

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 27, 1973

10:00 o'clock a.m.

JERRY G. JONES, Chairman

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



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.

Stenotypists

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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 1973, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Jerry G. Jones, Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

J. G. JONES, Chairman

J. B. ANGELLE, Director

L. J. AUTIN

D. G. BERRY

M. DUPUY, JR.

H. C. LUTTRELL

J. THOMPSON

A G E N D A

LYLE ST. AMANT

1. Request to dredge for river sand in Six Mile (8)
 Lake on the North Side of the Atchafalaya
 Basin Main Channel between Mile 106.8
 and 112.3 from Solar Towing Company of
 Morgan City, Louisiana.

2. Mr. Rene E. Dessommes of Lapont, Inc., requests
 permit to dredge approximately 24,840 (10)
 cubic feet of fill material from Bayou
 Lacombe, Lacombe, St. Tammany Parish,
 Louisiana.

HARRY SCHAFFER

3. Contract to do coring for the new structure (16)
 at Bayou Lamoque.

KENNETH SMITH

4. Restriction of certain commercial netting in (5)
 D'Arbonne Lake.

ALLAN ENSMINGER

5. Request acceptance of bid for repairs to the (19)
 East Headquarters Control Structures on
 Rockefeller Refuge from F. Miller & Sons.
6. Request of Target Resources to excavate (21)
 drilling site on Rockefeller for a
 directional well in the Gulf of Mexico.
7. Coulee Refuge lease agreement, Morehouse (24)
 Parish.

TED O'NEIL

8. Extension of trapping season. (29)

OTHER BUSINESS



- 9. Concordia Parish Police Jury and District Attorney, Bayou Cocodrie Project (41)
- 10. Request for season on menhaden. (12)
- 11. Vermilion Parish Police Jury requests concurrence with Department of Public Works for closures on Channels in vicinity of Schooner Bayou Locks. (66)
- 12. Authorize the Director to poll the Board. (68)

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- Introduction of new Commission Member Dupuy. (4)
 - Film re duck kill, Lake Andes, South Dakota. (28)
 - Discussion re collection of severance tax (relative to trapping season). (30)
 - Election of Vice-Chairman. (70)
 - Nutria meat. (71)

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CHAIRMAN JONES: The meeting will come to order.

Before proceeding with the agenda, I would like to introduce to you a new member of the Commission. On my left, Mr. Marc Dupuy from Marks-ville. Marc is, of course, known to us for many years in his wildlife and conservation work and we



associate one thing with Marc. That is his great effort in helping us get what is now Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area near Marksville. We know Marc is going to be an asset to the Commission. We are glad to have you.

MR. MARC DUPUY: Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will skip a little bit on the agenda. Kenneth Smith has to leave early so, Kenneth, if you want, take yours first.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, for the past three years we have been fishing commercial gear in Lake D'Arbonne, both to determine the effects of this gear on the striped bass fishery which we have established with these fish that we have released that we have obtained out-of-state. We have found that these nets are pretty effective in catching these stripers and it kills a lot of our brood fish.

We fished these nets for 130 net days and we caught 96 striped bass, with 15 commercial fish, six of which were bowfin. The mortality on the stripers was over 50 percent. Now we have taken a survey of D'Arbonne Lake to determine the extent of



commercial fishing on this lake, and we can find only about 18 people who fish this gear. These are mostly the occasional fishermen, weekend campers and so forth, and a lot of times they leave this gear out here unattended, so we are losing quite a few stripers which are very important to this particular lake. This is one of the two lakes in the state we hope to get natural reproduction of stripers.

We find that the trammel and gill nets are the offending nets. The hoop nets do not affect the resource up there or catch the stripers. What we are recommending is that no trammel or gill webbing be permitted on D'Arbonne Lake proper at any time and that this gear not be permitted in a portion of Corney Bayou and D'Arbonne Bayou, upstream from the Lake, during the period February 15 through June 30. This is the time of the year that the stripers spawn is most likely to occur upstream of this water body.

Now we have discussed this with the members of the D'Arbonne Lake Commission verbally. We have not received a written resolution to this

effect. I did talk to the new chairman of the Lake Commission this morning by phone. He assured me they would produce a resolution in writing. They meet next Monday night. I would like to make the closure of this gear conditional to the receipt of this formal resolution. That is the recommendation.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation from Mr. Smith. What is your pleasure?

MR. JAMES THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Berry. Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, data on legal size netting fished by Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission personnel in Lake D'Arbonne in 1970, 1971 and 1972 for a total of 130 net days caught 96

striped bass and only 15 commercial fish, six of which were bowfin, and mortality on the striped bass was over 50 percent, and

WHEREAS, a survey of commercial fishing on D'Arbonne indicates that there are less than 25 people fishing commercial gear on the Lake, and most of these are occasional fishermen, and

WHEREAS, the offending commercial gear are trammel and gill nets, hoop nets presenting no problems,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that no trammel or gill webbing be permitted on D'Arbonne Lake proper at anytime and that this gear not be permitted in the portions of Corney Bayou and D'Arbonne Bayou, upstream from the Lake, during the period February 15 through June 30 of each year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Kenneth. Dr. St. Amant.

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and



Members of the Commission, the first item on the agenda is a request from the Solar Towing Company for a permit to dredge river sand from Six Mile Lake on the north side of the Atchafalaya Basin between Mile 106.8 and 112.3.

This gentleman had applied a month ago to operate in the basin and his map at that time encompassed an area that was questionable. There was some opposition. The permit was delayed one month for further examination. In the meantime he has changed his request to a specific area. I have checked it out with the Corps of Engineers and with the State Land Office and with the Atchafalaya Basin people. We believe that this will not affect any individual and we would recommend that this man be given a permit conditioned on the fact that the property that he plans to dredge in is the property of the State of Louisiana.

MR. THOMPSON: So move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson. Is there a second?

MR. H. C. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant permission
to Solar's Towing Company to remove
river sand from Six Mile Lake on the
north side of the Atchafalaya Basin
between Mile 106.8 and 112.3.

DR. ST. AMANT: The second item is a
request from Lapont, Inc., for a permit to dredge
approximately 24,000 yards of fill material from
Bayou Lacombe in St. Tammany Parish, in order to
improve some property along the bayou edge.

