



ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

**Date:** May 10, 2025

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<p>Page 1</p> <p>MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING TROY UNIVERSITY TROJAN CENTER LAMAR HIGGINS BALLROOMS 321 VETERANS MEMORIAL DRIVE TROY, ALABAMA SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025, 9:00 A.M.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>PROCEEDINGS TAKEN BEFORE: JAMIE MCCRACKEN Certified Court Reporter State of Alabama ACCR #451</p>	<p>Page 2</p> <p>1 APPEARANCES 2 3 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD: 4 JOSEPH DOBBS, JR., CHAIRMAN 5 CHRIS BLANKENSHIP, EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY 6 MR. BROCK JONES 7 DR. J. MIKE PHILLIPS, ACES DIRECTOR 8 GRADY HARTZOG, JR. 9 TIM WOOD 10 JEFF MARTIN 11 12 FOR THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION 13 AND NATURAL RESOURCES: 14 ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION 15 ADVISORY BOARD 16 64 N. Union Street, Room 474 17 Montgomery, Alabama 36130 18 CHARLANNA W. SKAGGS 19 Charlanna.skaggs@dcnr.alabama.gov 20 21 22 23</p>
<p>Page 3</p> <p>1 (WHEREUPON, the meeting of 2 the Alabama Conservation 3 Advisory Board was called to 4 order and proceedings 5 commenced at 9:00 a.m.) 6 7 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: I'm Joey Dobbs, 8 Chair of the Conservation Advisory 9 Board. And I'd like to welcome 10 everyone today to our second meeting 11 in 2025 here on May the 10th. I'm 12 glad you are all here, welcome, 13 welcome, welcome. Let's be diligent 14 and responsible today and considerate 15 of everyone. 16 Today I am going to ask Mr. 17 Blankenship, our Chairman, to please 18 give the invocation. 19 (Invocation.) 20 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, 21 Commissioner Blankenship, very much. 22 I would like to lead us in the 23 pledge today. The flag will be to</p>	<p>Page 4</p> <p>1 your left, stage. 2 (Pledge of Allegiance.) 3 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you all 4 very much. Today, we have a couple 5 of special attendees, attendees at 6 their own home. But I'd like to 7 thank and welcome Mr. William 8 Filmore, who is Troy University's 9 Vice Chancellor of Government and 10 External Affairs. Thank you very 11 much. And to Ms. Lynn Bundy, the 12 Events Coordinator, for allowing us 13 this hall on this beautiful campus. 14 Thank y'all. 15 Thank you very much, Ms. Bundy. 16 Appreciate it very much. 17 Let me take a moment, as I do, 18 to thank Ms. Wanda McCullers, her 19 staff, Ms. Betsy Jones, for managing 20 the Board and keeping the clock 21 always and keeping us in the right 22 direction. Thank you. Thank you, 23 both, and for all of you, and you and</p>

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<p>1 your staff.</p> <p>2 And I want to thank Director Ed</p> <p>3 Poolos, who is always in the corner</p> <p>4 hiding -- there he is -- for his</p> <p>5 role, and our DCNR legal team,</p> <p>6 Charlanna Skaggs.</p> <p>7 And on the agenda today, we have</p> <p>8 the Sportsman's Pledge. And I failed</p> <p>9 to read it at the last meeting, and</p> <p>10 I'd like to read it. And I will read</p> <p>11 it to you. It's a conservation</p> <p>12 statement: "Since the State, in its</p> <p>13 sovereign capacity, occupies the</p> <p>14 attitude of guardian and custodian of</p> <p>15 the people's welfare, it is,</p> <p>16 therefore, the duty of the State, by</p> <p>17 an enactment of appropriate</p> <p>18 legislation, to endeavor to extend</p> <p>19 adequate protection to those</p> <p>20 resources in which the people have</p> <p>21 collectively a natural right. Wise</p> <p>22 and discreet individuals who feel no</p> <p>23 inclination to make assaults on</p>	<p>1 nature's storehouse, should have</p> <p>2 their rights protected by enactment</p> <p>3 of strong laws to restrain the hands</p> <p>4 of the wanton and reckless, whose</p> <p>5 vandalism would annihilate every</p> <p>6 visible thing of fin, fur, or feather</p> <p>7 to gratify their savage instincts."</p> <p>8 That was by John Wallace; he was</p> <p>9 the first State Game Commissioner in</p> <p>10 1907. I think that that rings true</p> <p>11 through today.</p> <p>12 Mr. Secretary, do we have a</p> <p>13 quorum today?</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: We do</p> <p>15 not have a quorum today. Today's</p> <p>16 meeting will be more informational.</p> <p>17 We won't be able to vote on any of</p> <p>18 the approval of the minutes or any of</p> <p>19 the other items today. We'll have to</p> <p>20 schedule a third meeting in the next</p> <p>21 couple weeks.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All right. I</p> <p>23 guess question two: We have the</p>
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<p>1 minutes. They've been read. There</p> <p>2 are no corrections, or are there any</p> <p>3 corrections?</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I</p> <p>5 don't think we can approve --</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: And I don't</p> <p>7 think that we can approve the minutes</p> <p>8 today either. So, we'll move forward</p> <p>9 with that.</p> <p>10 Our Directors from all</p> <p>11 divisions, Marine Resources are here:</p> <p>12 Mr. Scott Bannon from Marine</p> <p>13 Resources; Mr. Matthew Capps from</p> <p>14 State Parks; Ms. Patti McCurdy from</p> <p>15 State Lands; and Mr. Chuck Sykes is</p> <p>16 here for this meeting from Wildlife</p> <p>17 and Freshwater Fisheries. I want to</p> <p>18 thank y'all, your staff, and everyone</p> <p>19 in the wonderful departments that you</p> <p>20 manage for being here. Thank you.</p> <p>21 You-all do great work, and we</p> <p>22 appreciate everything that you do for</p> <p>23 the resources of the State.</p>	<p>1 And I'll take one minute and</p> <p>2 remind everybody to always, please,</p> <p>3 if you have questions, a lot of the</p> <p>4 questions that you have are answered</p> <p>5 in one of the digests. But, too, if</p> <p>6 you download the Outdoor Alabama app,</p> <p>7 you can find most everything in</p> <p>8 there. So, please do that or</p> <p>9 download that app.</p> <p>10 I'd like to take a moment to</p> <p>11 give -- I'd like to ask --</p> <p>12 Commissioner Blankenship is going to</p> <p>13 provide us updates and since his last</p> <p>14 meeting.</p> <p>15 Thank you, Commissioner.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Good</p> <p>17 morning. I'd like to start by</p> <p>18 recognizing Gary Wolfe for his</p> <p>19 service to the Board. Gary has some</p> <p>20 illness in the family and other work</p> <p>21 commitments, submitted his</p> <p>22 resignation a few weeks ago to the</p> <p>23 Board. And I appreciate Gary. He's</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1        been on the Board, I guess, since 2        I've been Commissioner. And we will 3        miss serving with Gary. But he said 4        he's always available. And anything 5        we need in Coastal Alabama, he's 6        there to help any of us any time we 7        need something. 8        This is also Dr. Phillips' last 9        meeting. Dr. Phillips serves with 10       the Extension Service as one of the 11       ad hoc members of the Board. I 12       appreciate your service. And I know 13       you're looking forward to a 14       retirement or change in status at 15       Auburn University. And we've 16       appreciated having you on the Board 17       and your expertise when it comes to 18       extension and ag and how we use that 19       to set some of our seasons and, 20       especially the dove season and some 21       other things. Appreciate you and 22       your team's work, and I wish you the 23       best in whatever you do next.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1        DR. PHILLIPS: Thank you. 2        (Applause.) 3        COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: We 4        have a new member that's been 5        appointed, Mr. Charlie Gray, from 6        Dauphin Island. He planned to be 7        here this morning, but they had some 8        terrible storms on Dauphin Island 9        about 3:00 o'clock in the morning and 10       the island was flooded. He couldn't 11       get off Dauphin Island to get here 12       today. 13       So, that is why we don't have a 14       quorum. And some of our other 15       members are out for different 16       reasons. But we'll recognize Mr. 17       Gray. You will all get to meet him 18       at our next meeting. 19       Mr. Chairman, if it's okay with 20       you, I'll just go ahead and give my 21       report, fairly lengthy but not as 22       long as the one in March. These are 23       some things that have taken place</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1        since our last meeting. 2        First, I want to give a 3        legislative update. I'd like to 4        publicly thank Ed Poolos and 5        Charlanna Skaggs, our General Counsel 6        and our Deputy Commissioner, for the 7        work that they did and their staff 8        during the legislative session. 9        There's a lot of moving pieces over 10       there, a lot of legislation this year 11       that impacted us or that we had to be 12       involved in. And I appreciate their 13       work over there during the session. 14       It was not -- It was not an easy 15       session for us as a Department. Like 16       I said, there were many bills. I'll 17       just kind of run through the 18       highlights of some of the bills. 19       HB1 was a bill that initially 20       dealt with seafood testing that was 21       filed by Representative Brown. We 22       were able to work with him and 23       instead of -- and he had added \$200</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1        to the seafood dealer's license. And 2        that money was going to go, 3        initially, in the bill to the 4        Department of Public Health for 5        testing. Us and the Grocery 6        Association and the Alabama Seafood 7        Association and others were able to 8        work with Representative Brown. 9        And so, that \$200 is going to be 10       added to the seafood dealer's 11       licenses will now go to the Sweet 12       Grown Alabama Program under the 13       Department of Agriculture and 14       Industries to help promote seafood. 15       So, we thought that was a good change 16       to that bill. 17       House Bill 437 was the shark 18       warning system. Again, the initial 19       bill that was introduced with that 20       would have been very difficult for us 21       to implement -- would have been 22       impossible for us to implement and 23       enforce. And so, we were able to</p>

