

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

December 5, 2013

Ronald "Ronny" Graham
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
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AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
December 5, 2013
9:30 AM

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Chairman Ronny Graham presiding

Billy Broussard
Pat Manuel
Will Drost
Stephen Segrera
Dan Davis
Ann Taylor

Secretary Barham was also present

Chairman Graham called for a motion for approval of the **November 7, 2013 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Segrera and seconded by Commissioner Broussard. Chairman Graham called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

For the agenda item, **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege**, Secretary Barham notified the audience that the Federal Court ruled on Dog Hunting on Kisatchie National Forest and that all dog hunting is banned in the Kisatchie Forest.

Secretary Barham also announced that Commissioner Stephen Segrera was resigning his seat from the Commission. Secretary Barham credited Segrera for the improvement in Alligator business in the state of Louisiana.

Barham presented Segrera with a certificate as an Honorary Enforcement Game Agent.

Segrera thanked Secretary Barham and Governor Jindal for the opportunities afforded him as to serve on the Commission.

Lt. Col. Joey Broussard stated, for the agenda item, **To Hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November**, the department's planes flew a total of 87.2 aviation hours for the month. There were Eight (8) boating accidents reported with Two (2) injuries and One (1) Fatality. There were 1023 total cases for the month of November with 309 Written Warnings issued and 26 Public Assistance. Three (3) news releases were discussed

First, Four people plead guilty to red snapper violations in front of the 25th Judicial District of Plaquemines Parish. The four plead guilty to the intentional concealment of illegal fish, over limit of red snapper and undersized red snapper. The four were sentenced to a collective fine of \$4000.00 plus court cost and to pay restitution to the state of Louisiana for the illegally taken red snapper.

The second News Release: LDWF Enforcement Division agents cited a Pineville man alleged commercial fishing violations in Plaquemines Parish on November 12th. Agents cited the man for taking commercial fish without non-resident commercial fishing licenses, non-resident gear licenses, and non-resident vessel licenses. Investigation is ongoing and further charges may be filed regarding obtaining commercial fishing by fraud.

The Third News Release: LDWF Enforcement Division agents arrested a Monterrey man in Concordia Parish for illegally killing a Louisiana Black Bear. The investigation is still ongoing.

The next item, **To Hear a General Presentation of the 2014-2016 Hunting Seasons and Rules and Regulations**, was handled by Mr. Steve Smith.

Mr. Smith stated that he was going to summarize the significant regulation changes to the 2014-2015 Hunting Seasons and Rules and Regulations.

Changes to General and Wildlife Management Area Rules and Regulations

- a. Modifications to wording on legal gear for rabbit and squirrel hunting to prohibit the use of center fire rifles.
- b. Modifications to wording to allow possession of buckshot and slugs while small game hunting on private land.
- c. Allow use of muzzle loading shotguns for primitive weapons season for deer.
- d. Modifications to deer Areas
 - i. Boundary in Iberville Parish between Areas 6 and 9.
 - ii. Boundary in St. Mary Parish between Areas 7 and 9.
- e. Prohibit glass on WMA campgrounds.
- f. Address discharging of firearms from and across roads and trails on WMAs.
- g. Remove restriction that prohibits dressing, quartering, and processing of deer in the field while on WMAs.
- h. Change ATV tire restrictions to make consistent with UTV tire restrictions on WMAs.
- i. Prohibit nighttime take of hogs on WMAs.
- j. Establishment of a houseboat lease/lottery program on Atchafalaya Delta WMA.
- k. Prohibit towable watersports on Ivan Lake on Bodcau WMA.
- l. Expand deer hunting opportunity on Lake Boeuf WMA from 12 noon to all day.
- m. Allow fishing at night from Island Road from Feb. 1 through August 30 on Point-aux-Chenes WMA.
- n. Implement Self-Clearing Permit requirement on Point Farm Unit of Point-aux-Chenes WMA.
- o. Expand crawfishing opportunity on Richard K. Yancey WMA from Yakey tract only, to the entire WMA West of the Mississippi River Levee.
- p. Provide "Small Game Emphasis Areas" on several WMAs that will provide opportunities to small game hunters for earlier small game dog hunting as well as off season dog training opportunities

2) Changes to Resident Game Hunting Season

- a. Changes to Area 7 dates for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 season, to include 2nd Sat. of Nov. through Sun. after Thanksgiving (consistent with Declaration of Emergency in November)

