

**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**April 2, 2009**

**ROBERT J. SAMANIE, III  
CHAIRMAN**

**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting  
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
2000 Quail Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.

For more information, call (225) 765-2806.

**AGENDA**  
**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**APRIL 2, 2009**

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Chairman Robert J. Samanie, III presiding.

Earl King, Jr.  
Patrick Morrow  
Stephen Oats  
Stephen Sagrera  
Ann Taylor

Secretary Robert Barham was also present.

Commissioner Frederic Miller was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Samanie called for a motion for approval of the **March 5, 2009 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Oats and seconded by Commissioner King. The motion passed with no opposition.

Under **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege** for this month, Commissioner Morrow announced this would be the last meeting for Mr. Phil Bowman, a 30 plus year Department employee in charge of the Coastal and Nongame Division. He then thanked Mr. Bowman for his many years of service and dedication. Chairman Samanie also recognized Col. Mike Edmonson with State Police who was attending the meeting. Commissioner King then noted that Commissioner Miller has had some health concerns over the last several months and asked that he be remembered in everyone's thoughts and prayers.

**To receive and consider Zero Tolerance for Litter Proclamation** began with Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne stating that over the last several years, a

partnership has been initiated between the Department, Louisiana State Police and Keep Louisiana Beautiful to campaign against litter. One weekend during the month of March or April was proclaimed Zero Tolerance for Litter in the State of Louisiana. The Governor recently issued a Proclamation declaring April 17, 18 and 19 as Zero Tolerance for Litter weekend. Lt. Col. Mayne then asked the Commission to proclaim the same weekend as Zero Tolerance for Litter in the Sportsman's Paradise. He then introduced Col. Mike Edmonson, Mr. Russell Graham and Lt. Doug Cain from State Police and Ms. Leigh Harris from Keep Louisiana Beautiful. Col. Edmonson stated the relationship between State Police and the Department has been unparalleled throughout his career. He noted he was involved with Keep Louisiana Beautiful during its first inception when he was a young public officer and now dedicates his time to making this a top priority. Col. Edmonson stated they have a very diligent enforcement effort in the Office of State Police to zero in on people littering the highways and companies that do not secure their loads. He looked forward to continuing their efforts and possibly kicking it up a bit during the months of April and May. He applauded the Governor, Legislature, Secretary Barham and Col. Vidrine for their efforts. Ms. Harris commented that there could not be a strong anti-litter program in Louisiana without the people from State Police and Wildlife and Fisheries. As part of educating the public, enforcement was needed to continue not only during this one weekend but throughout the year. Lt. Col. Mayne agreed with Col. Edmonson when he stated that one of the main focuses for this weekend was to partnership with other law enforcement agencies. He then asked the Commission to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming Zero Tolerance for Litter in the Sportsman's Paradise. Commissioner Morrow made a motion to adopt the Proclamation and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagraera. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Proclamation is made a part of the record.)

**Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**  
**P R O C L A M A T I O N**  
**April 2, 2009**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Louisiana enjoys a well deserved reputation for possessing a diversity of landscapes from the picturesque hills

of the northern portion of the state to the sub-tropical marshes of the south, and

**WHEREAS**, for many years, the abundant and varied scenery of Louisiana has attracted thousands of visitors annually to enjoy both nature at its finest and the many living resources and natural wonders, and

**WHEREAS**, litter scattered around the beautiful landscape of our great state, has been not only an eyesore for local residents, but has greatly detracted from the state's flourishing tourist industry and negatively effects our states ecosystem, and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Louisiana, Keep Louisiana Beautiful, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division, the Louisiana State Police, and innumerable local civic agencies have initiated the "Zero Tolerance for Litter" initiative in 2009 to better inform local residents of the importance of keeping our state litter free, and

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission applauds the efforts of Louisiana's Law Enforcement Officers and members of Keep Louisiana Beautiful in their attempt to bring about a cleaner, more attractive environment for all citizens and visitors, now

**THEREFORE** the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby proclaims April 17, 18 & 19, 2009 to be

**ZERO TOLERANCE FOR LITTER IN THE SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE DAYS**

and that all hunters, fishers, boaters and natural resource enthusiasts join the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division, Louisiana State Police and Keep Louisiana Beautiful members in helping our state reach its potential as a litter free state.

