

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 4, 2010

**STEPHEN J. OATS
CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.

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AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
FEBRUARY 4, 2010

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Chairman Stephen J. Oats presiding.

Ronny Graham
Earl King, Jr.
Patrick Morrow
Stephen Sagrera
Ann Taylor
Mike Voisin

Secretary Robert Barham was also present.

Chairman Oats called for a motion for approval of the **January 7, 2010 Commission Minutes**. Commissioner Sagrera noted that on page 5 of the Minutes for the item Resolution and Declaration of Emergency on Recreational Reef Fish, no second on the motion was made. He mentioned that he did make the second and made a motion to amend the Minutes to reflect that change. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

Under **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege** for this month, Commissioner King noted he has been an advocate for deer dog hunters and as a public servant, he was charged with representing and hearing the public's voice on both sides of the issues. He mentioned that he traveled with Senior Agents Hill and Leone to monitor the deer dog hunting. Commissioner King was asked to present issues expressed by the rural land owners from the Kisatchie area. The issues were there was no control of dogs by persons hunting deer with dogs; uncontrolled dogs ruining hunts on private and leased property where hunters do not hunt with dogs; and trespassing on private land invokes volatile conflicts between dog hunters and private land owners.

To receive and consider Resolution on Gulf Hypoxia from the Lower Mississippi River Sub Basin Committee was handled by Mr. Doug Daigle. He began stating he was the coordinator of the Lower Mississippi River Sub Basin Committee on hypoxia which was formed in 2003. Committee states include Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee and Missouri and was part of the National Hypoxia Action Plan. The Resolution was to support an initiative that the U.S. Department of Agriculture called the Mississippi River Basin Initiative. This initiative will be the first direct funding for the hypoxia issue.

Commissioner Voisin asked how much funding was available for the program. Mr. Daigle stated this initiative had \$300 million over 3 years and was allocated throughout all of the states as the first target money. Commissioner Voisin asked if it would be administered through the State's Department of Agriculture. Mr. Daigle answered yes and added it would be through their State Conservation Committees. Commissioner Graham wondered if the area was still growing and have any results been seen. Mr. Daigle commented hypoxia was an annual event and the zone did not stay the same but the average since 1985 has doubled and the trend was that it was getting bigger. Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Morrow made a motion to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Voisin and approved with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

USDA MISSISSIPPI BASIN WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

February 4, 2010

WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastal waters support one of the most productive wild fisheries in the continental U.S., and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Louisiana's coastal commercial fisheries accounted for 24% of the harvest in the lower 48 United States, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's recreational fishery participation ranked second only to Florida among states surveyed by NOAA Fisheries' recreational creel survey, and

WHEREAS, the spread of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana's coast poses a serious threat to the health of this coastal fishery and the ecosystem that supports it, and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has been a participant in the cooperative national effort to address this serious problem, including the creation of a national Gulf Hypoxia Task Force and the development of an Action Plan for Reducing Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has implemented a Mississippi River Basin Water Quality Initiative specifically focused on reducing the nutrient loading that fuels hypoxia in the Gulf, and

WHEREAS, this Initiative involves states and stakeholders working in watersheds across the Mississippi River Basin, and will improve water quality in tributary streams

and rivers as well as the Gulf, and will help insure that the health of the Gulf fishery resource is protected.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby expresses its support for the USDA Initiative and for similar actions to continue efforts to reduce hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

