

HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES

July 22, 2008

Baton Rouge, La

The following constitute minutes of the Hunting and Fishing Advisory Education Council Meeting and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

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**

Tuesday, July 22, 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 May 21, 2008 Meeting
3. Council Special Announcements/Personal Privilege
4. Receive Public Comment
5. Use of Feeders to Attract Deer – Wildlife Division
6. Twin Spans Rubble to Reefs Project – Marine Fisheries Division
7. Re-Introduction of Whooping Cranes to Louisiana –
Fur & Refuge Division
8. 2008 Legislative Session Review
9. Other Business
10. Set Next Meeting Date
11. Adjournment

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

July 22, 2008

Welcome and Opening Comments were made by Vance Gordon.

Roll Call

Members of the Advisory Council in attendance included Vance Gordon, Nelson “Snoop” Roth, Barry Joffrion for Will Courtney, Samuel Smith, Mike Windham, Stephen Pellessier, Russell Lantier for Shane Crochet, Scott McKnight for Jeff DeBlieux, and David Rousseau.

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

Mr. Crews asked Vance Gordon to conduct the meeting in his absence.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gordon called for a motion for approval of the May 21, 2008 minutes.

Mr. Bo Boehringer clarified that the copy included in the meeting was the final revision sent one day prior to the meeting including changes made in italics.

A motion was made by Stephen Pellessier to accept the minutes and a second was offered by Samuel Smith. The minutes were accepted without revisions.

Mr. Gordon asked that if anyone desired to address the council, they should do so from the podium. He then introduced those attending that were standing in for council members.

Council Special Announcements/Personal Privilege

Mr. Gordon asked if anyone attending had any special announcements. None were made and Mr. Gordon preceded asking Secretary Robert Barham to come to the podium to speak on Senate Bill 18.

Sec. Barham thanked all members for their assistance and help in addressing and promoting the bill.

Receive Public Comment

Mr. Gordon asked for public comment to be offered from the audience. None was offered and he proceeded.

Use of Feeders to Attract Deer – Wildlife Division

Scott Durham, Deer Study Program leader, gave a presentation on the baiting and feeding of deer where he discussed the benefits and negatives of baiting and feeding. He explained the findings of trapping, viewing, research, etc., and also stated that occasionally there are emergencies where wildlife could use assistance, like during a time of flood, or in the northern latitudes when heavy snow covers natural feed sources, etc.

Another point of view discussed was that of the Wildlife Society which has a position statement regarding baited deer having more interaction with other wildlife species which increases disease and parasite transitions.

Mr. Durham also expressed the issue of maintaining a high density of wildlife around feeders, such as rabbits, quail and turkey which can be affected while using a feeder. It increases their likelihood of becoming a target of predators or hunters, because humans are manipulating how wild animals move and how they feed.

On the issue of nutrition, a quick overview of corn feeding shows us that it is fairly low in protein and deer need calories and vitamins. Species' needs are not fully understood and corn is not a balanced feed, but that is what people have mostly used in the past and that is what people use because that is what they have always used.

Also, the issue of Bovine disease was discussed along with other well documented diseases that are increased with baiting and feeding.

Vance Gordon spoke on composing some sort of resolution. He stated that he had several concerns about baiting and would welcome any comments and input in order to see how everyone else feels before he completes it

Presentation Available in file.

The members discussed their personal opinions on the practice of baiting.

Twin Spans Rubble to Reefs Project – Marine Fisheries Division

Douglas Peter, Artificial Reef coordinator, discussed some beneficial uses that have been found when utilizing highway rubble for reef building projects. The Marine Fisheries division is currently looking at making two, 2-acre reef sites between I-10 and the Highway 11 bridges on the west end of Lake Pontchartrain.

The new I-10 twin spans are due to be completed in the spring of 2009 and the department is working to obtain permits to build on the proposed sites.

The proposal will save the contractor and the state money by utilizing the rubble in close proximity to the demolition site, as opposed to hauling the material a long distance to a disposal site.

Karen Foote, Marine Fisheries, stated that the Inshore Reef Program has used either crushed oyster shell or clam shell in the past, which allowed trawls and skimmer net use in the areas of rebuilt reefs. But there is no regulation that says LDWF has to use that size material to build reefs.

