

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 22, 1973

LLOYD J. AUTIN, Vice-Chairman,
Presiding

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



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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, May 22, 1973, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Lloyd J. Autin, Vice-Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

- L. J. AUTIN, Vice-Chairman
- D. G. BERRY
- MARC DUPUY, JR.
- H. C. LUTTRELL
- J. B. ANGELLE, Director

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A G E N D A

- 1. Approval of minutes of March 27 and April 23, (4)
1973.

ALLAN ENSMINGER

- 2. Approval of tract on Rockefeller Refuge to be (8)
advertised by State Mineral Board for
lease.

RICHARD K. YANCEY



3. Consider request from Mississippi Game and Fish Commission for an additional 60 to 75 alligators for restocking purposes. (11)

HARRY SCHAFFER

4. Consideration of request by Olin Industries to exercise option on their shell lease in Vermilion and Cameron Parishes. Exceptions - Calcasieu Lake, Marsh Island, Royalty Increases. (13)
5. Appoint committee to study and recommend increasing shell royalties on existing leases. (16)

MIKE HOGAN

6. Discussion of CLOSED ZONES pertaining to Beach Side of Grand Isle, in Jefferson Parish. (16)

KENNETH SMITH

7. Report on Natchitoches Fish Hatchery. (26)
8. Consideration of Winn Parish Police Jury to close Dugdemona Creek to commercial netting. (29)

OTHER BUSINESS

9. Presentation of OEP reimbursement check by (4)



Col. Morrison, Civil Defense Director.

Use of Atchafalaya Basin Highway Dept. Building (23)

New Uniform, Enforcement Division. (24)

Deer feeding and rescue operations. (32)

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THE CHAIRMAN: We will call the meeting to order. Roll call.

(Whereupon the roll was called.)

We have a quorum. We all have a copy of the minutes.

MR. LUTTRELL: I move approval.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded that the minutes of March 27 and April 23, 1973, be approved. All in favor?

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: So ordered.

MR. ANGELLE: We have Colonel Morrison with the Louisiana Civil Defense and I understand he has a sizable check that he wants to present to the Commission. We would like to call on Colonel Morrison at this time, as he may have other business he wants to take care of while he is in New



Orleans.

COLONEL MORRISON: Thank you. This check that I have is the last check that we through Civil Defense have had in reimbursing the different state agencies and different local governments for damages that they have sustained during Hurricane Edith, which was approximately a year and a half ago.

This is for some work that was done because of damage by Hurricane Edith at the Wild Life Refuge. I think Mr. Allan Ensminger is the man that is going to receive the check. The check is for \$191,583.50. We have seen the work that they did. We have inspected it and it is certainly a pleasure to be able to reimburse the State for the work that had to be done as a result of Hurricane Edith, Mr. Ensminger.

MR. ANGELLE: Allan, would you accept the check in behalf of Wild Life and Fisheries?

(Photo of acceptance here taken.)

MR. ENSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Morrison. This does represent a very sizable contribution to our division. The hurricane broke a shore line



of Vermilion Bay over into one of our water management areas on the State Wildlife. It destroyed about ten miles of levee on Marsh Island and caused damages at about forty of our small water control structures. Without the assistance of OEP and through Civil Defense here in Louisiana, it would have been a very, very difficult task for us to budget our funds to make these repairs and this certainly was the only way that we could have repaired these structures within the foreseeable future.

We do thank you in behalf of the Commission for the effort extended by your agency and personnel in Civil Defense in recovering this damage fund for the Commission.

MR. ANGELLE: Allan, are you also going to make a plea for some additional funds under our present disaster?

MR. ENSMINGER: Of course, we are having some very severe damages to much of the Commission facilities. Primarily the damages are in Joe Herring's division and I am sure he will be coming to Civil Defense for all the assistance that he



possibly can get out of you people to look into these damages as soon as the water goes down to where we can appraise the damages that have occurred to these facilities.