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Robert J. Samanie, III, Chairman  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

**To receive and hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March** began with Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze stating the activities centered around the opening of turkey season, and commercial and recreational fisheries. A total of 1,334 cases and 426 written warnings were issued and agents helped with 30 public assists. During the opening weekends of turkey season, 36 violations were issued. The Aviation Report showed the Departments three planes flew a total of 73 hours during March. There were 7 boating accidents during the month resulting in 1 injury and 2 fatalities. The fatalities occurred in Lake Pontchartrain and Assumption Parish. News Releases discussed included citing 12 people in Bay Gardene Seed Ground for taking oysters in a closed area; a Jonesville man was cited for fisheries violations in Catahoula Parish; 3 individuals in offshore waters were cited for possessing red drum and red snapper in closed season; and another 3 individuals in Slidell were cited for taking commercial fish illegally. Lt. Col. LaCaze then mentioned that agents were on stand by to assist in St. Tammany Parish with possible impacts to 5,000 homes from flooding.

**To receive and consider Notice of Intent on Deer Management Assistance Program Eligibility** was handled by Mr. Scott Durham. This proposed rule would make it easier and less expensive for landowners with more than 10,000 acres to enroll non-contiguous land as a single entity. This change would benefit the Department by increasing the DMAP base which has declined in recent years. Mr. Durham felt DMAP was a very important source of deer herd and harvest and health data for the staff in making management decisions and recommendations. He then read Paragraph H of the Notice of Intent. Hearing no questions, Commissioner Sagraera made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent and it was seconded by Commissioner King. The motion was unanimously approved.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

#### NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

## Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises their intent to amend the rules and regulations for participation in the Deer Management Assistance Program.

### TITLE 76

#### WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

#### PART V. WILD QUADRUPEDS AND WILD BIRDS

##### Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

##### **§111. Rules and Regulations for Participation in the Deer Management Assistance Program**

A. The following rules and regulations shall govern the Deer Management Assistance Program

1. Application Procedure

a. Application for enrollment of a new cooperator in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) must be submitted to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by August 1. Application for the renewal enrollment of an active cooperator must be submitted to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries annually by September 1.

b. Each application for a new cooperator must be accompanied by a legal description of lands to be enrolled and a map of the property. Renewal applications must be accompanied by a legal description and map only if the boundaries of the enrolled property have changed from records on file from the previous hunting season. This information will remain on file in the appropriate regional office. The applicant must have under lease or otherwise control a minimum of 500 acres of contiguous deer habitat of which up to 250 acres may be agricultural lands, provided the remainder is in forest and/or marsh. Private lands within Wildlife Management Area boundaries shall be enrolled in DMAP regardless of size.

c. Each cooperator will be assessed a \$25 enrollment fee and \$.05/acre for participation in the program. DMAP fees must be paid by invoice to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Fiscal Section prior to September 15.

d. An agreement must be completed and signed by the official representative of the cooperator and submitted to the appropriate regional wildlife office for ~~his~~ approval. This agreement must be completed and signed annually.

e. Boundaries of lands enrolled in DMAP shall be clearly marked and posted with DMAP signs in compliance with R.S. 56:110 and the provisions of R.S. 56:110 are only applicable to property enrolled in DMAP. DMAP signs shall be removed if the land is no longer enrolled in DMAP. Rules and regulations for compliance with R. S. 56:110 are as follows:

i. The color of DMAP signs shall be orange. The words DMAP and Posted shall be printed on the sign in letters no less than 4" (four inches) in height. Signs may be constructed of any material and minimum size is 11 1/4" x 11 1/4".

ii. Signs will be placed at 1000 foot intervals around the entire boundary of the property and at every entry point onto the property.

f. By enrolling in the DMAP, cooperators agree to allow Department personnel access to their lands for management surveys, investigation of violations and other inspections deemed appropriate by the Department. The person listed on the DMAP application as the contact person will serve as the liaison between the DMAP Cooperator and the Department.

g. Each cooperator that enrolls in DMAP is strongly encouraged to provide keys or lock combinations annually to the Enforcement Division of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for access to main entrances of the DMAP property. Provision of keys is voluntary.

