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P R O C E E D I N G S

OF THE  
LOUISIANA WILD LIFE & FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1969

10:00 o'clock a.m.

Wild Life & Fisheries Building  
400 Royal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Reporter: PAULA A. HILLIS



**Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.**  
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333 ST. CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 1221  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130 • (504) 524-4787

Run-off 6-1-70

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WHO WERE PRESENT:

MR. H. C. WRIGHT, Vice-Chairman

MR. C. M. HOFFPAUER

MR. C. A. GUIDRY

MR. J. E. KYLE, JR.

MR. HOBSON NORRIS

MR. J. L. WINFREE

MR. J. W. THOMPSON

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WHO WERE ABSENT:

MR. J. G. JONES, Chairman



A G E N D A

1. ✓ Approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 10, 1969.
2. ✓ Approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 2, 1969.
3. ✓ Consideration of the Spanish Lake request (9)
4. ✓ Drainage canal across the Russell Sage W.M.A. Ouachita and Richland Parishes, Louisiana. (12)
5. ✓ Consideration of the Assumption Parish Police Jury request to open Lake Verett for a period of 90 days to gill and trammel netting. (15)



P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . . . The Board Meeting of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Thursday, November 13, 1969, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Mr. H. C. Wright, Vice-Chairman, presiding . . . . .

THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, the regular meeting of the November Meeting of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission comes to order.

Do I hear approval of the minutes of July 10th, 1969?

MR. NORRIS: I so move.

MR. WINFREE: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Winfree that we approve the minutes of July 10th, 1969.

All in favor, say aye; all opposed, by the same sign.

(Whereupon, a vote was taken,  
and the motion was passed



unanimously.)

Now we will have approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 2nd, 1969.

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson.

MR. NORRIS: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been seconded by Mr. Norris.

All in favor, say aye; all opposed, by the same sign.

(Whereupon, a vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ford.

MR. FORD: Mr. Chairman, in October, 1968, we received a request from the Louisiana Shell Producers' Association to consider the feasibility of a cooperative effort between the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, the New Orleans Sportsmen's League, the Louisiana Shell Producers' Association, and, possibly, the Orleans



Levee Board to install an experimental shell reef in Lake Pontchartrain that would be attractive to and concentrate fish. During the intervening period, field studies have been performed to find a suitable location and an over-all feasibility evaluation has been made.

It is the recommendation by the Attorney of the Orleans Levee Board that their appearance should be that of an intervenor having no opposition to this conservation use of the bottom of the lake, since the location of this experimental reef would fall within their right-of-way area. In view of the feasibility study, we recommend the following:

R E S O L U T I O N

"WHEREAS, a feasibility study has been performed by the Division of Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods, relative to the establishment of an experimental shell reef in Lake Pontchartrain at the request of and in cooperation



with the New Orleans Sportsmen's League and the Louisiana Shell Producers' Association, and

WHEREAS, it appears as though this project is feasible and that such a reef would serve to attract fish and would be in the public interest, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission at its regular November monthly meeting does hereby authorize and empower its Director to execute any and all documents for the satisfactory completion of this action in accordance with the memorandum of information provided us by Dr. T. B. Ford, Chief, Division of Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods, on November 13th.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission at its



regular monthly meeting does hereby authorize and empower its Directors to execute any and all documents for the satisfactory completion of this action in accordance with the memorandum provided by us by the Division of Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafood on November 13th, 1969."

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of this resolution.

MR. THOMPSON: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded that we adopt this resolution. Is there any discussion on the motion?

MR. NORRIS: I would like to ask this question: Does it cost the Commission equivalent of four hundred and some-odd dollars -- is that the only expense they would be out on this project?

MR. FORD: This would be the only paid out expense as such. We would assist the Louisiana



Shell Producers' Association by marking the  
locations which we have already studied as part of  
a cooperative study and I think this would be  
consisting of the entire effort in this respect.

MR. NORRIS: That answers my question.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any objections?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: There being none, so  
ordered.

(Whereupon, a vote was  
taken, and the motion  
was carried unanimously.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Now we will hear from  
Mr. Herring.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We have three items on the Agenda, the  
first one being vehicles on the levee of Spanish Lake  
in Iberia Parish.

