

**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**March 5, 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.

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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**  
**MARCH 5, 2009**

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Chairman Robert J. Samanie, III presiding.

Earl King, Jr.  
Patrick Morrow  
Stephen Sagrera  
Ann Taylor

Secretary Robert Barham was also present.

Commissioners Frederic Miller and Stephen Oats were absent from the meeting.

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

There were no **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege** for this month.

**To receive and hear Presentation on Lapsed Angler Program** began with Mr. Thomas Gresham reminding the Commission that the Public Information Section along with the Office of Fisheries and support from the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation launched a program to reintroduce lapsed anglers into the sport of fishing. The anglers were contacted through the use of personalized post cards, radio and billboard advertisements. Southwick Associates was contracted to analyze the data. Mr. Gresham then introduced Ms. Ashley Wethey who would present additional information. Ms. Wethey began her presentation stating the purpose of the

program was to motivate lapsed anglers to return to the sport of fishing and to buy a fishing license. A lapsed angler was defined as someone that has bought a fishing license in the past, but not in the most recent license year. The program ran from the end of May until September 1. Southwick Associates helped to develop a mailing list and priority tiers based on the year the license lapsed and their lifestyles. The results were an amended list of 66,000 fishermen. There were 2 mailings about 6 weeks apart, as well as radio and banner advertisements which ran for 2 weeks with each mailing. Examples of the two post cards were then shown. Ms. Wethey noted each mailed post card was personalized with the anglers name. If an individual responded to the post cards, a bumper sticker was mailed to them as an incentive. Louisiana's response rate was 26.2 percent with 17,319 individuals responding purchasing over 20,000 licenses and permits. Louisiana ranked second compared to other participating states in the campaign. Financially, the Department spent about \$28,000 on the program and had a net revenue of \$131,783.94. Based on a formula using the number of resident anglers Louisiana receives funding for and the licenses sold to lapsed anglers would bring an additional \$129,719.31 to the Department. Besides direct financial benefits to the Department, this could also stimulate the economy with an increase in expenditures from the purchase of fishing poles, gear, equipment, etc. The return on investment for the program was 464.3 percent. The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's contributions and the Department's investment equaled a return on investment of 44.8 percent. Ms. Wethey felt that not only was this a campaign to look at financially, but also a campaign to look at how it positively impacted the Department communicating with the public. The majority of licenses sold were Resident Basic Fishing Licenses and over 30 percent of the respondents bought a Senior License. Who responded to the survey was next discussed and they were divided into tapestry segments, which are based on lifestyle characteristics. The greatest respondents came from the segment called Sophisticated Squires. A great majority of those that responded live in rural, suburban areas. Staff learned a lot while participating in the program which will help improve the program. Chairman Samanie congratulated the staff for the job well done. Commissioner King asked if the return was actually generated and Ms. Wethey answered yes. He added his congratulations on the great program.

**To receive and hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/February** began with Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze stating this month was a slow month with hunting seasons winding down and recreational fishing starting to pick up. A total of 987 cases and 253 written warnings were issued and agents help with 19 public assists. The Aviation Report showed the Departments three planes flew a total of 62.4 hours during February. There were 3 boating accidents during the month resulting in 1 injury and no fatalities. News Releases discussed included a litter case in Krotz Springs on U.S. Corps of Engineers property; 3 men cited for shark violations; 2 men cited for duck violations in Livingston Parish; and an agent injured during a traffic stop in Lake Charles. Lt. Col. LaCaze then mentioned that Academy Class 24 graduated 9 officers the week prior to the meeting. Commissioner Morrow asked if the PFD loaner program would be implemented again this year. Lt. Col. LaCaze stated this was a very popular program and that it would continue.

**To receive and consider Notice of Intent on Special Fishing Permits for Public Residential Facilities** was handled by Mr. Don Puckett. He stated he was recently contacted by an Administrator with the East Louisiana State Hospital and requested a license fee waiver for the patient residents at that facility. The Notice of Intent proposed was similar to other waivers the Commission has granted in the past. The waiver would be limited to the patients at a facility, valid only on the grounds of the facility and only good for one year as a permit issued by the Inland Fisheries Division. Hearing no questions, Commissioner Morrow made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent, seconded by Commissioner Sagrera and 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 does hereby give notice of its intent to establish a special permit to persons who reside at publicly-operated residential psychiatric facilities.

## **Title 76**

### **WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

#### **Part I. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Agencies Thereunder**

#### **Chapter 3. Special Powers and Duties**

#### **Subchapter I. Special Licenses and License Fee Waivers**

#### **§337. Special Permits: Publicly-Operated Residential Psychiatric Facilities**

A. In lieu of a license which authorizes a person to take and possess freshwater fish for recreational purposes, the Department may issue a Special Residential Facility Fishing Permit for the benefit of persons who reside at publicly-operated residential psychiatric facilities.

1. Special Residential Facility Fishing Permits shall be issued annually and will be exempt from license fees.

2. Anyone fishing under a Special Residential Facility Fishing Permit must do so only on the grounds of the facility.

3. All Special Residential Facility Fishing Permits shall be issued from the Baton Rouge Headquarters location.

4. To qualify for a Special Residential Facility Fishing Permit, the qualifying facility must submit to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries a completed application form for the Special Residential Facility Fishing Permit(s).



5. The Permit shall be in the name of the facility, and shall entitle all residential patients of the facility to fish on the grounds of the facility for a period of one year from date of issuance.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:302.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, June 4, 2009 to Mr. Gary Tilyou, Inland Fisheries 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

Chairman Samanie announced the next agenda item, **To receive and consider Notice of Intent on Deer Management Assistance Program** was pulled.