MR. ANGELLE: And you feel Mr. Herring is qualified to do a little begging?

MR. ENSMINGER: Joe Herring is a past master at bumming!

(Laughter)

COLONEL MORRISON: Mr. Angelle, we have had 29 parishes declared disaster areas so far, and we have 12 more that we are trying to get declared disaster areas.

I might add while I am here, I would like to thank the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for the help they gave us in the Jonesville area, the Morganza area, in evacuating people when the water first started coming up and the continuing help they have been giving us all along. Without their boats and their professional help we would have been in bad shape.

MR. ANGELLE: Thank you, Colonel. I want to assure you that if the need arises, we



stand ready to give you any additional help that you may need.

COLONEL MORRISON: We hope to be back with another presentation in the near future.

MR. ENSMINGER: Thank you.

MR. ANGELLE: Thank you so much, Colonel.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. O.K., Allan.
Approval of tract on Rockefeller Refuge.

MR. ENSMINGER: Mr. Vice-Chairman, we have received a request from the State Mineral Board to approve a tract located on our Rockefeller Refuge for nomination for bid at their July sale. This tract of land composes 3100 and a few acres and it is located around the flank of an existing lease on Rockefeller.

The area under question has been drilled in the past. However, no production has been found on it and evidently someone feels that there is some production possibilities in this area. I would like to recommend that the Commission go on record as approving the request of the State Mineral Board to nominate this tract for lease.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.



MR. BERRY: Second.

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

(No response)

If not, the motion is adopted.

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission has been
notified by the State Mineral Board
that an application has been filed
nominating a tract of land for mineral
leasing on Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge,
and

WHEREAS, this constitutes
unleased acreage adjacent to a pro-
ductive field, and

WHEREAS, leasing of this
acreage can be conducted under
strict rules and regulations in
order not to damage the wildlife



interest,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission does hereby
approve the State Mineral Board's
advertising for lease the acreage
nominated during the July 11 lease
sale, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED
that the Director is hereby authorized
to sign all documents pertaining hereto.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yancey.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members
of the Commission, we have a letter from the
Mississippi Game and Fish Commission, requesting
60 to 75 alligators to be used for restocking
purposes in Mississippi, and we would like to
recommend that you authorize us to give these
alligators to the Game and Fish Commission in
Mississippi, working through the Refuge Division.

The 'gators will either come from Marsh
Island or Rockefeller and we would, of course,
ask the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission to



send their vehicles over here and their personnel over here to help capture these animals and transport them back to Mississippi.

MR. ANGELLE: We can afford the 65 or 75 alligators?

MR. YANCEY: I believe we can and to our knowledge there is no objection to our fulfilling this request. It seems that anything else we want to do with alligators, there is substantial objection, but I don't know any objection to this.

MR. LUTTRELL: I would suggest we insist that they take 75, since we have plenty.

MR. YANCEY: Right. These are the first people that have come to us this year for any alligators for restocking purposes, despite the recent offer that was made to give a certain private conservation organization 2,000. We haven't gotten any affirmative response from them, to my knowledge.

MR. LUTTRELL: I move that we grant this request and offer those people all the assistance they need.

MR. DUPUY: Second.



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

(No response)

So ordered.

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has received a request from the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission for additional live alligators to stock into suitable habitat in their state, and

WHEREAS, surplus alligators are available on state-owned Refuge properties in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, this type of restocking program is in accordance with wise wildlife management techniques,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby extend



to the State of Mississippi Game and Fish Commission live alligators to be used in their state for restocking purposes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Schafer.

MR. SUMMERS: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, Mr. Schafer was called to Baton Rouge on unexpected business, and we have two items of business for Commission consideration, the first being a request by Olin Industries to exercise the option to extend their shell dredging lease for an additional ten years. Their original contract is up on June 20, I think, of this year.