However, the cooperator's compliance will ensure that DMAP enrolled properties will be properly and regularly patrolled.

h. Large landowners (>10,000 acres) may further act as cooperators and enroll additional non-contiguous tracts of land deemed sub-cooperators. Sub-cooperators shall be defined by the large landowner lease agreements. Non-contiguous sub-cooperator lands enrolled by large landowners will have the legal description and a map included for those parcels enrolled as sub-cooperators. Sub-cooperators shall be subject to the same requirements, rules and regulations as cooperators. The \$25 enrollment fee will be waived for sub-cooperators when the sub-cooperator land is included in the cooperator's enrollment acreage.

## 2. Tags

a. A fixed number of special tags will be provided by the Department to each cooperator/sub-cooperator in DMAP to affix to deer taken as authorized by the program. These tags shall be used only on DMAP lands for which the tags were issued.

b. All antlerless deer (and antlered deer if special antlered tags are issued) taken shall be tagged, including those taken during archery ~~season, muzzleloader~~ and primitive firearms seasons, and on either-sex days of gun season.

c. Each hunter must have a tag in his possession while hunting on DMAP land in order to harvest an antlerless (or an antlered deer if special antlered tags are issued) deer. The tag shall be attached through the hock in such a manner that it cannot be removed before the deer is transported. The DMAP tag will remain with the deer so long as the deer is kept in the camp or field, is in route to the domicile of its possessor, or until it has been stored at the domicile of its possessor, or divided at a cold storage facility and has become identifiable as food rather than as wild game. The DMAP number shall be recorded on the possession tag of the deer or any part of the animal when divided and properly tagged.

d. Antlerless deer harvested on property enrolled in DMAP do not count in the daily or season bag limit for hunters.

e. Special antlered deer tags may be issued on property enrolled in DMAP to increase the antlered deer harvest if a Regional or Deer Program biologist deems it necessary for herd health or habitat management purposes. DMAP tagged antlered deer will not count in the daily or season bag limits.

f. All unused tags shall be returned by March 1 to the regional wildlife office which issued the tags.

### 3. Records

a. Cooperators/sub-cooperators are responsible for keeping accurate records on forms provided by the Department for all deer harvested on lands enrolled in the program. Mandatory information includes tag number, sex of deer, date of kill, name of person taking the deer, hunting license number (transaction number, authorization number, lifetime number or date of birth for under 16 and over 59 years of age) and biological data (age, weight, antler measurements, lactation) as deemed essential by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Deer Section. Biological data collection must meet quality standards established by the Deer Section. Documentation of mandatory information shall be kept daily by the cooperator/sub-cooperator. Additional information may be requested depending on management goals of the cooperator/sub-cooperator.

b. Information on deer harvested shall be submitted by March 1 to the regional wildlife office handling the particular cooperator/sub-cooperator.

c. The contact person shall provide this documentation of harvested deer to the Department upon request. Cooperators/sub-cooperators who do not have a field camp will be given 48 hours to provide this requested documentation.

