COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Friday, April 10, 2020
9:00 a.m.
Special Session Webinar

Commission Members:
Mark Havard, Chairman
Steve Bosarge
Richard Gollott
Natalie Guess

Also Present:
Joe Spraggins, Executive Director DMR
Sandy Chesnut, Esq., Assistant Attorney General
JOE SPRAGGINS: We've got three of you. So we have a quorum, if you want to take control of this. We've got Commissioner Guess and Commissioner Bosarge on with you.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Good morning, guys.
COMMISSIONER GUESS: Good morning.
COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Good morning.
I will go ahead and call the meeting to order. First item on the agenda is approval of the agenda.

COMMISSIONER GUESS: I make a motion to approve the agenda.
COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a second to approve the agenda?
COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll second that.
COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I've got a motion and a second.

All those in favor say aye.
COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Aye.
COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.
COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Aye.
Motion moves.

JOE SPRAGGINS: We also have Commissioner Gollott on now.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Yes, sir.
COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Good morning.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Good morning.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Now, let's go straight to the Executive Director’s Report.

What have you got?

JOE SPRAGGINS: What I called this meeting for this morning was -- I will Sandy go over it, but we what would like to do is, because we have had the office shut down and we will probably continue to be shut down until the end of the month and people cannot come in and buy their license for commercial, we would like to extend it.

I will turn it over to Sandy and let her talk.

SANDY CHESNUT: As soon as they put the presentation on the screen.

JOE SPRAGGINS: They are trying to.

The presentation, if we can get it, Brady.

Commissioners, while we are waiting on that, I will tell you that the Bonnet Carre now we have about seventy bays open running about sixty-five thousand cubic feet per second. They anticipate opening another ten bays today, and, then, we will see what happens from that point. It is very minimal, right now. So let's just hope and pray it stays that way.

SANDY CHESNUT: As the Director said, we are talking about the extension of commercial licenses
expiration dates, and we will go over the background. 

Background information is pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated 49-15-29 Subsection 2, all commercial licenses expire on April 30th following the date of issuance, but, as we all know, on April 1st, Governor Reeves issued Executive Order 1466 establishing a Shelter In Place Order through April 20th, 2020, for the State of Mississippi.

The relevant authority that applies in this situation is Mississippi Code Annotated 33-15-31(b) and it provides in pertinent part:

“All existing laws, ordinances, rules and regulations inconsistent with provisions of the article, ..., shall be suspended during the period of time and to the extent that such emergency exists.”

The boards and commissions have that authority to suspend whatever laws are necessary to comply with the executive order.

We are requesting a motion:

In order to comply with Executive Order 1466 and acknowledging the processing time involved in issuing commercial licenses, the Commission finds that the April 30 expiration date is inconsistent with the provisions in
Executive Order 1466 and finds that it is necessary to suspend the April 30 expiration date of commercial licenses and extend the expiration date of commercial licenses to May 31st, 2020, and that this will be reassessed as needed for the duration of the state of the emergency.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Is that it?
SANDY CHESNUT: Well, I have additional information.

The next screen, Brady.
The additional information that is relevant to this topic is that applicants are reminded that they may continue to obtain commercial licenses by mailing their application to the DMR.

If we could go back to the prior screen, Brady. Perfect.
If y'all would like to suspend that provision in 49-15-26 and extend the expiration date, then, we need a motion.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Sandy, I guess we are going to do some kind of public notice of this.
Is that what the intentions are?
SANDY CHESNUT: Yes. If you guys approve this, then, yes, we will post it on the website.
COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Okay.
JOE SPRAGGINS: Commissioner Bosarge, WLOX is on this call with us today. They are getting this information so they can put it out, if y'all pass it.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: That’s great. That way, everybody will know it.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Very good. I think we have a motion written very well.

Do we have anybody that wants to make the motion?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes. I’ll make the motion, and I will go ahead and read it into the record.

In order to comply with Executive Order 1466 -- I can't see it because my screen is in the way -- and acknowledging the processing time involved in issuing commercial licenses, the MCMR finds that the April 30th expiration date is inconsistent with the provisions in Executive Order 1466 and finds that it is necessary to suspend the April 30th expiration date of commercial licenses and extend the expiration date of commercial licenses to May 31st, 2020. This will be reassessed as needed for the duration of the state of the emergency.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have a motion on the table.

Do I have a second for the motion?

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I'll second
that, Richard Gollott.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have a motion and a second.

All those in favor say aye. Say your name, and, then, say aye, please.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Commissioner Gollott, aye.

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Commissioner Guess, aye.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Commissioner Bosarge, aye.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Commissioner Havard, aye. Motion moves.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Go back to the agenda, please, real quick to make sure I haven't missed something. The only thing we forgot to put on the agenda and I would ask if you could, Commissioner Harvard, ask if there are any public comments.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Are there any public comments at this time?

JOE SPRAGGINS: I have not seen any sent to me.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: No public comments. Any other business?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: No other business. Can I get a motion to adjourn?
COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Commissioner Gollott makes a motion that we adjourn.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll second.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I’ve got a motion and a second.

All those in favor say aye.

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Commissioner Guess, aye.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Commissioner Bosarge, aye.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Commissioner Gollott, aye.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Commissioner Havard, aye. Motion moves.

Appreciate it, guys.

JOE SPRAGGINS: We will get it out to the public ASAP.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you.
CERTIFICATE

I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the April 10, 2020, Commission on Marine Resources Special Session Webinar, 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.

S/____________________________________

LUCILLE MORGAN, CSR 1251
COURT REPORTER