MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 21, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Bolton Building Auditorium
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

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Commission Members:

Ronnie Daniels, Chairman
Natalie Guess, Vice Chairman
Cammack “Cam” Roberds

Also Present:

Joe Spraggins, Executive Director DMR
Sandy Chesnut, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

Lucille Morgan, CSR 1251
COURT REPORTER
(228) 396-8788
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Good morning everybody.

Welcome to our September 21st DMR Commission on Marine Resources meeting.

Today, I would like to welcome Secretary of State, Michael Watson. He is joining us today.

MICHAEL WATSON: I am glad to be here.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I would also like to ask him, if he doesn’t mind, to lead us in our Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you for that, Secretary.

Joe, would you like to lead us in prayer this morning?

JOE SPRAGGINS: Yes, I would.

Before we start the prayer, if I could, we had a young lady, Ms. Dorothy Pope, who worked with Service Master here and she was part of the staff there and she passed away last Thursday, September the 16th.

The family, in lieu of flowers, they had asked if anybody would like to, to do a monetary donation to help with the funeral expense.

She was the sweetest thing in the world. A sweet young lady.

Donations can be made at the Capitol Police over
here when you come in the door, if anybody would like to
do that. She was just one of the sweetest ladies in the
world.

Also, we’ve got the family of Mr. Tommy Jennings
here today. We want to still remember him and remember
the family. He was a great man. We loved him.

Let’s go to the Lord in prayer.

Our Heavenly Father, we thank you so much.

Lord, we are so blessed just to have you as our leader, as
our Savior, as the one who gives us the opportunity to do
the things that we do every day.

Lord, we ask that you take each and every one of
the young men and women that work at the agency here and
lead them and guide and direct them to be able to do the
things as you would have it done, not the way we would do
it, Lord.

Please take this Commission and give them the
strength to do what they need to do and the wisdom to do
what they need to do to make this agency a better place.

Lord, we thank you for everything. We thank you
for your son and, Lord, we thank you most of all for us
having the ability to be saved and have everlasting life.

We ask this in Jesus Christ’s name. Amen.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Joe.

Approval of minutes from August 17th meeting.
Do we have any discussion on that?
(No response.)

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do I have a motion to approve the minutes?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make a motion.
COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second it.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All those in favor?
COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.
COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

Motion passes.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Approval of today's agenda.

Do we have a motion to approve the agenda?
COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make a motion.
COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second that motion.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All those in favor?
COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.
COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

Motion passes.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Director, we will turn it over to you.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Daphne Moore was promoted to Marine Patrol Senior Master Sergeant.
Jada Whittington was promoted to Master Sergeant in Marine Patrol.

Jacob Johnson was promoted to Marine Patrol Sergeant.

Chis Spurlin was one of our contractors and is now a Technician with the Finfish Bureau.

Thanks to all of them, and it is always great to promote people inside the agency.

I don’t think we have any contracts.

Just a real quick thing on the agency update, a couple of things that are going on.

If you haven’t noticed, when you come in the front doors, the main front doors, there is a new license agency. That is where we sell licenses, now. You don’t have to go up to the second floor anymore. We have a beautiful area there. You can go in and it is now run by Marine Patrol. You can come in and buy your license there and you never have to go up the stairs, or anything else.

That is great. It is operational right now. It is a beautiful area, if you haven’t seen it.

Also, before the next Commission meeting, our reception area will now be on the second floor, but it will be where you come in off he elevator. You can either come up the steps, or come off the elevator, and we will have a receptionist sitting there and be able to help you
to do whatever you need to do to get to anyone in the
Department of Marine Resources.

After Ida, we had a couple of little issues. We
looked at it and thank goodness the good Lord was gracious
to us and we didn't have hardly any trouble, just a few
minor little things that happened to us.

In response to the impacts that Hurricane Ida
had on the Louisiana seafood industry, the agency used its
statutory authority under Mississippi Code 33-15-31 to
allow Louisiana commercial fishermen to offload their
catch with the Mississippi seafood dealers/processors
without having to obtain a seafood transport license
through December the 31st, 2021.

This really helps them and it helps us, and it
is a good thing. It is a neighborly thing to do and we
are glad to do it.

