

**MINUTES OF THE MISSISSIPPI ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PERMIT BOARD
HELD IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

The Mississippi Environmental Quality Permit Board held a meeting in the Commission Hearing Room of the Department of Environmental Quality, located at 515 East Amite Street, in Jackson, Mississippi, on February 13, 2024. David Dockery, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the following members and designated representatives present:

David Dockery, Chair
Doug Mann for Lynn Posey, Vice Chair
Chris Hawkins for Kay Whittington
Les Herrington
David Snodgrass for Jess New
Brian Perry for Andy Gipson

Absent: Jennifer Wittmann for Joe Spraggins

Roy Furrh, General Counsel for MDEQ, was present as legal counsel. On motion by David Snodgrass and second by Chris Hawkins, the Permit Board voted to adopt and approve the minutes of the regular December meeting held on January 9, 2024.

REPORT OF STAFF PERMIT ACTIONS/CERTIFICATIONS

Staff reported to the Permit Board that staff had acted on various permits since the January 9, 2024, Permit Board Meeting pursuant to the regulations delegating this authority to the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Executive Director's delegation of this authority to the staff in accordance with those regulations. The Permit Board voted to note and record in its minutes the reports of permit actions and certifications by staff since the January 9, 2024, Permit Board Meeting. [Chris Hawkins abstained from voting on all Land and Water Resources permitting matters].

**REPORT OF PERMIT ACTIONS/CERTIFICATIONS SINCE THE 01/09/24 MEETING
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL
ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS DIVISION**

**OFFICE OF LAND AND WATER RESOURCES
REPORT OF PERMIT ACTIONS/CERTIFICATIONS SINCE THE 01/09/24
PERMIT BOARD MEETING**

**THE PERMIT BOARD CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL MATTERS:**

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS DIVISION

Environmental Permits Division

401/Stormwater Branch

Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc.

Hattiesburg/Dixie

Forrest County, Mississippi

Florance Bass, Technical Team Lead of the EPD-401/Stormwater Branch of the Office of Pollution Control of MDEQ presented this matter for the Permit Board's consideration. This was a request for a certificate of coverage under the Large Construction Stormwater General Permit by Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc. (Love's), for construction of new automotive and truck fueling center and convenience store to be located at 238 Ira Hudson Road, Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi. The project will include the construction of a 10,900 square foot facility. This project will include a convenience store and fast-food restaurant area, fueling islands, automobile and truck fueling canopies, associated paved parking areas, entrance drive and drive approaches and installation of underground storage tanks. The project will result in ground disturbance to 23.1 acres.

Ms. Bass indicated the stormwater pollution prevention plan has been reviewed and deemed complete and meets the minimum requirements in addressing stormwater discharges from the project site. MDEQ received comments of concern from the Dixie community regarding the potential for contamination of the community water well and the potential threat to natural resources including the gopher tortoise population. After additional information was provided by Love's, MDEQ deemed the environmental concerns have been addressed. Ms. Bass provided that MDEQ after reviewing the Large Construction Stormwater Notice of Intent and associated Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, believes the plan includes the necessary components required by the Large Construction Stormwater General Permit, state law and federal and state regulations.

Following Ms. Bass' presentation Chair David Dockery verbally asked the audience if there was anyone who wanted to publicly comment to the Permit Board, but there was no response from the audience. Permit Board member Doug Mann, the designee from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (DWFP), commented that there was a Gopher Tortoise colony 8/10ths of a mile away from the site and another colony a mile away on the other side of Highway 98 according to DWFP's tracking. Mr. Mann asked if there were any representative from Love's. Steve Walters with Love's and Deke Willis with Chipola Engineering Group, Inc. approached the podium and indicated Love's had inspected the site for endangered species and found no gopher tortoise burrows onsite, but would prepare and follow a mitigation plan if gopher tortoises were identified onsite. Thereafter, on motion by Les Herrington and second by Chris Hawkins, the Permit Board voted to issue Coverage No. MSR109121 under the Large Construction Stormwater General Permit to Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc. Permit Board member David Snodgrass voted present.

OTHER BUSINESS

Roy Furrh, General Counsel for MDEQ, reminded the Permit Board members to file their Statements of Economic interest with the Mississippi Ethics Commission. He indicated that he would follow up with the Permit Board members who have not filed before the next Permit Board meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT REGULAR PERMIT BOARD MEETING

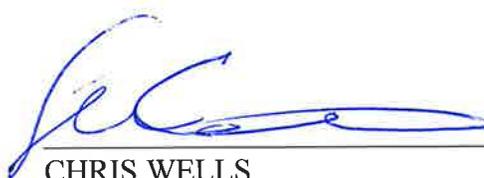
Chair David Dockery confirmed the next Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Chair David Dockery confirmed the next regular Permit Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2024. On motion by David Snodgrass and second by Doug Mann, the Permit Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Permit Board, Chair David Dockery adjourned the meeting.

DATED at Jackson, Mississippi, this the 13th day of February 2024.



CHRIS WELLS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DAVID DOCKERY
PERMIT BOARD CHAIR