

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 16, 1982

JESSE M. KNOWLES
CHAIRMAN

Civic Center
Ruston, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

March 16, 1982

AGENDA

| | <u>Page No.</u> |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Roll call. | 1 |
| 2. Invocation. | 1 |
| 3. Approval of minutes of January 26, 1982. | 1 |
| 4. Request from Waldemar S. Nelson and Company to remove fill material from the Algiers Pumping Station No. 13, Letter No. WN-36. | 2 |
| 5. Request from T. L. James and Company to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile 124.5 AHP near Hahnville, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana. | 2 |
| 6. Request from H & H Contracting Company to remove fill material from the Red River at Bossier City, Bossier Parish, Louisiana. | 2 |
| 7. Request from L. Murphy Trucking Service, Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River, Mile 87.9 and Mile 88.5 AHP, Louisiana. | 3 |
| 8. Lifting of the moratorium on the taking of applications for oyster leases. | 3 |
| 9. Special Commission Meeting set for March 23, 1982, in Lake Charles, Louisiana, for final approval on the lifting of the moratorium on taking applications for oyster leases. | 4 |
| 10. Survey Section report. | 4 |
| 11. Introduction of new Commission Member, Mr. Ronald Menville of Houma, Louisiana. | 4 |
| 12. Recognition of Mr. Bill Denton, former Commission Member. | 5 |
| 13. Resolution opposing the closing of 13 federal fish hatcheries. | 5 |
| 14. Resolution prohibiting the use of netting in Black and Clear Lakes, Natchitoches Parish, for the remainder of 1982. | 6 |

AGENDA (CONTINUED)

| | <u>Page No.</u> |
|---|-----------------|
| 15. Enforcement Division activity report. | 7 |
| 16. Commendation for Enforcement Division's undercover work. | 8 |
| 17. Report of the expansion bill of the Dingell-Johnson Act. | 8 |
| 18. Announcement of dates for May Commission Meeting and date of Annual Seafood Supper. | 8 |
| 19. Comments about pending legislation to form a commission to govern Lake Pontchartrain. | 8 |
| 20. Request for copies of pending legislation be made available for study by Commission Members at meeting on May 17, 1982. | 9 |
| 21. Announcement of dates for April, May and June Commission Meetings. | 9 |
| 22. Request for information regarding Department's procedure for looking into matters brought to the attention of the Commission. | 9 |
| 23. Advertisement with stipulations for tracts on Marsh Island. | 10 |
| 24. Request Board Minerals Committee attend bid opening at State Mineral Board on April 14th. | 10 |
| 25. Appreciation extended to Commission from Lincoln Parish Police Jury for having their Public Hearing in Ruston, Louisiana. | 10 |
| 26. Recognition of Mrs. George N. Gray. | 11 |
| 27. Comments by Mr. Ron Menville on his first Commission Meeting. | 11 |

MINUTES OF MEETING
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
RUSTON, LOUISIANA
March 16, 1982

Chairman Jesse M. Knowles, presiding.

Members present:

Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, Chairman
Mr. James C. Farrelly, Vice Chairman
Mr. J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert
Mr. George N. Gray
Mr. Ronald Menville
Mr. Charles A. Riggs

Members absent:

Mr. Wayne C. Ducote

Also present:

Mr. Jesse J. Guidry, Secretary

* * *

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, on Tuesday, March 16, 1982, at 10:00 A.M.

A roll call of members present was taken.

The invocation was offered by Commissioner George N. Gray.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. George N. Gray, and passed unanimously, the minutes of the Commission Meeting held on January 26, 1982, be adopted and the Commission dispensed with the reading of the minutes.

Dr. Ted Ford, Assistant Secretary, presented three requests for permits to dredge fill material.

Dr. Ford said the permits have been evaluated and they were found to be in order. He recommended to the Commission that the permits be granted.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that a permit be issued to Waldemar S. Nelson and Company to remove fill material from the Algiers Pumping Station No. 13, Letter No. WN-36.

(The full text of the resolution is here made part of the record)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Waldemar S. Nelson and Company to remove fill material from the Algiers Pumping Station No. 13, Letter No. WN-36, for a period of one year from March 16, 1982, to March 16, 1983, at a royalty rate of 10¢ per cubic yard.