Stephen J. Oats, Chairman
Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

To receive and consider Notice of Intent on the Hunting Seasons and To receive and consider Notice of Intent on the General and WMA Hunting Rules and Regulations were presented together by Mr. Randy Myers. The Department began in December 2009 meeting with conservation partners and internal staff on recommendations and proposed changes. The changes were to simplify language and add hunting opportunities where possible. There were no changes to the resident small game seasons, bag limits or possession limits. Deer Areas 1 and 6 only had calendar adjustments, no major changes. Deer Areas 2 and 3 had no changes except that for the 2010-2011 season in Area 2, there will be 40 days of still hunt and 39 days of with or without dogs. Then for the 2011-2012 season in Area 2, there will be 39 days of still hunt and 40 days of with or without dogs. Last year, Area 4 deer season was pushed back to give hunters a later season which would begin with the muzzleloader season on November 13-November 19, January 10-January 17 and still hunt season on November 20-January 9. Area 5 would only have calendar adjustments. Tagging regulations recently implemented eliminated the need for either-sex hunting seasons. But in East Carroll Parish of Area 4, the either-sex season would be November 20-November 21 and November 26-November 28. Either-sex season for West Carroll Parish of Area 5 will be November 26-November 28. Deer Areas 7 and 8 would have no major changes, only calendar adjustments. Editorial changes included noting the closure of the Ferriday office and the opening of the Hammond office; clarifying that DMAP and LADT participants must follow the archery deer season schedule for their area; adding mandatory deer checks on WMAs so the necessary biological information can be gathered; allowing those youth 12 years or older who have successfully completed a hunters safety course and those 16 or 17 and properly licensed hunt without a supervising adult on youth hunts on private lands and WMAs; deleting the phrase "that an adult may supervise only one youth during the special hunt" since it may create problems if an adult has more than one youth; modifying firearm regulations to be consistent with state law in that active and retired law enforcement officers that are POST certified, federal law officers and Louisiana residents with a concealed handgun permit or a permit with a reciprocal state can have their firearms in possession on WMAs as long as they are not used for any hunting purposes; and specifying that wagons are prohibited on WMAs. On 4 coastal WMAs (Pass-a-Loutre, Salvador, Atchafalaya Delta and Pointe-aux-Chenes) there will be limited access areas established that will not allow internal combustion engines from September 1 through January 31. Hunting would be permitted on the limited access areas by pirogue,

canoe or similar conveyance or by foot; however, trolling motors will be permitted. The size of the limited access areas will be only about 15 percent of the total acreage for each area. Maps of the limited access areas on the 4 coastal WMAs was then shown. Next, Mr. Myers explained there were editorial changes to the basic seasons on several WMAs. These changes included adding snipe to the non-toxic shot regulation on WMAs; adding one day of modern firearm either-sex deer hunting on the Sunday after Thanksgiving to Big Lake, Boeuf, Red River/Three Rivers and Sicily Island Hills WMAs; adding 11 days of modern firearm either-sex deer hunting on Sherburne WMA beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving; deleting the youth lottery rabbit hunt on Floy McElroy WMA; closing all hunting except waterfowl south of Highway 90 when the river gauge reaches 16.5 feet on Pearl River WMA; adding a special youth and physically challenged deer hunt on the first Saturday of November for 2 days, either-sex and restricting it to the North Tract of Sandy Hollow WMA only; establishing a feral hog season on Joyce, Maurepas Swamp and Tangipahoa School Board WMAs from October 1 to the end of February; adding language to the feral hog seasons on Atchafalaya Delta, Pointe-aux-Chenes, Pass-a-Loutre and Salvador WMAs that archery equipment be allowed; and establishing a fall lottery turkey season on Peason Ridge WMA beginning the first Saturday of October for 7 days. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asked for calendar adjustments on Indian Bayou except during the firearms either-sex and youth and physically challenged deer hunts when waterfowl hunters would be allowed to hunt. The Old River Control and Lock Area asked that their special shotgun season begin the Friday after Thanksgiving for 3 days and it be either-sex. Bonnet Carre Spillway asked that crows, black birds and starlings be added to those that can be taken incidental to any other hunt with the weapons legal for that season. A formal recommendation has not been received from the U.S. Forest Service on their proposed seasons for Kisatchie National Forest. Mr. Myers noted Forest Service staff would present an outline of their proposed seasons at the March Commission Meeting. Public hearings will again be held after the March Commission Meeting. Chairman Oats asked Mr. Myers to give a brief outline on the process to adopt the regulations. Commissioner King made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent on hunting seasons and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. Commissioner Sagrera asked what was the reason for creating the limited access areas. Mr. Mike Carloss explained that duck hunters asked for a way to restrict the use of shallow drive boats on some areas where there was competition for hunting and provide areas that were less intrusive. This would be an experimental way to grant this request. Objectives for the limited access area was to create refuges and look at researching the effect service drive vessels was having on waterfowl utilization and hunter success in these areas and to provide more exclusive, traditional-style hunting. Overall, Mr. Carloss stated the majority of the users supported the idea on all 4 areas. Commissioner Taylor asked if there was any way to access the area on Salvador without going on private lands. Mr. Carloss stated there are access areas outside the private lands. Commissioner Graham asked if the first 15 days of bucks only season for archery was statewide. Mr. Myers stated that was in Area 6. Commissioner Morrow asked about the road blocks which lead to eliminating the youth rabbit hunt on Floy McElroy WMA and wondered if they could they be overcome. Mr. Myers stated they tried to find owners with dogs for this hunt and found quite an interest but when it came time for