**To receive and consider Amendments and Public Comments on the Hunting Seasons and the General and WMA Hunting Regulations** began with Mr. Randy Myers reminding the Commission two separate Notices of Intents were presented. The Department continues to receive public comments on both proposals. Then Mr. Myers stated there were no

recommended amendments or changes to the Notices of Intent. Public hearings throughout the state on the proposed seasons and regulations would begin the next week. Chairman Samanie then asked for public comments.

Mr. Marlin Troxell explained the happenings from his last visit to the Department and to a Commission Meeting. The result was he obtained a Handicapped Permit. He then stated he was trying to get permission to use a side by side 4 wheeler on a WMA. Mr. Troxell stated this year he hunted Sherburne, Tunica and Thistlethwaite WMAs. On one of his trips to Thistlethwaite, Mr. Troxell mentioned he was hunting in the afternoon and when he got to the gate at 7:30 PM, it was already closed. But the regulation allows 2 hours for a hunter to get off the WMA. Mr. Troxell then asked he be allowed to use a side by side on the WMA and have the gate close at 8:30 PM instead of 7:30 PM. Commissioner King asked Mr. Troxell how his harvest was this past year. Mr. Troxell stated it was zero. At Sherburne, he saw 12 deer last year, but after the hurricane passed through, he was not able to get his 4 wheeler down the trails. On Tunica, he saw more tracks than on Sherburne, but he saw a cats track on a deer path he could not identify. On Thistlethwaite, Mr. Troxell noted he did not see any deer until the night he got caught by the gate when he saw 5 deer.

Mr. Rick Farrar, representing Louisiana Sportsman Alliance, stated this was a fairly new organization with 2100 members around the state. He asked the Commission to consider increasing the opportunity for deer dog days on public lands, WMAs and National Forest lands. He noted there was a traditional group that spends a lot of money on their dogs that would like the chance to spend time with their animals. Mr. Farrar added that the group was all about increasing opportunity and increasing access to public lands. Commissioner King asked for the membership total and if those members were dog hunters. Mr. Farrar again stated there were 2100 members and a good many were dog hunters. Commissioner King then asked if he thought the hunters would agree to electronic tracking devices on each dog and Mr. Farrar answered yes. He added that those people he dealt with were very responsible. If someone happens to be a violator, Mr. Farrar mentioned they would help to prosecute him.

Mr. Jamie Floyd, also representing Louisiana Sportsman Alliance, wanted to go on record in support of deer dog hunting. He added that this was a long time tradition and felt everyone could work together to make sure each side gets what they need. Then Mr. Floyd stated there was a major problem with beavers and he wanted to establish a bounty program. The beavers were causing damage to timber on private and state lands. He then asked the Commission to consider going with a 4 points or better system for deer statewide. Also, he suggested cutting the doe days on Dewey Wills back to maybe 1 or 2 days. Mr. Floyd felt Dewey Wills had the least amount of deer population. Lastly, he asked that the hunting seasons be backed up one month with the opening weekend in November as the beginning of squirrel season. Commissioner Morrow asked if the beaver eradication program was through the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Floyd stated he was told that was through the Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Morrow then asked if they were laying off the state trappers due to budget constraints and he was told yes. Being from St. Landry Parish, Commissioner Morrow knew there was a problem with beavers and agreed that whatever could be done to eradicate the problem should be addressed by the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Floyd felt if a bounty was implemented, you would have all kinds of people wanting to participate.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **July 2009 Meeting** on Thursday, July 2, 2009, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Next item was to receive **Public Comments**. Mr. Vincent Louviere, a St. Mary Parish resident, stated he works at the Cote Blanche Salt Mines. He recently learned that Henry Gas Company was in the process of possibly building a natural gas storage plant in the same dome he works. One safety issue he was concerned about was environmental. Henry Gas proposes to solution mine 4 caverns by pumping water from Intracoastal Canal which will make this water 100 percent brine. The brine would then be pumped into a pipeline 25 miles just south of Marsh Island. Mr. Louviere's concern was what will that brine do to the oyster reefs, Marsh Island and East Cote Blanche Bay. If this creates a dead zone or was not dispersed properly, it may affect the sale of fishing licenses and could destroy Marsh Island. Henry Gas was attempting to do an environmental study which may only last 6 to 8 months. He asked the Commission to influence the permitting agencies to have Henry Gas do an Environmental Impact Study which would take a longer

time to do. Commissioner Morrow asked if the Department of Natural Resources would issue the permits and Mr. Louviere answered yes. He added they have been to several local meetings which have not been widely announced. The last meeting he attended was not recorded, so any comments and questions from the public were not brought to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). So, the concerned citizens sent their comments to FERC by e-mail. Mr. Louviere added that there were a lot of recreational and commercial fishermen that were not aware of the proposed project. Commissioner Taylor asked who was holding the meetings. Mr. Louviere stated it was Henry Gas or FERC. Commissioner King asked who was Henry Gas meeting with and how were they notifying the public. Mr. Louviere noted it was a legal requirement to notify residents, businesses and parish government of proposed projects. Commissioner Sagrera thanked Mr. Louviere for bringing this to their attention since it was the first he has heard of it. Mr. Louviere stated he spoke with Mr. John Roussel and the staff had some information on the proposal. Commissioner Sagrera asked if Henry Gas had a name for the project and Mr. Louviere stated it was simply Henry Gas Storage LLC. Chairman Samanie asked Mr. Louviere if he had been in touch with fishing organizations such as CCA, Charter Boat Associations, etc. Mr. Louviere responded noting they have contacted CCA, New Iberia Rod and Gun Club, Sierra Club, oyster fishermen, shrimpers and was in the process of contacting others.

Before adjourning, Chairman Samanie wished a Happy Birthday to Major Joey Broussard who turned 50.

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

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Robert J. Barham  
Secretary

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