* * *

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that a renewal permit be granted to T. L. James and Company to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile 124.5 AHP near Hahnville, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana.

(The full text of the resolution is here made part of the record)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to T. L. James and Company to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile 124.5 AHP near Hahnville, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from April 29, 1982, to April 29, 1983, at a royalty rate of 10¢ per cubic yard.

* * *

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that a renewal permit be granted to H & H Contracting Company to remove fill material from the Red River at Bossier City, Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made part of the record)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to H & H Contracting Company to remove fill material from the Red River at Bossier City, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from April 29, 1982, to April 29, 1983, at a royalty rate of 10¢ per cubic yard.

* * *

Dr. Ford requested permission to present a request for a permit which was not on the agenda from L. Murphy Trucking Service, Inc.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. George N. Gray, and passed unanimously, that the permit request from L. Murphy Trucking Service, Inc., be heard at this meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. J. C. Gilbert, and passed unanimously, that a permit be granted to L. Murphy Trucking Service, Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River, Mile 87.9 and Mile 88.5 AHP, Louisiana.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made part of the record)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to L. Murphy Trucking Service, Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River, Mile 87.9 and Mile 88.5 AHP, Louisiana, for a period of one year from May 20, 1982, to May 20, 1983, at a royalty rate of 10¢ per cubic yard.

* * *

Dr. Ted Ford stated the item on the agenda regarding the lifting of the moratorium on the taking of applications for oyster leases could not be presented at this time. The Department has not heard from the House Natural Resources Committee and, therefore, he recommended that action be deferred on this matter.

Dr. Ford also suggested that the Commission consider calling a special meeting in Lake Charles in conjunction with the Public Hearing to be held there.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. George N. Gray, and passed unanimously, that a special Commission Meeting be set for 6:30 P.M., Tuesday, March 23, 1982, in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The time is one-half hour before the scheduled Public Hearing on hunting seasons and bag limits.

Dr. Ford stated the Survey Section's monthly report of activities was distributed to the Commission Members. This report covers the period of February 18 to March 10, 1982. The report states that 81 applications for oyster leases were scheduled for survey. Of this number, 6 surveys were cancelled, 10 applicants failed to keep appointments, 62 applications were surveyed, and 7 survey notices were returned by the post office marked "address unknown." Also, 24 monuments were tied in and 3 restakes of existing oyster leases were made.

Dr. Ford said we believe this is responding to the Commission's direction to maintain an active and current effort to keep up with surveys and we are pleased with the response we are getting in the Survey Section, Seafood Division.

Commissioner Farrelly asked Dr. Ford to explain what happens in the case of 10 applicants failing to keep appointments and in the case of 7 survey notices returned by the post office.

Dr. Ford said their applications for resurvey will be cancelled and they will forfeit their fees.

Commissioner Farrelly complimented the Survey Section for doing an excellent job and hoped they will continue to do the same job.

Chairman Knowles welcomed the new Commission Member, Mr. Ronald Menville from Houma, Louisiana. He stated he was happy to have Mr. Menville on the Commission.

Chairman Knowles recognized Mr. Bill Denton, a former Commission Member, in the audience. He thanked Mr. Denton for attending the meeting.

Mr. John D. Newsom, Assistant Secretary, presented a resolution to the Commission opposing the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's plans to close thirteen (13) of the thirty-one (31) federal fish hatcheries in the southeastern United States. Mr. Newsom said this action by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has come about as a result of the reduction in the federal budget.

Mr. Newsom pointed out the resolution is not a condemnation of the reduction in the budget proposed for the Fish and Wildlife Service but rather it is an indication on our part that we feel the reduction should not be made in the things that are more important to the people and have the reductions in other things not so important. He commented that there is only one federal fish hatchery in Louisiana and this particular one is not going to be closed.

Commissioner Gray asked Mr. Newsom whether or not the thirteen hatcheries to be closed are productive ones or worn-out hatcheries which need to be disposed of.

Mr. Newsom explained that the closure of these hatcheries would reduce the number of fingerlings by about one-half. He further stated that we get all our catfish fingerlings for stocking from the federal hatcheries since we produce no catfish fingerlings in Louisiana. A large portion of our striped bass and hybrid striped bass fingerlings are from the federal hatcheries.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Ronald Menville, and passed unanimously, that the resolution presented by Mr. John D. Newsom regarding closing of thirteen (13) federal hatcheries be adopted.

