

A G E N D A

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE & FISHERIES COMMISSION

MEETING OF

JAN. 25, 1966

- 1.) Approval of Minutes - Regular meeting of December 14, 1965. (2)
- 2.) Approval of addition to permit issued to La. Material Co., (2)
Inc., May 25, 1965, for dredging site.
- 3.) Approval of request from Superior Oil Company to excavate (3)
a proposed drilling site on State
Lease 2038, Well No. 30, located
within the confines of Rockefeller Refuge.
- 4.) Acceptance of Contract No. 5529 for construction of a drainage (4)
pumping plant and appurtenances on
Rockefeller Refuge by Port City
Construction Company, Inc.
- 5.) Request of Pan American Petroleum Corporation to install (5)
miscellaneous production facilities
on Rockefeller Refuge in Cameron Parish.
- 6.) Acceptance of Contract No. 5582 for the construction of a (7)
boat launching ramp and parking area
on Saline Bayou in Catahoula Parish
by State Contractors of St. Helena Parish, Inc.
- 7.) Report on Spring Bayou Area, Avoyelles Parish, Marksville, La. (8)
for possible purchase for Game Management
Area.
- 8.) Report on Dead Deer Survey - Chicago Mills Wildlife Management (10)
Area.
- 9.) Report on second portion of deer season held on the Chicago (12)
Mills and Caldwell Game Management Area.
- 10.) Resolution pertaining to Big Creek (Northeast Louisiana) (14)
drainage as proposed by U. S. Army Corp
of Engineers.
- 11.) Commission Committee Meeting with Chicago Mills and Lumber Co. (16)
pertaining to land leased to Commission
for wildlife management purposes.
- 12.) Other business

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS

OF THE

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

January 25, 1966

The regular monthly meetings of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission were held in New Orleans on Monday and Tuesday, January 24 and 25, 1966.

Monday's meeting consisted of conferences with Division Chiefs, and the preparation of the Agenda for the Tuesday meeting.

The Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 25, 1966, at 10:00 A.M., in Room 226, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission Building, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Members present at both meetings were:

Jimmie Thompson, Chairman

H. B. Fairchild, Vice-Chairman

A. J. Buquet

Jerry G. Jones

John Edwin Kyle, Jr.

Hobson Norris

H. Clay Wright

Absent: None

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and introduced the new Commission Member, Mr. Jerry Jones, of Cameron, La., to all present. Chairman Thompson said that he had, in the past, heard many favorable and kind words spoken of Mr. Jones and he was glad that the opportunity arose for him to meet Mr. Jones.

Chairman Thompson stated the first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.

On motion of Mr. Buquet, seconded by Mr. Norris, and unanimously adopted, the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meetings, held on December 13 and 14, 1965, was dispensed with and the minutes were approved as submitted to the Commission Members.

Dr. St. Amant was called to the floor relative to the next item on the Agenda.

Dr. St. Amant submitted a request from the La. Materials, Co., Inc. for a change to be made in the dredging site of their permit issued on May 25, 1965 and read the following letter dated December 23, 1965:

"As you know, our original request for a permit to dredge sand and/or fill material in the Mississippi River was from mile post 87 to 22.5. This was rejected because of the extensive area, so we then submitted a request for the following areas. Mile post 126, to 132, 161 to 171, and 183 to 187 and this was approved.

"In submitting these areas, after extensive exploration we find that the area from mile post 176 to 179 was excluded. We humbly request that this be included as a part of the present lease.

"Thanking you for your early reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,

LOUISIANA MATERIALS CO., INC.

James L. McConnell,
Vice-President"

Dr. St. Amant said that this request has been examined and found to have no effect on wildlife or fisheries in the area and recommended that modification of the permit be made.

On motion of Mr. Buquet, seconded by Mr. Wright, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that an addition be granted to the permit issued to the Louisiana Materials Co., Inc., on May 25, 1965 to dredge for sand and/or fill material in the Mississippi River at mile post 126, to 132, 161 to 171, and 183 to 187, with the additional of mile post 176 to 179.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be authorized and empowered to sign any and all documents in connection therewith.

Mr. Ensminger was called to the floor relative to the request of Superior Oil Company.

Mr. Ensminger stated that Superior Oil Company requested permission to excavate a proposed drilling site on State Lease 2038, Well No. 30, located within the confines of our

Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish. He said that the request had been reviewed and found to present no problems and he would like to recommend that this request be granted.

On motion of Mr. Kyle, seconded by Mr. Fairchild, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve the permit to the Superior Oil Company to excavate a proposed drilling site on State Lease 2038, Well No. 30, located within the confines of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be authorized and empowered to sign any and all documents in connection therewith.