### B. Suspension and cancellation of DMAP Cooperators/Sub-Cooperators

1. Failure of the cooperator/sub-cooperator to follow these rules and regulations may result in suspension and cancellation of the program on those lands involved. Failure to make a good faith attempt to follow harvest recommendations may also result in suspension and cancellation of the program.

a. Suspension of cooperator/sub-cooperator from DMAP. Suspension of the cooperator/sub-cooperator from DMAP, including forfeiture of unused tags, will occur immediately for any misuse of tags, failure to tag any antlerless deer, or failure to submit records to the Department for examination in a timely fashion. Suspension of the cooperator/sub-cooperator, including forfeiture of unused tags, may also occur immediately if other DMAP rules or wildlife regulations are violated. Upon suspension of the cooperator/sub-cooperator from DMAP, the contact person may request a Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hearing within 10 working days to appeal said suspension. Cooperation by the DMAP cooperator/sub-cooperator with the investigation of the violation will be taken into account by the Department when considering cancellation of the program following a suspension for any of the above listed reasons. The cooperator/sub-cooperator may be allowed to continue with the program on a probational status if, in the judgement of the Department, the facts relevant to a suspension do not warrant cancellation.

b. Cancellation of cooperator/sub-cooperator from DMAP. Cancellation of a cooperator/sub-cooperator from DMAP may occur following a guilty plea or conviction for a DMAP rule or regulation violation by any individual or member hunting on the land enrolled in DMAP. The cooperator/sub-cooperator may not be allowed to participate in DMAP for one year following the cancellation for such guilty pleas or conviction. Upon cancellation of the cooperator/sub-cooperator from DMAP, the contact person may request an administrative hearing within 10 working days to appeal said cancellation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 17:204 (February 1991), amended LR 25:1656 (September 1999), LR 26:2011 (September 2000), LR 30:2496 (November 2004), LR 34:1427 (July 2008), LR 35: .

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, June 4, 2009 to Mr. Scott Durham, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898-9000.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

In accordance with Act 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Robert J. Samanie, III  
Chairman

Mr. Randy Myers began the next agenda item, **To receive and consider Amendments and Public Comments on the Hunting Seasons and the General and WMA Hunting Rules and Regulations**, stating Enforcement highlighted some of the illegal actions from the opening of the turkey season, but he wanted to highlight some of the positive actions. The turkey youth hunt began on March 21 statewide and he felt there were a lot of smiling faces. From lottery hunts on the wildlife management areas, 105 youth participated which resulted in the harvest of 26 turkeys. Mr. Myers then thanked the local chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation for assisting as guides, and providing a meal and goody bag for the youth.

Next, Mr. Myers talked about proposed amendments. At the February Meeting, the Notices of Intent were presented which began the formal public comment period for the 2009-2011 hunting seasons. In March, the Department conducted their statewide public hearings to receive comment on the Notices of Intent. From the 9 meetings, over 600 people attended

with the largest participation of 530 at the Alexandria meeting. A summary of the meeting comments and those received by staff (a total of 329) was included in the packets. The first proposed amendment involved Fort Polk and Peason Ridge WMAs since the Department of the Army asked to maintain the mandatory deer checks on the either-sex weekends. Also, for both areas, the Army asked that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of December for 2 days and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of December for 2 days be deleted, but add bucks only season beginning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of December and ending January 1. Also for Fort Polk and Peason Ridge, the Army asked to allow the harvest of feral hogs with a special shotgun season from January 2 to the end of February. These hog hunters must also wear the required hunter orange that deer hunters are required to display. Another proposed amendment was to add two special lottery youth hunts to Floy Ward McElroy WMA. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of October for 2 days, there would be a youth lottery squirrel hunt and then another youth lottery hunt to rabbit hunt over beagles would be on the 1st Saturday of January for 1 day. Comments have been received to increase the take of raccoons and possums, so staff recommended deleting the requirement that allowed the harvest of raccoon during the day during the open rabbit season and allow these animals to be taken year round. Also, the participating hunters would be allowed to increase their bag limit of raccoons and possums from 1 to 2. The hunting season dates for Barataria Preserve were only calendar adjustments and Mr. Myers asked that they be included in the Notice of Intent. Commissioner Morrow asked if there are any other WMA youth rabbit hunts except for Floy Ward McElroy and Mr. Myers stated this was a new season for the Department. They were looking at proposing this season on other WMAs such as Sherburne or Red River where there are established seasons already. Commissioner Morrow thought the Commission would be interested in more youth rabbit hunts, so he urged the staff to see how this hunt came out and possibly propose more the next season. Commissioner Oats asked if there was any change in weight increase for ATV tires. Mr. Myers felt a lot of the comments misunderstood the new regulation. Commissioner Sagrera stated he had a letter from the Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association stating they were opposed to the proposed raccoon regulation. Also, he noted the Louisiana Fur Advisory Council was in favor of leaving the season as it was.