The agency also made provision to allow licensed
Louisiana charter boat captains and passenger fishing
outside of the Mississippi territorial waters to launch
and land in Mississippi ports through December the 31st,
due to the loss of the infrastructure in Louisiana.

It's a thing that we should do. When one of our
neighboring states, or anyone, has a problem, we need to
take care of them as much as we possibly can. This helps
them and it even helps us, too. I don't want to be greedy
in this thing, but it helps us, too, because our
processors are able to continue and it helps them be able
to work.

We appreciate that, that we were able to do it.

Reminder that October the 12th is our next
meeting. Not the third, but it will be the second
Tuesday. That has been changed and make sure that
everybody understands that.

We are doing a couple of other things.

Traci has sent the paperwork back and hopefully
we will be getting it back shortly with a final answer on
the CARES Act as to when we can start distributing it.

The 2019 Bonnet Carre Funds, we are also working
on it. It is sitting with the Budget Department and
United States government. We are waiting on them to give
us some kind of approval to go forward with it.

The people at the Department of Marine Resources
have done their part to be able to make it work. We are
just trying to see if we can get it through the bureaucracy
up in Washington and be able to get things moving forward.

We are going to have a couple of meetings this
next month on some things that are going on with the
Bonnet Carre and, also, with the Mid-Breton Sound.

The Secretary of State is having some meetings
and we appreciate that, sir, and inviting us to do that.
We are going to be able to discuss this and meet and talk about what is going to happen and what possibilities are there.

The biggest thing in that is the Mid-Breton Sound Diversion something good, or bad.

We don’t know. None of us really know a hundred percent, now. We are doing a lot of studies with it. We are doing a study with USM and Mississippi State University to be able to tell us what the actual movement of the water would be.

We are also looking at it to be able to find out what the actual water we need to be able to have the right salinity and things for the oysters mainly. That is the main thing that we are trying to be able to regrow because the others things are growing. The shrimp, the crabs and all are growing and the finfish, but we need to be able to do something to be able to find out what we need. What is going to happen. What could happen if the Bonnet Carre. What could happen at this. We are working on that.

Secretary of State, we thank you so much for that and we appreciate you.

By the way, he is going to give us a big check this afternoon.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Good. We like those.

JOE SPRAGGIN: At 1:30, I think.
Is that right?

MICHAEL WATSON: Yes, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS: The Secretary of State is going to present us with a Tidelands check. We appreciate that, sir.

I won’t disclose the amount because that is your business. So I will let you do that.

MICHAEL WATSON: I haven’t signed it yet.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Well, I’ll be quiet until I get it.

That will give us an idea of where we are.

The other thing is Actions Update from prior meetings.

SANDY CHESNUT: At the August meeting, there were two motions to recommend to the Director that Part 10 and Part 11 be forwarded to the Secretary of State’s Office for final adoption, and there were two motions to the Executive Director to send Part 12 and Part 16 to the Secretary of State’s Office for Notice of Intent.

There was also a motion to recommend that the Executive Director approve the State Saltwater Finfish records. One for Conventional Record for James Landers. Another for Youth Record for Riley Armes.

The Director approved all of those motions as recommended.
Then, there was a pending item that we kept
having to move forward because we were having problems
getting all of the parties together.

A meeting with all of the parties was held on
August the 17th. Mrs. Barclay offered to pay the five
hundred dollar fine that was previously recommended to be
paid by the contractor, Mr. Benward. All parties were in
agreement with this arrangement.

The Director approved the five hundred fine to
be paid by the Barclays. He approved the after-the-fact
authorization for the existing boathouse and authorization
for the proposed boathouse.

That is all we have.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Any questions, Commissioners?

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: No, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS: With your permission, sir, I
would like to go ahead. We have a resolution for Mr.
Tommy Jennings and I would like to go ahead and read that
resolution into the minutes, and we have some copies of
the resolution for the family.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