Mr. Ensminger then requested the ratification and acceptance of Contract No. 5529 for the construction of a Drainage Pumping Plant and Appurtenances on the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve at Lake No. 2 in Cameron Parish, as completed by Port City Construction Company. He stated that the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works certified that the work called for under this contract was completed and recommended that same be accepted.

On motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Norris, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works, State of Louisiana, has certified to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that the Contractor has completed Contract No. 5529, between the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission

and Port City Construction Company, Inc. for the construction of a Drainage Pumping Plant and Appurtenances on the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve at Lake No. 2 in Cameron Parish, and has recommended that same be accepted

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that the work done by Port City Construction Company, Inc., Contractor, under Contract No. 5529, with said Commission, dated September 14, 1964, be and the same is hereby accepted and extension of time granted to the date of this acceptance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the action of the Director under date of January 12, 1966, wherein he filed notice of acceptance with the Recorder of Mortgages of Cameron Parish, be and the same is hereby approved and ratified.

Mr. Ensminger was then requested to tell of the Pan American Petroleum Corporation's request to install miscellaneous production facilities on State Leases 4079, 4080 and 4183 located on Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish.

Mr. Ensminger requested that authorization be granted to the Pan American Petroleum Corporation to make the necessary installation for production purposes. The Corporation would install the pipe lines in the ditches excavated only large enough to permit installation. Mr. Ensminger recommended that these ditches be left open inside of the impoundments as they would provide good nesting sites for mottled ducks and alligators.

The Corporation should also agree to install their pipe lines at the points where they cross impoundment levees in such a manner as to not to interfere with the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission's program of water management and maintenance of the levee system. They would be requested to agree to designate all canal crossings with appropriate signs warning of high pressure gas lines.

Chairman Thompson said that these are features which the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission would like to incorporate in the permit and would like to have an agreement made with the Pan American Petroleum Corporation for these conditions.

Mr. Buquet said that since this is a special situation, he would like to request that a resolution be made for this specific job.

On motion of Mr. Buquet, seconded by Mr. Fairchild, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby permit and request the Pan American Petroleum Corporation to install miscellaneous production facilities on State Leases 4079, 4080 and 4183 located on the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish.

WHEREAS, the Pan American Petroleum Corporation agrees to install the production lines in the ditches excavated only large enough to permit installation. These ditches shall be left

open in the areas within impoundments Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

WHEREAS, the Pan American Petroleum Corporation shall agree to install their pipe lines at the points where they cross impoundment levees in such a manner as to not to interfere with the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission's program of water management and maintenance of the levee system.

WHEREAS, the Pan American Petroleum Corporation shall agree to designate all canal crossings with appropriate signs warning of high pressure gas lines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be authorized and empowered to sign any and all documents in connection therewith.

Mr. Herring was called to the floor relative to the ratification of acceptance of Contract No. 5582. Mr. Herring stated that the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works certified that the work called for under this contract was completed and recommended that same be accepted.

On motion of Mr. Kyle, seconded by Mr. Norris, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works, State of Louisiana, has certified to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that the Contractor has completed Contract No. 5582, between the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and State Contractors of St. Helena, Inc., for the Construction of a boat launching ramp and parking area on Saline Bayou, in Catahoula Parish, La., and has recommended that same be accepted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that the work done by State Contractors of St. Helena, Inc., Contractor, under Contract No. 5582, with said Commission, dated April 1, 1965, be and the same is hereby accepted and extension of time granted to the date of this acceptance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the action of the Director under date of December 16, 1965, wherein he filed notice of acceptance with the Recorder of Mortgages of Catahoula Parish, be and the same is hereby approved and ratified.

Mr. Herring was then requested to comment on the investigation made in the Spring Bayou Area, Avoyelles Parish, near Marksville La., for future wildlife purposes.

He said that the area requested to be checked is approximately 3,000 acres, owned by Morgan W. Walker and approximately, 6,400 acres owned by B. E. Quinn, Jr. The area is bordered on the north by Little River, to the west and south by Old River and to the east by private ownership land.

Two separate trips with Mr. Marc Dupuy, Jr., was made on the area. One on December 9, 1965, and they were accompanied by Mr. J. B. Kidd, Biologist, District VI Supervisor and on January 4, 1966, they flew the area.

Mr. Herring stated that this area is one of the best fishing areas in central Louisiana. Presently, the Commission keeps this area sprayed for eradication of water hyacinth. This keeps

the area open for access. Since the area does not overflow as frequently as it did years back, the lake will eventually have underwater weed problems that are expensive to cope with.

About the only improvement that can presently be made on this area is to provide better access. Presently, various lakes do not connect where fishermen can cross from one area to another. By opening up boat trails with a dragline fishermen can travel the area much better.

He said that the area is mostly suited for lowland game and that waterfowl hunting is good and numerous blinds are on the area. Limited squirrel and deer hunting is provided on the ridges and southern one quarter of the area.