Commissioner King then offered an amendment for an 8 day deer-dog season on Kisatchie National Forest for the 2009-2010 season. One of the tools the Commission uses to evaluate Notices of Intent was public comment. As previously stated, there were 9 public meetings held of which 530 people attended the Alexandria meeting. At that meeting, a host of legislators and public officials asked that the deer-dog season be reinstated on Kisatchie. Commissioner King felt the public has spoken on this issue through their elected officials and in person. He then noted the U.S. Forest Service was wanting to eliminate deer-dog hunting rather than be proactive and seek solutions to issues that may arise. Commissioner King added that he supported the culture, tradition and legacy of deer-dog hunting. He then made a motion to amend the Kisatchie National Forest deer season to reinstate 8 days of deer-dog season for the 2009-2010 season. The recommended dates were December 19-December 24, closed on December 25, and reopen for December 26 and December 27. He then asked that 2 recommendations from the Deer Dog Task Force be considered. The first recommendation was to have a hunters dog permanently marked with microchips or tattoos for tracking ownership to an individual or a hunting club. The second recommendation was to propose a permit system for all dog hunters on Kisatchie. When a hunter applies for a permit, they would be required to sign an acceptance contract which outlines the terms of the permit. Commissioner Oats asked if the intent of the motion was to make the recommendations a requirement of the season and Commissioner King stated it was just a recommendation. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion.

Mr. Robert Lee, a 22 year employee with the Forest Service, stated he began his career at the age of 15. He noted he was a dog hunter and raised walker hounds and blue ticks and was familiar with the issues. The U.S. Forest Service was the largest provider of outdoor recreation. Mr. Lee stated that the Service stands firm on their proposal and was not in favor of any compromise. He mentioned that the Commission has the opportunity to allow dog hunting. Commissioner Oats asked if there was a permit system currently in place for dog hunters in Kisatchie. Mr. Lee stated he was not aware of a permit system since he had only been in his position for 2 months. Commissioner Oats then asked if anyone knew the requirements for the permit system. Commissioner King read that season permits required from Forest Supervisor's Office in Winn, Catahoula and Kisatchie Ranger

District Offices for all hunting. Mr. Lee stated there was a special use permit which was different from dog hunting. Commissioner King again noted that a permit was required on Kisatchie and felt it could be adapted for deer-dog hunting. Mr. Lee again stated they were not interested in a compromise. Commissioner Oats stated he was interested in a compromise and thanked all those that sent him comments. He felt there was a problem with deer-dog hunting but that it was caused by a small number of people. Commissioner Oats thought that the recommendation of tracking deer dogs should be a requirement. He felt a responsible hunter would know where the property lines are and would contact a private landowner to let them know if there was a problem. Also, Commissioner Oats felt the recommendations from the Task Force should be requirements so that there can be respect for the tradition of deer-dog hunting, but identify those who cause problems. Mr. Lee commented that with there being 538 people at the Alexandria meeting showed there was a problem plus having the discussion at the Commission meeting also showed there was a problem. Again he noted the Department has 1.3 million acres, but questioned how much of this land allows deer-dog hunting. Commissioner Oats felt Mr. Lee's comments pertained to the WMAs and stated he understood his point. He then applauded the efforts of Commissioner King and the Deer Dog Task Force and the recommendations were sound but he would have gone about it a bit differently. Commissioner Oats felt for the Forest Service to state there would be no compromise was an equal problem to people saying there would be no dog hunting and not consider a solution. He then suggested the recommendations should be more than that in which there was a system that would respect private property and he knew that there were good responsible deer hunters that do not disrespect property rights. Requiring easy identification of dogs by having a permit specific for deer dog hunting and a set of rules specific to dog hunting and to hold accountable those that do not respect property owners was the recommendation by Commissioner Oats. Mr. Lee again commented that they hold firm to their proposal and felt their integrity as resource professionals has been challenged. Commissioner Oats stated to Mr. Lee that no one on the Commission was challenging his integrity or that of his agency. Commissioner Morrow reminded Mr. Lee that the State was statutorily prohibited from allowing dog hunting on WMAs and only the Legislature could give the Commission that authority. He then asked Mr. Lee that if the Commission passed an amendment for dog hunting, what would be the Forest Service's position in terms of allowing dog hunting on Kisatchie.

