

HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES

September 30, 2008

Baton Rouge, La

The following constitute minutes of the Hunting and Fishing Advisory 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

For more information, call 225-765-2623

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

Tuesday, September 30, 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 July 22, 2008 Meeting
3. Council Special Announcements/Personal Privilege
4. Hurricanes Gustav-Ike Habitat Impacts
 - A. Marine Fisheries Division
 - B. Inland Fisheries Division
 - C. Wildlife Division
 - D. Coastal and Nongame Resources Division
5. Deer Tagging: 2008-09 Hunting Season
6. Other Business
7. Set Next Meeting Date
8. Adjournment

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

September 30, 2008

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

Mr. Crews welcomed a new appointee, David Rousseau.

Roll Call

Members of the Advisory Council in attendance included Vance Gordon, Nelson “Snoop” Roth, Barry Joffrion for Will Courtney, C.T. Williams, Samuel Smith, Mike Windham, Stephen Pellessier, Jeff DeBlieux, David Rousseau, 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 July 22, 2008 minutes.

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

Mr. Crews asked that if anyone wished 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 raised the issue of a council discussion of the group’s mission to better define their role. He would like to see that discussion held at some future meeting.

Receive Public Comment

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

Hurricanes Gustav-Ike Habitat Impacts

Marine Fisheries Division

Heather Finley gave a Power Point presentation on salt water fisheries based on samplings through September and the impacts that have been made.

She first addressed the impacts that were made on the oyster populations by explaining the use of weekly reviews of oyster samplings.

The large areas of impacts on marine habitat were noted in Vermillion and Atchafalaya bays where marsh vegetation was rolled up or washed away.

She explained that some changes in habitats are expected. Some nutria mortalities were noted by marine biologists during survey work. The division reported that around 50 percent of coastal marinas and boat ramps were closed.

She further noted losses suffered by the charter boat industry as well as damage to local infrastructure that would have to be repaired.

Her report included comments on and photos of LDWF's damaged Lake Charles office.

*Presentation available on file.

Inland Fisheries Division

Joey Shepard gave a presentation on impacts made by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike on inland fisheries resources.

Mr. Shepard began by giving statistics on flood levels at various locations during each storm and those effects of the different areas.

Fish kills affecting freshwater species resulted from storm surge bringing salt water into freshwater areas, and further away from coast, low oxygen levels created by storm surge and currents disturbing decayed sediment in inland waterways.

His summary statement set the early total estimate on freshwater fish species mortalities at over 160 million fish.

*Presentation is available on file.

Wildlife Division

Randy Myers gave a presentation overview based upon a flight assessments conducted by the Wildlife Division.

Mr. Myers discussed the assessment that was made immediately after the storm by staff biologists and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists. Several flights were made over wildlife management areas to get big picture.

There were scattered sightings of deceased animals (rabbits and deer) as well as high concentrations of live deer on any high ground where flooding affected a region.

There was some loss of timber resources from toppled trees, but the loss was not as great as anticipated.

*Presentation is available on file.

Coastal and Nongame Resources Division

Phil Bowman gave a Power Point presentation on the impacts on LDWF coastal properties after Hurricanes Gustav and Ike made landfall and passed over the coast. He further explained how every storm is different and in this case, both hurricanes had very different effects on the properties.

He noted several sightings of dead nutria and alligators based on flyovers or surface surveys by staff biologists, but no major mortality sightings. The effects of the storms on division facilities was illustrated with photos from site personnel.

*Presentation is available on file.

Deer Tagging: 2008-09 Hunting Season

Jeff Mayne gave a presentation on the new tagging system for 2008-2009. He showed the department's new informational video that is available on the LDWF web site as a public information tool that should answer hunters' questions.

Bo Boehringer stated that the video was announced with press releases and through the assistance of outdoor writers/broadcasters providing space in print publications and radio/TV programs.

Other Business

Mr. Crews alerted the council that he has been trying to complete a resolution to present to the board and asked Mr. Smith to assist him in its completion.

Mr. Crews agreed to present his resolution at the next meeting.

Mr. Pellessier asked Mr. Crews to be mindful about his resolution wording and any directive it might make relative to the department's expenditure of money.

Mr. Crews agreed and stated that the board's position is one support and not direction of fund(s) expenditures.

Mr. Gordon, referencing the presentation he had requested for the July 22 meeting and that was presented by the Wildlife Division on the use of feeders to attract deer, indicated that he did not think the scope of the HFAEC mission included hunting regulation changes. He indicated he would work with council member Mike Windham to develop a pamphlet on the issues and aspects of deer feeding.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was agreed to be December 2nd at 1:30 pm. All agreed.

Adjournment.

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