the hunt, there was concern by owners of people they did not know shooting rabbits in front of their dogs. Chairman Oats then opened the meeting for public comments.

Mr. LeRoy Husser, President of Louisiana Sportsman Alliance, came to hear the hunting proposals for Kisatchie, but would speak on other issues. He noted they spoke with Sheriff's Offices in Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon and Sabine Parishes and several legislators and found there were few legitimate complaints on deer dog hunting. Mr. Husser stated he made the rounds on 5 of the 8 hunting days on Kisatchie making sure that the laws were followed. Last fall, the Forestry Service accepted public comments on dog hunting and there were 1250 for dog hunting and 150 against. He expressed appreciation for the support in the past and they support dog hunting and the hunters right to hunt on Kisatchie.

Representative Major Thibaut stated he came in reference to the proposed deer season in Area 6. Many of the hunters he represented do not feel they have the opportunity to hunt the rut and expressed support for a proposal Mr. Dave Moreland would request. Personally, Representative Thibaut stated he did not start hunting in Louisiana until January 15. He asked the Commission to look at some proposed changes particularly in the area of the upper Basin, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge and Avoyelles Parishes.

Mr. Dave Moreland stated he works with clubs and landowners in Area 6 and has family that hunts exclusively in Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parishes. So, he has heard a lot of complaints during the November and early December deer season. The breeding range for the deer herd in the upper Atchafalaya Basin area was mid-December to mid-March with the peak month being January and the second peak occurring in February. The lower part of the Basin had a much earlier breeding date due to some restocking efforts. The concern was a lot of gun hunting was happening prior to breeding and the deer were not active. Mr. Moreland added that he primarily hunts in Area 1 where the rut was mid-December and the second peak occurred in mid-January and the last week of January was "fabulous". With the peak breeding date being January 15, the peak fawning date would be August 15, so by October 1, most of the fawns are 1 1/2 months old or less. He recommends to hunting clubs not to shoot does until November 1. Mr. Moreland then suggested having the archery season open November 1 to the end of February, gun season open around Thanksgiving for 9 days and then close, reopen the week before Christmas and go until mid-February. This would give the Area 6 hunters the same opportunity the Area 2 hunters have to hunt the entire breeding season. Commissioner Morrow asked Mr. Moreland if he was suggesting pushing the gun season back to November 1 in Area 6. Mr. Moreland stated he wanted a short gun season around Thanksgiving for 9 days and then close it until the week prior to Christmas and reopen until the end of February. Commissioner Morrow asked if he was adding days and Mr. Moreland answered no, no one wanted to add days.

Mr. Chip Vosburg thanked the Commission for listening to them and asked for a longer season. He hunts Area 6 and would like to experience and hunt the second rut. Mr. Vosburg asked the Commission to consider Mr. Moreland's request.

Mr. Ronald Coco, Avoyelles Wildlife Federation, also agreed with Mr. Moreland in extending the season. On Thanksgiving weekend, he went to Pomme de Terre WMA check station and of the 19 deer killed, 5 weighed over 100 pounds and the others weighed from 45 down to 20 pounds. Mr. Coco stated he received reports hunters were seeing spotted fawns around Christmas. He then noted he would like to see how many fawns were killed. Hunters in Avoyelles Parish would like to see less does being killed since they have fawns with them.