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<p>1 work with Representative Faulkner and 2 others to get that bill to a place 3 where we will be implementing a shark 4 warning system over the next several 5 months along the coast that, if there 6 is an attack, verified, unprovoked 7 attack, then we will have some type 8 of a warning system in place that 9 will go out via cell phone. And 10 we're working with the Mobile County 11 EMA, the Baldwin County EMA, and the 12 State EMA on how to make that system 13 happen. That bill just passed last 14 week. And so, we haven't had our 15 formal meeting with those agencies to 16 work out all the details for the 17 regulation. 18 Senate Bill 62 was a bill that 19 had a lot of other things in there, 20 but one of the things is that you 21 just can't use a hunting and fishing 22 license as a form of ID to get other 23 licenses, just of interest to you.</p>	<p>1 Senate Bill 64 was the Aquatic 2 Nuisance Plant legislation that dealt 3 with people that are cutting those 4 plants in the reservoirs, that they 5 have to take those out of the 6 reservoir. They can't just cut them 7 and leave them. If they are cutting 8 them, they've got to remove them from 9 the reservoir in which kind of goes 10 in line with the Reservoir Management 11 Fund. 12 If you recall, they added \$5.00 13 to the boat registration fees a 14 couple of years ago, and that goes 15 into a fund that we manage to do 16 things like aquatic nuisance plant 17 removal and aids the navigation and 18 some other type work that we can 19 grant those out. Those first grants 20 from that program will go out this 21 spring to the group in Guntersville. 22 So, with that, if they are going 23 to be cutting the plants down,</p>
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<p>1 they've got to remove them from the 2 water, not just leave them to rot and 3 float. 4 There was a bill to set up a 5 Seagrass Task Force in Coastal 6 Alabama, and that legislation has not 7 passed yet. It passed the House and 8 has been through the Senate 9 Committee, but it has not passed out 10 of the Senate. It doesn't look very 11 promising for that legislation to 12 pass. And that was a task force 13 where we had to meet twice a year to 14 talk about ways to improve seagrass 15 growth and expansion in the coastal 16 waters. And we already meet with 17 those same groups that are on that 18 legislation. We talk with them much 19 more often than twice a year. 20 So, it really was not a benefit, 21 we're already doing that work. 22 There was a House Bill 448 that 23 dealt with rehabbers, and they called</p>	<p>1 it Good Samaritan Law, but it was 2 very vague and difficult in how that 3 would have been implemented. It 4 passed out of the House Committee, 5 but it did not move anywhere else in 6 the Legislature. 7 There's a bill that 8 Representative Sells introduced about 9 catfish where you couldn't take 10 catfish out of the reservoirs live 11 and move those somewhere else. That 12 passed out of Committee, but it was 13 introduced very late in the session 14 and didn't move. 15 Senate Bill 171 deals with ATVs 16 in waterways that deals with our 17 State Lands Division. That has 18 passed and gone to the Governor for 19 signature. That was a bill by 20 Senator Clyde Chambliss to limit 21 those ATVs from tearing up in streams 22 and waterways. 23 And then there was a bill that</p>

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<p>1 dealt with the Coosa River Bass and 2 our management with that, and that 3 bill did not pass. 4 And then the last bill that I 5 want to talk about, maybe a little 6 bit more at length, is House Bill 7 509. That was the one that has taken 8 a tremendous amount of time and a lot 9 of work on this bill. 10 It passed last week with an 11 amendment that we had negotiated 12 where we won't go into any 13 facilities, deer breeder facilities, 14 that are in a CWD zone and kill deer 15 for testing purposes without a link 16 to a positive somewhere else that 17 links to that deer breeder. 18 There's also legislation -- also 19 a section in that legislation that 20 requires us, by March 1st of next 21 year, to work with the industry and 22 other concerned groups like the 23 Wildlife Society, Alabama Wildlife</p>	<p>1 Federation, our staff, universities, 2 to develop a method to be able to 3 move deer from deer breeders that are 4 in a CWD zone, that they will be able 5 to move those deer out of that zone, 6 if they meet whatever we all agree on 7 this regulation that we will be 8 working on over the next few months. 9 On this bill, I would like to 10 recognize the work that was done by, 11 not only the members of the CAB, the 12 hunting public that made phone calls 13 and reached out to legislators, the 14 Alabama Wildlife Federation, the 15 Wildlife Society, Boone and Crockett 16 Club, Teddy Roosevelt Conservation 17 Partnership, many groups that were 18 advocates for the Department on that 19 legislation. I think all of that 20 work got us to a place that was 21 something that we could live with, 22 with the bill that passed. 23 The last piece of legislation I</p>
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<p>1 want to hone in on, good news, our 2 budget, House Bill 186 passed. The 3 budget for the Department of 4 Conservation for the next fiscal year 5 will be \$458.7 million, which is the 6 largest budget that we've ever had, 7 again and continues to trend over the 8 last several years that includes \$6 9 million for the General Fund for 10 capital improvements. 11 Just as a reminder, before two 12 years ago, we had never gotten any 13 money out of the General Fund for 14 anything for the Department like 15 that. This is the third year that 16 we've gotten \$6 million, \$18 million 17 total will be put into infrastructure 18 and where we are doing work with boat 19 ramps, shooting ranges on our State 20 lakes and our parks projects and the 21 Forever Wild Field Trial Area. We 22 are making good use of those funds. 23 And I appreciate the support from the</p>	<p>1 Legislature. 2 There were some additional funds 3 in our budget this year that came 4 that included building a new fire 5 station at the Cheaha State Park, 6 just outside of the park, so that the 7 volunteer fire department up there 8 can access the park; that's going to 9 be a good thing. 10 A million-and-a-half dollars to 11 build a new road at Rickwood that 12 will connect to the interstate right 13 there at Rickwood State Park. Some 14 paving work at the Forever Wild Field 15 Trial Area and other improvements. 16 There was a million dollars that 17 was added to our budget for 18 implementation of the Wildlife Action 19 Plans; that was unexpected but 20 appreciated. 21 Just yesterday I had the 22 opportunity to go down with Chairman 23 Dobbs and many others, Deputy Chief</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 of Staff for the Governor, Brooks 2 McClendon, and we released a whole 3 bunch of indigo snakes down in 4 Conecuh National Forest there and 5 trying to get those delisted. That 6 makes over 325 of those indigo snakes 7 that have been released through that 8 program; that's with the Department 9 and many other partners on that. 10 The first Outdoor Recreation 11 Summit was held in April at 12 Guntersville State Park. And that 13 was -- and people from all over the 14 State was out there talking about 15 outdoor recreation. And that was 16 very positive for the work in the 17 Department but then also bringing 18 everybody else together for the work 19 that we're doing on outdoor rec. 20 Boating access, we've still got 21 plenty of boat ramps and work 22 underway. 23 Weeks Bay ramp, the parking is</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 also under construction. 2 We cut the ribbon on County Road 3 6 ramp in Baldwin County; that was a 4 project that we funded through GoMESA 5 that Baldwin County did. It was 6 about a \$7 million boat ramp that was 7 very well done in Baldwin County. 8 The Billy Goat Hole ramp on 9 Dauphin Island is under construction. 10 The Chocolatta parking will soon 11 be done. That's on the Causeway in 12 Mobile. 13 We have a ribbon cutting 14 scheduled for McCarter's Ferry around 15 June 10th. 16 And we recently finished the 17 Highway 77 ramp in Rainbow City. 18 All of that has taken place 19 since our last meeting. 20 2025 and 2026 are going to be 21 the years of the Alabama Trail. We 22 had a kickoff event in March. DCNR 23 has more than 500 miles of trails</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 that we maintain in parks and Forever 2 Wild properties for hiking, biking, 3 horseback, canoe, kayak and other 4 multiuse. This will be a big 5 emphasis of our marketing over the 6 next two years promoting the trails 7 in our DCNR properties. And I 8 appreciate the work our staff does 9 with building those and maintaining 10 those trails and our partners that we 11 work with to help keep those trails 12 up. 13 The GoMESA portal is open for 14 submittals until June the 10th. 15 We'll have somewhere between \$35 and 16 40 million in GoMESA projects that we 17 can fund this year; looking forward 18 to some really good submittals. 19 And to give y'all a break from 20 listening to me, I'm going to 21 recognize State Lands Director Patti 22 McCurdy to come to the microphone and 23 mention about the five-year hunting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 leases that are out for auction. 2 MS. MCCURDY: All right. 3 Thanks, Commissioner. I want to take 4 just a minute on a topic I don't 5 normally talk to the Board about, but 6 one of the State Lands Division 7 duties is to try to assist other 8 State agencies generating revenue off 9 their land holdings. And although we 10 assist many State agencies, we very 11 specifically assist the Department of 12 Education and the Department of 13 Mental Health. And one way that we 14 try to help drive revenue off those 15 land assets is through a five-year 16 hunting lease cycle. We offer to the 17 public, by auction, tracts that we 18 have been able to safely figure that 19 we can accommodate hunting. 20 And so, this year the auction is 21 May 31st. It's going to be in 22 Columbiana. And I wanted to just 23 mention to everyone here, I put out</p>