Mr. Russell asked what the estimated completion day for this project is.

Mr. Peter stated that the permitting day will be in 2009 and DOTD wants the contractor to start demolition in the spring of 2009.

Re-Introduction of Whooping Cranes to Louisiana – Fur & Refuge Division

Phil Bowman of the Fur and Refuge Division gave a brief description of the division's responsibilities. He talked about LDWF's nationally recognized alligator management program and the good news announced in February when the brown pelican was moved from the USFWS endangered species list to the threatened list (in Louisiana). This was accomplished after years of dedicated work by LDWF and USFWS biologists.

Mr. Bowman then delivered a presentation on the details of the possible Whooping crane re-introduction to the state and our interest here in Louisiana, to sustain a whooping crane population that is genetically stable and attempt to ensure against extinction of the species

Randy Lanctot asked, from the audience, if the prospect of having a migratory flock in Louisiana is still a possibility.

Mr. Bowman responded that the division is hoping for an opportunity and plans to have the population on Marsh Island, if possible.

2008 Regular Session Summary

La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries - Legislative Highlights

HB 694 (St. Germain): Youth Hunts - Legislation would add 16 and 17 year old hunters to those allowed to participate in special youth hunting seasons.

- This additional age range facilitates young hunter recruiting by providing additional opportunities for this age group to continue to participate, or enter the ranks, of the youth hunting population.

HB 699 (St. Germain): Wildlife Violator Compact - Legislation would join the state of Louisiana into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact which establishes a process whereby wildlife law violations by a non-resident from a member state is handled as if the person were a resident, in that personal recognizance is permitted instead of arrest, booking, and bonding.

- This process change is a convenience for hunters, fishermen, and trappers of member states, and also increases efficiency of Louisiana wildlife enforcement agents by allowing more time for enforcement duties rather than violator processing procedures required for arrest, booking, and bonding of non-residents.

HB 1025 (St. Germain): Non-resident Trip Licenses – Simplifies and consolidates non-resident trip hunting and fishing licenses by changing privileges to provide for one-day trip

licenses and eliminates the add-on licenses. Establishes the ability to purchase multiple days of a license privilege and requires that a single license to participate in hunting or fishing activity is all that is needed.

- This change is expected to increase participation of non-residents hunting and fishing in Louisiana.

HB 1142 (St. Germain): Relative to Oyster Cargo Vessels – Provides infra-structure for agency and industry to work together for implementation of new oyster harvest mandates from FDA, relative to spring / summer months.

- Oysters must be refrigerated under specific time restrictions per new FDA guidelines as per vibrio parahaemolyticus (VP) control plan.

SB 165 (Thompson): Primitive Weapons - Proposes that single shot, breech loading, metallic cartridge rifles, with metallic cartridges loaded either with black powder or modern smokeless powder, .38 caliber or larger, of a kind or type manufactured prior to 1900 and replicas, reproductions or reintroductions of that type rifle having an exposed hammer be legal to use during a primitive firearms season.

- Expected to increase participation of resident and non-residents in hunting by giving hunters more options of primitive weapons from which to choose.

SB 365 (Dupre): Louisiana Environmental Education Act – Moves duties of environmental education from Governor's Office to Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, under Office of Wildlife.

- Utilizes the expertise of biological staff within LDWF to present information on understanding the needs of fish, forest and wildlife to allow citizens to make better decisions about the future of their natural resources.
- LDWF will become the primary resource for all educators & citizens in furthering their environmental knowledge & awareness.

SB 371 (Dupre): Aquatic Plant Control – Provides, relative to the Aquatic Plant Control Fund, for LDWF expenditure of plant fund monies on LDWF staff salaries. Increased funding to the Aquatic Plant Control Fund, from sources other than the existing boat trailer tax, could be used in future fiscal years, in part, for salaries and related benefits for staff assigned to the APC program.

Other Business

Samuel Smith addressed a concern regarding Texas and Louisiana fishing borders, and fishing regulation enforcement issues faced by recreational fishermen launching on one side to fish the other, and then facing citations if the states creel limits/size limits differed.

Lt. Col. Mayne explained the joint agreement that has been made regarding the regulations.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was agreed to be September 30, 2008 at 1:30 pm.

Mr. Smith made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and Mr. Scott McKnight offered a second.

Adjournment.

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