Mr. Lee remarked that they take full ownership of their proposal. Again Commissioner Morrow asked if the Commission passed to allow dog hunting on Kisatchie, would the Forest Service allow those days. Mr. Lee stated he would have to take the question back to his supervisor for an answer. Commissioner King added that the Commission and Department does allow dog hunting on public land in the Atchafalaya Basin.

Mr. G. David Lewis stated he was in complete favor of the Forest Service's proposal and felt it was timely and necessary. One word that keeps coming up is "rights", but the truth was that no type of hunting was a right, it was a privilege. Mr. Lewis also mentioned he has heard the word tradition a lot and it brought up fond memories of dog hunting with family and friends. But he has not hunted with dogs for about 30 years since it has changed due to problems with other people and being blamed for what other people did. Mr. Lewis brought the signature of 60 people that live in the area supporting the proposal and asked that the proposal be extended to include any private or non-public lands adjacent to the Kisatchie Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest. Commissioner Oats asked if all deer dog hunters was the problem. Mr. Lewis stated it was not all people, but disagreed with the comment made that it was a small number. From his experiences and those of his neighbors, Mr. Lewis knew it was a large number of hunters. Commissioner Oats asked Mr. Lewis for specific problems he has had. Mr. Lewis recalled the killing of livestock, goats, people parking on parish roads when dogs are running, trespassing, and picking up fences so dogs can get under the fence.

Mr. Kevin Hull began stating that dog hunting is no longer traditional, but asked what hunting was traditional? He talked about scent blockers, special lights to track blood trails, heat sensors, etc. He felt there was no such thing as dog trespassing since there was no Louisiana law that indicates a dog can trespass. The Forest Service wants to reduce the conflict. He felt that private landowners inside the Forest Service should have to follow the same regulations as hunters using the Forest Service lands. There was no baiting allowed on Forest Service lands, but the private landowners have food plots and bait the deer to stay on their lands. Commissioner Oats asked if a tracking collar can be placed on a dog and the owner know where it is. Mr. Hull stated only the general direction of the dog. Commissioner Oats then asked what can be used on dogs to help identify the responsible hunters

from those that are not responsible. Mr. Hull noted the majority of the hunters already use tracking collars. Commissioner Oats asked Mr. Hull how he would feel about a special permit for a dog season. Mr. Hull felt it would be unfair to single out this group of people since there were already rules for trespassing and shooting from the roads. Commissioner Oats again asked Mr. Hull what his choice would be between no dog hunting or dog hunting with a special permit that followed the Task Force's recommendations. Mr. Hull stated he would not want to comment now, but would need more information on the permit system.