Mr. Joe Macaluso stated he hunts in Area 6 but it was not the same swamp that Mr. Moreland spoke on, but rather lower Ascension Parish. They observed breeding occurring when bucks do not have antlers and even into late March. The question of why this happens was maybe due to the high water experienced in late summer which prohibits deer from reproducing. Mr. Macaluso noted they see spotted fawns into November. He asked that the season in his area, which was different from Mr. Moreland and Mr. Coco, be later.

Commissioner Morrow asked the Department to give alternate dates for the Commission to consider moving the seasons into mid-February.

Mr. Larry Robichaux stated he hunts Area 6 but primarily Attakapas WMA and the state lands north of the WMA. He asked that this portion of Area 6 also be moved back since they saw the same things. After hunting the muzzleloader season with friends, Mr. Robichaux calculated there were 54 hunts with no rut activity seen. Over the last few years, the deer herd on Attakapas WMA was down noticeably. He suggested reducing the doe days to 1 day for a few years in order to build up the herd. Other suggestions was to have a special hog season on Attakapas during the month of February, still hunt only in order to thin the hogs; extend the still hunt only season in Area 6 by 14 days; and improve the deer tag paper.

Dr. Frank Rohwer stated he asked to speak on the limited access areas. He noted he was a LSU faculty and has done research on Atchafalaya Delta. After hunting the Atchafalaya for many years, he felt the 15 percent limited access area was a great proposal since it would allow hunters a place to hunt and there would not be other hunters driving in and disturbing them. Dr. Rohwer felt the more important reason to do the limited areas was that it would not disturb the ducks as much and there would be more duck usage. He suggested having the percentage at 25 on the WMAs. He felt there were a lot of benefits. Chairman Oats asked Dr. Rohwer if he was seeing much afternoon hunting. Dr. Rohwer felt the ducks were disturbed enough and it would be rare to have an afternoon hunt. When he first started doing research on Atchafalaya Delta, it was like clock work, when the tide came in, the ducks came in; but due to the disturbance, the ducks do not do that anymore and get into the nighttime feeding routine. Then Chairman Oats asked Dr. Rohwer if he would support shutting hunting down at 2 in the afternoon. Dr. Rohwer had mixed feelings on that proposal thinking it may restrict good hunts for some hunters, but it could mean more ducks on Atchafalaya.

Mr. Vic Blanchard, a forest manager and wildlife biologist for about 95,000 acres of private lands in the heart of Area 6, echoed the comments by Mr. Moreland. After collecting biological data in that area for 12 years, he knew Mr. Moreland was "right on". He asked that the seasons be moved back. Mr. Blanchard offered to work with Mr. Moreland, Mr. Scott Durham, the Wildlife Division and the Enforcement Division to find a practical recommendation for adjusted season dates.

Commissioner Voisin relayed to Mr. Moreland that he received 2 e-mails in support of his recommendation. He then noted to Representative Thibaut that they received his letter as well. Next he commented that Mr. Moreland's proposal referred to the northern part of Area 6 and there were no comments from the southern part of 6, so he wondered if it should be broken into 6A and 6B.

Hearing no further questions, the Commission approved the Notice of Intent on Hunting Seasons with no opposition. Then Chairman Oats accepted comments on the General and WMA Hunting Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Corey Bailey, a hunter from the Attakapas and State Lands area, stated the herd was down this year. He supported Mr. Moreland's proposal and felt Iberia and St. Mary Parishes in the Basin should be included since they see the late rut.

Chairman Oats then asked for a motion on the Notice of Intent for General and WMA Hunting Rules and Regulations. Commissioner Morrow made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Graham.

Mr. Tommy Prickett stated he has hunted Pass-a-Loutre WMA since 1962 and he echoed the comments made on Atchafalaya Delta. With a GPS and radar, the hunting pressure for waterfowl has increased the same as the fishing pressure along the coast. Mr. Prickett commended the Department on the limited access areas and asked the Commission to go further by closing the waterfowl hunting at 2 PM on Pass-a-Loutre.

