

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 23, 1981  
and  
Tuesday, November 24, 1981

J. C. GILBERT

CHAIRMAN

400 Royal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

November 23 & 24, 1981

AGENDA

	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Approval of minutes of September 28 & 29, 1981.	1
2. Introduction of Budget Analyst, Ernest LeBlanc.	2
3. Acceptance of land being leased for wildlife management area purposes (adjoins Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area).	2
4. Renewal of free lease offered by Quartre Parish Lumber Company--6,500 acres in West Bay Wildlife Management Area.	2
5. Concur with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for hunting on Delta Wildlife Refuge.	3
6. Permit wintertime fishing in Headquarters Canal and Deep Lake on Rockefeller Refuge.	4
7. Report on status of Causeway early warning system.	4
8. Resolution on Pointe-au-Fer.	5
9. Request for Dingall-Johnson funds item be placed on December agenda.	6
10. Change in December meeting to December 14 & 15.	6
11. Request for roll call to be added to each agenda.	7
12. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.	7
13. Board Committee assignments.	7
14. Reminder to Chiefs for 5-year plan.	9

MINUTES OF MEETING  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

November 23, 1981  
and  
November 24, 1981

Chairman J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert, presiding.

Members present:

Mr. J. C. Gilbert, Chairman  
Mr. Charles A. Riggs, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Wayne C. Ducote  
Mr. James C. Farrelly  
Mr. George N. Gray  
Mr. Jesse M. Knowles  
Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron

Also present:

Mr. Jesse J. Guidry, Secretary

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The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. J. C. Gilbert, on Monday, November 23, 1981, at 2:00 P.M.

A roll call of members present was taken.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and passed unanimously, that the Commission go into a committee of the whole.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and passed unanimously, that the committee of the whole rise and report progress.

Upon motion of Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and passed unanimously, the Commission dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the Commission Meeting held on September 28 and 29,

1981, and moved their adoption.

Chairman Gilbert said the minutes of the October meeting could not be approved at this time since some of the members had not received their copy.

Chairman Gilbert introduced Mr. Ernest LeBlanc, Budget Analyst, Division of Administration, who will be handling the Department's budget.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and passed unanimously that the Department accept the free lease offered by Mrs. Mary McHenry Wade and Mrs. Cornelia McHenry Thomas for 160 acres of land adjoining the west side of Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area.

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

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary McHenry Wade and Mrs. Cornelia McHenry Thomas own 160 acres on the west side of our Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, they are leasing this land to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries free of charge to be added to the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, this 160 acres would add greatly for enforcement and boundary purposes to the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, this lease agreement is the general type used for most wildlife management area free leases, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission accept this lease of 160 acres for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to add to the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area.

\* \* \*

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and passed unanimously, that the Department accept the renewal of a free lease offered

by Quartre Parish Lumber Company for approximately 6,500 acres of land on the southern boundary of our West Bay Wildlife Management Area.

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has received a lease renewal for 6,500 acres of land owned by Quartre Parish Lumber Company, and

WHEREAS, this 6,500 acres of land is an important part of the 55,185 acre West Bay Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, the Quartre Parish Lumber Company is renewing this lease for land free of charge to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for wildlife management area purposes, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission accept this lease agreement from Quartre Parish Lumber Company for lands to be managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for wildlife management area purposes free of charge.

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Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and passed unanimously, that the Department concur with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in their plans to open approximately 35 percent of the Delta National Wildlife Refuge to waterfowl hunting in 1982-83.

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has received a request from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to concur in opening approximately 35 percent of the Delta National Wildlife Refuge for public waterfowl hunting, and

WHEREAS, the Delta National Wildlife Refuge consists of approximately 48,000 acres this will provide 16,800 acres for public hunting and 31,200 acres closed, and

WHEREAS, this will provide additional hunting areas for our sportsmen on an area that has not been opened in the past, and

WHEREAS, such provisions are a step in the forward direction for providing additional public recreational areas, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission concur with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommendation to open approximately 35 percent of the Delta National Wildlife Refuge for public waterfowl hunting.

\* \* \*

Mr. Allan Ensminger, Chief, Fur and Refuge Division, pointed out that the acreage on the Delta proposed to be opened will join the northern side of the 66,000 acre Pass-a-Loutre area so it will really make a beautiful addition.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and passed unanimously, that wintertime fishing be permitted in two additional areas--Headquarters Canal and Deep Lake on the Rockefeller Refuge.

Mr. Gregory Weimar, Undersecretary, gave a report on the Causeway early warning system. He gave some background information stating the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway has been in operation since 1956. During the first 19 years of operation there were 7 accidents serious enough to knock down one or more slabs. In 1974, by Executive Order, the Widgeon was assigned to monitor vessel traffic passing beneath the Causeway and for conducting regular patrols in the vicinity of the Causeway.

Mr. Weimar stated further that the most dangerous situations exist during night-time hours or periods when low visibility or rough sea conditions exist. Although the Widgeon normally patrols on a 24-hour basis, safety

considerations prevent operation during the most crucial periods.

On April 21, 1981, the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission agreed to contribute the sum of \$100,000 towards the purchase of Loran C Early Warning System for the Causeway. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has agreed to install, maintain and operate the system. The technology which exists today will eliminate the need for personnel to operate the system. Present operational costs exceed \$300,000 per year and it is estimated the system can be implemented with the \$100,000 contribution of the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission.