(The full text of the resolution is here made part of the record)

WHEREAS, the federal warm water fish hatcheries operated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service have performed an invaluable service to the people of the

Southeastern United States for many years, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has enjoyed close cooperation and support from the federal hatcheries in the production of fingerling fish for restocking, and

WHEREAS, federal hatcheries have provided approximately one-half of the fingerlings required for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries stocking program for many years, and

WHEREAS, any curtailment in the federal fish hatchery program will critically affect the ability of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to meet requirements for stocking fish in public waters, and

WHEREAS, we have been informed that plans have been developed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to close 13 of the 31 federal fish hatcheries in the Southeastern United States, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby go on record opposing the closure of federal fish hatcheries in the Southeastern United States and urges the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reconsider the decision to close these hatcheries, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Director, Region 8, and Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, and the Louisiana Congressional delegation.

* * *

Mr. Bennie Fontenot, Chief, Fish Division, stated that in January, 1982, the Commission, using the Emergency Procedures Act, passed a resolution prohibiting netting in Black and Clear Lakes, Natchitoches Parish, for the year 1982, as a result of the Allen Dam collapse. Since this action was under the Emergency Procedures Act, it can be for only 120 days and, therefore, to extend it through the calendar year, it would have to be voted on again.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. George N. Gray, and passed unanimously, that the netting ban in Black and Clear Lakes be continued through the calendar year 1982.

(The full text of the resolution is here made part of the record)

WHEREAS, following the failure of Allen Dam in Natchitoches Parish, the Northwest Game and Fish Preserve Commission passed a resolution barring commercial net fishing on Black and Clear Lakes for calendar year 1982, and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Game and Fish Preserve Commission has since requested the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to take appropriate action in order to enforce this resolution, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Allen Dam collapse, Black and Clear Lakes are undergoing a drastic drawdown which has reduced their water acreage from 14,000 acres to 3,000 acres, thus creating a severe concentration of fish populations which would be detrimentally affected by netting in this particular situation, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby prohibits the use of netting in Black and Clear Lakes, Natchitoches Parish, for the remainder of calendar year 1982.

* * *

Colonel Winton Vidrine, Enforcement Division, gave a report on the activities of the Enforcement Division. An oversight report will be given each month on the Division's activities.

Colonel Vidrine stated that each Commission Member was furnished with a copy of the monthly case reports. In the month of February 1982, the Enforcement Agents issued 1,775 citations as compared to February 1981 when 1,024 citations were issued. This represents an increase of 751 cases.

Chairman Knowles commended the Enforcement Division for their undercover work in the Ruston area. He said it was very timely for the public hearing last night with over three hundred people in attendance. Several people came over and spoke to him about it.

Secretary Guidry said a new system of oversight of operations of Enforcement Division has been instituted through long and hard and sometimes very hectic maneuvers to get this in operation. We are just now beginning to get the results of this. The increase in cases is approximately 60 or 70 percent and it is planned to be kept on that level.

Chairman Knowles said he received from the American League of Anglers, Inc., a report of the expansion bill of the Dingell-Johnson Act. Mr. Knowles stated that about two or three months ago the Commission was asked to vote on a resolution supporting this bill and the resolution was sent to our Congressional delegation. At the time the resolution was adopted, nothing was said about a comprehensive and revealing poll that was made of boat owners by our people.

Chairman Knowles said they are to be commended for this work but asked that the Commission be kept informed as to what our people are doing. He said he found out from an outside agency in Washington, D.C., what was going on in our state.

Commissioner Farrelly stated that he spoke with Mr. Wayne Ducote this morning. Mr. Ducote had a business conflict and was unable to be on time for the departure of the Commission's plane in New Orleans and no commercial flights were available. He said Mr. Ducote apologizes for not being at the meeting.

Chairman Knowles announced the dates of the May regular Commission Meeting which will be in Baton Rouge on May 17 and 18, 1982. The annual seafood supper for the Legislators, paid for by the Commission, will be on Monday night, May 17th, in Baton Rouge.