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<p>1 -- we have a QR code on a sheet. And 2 we are auctioning off. It's the 3 table right over here, the second 4 table, if you want to -- if anybody 5 wants to check out those tracts, that 6 we're auctioning off hunting leases 7 on 140 tracts that stretch across 32 8 counties. And those are available to 9 the public. 10 And so, there is a lot of -- it 11 is a statutory procedure we're going 12 through, and so there are a lot of 13 legal specifics. 14 So, I want to encourage everyone 15 you've really got to go and read the 16 announcement for the public auction 17 but, again, that is May 31st. 18 And so, I just want to make 19 everybody aware of that opportunity. 20 If you get Outdoor Alabama e-mails, 21 you would have gotten an e-mail on 22 this. If you didn't get that, then 23 you can also see me because you</p>	<p>1 really ought to sign up for those 2 e-mails. 3 So, if anybody has any 4 questions, I'll be around. But I 5 just wanted to mention that. 6 And I also wanted to just 7 clarify, because I think there have 8 been some questions and maybe some 9 confusion. We're not leasing any 10 Forever Wild acreage, any WMA 11 acreage, any SOA acreage. This is 12 just State agency titled property 13 that, like any business that uses 14 their land assets to generate 15 revenue, we're trying to help those 16 agencies do that. 17 But, anyway, thank you, 18 Commissioner. I just wanted to 19 mention that opportunity. And, 20 again, the QR code is over here in 21 the sheets that look like this. 22 Thanks. 23 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank</p>
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<p>1 you. Just continuing, I've had 2 several people ask me about our 3 federal funding and just an update 4 for that. 5 As you know, there's been a 6 bunch of reconciliation and there's 7 been a lot of talk on the federal 8 level on streamlining the budget and 9 cutting down some of the spending for 10 the country. That will have an 11 impact on the Department of 12 Conservation. 13 Currently, the Coastal Zone 14 Management, the Reserve Program under 15 Weeks Bay Reserve, State Wildlife 16 grants, and NOAA resilience grants 17 that we received and work we're 18 doing, nongame type programs and many 19 other concerns for us, have the 20 potential to be impacted. We're 21 working internally to put together 22 what impacts that could have on us 23 long term and how best to advocate</p>	<p>1 for those programs moving forward. 2 We're okay for now. We have 3 some reserves and some opportunities 4 to be able to continue that work in 5 the short term, but it could have 6 impacts before we meet again next 7 year with our budget and how we move 8 forward for the 2027 budget cycle. 9 Five Rivers property in Baldwin 10 County, we had that out for auction 11 to have somebody else come in and 12 manage or operate that facility or to 13 lease that facility or to purchase 14 it. The Alabama Wildlife Federation 15 had the highest bid to lease that 16 facility. We're working with them to 17 execute that lease document now. I 18 think they are going to do really 19 good work at our Five Rivers 20 facility. And I appreciate Patti and 21 her staff and all the people that 22 have used that facility over the last 23 20 years.</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 This is an opportunity for 2 somebody else to invest some capital 3 and do some really good work there. 4 So, we're looking forward to that. 5 The charter season for red 6 snapper was announced yesterday; that 7 is going to be June 1st through 8 September 16th, which is the longest 9 season that they've had in quite some 10 time. It just kind of shows how the 11 red snapper population is rebuilding 12 and more access for people. 13 We have combined two sections of 14 the Department of Conservation where 15 we had overlap of biologists in the 16 State Lands Natural Heritage Section 17 and then in the Wildlife and 18 Freshwater Fisheries and Nongame 19 Program. We have combined those two 20 sections into one nongame section to 21 be more efficient with the Department 22 of Resources and to be able to do a 23 better job, I think, managing those</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 nongame species throughout the state. 2 So, that will take place, and 3 July 1st is the time that we have 4 that officially combined. But I hope 5 I have provided some more information 6 on that. 7 The State Lakes construction in 8 Marion, Walker, DeKalb and Coffee 9 Counties are under way right now. We 10 recently reopened the lakes in 11 Chambers and Bibb County. 12 The ADEM Drinking Water and 13 Wastewater projects that we have 14 going on at parks through the ARPA 15 funds are well under way. 16 We will have a press event 17 coming up, probably in June, at 18 Lakepoint State Park to promote the 19 fact that we're using Alabama made, 20 ductile iron pipe on many of these 21 projects. And if you did not know, 22 Alabama is the state that produces 23 almost all the ductile iron pipe in</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 the country. 2 And so, it's exciting to 3 highlight the partnerships that we've 4 had with those companies that are 5 doing that work and to highlight 6 industry in our state as we continue 7 to strive to -- as we do the work to 8 do good things for Alabama and use 9 Alabama companies where we can. 10 Following up from the March 11 meeting, I think you may have 12 received a letter or some comments. 13 We are not proposing to make snook a 14 game fish. You may have received a 15 letter or something about that. I 16 just wanted to make that clear. 17 And then, to attempt to address 18 some of the dog hunting issues in the 19 Talladega National Forest and Coffee 20 County and some others, you know, as 21 opposed to trying to put those 22 counties on a permit system, we are 23 going to propose that we move forward</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 and soon with the Dog Deer 2 Regulation; that's very similar to 3 what we did in 2019 on the dog 4 encroachment, dog trespass. And we 5 will talk a little bit more about 6 that. But, hopefully, the Board will 7 see that as the best solution for 8 addressing that moving forward so 9 that we don't have to put any more 10 counties or -- we still have plenty 11 of opportunities for people to be 12 able to deer hunt with dogs in the 13 future. 14 As a reminder, what that 15 regulation did or will do would be to 16 allow our officers to write citations 17 to the individuals that are not 18 taking care of their dogs and letting 19 them off on other people's property, 20 and be able to address it by the 21 individual and not punish the clubs 22 or other organizations or groups that 23 are doing it right. They'll just be</p>

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<p>1 able to address the problem folks and 2 not -- and I think that's very fair, 3 the fairest way for our enforcement 4 officers to be able to manage that 5 and provide some relief from some of 6 the landowners that you heard from at 7 every meeting but, particularly, at 8 the meeting we had in March. 9 Park construction is well 10 underway. We have a ribbon cutting 11 Monday at Chewacla State Park for the 12 new playground that we built there 13 and kind of a groundbreaking for the 14 new Event Center that we're building 15 at Chewacla. 16 We'll have ribbon cuttings at 17 Wind Creek, Desoto, Meaher, Monte 18 Sano, and Lakepoint in June and July 19 for projects under the bond that we 20 are finishing up at those parks. 21 Any questions about any of that? 22 I've got one more thing, but any 23 questions about any of that?</p>	<p>1 (No response). 2 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All 3 right. Thank you. The last thing I 4 want to mention is, I'd like to 5 recognize our Wildlife and Freshwater 6 Fisheries Director Chuck Sykes and 7 the work that he's done. Chuck has 8 accepted a position as the Director 9 -- Executive Director of the Council 10 on Advancing Hunting and Shooting 11 Sports. I think I said that right. 12 But he'll begin that on July 1st. We 13 really appreciate the work that Chuck 14 has done and the friendship that 15 we've had over the last 12 years -- 16 12-plus years that he's been here. 17 Just to mention a few of the 18 accomplishments and things that have 19 happened under his tenure, as the 20 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries 21 Director, he and his staff have 22 recommended or implemented: One of 23 those is the SOA, the Special</p>
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<p>1 Opportunity Area hunts. That was 2 something that was brand new for 3 Alabama. And I think those have gone 4 very well and expanded over the time 5 that he's been here. 6 He extended the deer season to 7 February 10th, using science to do 8 that during the rut; not just having 9 the one day, but looking at 10 populations across the state where 11 some seasons start earlier and end 12 earlier, then extends to February 13 10th in most of the rest of the 14 State, based on the rut and the 15 science that our people have -- our 16 staff have done. That was a big 17 change. I remember when that was 18 done. 19 Some people were very happy, and 20 some people were not, but I think 21 that's turned out to be very positive 22 for the State for people to be able 23 to hunt the rut in their areas.</p>	<p>1 Another thing they have done, 2 we've used the Pittman-Robertson 3 dollars to match with Forever Wild to 4 add about 50,000 acres for public 5 hunting around the state. We had 6 never used PR dollars like that 7 before. We're matching that with 8 Forever Wild. That was a huge change 9 and has been very successful. 10 Chuck was the AFWA President 11 over the last year. And he has 12 really been very important in 13 national leadership on issues that 14 are important to us in Alabama. And 15 he has done a really good job, not 16 only in Alabama, but on the national 17 level, as well. 18 We've expanded shooting sports 19 as a priority, and we put that under 20 the law enforcement section. And 21 you'll see more and more of those 22 come to fruition over the next couple 23 of years from projects that we have</p>

