

COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

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

Commission Members:

Mark Havard, Chairman

Steve Bosarge

Richard Gollott

Natalie Guess

Also Present:

Joe Spraggins, Executive Director DMR

Sandy Chesnut, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

1 JOE SPRAGGINS: We've got three of you. So we
2 have a quorum, if you want to take control of this. We've
3 got Commissioner Guess and Commissioner Bosarge on with
4 you.

5 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Good morning, guys.

6 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Good morning.

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Good morning.

8 I will go ahead and call the meeting to order.
9 First item on the agenda is approval of the
10 agenda.

11 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I make a motion to approve
12 the agenda.

13 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a second to
14 approve the agenda?

15 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll second that.

16 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I've got a motion and a
17 second.

18 All those in favor say aye.

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Aye.

22 Motion moves.

23 JOE SPRAGGINS: We also have Commissioner
24 Gollott on now.

25 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Yes, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Good morning.

2 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Good morning.

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

5 what have you got?

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

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

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

15 JOE SPRAGGINS: They are trying to.

16 The presentation, if we can get it, Brady.

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

24 SANDY CHESNUT: As the Director said, we are
25 talking about the extension of commercial licenses

1 expiration dates, and we will go over the background.

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

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

12 "All existing laws, ordinances, rules
13 and regulations inconsistent with
14 provisions of the article, ..., shall
15 be suspended during the period of time
16 and to the extent that such emergency
17 exists."

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

21 We are requesting a motion:

22 In order to comply with Executive Order 1466 and
23 acknowledging the processing time involved in issuing
24 commercial licenses, the Commission finds that the April
25 30 expiration date is inconsistent with the provisions in

1 Executive Order 1466 and finds that it is
2 necessary to suspend the April 30 expiration date of
3 commercial licenses and extend the expiration date of
4 commercial licenses to May 31st, 2020, and that this will
5 be reassessed as needed for the duration of the state of
6 the emergency.

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Is that it?

8 SANDY CHESNUT: well, I have additional
9 information.

10 The next screen, Brady.

11 The additional information that is relevant to
12 this topic is that applicants are reminded that they may
13 continue to obtain commercial licenses by mailing their
14 application to the DMR.

15 If we could go back to the prior screen, Brady.
16 Perfect.

17 If y'all would like to suspend that provision in
18 49-15-26 and extend the expiration date, then, we need a
19 motion.

20 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Sandy, I guess we are
21 going to do some kind of public notice of this.

22 Is that what the intentions are?

23 SANDY CHESNUT: Yes. If you guys approve this,
24 then, yes, we will post it on the website.

25 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Okay.

1 JOE SPRAGGINS: Commissioner Bosarge, WLOX is on
2 this call with us today. They are getting this
3 information so they can put it out, if y'all pass it.

4 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: That's great. That way,
5 everybody will know it.

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

8 Do we have anybody that wants to make the
9 motion?

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

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

22 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have a motion on the
23 table.

24 Do I have a second for the motion?

25 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I'll second

1 that, Richard Gollott.

2 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have a motion and a
3 second.

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

6 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Commissioner Gollott,
7 aye.

8 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Commissioner Guess, aye.

9 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Commissioner Bosarge,
10 aye.

11 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Commissioner Havard, aye.
12 Motion moves.

13 JOE SPRAGGINS: Go back to the agenda, please,
14 real quick to make sure I haven't missed something.

15 The only thing we forgot to put on the agenda
16 and I would ask if you could, Commissioner Harvard, ask if
17 there are any public comments.

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

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

21 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: No public comments.

22 Any other business?

23 (No response.)

24 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: No other business.

25 Can I get a motion to adjourn?

1 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Commissioner Gollott
2 makes a motion that we adjourn.

3 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll second.

4 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I've got a motion and a
5 second.

6 All those in favor say aye.

7 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Commissioner Guess, aye.

8 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Commissioner Bosarge,
9 aye.

10 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Commissioner Gollott,
11 aye.

12 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Commissioner Havard, aye.
13 Motion moves.

14 Appreciate it, guys.

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

17 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you.

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CERTIFICATE

I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the April 10, 2020, Commission on Marine Resources Special Session Webinar, to the best of my skill and ability; and, further, that I am not a relative, employee, or agent, of any of the parties thereto, nor financially interested in the cause.

S/ _____

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