3) Changes to General and WMA Turkey Hunting Regulations

- a. Modification to Ouachita Parish Boundary in Area A
- b. Addition of lottery hunt on Pearl River WMA
- c. Addition of youth lottery hunt on Richard K. Yancey WMA

4) Changes to Bird Dog Training Areas

- a. Change permitting process from application process to Self-Clearing Permit process and remove requirement for trainers to band birds

Mr. Smith also discussed WMA Thanksgiving either-sex deer hunts successful across the state

Each year, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Wildlife Division holds either-sex firearms deer hunts on many of the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) during the Thanksgiving weekend. This weekend is greatly anticipated by many hunters across the state, and in some instances, hunters from out-of-state as well. It is a time when deer hunters and their families can enjoy these areas and have the opportunity to harvest an either-sex deer as well. WMAs are distributed across the state and within a reasonable drive from any location. WMA habitats for these hunts range from upland hardwood and pine sites to bottomland hardwoods.

Excellent weather provided favorable conditions for hunter success. Wildlife Division personnel collect valuable data during these hunts which help them manage the respective WMAs' deer herd. WMA hunter efforts were consistent with past years while having a slightly higher success rate (efforts per deer). The attached charts shows the number of hunter efforts as well as the harvest on these WMAs.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife Management Area Program is charged with providing necessary habitats to manage and protect both game and non-game wildlife, as well as to provide quality outdoor recreation for the public.

WMA	Hunter efforts	Total harvest	Bucks	Does	Efforts per deer
Attakapas	260	43	16	27	6.0
Big Lake	668	107	51	56	6.2
Boeuf	1,195	231	127	104	5.2
Buckhorn	383	68	32	36	5.6
Camp Beauregard	466	98	49	49	4.8
Fort Polk	1,637	139	54	85	11.8
Grassy Lake	762	132	62	70	5.8
Joyce	41	3	3	0	0.0
Loggy Bayou	240	70	26	44	3.4
Maurepas Swamp	405	45	20	25	9.0
Ouachita	323	47	34	13	6.9
Pearl River	406	4	4	0	101.5
Peason Ridge	785	66	26	40	11.9
Pomme de Terre	355	45	20	25	7.9
Russell Sage	404	54	31	23	7.5
Sandy Hollow	192	8	2	6	24.0
Sherburne	1,358	142	68	74	9.6
Sicily Island Hills	164	18	11	7	9.1
Spring Bayou	584	34	13	21	17.2
Thistlewaite	924	58	32	26	15.9
Tunica Hills	303	21	11	10	14.4
Richard K. Yancey	5,128	438	209	229	11.7
TOTAL	16,983	1,871	901	970	9.1

There were no questions or comments heard

Chairman Graham announced the next item, To Consider a Declaration of Emergency for a Partial Closure of State Outside Waters to Shrimping, to be presented by Marty Bourgeois

Mr. Bourgeois stated that Partial Closure of State Outside Waters to Shrimping In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S.56:497, which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall have the authority to open or close state outside waters to shrimping by zone each year as it deems appropriate - shrimping closure in the following waters effective December 18, 2013 at official sunset

- The portion of state inside waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line.
- The portion of state outside waters extending a distance of 3 nautical miles seaward of the inside/outside shrimp line from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel red buoy line westward to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal at -92 degrees 18 minutes 33 seconds west longitude.

Existing data does not currently support shrimping closures in additional state inside and outside waters. However, historic data suggest additional closures may be needed in the near future and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will continue monitoring shrimp populations in these waters.

There were no questions or comments heard. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Broussard and seconded by Commissioner Drost. Chairman Graham called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of this Declaration of
Emergency is made a part of the record)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Partial Fall Inshore and Territorial Sea Shrimp Season Closures
December 18, 2013

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons; and, R.S. 56:497 which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to delegate to the Secretary of the Department the powers, duties and authority to set shrimp seasons; and, in accordance with a Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on August 1, 2013 which authorized the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the fall shrimp season when biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop following notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission; and, in accordance with a Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on December 5, 2013 which authorized the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping all or parts of state outside waters where significant numbers of small, sublegal size white shrimp are found in biological samples conducted by the department and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary following notification to the chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby declare that the 2013 fall inshore shrimp season shall close on December 18, 2013 at official sunset except for that portion of state inside waters east of the Mississippi River from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line southward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River. The Secretary also declares that shrimping shall close on December 18, 2013 at official sunset in that portion of state outside waters extending a distance of 3 nautical miles seaward of the inside/outside shrimp line as described in R.S. 56:495(A) from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel red buoy line westward to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal at -92 degrees 18 minutes 33 seconds west longitude.