This has been examined by Dr. St. Amant and we have only three stipulations to offer. These are: Exclude Calcasieu Lake from the permit; exclude an area one mile off the southern shore of Marsh Island, running from Southwest Pass eastward to the easternmost tip of the island; and a royalty increase to 19-1/2 cents, which would be in line with what the principal shell producers in Lake Pontchartrain are paying.



We recommend that this lease be extended.
What is your pleasure?

MR. ANGELLE: The severance would be up
from 12 cents to 19-1/2 cents?

MR. SUMMERS: Yes, sir.

MR. ANGELLE: And we have that authority
in the Commission to do that?

MR. SUMMERS: I think Mr. Duffy indi-
cated we do have, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your pleasure?

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

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr.
Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Berry. Is there any objec-
tion? Any discussion?

(No response)

So ordered.

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

WHEREAS the Olin Corporation
has had a lease to dredge for oyster
and clam shell deposits in Calcasieu,



Cameron, Iberia, Vermilion and St. Mary Parishes, and the Gulf of Mexico since June 20, 1958; and

WHEREAS the term of this lease is for a period of 15 years, ending June 20, 1973; and

WHEREAS Article I of the lease as amended contains an option allowing for renewal of the lease for an additional period of ten years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission agrees to the exercising of this option and grants a lease to the Olin Corporation for an additional ten years ending June 20, 1983, providing the following conditions are met:

- (1) That the royalty for the price of shells be increased to 19-1/2 cents at the present time and be subject to further adjustment within the ten-year



period if the royalties on all shell leases are readjusted; and

(2) That the new lease shall not include the water bottom of Calcasieu Lake in order to preserve oyster production in this area;

(3) That all other articles of the existing lease shall remain the same except that Article I shall not include an additional ten-year option after 1983 but that any new lease beyond that time shall be renegotiated.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have to appoint a committee to study and recommend increasing shell royalties on these leases. I will appoint Mr. Doyle Berry, Mr. Clay Luttrell and Mr. Marc Dupuy, and the Director, Mr. Burton Angelle.

MR. SUMMERS: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mike Hogan.

MR. HOGAN: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, over the years we have had a



problem up at Grand Isle, Louisiana, with shrimpers and trawlers trawling along the beach line of the south side of Grand Isle. This has been offensive to the people who live year-round on Grand Isle and also to the summer campers and the people who have summer homes there. The trawl boats come in right along the shoreline and make their trawl, throw over unwanted fish, trash fish and this sort of thing, which washes up on the beach and causes an offensive odor, of course, during the summer months, and also the danger of children going out to swim stepping on gaff-top catfish and that sort of thing.

In 1955 the Commission at that time passed a resolution forbidding the netting or trawling within or for a distance of 500 feet out from the south beach. Today we would like to ask the Commission to pass a new resolution to the same effect, making it illegal to trawl within 500 feet of the south beach of Grand Isle for those reasons, those purposes.

MR. DUPUY: Colonel, what has been the application or the compliance with the Commission's



resolution of 1955? Has it just sort of gone out of existence through disuse in the past ten or twelve years?

MR. HOGAN: Not really. We have been enforcing it all of this time and we try not to cite people but just to keep them out. This is on the dates from May 1 until September 15, inclusive, and we manage to keep people out of there and keep the boats out. If we catch one coming in close to the shore, we ask them to leave.

We would like this resolution for some backing for our action. The resolution we are now acting on is about 18 years old and I think we should have a new one.

MR. DUPUY: Would you like for it to say the same as the other or something different from the other?

MR. HOGAN: I have drawn up the same resolution with one exception, at the request of our attorney, that we more clearly define what the beach area we are talking about is. There is just a little difference in wording in the description of the area that we want posted against the



trawling.

MR. ANGELLE: Mike, do you have complaints from the users of the beach, where the shrimpers have come from your waters and dumped their trash fish on the beach? Is that basically what the big problem is?

