

HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES

March 26, 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
Wednesday, March 26, 2008 - 1:30 p.m.
4th Floor Conference Room
Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries Headquarters
2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, La.

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

March 26, 2008

Welcome and Opening Comments were made by Sec. Barham

Roll Call

Members of the Advisory Council in attendance included Vance Gordon officially replacing E.R. "Smitty" Smith, Nelson Roth, Will Courtney, C.T. Williams, Mike Windham, Chris Holmes, Dr. Donald Reed, Woody Crews, Eric Sunstrom, Steven Pellessier and Mike Rainwater.

Members absent from the meeting were Samuel J. Smith, Shane Crochet and Senator Dupre.

Secretary Robert J. Barham, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, was also present and presided over the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Sec. Barham called for a motion for approval of the August 22, 2007 minutes.

A correction was made to add Capt. Jeff Poe to the members in attendance list.

A Correction was made to change Sec. Barham to Sec. Hammett on the next to last page of the minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Gordon to accept the minutes and Mr. Roth offered a second.

Welcome and Opening Comments

Sec. Barham welcomed attendees and expressed his excitement for his new position as Secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries. Sec. Barham then welcomed Mike Windham as the new replacement for Dave Moreland and C.T. Williams who is to replace Mr. Jeff Poe.

Mr. Courtney announced that Mr. Barry Joffrion will be officially taking his place on the council at the end of the year.

Review of Proposed Bylaws

Sec. Barham turned the meeting over to Mr. Crews to discuss the bylaws.

Mr. Crews explained that he had used other bylaws to serve as an example in order to help create and set those for the council.

Vance Gordon commented that Mr. Crews did an excellent job with the by laws and asks for a correction in a spelling error as well as for a change on calling a meeting.

Mr. Crews discussed necessary changes.

Mr. Gordon then asked a question regarding Meetings as far as guest speakers' pertaining to the length of time to be able to speak.

Mr. Roth added that it may need to read "unscheduled" in order for speakers to have additional speaking time as needed.

Members agreed that the length of time should be determined by the discretion of the chairman.

A final decision was made for the bylaws to read "unless widely agreed by a majority of the members present."

Will Courtney made a motion to accept the bylaws as corrected and Mr. Rainwater offered a second.

Bo Boehringer explains that since there are 15 seats on the council, a majority of 8 will serve as a quorum.

Mr. Barham confirmed that the bylaws are accepted and suggests that the council move forward with electing officers to serve.

Mr. Vance Gordon nominates Mike Windam as the chairman

Will Courtney nominates Woody Crews

Mr. Pellessier offered a second.

Mike Windham withdrew his nomination due to his employment by the Department.

Mr. Woody Crews is elected chairman

Mr. Crews asks for nominations for a Vice Chairman

Mr. Crews asks for volunteers

Mr. Vance Gordon volunteered to serve as a Vice Chair

Mr. Courtney makes a motion to close.

A second is made by 2nd Mr. Rainwater.

Mr. Crews asked for any objections.

No objections were heard.

Lapsed Angler Project Overview

Marianne Burke, Public Information

Thomas Gresham from public information stood in as a replacement for Ms. Burke and gave a power point presentation about the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation.

Report on Aquatic Plant Control Program

Report on aquatic plant control program, Joey Shepard inland fisheries, presented a report about Aquatic weed issues.

Report on Bobcat Hunting

Ed Mouton gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding Bobcat population issues.

Boating Safely Regulation Changes

Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne discussed changes in Boating Safety Regulations and informed attendees that he will keep everyone informed of the status of the changes.

Mr. Roth asked for an update on the effectiveness of the pdf loaner program.

Lt. Col. Mayne explained how the program has been effective.

2008 Legislative (Pre) Session Report

Lt. Col. Mayne updated attendees on the following bills with explanation.

HB 1 Fannin Provides for the ordinary operating expenses of state government.

HB 25 Geymann Provides for verification of citizenship or immigration status upon arrest.

HB 73 Badon, Austin Creates the crime of illegally supplying a felon with ammunition.

