COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 17, 2017
9:00 a.m.
Bolton Building Auditorium
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Commission Members:

Steve Bosarge, Vice Chairman

Mark Havard

Ron Harmon

Jolynne Trapani

Also Present:

Jamie M. Miller, Executive Director DMR
Sandy Chestnut, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I would like to call the meeting to order. It appears Richard is not going to make it today. They put me behind the helm.

I would like to welcome everybody to our January Commission meeting. We will see how I make it here. Bear with me.

First up on the agenda is the Pledge of Allegiance, and I would like Mr. Ron Harmon to lead us in the pledge.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Next up is approval of the minutes.

Do we have any changes to the minutes?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Looks like we don't have any changes.

Do we have approval for the minutes of the meeting for December 13th?

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I'll make a motion that we approve the minutes for the meeting of December the 13th.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have a motion.

Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: I'll second it, Mr. Vice Chairman.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have a motion and a second.

All in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All opposed like sign.

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Motion carries.

Second up on the agenda is approval of the minutes for our work session, after last month's meeting.

Do we have any changes to the minutes?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: No changes.

Do we have a motion to approve the minutes for the December 13th workshop meeting?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: Mr. Vice Chairman, I make a motion that we approve the minutes for the work session of December 13th.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I will so second that.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have a motion and a second.

All in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed same sign.

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: They were approved unanimously.

Next up on the agenda is approval of the agenda.

Do we have any changes to the agenda?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: No changes to the agenda.

Do we have a motion to approve the agenda as written?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: Mr. Vice Chairman, I will make a motion we approve the agenda for today.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: So seconded.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed same sign.

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Motion carries.

Next up is the Executive Director's report.

JAMIE MILLER: No report, Vice Chairman.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Next up is Office of Marine Patrol, Mr. Pittman.

RUSTY PITTMAN: Good morning Mr. Vice Chairman, Commissioners, Director Miller, Sandy Chestnut.

You have the report in front of you. I would just like to go through a few of them.

Under the Oyster Violations, we had two for unculled oysters. No marine sanitation device, we had one violation. Possession of untagged oysters, one. Possession of illegal oysters, two.

Crab violations picked up a little bit. We increased our patrols on crabbing problems that we have been having with theft of crab pots and theft of crabs. One for no non-resident commercial crab license. Possession of undersigned blue crabs, one. Possession of unmarked crab traps, one. Adulterated/misbranded saltwater crab, one. Non-certified crab processor, one.

Miscellaneous commercial seafood violations, we had one for no seafood dealer's license and one for no non-resident seafood dealer vehicle permit. Should say "permit" instead of "license".

We had one wetlands violation this past month.

Miscellaneous violations, we had no hunting license, no State Duck Stamp and no Federal Duck Stamp. That's where we assisted Wildlife. They advised us of some problems that were going on south of I-10, and our guys that were on patrol happened to catch these guys over in Jackson County. One person didn't have all of his licenses and stamps during duck season.

We had one boating accident that happened right over between the IP. It was a vessel fire. Nobody

onboard the vessel. Biloxi Fire Department responded with our officers, and Biloxi Fire Department put it out.

If there are no questions on citations, I would like to turn it over to Chief Davis. He has something he would like to read.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: If there are no questions, I have one.

Were you involved in that relocation of that water moccasin?

RUSTY PITTMAN: If I walk upon a snake, I tell them to call Wildlife.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you, Rusty.

RUSTY PITTMAN: Thank you.

KEITH DAVIS: Good morning Commissioners, Director Miller, Ms. Chestnut.

I do want to report that, as you are all aware, the regulation change for speckled trout went into effect yesterday. For the record, Marine Patrol is going to approach this with a zero tolerance. We had several checked, as of 12:00 o'clock yesterday morning, but no one is catching any fish right now. We do want everyone to know there is a zero tolerance on undersized speckled trout.

As an administrator, often we have to deal with employee discipline problems, more so that we get

accolades for our employees.

Before Christmas -- in fact, the letter is dated November 12th -- one of my very own lieutenants took part in -- she calls it a rescue, but her car was broken down and Lieutenant Gex was in the right place at the right time to give this seventy-one year old lady assistance, and she was so excited about that, that she took time to write a letter thanking him for his help that day.

I wanted to share that with you because, if this seventy-one year old lady took the time to write it, I think it should be recognized.