At the present time, the Department is seeking an identification of a radio frequency allocation through the Federal Communications Commission. This system can be implemented in approximately 12 to 18 months after a frequency has been approved.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, and passed unanimously, that the following resolution containing the conditions under which a lease was approved at the September meeting for Ratcliff Materials to dredge shell in the Pointe-au-Fer area be added as an amendment to the September minutes.

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

WHEREAS, the Department announced in its news release to media services of the Commission Agenda on August 17, 1981, that there would be consideration given to a proposed shell dredging lease in the Pointe-au-Fer area at the regular public meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 1981, and

WHEREAS, the matter was considered and discussed at the open meeting of the Commission as a "Committee of the Whole" on Monday afternoon, August 24, and

WHEREAS, the proposed consideration of a shell dredging lease in the Pointe-au-Fer area was discussed again at the regular meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 1981, where it was recommended and agreed to that the

Commission meet as a "Committee of the Whole" in the Baton Rouge office on Wednesday, September 23, at 1:30 P.M. in an open meeting to consider in substantial and specific detail the merits of such a lease, and

WHEREAS, the Department's announcement on September 21, to media services of the Commission's Agenda for the regular public meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 1981, listed this subject as Item 1, and

WHEREAS, the Commission as a "Committee of the Whole" did in fact meet, review, discuss and revise several provisions in the proposed draft lease on Wednesday, September 23, and

WHEREAS, the Commission met again on Monday, September 28, as a "Committee of the Whole" and did further review and revise the proposed shell dredging lease in the interest of the Department and the State, and solicited comments from the public in attendance, and

WHEREAS, the Commission at its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 1981, did receive a recommendation from Dr. Ted Ford, Assistant Secretary, that the lease be approved for execution by the Secretary, and

WHEREAS, the Chairman did solicit comments from those in attendance and no adverse comments were received, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Department is authorized to execute the approved lease in behalf of the Department and the State of Louisiana.

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Chairman Gilbert requested an item be put on the agenda for the December meeting concerning the Dingall-Johnson funds.

Chairman Gilbert announced a change in the dates for the December meeting. The December meeting date is now December 14 & 15, providing two days are needed.

Chairman Gilbert stated if only one day is needed for the meeting, it will be held on December 15th.

Motion was made by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that the December meeting date be changed to December 14 and 15, 1981.

Chairman Gilbert requested that calling of the roll be added to each agenda in the future.

Motion was made by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, seconded by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, and passed unanimously, that Mr. Jesse M. Knowles serve as Chairman of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for the coming year.

Motion was made by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, seconded by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, and passed unanimously, that Mr. James C. Farrelly serve as Vice Chairman of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for the coming year.

Chairman Gilbert turned the chair over to the newly elected Chairman, Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and offered his cooperation and whatever help that he could give him and said each of the Commission Members feel the same way.

Chairman Knowles thanked each member of the Commission for the confidence shown in him. He said he would do the best he could as Chairman and thanked Mr. Gilbert for the efforts and time that he put in to make this Commission a viable operating force in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Chairman Knowles gave the new Committee assignments as follows:

#### BOARD COMMITTEES

Hunting Regulations Committee:

Bobby Orgeron, Chairman  
J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert  
George Gray

Wildlife Management Areas Committee:

George Gray, Chairman  
Wayne Ducote  
J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert

Minerals Committee:

J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert, Chairman  
Jim Farrelly  
George Gray

Oyster & Shrimp Committee:

Jim Farrelly, Chairman  
Bobby Orgeron  
Charlie Riggs

Sports & Commercial Fishing Committee:

Charlie Riggs, Chairman  
Jim Farrelly  
Wayne Ducote

Wildlife and Fisheries General Committee:

Wayne Ducote, Chairman  
Bobby Orgeron  
Charlie Riggs

Chairman Knowles stated the Commission will continue to use the committee system to expedite the work of this Commission as it has been very effective.

Commissioner Ducote stated the staff, the Commission, and the people of the State of Louisiana were extremely fortunate to have Sonny Gilbert as Chairman of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for this past term.

Commissioner Riggs congratulated Sonny Gilbert for an excellent job and that he was one of the finest chairmen he had ever seen. He also said Mr. Knowles would be an excellent Chairman.

Commissioner Farrelly congratulated Chairman Knowles on his appointment as Chairman and he thanked the Members for his appointment as Vice Chairman. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Gilbert for the fine job he has done as Chairman. He looked forward to working with Mr. Knowles and he would do a fine job also.

Secretary Guidry commended Mr. Gilbert on behalf of the employees of the Department for his outstanding performance as Chairman. He thanked him for his cooperation with the Department and his guidance and help with him personally.

Chairman Gilbert thanked the Secretary and all the Members of the Commission for their words and said no Chairman can be any better than the members he works with. He had the utmost cooperation from each Member.

Commissioner Riggs requested Chairman Knowles to give some consideration to someone to represent the Commission regarding legislation. He said some thought should be given to that and thought Mr. Gilbert could represent the Commission well.

Chairman Knowles stated the Commission would work on the matter and thanked Mr. Riggs for his suggestions.

Chairman Knowles stated as a reminder to the Chiefs that he would be looking for the five-year plan in January.

Chairman Knowles said he looked forward to serving this year and looked forward to working with each member of the staff.

Motion was made by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, seconded by Mr. George N. Gray, and passed unanimously, that the meeting be adjourned.

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Jesse J. Guidry  
Secretary

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J. C. Gilbert  
Chairman

Minutes transcribed  
by Jan Sommers