RESOLUTION NO. 09212021-01

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of
Marine Resources, is a duly constituted
governmental entity, created to serve
the Great State of Mississippi, and
acknowledges contributions to the
betterment of the fisheries of the Gulf
of Mexico through significant biological,
industrial, legislative enforcement, or
administrative activities; and
WHEREAS, Thomas “Tommy” Jennings, Jr.,
devoted twenty-seven (27) years of his
life to law enforcement; and
WHEREAS, Officer Jennings began his law
enforcement career and State service in
1994 with the Hancock County Sheriff’s
Office; and
WHEREAS, Officer Jennings served as a
Marine Patrol Officer with the
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
for twenty-one (21) years working his way
up the rank to Senior Master Sergeant; and
WHEREAS, Officer Jennings served on
numerous special teams during his law
enforcement career, which included SWAT,
Narcotics, Dive Team, Field Training
Officer and FBI Certified Range Instructor;
and
WHEREAS, Officer Jennings was best known

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for teaching high level skills and in
doing so was described by many officers
as making them “feel safe”; and
WHEREAS, Officer Jennings was the
recipient of the Mississippi Life
Saving Award bestowed by the Governor
of the State of Mississippi; and
WHEREAS, Officer Jennings went to be
with the Lord on July 20, 2021;
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
the Mississippi Department of Marine
Resources recognizes and appreciates
the long valuable career and service
of Thomas “Tommy” Jennings, Jr., to the
enhancement, protection and conservation
of marine resources for the State of
Mississippi.
DONE AND RESOLVED, in this duly
constituted and executed resolution, on
this the 21st day of September 2021.
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE
RESOURCES.
Joe Spraggins, Executive Director
(Copies of Resolution given to the
Jennings family.)
JOE SPRAGGINS: Mr. Jennings was one of the nicest men you will ever meet.

Officer Jennings, I remember he went through a time there when I was trying to get certified as enhanced carry. He went through that with me and I was like, man, how can you do this, because he looked at me and he said, all I want to do is be the enemy because you ain't going to hit me.

He was a great guy, great person. You never saw him when he didn’t have a smile on his face. You never saw him when he wasn’t trying to do something for somebody. Never saw a second in his life when he wasn’t being the light of hope for everybody.

I know y’all miss him. We miss him. God bless each of you.

KYLE WILKERSON: Are we ready, sir?

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Yes, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Wait. We got ahead of ourselves. We have Commissioners report.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We don’t have anything today.

It is all you, Chief.

KYLE WILKERSON: Well, the Director summed it up. Me and Tommy came up together. There is not a day goes by that I don't think about him.
Let’s get started. The report this month, once again, is just like every other month.

These men and women who work with you and me have been busting their butts. They work really hard at their job and they do a phenomenal job.

Nothing really stands out to me on any type of citation. We have had several that are on the list, as you can see.

I think we had over a thousand contacts this month, also, which is very good this time of year. It is starting to wind down just a little bit. It really never winds down for Marine Patrol, but it is slowing down just a tad.

If any of y’all have a question pertaining to any citations, feel free to ask.

Also, I would like to say that we had one drowning. One man was ejected off the I-110 bridge. We assisted. Darkness came in and we stayed on site until we found him at 3:00 a.m. that morning. With Marine Patrol and volunteers from Mobile, we were able to locate him and have closure for the family.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Chief, I would like to commend every one of those. You stayed there. You didn’t give up.

KYLE WILKERSON: That’s right.

Lucille Morgan, CSR 1251
COURT REPORTER
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JOE SPRAGGINS: And we thank you for it.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you for that, Chief Kyle.

Do the Commissioners have any questions on citations on the report?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you. Y’all keep up the good work.

KYLE WILKERSON: Thank you, sir.

We have a few more items. I’m going to leave it to Captain Strickland who is going to talk about Title 22. I am going to give the floor to him.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I tell you what, Chief, before we get started with all of that, does the family have anything they would like to say?

MS. JENNINGS: Thank you. I can’t say any more because I can’t stop crying.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank y’all for coming out. He was a great man and we were honored to have him with us.

All right, Chief.

MICHAEL STRICKLAND: Good morning Director, Commissioners, Ms. Chesnut.

I would also like to say thank y’all to the Commission for taking the time to set aside this morning
to honor Tommy.

Title 22, Part 12, is up for final adoption.

On August the 17\textsuperscript{th}, 2021, the Commission recommended to the Executive Director that the new format and changes to Title 22, Part 12, be sent to the Secretary of State’s Office for Notice of Intent.

The Executive Director approved the recommendation and the proposed regulation was filed with the Secretary of State’s Office on August 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 2021.

The notice of the proposed regulation was published in the Sun Herald on September 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 2021,

Notice of the proposed regulation was also posted on the MDMR website on August 26\textsuperscript{th}, 2021.

