



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
MARCH 27, 2014 @ 9:30 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Felts, Chairman
Richard Brown Jr., Vice-Chairman /Commissioner
Dawne Vandiver, Secretary/Commissioner
James Wallace, Commissioner
Richard L. Mays, Jr., Commissioner

HEARING JUDGES PRESENT:

Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASON:

Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner
Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Cara Boyd-Conners, Hearing Judge/Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Mahogany Brown, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB
Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Saalam, Administrative Specialist III (Parole), APB
Kenneth Giesbrecht, Computer Support Specialist, APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Felts called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 13, 2014

Commissioner Mays moved. Commissioner Vandiver seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

POPULATION REPORT

Chairman Felts stated that there are currently 17,455 inmates incarcerated in the Department of Correction. There are currently 2,481 men and 222 women in county jails.

In review of the ACC Parole and Probation Population report there are 28,352 individuals on probation, 2,350 in drug court, 22,030 individuals on parole, and 310 on boot camp release for a total of 53,042 under supervision. Chairman Felts stated that this number has dropped several thousand due to the large number of parole violators being revoked and waiting in county jail.

In review of the ACC jurisdiction population there is a total population of 1,7189. This includes those in ACC correction centers and Omega and SE ARK TVP. The total ACC capacity is 1,802. Chairman Felts stated that they are currently close to capacity.

Chairman Felts stated that everyone should have a copy of the OVG report in their board packets. There were no questions.

Chairman Felts stated that February was a record setting month. In review of the APB monthly report, Chairman Felts stated that the Board had a total of 311 approved Transfer Screenings out of a total of 352. The overall approval rate for Screenings was 88.4%. There were 40 deferred and 54 were scheduled for hearings. The Board conducted a total of 843 Transfer Hearings with 631 approved without programs. The Board had a 74.9% approval rate. There were 80 denied and 132 deferred. There were also 28 pardons, 1 firearm restorations, 35 commutation screenings and 8 commutation hearings for a total of 72 clemencies. The Board had total actions of 1,496. Chairman Felts stated that there were more approvals in February than total parole actions for the previous months. He reported that April will be a big month as well as they are still bringing people in from county jails. Mrs. Ellingburg stated that the numbers for April will be ready soon. She stated that it is also going to be big numbers for the Board.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Mrs. Meredith Rebsamen stated that she has new copies of the FOI Handbook and she has brought copies for the Board. She stated that it is a helpful and handy guide to keep at the desk. Commissioner Mays requested information regarding a lawsuit. Mrs. Rebsamen asked that all lawsuit information, even those handwritten, be forwarded to her office so that they can respond and review accordingly. Chairman inquired about a recent case involving 6 or 7 plaintiffs whose crimes were committed as juveniles and they were sentenced to Life. Mrs. Rebsamen stated that this is being handled by the criminal department at the Attorney General's office.

FISCAL REPORT

Mrs. Mahogany Franklin reported that the Board has currently expended 65% of its annual travel, maintenance and operations budget. She stated that the detailed report is included for the Board's review. Mrs. Franklin stated that she will be attending the AAPP meeting on the day of the Board meeting only, but all hotel reservations have been made and if anyone needs confirmation numbers to please see her.

HEARING JUDGES REPORT

The Hearing Judge report was available to the Board for review. He stated that the numbers in county jail have really dropped and there are currently only 155 waiting for hearings. There were no questions regarding the Hearing Judge Report.

AGENCY UPDATES

There was no agency updates to discuss.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Mays stated that everyone has worked hard to accommodate the growing numbers out at the units and he wanted to thank everyone for their hard work. Chairman Felts stated that everyone has worked as a team and he appreciates Mrs. Ellingburg’s group working diligently to schedule and make things move smoothly for the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss

April 2014 SCHEDULE

Chairman Felts stated that the calendar for April is very busy and he tried to make it as equal as possible for everyone. If there are any conflicting dates or issues please let him know so those can be discussed.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION - REVIEW

There were no questions regarding the files for discussion

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Vandiver moved. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion to adopt the recommendations. Motion carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wallace stated that they are planning a retirement party for Mr. Peacock on April 16th. If anyone has any suggestions for the party please let him know.

Commissioner Brown stated that they had a good turnout for the re-entry program at Malvern and he appreciated the opportunity to go and speak. He stated that it is good to interact with the inmates and answer questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 9:30a.m. at the Omega Technical Violators Center in Malvern.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Dawne Vandiver
Secretary

**ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE
FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES**

MARCH 2014

UNITS:

RATIFIED (X)

EAST AR	X
MISSISSIPPI CO.	X
NEACCC	X
OUACHITA RIVER CORR.	X
PINE BLUFF	X
R.L. WILLIAMS	X
SEARC	X
VARNER	X
WRIGHTSVILLE	X

**OTHER: PARDONS, COMMUTATIONS, TRANSFER SCREENINGS, x
ACT 290, 700'S, RECONSIDERATION, REVOCATION APPEALS,
EPA, ETC.**

MOTION BY: Commissioner Vandiver SECONDED BY: Commissioner Wallace

RATIFICATION DATE: MARCH 27, 2014