MR. HOGAN: Yes, sir. They don't really come up on the beach and dump their fish, but they are trawling so close that when they throw the trash fish overboard, the waves wash it to the beach, and this, of course, as I say, causes an offensive odor. We have the problem of catfish bones and stuff that kids might step on, plus the fact that there are people who like to wade out and surf-fish, and they are in danger if those big trawlers come running along there with big trawls. By leaving a 500-foot wide area the entire length of Grand Isle, it eliminates these problems.

MR. ANGELLE: Mike, I think probably the purpose of this, and I know it is hard to enforce, but I think what you have in mind is to bring this out to the public at this time and actually ask the press to give us some full coverage on it



where these people would be more or less on notice that we are attempting to correct this situation by bringing this out to the public at this time, even though there has been a sort of dormant resolution for 18 years.

MR. HOGAN: That is true, Director, through press releases, and also I believe we are required by law in this resolution to publish it in the official journal and that notice will be sent out that way.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, I so move that we prohibit commercial fishing, trawling, within 500 feet of the shoreline of Grand Isle.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any further 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 is charged with enforcing the law, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission in open meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana, February 15, 1955, and acting under authority of Section 6 of Act 385 of 1948 (Title 56, Section 316, Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950), and Section 6 of Act 386 of 1948 (Title 56, Section 356, Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950), the waters of the State of Louisiana on the south side of Grand Isle from Caminada Pass to Barataria Pass, in Jefferson Parish, from the southwest side of Caminada Bridge to the northeast side of Barataria Pass at Fort Livingston, extending from the beach side of Grand Isle to a distance of five hundred (500) feet beyond the shoreline into the Gulf of Mexico from the said Grand Isle are hereby designed as CLOSED ZONES, and



WHEREAS, for the purpose of protecting, propagating, maintaining and restocking the supply of game and other fish in these waters; and for the purpose of preventing a public health problem or measure because of undesirable fish (such as small catfish) or other aquatic or marine life being left on the beach of Grand Isle to rot or deteriorate, the said above waters are closed to salt water netting, trawls and seines of any type from May 1 to September 15, both dates inclusive, and beginning May 1, 1955 and each year thereafter during this period, until further action on the part of the Commission,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission post, publish according to law, and properly enforce area described.

MR. HOGAN: The second item I have on



the agenda this morning, gentlemen, is a proposition between the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Highways.

When the Department of Highways commenced building I-10 through the Atchafalaya Basin, they constructed or caused to be constructed a building in the Basin near Whiskey Bay, which they used as an engineers' office. It is a well constructed building, a rather nice building. They have no further use for it. The Director has been in contact with the Department of Highways and they have agreed to allowing Wild Life and Fisheries to use this building. They will turn the building over to Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at no cost to the Commission other than the regular upkeep of the building and the surrounding grounds. At any time that we feel we no longer need the building, they would be notified and the building would be returned to them.

Wild Life and Fisheries would like to use it as sort of a base camp in that Basin. There is a lot of activity in the Basin as far as Wild Life and Fisheries matters would be concerned and with



the Interstate through there, of course, and the new launching areas and parking areas they have below there, there will be much more. We could get a lot of use out of this building.

I would like the Commission to go on record today, authorizing the Director to enter into a contract with the Department of Highways for the use of this building.

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

MR. DUPUY: I second it.

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

(No response)

So ordered and adopted.

MR. HOGAN: I have one other item which is not on the agenda, if you will bear with me a little bit.

I would like to show the Commission and the spectators here today the new uniform that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission Enforcement Division is going to start wearing, hopefully about the first of the week. Would you ask Ray



Montet to come in, please?

THE CHAIRMAN: He is going to be the model?

MR. HOGAN: He's the model. This uniform (indicating) is a little different from the old ones. We got away from the old colors a little bit. What we are trying to do is inform the public that when they see a Wildlife Enforcement Agent they will recognize him as such. You know, often-times, we have agents of other divisions who are out in the field and people mistake them for Wildlife Agents or Enforcement Agents, and this is one of the reasons we decided to get away from the old colors to some extent.