We have received a resolution from the  
Spanish Lake State Game and Fish Commission requesting  
that a speed limit be placed on vehicles traveling  
the levees.



The purpose of this is to protect the levees from wear and tear.

The request is that it shall be unlawful for any person to drive any motor vehicle upon the roads on the levees, or any roads under the jurisdiction of said Commission at speeds in excess of 15 miles per hour.

They are also requesting that any persons violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than \$10.00 nor more than \$50.00 at the discretion of the Court.

This request has been reviewed by Mr. George C. Stringer, Jr., Attorney for the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. Mr. Stringer states that he finds no objection to this ordinance and would recommend the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission approve the passage of this ordinance.

R E S O L U T I O N

"WHEREAS, the Spanish Lake State Game and Fish Commission, Iberia Parish request that it shall be



unlawful for any person to  
drive any motor vehicle upon  
the roads on the levees, or  
any road under the jurisdiction  
of said Commission at speeds  
in excess of 15 miles per hour,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,  
that any person violating the  
provisions of this ordinance  
shall be guilty of a misdemeanor,  
and upon conviction shall be  
fined not less than \$10.00 nor  
more than \$50.00 at the dis-  
cretion of the Court."

MR. HERRING: This is the resolution.

THE CHAIRMAN: You heard Mr. Herring.

What is your pleasure?

MR. KYLE: I so move.

MR. NORRIS: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr.  
Kyle and seconded by Mr. Norris. Is there any  
discussion on the motion?



(NO RESPONSE)

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THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor, say aye; all opposed?

(Whereupon, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.)

THE CHAIRMAN: It is so ordered.

MR. HERRING: The next item on the Agenda is the proposed channel connection of our Russell Sage Wild Life Management Area.

A request has been received from Mr. A. P. Andrews, Louisiana Department of Public Works, to complete a channel in our Russell Sage Wild Life Management Area.

This drainage channel is better known as W-6 Main. The required additional work would be a channel connection between the old Bayou Lafourche Channel, a borrow pit and a slough. The canal will be located in section 2, range 5-E, township 17-N.

In checking with our District II Supervisor, Mr. Cliff Williams, he stated that this addition to the canal will be of help to us.



Presently W-6 Main is putting too much water in our area. However, Mr. Williams suggests that we have the right to put in weirs or levees for the purpose of holding water should it be necessary for wildlife management.

R E S O L U T I O N

"WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Public Works has requested a proposed channel connection between Bayou Lafourche channel, a borrow pit and a slough located in Section 2, R-5-E, T-17-N on the Commission owned Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area,

WHEREAS, this addition to W-6 Main will assist in removing water from the western side of the Wildlife Management Area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission grant



approval to the Louisiana Department of Public Works to complete this work at no cost to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission have the right to construct weirs or levees where it deems necessary along this addition for better wildlife management."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard Mr. Herring. What is your pleasure?

MR. NORRIS: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WINFREE: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Winfree.

Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor, say aye; all opposed?

(Whereupon, a vote was taken,



and the motion was carried  
unanimously.)

THE CHAIRMAN: There being none, so  
ordered.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next  
item is Lake Verret for commercial fishing.

We have received a request from the  
Assumption Parish Police Jury requesting that we  
open Lake Verret to commercial fishing again.

The lake was opened on two previous  
occasions on the recommendation of the fishery  
biologist after a study of the fish population.  
The removal of many thousands of pounds of commercial  
and trash fish has improved the sport fishing and  
the commercial fishing.

I, therefore, recommend that Lake  
Verret be opened to commercial fishing for a period  
of 105 days beginning December 1st, 1969 and closing  
March 15, 1970. I further recommend that it be  
opened under the same conditions and regulations as  
in the previous years, namely:

1. A permit be required by each  
fisherman.



2. Opened to all fishermen with legal commercial fishing license.
3. Opened to all legal nets.
4. Weekly report required of all fishermen.
5. Fishing during daylight hours only.
6. Fishermen remove all legal commercial fish and all rough and trash fish that are caught.
7. Permits to be issued at the District VIII Fish and Game Office through the open period except on November 20, 1969 permits will be issued at the Assumption Parish Court House.