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<p>1 in place.</p> <p>2 Also, we have the waterfowl</p> <p>3 emphasis. We've spent more money on</p> <p>4 duck hunting and duck habitat than</p> <p>5 we've ever spent in the Department</p> <p>6 before; quail focal areas; the turkey</p> <p>7 season; alligator season, the changes</p> <p>8 that have been made there as a season</p> <p>9 for opportunity for people to hunt.</p> <p>10 You know, a lot of good things, a lot</p> <p>11 of good things.</p> <p>12 You're going to be very well</p> <p>13 missed. Whether you like or dislike</p> <p>14 the changes that we've made in the</p> <p>15 Department over the past 12 years, I</p> <p>16 think you would have to say that he</p> <p>17 always had the long-term health of</p> <p>18 the resource as the guiding factor in</p> <p>19 recommendations to the CAB, to the</p> <p>20 Commissioner, and internal decisions</p> <p>21 of the Wildlife and Freshwater</p> <p>22 Fisheries. And that's really what</p> <p>23 you want out of your Wildlife and</p>	<p>1 Freshwater Fisheries' director, all</p> <p>2 of our directors, is to do what is</p> <p>3 the best for the long-term success of</p> <p>4 the resources and manage those based</p> <p>5 on what's best for the resource, as</p> <p>6 best we can, with the social and</p> <p>7 science part of that in giving people</p> <p>8 access.</p> <p>9 And so, Chuck, I just want to</p> <p>10 take the opportunity publicly to</p> <p>11 thank you for your work here and wish</p> <p>12 you the best in your new role. Thank</p> <p>13 you very much.</p> <p>14 (Applause.)</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Mr.</p> <p>16 Commissioner.</p> <p>17 I asked -- I don't think we</p> <p>18 do -- but there are no reports from</p> <p>19 any of the directors today: Mr.</p> <p>20 Bannon, Mr. Capps, Ms. McCartney,</p> <p>21 Chuck, there is none.</p> <p>22 So, I'd like to take a moment,</p> <p>23 on behalf of the Advisory Board and</p>
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<p>1 on behalf of me to thank a great</p> <p>2 friend to this Department, a great</p> <p>3 friend of this Board, a mentor to all</p> <p>4 of us, somebody who has been here</p> <p>5 when we needed him. And I'm going to</p> <p>6 hit some high points like the</p> <p>7 Commissioner did.</p> <p>8 But, Chuck, thank you, to Chuck;</p> <p>9 to Gerry, his traveling and hunting</p> <p>10 companion; the wonder dog, Sid, for</p> <p>11 being so good.</p> <p>12 And let me first say that I have</p> <p>13 had the wonderful opportunity to have</p> <p>14 chances to travel to national and</p> <p>15 regional events where Alabama, in the</p> <p>16 last couple of years, has been</p> <p>17 showcased. We've been the state that</p> <p>18 other states and other agencies have</p> <p>19 looked at for the revolutionary</p> <p>20 ideas, the things that the</p> <p>21 Commissioner brought to your</p> <p>22 attention that Chuck and his</p> <p>23 wonderful staff of dedicated</p>	<p>1 professionals have put forth in the</p> <p>2 last 12 years. It's been -- This</p> <p>3 ride, for me, has been amazing. I'm</p> <p>4 a fly on the wall but, to be a part</p> <p>5 of it, has been fabulous.</p> <p>6 He's the master of matching</p> <p>7 funds. And Alabama, in all of that,</p> <p>8 is a leader. We're not followers</p> <p>9 anymore, we're a leader on the</p> <p>10 national and regional level. That's</p> <p>11 why he does the things he does with</p> <p>12 AFWA, SEAFWA, shooting sports, et</p> <p>13 cetera, all those acronyms that I get</p> <p>14 confused about.</p> <p>15 But think about the creation of</p> <p>16 more hunting spaces, the ranges that</p> <p>17 he's done, the shooting ranges, the</p> <p>18 archery ranges in collaboration with</p> <p>19 communities, with schools, that's --</p> <p>20 that's just been -- that's so</p> <p>21 important, not just universities, but</p> <p>22 high schools, that has been wonderful</p> <p>23 for this state.</p>

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<p>1 I could go on and on, but I 2 won't. I'll just say that we hate to 3 see him leave, we really do. We will 4 always miss you but the best in your 5 new endeavor. 6 So, thank you, Chuck. Thank 7 you, again, for being what you have 8 been to this Department, and thank 9 you on behalf of the Conservation 10 Advisory Board. 11 Our next piece of business is 12 our public commentary. That is very 13 important to this Board. And we have 14 nine speakers today, so let's move 15 forward with that. It's a small 16 crowd, so let's be respectful. 17 Reserve your comments outside the 18 hall and no applause. 19 And I ask, as I always do, for 20 our wonderful court reporter here, if 21 you come up and speak, please do not 22 engage directly with a Board member 23 or a staff member. Ask me, the</p>	<p>1 Chair, for the floor or the 2 opportunity so that she knows who you 3 are, who you're talking to, and we 4 can keep that chain running. If you 5 don't, I leave here and she eggs my 6 car. 7 So, anyway, our first speaker 8 today, when you come up, you have 9 three minutes. And Ms. Betsy Jones 10 keeps time. She's sitting there. 11 She has a timer, and she will let you 12 know when you have a minute left, I 13 think. 14 So, come up, address at the 15 podium, speak clearly, address the 16 Board. 17 And our first speaker today is 18 Mr. Brent Armstrong, III. 19 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, sir. 20 It's the second, actually. 21 But, good morning. This is 22 Brent Armstrong from Pike County for 23 the legalization of pets of native</p>
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<p>1 species, again. I want to address an 2 issue that, while well researched, is 3 deeply misunderstood. Rabies is a 4 word that has permeated every 5 conversation -- 6 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Hold 7 on just a second. 8 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Is the 9 microphone on? 10 MR. ARMSTRONG: Sorry about 11 that. 12 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Speak 13 into it. Everybody's having a hard 14 time hearing you in the back. 15 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay. This is 16 Brent Armstrong from Pike County for 17 the legalization of pets of native 18 species. I want to address an issue 19 that, while well researched, is 20 deeply misunderstood. Rabies is a 21 word that has permeated every 22 conversation I've had with the DNR 23 concerning native pets since the</p>	<p>1 founding of this movement. Rabies is 2 scary. And I commend those who take 3 action to reduce exposure. But it's 4 important that these steps are guided 5 by real data in order to affect real 6 change. 7 Can anyone tell me what species 8 is responsible for the most human 9 rabies deaths globally? It's 10 domestic dogs. India, for example, 11 has between 18,000 and 20,000 rabies 12 deaths per year, overwhelmingly from 13 dog bites; Africa, between 21,000 and 14 25,000. 15 According to the CDC, we have 16 four, on average, three of which are 17 from bats and the remainder is shared 18 by every other species. The 19 difference lies in immunity and 20 opportunity. 21 Our vaccines are the best in the 22 world, and we use them extensively. 23 Our pets don't get rabies because</p>

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<p>1 they're immunized. We keep our pets 2 indoors, mostly, and manage homeless 3 animals, thereby limiting the 4 opportunity for rabies to spread. 5 Now, consider the Virginia 6 opossum, for example. It is the most 7 rabies resistant animal on the 8 continent naturally. To the best of 9 my knowledge, no one has ever been 10 killed by an opossum. It does well 11 in an indoor environment, and its 12 primary means of defense is to die. 13 It is arguably the only animal in 14 America that can be safely captured 15 by simply walking up to it and 16 picking it up. 17 Can anyone in this room make a 18 compelling argument as to why these 19 animals are illegal to possess? 20 That's all I have. Are there 21 any questions? 22 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Any questions 23 from the Board?</p>	<p>1 (No response). 2 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: We appreciate 3 your time and your energy. 4 Our next speaker is Ms. Meredith 5 Caddell. 6 MS. CADDELL: Good morning. I 7 really don't need the mic. I speak 8 loudly, but I'll do it. Is that 9 working? Is that okay? 10 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Lean in just a 11 little bit if you like. 12 MS. CADDELL: We good? 13 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: There you go. 14 MS. CADDELL: Okay. Good 15 morning. My name is Meredith 16 Caddell, and I am from Bullock 17 County. Some of you may remember me 18 from the last meeting in March; if 19 you do, I'm sorry, because I'm here 20 to talk about the same thing: Our 21 turkey population's decline. And, 22 again, I'm proposing to reduce the 23 bag limit to two birds.</p>
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<p>1 So, how auspicious it is to be 2 here today at Troy University when 3 Jeff Sorrell, who was a leading 4 conservationist for reviving our 5 turkeys in Alabama, is who the Troy 6 University's Sorrell College of 7 Business is named after. 8 So, I just thought it was 9 fitting to do so today. 10 And after the last meeting, I 11 challenged myself to go home to 12 research and educate myself further 13 on turkeys and their welfare 14 currently in Alabama. I found and 15 read thoroughly a study conducted by 16 Auburn University and partnered with 17 several organizations, like WFF, 18 researching the decline of the wild 19 turkey population and how to combat 20 this concern. 21 The study analyzed several 22 contributors to the turkeys' decline 23 and then charted eight different</p>	<p>1 management methods. 2 I also read where CAB digested 3 the information from the study and 4 decided to delay turkey season by 10 5 days for the spring 2022. I found a 6 lot of stats, a lot of research, and 7 all of them seemed to draw the same 8 conclusion, that turkey population is 9 declining, and it has been declining. 10 But I'm not here to throw 11 statistics and names and titles at 12 you because I know you know this 13 information and because I don't -- I 14 don't need to read these studies to 15 know what I see. I don't spend a 16 weekend or a week here or there in 17 the woods. I live there every day. 18 My land is surrounded like a 19 peninsula by a hunting club. And my 20 father's land has been in my family 21 for a hundred years, is bordered by 22 two different hunting clubs. 23 In 2022 you took steps by</p>