We have checked this out and it is in an
area where there is a considerable amount of con-
struction and housing and it would serve in the
interest of the community. We suggest that the



permit be granted for that period of time necessary to get this amount of material.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. BERRY: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry. Is there a second?

MR. LLOYD AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant permission
to Mr. Rene Dessommes and Lapont, Inc.
to remove approximately 24,840 cubic
yards of fill material from Bayou Lacombe,
St. Tammany Parish.

DR. ST. AMANT: Now shall I take up the



menhaden?

THE CHAIRMAN: While you are up there, go ahead, please.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the Menhaden Advisory Council, through Mr. Jack Styron, has been discussing with the seafood section, with me and with the Commission, the proposition that it would be better management of the menhaden industry if there were a specific season.

After due course of study, we agree that this is a correct appraisal and, therefore, we present this resolution to the Commission for action. It says:

"WHEREAS, the Menhaden Advisory Council of Louisiana, which serves as a vehicle for coordinating industry-wide projects, has requested that consideration be given to a limited season on the taking of menhaden from the waters of the State of Louisiana, as well as the processing of menhaden, and

"WHEREAS, by having a uniform



opening and closing date it will eliminate unnecessary early plant startups, it will increase the chances of the industry maintaining a healthy and continuing source of fish, and

"WHEREAS, an examination of several preceding years' catch records indicates that the best quality fish will be available, and

"WHEREAS, there is 100 percent agreement among the menhaden operators that the starting date should be the third Monday in April and the closing date the second Tuesday in October,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission directs, by Executive Order, that there shall be a limited season on the taking of menhaden from the waters of the State of Louisiana, as well as the processing of menhaden.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the starting date for the taking of



menhaden from the waters of the State of Louisiana, as well as the processing of menhaden, shall be the third Monday in April and the closing date the second Tuesday in October."

Mr. Styron is here. He might like to make a comment before the Board makes a decision.

MR. JACK STYRON: Mr. Chairman and Commission Members, the only comment I have is that I feel this is the first step that our industry has been able to muster to a better management of our industry. Heretofore we have had ideas all over the map as to when we should start and when we should stop. There seems to be a trend now that we must look at our resource and that this is the first step. We hope it will prove as beneficial as we think it will to the industry.

I will be glad to answer any questions, if you are interested in having any. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Styron. At the last meeting we announced our intention to consider this particular resolution and we asked the interested public if they would have objection



to make it known. Dr. St. Amant, have you received any objections?

DR. ST. AMANT: I have not. I would recommend the resolution.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. BERRY: I so move.

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

MR. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any further discussion?

MR. DUPUY: I would like to be recorded as abstaining. This matter was considered last month and I am not familiar with it. This is my first meeting and I would rather not vote on it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dupuy will be listed as abstaining in the voting. Is there any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

Thank you, Doctor. Harry.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman and



Members of the Commission, you will remember in November we approved a contract through the Department of Public Works for soil analysis for the new Bayou Lamoque structure for the introduction of fresh water in the oyster grounds.

The Public Works has informed us that Eustis Engineering Company has completed the contract. However, the analysis that was run on it proved that the soil conditions would require some extra construction in the form of sheet pilings that would be expensive. Upon further field investigation, they found an area about 800 feet downriver of the structure that they had studied, the place they had studied. Now the Department of Public Works is again asking us to issue another contract to the Eustis Engineering Company for approximately \$7,000, to do a soil investigation of this new area that they think would hold the structure.

I would recommend that we issue this contract.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?



MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson. Is there a second?

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, in accordance with the 1972 Louisiana Legislative House Bill 656, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is authorized and directed to construct a New Bayou Lamoque Freshwater Diversion Structure in Plaquemines Parish, and

WHEREAS, by resolution of November 28, 1972, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission requested the Louisiana Department of Public Works to issue a contract to a private concern,



Eustis Engineering Company of Metairie, Louisiana, to perform borings for subsoil investigations on the site which is necessary before construction begins, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined from said borings that the site should be changed to a location more suitable for economical construction as the soils analysis reveals that slide conditions and foundation failures would be imminent without costly construction methods,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby request the Louisiana Department of Public Works to instruct the Eustis Engineering Company to perform additional subsoil investigations at the recommended new site on Bayou Lamoque, located some 800 feet downstream from the original location. It is understood that an estimated \$7,000 is needed for this additional



soil borings.

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Allan.

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission, we have received notice from the Department of Public Works that they have solicited for bids on plans and specifications prepared by their department for the repairs to our East End water control structure on Rockefeller. This bid was in the amount of \$126,200 and was submitted by F. Miller and Sons of Lake Charles, who was the original contractor that built the structure several years ago.

We do have funds available in this year's appropriation for this repair work and I would like to recommend that the Department of Public Works be requested to issue a contract to the low bidder for this project.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?



MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission requested that plans and specification for the repairs to the East End Headquarters water control structures and boat locks located on Rockefeller Refuge was requested through the Department of Public Works, and

WHEREAS these plans and specifications have been prepared and advertised for bids by the Department of Public Works, and

WHEREAS a low bid in the amount



of \$126,000 was submitted by F. Miller and Sons, Inc., of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and

WHEREAS funds for the repairs to this structure were budgeted in the 1972/73 operating budget,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby request that the Department of Public Works issue a contract to the low bidder of F. Miller and Sons, Inc., to effect all repairs called for on the plans and specifications, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized to execute all documents pertaining to this project.

MR. ENSMINGER: The second matter that I have on the agenda for your consideration is a request from Target Resources Corporation of Houston, Texas, to excavate a drilling site on Rockefeller Refuge.



This proposed drilling site would utilize a portion of beach prong into State Lease 6077, which is right on the extreme western tip of Rockefeller Refuge. What this company is proposing to do is to excavate a canal into the refuge and out of the Gulf of Mexico and then directionally drill back out into the Gulf of Mexico on an existing state lease that they have offshore. This would be in our opinion a direct violation of the Deed of Donation of Rockefeller, because there is a specific clause in the donation that states that the refuge would not be used for commercial purposes off of the area.

Therefore, I would recommend to the Board that Target Resources' request be denied at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. DUPUY: So move.

MR. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?