Mr. Irby Perkins, Jr. stated he has been a lifetime hunter in Kisatchie National Forest and sympathized with the issues before the Commission. He added that he sent an e-mail on issues with the National Forest that went beyond deer dog hunting. The first issue was that Kisatchie was out of touch with the hunting public, citing the fact that there was no youth turkey hunt on the area even though they have one of the largest turkey herds in the state. Even though duck hunting was allowed on Kisatchie, there was no hunting after 2 PM resulting in half of the season being taken from hunters. The primitive weapon season in Area 2 runs for 14 days, but the National Forest only allows 2 days for this hunt. The still hunting with firearms season usually began with 9 days, but this past season it was changed to 3 days (Saturday, Sunday and Monday) and then another 3 days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). No ATV's are allowed on Kisatchie in the All Purpose Area as well as no big game retrieval, no exceptions for those with disabilities, amputee hunters or aged hunters. Mr. Perkins then talked about only allowing weekend hunting for those hunters that may be shift workers. He added that not allowing deer dog hunting in Kisatchie was an indicator to the sportsmen of the many privileges that have been enjoyed in the past.

Mr. Terry Wheat stated he was a dog hunter and he could not see one person taking a sport away from another to make his better. With the privileges being taken away in this country, he felt that this was becoming a communist country. But Mr. Wheat suggested more things should be freed up since everyone works, pays taxes, votes, and lives within their means. Speaking for himself and his family, Mr. Wheat did not want to see the tradition of dog hunting taken away from him. Commissioner Oats asked Mr. Wheat if he marks his dogs and he was told yes. Then Commissioner Oats asked if the

choice between no dog hunting or dog hunting with a permit system was given, would he provide the information. Mr. Wheat again answered yes.

Mr. Frank Rachal stated he was a dog hunter in Rapides Parish and has been all of his life. To answer Commissioner Oats' question, he stated that he marks his dogs with hair dye and they use tracking collars. He then asked the Commission to give the dog hunters their days. Commissioner Oats asked if he would have a problem with a permit system. Mr. Rachal stated he did not have a problem, but asked if there would be a charge for the permit. He then added that the good hunters should not be punished for a few. Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Rachal if he had problems with the landowners and he answered no, not in his area.

Mr. Jimmie McCoy began his comments stating he was a retired enforcement agent from the Department and most of the problems were those that night hunted while those that feed their dogs were not the ones that causes problems. If information was required to be on the dogs, Mr. McCoy felt the landowners with problems still would not recognize who the dogs belong to since violators would not put a name on their dogs. He agreed with Mr. Wheat and others that if there was a requirement to mark their dogs, then it would be done. In response to Mr. Lee's comment that Louisiana is the last state to allow dog hunting, Mr. McCoy stated Mississippi allows dog hunting on the Homochitto and dog deer hunting was allowed in Florida. He felt it was wrong to take dog hunting away from those hunters that spend their vacation time on Kisatchie. Commissioner Oats asked Mr. McCoy if he agreed there were problems and he was told that there would always be someone violating the laws. Commissioner Oats commented that if he was a landowner and hunters made it easy to contact a dog owner, then he would not have a problem. He hoped these requirements would separate the "good" hunters from those that were not responsible.

Mr. Cecil Foreman stated he hunts on Jackson-Bienville area which was prime dog hunting country and he felt they got along with the dog hunting clubs. He suggested the hunters should mark their dogs, their trucks or even their vests. He added that allowing 31 to 41 days of either-sex hunting was hurting the clubs in north Louisiana. Mr. Foreman commented there were about 5 clubs getting out of DMAP this year since the surrounding lands can kill as many deer as they want any day of the week. If there was a problem

on Jackson-Bienville with the deer herd, why was there not a primitive weapon season. With the 16 entrances and exits on Jackson-Bienville, there was no way to regulate the people coming and going. Mr. Foreman added that there was no place in the state of Louisiana overrun with deer and thought the population was falling off. He concluded by stating it was overwhelming to have a management area with 37 days of hunting.

Chairman Samanie then noted Mr. Joseph Rachal, Mr. Chris Goatley and Mr. Thomas Rhame did not wish to speak but were against the proposal of no deer dog hunting, and Ms. Janice Taylor-Lewis did not wish to speak but was for the proposal.