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<p>1       delaying the hunting season. But in 2       three years, I still haven't seen a 3       difference. 4       My father always kept a notebook 5       in his truck for years notating every 6       turkey he sees while driving in the 7       county, whether it's Bullock County, 8       Montgomery County. And, while he is 9       not a scientist by any means, he has 10      spent his years observing and caring 11      for the land. And his journal does 12      not indicate an increase or a hold 13      steady in the turkey population. 14      I know all of you care about 15      Alabama and its outdoors just as much 16      as I do or you wouldn't be here doing 17      what you do. 18      So, thank you, and I urge you to 19      continue advancing forward to 20      protecting our turkeys. 21      CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, 22      Meredith. 23      Are there any questions for</p>	<p>1       Meredith today? 2       (No response). 3       CHAIRMAN DOBBS: It's something 4       that's at the forefront of what we 5       do, and we're thinking about it every 6       day. It's a daunting task, and there 7       are a lot of studies out there and a 8       lot of issues. 9       So, thank you for keeping it in 10      the forefront of our attention. 11      Thank you. 12      MS. CADDELL: Thank you. 13      CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Our next 14      speaker is Mr. Jimmy Stiles. 15      MR. STILES: Is that any better? 16      All right. Wonderful. 17      Well, thank you for allowing me 18      to address the Board. My name is 19      Jimmy Stiles. I live in Covington 20      County, Alabama. I'm a wildlife 21      biologist, and I run my own wildlife 22      management and education company here 23      in the state.</p>
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<p>1       Like our former speaker, I'd 2       like to address turkeys today. 3       Anybody that knows me, knows that I 4       am an avid turkey hunter. I hunt, 5       literally, every single day of the 6       Alabama turkey season and have for 7       over 30 years. 8       I love turkeys. And I greatly 9       applaud the efforts of the Department 10      of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries 11      and ADCNR and the CAB to try and 12      address turkey declines that have 13      been happening over the last 10 to 15 14      years across the state, as well as 15      across the nation. 16      But I'm here today to talk to 17      you, again, about the disparity 18      between the season date opener for 19      public land and private land. 20      There's no real science to back up 21      this discrepancy. And I encourage 22      the Department and the CAB to come 23      together to, again, you know, open</p>	<p>1       the date at the same time. 2       Having the season open on public 3       land versus private land on different 4       dates can create several issues: 5       One, I hunt, primarily, public land 6       across our state. I utilize almost 7       all of the wildlife management areas 8       in our state, as well as all of 9       national forests. 10      As many of y'all know -- or, 11      hopefully, you should -- these 12      properties are -- have lots of 13      inholdings around them. And those 14      inholdings create lots of boundaries 15      to allow public -- or private 16      landowners to access the turkeys that 17      spend the vast majority of their time 18      on public land for an entire week 19      before public land hunters are 20      allowed the opportunity to be able to 21      hunt those turkeys, I think, is 22      unfair and, quite frankly, 23      disrespectful to the public land</p>

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<p>1 hunters who greatly support ADCNR and 2 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. 3 I do appreciate all of the work 4 that you-all do to create the 5 opportunities that we have. And I 6 will also, just as a side note, add 7 that some clarification in the 8 regulations regarding the public land 9 and how many birds can be harvested 10 on a particular property should be 11 clarified, just in the laws, to help 12 keep that a little less ambiguous. 13 But I greatly appreciate your 14 time. And, if you have any 15 questions, feel free to reach out. 16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All right. Any 17 questions from the Board here? 18 (No response). 19 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: I don't think 20 there are, Jimmy. I didn't quite 21 get, what -- what is it that you 22 actually are asking of us? 23 MR. STILES: Thank you for the</p>	<p>1 question. I'm asking for the -- the 2 private lands so that the opening 3 date for wildlife management areas, 4 national forest, to be the same date 5 as the opening for private land in 6 Alabama, so, for those two entities 7 to open all on the same date, like 8 they have up until 2022. 9 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Okay. And 10 there was a reason for that change, 11 but I understand and I appreciate 12 what you're asking. 13 MR. STILES: Yeah. And I 14 greatly appreciate the opportunity, 15 and I do understand the reason for 16 the change. Thank you. 17 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, 18 Jimmy. Our next speaker is Thomas 19 Calhoun. 20 MR. CALHOUN: Thank you, Mr. 21 Chairman. 22 I'm here to talk about turkey 23 population -- turkey situation, as</p>
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<p>1 well. I've been turkey hunting for a 2 really, really long time. And the 3 lady mentioned Jeff Sorrell. I 4 remember, as a kid, when Jeff Sorrell 5 was responsibly bringing wild turkey 6 to this part of the country. And -- 7 But my issue that I have and many, 8 many of my friends that turkey hunt, 9 as well, is with the change in the 10 season. 11 Turkey hunting, to me, is not 12 just about going out there and 13 killing turkeys; it's about being 14 able to go out to the woods and hear 15 turkeys gobbling. And if I go turkey 16 hunting and I don't hear -- excuse me 17 -- if I don't hear a turkey gobble 18 that morning, I hadn't had, really, a 19 really successful morning. 20 I kill turkeys some and -- but 21 the way the season has been changed, 22 by the time season comes in now, a 23 considerable amount of the time has</p>	<p>1 done passed to be able to enjoy the 2 reason I go out there to do it. 3 And by a couple weeks into the 4 season now, turkeys are about 5 completely quit gobbling in this part 6 of the country. And so -- And I hear 7 that from a lot of the people that -- 8 that I hunt with. 9 But I've looked at it quite a 10 bit and I think Tennessee had a big 11 part in making this change to 12 Alabama's season, but now they are 13 going to go back. They've decided 14 that all their thoughts and things 15 that they looked at were not right. 16 And they've decided that the 17 reproduction is not based on what the 18 beginning of turkey season is. 19 Turkeys start breeding in February in 20 this part of the country. 21 So, the fact that the turkeys 22 are done by the end of March now is, 23 to me, no reason to continue to have</p>