(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS the State Mineral Board has received a request from Target Resources Corporation to excavate a surface well location into State Lease 6077 from the Gulf of Mexico onto Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, and

WHEREAS this surface well location would be utilized for directional drilling offshore onto State Lease 6077, and

WHEREAS, this type of commercial use of the Refuge is prohibited by the Deed of Donation,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby deny permission for Target Resources Corporation



to construct the surface well location in order to drill a directional hole off of the Refuge.

MR. ENSMINGER: The last item I have for your consideration is a request that we have received from Erle Barham and his sister, Mrs. Dorothy Dale Bratton of Oak Ridge, Louisiana.

These individuals for the past approximately twenty years have made available to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission their property known as the Coulee Wildlife Refuge for our use as a wildlife management area. This area has been available to the Commission free of charge with no expenses to the Commission and over the years the farming activity around the perimeter of the refuge has reduced the area quite substantially.

The area was originally established as a waterfowl resting area for ducks utilizing the Whambrake area to escape from gunning pressure over on Wham. Now Mrs. Bratton is desirous of removing her portion of this property from the refuge at this time. This would involve approximately 500 acres that she is wanting to remove.



This would leave 844 acres in the refuge. Of this 844 acres, approximately 200 to 250 acres will be in one of the impoundments that will remain in the refuge. Mr. Barham has offered to extend to the Commission a new ten-year lease for no expense to the Commission if we so desire to continue in this lease with him.

The refuge has been a very successful wildlife management tool in the Monroe area and it is our feeling that it has added substantially to the hunting success on Wham Brake. With this in view, I would like to recommend that we do grant Mrs. Bratton the withdrawal of her portion of the property and to enter into an additional lease with Mr. Erle Barham for his property. On the Bratton portion of the area, we do have one water control structure that was installed back in the early 1960's and we do have the right to remove this structure if we so desire, but I would recommend at this time that the structure be abandoned because it was a secondhand structure at the time it was installed and I think the physical expense of digging it out from under this large levee system



would be far in excess of any value of the structure. This was a part of the original lease that we can abandon these structures with the landowner's agreement at the time the leases are terminated.

THE CHAIRMAN: As I understand, Allan, we really have no choice in the matter. They have the right under the lease agreement to withdraw acreage upon giving us notice.

MR. ENSMINGER: This is right. Of course, she has always been extremely cooperative with the Commission and I think that this family has really been a commendable, civic-minded group of people in this Monroe area.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. BERRY: I so move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution



is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission for more
than 20 years has enjoyed the free use
of properties located in Morehouse Parish
belonging to Erle M. Barham and Mrs. Dale
Barham Bratton, commonly known as the
Coulee Wildlife Refuge, and

WHEREAS Mrs. Bratton has
requested that her portion of this
property be removed from the Refuge, and

WHEREAS this prerogative is
contained in the existing lease between
the landowners and the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS Mr. Erle M. Barham
has requested to renegotiate a new
lease for his property,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission does hereby grant
the request of Mrs. Dale Barham Bratton



to withdraw her property located within the Coulee Wildlife Refuge and

FURTHERMORE does hereby abandon unto Mrs. Bratton all water control facilities belonging to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, and

FURTHERMORE does hereby enter into a new lease agreement with Erle M. Barham for his property within the Refuge,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the director is hereby authorized to execute all documents pertaining to the cancellation of the lease with Mrs. Dale Barham Bratton and the entrance into a new lease with Erle M. Barham.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ted. While Ted is coming to the microphone, I want to tell you that after the meeting we have in the adjoining room the projector set up. You have been reading about the duck kill up on the federal refuge at Lake Andes, South Dakota. Two of our biologists and a photographer made a trip up there and we have some movie



film and some slides in color. It would be well worth your while as sportsmen if you would like to see them. After the meeting, if you want to stay around, it doesn't take but about ten minutes to look at them. I assure you, it will make you sick to look at them, to see where your ducks have been.

MR. O'NEIL: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission, this season, as you know, has been one of the greatest trapping seasons we have had in a number of years, from the standpoint of weather conditions and pricewise. There have been very few requests -- there have been a couple of requests -- to extend the trapping season, and the only reason we have ever agreed to do this is primarily for biological reasons for overabundance of animals on a piece of property.

This year the animals have been trapped fairly close, you might say real close, and it is my suggestion that we close the season on the 28th and enforce it, possibly giving the fellows five days to pick up their traps and gear and then have a strict enforcement of the trapping season.

THE CHAIRMAN: Looking in the audience,



I think there are probably some people that might want to be heard on this issue, so, Ted, is there anyone in the audience that wants to be heard on the question of whether or not the trapping season should be extended?

O.K., we have one gentleman that wants to be heard. Ted, why don't you be seated for a minute. Would you please come to the microphone and state your name, sir, and where you are from?

MR. EDGAR MONNIN: My name is Edgar Monnin. I live in Boothville, Louisiana. I am in favor of closing the season tight for the simple reason that these people that are asking for this extension have no land at all. They are trapping other people's land. They are trapping you all's land. They are trapping the federal refuge land. They are trapping Mark Gillespie's land. They are trapping everybody's land but their own land. They ain't got no land. So, to me, I am in favor of closing this season down tight. I think we had a good season and let's leave some of the animals in the marsh for next year, because Plaquemines Parish where I live has produced more animals this year



than it ever did in the whole history. I say let's leave the seed in the marsh for the rest of the year and let them produce and then we will have another good season next year. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. I know this is not the first time you have been here. You are interested in the fur business and we appreciate it. We appreciate your coming.

MR. MONNIN: This is the second or third time I have been here. I have been in the fur business since 1917. I want you all to know that, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Is there anyone else in the audience that would like to be heard?

(No response)

You have heard the recommendation of Mr. O'Neil. What is your pleasure?

MR. THOMPSON: I move acceptance.

MR. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?



(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, for purposes of clarification, the season is already set and there is not going to be an extension?

THE CHAIRMAN: That is correct.

MR. DUPUY: That is all the resolution is going to say.

THE CHAIRMAN: Right.

FROM THE FLOOR: They have five days?

THE CHAIRMAN: Five days to take the traps up.

FROM THE FLOOR: And enforce the law?

THE CHAIRMAN: Enforce the law.