As you see here, we have copies of the website notification and, also, the Affidavit of Publication from the Sun Herald (indicating slide).

Public comments were due to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources by 5:00 p.m. on September 17\textsuperscript{th}, 2021. We received no public comments.

We would request a motion to recommend to the Executive Director that the proposed changes to Title 22, Part 12, be forwarded to the Secretary of State’s Office for final adoption.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have any questions on that?
(No response.)

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have a motion to approve?

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I make a motion to recommend to the Executive Director.

COMMISSIONER GUESS: I’ll second.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We have a motion and a second.

All those in favor?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

Motion passes.

MICHAEL STRICKLAND: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

MICHAEL STRICKLAND: Second was Title 22, Part 16, pertaining to boat and water safety for final adoption, as well.

On August the 17th, 2021, the Commission recommended to the Executive Director that the new format and changes to Title 22, Part 16, be sent to the Secretary of State’s Office for Notice of Intent.

The Executive Director approved the recommendation and the proposed regulation as filed with the Secretary of State’s Office on August 23rd, 2021.
Notice of the proposed regulation was published in the Sun Herald on September 3rd, 2021, and the notice of proposed regulation was also posted on the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources website on August 26th, 2021.

You can see the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources website notice and, also, the affidavit for the Sun Herald publication.

Public comments were due to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources by 5:00 p.m. on September 17th, 2021. No public comments were received.

I would like to recommend a motion to the Executive Director that the proposed changes to Title 22, Part 16, be forwarded to the Secretary of State’s Office for final adoption.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have any questions on this one?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I’ll make a motion for the recommendation to the Director.

COMMISSIONER GUESS: I’ll second.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All those in favor?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.
Motion passes.

MICHAEL STRICKLAND: Thank you.

At this time, I would like to bring up Lieutenant Colonel Gex who will present the proposed no wake zone.

BRYCE GEX: In mid July, I received a proposal from the City of Biloxi for an extension of a no wake zone and, in the same area, the addition of a new no wake zone proposed.

This is an overview shot of the Popp's Ferry Causeway and the bridge at Popp's Ferry. You can see right here the convergence of two channels which is the reason for the proposed no wake zones, the addition of all of the public access areas along the causeway, private marinas and so forth (indicating photograph).

Thanks to the IT Department. They did a drone flyover for us just to give us a shot. This is coming from the Grasshopper Island area up one of the channels towards the south. You can see all of the public access areas that are going to eventually be involved in this, right there being the boat ramp (video playing).

The language in the proposal that the City of Biloxi gave us was the boat ramp has a State applied no wake zone of a hundred linear feet in all directions.

They would like to extend that State applied no
wake zone for two hundred feet each direction of the public boat ramp facility, and there is a request for an additional three hundred linear feet from the bridge span right there (indicating video).

Again, you can see all of the public access areas with the new restaurant in the area, fishing piers, walking piers and Anatole Bay's marina will be involved (indicating video).

Affects to boaters:

Vessels traveling from the proposed two hundred feet north of the public boat ramp to the proposed two hundred feet south of the public boat ramp will be at idle speed for no more than one minute and twelve seconds. Very minimal impact.

Vessels traveling from the proposed three hundred feet west of the drawbridge to the proposed three hundred feet east of the drawbridge will be at idle speed for right at one minute and fifty-eight seconds. Also, minimal impact.

Special considerations in the area:

There is a kayak rental vendor that just popped up at the northwestern abutment of the Popp's Ferry bridge right near the restaurant.

Residents of Anatole Bay and their personal property, their moored vessels that are in the area in the
marina. Kids also dive off of that pier and swim and that kind of stuff in the area.

One thing to consider is commercial barge traffic is going to have to maintain their course and speed in order to stay maneuverable in the area and not hit the bridge. We have had that happen several times where they have hit the dolphins at the bridge. That is something to keep consideration of.

Recreational public utilizing the public accesses along the causeway. I showed you all of the walking areas and the fishing piers and so forth.

I mentioned the convergence of two channels making it a high traffic area.

This is just a Google Earth that shows the affected area shaded in red. Again, you can see the Anatole Bay marina, the kayak rental place is there with the restaurant and, of course, there is the public boat ramp area.