Mr. Larry Robichaux stated he was opposed to Commissioner King's proposal and strongly supported Mr. Lee's position. He noted there was state land in the Atchafalaya Basin that was open to the public to run dogs and they have problems. The primary problem was land domination or ownership when certain groups take over a block of land and treats it as their own. He then pointed out that the 8 day season was a reduction from the 14 day season which would only shorten the length of the problem. Mr. Robichaux asked the Commission not to vote for the proposal.

Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Oats made a motion to amend Commissioner King's motion to change the recommendations of marking of the dogs and having special permits to requiring these as a condition to hunt in Kisatchie National Forest. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion. Commissioner Oats commented there was no empirical information, but he did have an impression and that there were a large number of good faith people on both sides of the issue. The compromise of continuing to develop good information was recognized and hopefully it would separate the good from the bad. Commissioner King stated that it breaks his heart to know that the people of Kisatchie cannot co-exist for 8 days. Hearing no further discussion, the motion to amend the motion passed with no opposition. Commissioner Oats then called for the question on the original motion. This motion also passed unanimously. Chairman Samanie then reminded the Commission a motion was needed on the amendments made by Mr. Myers. Commissioner Oats made a motion to amend the Notice of Intent to include the staff's recommendations. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **August 2009 Meeting** on Thursday, August 6, 2009, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Next item was to receive **Public Comments**. Mr. Bill Crews, Jr. stated he was not aware that personal watercraft was banned from use on wildlife management areas. He then stated he has talked to an agent friend that did not enforce the regulation since he was told to enjoy his ride. Mr. Crews did not like the idea of knowing he was breaking the law and asked the Commission to consider removing the personal watercraft from the banned list. He did not have any back-up material but felt the objection may have been when the watercraft were small and very noisy. Technology has changed that problem today and the watercraft does not pose any detriment to the environment.

Mr. Ronald Coco, Avoyelles Wildlife Federation, stated he had a copy of a Department News Release on shooting hogs and coyotes at night. He knew there was a problem with hogs, but thought this may lead to temptations to shoot other game. Mr. Coco felt this would add more of a load for the agents. In reference to the DMAP program, Mr. Coco commented that a majority of the hunting clubs do not allow hunters to shoot does after December 15. He agreed with the comment made earlier that the deer population in Louisiana was down and emphasized that Avoyelles Parish was way down. Commissioner King noted he has received a lot of comments on the same issue. Commissioner Morrow commented it may be time to build up the herd again. Mr. Coco felt there was a need to try to improve the deer herd. Chairman Samanie stated that with the deer tagging system, the staff should be able to tell what was being harvested. Mr. Coco stated that the tagging system was an honor system and knew of hunters that did not tag their kill.

Mr. Cecil Foreman stated that the deer population was down in the state of Louisiana. Jackson-Bienville WMA was "a strange animal". During the dog hunting season, all of the deer go onto the WMA and the hunters were massacring the does with all of the doe days. They did not kill does on his lease this year after shooting 37 for a number of years. Mr. Foreman suggested looking at the deer herd this year or change staff and get new ideas. He felt Tensas and Big Lake had great deer herds but they only have 5

or 7 days of primitive weapon hunting. He offered to help the Department in finding a new look at managing the deer herd. Commissioner Sagrera stated that the information from the tagging system would tell what was being killed and hopefully lead to appropriate changes. Mr. Foreman felt the tagging system was flawed since he knew there were more deer coming off the area than reported. He felt the regulations were needed to help law enforcement. Again, Mr. Foreman talked about the deer population on Jackson-Bienville and the number of days for hunting.

Mr. Joe Macaluso asked if the new regulations for the DMAP program would not be in effect until the 2010 season with the proposal becoming effective after an August 1 deadline. Mr. Mike Landrum stated he would have to look at the Notice of Intent.

There being no further business, Commissioner Morrow made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner King.

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Robert J. Barham  
Secretary

scf