HB 171 Hutter Authorizes reimbursement of expenses for members of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force.

HB 266 Mills Requires all restaurants serving crawfish to notify customers if the crawfish is imported from a foreign country.

HB 282 Mills Provides relative to distribution of bonuses and royalties from mineral leases.

HB 293 Dove Transfers monies from the state general fund to funds for the preservation of barrier islands and coastal passes.

HB 294 Dove Appropriates funds out of the Barrier Island Stabilization and Preservation Fund and the Coastal Passes Stabilization and Restoration Fund.

HB 327 White Prohibits the establishment of arrest quotas.

HB 331 Perry Creates the crime of communicating false information to an officer.

HB 343 Perry Makes corrections to the nighttime shrimping line.

HB 358 Gisclair Provides relative to claims on restaurant menus regarding seafood.

HB 360 Montoucet Creates the Alligator Council and removes alligator marketing and management from the Fur and Alligator Council responsibility.

HB 375 Dove Provides for the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment.

HB 475 St. Germain Creates out-of-state wholesale and retail crab shipping licenses.

HB 478 Burns, Henry Provides for resisting an officer with force or violence.

HB 488 Gisclair Requires review and cooperation with LSU biologists prior to establishment of offshore fish farming in La. waters.

HB 501 Mills Transfers management and regulation of wild-caught crawfish for commercial purposes from Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Became HB. 1376

HB 570 Ellington Provide for litter abatement.

HB 624 Henry To increase the penalty for failure to pay sales and use taxes on certain purchases of off-road vehicles.

HB 645 Lambert Dedicates 1/20th of 1% of the state sales and use tax to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund.

Discussion: Nelson Roth suggested that the council draft a resolution which would be sent to each member of the House and Senate stating council support for the two bills (HB 645 and SB 18). A vote was taken and all present were in favor with the exception of Mike Windham, who abstained. Woody Crews offered to draft the resolution and send it to members for approval prior to delivering the resolution to legislators.

HB 693 St. Germain Establishes a special hunting permit for coyotes and feral hogs.

HB 694 St. Germain Provides relative to eligibility for youth hunts.

Question: Stephen Pellessier asked if the bill would affect those who would be eligible for White Lake youth lottery hunts. Jeff Mayne to report back.

HB 695 St. Germain Requires operators of personal watercraft to follow waterskiing laws.

HB 696 St. Germain Prohibits the release and importation and restricts the transportation of feral hogs.

HB 697 St. Germain Provides relative to the definition of motorboat.

HB 698 St. Germain Requires all hunters possessing certain firearms to wear "hunter orange" during deer season.

HB 699 St. Germain Authorizes Louisiana to join the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

HB 700 St. Germain Moves management of aquaculture programs from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

HB 701 St. Germain Relative to the definition of gamefish status.

HB 702 St. Germain Provides relative to use of specific gear for commercial taking of shad and skipjack.

HB 798 Hutter Relative to a procedure for lifting the oyster lease moratorium.

HB 829 Danahay Extends the period during which public employees may accept contributions from not-for-profit organizations or funds within such organizations and the deadline by which organizations must report such contributions to the Board of Ethics.

HB 848 Hutter Relative to taking oysters from public seed grounds.

HB 885 Wooton Amends provisions regarding time periods for conducting hearings regarding a driver's license suspension or revocation relative to DWI.

HB 1025 St. Germain Relative to non-resident trip licenses for hunting and fishing.

HB 1036 Harrison Requires itemized monthly spending reports to be maintained on a website established and maintained by the commissioner of administration.

HB 1038 Jones, Sam Relative to harvest of bait fish.

HB 1058 Gallot Makes technical corrections to the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 and the various Codes.

HB 1077 Robideaux Relative to the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, provides for transfers of service for members of existing hazardous duty plans to the Hazardous Duty Services Plan.

HB 1079 Fannin Provides a public records exemption for certain documents of certain internal auditors.

HB 1084 Robideaux Relative to the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, establishes the Hazardous Duty Services Plan.