MR. J. BURTON ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to state also at this time for the record that Senator Duval called and concurred with the proposition of not extending the season. He asked that this be put on record because some of the people he represented have gotten in touch with him and could not be here today.

THE CHAIRMAN: For the benefit of the press, muskrats are selling for \$5.10 apiece,



something unheard of before.

MR. O'NEIL: Mr. Chairman, may I say a word?

THE CHAIRMAN: Give us a rundown, Ted, on what all the furs are selling for.

MR. O'NEIL: Well, the furs have sold for extreme prices. In fact, we could say that prices might look a little too good. This was the year for muskrats in the western part of the state. They brought \$5 round, and in the eastern part of the state, there were a lot of lots that brought \$3 and over. The nutria in the western part of the state brought \$5, \$5.25 and the nutria in the eastern part of the state brought \$3. The otter was \$40 pretty near throughout the season and even the raccoon brought from \$2 to \$5, in the northern part of the state, some \$6. The meat brought a good price.

I think the trappers have had an excellent season, probably an unprecedented season for pricewise, and the catch was good. They hustled animals and they made a good catch. Our catch is going to be up, even.



THE CHAIRMAN: What did the nutria meat sell for?

MR. O'NEIL: The nutria meat sold -- I found out, you know we had a real hassle to get rid of our nutria meat last year because the fly program was so successful in Mission, Texas, that there weren't any more flies, and the rumors are that some of the fellows working at the plant might have turned some flies loose. They got loose this year and it started up the whole meat program again and we didn't have enough meat.

THE CHAIRMAN: You never did answer my question. What did the meat sell for? What did the trapper get for it?

MR. O'NEIL: The trapper got five cents, from three to five cents, which pays all his expenses. Jerry, you do ask some funny questions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I saw a meat man in the back but he's not a trapper. Thank you, Ted.

MR. O'NEIL: On our beaver, we didn't discuss the beaver. Now Mr. Luttrell suggests that we improve the beaver situation or control of the beaver. They are doing a lot of damage in the



crops and a lot of damage to the timber. Mr. Campbell suggested this morning that he will take pictures for us and we will redo a beaver reprint on skinning. We will do a magazine. The trade school did this magazine a few years ago on nutria skinning, which has been a lot of assistance to our trappers. Mr. Campbell took the pictures; I see his name in here. He is the one that took these photographs.

Now we need to redo a similar magazine on nutria, redo it, and on beaver, and distribute that, and I think we can get the beaver price up to possibly \$15 instead of \$4 or \$5.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ted, for purposes of the record, as I understand, you did have some requests from people to extend the trapping season. Would you tell us who these people were so that we will have it in the record?

MR. O'NEIL: Yes, we had a request from the Council, the Plaquemines Parish Council, and I am sure that request, I found out later, stemmed from the federal refuge on the east side of the Mississippi River, on the delta, national wildlife refuge. They had some reason, because they didn't



start trapping until after the duck season was over. The waterfowl refuge is to protect waterfowl and the gun pressure drives a lot of ducks on the refuge, so they did not trap until after the hunting season was over. I talked to both refuge managers down there yesterday and today and they have agreed to go along with us.

Then we had another request from Lafourche Parish, a pretty strong request, but it seems, from what I could find out, most of this stemmed from a meat organization. We think it did.

FROM THE FLOOR: I will negate that.

MR. O'NEIL: It did not? O.K. I will stand corrected on that. Then we had one other request from Miss McIlhenny, the McIlhenny Company. That is the extent of our requests for an extension.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ted.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. O'Neil, before you go, is it standard procedure to estimate the economic impact of the fur industry on the state's economy? Is this part of your responsibilities?

MR. O'NEIL: That is correct.

MR. DUPUY: When do you do this?



MR. O'NEIL: We will have our severance tax records completed around July. It usually takes until July to get everything together and go through all the dealers' books and get our totals.

THE CHAIRMAN: What was the impact last year of the fur industry? Rough figure.

MR. O'NEIL: Seven million.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seven million dollars?

MR. O'NEIL: Yes, and I have been anticipating right at ten this year, which is money that is distributed well throughout the state to a lot of little people that need it. It is good money and it is new money into the state. It is European money and New York money. It is not just us turning our own money around.

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. O'Neil, when are the fur dealers supposed to turn in their money to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission after they have been audited by our field people? Is there a certain deadline, according to their license?

MR. O'NEIL: Yes.

MR. ANGELLE: What is their responsibility to us?



MR. O'NEIL: When their books are audited, they get their bill, immediately after their books are audited. Now it takes considerable time. I believe we are short of auditors. You might look into that. It seems like we could use somebody else in there.

MR. ANGELLE: Is there a time limit in the law for this money to be turned over to us?

MR. O'NEIL: No, there is not.

MR. ANGELLE: There is no time limit?

MR. O'NEIL: No time limit.

MR. ANGELLE: By law, for the severance tax to be paid.

MR. O'NEIL: No, really it jogs between one year and the next. It jogs between -- you see, our season is '72-73 and we will be auditing the '72 books in July but some of the '73 furs will be in there, and some of the furs that might have been held back that were not shipped in '73 might fall into that severance tax collection. That money will probably all be in by July or August.

Is there some question as to when the money was supposed to come in, our severance tax?



MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, shouldn't there be some time limit on that?

THE CHAIRMAN: Ted, you mean to tell me that we don't have a time limit when they have to remit their severance tax to us?

MR. O'NEIL: When their books are audited, that is when they always remit it.

THE CHAIRMAN: You determine the amount of severance tax when you audit the books?

MR. O'NEIL: Let me explain that a little further. They have deposited, the out-of-state dealers have deposited \$1,000 against their severance tax, and the state dealers have deposited, when they buy their license, have deposited \$500 against their severance tax. When the audit is made, if they exceed -- you see, that is money that they give us that we are using way before they do anything. If they exceed this severance tax, when their books are audited and they exceed \$1,000 on tax, then they pay that amount.

MR. ANGELLE: That is a performance bond, isn't it?

MR. O'NEIL: Many of the smaller dealers



do not exceed this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ted, in other tax instances in the state, the way we collect taxes is that at the completion of the season, they file a return with you and give you the money. Then, of course, you go back and you audit them whenever you've got time. It doesn't hurry you in the audit and if they are wrong, they have got to remit the money, or you remit back to them. It seems simple to me. You could have a form where they remit to you, "I owe you so much tax," and they send it to you at the end of the season, and then throughout the year you are in no hurry to audit them. It really would make no difference when you audit them.

