on Aug. 29, 2005.

"I look forward to working with Director Miller and putting my years of experience to work for the agency and its mission," Spraggins said.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

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