Mr. Randy Bordelon stated he has blood tracking dogs that can not be used to track deer but regulations allow squirrel dogs, rabbit dogs and migratory bird dogs. He felt this was wrong. He added he uses his dog on a lease to track deer. Mr. Bordelon represented Southern Blood Tracking Association and asked that his dogs be allowed on WMAs as long as they are on a lease and within a certain time. If a hunter has wounded a deer, Mr. Bordelon felt he should be able to track that deer with a dog on a lease.

Mr. Drew Juncker supported banning surface drive and go-devils on WMAs.

The motion on the Notice of Intent for the General and WMA Hunting Rules and Regulations was unanimously approved.

Mr. Mark Saltz stated he was in favor of blood tracking dogs. Since he was color blind, he depended on friends and family to find his deer. Mr. Saltz then relayed a story on how he

used a blood tracking dog to search for a deer, which was not killed. He asked the Commission to rethink the issue of allowing blood tracking dogs on WMAs.

Again, Mr. Randy Bordelon stated he trained his dog during the summer and found 7 deer during the season and 4 were still alive. When he found the deer alive, he held his dog back.

(The full text of the Notices of Intent are made a part of the record and are attached.)

To receive and hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January began with Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze stating a total of 1,388 citations and 262 written warnings were issued and agents helped with 56 public assists. Activity during January was on the latter part of the deer season and the closing of the migratory waterfowl seasons. There were 22 citations issued in Region 1 and 29 in Region 2 for deer tagging violations. He noted overall there was good compliance during the waterfowl season. Three boating accidents were reported with no injuries nor fatalities for the month. A hunting fatality occurred in an airboat in Terrebonne Parish. The Aviation Report showed the Department's three planes flew a total of 95.7 hours during January. News Releases discussed included another bear being killed in Iberia Parish; a Plaquemines Parish man arrested in an undercover sting operation; a Gueydan resident arrested for selling deer and alligator; a night hunting case in Ferriday where night vision equipment was used; and an Ascension Parish individual cited for taking over the limit of deer. During February, the Academy Class would graduate 7 new agents.

To receive and hear Presentation of Stock Assessment Reports for Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder, Sheepshead and Black Drum was presented by Mr. Harry Blanchet. He began stating these assessments were required by statute and were sent out for internal and external review. In the packets were a list of reviewers, comments made in general and on the assessments, the minor changes made and each of the 4 reports. Mr. Blanchet then asked the Commission to accept the reports so they can be forwarded to the Legislature. Commissioner Voisin made a motion to accept the reports, seconded by Commissioner Graham and approved with no opposition.

Mr. Larry Reynolds handled the next agenda item, **To receive and hear General Information on Canada Goose Zone**. He reminded the Commission that in August 2009, a proposal was presented to modify the Canada Goose hunting regulations which included extending the season length from 16 days to 44 days, creating an aggregate bag limit with white-fronted geese, eliminating the special permit and eliminating the closure zone in southwest Louisiana. Local objections were made to eliminate the closure zone. Due to setting waterfowl regulations by Declaration of Emergency, very little time was available for public comments in August. The closure zone was a state action, not federal. The Commission did not approve that portion of the Canada Goose regulations and directed Mr. Reynolds bring that proposal back when there was time for public comments. Mr. Reynolds then informed the Commission that he would propose to eliminate the Canada Goose

closure zone in southwest Louisiana beginning with the 2010-2011 waterfowl season and the Department was soliciting public comments. Also, this issue would be presented at the hunting public hearings and staff would be available to answer questions and accept public comments. Chairman Oats stated he would notify all that contacted him on this proposal so there was no last minute discussion. Mr. Reynolds stated he contacted several “movers and shakers” that were against the proposal and advised them of what would be said at the Commission Meeting and dates for the public hearings in Lake Charles and Lafayette.