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<p>1 this season starting as late as it</p> <p>2 does. So...</p> <p>3 But that's about all I've got.</p> <p>4 I just think a lot of people would</p> <p>5 like to see it go back to where it</p> <p>6 used to be. Thank you.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you very</p> <p>8 much.</p> <p>9 Any questions? If you'll hold,</p> <p>10 please.</p> <p>11 BOARD MEMBER HARTZOG: Just for</p> <p>12 information. You were talking about</p> <p>13 Tennessee?</p> <p>14 MR. CALHOUN: Yes.</p> <p>15 BOARD MEMBER HARTZOG: I think</p> <p>16 Chuck can confirm this. Last Friday</p> <p>17 -- a week ago Friday, Tennessee</p> <p>18 actually moved their season back</p> <p>19 further instead of moving it back</p> <p>20 forward.</p> <p>21 MR. CALHOUN: Well, I was just</p> <p>22 looking at something last night that</p> <p>23 Dr. Harper -- I guess you probably</p>	<p>1 know him.</p> <p>2 MR. SYKES: Very well.</p> <p>3 MR. CALHOUN: -- from what I</p> <p>4 heard him say last night, he</p> <p>5 recommended that they move it back to</p> <p>6 where it was. Am I wrong in that?</p> <p>7 MR. SYKES: I don't know. I</p> <p>8 didn't look at anything last night.</p> <p>9 BOARD MEMBER HARTZOG: Mr.</p> <p>10 Chairman, I was just wanting to</p> <p>11 clarify that Tennessee thing. I will</p> <p>12 say this since we did have public</p> <p>13 comment -- comments from us, the</p> <p>14 majority of the folks in my area have</p> <p>15 all asked that the season be somewhat</p> <p>16 moved forward and even maybe even</p> <p>17 have a shorter season in order to</p> <p>18 accomplish that.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: So, by moving</p> <p>20 forward, you're talking about moving</p> <p>21 into April and shorten the season?</p> <p>22 BOARD MEMBER HARTZOG: Moving it</p> <p>23 into March and shorten the season.</p>
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<p>1 MR. CALHOUN: Well, you know, if</p> <p>2 you're saying moving it back toward</p> <p>3 where it used to be; is that what</p> <p>4 you're saying?</p> <p>5 BOARD MEMBER HARTZOG: Yes, sir.</p> <p>6 MR. CALHOUN: Okay. Well, I</p> <p>7 agree with that. I mean, to me, by</p> <p>8 the middle of April, turkey season is</p> <p>9 pretty much done in this part of the</p> <p>10 country, in my opinion. And there's</p> <p>11 not too many people that puts in more</p> <p>12 days turkey hunting than I do.</p> <p>13 And so, I -- I just know the</p> <p>14 lands that I hunt. It just gets to</p> <p>15 the point where there's nothing going</p> <p>16 on. So...</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Well, thank</p> <p>18 you. Thank you very much.</p> <p>19 BOARD MEMBER HARTZOG: Thank</p> <p>20 you.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Go ahead,</p> <p>22 please.</p> <p>23 BOARD MEMBER MARTIN: I was just</p>	<p>1 wondering if Chuck or any of his guys</p> <p>2 would like to comment on the -- at</p> <p>3 least on the last three speakers, you</p> <p>4 know, to get their opinions on some</p> <p>5 of it.</p> <p>6 MR. SYKES: I might as well.</p> <p>7 This is my last meeting. I can quit</p> <p>8 before I can get fired today.</p> <p>9 So, with all due respect -- Let</p> <p>10 me try to gather my thoughts and get</p> <p>11 this the way I want it.</p> <p>12 The last day was March 8th</p> <p>13 (sic). I went turkey hunting. I</p> <p>14 probably hunt as much or more than</p> <p>15 you do. I hunted two different</p> <p>16 properties. I heard three turkeys on</p> <p>17 one and four on the other. They</p> <p>18 gobbled like a two-year-old on</p> <p>19 opening day. May does not make a</p> <p>20 turkey quit gobbling. Pressure makes</p> <p>21 a turkey quit gobbling.</p> <p>22 These properties had not been</p> <p>23 hunted. I waited, specifically. I</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 have yet to hear anyone tell me what 2 is best for the turkey, not one. 3 It's always what's best for me: I 4 like to do it this way. 5 Until attitudes change, when 6 it's about the resource, that's 7 something Commissioner Blankenship 8 said about me. I did not take this 9 job to win friends. I had enough 10 when I started. I was hired to do a 11 job to look out for the resource. 12 That's what all of my staff does. 13 They're not in it for money. They're 14 not in it for fame. They're not in 15 it for glory. They do it for the 16 resource. And until attitudes change 17 where it's not about me, it's about 18 the resource, y'all are going to be 19 dealing with this forever. 20 Jeff, you dealt with it with 21 fish. We dealt with it with ducks. 22 We've dealt with it with doves. 23 We're dealing with it with turkeys.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 And I have yet, on any of those, for 2 somebody to say what's best for the 3 resource. It's always what's best 4 for them, personally, or for a 5 hunter. It's our job to manage the 6 resource for the resource and try to 7 make as many people happy as we can 8 while doing that. 9 But when you start managing for 10 people, the resource is going to 11 suffer, period. It doesn't matter if 12 it's fish in the Coosa River, if it's 13 turkeys, if it's doves, if it's deer. 14 What the Commissioner brought up 15 about the deer season, we moved it 16 based on science. It just happened 17 to make a bunch of people happy. But 18 we based it on science. The same 19 thing we're doing with the turkeys. 20 If it was up to me, the season 21 wouldn't come in until April. Peak 22 initiation for nest is the middle of 23 April. It's not weather. It's not</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 hot in March that makes it do it. 2 It's photoperiod. 3 Pressure makes turkeys quit 4 gobbling, not the time of year. And 5 I'll quit because I can talk -- 6 MR. CALHOUN: Pressure from 7 what, from whom? 8 MR. SYKES: Hunting pressure, 9 people pressure, people being in the 10 woods. You kill the first gobbling 11 turkey, the rest of them learn. The 12 places I hunted on May 8th had not 13 been hunted. The neighbors had 14 hunted all around it. I left them 15 specifically for my wife the last day 16 of the season and heard turkeys on 17 both places. 18 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Thank 19 you. Thank you for your comments. 20 As a reminder to the Board, we made 21 those changes three years ago; this 22 is the third season on that. And we 23 committed that after the -- we'd come</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 back after we had data from several 2 years' worth of data and discuss 3 that. 4 And so, before the next year 5 when we set seasons and bag limits, 6 we'll have a much more in-depth 7 discussion about turkeys and whether 8 the changes that we made, how it has 9 impacted those, if it's positive or 10 are we heading in the right direction 11 or if we need to do something else, 12 reduce the bag limit. 13 But that is the commitment that 14 I made to you guys back in 2022, that 15 we would make that change and then 16 reevaluate it after three years of 17 data. 18 So, thank you. 19 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you. 20 Thank you, Tom. 21 The next speaker is Mr. Lane 22 Stephens. 23 MR. STEPHENS: Good morning.</p>

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<p>1 Lane Stephens and I'm here 2 representing the Alabama Dog Hunters 3 Association. In light of the 4 comments Mr. Blankenship made earlier 5 bringing up the issue of the deer dog 6 encroachment, I'm going to change 7 what I had planned to talk about and 8 talk about that. 9 The Commissioner will tell you 10 that in 2019 our Association stood in 11 support to try to get this through 12 the Legislative Committee that heard 13 it, and we weren't given the 14 opportunity to speak in favor of it 15 then. But, you know, we stand ready 16 to help the Commissioner and his 17 staff move this issue forward. 18 We have promoted the fact that, 19 you know, deer dog hunters need to 20 keep their dogs on the property they 21 have permission to be on. And rumors 22 and calls about complaints about a 23 dog being on property has led to</p>	<p>1 decisions being made that -- because 2 you didn't have any other choice. 3 We feel that having a law in 4 place that will allow your officers 5 to go after those who -- individuals 6 who don't respect private property 7 rights, is the way to go, and that 8 that will preserve deer dog hunting 9 in areas that it hasn't already been 10 closed. 11 We would like to request a 12 meeting with staff as you move this 13 issue forward. And we think that we 14 would also like to see, as made a 15 part of this discussion, the 16 potential lengthening of the season 17 to Martin Luther King Day in those 18 areas of the state where you have 19 deer dog hunting and you don't have 20 any problems. 21 We think this issue, coupled 22 with that, would be a win, win for 23 all sides.</p>
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<p>1 So, I thank you for listening to 2 my comments. 3 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Any questions 4 for Mr. Stephens? 5 Commissioner? 6 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: I'm 7 sure we can talk about it when we 8 meet. But are you talking about 9 extending it to MLK Day on all land 10 or just private land or public land, 11 as well? 12 MR. STEPHENS: That would be 13 part of the discussion but at least 14 private. And then, you know, and if 15 -- and if your staff thinks that on 16 public lands, that could be doable, 17 but, you know, that's -- at least on 18 private to start. 19 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: All 20 right. Thank you. 21 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you. The 22 next speaker is Mr. Jimmy McDonald. 23 MR. MCDONALD: I'm Mr. Jimmy</p>	<p>1 McDonald with the South Shelby 2 Hunting Club, also I'm the President 3 of the Shelby County Chapter of the 4 Alabama Dog Owner Association. 5 I sent y'all a little packet. 6 Letters from my lease -- people that 7 I lease the property from, 8 Westervelt. Been leasing for almost 9 30 years. Haven't had any 10 complaints, whatsoever. 11 I'm here today requesting to be 12 able to dog hunt for the entire 13 season -- deer dog hunt for the 14 entire season. I know it's probably 15 not going to happen, but I wanted to 16 ask for it anyway. 17 I -- also, in this is my packet, 18 I have a list of our rules when 19 somebody joins our club. It has, 20 like, a little -- rules from just 21 general members. And then we have 22 rules for dogs to hunt for the guys 23 that have dogs.</p>