R.S. 56:498 provides that the possession count on saltwater white shrimp for each cargo lot shall average no more than 100 (whole specimens) count per pound except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December. Recent biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that average white shrimp size within these waters to be closed is smaller than the minimum possession count and this action is being taken to protect these small white shrimp and provide opportunity to grow to larger and more valuable sizes. Existing data do not currently support shrimping closures in additional state inside and outside waters. However, historic data suggest additional closures may be needed in the near future and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will continue monitoring shrimp populations in these waters.

Robert J. Barham, Secretary

Chairman Graham announced the next item, **To add the Kennedy Mitigation Area to the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area**, to be presented by Mr. Tommy Tuma

Mr. Tuma stated, the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area was established by Proclamation of the Governor, dated October 22, 1975 and that this property contains valuable wildlife habitat and its protection and proper management is critical to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts,

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,(LDWF), and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, have received a license to operate and maintain a certain tract of land comprising of 2,954.72 acres, more or less situated in Ouachita Parish and herein referred to as the Kennedy Mitigation Area.

It is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that in order to enhance the wildlife habitat in the state and provide for public use and recreational opportunities on these 2,954.72 acres of lands, including water bottoms, that they be selected and established as a wildlife management area and included in the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area, established by Proclamation of the Governor, dated October 22, 1975,

It is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission confirm and reaffirm that all state owned lands, including water bottoms, located within the property description of the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area, described in the Governor's Proclamation dated October 22, 1975 were previously selected and established as the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area.

It is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission select all State owned lands, including water bottoms, located within the 2,954.72 acre Kennedy Mitigation Area property licensed on September 1, 2013, and all adjacent state owned water bottoms, be established as a wildlife management area and included in the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area.

Therefore be it Resolved, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, particularly Title 56, Section 109 and Section 781 et seq. of the Revised Statutes of 1954, does hereby confirm and reaffirm the selection and establishment of the Kennedy Mitigation Area, and select all land, including water bottoms, licensed on September 1, 2013 including adjacent lands and water bottoms owned by the state, and establish such lands, including water bottoms, as a wildlife management area to be added to and included in the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area, so that all land including water bottoms described in Exhibit A hereto, and identified on the attached map, (Exhibit B), including water bottoms, are included in the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area.

Be it further Resolved that this property shall be used exclusively for wildlife management purposes, and as such, is perpetually dedicated to the protection, conservation, and management of fish and wildlife and their habitat, and such public recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, and trapping, which is consistent with these purposes.

There were no questions or comments heard. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Manuel and seconded by Commissioner Broussard. Chairman Graham called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of this resolution is made a part of the record)

RESOLUTION

**Adding Certain Licensed Property to
Ouachita Wildlife Management Area**

**Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

WHEREAS, the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area was established by Proclamation of the Governor, dated October 22, 1975,

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,(LDWF), and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, have received a license to operate and maintain a certain tract of land comprising of 2,954.72 acres, more or less situated in Ouachita Parish and herein referred to as the Kennedy Mitigation Area.

WHEREAS, this property contains valuable wildlife habitat and its protection and proper management is critical to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts,

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that in order to enhance the wildlife habitat in the state and provide for public use and recreational opportunities on these 2,954.72 acres of lands, including water bottoms, that they be selected and established as a wildlife management area and included in the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area, established by Proclamation of the Governor, dated October 22, 1975,

WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission confirm and reaffirm that all state owned lands, including water bottoms, located within the property description of the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area, described in the Governor's Proclamation dated October 22, 1975 were previously selected and established as the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area.

WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission select all State owned lands, including water bottoms, located within the 2,954.72 acre Kennedy Mitigation Area property licensed on September 1, 2013, and all adjacent state owned water bottoms, be established as a wildlife management area and included in the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, particularly Title 56, Section 109 and Section 781 et seq. of the Revised Statutes of 1954, does hereby confirm and reaffirm the selection and establishment of the Kennedy Mitigation Area, and select all land, including water bottoms, licensed on September 1, 2013 including adjacent lands and water bottoms owned by the state, and establish such lands, including water bottoms, as a wildlife management area to be added to and included in the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area, so that all land including water bottoms described in Exhibit A hereto, and identified on the attached map, (Exhibit B), including water bottoms, are included in the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this property shall be used exclusively for wildlife management purposes, and as such, is perpetually dedicated to the protection, conservation, and management of fish and wildlife and their habitat, and such public recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, and trapping, which is consistent with these purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, on behalf of the Commission, to take all actions necessary in furtherance of this resolution.