MR. O'NEIL: Do you want to make that suggestion? We may get our attorney to work with us and draw it up.

THE CHAIRMAN: If we can do it. Then we get our money right at the end of the season. Then the audit business, you are not rushed into auditing and you don't need a whole bunch of auditors.

MR. BERRY: Say 30 days after the close of the season.



THE CHAIRMAN: Why don't you look into it? Maybe there are some problems involved that we can't do that. Check it.

MR. O'NEIL: O.K., sure.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ted. Any more questions for Ted? Thank you.

MR. SONNY SUMMERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, you remarked about the nutria meat. Would it be appropriate now?

THE CHAIRMAN: Let's wait until the end.

Who wants to handle the Concordia Parish Police Jury matter? Dick?

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have with us today Mr. Rodney Crouch, president of the Concordia Parish Police Jury. I believe that he has a request that he wants to make of the Commission at this time, and there may be others here that want to be heard on this subject, so if it meets with your approval, we will ask Mr. Crouch to come forth.

THE CHAIRMAN: Fine.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Crouch, will you come over here to the mike?



MR. RODNEY S. CROUCH: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission, I have with me one member of the jury and a right-of-way agent and some members of the Public Works from our district. We also have a map that I would like you gentlemen to look at while we go along with the reason for this request, if you don't mind.

We would like to familiarize you with our problems in our parish and let you know what situation we are in, in our parish, as far as drainage is concerned. First we want to thank you for giving us the time to meet with you. Our purpose at this time is to clarify our position on the drainage in Concordia Parish.

You will note on the map we have prepared, showing Concordia Parish, that this parish is completely surrounded by a levee. We have the Mississippi River on the east side of the parish, the Tensas, Black and Red Rivers on the west and south sides of the parish. The parish is setting more or less in a saucer shape, and all of the drainage in this parish must go down through Bayou Cocodrie to the locks and into the Red River except a minor area



north of Clayton at Dumbarton. However, during flood stage, the gates have to be closed in this area. When the Red River stage is low enough, the flood gates at Red River can be opened at the lower end of Bayou Cocodrie and a natural flow of water goes into the Red River out of the parish, draining Cocodrie Bayou and the parish in general.

When we get a flood stage that we have at present, we have to close the flood gates at Red River to keep the Red River from flowing into the parish, and when we do this, there is no possibility of the water going out of the parish in free flow. The only possible way to get relief from this situation is by using pumps.

I am sure that you gentlemen are familiar with the project that the U. S. Corps of Engineers have worked and are working on to install these pumps at the lower end of Bayou Cocodrie. Until we get these pumps the drainage in this parish is in such a condition that it will be impossible for our farmers in the low lands of the parish and the areas that need draining to farm their crops.

Gentlemen, let me make it completely



plain that basically we agree with your Wild Life and Fisheries program. Surely you gentlemen must realize that we are familiar with our problems in our parish. We all love to hunt and fish. We are familiar with the economy of our parish. We realize that wild life in our parish contributes considerably to our economy and we would be the last to want to destroy the fish and wildlife in this area. However, as you must know, we must do everything possible to protect our farming industry, as it is the lifeblood of our parish.

In 1951 the Concordia Parish Police Jury and the Department of Public Works spent approximately \$500,000 for a parish drainage program. Since 1956 the Department of Public Works has spent approximately \$220,000 on drainage in Concordia Parish. As far back as before 1957, the U. S. Corps of Engineers were familiar with our problem in drainage and started planning a pumping station at the lower end of Cocodrie Bayou. They have spent many dollars and much time designing and preparing the project.

Then in 1965 the Soil Conservation Service



was requested by the Police Jury to make a study and they have worked up a program for drainage for our parish. Then in 1970 the legislature passed Act 398, known as the Scenic Rivers Act. This act was passed with absolutely no notice to the officials of this parish other than the Senator and Representative. They were not familiarized with the parts of this program. Had they been aware of the impact of this act, they certainly would have done everything in their power to have eliminated the position that we are now placed in.

Surely you are aware that this is a legal disagreement as to who has the control over the drainage in this parish. Long before there was a Scenic Rivers Act, the Police Jury was given the authority to govern the drainage and roads of this parish. There is no question about that. The President of Concordia Parish Police Jury, Mr. Falkenheiner, the District Attorney, and a delegation from the parish met with your Commission on March 22, 1971. Mr. Falkenheiner presented our situation and asked your Commission to give us the guidelines in writing that would conform with Act



398. This we have never received.

According to the U. S. Corps of Engineers, the cost of the pumping station and related work will be in excess of \$12,100,000. The North Concordia watershed will be in excess of \$6,209,000 and the central watershed in excess of \$5,214,000. As you see, there is a possibility of having a total of approximately \$23,339,000 spent in the parish for needed improvements.

Adequate drainage and flood control work is now stalemated by the confusion caused with the passage of the act creating a natural and scenic rivers system in 1970 and from failure of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission as administrators of the system to furnish any guidelines or criteria to be followed in complying with these laws.

We would ask of you gentlemen to please give us an official interpretation in writing on the Scenic Rivers Act, making it plain as to what portion of the drainage in this parish that you object to and tell us exactly what the act means. We feel that you gentlemen should adopt rules and regulations for your employees as to the statements



they can make in connection with your programs of the Wild Life and Fisheries. We can't believe that you men are familiar with the wild pronouncements that the employees of your department are making.

However, if you are in agreement with these methods they are using in telling our farmers and the people in our parish what is against the law as far as drainage and land clearance is concerned, we would like for you to put it in writing.

Let me assure you that this situation is critical. We ask you to give this matter your earnest attention. Surely as responsible people we can work out a solution to these problems.

We thank you gentlemen for your time and trust that we can work in peace and harmony.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Crouch. Does anybody have any questions of Mr. Crouch?

MR. THOMPSON: I would like to know some of those statements that our people have been making that are in a derogatory or whatever vein.

MR. CROUCH: Well, they are telling --

MR. THOMPSON: I would like to know who makes those statements, also.