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<p>1           You can keep your dogs on your 2           property if you have the will to do 3           it. And we have a bunch wills, and 4           they're all of our grand-kids and our 5           kids that are on this club to be able 6           to have the privilege to be able to 7           -- for the -- to raise dogs, go out, 8           turn them loose, hunt them. 9           And then, for me, I don't even 10          carry a gun anymore. I let the kids 11          kill whatever. If I want a deer, 12          I'll let -- I'll just get -- tell one 13          of my grand-kids I need a deer, and 14          they -- they'll go out and hunt and 15          kill me a deer. 16          But to have the privilege to 17          watch my kids is a spot in my heart, 18          and my grand-kids, carrying on the 19          tradition that's been on this piece 20          of property for all these years. 21          We only dog deer hunt on 22          organized hunts. You don't -- We 23          don't have one or two people go out</p>	<p>1           and turn dogs loose just whenever, at 2           will, and run deer. It's all 3           organized. It's planned out. And 4           Chief Weathers will tell you or his 5           -- some of his officers -- we have a 6           real good relationship with our 7           county officers. 8           The wards who come out, we have 9           a big -- a youth hunt every year. We 10          have veterans hunts. We have a 11          veterans rabbit hunt. We have 12          veterans deer hunts. We have the 13          youth hunt, which we also -- we give 14          away a lifetime hunting license for a 15          kid every year, as well as a lot of 16          other things. I've invited several 17          of y'all through the years. I've 18          been coming to these meetings. This 19          is the first time I ever spoke. 20          But we've been trying to pass it 21          on for the next generation because 22          I'm not going to be here forever. 23          But we have all these kids that'll</p>
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<p>1           pick it up and they'll -- and they -- 2           it pleasures me when they have 3           somebody on the club and they're 4           correcting them to the proper way to 5           do something. And you've got a 6           ten-year-old that's telling somebody, 7           that's not how we do it, you know. 8           So, it shows that I've done 9           something right instilling it in 10          those kids. 11          But what I was getting at is, we 12          -- so we only have, whatever, five 13          weekends, or whatever, that we dog 14          hunt. 15          MS. JONES: Time. 16          MR. MCDONALD: So, another -- 17          another couple of weekends a year 18          would really help with what we -- 19          we're trying to accomplish with these 20          kids and being able to -- you know, 21          we donate a weekend for the -- the 22          youth hunt is outside of the general 23          season, but we donate a weekend or</p>	<p>1           two weekends a year for our veterans 2           hunts. Well, our club members 3           donate; we give that. But the whole 4           day -- the whole weekends are focused 5           on getting the veterans out, putting 6           them on stand -- and these are 7           disabled veterans through the Fallen 8           Outdoors Program -- getting them on 9           stand, get -- trying to get them a 10          shot at a deer because you don't know 11          what it is to pass on when you have a 12          veteran. 13          And I -- And we get letters back 14          from Fallen Outdoors saying that, you 15          know, a veteran was commit -- was 16          going to commit suicide or 17          contemplating committing suicide and 18          that, that weekend, that those -- 19          being there -- every weekend is a kid 20          weekend at our club. There's not a 21          -- There's not a general youth 22          weekend, every weekend we have kids. 23          My truck is loaded down with</p>

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<p>1 kids on the truck. They ride around. 2 And they don't want to hunt. They 3 want to be on the truck that's 4 catching the dogs. They've got a 5 whistle. And they know that all our 6 dogs are whistle broke. 7 So, we're -- they're riding 8 around and they -- we're sitting on a 9 hill somewhere because I -- I usually 10 get on a hill because I have the best 11 -- there's no interference with my 12 trackers to the dogs. I never lose 13 contact with my dogs. We know where 14 the dogs are at all the time. 15 The owners of the dogs, when 16 they're turning loose, they -- the 17 guy that's -- you know, most of the 18 guys like to walk their dogs through 19 the woods. Well, that guy that's -- 20 he has also got another guy in his 21 truck that has communication with his 22 dogs because, if he gets a hundred 23 yards in the woods and his dogs jump</p>	<p>1 and they start going to the boundary 2 line, he can't get back to the truck 3 to get his dog. 4 So, there's a guy in his truck 5 that's ready to get the dogs. 6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, 7 Jimmy. We appreciate that. 8 Appreciate you coming to the meetings 9 and we appreciate you with your 10 participation with the veterans. 11 Thank you. 12 MR. MCDONALD: Thank you. 13 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Any questions 14 for Mr. McDonald? 15 (No response). 16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you. Our 17 next speaker is Mr. Phil Slay. 18 MR. SLAY: My name is Phil Slay, 19 Chambers County. I'm a farmer, 20 landowner, avid turkey hunter, avid 21 dog deer hunter. I agree with turkey 22 pressure is a lot of the problem. To 23 me, one of the biggest problems is</p>
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<p>1 this yellow call, this corn that 2 people feed turkeys. 3 Just this year on the land that 4 I've got leased and hunt on, I had 17 5 long beards the week before the 6 season opened. And I -- we only 7 harvested one of those 17. 8 My neighbors put out corn, they 9 -- by the truckloads, and the turkeys 10 go over there onto their property. 11 And they've got game cameras on their 12 -- on their corn piles where they can 13 -- when the game camera goes off, 14 they can go right there and kill that 15 turkey. 16 And, you know, we try to do the 17 right things. The bag limit, I agree 18 with it, four is good. When you open 19 up turkey season, every year is 20 different. But the turkey pressure, 21 the feeding of the corn, and -- and, 22 you know, people getting on property 23 lines when they see the turkeys out</p>	<p>1 in the field -- because I live on a 2 major highway, and I've had people 3 pull up on the side of the road and 4 go to turkey -- to calling a turkey 5 when he is out there standing in the 6 field. And you're never going to 7 call that turkey because they get 8 educated pretty quick, you know. 9 And this is my third meeting, 10 and y'all probably remember me from 11 the last time. I'm the one that had 12 the cooler where y'all would pay 13 attention. 14 But -- But we need to do 15 something about that. It's -- And 16 Chuck made a good point a while ago: 17 What are we looking out for? Not me. 18 We're looking out for that turkey. 19 And if you've got it eating corn and 20 you shoot him, that person is looking 21 out for his self. They ain't looking 22 out for that turkey. 23 And then, also, with the turkey</p>

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<p>1 -- with the corn, feeding the -- a 2 baby turkey cannot eat that corn, and 3 they got it out by the tons. And we 4 need to -- we need to do something 5 about it. 6 And there's not enough game 7 wardens in the State of Alabama to 8 stop illegal hunting. I mean, I 9 don't think that there are. 10 But as landowners and property 11 owners and hunters, we all need to 12 work together to try to stop this 13 problem. 14 And the -- And, you know, we 15 have an overpopulation of deer. 16 MS. JONES: Time. 17 MR. SLAY: I'm an avid turkey 18 hunter. I love turkey hunting. 19 We're not going to have turkeys if we 20 don't do something. 21 And one more thing, my wife just 22 sent me a picture that -- I got a hay 23 field in front of my house. I had</p>	<p>1 five long beards and six Jakes there 2 the week before the season. They 3 have not been there until this 4 morning. 5 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Smart birds. 6 MR. SLAY: Very smart. 7 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Yeah. Hold on 8 just one minute. 9 Any questions for Mr. Slay? 10 (No response). 11 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you. We 12 appreciate you coming. Come to a 13 fourth meeting. Thank you. 14 MR. SLAY: I think I may be 15 done. 16 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Our next 17 speaker is Mr. Rhett McCollough. 18 MR. MCCOLLOUGH: Thank you, Mr. 19 Chairman. 20 My name is Rhett McCollough. 21 I'm from Elba, Coffee County, 22 Alabama. 23 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: A</p>
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<p>1 little bit louder. 2 MR. MCCOLLOUGH: My name is 3 Rhett McCollough. I'm from Elba, 4 Coffee County, Alabama. I'm 5 representing a group of dog deer 6 hunters that are opposed to any 7 restrictions or permit system placed 8 on dog deer hunting. 9 With that said, with Mr. 10 Hartzog, I agree with him about 11 moving the turkey season to come in 12 earlier. My trail cameras showed 13 when it snowed, there were turkeys 14 strutting through the snow, end of 15 January. The next week it showed a 16 turkey breeding a hen. 17 So, may be something to think 18 about. 19 Also, I've heard -- you may can 20 answer -- that there have been 21 studies done about the population of 22 turkeys, whether the chicken-house 23 fertilizer's affecting their</p>	<p>1 livelihood; do you know anything 2 about that? 3 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: I do not, 4 personally, if you're asking the 5 Board, and I'm not sure that they do. 6 But we can certainly pose that 7 question to some of our staff and ask 8 them to respond at our meeting next 9 year, if that's okay. 10 MR. MCCOLLOUGH: That's fine. 11 Thank you. 12 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Okay. Any 13 other questions? 14 (No response). 15 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you very 16 much. Our last speaker today is Mr. 17 Avery Bates. 18 MR. BATES: My name's Avery 19 Bates, I'm vice-president of 20 Organized Seafood Association; most 21 of you know me. Been doing this a 22 long time. We like good seafood 23 management. And we like to make sure</p>