Approximately 50 private camps are now on the area. Mr. Marc Dupuy, Jr., is acting as attorney for both parties interested in selling the area. Mr. Herring said that there may be an option on this land by a Baton Rouge realtor. If the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission will buy the Spring Bayou area, the other party will purchase the adjoining area north of this area also owned by Morgan Walker.

Mr. Thompson said that anything that can be done to acquire this area would be appreciated. He said that this Commission is vitally interested in the purchase of land for wildlife purposes. He said that it is amazing to see the number of acres that have been cleared up and beans and other crops have been planted in place. He said that we must do something now to

perpetuate our wildlife and fisheries. At the present time, we are vitally interested in anyone who has some land or even anyone who knows another who has land that could be considered by this Commission for possible wildlife management areas.

Mr. Thompson said that no prices had been offered for the Spring Bayou area and that it was still in the drafting stage.

Mr. Herring was also called to the floor to make a report on the dead deer survey in Chicago Mills Wildlife Management Area to determine the number of deer that were shot but not recovered by hunters during the deer season held in November and December.

Mr. Herring stated that on Monday, December 6, 1965, 25 selected men met at the Newlight Overnight Cabin. These men were assigned to five-man teams. Five such teams were organized. One man on each team was designated as team leader. Each team leader was given a map of the area his group was to search. The areas were sub-divided into Part A and Part B. Part A was searched before noon, and Part B was searched after noon. All search areas had to be oriented to some permanent land features, such as road, boundary line, pipe line, or fence row. This was necessary to minimize the possibility of personnel who were unfamiliar with the area becoming lost. All personnel either brought compasses or were provided with compasses. Compasses were used to keep men on the pre-determined transects in designated search areas. Generally, searchers would leave the base line, walk to some prominent land feature, offset a given distance to

the right or left (this was pre-determined) and return to the base line. This distance of offset was determined by the individual search area. In most cases this distance was 1/4 mile; however, in some cases it was 1/2 mile. Listed below are the search areas and the observation made in the respective areas.

| GROUP | GENERAL AREA | LIVE DEER SEEN | DEAD DEER SEEN | APPROXIMATE DISTANCE COVERED (MILES) |
|-----------|---|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Group I | North and east of Newlight Cabin | 13 | 0 | 16 |
| Group II | East of Big Roaring Bayou and south of Main Newlight Oil Field Gravel Road | 14 | 0 | 19 |
| Group III | East and west of Old Dummy Line south of Methiglam Canal | 1 | 0 | 15 |
| Group IV | South of Judd Bayou and north of Lost Brake Road | 6 | 2 | 16 |
| Group V | Hunters Bend South of Tensas River | 10 | 0 | 13 |
| TOTAL | | 44 | 2 | 79 |

Mileages shown on the chart are only approximations to the best of our knowledge. Men were instructed to investigate suspicious odors and concentrations of vultures within sight of their respective transects.

This report should give evidence that reports of numerous deer being left in the woods after a controlled hunt has no basis. Such surveys have been made in past years and number of deer dead left is insignificant. There are probably fewer dead

deer left after a hunt on one of the Commission operated Wildlife Management Areas than on private operated areas.

Mr. Herring was then requested to make a report on the second portion of the deer season on the Chicago Mill and Caldwell Game Management Areas.

The Chicago Mill Game Management Area was open for the second time for five days "bucks only" hunting, December 18, through December 22, 1965. Spot checks were made during the entire hunt. These spot checks were made by District IV personnel with assistance from Robert Murry, Larry Soilleau, Dan Dennett, Jack Collins, and Donald Blackwell on the opening weekend. The spot checks revealed that out of 1,363 hunter efforts 65 deer were killed. This gives a ratio of one deer killed for 20.9 hunter efforts. Mr. Herring said that it would be safe to assume that approximately 100 deer were killed during the hunt. He said this came as a surprise to some, as a few believed that the first season had all but exterminated the deer. A total of 1,649 deer were recorded as seen by the hunters during the hunt. Mr. Herring said that he did not know how important or reliable that figure is; however, deer were seen during the second season.

Mr. Herring said that he considered the hunt to be successful; however, he did have one suggestion. There were some misunderstandings with the hunters concerning the permit required for this hunt. Some stated they thought this hunt

would be managed on a daily permit basis. Some indicated that they waited at the permit stations for a while, then when no one showed up they went hunting. Consequently, they were written up when they came out of the woods for hunting without a permit. This matter could be resolved by having adequate news coverage prior to the hunt. This misunderstanding resulted in 12 to 15 cases being made.

The Caldwell Game Management Area was open for the second time for a five day "bucks only" hunt from December 18, through December 22, 1965. Spot checks were made during the entire hunt. These checks consisted of road blocks at the three major access points during the first two days, and hunters were checked where they were seen the remaining three days.