MR. CROUCH: I am not prepared to give you that. If I was, I wouldn't tell you who it was, to start with.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, there was no point to putting it in the minutes then if you are not going to tell us who. In other words, you could have dreamed it up. I am not saying that you did.

MR. CROUCH: I am not a dreamer.

MR. THOMPSON: I would agree with you there, but for the sake of an argument here, I don't appreciate your position at all, because if you are going to come in and accuse this department of something and someone, we would like to know about it so we can straight it out, for your benefit, as well as ours. If you make accusations, you should be prepared to back them up.

MR. CROUCH: It is being told. I say, it is being told.

MR. LUTTRELL: Let me interfere a minute. Now unless we know who is making these statements and what statements he is making, there is no way in the world for us to correct it. You see, your request has no basis because we don't know who said



what. Do you see the point?

MR. CROUCH: I know what you are talking about, yes.

MR. LUTTRELL: So you have to tell us what was said and who said it, and then we will have to decide what we can do about correcting it.

MR. CROUCH: Well, gentlemen, all we would like for you to do at the present time is to give us the position you take, what guidelines you have on the Scenic Rivers Act in Concordia Parish.

I could go back and tell you lots of things about Concordia Parish that probably none of you ever know anything about.

THE CHAIRMAN: One thing I know about Concordia Parish is when you get caught up there, illegally killing a deer, they lay it on you, and I commend you people up there for it.

MR. CROUCH: That's what it ought to be.

THE CHAIRMAN: I commend you for that.

MR. THOMPSON: Let me, if I may come back and, not clarify, but tell you that I am thoroughly familiar with your problem. I am also very familiar



with the area that you have in discussion and that actually I lean toward your side quite a bit, but not to the detriment of Wild Life and Fisheries.

MR. CROUCH: Not me, either. I wouldn't agree to that at all.

MR. THOMPSON: But when you make an accusation like this, this makes this Board to me look bad, and I would like to get to the root of it.

MR. CROUCH: I didn't have any intention of making your Board look bad at all. All I was getting at was some of the accusations that have been made by some of the Wild Life people in our parish up there as to what the farmer can do and what land he can clear and what he can't clear. Now, gentlemen, you know as well as I do that you can't go to a farmer up in Concordia Parish or any other farmer and tell him what land he can clear or where he can cut a ditch.

MR. BERRY: Are you telling me that our agents are telling the farmers in Concordia Parish what land they can clear and can't clear?

MR. CROUCH: They can tell them where they can cut a ditch and can't cut it into Cocodrie.



That's right, because it is in the Scenic Rivers.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, in order that we avoid any kind of personalities and enable us to get along with this matter, I would recommend that our staff try to furnish certain guidelines that would implement and facilitate the Scenic Rivers Act, that would serve as a guide to you.

MR. CROUCH: Right. That's what we want.

MR. DUPUY: Guidelines that can be fitted to certain types of operations within the system --

MR. CROUCH: Right.

MR. DUPUY: -- within that portion of the Cocodrie Bayou that is within the Scenic Rivers Act and also some guidelines that we may consider necessary for that portion below Wild Cow Bayou or Open Bayou which would not be within the Scenic Rivers Act.

MR. CROUCH: Mr. Chairman, may I add one thing to this? I want to tell you that I am on the side of the Wild Life and Fisheries. I have been with the Wild Life and Fisheries for a long time, and believe in their work, but I have also got to be with the farmers of my parish because that is



our lifeline, farming in our parish.

To go back just a little bit, I can tell you that the Police Jury and the Wild Life and Fisheries went together and built this weir at the mouth of Wild Cow there in Cocodrie Bayou, which gave you something to call a scenic river or to put in the Scenic Rivers Act. We built that weir for the purpose of holding this water to a certain stage, and that is the part that is in the Scenic Rivers Act now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Crouch, let me see if we can get to the point. As I understand your request, you are asking that we give you some guidelines of what can be done and what can't be done on that portion of Cocodrie that is included in the Scenic Rivers Act.

MR. CROUCH: That's right, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, do we have any problems involving that portion that is not in the Scenic Rivers Act? As I understand, we were called upon, under Memorandum 108, to make some evaluation of the project for the SCS which involves the entire project. Is that still in the making, or is that --



MR. CROUCH: All we are interested in at the present time is the part that is below Wild Cow Bayou, going to the pumping station, and the Scenic Rivers Act. Them and them only. That is all we are interested in at this present time.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to second what I thought was a motion by Mr. Dupuy.

THE CHAIRMAN: O.K., fine. It has been moved and seconded that we provide guidelines of what can be done and what can't be done in the area of Cocodrie Bayou that is covered by the Scenic Rivers Act. That is your motion, isn't it, Marc?

MR. DUPUY: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion?

MR. BERRY: How long would it take our people to provide this service for the police jury? Dick, does that come under your department?

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me inject something which may have something to do --

MR. YANCEY: I think that any recommendations we would make along this line would have to come back before this Commission before we forwarded



it to the police jury.

THE CHAIRMAN: Correct.

MR. YANCEY: Perhaps -- Robert, do you think this could be done in time for the March meeting of the Commission?

MR. LaFLEUR: I am sure we could make every effort.

MR. YANCEY: Prepare some recommended do's and don't's on the Scenic Rivers portion of Cocodrie Bayou.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think what would probably help -- Mr. Angelle reminded me -- would be if we could receive from you your plans as finalized now, as best as you have, so that when they are making their comments and recommendations, that they will have the benefit of that. I don't think there will be any problem getting from you what your plans are and what you want to do. No problem about that, is there?

MR. CROUCH: No problem.

MR. ANGELLE: The plans are presently available?

THE CHAIRMAN: Are they presently available?



Do you have them with you?

MR. CROUCH: I don't have them all with me. I suspect it would be best if we got it all together for you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Give me your attention, please. I have been reminded by the Commission's attorneys that one of the things that we should do, the Commission should do, is set up some mechanics for handling situations such as this, and they are prepared to present to us also at the March meeting the mechanics for the handling of hearings and the like, and they will have that recommendation to us next month.

Mr. Crouch, the other problem, as I was trying to bring up a minute ago, this is not the only part of the problem where we are involved.