The Office of Marine Patrol recommends the establishment of a no wake zone for the specified location, based upon the proximity of the convergence of the two channels in relation to the public access areas in which people fish, boat and socialize.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have any questions on this one?
COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I've got a quick question. The shaded areas west of actually the bridge shows it stopping short of the marina.

Does it continue further to the west than the shaded area?

BRYCE GEX: I got the letter from Ms. Rachel Quave from the City of Biloxi and I spoke to her on the phone. That is something to consider and you guys can discuss extending this, but, in order to include all of the marina, it would be almost double what they are asking for. You would have to go another six hundred feet to include all of the marina.

Again, that is just minimal affect to the boaters. We are talking about probably another fifty seconds at idle speed, but, as you know, operating any vessel, when they come down right here off of planing speed, or begin to accelerate the planing speed, they are going to get the worse possible wakes there in the marina. We do receive calls all year about wakes in that area.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That was going to be my question, if we have had any complaints.

BRYCE GEX: Yes, sir. They will come from the new restaurant, the kayak dealer and Anatole Bay.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: My thoughts on it, if we are going to go ahead and do that, I would say let’s
extend it and give a little more protection to the whole area there.

BRYCE GEX: Ms. Quave expressed interest in doing that. At the time, I don't think they pulled up the maps and looked at everything from an overview position, but when I mentioned it to her, she would appreciate me mentioning it to you guys today.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Do we need to go back to the City and ask them to extend theirs to make that change?

SANDY CHESNUT: Yes. I think they need to send an amended request, and, then, we can bring it up next month.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: So we need to table this until next month and get a new request from them.

BRYCE GEX: I can handle getting that done.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All right. Let's do that. We will table this one until next month.

BRYCE GEX: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we need to have a motion to table it?

SANDY CHESNUT: Yes.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll make the motion to table the no wake proposal until next month.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second that motion.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Motion and a second.
All those in favor?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

Thank you, Bryce.

BRYCE GEX: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Coastal Resources.

Before you get started, if anybody has public comment, TJ is in the back of the room. Please turn your request into him.

JENNIFER WITTMANN: Good morning.

I have just a couple of real quick announcements that I wanted to go over, and, then, Mr. Davis is out of the office today so I will also be presenting for Title 22, Part 19.

First thing is that on September 29th from 9:00 to 12:00 at the Mississippi State Extension Center our office is offering an Alternative Bulkhead training for contractors. This is living shorelines.

We are going to have experts speak about engineering, permitting, tidelands and the biological positive affects that living shorelines can have on our fish and finfish communities.

Secondly, after Hurricane Ida, all of the Coastal Preserves trails have been inspected by staff and
all of that is open to the public again. We had some
minor damage, but not anything that we weren’t able to
take care of in house.

Then, finally, any structures that were damaged
during Hurricane Zeta last year, property owners have
until October 28th of this year to submit an application
with the fee waived to rebuild previously authorized
structures.

Our Public Affairs office has put this back out
on Facebook so that people are aware. It was something
that was really popular right the storm, but, now, we are
almost a year out and we wanted to be sure that everybody
was aware of that upcoming deadline; applications without
the fee submitted by October 28th of this year, and we will
give them a permit so they can rebuild in the same
footprint.

With that, we are on to Title 22, Part 19, Rules
and Regulations for the Use of State-Owned Coastal
Preserve Areas.

The changes to Title 22, Part 19, include
removing wording that was already covered in Mississippi
Code and referencing applicable statutory, or regulatory,
authorities.

We have updated the chapter structure and format
to the “Rules” and “Sources” which conforms to the format
prescribed by the Secretary of State’s Office, and there were no substantive changes to Title 22, Part 19.

With that, staff would make the recommendation to the Executive Director that the new format and changes to Title 22, Part 19, be forwarded to the Secretary of State’s Office for Notice of Intent.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Have we got any questions on that?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: I’ll make the motion.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I’ll second that.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All those in favor?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

Motion passes.

JENNIFER WITTMANN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

GREG CHRISTODOULOU: Good morning everyone.

Greg Christodoulou. I will be presenting a permit extension by the agency.

It is located in the Mississippi Sound adjacent to Round Island. That is in a Special Use Restoration Area S-6.
This is the extension of the Round Island Beneficial Use Permit, Round Island Beneficial Use area.