To receive and hear Report on Louisiana Black Bear Population Status was presented by Ms. Maria Davidson, the Large Carnivore Program Manager. In 1992, the Louisiana Black Bear was added to the Endangered Species list as threatened due to habitat and unregulated harvest. This left the state with 3 subpopulations within the state, the first being the Tensas population in Tensas and Madison Parishes, the next in Pointe Coupee and the coastal being in Iberia and St. Mary Parishes. In 1995, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wrote a recovery plan which included delisting criteria. There will be a need for 2 viable subpopulations, one in the Tensas River Basin and Atchafalaya Basin, a corridor for immigration and emigration between the 2 subpopulations and the habitat needed to be protected in the corridors. The presentation was divided between research, management and education which were all important for bear recovery. In research, a large population demographics study was ongoing. Data collection was in its fifth year in Tensas, fourth year in Pointe Coupee and just beginning along the coast. Another project just beginning was a GPS corridor use study. In 2009, the reintroduction project concluded with the relocation of 48 females and 104 cubs. The population demographics project was a DNA study, a mark and recapture for the bears which would give trends in the population whether it was increasing or decreasing. This can base management decisions on those numbers. The Corridor Use Study would begin in the summer with placing GPS collars on 20 subadult males to determine how they move across a fragmented landscape. This will help meet the second criteria for delisting, does the corridor exist between the 2 subpopulations. Ms. Davidson then noted they finished the reintroduction project which was a very difficult practice. A bears den was usually in very large cypress trees. This effort was supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA, Black Bear Conservation Committee, the Department and the University of Tennessee. The bears were placed in big boxes until the bears could orient themselves to their new area, they then would build a nest of their own. As previously stated, 48 adults with 104 cubs were moved. Also, it has been documented that 20 litters were produced in the new area and staff felt it was successful. The area included Red River, Three Rivers, Grassy Lake, Pomme de Terre, Spring Bayou, Dewey Wills WMAs and Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge. Conflict management, which occupies a lot of staff time, was next discussed by Ms. Davidson. Any time there are bears and humans living close, there will be some level of conflict to be dealt with on a daily basis. These can be broken down into residential, industrial and bear-hunter conflicts. Residential conflicts centered around human garbage which contained food waste that was much higher in fat and calories than any natural food. Most of the residential conflicts occur in St. Mary Parish and was dealt with on a case by case basis. Industrial dump site conflicts were handled by bear proofing dumpsters with the old style

dumpsters having metal lids secured on the top and sliding doors that are chained. The last conflict was hunters and bears - not only do deer hunters love to bait with corn, but bears love to eat corn. Unsecured corn even in feeders will bring in bears. Staff has suggested hunters hang their feeders inaccessible to bears, use soybeans or food plots. It has been documented that when bears move into a feeding area, most deer move out, but within 15 or 20 minutes after the bear leaves, the deer come back. Ms. Davidson felt bears and deer can co-exist since bears were not generally active predators and deer do not feel threatened by the bears. The reason to resolve some of the conflicts by educating people was so they can co-exist peacefully with bears and learn not to exacerbate the conflicts by implementing the suggestions which could lead to a decrease in the illegal kill of bears. Ms. Davidson then commented her goal was to teach people to co-exist with bears. She believed if the recovery continued, there may be another big game species provided to Louisiana hunters in the future. Commissioner Graham asked when was the future for a lottery hunt. Ms. Davidson stated the data collection would finish in 2012, delisting the bear would be discussed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2013 which would include a management plan and season being written and accepted. Commissioner Morrow asked how many documented bear attacks occurred over the last several years in Louisiana and Ms. Davidson answered zero. She added that from the calls she received, no one has felt a bear acted in an aggressive manner.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **June 2010 Meeting** on Thursday, June 3, 2010, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Next agenda item was to receive **Public Comments**. Mr. Kerry Diamond, a decedent of privately owned land in the Atchafalaya Basin, asked the Commission to consider all state lands within the Basin be still hunting only. He was hearing of all kinds of threats, tires being slashed, and people beaten. This stemmed from the vague laws on dog hunting. These hunters are on private land which moves onto state lands.

There being no further business, Chairman Oats announced the meeting was **Adjourned**.

Robert J. Barham
Secretary

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