This two-tone type of uniform is used quite extensively now over the southern part of the country, at least. I have seen them at the Southeastern Conference quite a lot, so this will be the new uniform, hopefully for the next few years.

Thank you, gentlemen.

MR. BERRY: Colonel, that's a good looking uniform. We might have done better for a model.



though.

(Laughter)

MR. ANGELLE: Wear it proudly.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kenneth Smith.

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, on March 27 an ad hoc committee for coordination of federal and state wildlife responsibilities, headed by Mr. Shepherd, forwarded to the state directors a memorandum which, among other things, recommended the closure of a number of the warm water fish hatcheries in the Southern states. We have one of these hatcheries in Louisiana at Natchitoches. This hatchery contributes almost half of the fish which we normally distribute each year.

MR. ANGELLE: You are talking about a federal hatchery?

MR. SMITH: A federal hatchery, yes, sir. As a result of this memorandum, the Director wrote to Mr. Spencer Smith of the Bureau, asking that this hatchery not be closed down, since it did provide considerable service to the people of Louisiana.



We received a letter back from Mr. Martinson, Mr. Smith's assistant, stating that they did not plan to close the fish production portion of this hatchery down but they did intend to close the aquarium down, which has been developed over recent years and apparently has received a lot of public interest.

We shortly thereafter received a letter from representatives, legislators, in the Natchitoches area, expressing considerable public interest in this aquarium. We also received a letter from the Rapides Parish Wild Life Association. After contacting the hatchery manager at Natchitoches, we found out that there are about 48,000 visitors each year to this aquarium. We feel that the aquarium serves a considerable need and is a service to the people of Louisiana and that it should remain open. Possibly a request by the Commission to the Bureau to retain this facility would go a long way toward trying to keep it open to the public. We would like to see it kept open.

THE CHAIRMAN: And your recommendation to the Commission is that we go on record?



MR. SMITH: Yes, sir. Make this formal request to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife that they retain the complete hatchery as it is presently being operated.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. Is there a motion for adoption?

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, I so move. I think that there is plenty of funds available for purposes of that nature, that the federal government ought to continue to undertake its responsibility in that direction. I think that with the aid of our Congressional delegation and anyone else that can help, we should ask that they continue to operate the aquarium part of the hatchery.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Berry, that this recommendation be adopted. Is there any objection?

(No response)

So carried.

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



WHEREAS, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has under consideration a reduction of funding for a number of warm water fish hatcheries, and

WHEREAS, there is one federal hatchery in Louisiana, located at Natchitoches, which provides useful services to the citizens of this State, and

WHEREAS, the stated places of the Bureau include the closing of the aquarium at the Natchitoches facility, which attracts 48,000 visitors annually,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission urgently requests the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to maintain the Natchitoches Fish Hatchery at its present level of operation.

MR. SMITH: The second item, Mr. Chairman, on March 19 the Winn Parish Police Jury forwarded a resolution to the Commission requesting that commercial netting be made illegal in Dugdemonia



Creek, so we assigned a fisheries biologist up there to make a survey up there to determine the status of the fish population in this particular body of water.

He made some net sets in this area and he determined that there was a low poundage of fish available in this particular creek or stream, but that commercial fishing was not a serious limiting factor, that there were very few commercial nets in evidence.

We feel that if the netting were closed it would be setting a precedent that we would feel would be detrimental in the long run to utilization of the resources in this area and that, based on what we found, we would not recommend at this time that the commercial netting be prohibited from this river. We would recommend that the request not be granted.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. BERRY: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr.



Berry, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor,
say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: So carried.

MR. SMITH: Thank you.

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

WHEREAS, the Winn Parish
Police Jury has requested the Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to
close Dugdemona Creek to commercial
fish netting in order to allow the com-
mercial fish populations to reestablish
themselves at a more rapid rate, and

WHEREAS, a Commission fisheries
biologist has conducted a survey to
determine the status of these fish on
Dugdemona Creek and has found that
although the fish population is low
the use of commercial gear is not a
significant factor on production of
commercial fish, and



WHEREAS, the Commission is of the opinion the closure of this water body to commercial fish netting would establish an undesirable precedent and would not serve a useful purpose in reestablishing commercial fish populations,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission feels it unwise at this time to take the requested action. If such a closure should be deemed feasible in the future the Commission will reconsider its position.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business? Dick?