MR. CROUCH: I know, it is in all --

THE CHAIRMAN: No, I am talking about even on your project, because as I understand the Environmental Protection Act, we wind up having to comment on your environmental impact statement and the like, involving the entire project, not just this portion of it. That is why I was asking you



at the beginning, are you looking for just guidelines on a portion, because as a practical matter, we are going to be involved in the entire project.

MR. BERRY: All the way around.

MR. CROUCH: We are mostly interested at the present time, Mr. Chairman, with that portion of Cocodrie Bayou that is not in the Scenic River, below the Scenic Rivers Act, what is in the Scenic Rivers Act, which goes to the pumps, and what drainage we can put into the Scenic River.

THE CHAIRMAN: O.K., Mr. Yancey.

MR. YANCEY: Let me say one thing, Mr. Crouch. The Commission is in no way opposed to the installation of that pump at the mouth of Cocodrie Bayou and we have so submitted letters to all of those concerned. Is there any question about the Commission's stand on the pumping plant. If there is, we can clear that up right now.

MR. CROUCH: I wish you would and send a letter, Mr. Yancey.

ANOTHER POLICE JURY MEMBER: That is a question. We have never gotten anything in writing from the Commission as to their position on this.



MR. YANCEY: Letters have been, I believe, forwarded to virtually all parties concerned, stating that the Commission --

THE CHAIRMAN: Here is a letter from the District Engineer, the Corps of Engineers, addressed to Mr. Hoffpauer, April, 1971. "I refer to your letter of April 1, 1971, to Colonel Brennan, regarding the status of the Tensas-Cocodrie pumping plant and channel improvement of the lower 22 miles. We are aware that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries does not oppose construction of the pumping plant and related channel work in the lower 22 miles of Bayou Cocodrie. Your Commission is not holding up planning on this project."

It went on to say, "Enactment of the Louisiana law relating to the natural and scenic rivers system may affect the design of the pumping plant."

MR. YANCEY: There seems to be some misunderstanding there that the Commission has objected to these features in the project, but I think, Mr. Crouch, that this letter clarifies our position in connection with this. We can certainly give them



a copy of that.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, can we give them a new letter.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Corps clearly understands that we are not holding that up at all. They said so in April, 1971, two years ago.

MR. CROUCH: We appreciate that, Mr. Yancey.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Crouch, I believe from the conversation just now that we were on a different frequency there. Would you like to more thoroughly explain about these accusations? I think some of your members can cue you in if you are not quite familiar, that that wasn't men in our organization. That was another organization. Am I correct there? I am not sure.

MR. CROUCH: The Federation is where the accusations --

MR. THOMPSON: Not the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries.

MR. CROUCH: No, it was the Federation.

MR. THOMPSON: You are talking about the Louisiana Wildlife Federation?



MR. CROUCH: The Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Bosch's organization. Yes. Thank you.

MR. LUTTRELL: Let me assure you that we are in sympathy with your problem because so many of us are farmers, part-time and full-time farmers, so we are in sympathy with whatever affects the farmer.

MR. YANCEY: There was a gentleman here by the name of Berry Cole earlier that wanted to submit this letter so that it would be made a part of the record and he states that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and the Orleans Audubon Society would like to make known our position concerning the above projects which have to do with Bayou Cocodrie in Concordia Parish.

The No. 1 position that they have listed here, "We are in favor of a pumping station."

MR. CROUCH: They are in favor of the pumping station but not if it is in the Scenic Rivers.

MR. YANCEY: Well, no, I think the question



here had to do with a pumping station and they state here that they are in favor of the pumping station, and Charlie Bosch, Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, is present and he may want to clarify their position on that point.

There seems to be a general misunderstanding here about who is in favor of what. To our knowledge, no one is objecting to the pumping station.

MR. CROUCH: Well, Dick, I'll tell you, we appreciate the stand you are taking on the lower part of it, because we need the pumping station worse right now than we need anything else. If we had the pumping station right now, we would be in a whole lot better shape than we are.

MR. YANCEY: In connection with the pumping station, this letter from the Corps is dated back in 1971, which clarifies the position of this department.

MR. CROUCH: He says we did receive a letter. I never saw the letter.

MR. CECIL BROOKING, JR.: I had the letter that I took to Vicksburg when we visited the



Corps of Engineers, over Mr. Hoffpauer's signature, stating that there was no objection to this development of the sump in the lower 22 miles or the installation of the pumping station. Now the position of the Commission is the same as it was in '71. The only thing that we will have to come to you for then is right-of-ways on that lower area there, because you all have extensive wildlife management areas in that area down there.

MR. DUPUY: Could we get his name for the record?

MR. BROOKING: Cecil Brooking, Concordia Police Jury.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick, so that we don't have any misunderstanding, and the Board is about ready to vote on the matter, Mr. Angelle has reminded me that why don't you just take a minute and explain the business that all of this is going to be back, once they submit their environmental impact statement, involving the entire project; that once this phase is complete, they will still come back.

MR. YANCEY: I suspect that they are



aware of this and that all federal construction projects now have to be accompanied by an environmental impact statement that is prepared by the construction agency and commented on by whoever wants to comment on it.

THE CHAIRMAN: What I didn't want the Commission to be faced with was that we are dealing only with a part of the Bayou and they submit their statement later for other matters and we wind up having some difficulties with it and they go back and tell us, "You have already approved all that."

MR. YANCEY: Robert Murray handed me a written statement that was presented at the Concordia Parish Police Jury February 14, 1972, in which he states, "No. 1. The pumping plant. The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does not oppose a pumping plant." This is underlined. "And has offered to provide the land required for the location site." No. 2. The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, Mr. Crouch, does not oppose the channel enlargement of the lower 22 miles of Bayou Cocodrie. I think, as you said earlier, if these two projects could be accomplished,



then a lot of your problems would be solved. When the Red River is high and you can't get gravity drainage through the Bayou Cocodrie structure, then you could use a pumping plant to dispose of surplus water from inside the ring levee.

I hope that this clarifies the position of the Commission, that it is not in any way opposed to either one of these two projects.

MR. CROUCH: I knew that you didn't oppose this, but all I wanted -- I didn't know that we had a letter confirming this from the Wild Life and Fisheries.

MR. BROOKING: We visited the Corps of Engineers with these letters from your Department and they were still reluctant to become a part of this project because there was some question as to whether or not this did in any way affect the Scenic Rivers Act.