Ms. Grace Gilmore writes:

"Lieutenant Gex,

"I wanted you to know what a blessing you were to me on the Friday evening my car stopped on the road. Your pulling up almost immediately to help me was a miracle from God. As I told you, I have never had my car stop where I needed assistance, in all seventy-one years of my life. Needless to say, it is a feeling I hope I never experience again; however, if you had not been there when I needed you, I would have been very frightened and quite frantic. Thankfully, I felt very safe with you.

"In my devotional prayers this morning the subject was 'He's Always A Step Ahead' with the scripture 'Before they call I will answer and while they are yet

speaking I will hear.' I believe God had you at that exact spot, the exact minute I needed help and I will always be grateful to you for your service. You and your family will be in my prayers.

"God bless you and your entire family this holiday season, and I wish you and yours a very 'Merry Christmas ad a Happy New Year'.

"Thank you again for your kind help and assistance in my time of need.

"Grace Gilmore."

Lieutenant Gex is in the audience this morning. If you would, help me recognize him and what he did.

(Standing ovation).

KEITH DAVIS: That concludes Marine Patrol's report.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you. That says a lot for the folks in law enforcement and folks you have under you. We appreciate all you do, especially in those instances because I can imagine that being my mother. I appreciate what you did.

BRYCE GEX: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Next is Office of Marine Fisheries.

Do we have anything for you, Mr. Joe?

JOE JEWELL: We do not have anything this month.

Office of Coastal Resources Management has a rather lengthy agenda, so we relinquished our time to Mr. Boyd.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you, sir.

Office of Coastal Resources Management.

CHRIS PICKERING: Good morning Commissioners, Director Miller, Ms. Chestnut.

I will be presenting the first action item for your consideration this morning. It is a request for a permit modification, by the City of Biloxi, DMR-03400. It is located at the Popps Ferry Causeway on the Back Bay of Biloxi in Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi. It is in the General Use District.

They were previously permitted for five hundred linear feet of concrete walkway, eight hundred and thirteen linear feet of boardwalk, one thousand three hundred and sixty-six linear feet of riprap, two piers each twenty-by-thirty, two piers each forty-by-forty, a pier twenty-five-by-twenty-five and an access pier three-hundred-and-ninety-by-six feet.

There were amenities included, but were not limited to a bait shop and concessions, nature trails, picnic areas, road improvements, parking areas and an interpretative center.

Currently, they are proposing an access pier one-hundred-and-fifty-feet-by-five feet, a pier twenty-

five-by-twenty-five, an access pier fifty-five-by-five, a pier fifty-five-by-five, a gangway pier thirty-by-five, a kayak launch dock twenty-by-ten and a kayak launch platform twenty-five-by-five.

This is a diagram of what was previously permitted. You have the boardwalk and the walkways. The yellow is the nature trails. This was the previously permitted access pier, a twenty-five-by-twenty-five foot marsh overlook, and, of course, you have the parking areas and the kayak rental/bait stand (indicating slide).

This is what is proposed, now. This was the previously permitted marsh overlook and access pier. They are currently proposing to decrease the length of the access pier and have the same size pier for the marsh overlook. It will just be in a different area over the water (indicating slide).

Here is the Popps Ferry Bridge, and this is going to be the kayak launch and the new fishing pier (indicating slide).

Here is a zoomed-in diagram of the kayak launch. There is a typical photo of what it will look like. It is handicap accessible, by the way.

This is the proposed fishing pier and the previously permitted pier that will be shortened to the new access marsh overlook (indicating slide).

This is the area where the fishing pier will be located, looking right over the water. Across this inlet over here is where the kayak launch will be located, and this will be where the marsh overlook will be located (indicating photograph).

The public will have increased water access and associated recreational facilities. The project will provide a handicap accessible kayak launch.

The proposed project is allowable within the General Use District.

Similar projects have been approved and no precedent setting effects are anticipated with this project.

Pile-supported structures should have a minimal impact on biological integrity and productivity.

No further impacts, beyond those already proposed, are anticipated.

Best management practices will be utilized, during all phases of construction.

The proposed location of the facility has been historically utilized as a public access facility. The chosen project will be deemed to have a minimal impact to the area.

The construction of piers and amenities which provide increased public access to the state's marine

resources for recreational purposes requires a waterfront location.

The current viewshed of the area contains riprap, piers, boat ramps, parking areas, and unmaintained upland and wetland areas. The additional piers and kayak launch should not decrease the scenic qualities.

The Mississippi Coastal Program states that improvement to public recreational opportunities shall be taken into consideration as a national interest.