MR. ANGELLE: Do you want to make a report on our deer feeding and rescue operations? I think it would be proper at this time.

MR. YANCEY: We all know that the flood water conditions in Louisiana have brought about some very serious problems insofar as the management of our deer herds are concerned, particularly



along the Mississippi River and down in the Atchafalaya Basin. Of course, this has received nationwide publicity and the Commission has made an all-out effort to do everything that it could to minimize the losses of deer resulting from the flood water conditions, particularly with reference to enforcement activities that have prevented the illegal killing of any deer that were driven out by the flood waters and also, of course, the deer rescue operations that the field people of the Commission undertook during the time that the Morganza Floodway was opened and also during the time that the levee around the upper end of the Saline Game Management Area was overtopped by flood waters and a lot of deer were removed out of there by our people, using boats.

We felt that those operations worked out very successfully and resulted in reducing the number of deer that were drowned by the flood water. Of course, last week we began a survey through the biologists of the game division along the edges of all the river basins of the state, at least those in the eastern part of the state, where high waters



have posed a real problem. The purpose of this survey is to determine, No. 1, the number of deer that have been stranded out in the flood water by rising water levels. We found that we probably have on the order of three or four thousand deer that are stranded out in these flood waters on small acreages of ground that have not been overtopped by rising water levels. We will have a final figure on that probably within a week or ten days, but we think offhand now it probably runs somewhere around three or four thousand deer.

In most cases this involves herds of deer that may be as few as 25 on small one or two-acre knolls up to possibly six or seven hundred on a 40 or 50-acre knoll. Of course as the water levels increased, these deer rapidly consumed the available foliage and boughs on these small acreages, and this resulted in a situation where the deer very quickly ran out of food. Last week the Commission began to supplementally feed these deer on these lands.

We have worked with the landowners. We got help out of the Corps of Engineers. We got



financial help through the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, particularly the Iberia Rod and Gun Club, and we are getting help in the purchase of some of this food that has been put out for these deer in the areas where they were in dire need of supplemental feeding. Saturday, for example, there was 12,000 pounds of feed put out in the Atchafalaya Basin that was made possible through the use of a helicopter from the Corps of Engineers and they also paid for the feed that was dropped there. Up along the Mississippi River quite a few of these deer are located on lands owned by International Paper Company and they have made available around \$1,000 to \$1,500 to buy deer feed for those areas. They have also made available boating equipment that has been used to transport this feed into these very inaccessible areas that are surrounded by flood waters.

This program will continue probably for another month. We don't anticipate water levels to go down for at least another month or six weeks to where we would be in a position of possibly discontinuing this deer feeding program. Of course,



we feel that it is essential that this be continued, particularly down in the lower Atchafalaya Basin. This is going to make or break the survival of some of the nucleus deer herds that we are going to need to repopulate that Basin after the flood waters recede.

In addition to that, we called Dr. Frank Hayes, who is the leader of the Southeastern Cooperative Wild Life Disease Study, and asked him if he would send a team over to examine some of these deer and he did last week. They gathered a lot of information that is going to be very helpful to us in this overall program.

Now the second effect that this flood-water condition is having which is of tremendous concern to all of us is that there are thousands of deer that moved out over the levees and were displaced by the floodwater conditions, and these deer are now on and around agricultural lands that lie up and down the Mississippi River and down the eastern edge of the Atchafalaya Basin, so we are looking for some very serious crop damage problems to take place, beginning this week. Personnel in



Joe Herring's division have been assigned to coordinate an effort along the Atchafalaya and another biologist has been assigned to coordinate an effort along the Mississippi River to do what we can to minimize this crop damage situation. We are going to use some experimental devices that will possibly help keep some of these deer out of the fields, and this, of course, is about all we can do.

