

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Friday, June 22, 1973

10:00 a.m.

J. G. JONES, Chairman

Ramada Inn, Azalea Room
Alexandria, Louisiana

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 Friday, June 22, 1973, at the Ramada Inn, Azalea Room, Alexandria Louisiana, Jerry G. Jones, Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

J. G. JONES, Chairman

L. J. AUTIN, Vice-Chairman

D. G. BERRY

J. W. THOMPSON

MARC DUPUY, JR.

H. C. LUTTRELL

J. B. ANGELLE, Director

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CHAIRMAN JONES: The meeting will come to order.

The first portion of the meeting will be concerned with the regular business of the Commission. The agenda has been printed and is available to anyone who wants to see it. When we finish the regular items of business, if there are those of you that have other matters to discuss with the Commission, other than seasons and bag limits, we will ask that you do it at that time. Then we will adjourn the meeting and then reconvene to hear recommendations on seasons and bag limits and we will not discuss any other subject. We will limit it to those two things, so if you have other matters, other than seasons and bag limits, we ask that you bring that up for business at the end of this meeting.

The first item is Dr. St. Amant. The first item.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, we have two items on the agenda this morning. The first one is a request by the W. T. Burton Company, Lake Charles, Louisiana for renewal of their annual permit to dredge for clam and/or reef shell in Sabine Lake. Now this permit has been issued to the Burton Company on an annual basis for the past several years and it is time for renewal on August 1. The requirements set forth by the Commission have been met by Mr. Burton and I would recommend that this permit be granted for another year with one additional clause to be included.

This clause to point out that the Commission is now studying the royalties of all shell leases and in the event that it is decided that royalties shall be increased that this particular permit would be subject to any increases that the Commission decided upon. Otherwise it will be set up at 19¢ a yard which is the standard price at this time.

MR. BERRY: Dr. St. Amant, have these exceptions been put in all other leases we're granting at this time?

DR. ST. AMANT: We're doing it Mr. Berry, as they come up. We cannot add to the lease if it is in effect, but those that are coming up for reconsideration, this type of clause is put in it. Many of the leases do have clauses in them which allow the Commission to change the royalty at any time. The Commission now has a study going on by a committee to make recommendations on royalties for shell dredging and sand and gravel dredging.

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a second?

MR. AUTIN: Second.

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

(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 W. T. BURTON COMPANY, INC. to renew their permit for an additional twelve-month period beginning August 1, 1973, to remove clam and reef shell from Sabine Lake, at a royalty of 19½¢ per cubic yard. This royalty is subject to change in the event that the Commission sets new royalties, any new rates to become effective upon the date of the Commission's action and upon date of notification of the permittee by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

DR. ST. AMANT: The second item of business has to do with a request by J. B. Talley and Company of St. Martinville, who would like to renew a dredge and fill permit covering Grand Lake in the Atchafalaya River system between Mile Posts 100 and 108. Mr. Talley did have a permit some years back. He exercised it for a while and then let the permit expire. He is interested now in doing additional dredging and would like to reactivate that permit or a new one. In effect, what we are doing here today is suggesting that Mr.

Talley be given a new permit for a period of five years.

I might call the attention to the Commission that two parishes, Iberia Parish and St. Martin Parish, their Police Juries have passed resolutions requesting that no dredging be carried out in their particular parish. These resolutions came about because of some objection to a proposal to dredge several months ago which would have breached the levee of the Atchafalaya River and would have allowed flooding back into some of the woodlands. We concur with the thinking that the levees of the River should never be breached for this purpose. We do not concur that dredging should be terminated in the open bays where there is a tremendous amount of silting and where there is a considerable amount of material that can be made use of. Further, we feel that the water bottoms inside the levees where the open water is is a matter for the commission, and by statutory authority, the commission has a right to grant dredging permits.

Therefore, I would recommend that the Talley Company be given a permit to dredge for sand and fill material in Six Mile Lake, of Grand Lake between Mile Posts 100 and 108 and if there is any objection on the part of the parishes, that Mr. Talley deal directly with them.

I might point out however, that this entire request falls primarily within St. Mary Parish. There's part of it in St. Martin. Iberia is not involved, so I would recommend that the permit be granted.

MR. ANGELLE: Doc.

Dr. ST. AMANT: Yes sir.

MR. ANGELLE: This permit expired on June 18, 1970. In the interim between that time and now, has J. B. Talley done any dredging, and if he has, has been paying his severance?

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Talley did not even dredge his full time when he had the original permit. The permit was good for five years. He dredged for about three or four months. In the beginning of the permit he apparently did it on a contract problem and when he got that complied with he did not dredge any more and he can retain the project.

A number of contractors do come in from time to time to take out these permits so that they have permission to dredge when they need the material and they may not dredge for long periods of time. All they have to do in an instance like this is to let us know by letter that they are inactive and we do not expect any funding from them. But if they fail to let us know

by letter that they have ceased dredging for a period of time, then of course, we begin to ask some questions. Mr. Talley has been in order in all his activities and I have no reason to object to this permit.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is true, Doc, that prior to dredging that he has to obtain a permit from the Corps.

DR. ST. AMANT: He does have to get a permit from the Corps and of course, this could in itself be questioned, if somebody wanted to question it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions? You've heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure.

MR. AUTIN: I so move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Autin, seconded by Mr. Berry. Is there any further discussion? Any objection. 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 J. B. TALLEY AND COMPANY, INC. to remove fill material from the water bottoms of Six Mile Lake. In no instance shall any

Atchafalaya River levee be breached nor shall dredging occur above mean low-water level until the ownership of the land is determined and permission is obtained for such dredging.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Doc. Kenneth.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission. The first item I have concerns bids on renovation of the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery at Lacombe. You know, this facility was constructed in the mid 30's and drainage systems have pretty well broken down.