This project did appear in The Sun Herald on November 27th, December 4th and December 11th, 2016.

No public comments were received.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality has no comments.

Department of Archives and History has no objections.

Secretary of State's office says the project will require a tidelands lease.

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks recommends that best management practices should be utilized.

The Popps Ferry Bridge recreational area is designated as a special management area for improved public access to coastal waters requiring access improvement based on parking area, park or recreational

area, fishing pier and other improvements, in Chapter 6, Section 3, Table VI-1 of the Mississippi Coastal Program.

This is the recommendation. Based upon departmental review and evaluation, staff recommends that the Commission approve the applicant's request.

Any questions?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, sir. We had one request for public comment by Mr. Gilbert Ramsey.

State your name, please.

GILBERT RAMSEY: Good morning. My name is Gilbert Ramsey. I'm a concerned citizen and veteran. I have been networking for a while, now. Y'all know me personally.

What I've done is, on November the 14th last year, I went before the Harrison County Board of Supervisors to introduce enhancement recreational opportunities.

This is exactly what I'm looking at. I'm coming forth with Lamey Bridge River Park introduction with D'Iberville this evening, and, also, I'm coming before the Harrison County Board of Supervisors with an introduction for the paraplegic fishing rodeo.

I have introduced a new chapter for Fishing Has No Boundaries out of Wisconsin; have a PowerPoint presentation to assist with the Secretary of State

introduction.

I know the BP funds have been received by the Harrison County Board of Supervisors. I would like to partner with the Department of Marine Resources and Harrison County Board of Supervisors, NOAA, IMMS, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, all of us to empower this opportunity for educational, recreational and employment opportunity for the disabled community; all citizens involved for encouragement for accessability.

I would like to move forward with an introduction for another location next month, the Department of Marine Resources introduction with this application at the coliseum for empowering all three counties for this initiative because back in the day, Governor Barbour's BP Council, remember me atop the Hancock Bank. I was there as a concerned citizen, veteran, state representative.

Everybody knows me, gentlemen and ladies. I'm here to help. I have associated my heart and head.

I'm going to Marshall's Aeronautics February 23rd for the robotics industry to associate with retrofitting the vessels, the mud buggies and touring bikes.

I'm coming forward with higher learning educational opportunities.

I'm honored to have this opportunity and impress

that y'all recognize this. I am sincerely coming forward with this positively for this process.

The VA has recognized this introduction for the senior Olympics and golden age Olympics come next May, and what that does is encourage more recreational opportunities for our military and our citizens.

Here we go. I like Deer Island. I like Cat Island. I like Round Island. I like Heron Bay for fishing opportunities.

I will do this announcement appropriately and have a vessel. I have an inlet waterway vessel with shallow draft capabilities that I'm coming forth with, and I have no more gas and oil in our motors.

So here we go, ladies and gentlemen, international recognition for the Hospitality State.

I have a BP contract to educate, recreate, employ, and I'm leveraging y'all to associate yourself appropriately to recognize the opportunity for international recognition.

Restore Council asked me to do this. The United States Chamber of Commerce is waiting on me. Everybody is assisting me with this application.

I stayed here locally to initiate this. My mother is buried in the National Cemetery. I have been here 1967. I have five grandkids. I'm a great-grandpa.

All the kids know me. I used to have a penthouse in Orlando I used to take them to. I shut them all down. My property borders six hundred thousand acres of Desoto National Forest.

I'm doing Master Nationalist Program through Mississippi State. I have looked at all of this appropriately in my power and my sole source of providing capabilities. Now, we have this opportunity to be recognized appropriately.

Thank you very much for your attention and cooperation, and I will come back to you soon.

I'm coordinating with Ms. Crystal Matta to associate with this next meeting at the coliseum initiative.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you, Mr. Ramsey.

Do we have any discussion on the project being presented?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we move forward with DMR-03400, Popps Ferry Causeway.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do we have a second on that motion?

COMMISSIONER TRAPANI: I will second that.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All opposed same sign.

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Motion carries unanimously.

CHRIS PICKERING: Thank you.

JENNIFER Wittmann: Good morning. I'm Jennifer Wittmann. I will be presenting the next seven projects for Coastal Resources Management.

I'm only going to do one presentation because a lot of the information is the same for each project.