HB 1106 Morris Provides for leasing and permitting of certain underground storage for oil and gas.

SB 12 Gautreaux, N. Revises the membership composition of the White Lake Property Advisory Board.

SB 13 Dupre Changes the number of hoop nets allowed with a recreational gear license.

SB 18 Alario Dedicates one-twentieth of one percent of the state sales and use tax to the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund. (7/1/09)

SB 20 Dupre Provides relative to trawling vessels.

SB 21 Dupre Creates the Windfall Highway, Infrastructure, and Protection (WHIP) Fund and requires the deposit in the fund of certain mineral revenues in excess of the amount required to be deposited in the Budget Stabilization Fund.

SB 22 Dupre Provides relative to required finfish stock assessment report.

SB 26 Alario Increases supplemental pay for eligible law enforcement officers and firefighters to \$500 per month. (7/1/08)

SB 48 McPherson Includes certain waters within state natural and scenic rivers system. (gov sig)

SB 67 Dupre Re-creates the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. (6/30/08)

SB 68 Dupre Allows military personnel and POST-certified law enforcement personnel to file for firearm and hunter education exemption at certain offices. (8/15/08)

SB 140 Martiny Provides for the electronic signature of a police officer on citations that are electronically generated and transmitted. (8/15/08)

SB 165 Thompson Provides relative to deer hunting with primitive firearms and crossbows. (gov sig)

SB 267 Marionneaux Provides for the salary of each executive secretary of a department in the executive branch of government. (8/15/08)

SB 281 Crowe Provides for fishing licenses of minors with valid identification card. (8/15/08)

SB 283 Crowe Names the boat launch at US-90 and Pearl River in Slidell as "Edward C. Scogin Memorial Boat Launch."

SB 292 McPherson Allows access to the ordinary high stage of navigable waters for certain purposes. (8/15/08)

SB 293 McPherson Provides relative to the banks of navigable rivers or streams. (8/15/08)

SB 305 Dupre Provides relative to certain leases granted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. (8/15/08)

SB 306 Quinn Provides that obstruction of justice shall include knowingly and intentionally providing false information to a law enforcement officer. (8/15/08)

SB 325 Adley Provide relative to the powers and duties of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. (gov sig)

SB 352 Gautreaux, N. Authorizes the transfer of certain state property to the Vermilion Parish School Board. (8/15/08)

SB 365 Dupre Provides relative to the Louisiana Environmental Education Act. (gov sig)

SB 371 Dupre Provides relative to the Aquatic Plant Control Fund. (8/15/08)

SB 376 Adley Prohibits certain public servants and former public servants from representing persons for compensation before certain governmental entities or its officials or agencies. (gov sig)

SB 411 McPherson Creates the Coastal Land Stewardship Authority. (8/15/08)

SB 449 Riser Authorizes the transfer of certain state properties to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

SB 471 Gautreaux, N. Provides relative to certain funds and councils concerned with certain wildlife resources. (7/1/08)

SB 567 Morrish Requires restaurants to state the country of origin of seafood items on their menu. (1/1/09)

B 583 Hebert Provides technical changes to Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes as relates to commercial gear license issuance. (8/15/08)

SB 667 Adley Provides restrictions and disclosure requirements for contracts involving certain public servants and certain affiliated persons and entities.

Other Business

Mr. Crews explained that it has not been clear to this point as to the direction the council should focus their efforts and the last few meetings have involved the council trying to help the department with suggestions, as well as streamline where they are headed. He stated that he would like to hear from the council as to where they want to take the organization. He is concerned that he may only be educating himself, but the council is supposed to be educating the citizens of Louisiana.

Mr. Pellessier asked Sec. Barham to respond on how best to move forward.

Sec. Barham explained the effectiveness of the council would be best served as a grassroots organization. He further asked the members to receive questions from their organizations and report to the council in order to move forward with various issues that we can be involved in.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was agreed upon for May 21, 2008.

Receive Public Comment

An invitation for public comment was made.

No public comment was offered.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn as well as a second.

Meeting was adjourned.

Robert J. Barham

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