R E S O L U T I O N

"WHEREAS, the Assumption Parish Police Jury has requested that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission open Lake Verret to



commercial fishing this  
year as in past years, and

WHEREAS, the removal of  
commercial and trash fish has  
improved the sport fishing  
and the commercial fishing, and

WHEREAS, a permit will be  
required of each fisherman  
from the Louisiana Wild Life  
and Fisheries Commission, and  
the lake be open to all com-  
mercial fishermen with legal  
commercial fishing license and  
legal net, and

WHEREAS, a weekly report  
is required from each commercial  
fisherman fishing the lake and  
fishing during daylight hours  
only, and

WHEREAS, fishermen will  
remove all legal commercial fish  
and all rough and trash fish



that are caught, and

WHEREAS, Lake Verret will be open to commercial fishing beginning December 1, 1969 and closing March 15, 1970. Permits will be issued in the District VIII Fish and Game office through the season except on November 20, 1969 at which time they will be issued at the Assumption Parish Court House.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission open Lake Verret for commercial fishing from December 1, 1969 through March 15, 1970 on a permit basis. That legal nets be used by commercial fishermen with a legal commercial fishing license."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion.

What is your pleasure?



MR. WINFREE: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. KYLE: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Winfree and seconded by Mr. Kyle. Is there any discussion on the motion?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor, say aye; all opposed?

(Whereupon, a vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Being none, so ordered.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, this concludes the agenda for this morning.

Is there any other business?

MR. WINFREE: I would like to ask a question, Mr. Chairman, of Mr. Yancey.

Mr. Yancey, can you tell me how many ducks there are in the State of Louisiana at this time?

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Winfree, I have talked



with Hugh Bateman, the Commission Water Fowl Biologist about an hour ago and he completed a survey Friday that showed we had three and a third million ducks in the coastal marshes and in the rice fields.

Now, that figure does not include the ducks that are up in the Central and Northern parts of the state and doesn't include the offshore scaup population and there is probably three-quarters of a million to a million scaup fowl in the Gulf waters and in Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Borgne and on Catahoula Lake there is around 55 or 60,000 ducks, mostly pintails.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Yancey, how does that compare with last year?

MR. YANCEY: Well, it is an increase over last year. Of course, we do have real low water conditions in the coastal areas. We have had a drought condition here that is the worst that I have seen in the 20 years that I have been working in that marsh country.

The ducks are concentrated in the areas that do have water and this is going to mean good



shooting for those that can get to those ponds that do have water, but there are a lot of ducks that are on dry marshes that aren't going to be useful for hunting Saturday morning.

MR. WINFREE: Is there much danger in the event that we don't get three or four or five inches of rain in the marsh areas that these ducks may go further south?

MR. YANCEY: Well, of course, traditionally, a lot of ducks go through here in the winter frost. We probably have five or six million ducks that go through Louisiana only in the fall and go down to Central and South America. The blue-winged teal particularly goes through here, and that migration is about 97 per cent complete. Virtually all of the blue-winged teal have already moved through the state along with possibly one or two million pintails and a larger percentage have gone through.

MR. WINFREE: Do you have any idea how many mallards we have in the State of Louisiana?

MR. YANCEY: I didn't get the mallard



figures from him. We did have a mallard migration into Louisiana the first week of November. There are some on Catahoula Lake. About 10 per cent of that 60,000 duck population are mallards.

MR. WINFREE: Thank you, Mr. Yancey.

MR. YANCEY: We do also have a loss of ducks going on in some of these drought-stricken marshes from botulism, and Bateman said a survey in the Lake Cataouatche area found about 400 dead ducks in that area. It is not limited to that area. It is going on in several points along the coast. We don't have these botulism outbreaks very often in Louisiana, but they do occur frequently out on the West Coast, but we do have a pretty serious botulism condition along this marsh now and it is a result of warm water temperatures and low water conditions.

MR. WINFREE: In the event that a duck is stricken with this botulism and is still able to fly, is there any harm to human consumption?

MR. YANCEY: No, sir. They consistently hunt these areas out in California where botulism is an annual problem. Apparently there has never been



any problem there.