This is a request for permits by the City of Biloxi located at the Point Cadet Marina, the Canaan Fishing Pier, the Hiller Park Boat Ramp, the Mercedes Drive area, the Goose Point area, Holly Hills and Sunrise Court all in Biloxi, located within the General Use District and the Commercial Fishing and Recreational Marinas District.

Burk-Kleinpeter, Incorporated, is the agent.

Approximately fifty-six thousand five hundred cubic yards of sand, silt and mud will be removed from the seven proposed areas.

The proposed depths are as follows:

The Point Cadet Marina, nine-and-a-half feet below Mean Low Water.

The Canaan Fishing Pier, eight feet below Mean Low Water.

Hiller Park, Mercedes Drive, Goose Point, Holly Hills and Sunrise Court all at six feet below Mean Low Water.

Approximate dredging totals:

Point Cadet Marina, approximately twelve thousand cubic yards.

Canaan Fishing Pier, approximately eleven hundred cubic yards.

Hiller Park Boat Ramp, approximately eighty-eight hundred cubic yards.

Mercedes Drive, approximately forty-five hundred cubic yards.

Goose Point, approximately seven thousand cubic yards.

Holly Hills, approximately eleven thousand cubic yards.

Sunrise Court, approximately eleven thousand cubic yards.

The dredged material will be disposed of at an approved Beneficial Use Site, or an approved upland location, if it is not suitable for beneficial use.

The applicant is also seeking a ten-year maintenance dredging agreement to maintain the authorized channel dimensions.

This is an aerial that shows the seven dredging locations; Goose Point, Mercedes Drive, Holly Hills, Sunrise Court, Hiller Park, the Canaan Fishing Pier and the Point Cadet Marina.

This is a picture of the Canaan Fishing Pier area, Point Cadet Marina, the Hiller Park area, looking back towards the Hiller Park Boat Ramp, the Mercedes Drive area, the Goose Point area, Holly Hills and Sunrise Court.

The projects serve a higher public purpose, by restoring safe navigational depths and improving public access to and use of the waterways.

The proposed projects are allowable within the General Use and the Commercial Fishing and Recreational Marinas Use Districts.

Similar projects have been approved by the Commission, and these are maintenance dredging projects.

There is a small area of submerged aquatic vegetation, within the dredging area, for the Goose Point portion of the project that will be impacted by the dredging and three additional areas that are within ten feet of small SAV beds. However, the proposed dredging area has historically been maintained by the City as a

navigation channel and safe navigational depths will be restored.

This is the diagram for the Goose Point area. This is the big lake area, and, then, it comes in. These three areas in yellow are the small SAV beds that will have dredging within ten feet, and the one red area is the area that will be impacted. These larger dark areas are large SAV beds along the shoreline.

This is an example. When I say a small area of SAV, this is an area of Coontail. This is what we are talking about, when we say a small area will be impacted, or there will be dredging within ten feet. It's not a bed. It appears to be just one small plant.

There will be moderate impacts to SAV and a temporary increase in turbidity during the dredging operations, as well as a loss of benthic organisms.

These projects should not have adverse impacts, other than the loss of benthic organisms and the minor impacts to SAV within the Goose Point portion of the projects.

The activity will remain well away from the shorelines and should not affect the natural supply of sediments, nutrients, temperature, salinity, water flow, or circulation.

An increase in turbidity is expected during the

dredging process; however, the DEQ guidelines for water quality will not be exceeded.

Best management practices will reduce most of the adverse impacts. The dredging paths have been modified to avoid the maximum amount of SAV possible. The paths have been narrowed to avoid larger SAV beds and the dredging paths have been shortened, in several areas, because there are large amounts of SAV within the originally proposed project areas.

The dredging will remain a minimum of ten feet from both emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation, except for the previously mentioned minor impacts in the Goose Point area.

No alternative sites have been considered. This is a maintenance dredging project. The same channel paths will be followed. No new areas will be dredged.

The maintenance dredging of channels does require a waterfront location.

The projects will not change the location of the navigation channels and should not affect the natural scenic qualities.

Notification of the projects appeared in The Sun Herald as required, and a public hearing was held on October 3rd, at the Bolton State Office Building.

One public comment was received pertaining to

the Hiller Park area, and this was a resident who wanted to see an increase in the dredging area.

Several public comments were received pertaining to the Mercedes Drive area, concerning increasing the dredging area, support for the project and the recommendation of a beneficial use site in the immediate area near the project, runoff in the project area as a result of improvements to infrastructure done by the City, and a request about the proposed start date for the project.

