

HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES

December 2, 2008

Baton Rouge, La

The following constitute minutes of the Hunting and Fishing Advisory Council Meeting
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Tapes of the meetings are kept at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

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**HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA**

December 2, 2008 - 1:30 p.m.

Louisiana Room

**Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries Headquarters
2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, La. 70808**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of Sept. 30, 2008 Meeting
3. Council Special Announcements / Personnel Privilege
4. Cajun Becasse Society - Overview
5. LA Wildlife & Fisheries Foundation - Overview
6. Federal Fisheries Recovery Funds Disbursement – LDWF’s Role in Hurricane Recovery
7. Other Business
8. Set Next Meeting Date
9. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

December 2, 2008

Welcome and Opening Comments were made by Mr. Woody Crews.

Roll Call

Members of the Advisory Council in attendance included Vance Gordon, Nelson “Snoop” Roth, C.T. Williams, Mike Windham, Shane Crochet, Jeff DeBlieux, Woody Crews, Dr. Donald Reed.

Secretary Robert J. Barham, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, was also present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Crews called for a motion for approval of the September 30, 2008 minutes.

The minutes were accepted without revisions.

Mr. Crews asked that if anyone desired to address the council, they should do so from the podium.

Council Special Announcements/Personal Privilege

Mr. Crews welcomed those attending and commented that he was disappointed in the low number of attendees. He then commented that he had a business engagement that would require him to leave toward the end of the meeting and if that were to happen, Mr. Gordon would be able to take over at that point.

Mr. Crews commented that he had yet to see a Secretary that attended as many meetings as Secretary Barham and he and the council appreciated it.

Sec. Barham commented that he was grateful for those willing to do any service.

Mr. Crews stated that he would like all members to take a moment to tell about their member organization at some point over the next few meetings.

Cajun Becasse Society - Overview

Agenda item postponed until next meeting due to Mr. Pellessier’s absence.

Mr. Crews took a moment to explain the function of the Jefferson Parish Marine Fisheries Advisory Board. Jefferson Parish is well populated on the east side of the Mississippi River and it is growing rapidly. Hundreds and thousands of acres of marsh are located there and the board was formed to create a unified voice for recreational and

commercial fishing interests. He stated that he has been a part of the organization for 20 years and if anyone would like to know any more about it, he will be happy to speak to them any time.

LA Wildlife & Fisheries Foundation – Overview

Kell McInnis gave an overview of the LA Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation. Public nonprofit charitable organization founded in 1995 to benefit the department. Mr. McInnis stated that the foundation solicits private/corporate and governmental and nongovernmental grant funds to support projects that enhance the department's ability to fulfill its statutory obligations.

It serves as the conduit for those individuals and other business organizations that wish to provide support to the department and are unable to do so otherwise. Also, funds can be designated for specific or non-specific purposes.

The Foundation is made up of 14 members who have an active role in the state as conservationists. All Foundation funds are spent within the state and there are no political ties to projects or expenditures. The foundation has been very effective acting as a partner on behalf of the department on various projects and has acquired grant money for large department projects.

Federal Fisheries Recovery Funds Disbursement – LDWF's Role in Hurricane Recovery

Mr. Jim Hanifen offered the update on the federal fisheries recovery fund disbursement from the department. The report was requested by Mr. Williams since the issue was timely for those charter captains in need of assistance. Mr. Hanifen spoke briefly about the number of charter captains who previously requested/received assistance.

Mr. Hanifen then discussed how there have been various approaches to the disbursement process and explained that Louisiana had to structure an application process. He then presented examples of the amount of damage to fisheries resources and the need for the first appropriation to primarily be directed toward habitat work. The next disbursements would be direct assistance to people in the industries and the final would present another opportunity for directly assisting commercial fishermen and commercial dealers, through a grant and reimbursement program.

Overall, the programs that have been structured are outside of what the department normally oversees and the detail involved in insuring accountability has been time consuming.

The first appropriation for Katrina-Rita relief came in June of 2006 and the funds arrived in late October that same year. At that point the funds were dispersed. The second appropriation was approved in 2007 and received in the LDWF budget in December of 2008.

Mr. Hanifen then described the priorities for the allocations of funds in more detail, and some changes that may be made, while continually working to find the best and fastest method to get the funds into the hands of the people in need.

Ms. Karen Foote then gave a brief description of the 3rd appropriation, possibilities on what it could be used for and stated that Mr. Randy Pausina is working hard on the appropriation currently.

Mr. John Roussel stated that, for the most part, within the past thirty years, the department has usually been allowed to allocate federal recovery funds for resource recovery only following natural disasters. It was not until 2003 that any funds went to directly to any fisherman.

Secretary Robert Barham then addressed all present with the advice to merely ask for assistance when the discussion is before the joint committee on the budget, if that opportunity presents itself to council members. He further stressed how effective it is to speak directly with your legislators about what your needs are.

Other Business

Mr. Gordon addressed the issue of considering the ethics board's thoughts on the council's encouragement on certain actions on behalf of the department.

Mr. Crews stated that he has a number of topics that he would like to discuss and asked the council to bear with him

Mr. Bo Boehringer suggested that the council discuss what they would like to be presented in future meetings with consideration of what a reasonable list of agenda items would be.

It was then suggested that Enforcement provide a summary at each meeting as well as presentations from other organizations that are not represented, like American Sportsmen Against Poachers.

Mr. Crews raised the question of the mission statement stating that the council is primarily and educational organization yet he feels as if the council is not currently educating others outside of the group. He addressed a topic as one to consider: giving presentations at schools.

Set Next Meeting Date

Mr. Boehringer stated that the pattern of the council has been to meet every other month, but the council needed to decide if they would like to continue on this schedule or meet more or less often with consideration to the size of the agenda the group has to address. He commented that a quarterly meeting schedule would be appropriate.

Mr. Gordon suggested that the council should shoot for quarterly meetings, but stated that he is fine with meetings, as they have been scheduled, as well.

The next meeting date was agreed to be January 22, 2009. All agreed.

Adjournment.

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