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As a matter of fact, we recommend -- I hope that these areas will be rather heavily hunted. It would tend to gun some of these ducks out of the areas and on into parts of the marshes, into the refuges where we don't have botulism.

MR. WINFREE: In other words, it is a condition that exists in the marsh. It is not a communicable disease so to speak.

MR. YANCEY: No. You have botulin bacteria that produce a toxin or poison and it goes to the water and when the water is consumed by the ducks, then it kills the ducks. It also kills other types of birds. They found snipe, wading birds. Virtually all of the birds in this area have been affected.

MR. WINFREE: Would that be classified by you as critical at this time?

MR. YANCEY: Well, it's serious. We always regret the loss of any ducks or other types of bird life. The only solution of the problem is heavy rain and some cold weather and we do have a cold



front coming into the state tomorrow that is going to drop the temperatures, and that is going to greatly help alleviate this problem.

MR. WINFREE: Well, can you tell me where I can kill some ducks Saturday then?

(LAUGHTER)

MR. YANCEY: I could if you have about 30 minutes. I can give you a long list.

No, we are going to have some good duck shooting Saturday.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Yancey.

MR. BOSCH: I would like to put something into the record for action at a later date.

Charles Bosch, Executive Director of the Louisiana Wild Life Federation, Incorporated.

Our Board of Directors at its regular quarterly meeting in October adopted a resolution to request the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Board to issue a public statement as to why they set the 1969 Duck Hunting Season when they did, against the recommendations of their own water fowl biologists, against the recommendations of the Federation, and



against the wishes of those who attended the public hearing in Alexandria.

THE CHAIRMAN: You want to enter that into the record?

MR. BOSCH: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: You don't want an answer now?

MR. BOSCH: I don't think the Commission is in complete agreement right now.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am talking about personally. I can go aside and answer it.

Is there any other business before the Commission?

MR. THOMPSON: I didn't vote for that duck season that we set, but I kind of think that that is a below the belt lick to the Commission, Mr. Bosch. I think you are asking the Commission to come back.

Well, I don't know exactly how to turn, but I believe I would just as soon answer it right now.

MR. WINFREE: I think Mr. Yancey answered



the question just now.

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MR. THOMPSON: I didn't hear the answer then.

MR. BOSCH: We don't figure it's a below-the-belt punch or we would not have asked it.

The same season was set several years ago and several members of the Commission stated that they goofed.

Now, we have the same reason again.

THE CHAIRMAN: I beg your pardon, Mr. Bosch.

MR. BOSCH: Conditions look horrible this year for many parts of the state and duck hunters in many parts of the state want to know if you have data or information that they don't have, or that the Commission biologists don't have, or that the Federation doesn't have.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Bosch, I think Mr. Yancey just answered that question. Now, when we have said there were three and a half million ducks in this state, --

THE CHAIRMAN: That's South Louisiana, not



counting North Louisiana.

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MR. BOSCH: Mr. Winfree, we don't think that's an adequate answer. Your regulations this year, sir, are more restrictive than the Federal Government. You have cheated people out of one weekend with the season you have set. If you would have set a split season, we would have more Saturdays and Sundays and holidays even when we took the ten per cent penalty, and people would like to know your reasoning, sir.

MR. THOMPSON: Charlie, the reason I took the floor to answer you was because I felt that I was in a position having not voted for the season, and it put me on the other side of the fence. I would be in a better position to answer you than some of my colleagues who voted the other way for that decision, and I would like to answer you by saying this: The Commission unanimously -- not unanimously, but the majority of the Commission voted what they thought, depending on the information that they gathered, they put together in one ball of wax from every point as I said many times before -- economic,



political, biological, everything that goes into making a decision. They made this decision in good faith, thinking that they were doing -- and possibly were doing -- the best thing for the sportsmen of the State of Louisiana.

I think this is the answer to the question as fully as it can be answered.

MR. KYLE: Right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

Any other business?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a motion that we adjourn?

MR. KYLE: So move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Kyle.

MR. NORRIS: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Kyle and seconded by Mr. Norris.

This meeting is now adjourned.



. . . . Thereupon, the Louisiana  
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission  
Board Meeting was adjourned at  
10:30 o'clock a.m., on Thursday,  
November 13, 1969 . . . .