Several public comments were received pertaining to Holly Hills; increasing the dredging area, dredging at the mouth of the channel into the Holly Hills Subdivision, the proximity of the dredging path to private boathouses and bulkheads, the probability of future maintenance dredging, support of the project, increasing the dredging depth, and a statement that wetland vegetation has grown on areas that filled in because of extensive infrastructure repair in the area.

Several comments were received pertaining to Sunrise Court; increasing the dredging area, potential erosion problems because of the dredging, potential erosion because of increased boat traffic after the dredging is complete, opposition to the project because of potential adverse impacts to private property being the

economic value, or potential erosion, residents that are currently unable to utilize boat houses because the areas have silted in, support for the project, and the statement that there are still some areas of Katrina debris that have not been removed out of the neighboring marshes.

DEQ has no comments.

Archives and History has no concerns.

Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks has recommended best management practices.

The Secretary of State's office has no lease issues.

The Hiller Park shorefront access area has been identified in Chapter VI, Table VI-1, of the Coastal Program as an area requiring access improvements with regards to dredging.

Based on departmental review and evaluation, it has been determined that the projects will have significant public benefit and we recommend issuance of the permits.

Adam Jackson with Burk-Kleinpeter is here, as well as Robert Smith with the City of Biloxi, and I will be happy to answer any questions.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: It looks like you have been working on this project for quite some time.

JENNIFER WITTMANN: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have one gentleman who asked for public comment.

Mr. Mark Johnson, if you would come forward, please, and state your name.

MARK JOHNSON: Mark Johnson. I'm from 687 North Haven Drive, Holly Hills area, Phase F, Item 6, of DMR-170043. I live in Magee, Mississippi, and we have a house down here.

Five years before Katrina, we had a bulkhead built and dredged it ourselves, had a permit to dredge it.

Since that time, since the infrastructure, plus Katrina, it has filled completely in behind our house. We can't even keep the boat back there.

The only thing I'm asking is that y'all really consider how this will help the people down in Holly Hills and other places with the dredging, especially with six feet of water underneath.

The only thing I was asking, too, is when it is approved, we would like to know a time line for the appropriation of the money and the permits.

I talked to -- I wish I could pronounce this guy's last name with the Corps of Engineers -- Don M-r-o-c-z-k-o, and he said that as far as where the grass and stuff has grown up where the silt has come in, that would be non consideration. He said all he needs are facts from

DMR and the City to advise them when they could get started.

I appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you, sir.

MARK JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Are there any of those questions that you can answer for him?

JENNIFER WITTMANN: Some of the areas that the City originally proposed for the dredging had to removed, after the SAV and shellfish surveys were completed. There weren't any shellfish found in the area, but there has been substantial SAV growth.

The City has decided to reduce their dredging footprint to avoid SAV. The City is definitely able to come back and request modifications to those permits at a later date, if they want to go through consultation to potentially have greater impacts to SAV, other than that one small area at the Goose Point project.

At this point, they reduced it down to avoid the maximum impact to SAV, as we requested and National Marine Fisheries would also request.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you.

Does anybody else have any questions?

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Jennifer, have all the private property encroachment concerns and drainage issues

been resolved, or addressed?

JENNIFER WITTMANN: As far as encroachment concerns, the City is going to be staying off. They are not going to dredge within any privately-owned boathouses, or anything like that, and they will be staying at least five feet off of existing bulkheads.

As far as drainage concerns in the area, I know that is something that the City is addressing. Most of the construction in these areas has been completed. Now, it is a good opportunity to go in and clean things out.

We did have reports to our office, during the construction, in the Sunrise Court, Holly Hills and Mercedes Drive areas of runoff, and the City was putting their best management practices in place, and we would have those rains like we had back in April where it was almost astronomical and they couldn't contain all of the runoff in some instances, but, I think, at this point -- is that correct?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Step forward, please.

JENNIFER WITTMANN: State your name.

ROBERT SMITH: Robert Smith, City of Biloxi.

The only encroachment issues we had were people concerned we weren't dredging enough; none as far as dredging too close to any areas.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I think it's always never

enough.

I see Mr. Ramsey with his hand up.

Yes, sir. Real quick, Mr. Ramsey.

GILBERT RAMSEY: Yes. I apologize, but I would like to address something as well, when you come to this dredging application for Hiller Park and the VA hospital. You have an access for the waterfront. You've got the dredging going on and you need access to the waterfront as well.