Now in most cases the food conditions for these displaced deer that have moved out of these river basins is good. There is no need at this time to provide any supplemental feed for those animals. The places where this supplemental feedings program is being carried out are on these small knolls and out in the middle of these flood-water areas where we have large numbers of deer standing on very limited acreages.

That is about the situation as we see it now. If anyone has any suggestions that they want to offer as to what we could do, we would appreciate them.

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. Buquet, do you want to



comment on that?

MR. BUQUET: No, thank you.

MR. ANGELLE: Dick, you might mention the fact that we cannot solicit funds for this emergency relief feed program but we can accept the money.

MR. YANCEY: That is true. What we have told people is that, of course, as a state agency we do not solicit money for this program. However, quite a few people have made contributions and this really helped kick this program off and it has made the difference insofar as quite a few of these deer are concerned, because the first spot that was fed up in Madison Parish; the deer immediately consumed every grain of feed that was put out, involving about 700 pounds. The feed is being very quickly used once it is supplied in these areas where these deer are short on feed.

Of course, range pellets are the principal type of food that is being put out, and in spite of the fact that deer have never seen range pellets, when they are in the shape they are in now, they very quickly consume those for food.



We feel the program is progressing very satisfactorily, but it is going to take quite a lot of money to continue with it until the need is over.

MR. BERRY: Is there anything to be done to protect those animals from the parasites, like ticks and fleas? Can anything be put on the animals to kill those insects?

MR. YANCEY: Well, this feeding program -- if those deer are in good physical health, then probably the parasites are minimized, but when they begin to lose weight, this is when problems like parasites really shape up in a hurry, so keeping the deer in good physical condition is the best way to cope with this problem of parasites.

The landowners have allowed the felling of a lot of trees in this area and, of course, these deer very quickly consume all of the available foliage and stems and twigs on these trees. In one area where this type of program has been carried out for about three or four weeks, it has gotten now where, when these men turn their power saws on to drop these trees, the deer immediately



appear through the woods.

MR. BERRY: It is a feeding call.

MR. YANCEY: It is a feed call for these animals, it looks like, so they adjust very quickly to this arrangement.

MR. ANGELLE: Just one example of a donation, I would like you to bring out.

MR. YANCEY: All right. There was a donation of \$1,000 submitted yesterday by Mr. Cleveland Amory. Mr. Rosenthal of Jefferson Parish turned this check over to Mr. Angelle yesterday, to be used for purposes of purchasing feed for these deer in these stranded areas, and of course, this will immediately be used within the next day or two to acquire feed and by the end of the week it will be out where these deer can take advantage of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion?

MR. DUPUY: I wonder if it wouldn't be proper for us to give some sort of recognition to the contributors if they -- I don't know; have you had any anonymous donations?

MR. YANCEY: No. We can keep a record



of those who have made donations and certainly that would be very much in order. I think we should provide them with an accounting after this program is over with, as to the use of their money for this purpose.

MR. BERRY: Dick, it wouldn't upset you if the news media set up some kind of fund, like a Save-the-Deer Fund, or that kind of thing, would it?

MR. YANCEY: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: We can't do it.

MR. BERRY: The news media can. We can't.

MR. YANCEY: Over in Iberia Parish the Wildlife Federation group there is collecting money and then they are in turn sending in checks here to the New Orleans office and as these come in, purchase orders for that amount are being issued to our district office, where they can buy feed on the spot without involving major transportation problems and getting this right on out to these areas where these deer are.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Is there any



other business?

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. Autin, you might call on some of the division chiefs, assistant directors or executive assistants, to see if they have anything they may want to bring up at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anything else?

(No response)

MR. BERRY: I move we adjourn.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Luttrell that we adjourn.

. . . Thereupon, at 10:45 o'clock a.m., Tuesday, May 22, 1973, the Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was adjourned. . . .