Some of you know and maybe some folks aren't aware that State Statute 49-27-61 allows for any projects that exceed twenty-five hundred cubic yards of dredging have to be first considered for beneficial use.

Our office is charged with trying to find areas to do these beneficial use areas to help create tidal marsh habitat and additional Coastal habitats.

This is one of the sites. This permit was approved almost ten years ago. The applicant is requesting to extend the existing permit for two years until January 4th, 2024, and this permit authorized the fill of approximately eight hundred acres of state-owned waterbottoms.

This is how it shows up on the aerial.

This was a photo of the site when it was first filled. You can see there is no vegetation on the material yet.

This is a picture from just a few months back. You have some marsh coming in there, but you also have still a lot of open-water habitat.

What has happened is that material has consolidated down and there are additional areas that can be used to hold material, and it is in Jackson County.
which is the primary where we have a lot of dredge projects because of the industrial sites, Chevron, Ingalls, VT Halter, industries like that.

On December 11th, 2011, the Commission approved applicant's variance request, use plan change and permit to fill eight hundred acres of Coastal Wetlands.

Then, on August 11th of this year we received a request for a two-year extension to the permit.

Based on review and evaluation, staff recommends approval of the applicant’s request to extend the permit for an additional two years until January 4th of 2024.

This will be the last extension that we can have for this permit because permits can have a maximum of a ten-year life expectancy, and, then, have up to a two-year extension. So this will be the last go-round for this one.

Motion to recommend approval of the request for a two-year extension and establish the eight hundred acre BU site.

Any questions?

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I don’t think we have any. Do we have a motion to approve?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: I’ll make a motion.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I’ll second that motion.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All those in favor?
COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

Motion passes.

GREG CHRISTODOULOU: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

Next up is Leslie Brewer, Finance and Administration.

LESLEY BREWER: Good morning Director, Commissioners, legal.

My name is Leslie Brewer, CFO. I will be presenting the financials for August 31st, 2021.

At the end of August, our State Revenue was three point two million. Our Agency Revenue was three point four million.

Our State Net Income was two point four million and our Total Agency Net Income was one point seven million.

In our second month of 2022, we have ninety-eight point six percent of our budget remaining for the agency, and, then, our Tidelands is at ninety-seven percent of our budget.

Does anyone have any questions?

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: No, ma'am. I don't know how y'all keep up with all of these numbers, but I'm glad
you are doing it and not me.

LESLIE BREWER: All day long.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

LESLIE BREWER: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Ms. Charmaine.

CHARMAINE SCHERMUND: Good morning Commissioners, Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources was mentioned twenty-seven times in local, state and national media since the August MACMR meeting.

News items included Red Snapper season closing, the public meeting for the Oyster Management and Recovery Strategic Plan and allowing Louisiana charter boats to launch from Mississippi.

Travis Williams in the Artificial Reef Bureau for the Office of Marine Fisheries gave a presentation to Biloxi Rotary on August 17th at Mary Mahoney’s.

Karen Clark and IT intern Nathan Blackledge presented on an apple snail removal mapping project at the Mississippi Association of Spatial Technologies bimonthly meeting on August 13th.

Karen Clark and Willa Brantley recorded a session on August 18th about using satellite imagery in wetland management. The recording will be presented at the international conference, Planet Explore 2021, to be
The August Adventure Quencher at the NERR featured the Raptor Road Show on August 14th. The NERR partnered with Mobile County Public School’s Environmental Studies Center for the annual Raptor Road Show. The show brings raptors native to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for the NERR community to have an up-close educational encounter which includes owls, hawks and a bald eagle.

On August 13th, NERR staff took Mississippi Public Broadcasting on a tour of the estuary to film for their series, “Mississippi Roads”. The episode will feature the Grand Bay NERR, and the premiere date has not yet been set.

On August 25th, Avery Beck and Jennifer Cumbest hosted a school group of Hancock County students for a field trip at the NERR. The students explored the boardwalk looking for specimens to look at under a microscope, looked for frogs and plants in the pond in front of the building and made art mandalas with pressed plants.