All perimeters of the waterways of Hiller Park and the VA Hospital, it needs to be addressed to have access to the water itself for the public to have access because of the varmints, because of the homeless living in the woods and everything else in the park and at the VA Hospital. All they have is the pier there, and the pier is not serving the purpose for outreach services for the veterans.

When we are coming forth with the introduction of more options for them, we would like all of the accessability cleaned out as well.

I will have the Seabees and the Air Force instilled in this application to make sure it is cleaned out appropriately, but I want y'all's recognition for this application, when y'all do the dredging, to make sure there is perimeter access for all waterways, Hiller Park

and the VA.

The waterfront development the City of Biloxi is initiating for Point Cadet and everything else, this is something I'm looking at because I want to make sure it is accessible down this way, the waterfront development as well.

Thank you very much.

JENNIFER WITTMANN: This is an application by the City of Biloxi, not the DMR. If the City would like to do some additional shorefront access areas, we would definitely work with the City to make those happen.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Sounds good.

Any more discussion?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we accept the staff's recommendation on these projects submitted by the City of Biloxi.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I will second the motion made by Mr. Ron.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have a second.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All opposed the same

sign.

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Motion carries unanimously.

Thank you.

JENNIFER WITTMANN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Next on the agenda is Office of Finance and Administration, Ms. Kacey Williams.

KACEY WILLIAMS: Good morning Commissioners, Director Miller, Ms. Chestnut.

These are the financial results as of December 31st, 2016.

At the end of December, we had a State revenue of seven point nine million. The total Agency revenue was nineteen point eight million.

Our State net income was two point eight million, and our total Agency net income was two hundred and thirty thousand dollars.

After six months of fiscal year 2017, we have an Operating Funds budget remaining of sixty-one point six percent and our Tidelands Trust Fund remaining is fifty-eight point five percent.

Any questions?

(No response.)

KACEY WILLIAMS: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you.

Next on the agenda is Public Affairs, Melissa Scallan.

MELISSA SCALLAN: Good morning Commissioners, Director Miller, Ms. Chestnut.

The agency was mentioned forty-one times in local, state and national media, since the last Commission meeting.

Some of the most popular items were speckled trout, oyster season and the opening of several fishing seasons.

Last week, Governor Phil Bryant participated in the christening of two of our agency boats, the Conservationist and the Admiral Dewey, a Marine Patrol boat named for Bryant. Several agency employees participated in the ceremony, as well as state and local elected officials.

Ron Harmon and Richard Gollott were there, as well you your daughter, Mr. Bosarge. It was a great event. It was good weather, and it was very well attended. It was a nice event.

The Grand Bay NERR held its annual Star Party in December. More than three hundred people attended and enjoyed a hay ride, a walk on the Savannah Trail and pictures with Santa.

Marine Patrol participated in two special events in December: Christmas on the Water in Biloxi and Christmas on the Bayou in Gulfport.

Officers also participated in two community outreach events: Lights and Lagniappe in Gautier and Safety Day at South Hancock Elementary School.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I hated I missed the christening of those vessels, but I did see some pictures and the boats look good. Looks like we've got some vessels we can do some good work with.

Thank you, Melissa.

MELISSA SCALLAN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do we have any other business?

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Yes. I would like to make a motion that we move next month's meeting, on February 21st to Jackson County.

JAMIE MILLER: We are going to meet at the NERR, if y'all are okay with that, the east Jackson County facility we have.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have a motion.

SANDY CHESTNUT: Keep the same time, or change it?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do you want to move it up to 10:00 o'clock?

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Yes, let's make it 10:00 o'clock. That will be better for everyone.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We are moving next month's meeting to Jackson County to the Grand Bay NERR building at 10:00 o'clock.

That's the motion?

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Yes.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do we have a second on the motion?

COMMISSIONER TRAPANI: I'll second the motion.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed same sign.

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Motion carries unanimously.

Any other business?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do we have anybody else for public comment?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do I have a motion to adjourn?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: Mr. Chairman, I would like

to make a motion that we adjourn this January meeting.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I will second that motion.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 9:48 o'clock, a.m., the January 17, 2017, meeting of the Commission on Marine Resources was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the January 17, 2017, meeting of the Commission on Marine Resources, as taken by me at the time and place heretofore stated in the aforementioned matter in shorthand, with electronic verification, and later reduced to typewritten form to the best of my skill and ability; and, further, that I am not a relative, employee, or agent, of any of the parties thereto, nor financially interested in the cause.

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