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<p>1 that our commercial fishermen keep 2 the resource. Chris just made one 3 mistake, it's the Gulf of America, 4 the Gulf of America. But, anyway, 5 getting back to what we need to do is 6 to state a fact; a fact is, what I 7 got, the information, if the 8 information is correct, there's 9 619,859 recreational fishermen. You 10 don't have that many commercial 11 fishermen. It's just not fair. 12 Guess who supplies the seafood 13 for all people through the markets. 14 My pastor says, "Avery, I love 15 speckled trout. It's a good fish." 16 I said, "Pastor, I can't get you 17 any of them. My seafood people can't 18 get you any of them. It was taken 19 away from us. Guess what; it's a 20 game fish. Only one user group. 21 Can't get you no red fish either." 22 It's been proposed by many 23 people to take the resource,</p>	<p>1 literally, one fish at a time away 2 from you. Thank you, Chris and 3 Scott, for one reason, you haven't 4 let any fish be taken away from the 5 public. And guess what; if I want to 6 bring my pastor a mullet -- Guess 7 what I fed the people in Montgomery. 8 Mullet. Most of them said -- even 9 our people that cook -- man, them's 10 good fish. 11 I said, "It's the cheapest fish 12 around." I said, "I can't afford to 13 give you some of them other kind, 14 especially, you can't catch some of 15 the other kind. And it still wants 16 to be taken away from you." 17 You know, it's a job. It's a 18 hard job. 19 My wife said, "What are you 20 doing when you was leaving a job of 21 inspecting at Ingalls shipyard?" 22 I said, "It's not in my blood." 23 I'm five generations commercial</p>
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<p>1 fisherman. I dreaded going to work 2 down there. I had a job with a pen 3 and a flashlight. I chose going back 4 to mud, slime, the dirtiest job you 5 can think of. What? To feed y'all 6 fish. 7 And then I had people come out 8 there and said, "You can't fish 9 there. I was fishing there 10 yesterday." 11 I said, "My papa -- my papa 12 before him was fishing here." 13 MS. JONES: Time. 14 MR. AVERY: I know I'm getting 15 buzzed. Jones buzzes me more than 16 anybody I ever seen. That's Ms. 17 Jones. Thank you. 18 Ernie told me to keep my mouth 19 shut. But I quoted that number for 20 you, for you to know one thing: 21 There's very few commercial fishermen 22 left but it's a job. I'll give y'all 23 a whole copy of stuff that I could</p>	<p>1 have said, but I hadn't had time. 2 Ernie said, "Keep your mouth shut; 3 there's a time to speak and a time to 4 keep your mouth shut." 5 Jones tells me I speak too much, 6 but anyway -- Betsy. 7 Y'all ought to give this lady a 8 hand. She needs it because she was 9 shaking her hands, they was going to 10 sleep. 11 But, anyway, I hope I'm allowed 12 just to speak a few more seconds. 13 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Just a few 14 more, Avery, we're glad to have you. 15 MR. BATES: Each time I speak, I 16 like to send you scripture. This 17 scripture here goes with a couple of 18 Supreme Court decisions. And I want 19 to give you the chapter and the 20 verse: Ecclesiastes 2, verse 24, 25, 21 and 26. You need to read it. And 22 then also Chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes, 23 verse 11, 12, 13, and 14. God's man,</p>

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<p>1 who was who, the preacher, who was 2 Solomon. I'm not as smart as 3 Solomon. I'm a very poor -- I say 4 very poor, you know, there's some 5 people that have got a lot more than 6 me, but I had my work. I enjoyed my 7 work. My papa enjoyed his work. 8 Don't take our labor. I love to get 9 up in the morning and go oystering so 10 you could eat oysters. 11 Ms. Woods back there says, "I 12 like oysters." I want you to 13 continue to eat oysters. We have a 14 fight now for the survival of our 15 oyster reefs, a fight, labor, contend 16 for the truth. If you don't think 17 that verse ain't right, read chapter 18 12, Ecclesiastes. The whole duty of 19 man is what? Fear God and keep his 20 commandments. And if you can argue 21 that, you're a better man than I am. 22 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, 23 Avery, very much. Bless you, Avery.</p>	<p>1 And thank you for being here. 2 Any questions for Avery? Mr. 3 Commissioner? 4 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: No 5 questions from me. Thank you. I 6 would like to point out one thing: 7 We had something that happened this 8 year as we were working through some 9 legislation and a decision that was 10 made in 1859 was brought back up, and 11 that was something that we relied on 12 to make a determination on something. 13 And so, since there's a 14 possibility that somebody's going to 15 read these minutes 150 years from 16 now, I want to make sure it's clear 17 that I did not make a mistake, that 18 the Gulf of America is where the 19 exploration takes place but the Gulf 20 of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 21 is the proper name. And Ms. Julie 22 Harper taught me in high school that 23 something that is a proper name that</p>
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<p>1 was set up in an Act like that, just 2 can't change it without -- you can't 3 just change that without an act of 4 Congress. 5 And so, we're using the acronym 6 GoMESA as we're describing the work, 7 and we are -- definitely understand 8 that the President has changed the 9 name to the Gulf of America, but that 10 we can't -- but GoMESA is an Act that 11 was passed, a particular Act, and it 12 has a proper name. 13 So, I just wanted that to be 14 clear, so when somebody reads these 15 minutes in 150 years from now, that 16 they won't say the Commissioner made 17 a mistake. 18 Appreciate it. 19 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. 20 Commissioner. 21 BOARD MEMBER HARTZOG: Scott? 22 MR. BANNON: Sir? 23 BOARD MEMBER HARTZOG: Have</p>	<p>1 y'all done any of the -- getting back 2 to Mr. Avery, have y'all done any of 3 the assessments on those -- the new 4 reefs and all? Weren't y'all 5 supposed to dive sometime? 6 MR. BANNON: So, the oyster dive 7 surveys will begin either the end of 8 this month, beginning of next month, 9 so, yes, we'll start those for this 10 year and we'll give you feedback as 11 we get those results; I'll send them 12 to you. 13 BOARD MEMBER HARTZOG: Do you 14 mind sending it to us once you get it 15 instead of waiting till the Board 16 meeting? 17 MR. BANNON: Sure. No, I'll 18 send it as soon as they're done. 19 BOARD MEMBER HARTZOG: Okay. 20 Thank you, Scott. 21 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Any other 22 questions, generally, from the Board? 23 (No response).</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: All right. Our</p> <p>2 next piece of business, our next item</p> <p>3 on the agenda is unfinished business.</p> <p>4 I think that all of the questions</p> <p>5 that we had from the previous meeting</p> <p>6 have been answered with regard to</p> <p>7 public comment and asks for staff, so</p> <p>8 I have nothing there.</p> <p>9 Our next agenda item would be</p> <p>10 new business. And today, because we</p> <p>11 don't have a quorum, we will not be</p> <p>12 conducting any new business. And I'm</p> <p>13 going to say that our next meeting</p> <p>14 will be announced.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER BLANKENSHIP: Yes.</p> <p>16 We'll have to have a third meeting</p> <p>17 where we have a quorum so that we can</p> <p>18 approve -- the Board can vote on the</p> <p>19 seasons and bag limits and other</p> <p>20 regulatory requests from the</p> <p>21 Department. We'll post that meeting</p> <p>22 on the Secretary of State's website.</p> <p>23 We'll send out a news release and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 make sure the public is aware. I</p> <p>2 don't have that date or the time on</p> <p>3 that as we sit here but we'll be</p> <p>4 looking for that over the next couple</p> <p>5 of days. Thank you.</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN DOBBS: Thank you all</p> <p>7 for coming. I don't know whether the</p> <p>8 weather has moderated any. Looked</p> <p>9 like some rain heading home, please</p> <p>10 be safe. The roads are slick. Take</p> <p>11 care and we'll see you next year and</p> <p>12 listen for you this next week. Thank</p> <p>13 you.</p> <p>14</p> <p>15 (The Advisory Board Meeting</p> <p>16 ended at 10:19 a.m. on May</p> <p>17 10, 2025.)</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE</p> <p>2 STATE OF ALABAMA</p> <p>3 MONTGOMERY COUNTY</p> <p>4</p> <p>5 I, Jamie McCracken, Certified Court</p> <p>6 Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of</p> <p>7 Alabama at Large, certify on Saturday, May 10th,</p> <p>8 2025, that I reported the proceedings in the matter</p> <p>9 of:</p> <p>10 ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF</p> <p>11 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES</p> <p>12 IN RE THE MATTER OF:</p> <p>13 CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING</p> <p>14</p> <p>15 on Saturday, May 10th, 2025, that the foregoing 90</p> <p>16 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct</p> <p>17 transcript of the meeting set out herein.</p> <p>18 I further certify that I am neither a relative,</p> <p>19 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the</p> <p>20 parties, nor am I a relative or employee of such</p> <p>21 attorney or counsel, nor am I financially</p> <p>22 interested in the results thereof. All rates</p> <p>23 charged are usual and customary.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 I further certify that I am duly licensed by the</p> <p>2 Alabama Board of Court Reporting as a Certified</p> <p>3 Court Reporter as evidenced by the ACCR number</p> <p>4 following my name found below.</p> <p>5 This 7th day of July in the year of our</p> <p>6 Lord, 2025.</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10 </p> <p>11 Jamie McCracken, CCR</p> <p>12 ACCR NO. 451 Exp. 9/30/25</p> <p>13 Certified Court Reporter and</p> <p>14 Notary Public</p> <p>15 Commission expires 10/28/28</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>(C) Copyright 2025, Boggs Reporting &amp; Video. All rights reserved. No portion of this document may be reproduced without written consent of Boggs Reporting &amp; Video.</p>



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