Secretary Guidry stated he understood there will be an effort made to having the uses of Lake Pontchartrain governed by a commission formed to the governing

bodies of the parishes bordering the lake. For a number of years, this has been on the agenda of the Legislature at each session with little success. It appears that a more strenuous effort will be made this year at the Legislature. This will include permitting and everything involving the lake.

Secretary Guidry felt this action could cause the Department to lose a considerable sum of income that we normally receive. He suggested the Commission may want to discuss this at some future meeting since it is a matter which needs a decision on in the very near future.

Commissioner Farrelly suggested the Commission have an informal meeting on Monday afternoon at 2:00 P.M., May 17, at the District Office, so that the Commission can go over the agenda of the next morning. Also, at that time the Commission would have an opportunity to go over some items or bills they may want to discuss with the Legislators at the seafood supper-meeting that night.

Chairman Knowles said it was an excellent idea and asked Mrs. Pie Pendley to present some of the more critical legislation to the Commission at the informal meeting. He also requested the help of Mr. Joe Herring who is, he said, a watcher of the legislative process over there.

Chairman Knowles announced the dates of the June Commission Meeting which will be held in New Orleans on June 28 and 29, 1982.

Chairman Knowles announced the dates of the April Meeting as April 26 and 27, 1982, at the Sheraton Inn-Airport, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Chairman Knowles announced the dates of the May Meeting as May 17 and 18, 1982, in Baton Rouge. On Monday afternoon, May 17, at 2:00 P.M., the meeting will be held in the District Office. On May 18, 10:00 A.M., the meeting will be held in the Natural Resources Building, if a meeting room is available.

Commissioner Gray asked Secretary Guidry if the Department had a program of looking into situations that are brought to the attention of the Commission, such as, at the meeting last night, a Judge pointed out a law on moving vehicles that needed reworking and another law which needed rewording where we ran into problems with the netting on Toledo Bend. Commissioner Gray asked if anyone was taking notes on these things that are brought to the attention of the Commission.

Secretary Guidry stated that the points brought out by the Judge last night were very good. He said he instructed Colonel Vidrine to interview the Judge and get the information from him. The Judge gave the necessary information and this will be given to Mrs. Pie Pendley today and she will then meet with our attorney. Our legislative counsel will prepare legislation if we feel this is something we ought to do.

Mr. Allan Ensminger, Chief, Fur and Refuge Division, stated the Department has received the stipulations attached to the Marsh Island advertisement for tracts that have been executed by the Russell Sage Foundation. The Foundation signed it and did not make a single change in the stipulations which were approved by the Commission a couple of months ago. The stipulations are available for the industry people to review in preparation of their bids to be submitted to the Mineral Board for the April sale.

Mr. Ensminger further stated the bids are to be opened on April 14th and suggested the Board Minerals Committee attend and be available for any consultation that the State Mineral Board may have at that time. He said there is substantial interest in leases on Marsh Island and if this works out, it will give us possibly some additional funds for the Department to request an appropriation for land acquisition or other worthwhile uses in the Department such as the way the Russell Sage funds have been used in the past.

Mr. J. Martin, Lincoln Parish Police Jury, stated their police jury really appreciated the Commission holding its meeting in Ruston. He said their people are very interested in wildlife and would like for the Commission to hold the Public Hearing there again next year.

Chairman Knowles said he appreciated the large group in attendance at the public hearing last night. The group was very orderly, very concerned and very interested. The Commission, he said, appreciated the opportunity of hearing people telling the Commission how they felt. The Chairman also expressed appreciation to the group attending the Commission Meeting today.

Chairman Knowles recognized Mrs. Gray, wife of Commissioner George N. Gray, and thanked her for coming to the meeting.

Chairman Knowles asked Commissioner Ron Menville for his view of his first Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Ron Menville said he just couldn't believe 400 people showed up for a Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting but it was very gratifying. He said he really enjoyed hearing so many people making so many good comments about the work the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is doing in Louisiana.

Chairman Knowles thanked Mr. Menville for his comments and said he looked forward to many years of working with him on the Commission. He thought he would enjoy it as much as the Commission did.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. James C. Farrelly, and passed unanimously, that the meeting be adjourned.

* * *

Jesse M. Knowles
Chairman

Jesse J. Guidry
Secretary

Minutes transcribed
by Jan Sommers