On September 14th, the Grand Bay NERR held their virtual Grand Bay Community Collaborative to work on the new management plan for the next five years. The Collaborative is the NERR’s main advisory committee and is made up of a variety of stakeholders from various local
agencies, local teachers, university researchers, community members from the Friends of the Grand Bay NERR and representatives from other non-governmental organizations.

Lastly, the agency sponsored and had a booth at the Biloxi Seafood Festival held September 11th and 12th. MDMR staff handed out our publications, fish ruler stickers, fish posters and various items promoting Mississippi Seafood to children and adults who visited our booth.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Charmaine.
CHARMAINE SCHERMUND: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Marine Fisheries.
ERIK BROUSSARD: Good morning Commissioners.
Before we get to the Office of Marine Fisheries, I wanted to give a quick update on a public hearing we had last week.

Last Tuesday, September 14th, we had a public hearing on our oyster restoration and resiliency plan. We had about twenty-six attendees both virtual and in person.

The document had been out for public comment since June. To date, we received a little over forty comments.

We will be wrapping it up and getting a final draft out to the public and the Commission shortly.
I just wanted to give an update on that.
Jonathan Barr is going to be doing state records.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you for the update.
JONATHAN BARR: Good morning.

We have two potential State records for your consideration this morning.

The first one is an all tackle record. It is a spearfish record. It is a Lionfish, Pterois volitans.
The old record is two pounds five point four ounces. The new record is two pounds twelve point nine eight ounces. The angler is Mr. Joseph Triplett.

There is the fish. You get the see the size comparison. That is a behemoth. That is about four-and-a-half centimeters shy of the world record. So that is pretty cool (indicating photograph).

That is Mr. Triplett with the fish (indicating photograph).

The second one is Youth Conventional record, a Cownose Ray, Rhinoptera bonasus. This is a new submission for the Youth category. It is twenty-two pounds eleven point zero four ounces. The angler is Mr. Rodie Armes.

There is the Cownose Ray and there is Mr. Rodie with the fish (indicating photographs).

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I think that kid has
probably got more state records than anybody else, doesn’t he?

JONATHAN BARR: They go hard on them. That's for sure.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I love seeing these. These are good.

Have we got a motion to approve these?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: I make a motion.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I’ll second it.

All those in favor?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

Motion passes.

JONATHAN BARR: Thank y'all.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Jonathan.

JOE SPRAGGINS: TJ, any public comments?

TJ MORAN: None.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Any other business from our Commissioners?

(No Response.)

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Secretary, we would like to thank you for coming out today.

Do you have anything you would like to say?

MICHAEL WATSON: Keep up the good work. I'll
give you some money later.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We are looking forward to it.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I just wanted to mention we had an invitational tournament last weekend and tagged twenty-two tripletail, and we appreciate the sponsorship from the Gulf Coast Research Lab in sponsoring the tags. I want to say one of our own, Mr. Erik Broussard, actually won the tournament and his son Zachary, when he received that tag, was a sight to see. I just wanted to say I appreciate y'all coming out and being a part of it.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Was that a tag-and-release tournament?

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: There were two divisions. We had a tag-and-release, and, then, a two-fish aggregate. Twenty-two Triple Tail tagged and released in one day.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: That’s great. We haven't had many of them over on the west side this year, but the research Southern Mississippi is doing on those fish is some pretty cool stuff.

JOE SPRAGGINS: One thing real quick.

Rick, how many days of Red Snapper season have we had this year?

RICK BURRIS: I'm not sure. I believe there is
somewhere around seventy so far.

    JOE SPRAGGINS: Seventy days?

    RICK BURRIS: Yes, sir.

    JOE SPRAGGINS: We had a great season for Red

Snapper and that has been for the last three years, or
four, years we have had that number?

    RICK BURRIS: With the exception of 2020 during

the pandemic, yes, sir. If you take that out, we are
sitting on average.

    COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

Do we have a motion to adjourn?

    COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll make a motion.

    COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll second.

    COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

    COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

    COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

    COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

    COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Everyone have a good day.

(Whereupon, at 9:53 o'clock a.m. the September
21, 2021, meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Commission
on Marine Resources was concluded.)
CERTIFICATE

I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing thirty-six pages, including this page, is a true and correct transcript of the September 21, 2021, meeting of the Mississippi Advisory 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.

S/

LUCILLE MORGAN, CSR 1251
COURT REPORTER