Mr. Herring said that District IV personnel, with the assistance of John Haygood, Brent Womack and Hugh Bateman, made the spot checks. He said that the spot checks revealed that out of 251 hunter efforts three deer were killed. This gives a ratio of one deer killed for 83.6 hunter efforts. Four other deer were checked on Boeuf River by Hugh Roberts, Enforcement Agent. These deer also came from the management area.

Mr. Herring said as they had most of the access roads checked, it is not believed that over ten deer were killed during this five day period. One of the primary reasons for this may have been the large amount of rainfall on opening day, which made a large portion of the area inaccessible to vehicle traffic. After the first day, the number of hunters was low.

Mr. Herring stated that most of the hunters reported seeing deer during the hunt. A total of 317 deer were reported seen by hunters.

All hunters appeared to be aware of the type of permit needed and, Mr. Herring said to his knowledge, no cases were made regarding hunting without a permit.

Mr. Norris asked Mr. Herring if there were any reports of cattle seen while this survey was being conducted.

Mr. Herring said that there were none and that cattle are not permitted to roam and graze on these areas; however, some could be found grazing on the adjoining outlying areas.

Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. Herring for making this report and keeping the Commission informed of the developments and activities in this matter. In this way, an authentic and intelligent reply can be given to any questions asked.

Mr. Yancey was called to the floor relative to a resolution pertaining to Big Creek (Northeast Louisiana) drainage as proposed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Yancey said that Senator J. C. Gilbert of Sicily Island, La., had called and requested that the Commission express its stand on the Big Creek drainage program planned by the Corps of Engineers. Big Creek flows from West Carroll Parish south through Franklin and Richland Parishes and empties into Boeuf River. Several years ago when the Corps of Engineers was first planning to convert Big Creek and several other rivers in

northeast Louisiana to drainage canals, the Commission advised the Corps that severe losses of fish and wildlife would occur and that annual monetary losses would approach \$500,000.

Nevertheless, they have gone ahead with this work and are now planning to further widen and deepen Big Creek. It is suggested that the Commission adopt the following resolution and so advise Senator Gilbert by telegram. Senator Gilbert is attending a meeting in Oakgrove tomorrow morning to discuss this matter with the Corps of Engineers and wants to advise them of the Commission's stand.

Chairman Thompson said that certainly something should be done in this matter and he too would also like to have Mr. Hair send a telegram to Senator Gilbert.

On motion of Mr. Buquet, seconded by Mr. Norris, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission upon request from local interests has reviewed the proposed Boeuf-Tensas River and Bayou Macon drainage and flood control project that is currently being implemented by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and

WHEREAS, the Commission in 1959, in cooperation with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife filed a report with the Corps indicating there would be severe losses of fish and wildlife resources within the project area and more recently opposed the authorization of the Tensas River flood control

project which was a segment of this overall project and

WHEREAS, the Big and Colewa Creek area is also a segment of this project, as it is a sub-basin of the Boeuf River drainage complex and

WHEREAS, additional widening, clearing, and deepening of the Big and Colewa Creeks would result in additional losses to fish and wildlife resources and drainage of adjacent woodland areas would destroy valuable fish and wildlife habitat and

WHEREAS, land use changes and conversions which would accompany the construction work would also destroy large amounts of valuable wildlife habitat.

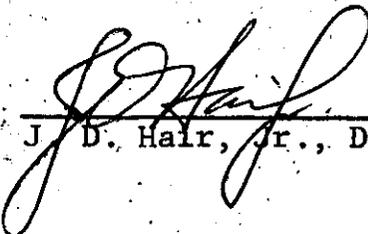
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission go on record as requesting the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw its plans for additional widening, clearing, and deepening of the Big and Colewa Creeks.

Chairman Thompson said he would like to report on the meeting held with the Chicago Mills and Lumber Company people on January 19. He said there was Mr. Fairchild, Mr. Norris, Mr. Yancey, Mr. Joe Herring, Mr. Dewey Wills, and himself representing the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. Mr. Wiseman and Mr. White represented Chicago Mills and Lumber Company. Chairman Thompson said the meeting was held to try to work out a new lease on the Chicago Mills Game Management Area since ownership of the land has changed hands. We all realize that if we lose the lease on this 110,000 acre tract, it would

be a tremendous blow to the Commission's program. Hunters come from miles around to hunt deer, squirrel, and turkey in this Game Management Area. Chairman Thompson said he is hopeful that we will be able to work out a new lease.

Chairman Thompson asked Mr. Fairchild and Mr. Norris if they would like to add to his comments on the meeting as they were also present. They both agreed that Chairman Thompson had made a full report and that they too thought it was a very successful meeting.

Chairman Thompson then asked if there was any further business to be discussed at that time. There being no further business to discuss, on motion of Mr. Fairchild, seconded by Mr. Norris, the meeting was adjourned.



J. D. Hair, Jr., Director & Secretary