Ronald "Ronny" Graham, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

Robert J. Barham, Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

EXHIBIT A

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES
MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVEES MITIGATION
TERRAN INC., PROPERTY
OUACHITA PARISH, LOUISIANA

ACREAGE: 2,954.72

DATE: 18 April 2009

Tract No. 500

A tract or parcel of land lying and being situated in sections I, 2, 3, 10, II, 12, 14, and IS, all in Township 15 North, Range 04 East, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, and being more particularly described as follows:

SECTION 1: All of Lots 2, 3, 6, and 7 lying West of Bayou Lafourche;

SECTION 2: All;

SECTION 3: E 1/2, and the N 1/2 NW 1/4;

SECTION 10: E 1/2, SW 1/4, and the S 1/2 NW 1/4;

SECTION 11: All of the W 1/2, NE 1/4, W 1/2 SE 1/4, and Lots 1 and 2 lying West of Bayou Lafourche;

SECTION 12: All of Lot 2 lying West of Bayou Lafourche;

SECTION 14: All of the NW 1/4, NW 1/4 SW 1/4, and Lots 2, 3, and 6 lying West of Bayou Lafourche and North of the centerline of Bosco Lane;

SECTION 15: All of said Section 15 lying north of the centerline of Bosco Lane. LESS AND EXCEPT THERE FORM the following described tract of land lying and being situated in the S 1/2, NW 1/4 of said Section 15:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Section IS, T15N, R4E; thence, S 00°14'42" E a distance of 2,648.88 feet to a point on the North right-of-way of Bosco Lane; thence, N 82°33'24" W along the North right-of-way of Bosco Lane thence a distance of 3,241.69 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence, N 13°47'14" E a distance of 265.39 feet to a point; thence, N 83°05'38" W a distance of 772.63 feet to a point; thence, N 33°18'16" W a distance of 127.05 feet to a point; thence, S 85°03'04" W a distance of 270.13 feet to a point; thence, S 00°01'18" E a distance of 297.32 feet to a point on the North right-of-way of Bosco Lane; thence, S 82°33'24" E along the

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES
MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVEES MITIGATION
TERRAN INC., PROPERTY
OUACHITA PARISH, LOUISIANA
TRACT NO. 500

North right-of-way of Bosco Lane a distance of 1,051.41 feet back to the Point of Beginning and containing 6.935 acres, more or less.

The above described tract of land contains in aggregate 2,954.72 acres, more or less, of which 120.00 acres lie in said Section 1; 713.90 acres in said Section 2; 444.24 acres in said Section 3; 556.58 acres in said Section 10; 606.00 acres in said Section 11; 12.00 acres in said Section 12; 234.00 acres in said Section 14; and 268.00 acres in said Section 15.

It being the intent of the aforesaid description to describe and include all lands within Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 15, Township 15 North, Range 04 East, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, presently owned by the Grantor, Terran, Inc., and as described in Deed Book 850, Page 67 (Less and Except the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4) and Deed Book 1218, Page 781 as recorded in the land records of Ouachita Parish.

Bearings are based on NAD 83, Louisiana State Plane Coordinate System, North Zone.

Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **To Set the April 2014 Meeting Date**

A discussion took place and the meeting is set for April 3, 2014. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Manuel and seconded by Commissioner Davis. Chairman Graham called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Graham announced the next item, **To Hear Public Comments,**

Eddie Sticker was first called to speak – He stated he had no comments at this time
Mr. George Haas was called to speak – He stated he was from Slidell, LA and that he is a Handicapped Hunter. He said accesses to the trails are atrocious and hard for him as a handicapped person. He asked that the Commission look into providing better access to the trails. He asked that Enforcement monitor the Speed Limit of 20MPH as people are driving extremely fast throughout the WMA

Chairman Graham requested that any persons with an interest in the Pearl River WMA should submit their comments in writing to the WLF Commission and/or Secretary Barham prior to the January 9th meeting as this topic will be addressed as an agenda item in January – this will allow the Commissioners time to research and educate themselves on the issues at hand.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Drost and seconded by Commissioner Manuel. Chairman Graham called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

There being no further business, Chairman Graham **Adjourned** the meeting

Ronny Graham, Chairman