Now there is a weir down there at the lower portion and if you interpret it that this will not affect the bayou above that area, then I think it would help us developing a little bit of communication with the Corps of Engineers, because



at this time they are very reluctant to even talk to us about it.

MR. YANCEY: O.K.

MR. BROOKING: We would also like to remove a couple of, well, unnatural obstacles that have been thrown in the bayou when logging was taking place and that sort of thing, and all of this is running right down the middle of my ward. We have got, I imagine, between a hundred and two hundred thousand acres under water down there in the lower end, and a big bunch of that is you all's.

These two things are what I need primarily, a statement that you do not oppose -- Dick, how did you word that?

MR. YANCEY: I was referring to the pumping plant in the lower 22 miles.

MR. BROOKING: I mean I wrote you a letter about six months ago. How did we word that?

MR. YANCEY: In connection with those two silted-in areas?

MR. BROOKING: Well, one was silted in and the other was a dam thrown across by a logger.

MR. YANCEY: Well, what we had asked for



was that we be given some supplementary information that would show profiles and the plans and the specifications on the extent of the excavation work and then we could be in a position to give you an answer. I mentioned this to Mr. Sledge by telephone a couple of times, but we never did really get anything, any further details on the exact nature of what was going to be done. If we had that, then we could go ahead and act on it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I believe we understand the request and, without getting into specifics, I think the Commission is ready to vote on the matter.

MR. THOMPSON: I am ready for the question.

THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor of the resolution, say "aye".

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed, "no".

(No response)

Passed.

MR. CROUCH: Mr. Chairman, we thank you for your time and your courtesy that you have shown us.

THE CHAIRMAN: O.K., but stay on those



deer hunters up there.

MR. CROUCH: We will.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick, do you want to handle the matter of the Schooner Bayou Locks?

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have a request from the Vermilion Parish Police Jury that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission would concur in the installation of five earthen and timber pile structures in the vicinity of Schooner Bayou, for purposes of preventing salt water intrusion into the Mermentau basin area, from which the rice farmers obtain their irrigation water.

We would like to recommend that the Commission adopt a resolution concurring in their request. Since the construction of the Freshwater Bayou Navigation Channel through the Vermilion marshes, salt water now enters that area from Vermilion Bay, and it is adversely affecting not only the marsh but the quality of the water being used for irrigation purposes. The installation of these dams, as recommended by the Department of Public Works, would no doubt help alleviate this



problem and the installation of the dams will be financed by the Department of Public Works. There will be no Commission funds involved in this program.

THE CHAIRMAN: O.K., it costs us nothing. You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Is there any discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, the Vermilion Parish Police Jury has requested that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission take a position regarding the installation of several dams in the vicinity of Schooner Bayou for the



purpose of preventing saltwater intrusion into the Mermentau Basin; and

WHEREAS, it has been concluded that these structures will also benefit fish and wildlife resources in the freshwater marshlands that have been adversely affected by saltwater entering into the area from Vermilion Bay through the Freshwater Bayou Navigation Canal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve of the installation of these structures by the Louisiana Department of Public Works with said structures being placed at no cost to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: Item No. 12 I will handle. Some years ago the Commission adopted a policy regarding its procedure whereby we did away with the business of the Director polling the Board when he had emergency matters coming up, to determine what action the Board wanted taken.



It appears now that emergency things do come up and the Director is in the position of having to either call the Board to come to New Orleans or somewhere to have a meeting, which is expensive, and to get them together. We had a procedure which we followed a number of years ago which really worked fine. That was that we authorized him to poll the members, that the action that was taken upon that poll was only effective until the next regular public meeting, and at that time the matter was set on the agenda for public discussion.

We have this problem especially with things like relations with the Bureau, giving them replies to a lot of their correspondence and what-not, where the Director wants some direction from the Commission as to how we see it. I recommend that we insist that any action taken on such matters would be placed on the agenda at the next regular meeting for public discussion.

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. LUTTRELL: I would like to amend that, Mr. Chairman. I can readily see where there may be times when the Director would be indisposed



and I would like to give this power to the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman in case the Director was not able to function.

THE CHAIRMAN: O.K., you have heard the amendment which has been accepted. It has been moved by Mr. Berry.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Thompson. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

One other item we have, Mr. Clay Wright, who is no longer a member of the Commission, served as Vice Chairman of the Commission, and we now have a vacancy and we need to elect a Vice Chairman of the Commission.

MR. BERRY: I would like to nominate Mr. Lloyd Autin.

MR. DUPUY: I second that nomination.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Dupuy, that Mr. Lloyd Autin be named Vice Chairman. Are there any other nominations? All those in favor, say "aye".



IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

(No response)

I want to remind you of the film in the next room and I recommend to you highly that you go in and look at it for ten minutes.

Is there anyone else here who has any business with the Commission? Yes, sir. Please state your name.

MR. SONNY SUMMERSGILL: Ted, the first news that I had of the request was day before yesterday in The Lafourche Comet, and it came from the representative, I think a petition from some of the trappers who went to our representative and asked for an extension. That was the first time I was aware of it.

We don't expect or anticipate any problems in meat sales for the next three or four years, but, Mr. Chairman, there is always a problem on nutria meat, and now we think we are going to need some more help. The Interstate Commerce Commission has enjoined all of the nutria producers from shipping any of our products because there is only

one authorized carrier. I am sure most of you are familiar with what that means.

For example, rabbit meat is an exempt commodity. Any carrier is allowed to carry it. Nutria meat is on the classified list. We have been advised that we were allowed to continue shipping -- incidentally we did fulfill the government contract this year to the eradication program, and the reason for last year and the year-before-last decline in the sale of nutria meat was not only because of our lack of production but their hydro program failed, more than anything else.

We are going to have to have from the State just, not even the form of a resolution, possibly a letter, stating the value of the import of this, income to the State of Louisiana.

As a closing remark, I would like to ask the Commission to appoint Mr. Jack Styron an ex officio member of the Louisiana Shrimp Association to see if we can get together on our season.

(Laughter) Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business to come before this meeting?



(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: If not, the meeting will stand adjourned.

. . . Thereupon, at 11:15 o'clock a.m., Tuesday, February 27, 1973, the regular monthly meeting of the Board of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was adjourned. . . .