We have recently approved the federal aid project which would renovate this hatchery primarily for production of striped bass fingerlings. We asked Public Works to go out on bids on this work which they have done. Now, they have estimated that this work would cost for the base project, which would involve dividing two of the big ponds on the hatchery, plus some drainage lines and the water supply work \$52,000. They had a first alternate which would divide only one pond and do the rest of the work at \$45,000 and a third alternate which would divide no ponds and do the levee work for \$42,000.

We only received one bid, which was opened last week, on this project and the base bid for this project was \$85,000. This was the bid received. Alternate one was

\$73,000 and alternate two was \$55,000. We discussed this with the Public Works people and we are agreed that this one bid is too high. We would recommend to the Commission that we ask the Department of Public Works people to go back out on bids. We think we can get more people to bid on this next time around.

THE CHAIRMAN: You've 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. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any further discussion? Any objection? Hearing none, so ordered.

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

WHEREAS, an Anadromous Fisheries project has been approved whereby Federal Aid funds will be provided for the renovation of the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery at Lacombe, Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, plans, specifications and estimates have been provided by the Louisiana Department of Public Works, and invitations to bid have been sent out by

that Agency, and

WHEREAS, only one bid was received for this project, and the amount of the bid was too high to be accepted.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission hereby requests that the Louisiana Department of Public Works readvertise for bids on the Renovation of the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery.

MR. SMITH: The next item concerns the publication which we feel would be of considerable credit to the Commission. Over the years we have collected information on fish distribution in Louisiana through a lot of our routine work which has been compiled in book form by Dr. Neil Douglas at LSU.

Now, in this proposed book, is about 150 black-white sketches. There will be about 45 color plates and it will cover all the fishes in Louisiana which we think is a very high quality piece of work. In response to the Commission's direction we have gone to the three major publishers in the state for bids on the type book that we would want published. Now this would give the Commission credit as the sponsors of the book even though Dr. Douglas would be the author.

We have received responses from Claitors Book Store located in Baton Rouge, Pelican Publishers in New

Orleans, and LSU Press.

Claitors indicated that they would publish this book for \$11.95 per book. Now, we are interested in a low price on it that would still meet our standards, because the low price would give more people an opportunity to buy the book and get us better distribution. In addition, they agreed to publish between, to print between 10 and 20,000 copies. It would provide to the Commission 300 free copies. These would go to libraries, to the district offices and to depositories which we normally send publications. It would also give the Commission the privilege of buying these books at 1/3 off the retail price discount if we wanted additional copies.

Pelican indicated they would charge \$20.00 to \$30.00 for the book and they would print only 3,000 to 5,000 copies. I might mention that the Commission would receive 10% royalty on this publication.

LSU Press was very interested but they required a subsidy on the publication which we have no money budgeted for printing this book.

So in looking at the responses that we received and incidentally, we sent out letters to 13 other printers and other/or publishers in the state to be sure no one was left out of the opportunity to bid on this book. So after all the letters were in, we feel that Claitors made the best offer, and we will

get better distribution. We would recommend that an agreement be drawn up between the Commission and Claitors to publish the book.

THE CHAIRMAN: You've heard the recommendation.

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Berry. 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, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission personnel have collected extensive data on the distribution of freshwater fishes of Louisiana over the past several years, and

WHEREAS, this information has been assembled, organized into book form and edited by Dr. Neil Douglas, Professor at Northeastern State University, along with appropriate sketches and photographs supplied by Commission personnel, and

WHEREAS, there has been no funds available to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to have such a book printed and distributed to the various retail outlets such as bookstores, colleges and universities, and

WHEREAS, all the known publishers in Louisiana have been contacted and requested to give quotations on the proposed retail cost of the book to the public; Claitor's Publishing Division of Baton Rouge, providing the lowest proposed sales price as well as meeting other conditions of publishing the book.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve the drawing up of an agreement between this agency and Claitor's Publishing Division for the printing and sale of a minimum of 10,000 copies, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to receive a ten percent royalty for each book sold at the retail price.

MR. SMITH: The next item. In May of 1972 this Commission adopted a set of values for sport and commercial fishes which would be used in the event we attempted to assess fish kill and tried to determine resource loss. We have used this set of values once so far and we feel that they were good values but since that time the American

Fisheries Society which is made up of professional scientists throughout the United States and is prepared primarily by the southern division of the American Fisheries Society has developed a monetary list of fishes which closely tracks those that the commission adopted.

There is one major exception which I'll mention. It concerns sturgeons. We feel that their value on sturgeons is too high. We would rather stick with ours because we feel that the sturgeon is not really an endangered species in Louisiana. So in order to place the Commission in a better position, if we have to go to court to defend our fish values, we would recommend that we adopt the values as accepted and developed by the American Fisheries Society as those that would be used by the Commission.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

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

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution

is here made a part of

the record.)

WHEREAS, on May 23, 1972, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission adopted monetary values of game and commercial species of fish in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, these values closely approximate those adopted by the Pollution Committee of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, a national organization of professional fisheries scientists, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish monetary fish values based on the soundest premises available in the event legal action should ensue from pollution caused fish kills.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the monetary values of fishes as developed by the American Fisheries Society (Southern Division) that are applicable to Louisiana species, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that values adopted by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission on May 23, 1972 continue to apply to Louisiana species not named on the American Fisheries Society list, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that one exception be noted insofar as there appears to be too high a value placed on the sturgeons (Family Acipenseridae) by the American Fisheries Society. The original value of \$6.01 per fish adopted May 23, 1972 by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, will be retained in the list of values.

MR. SMITH: The last item I have, Mr. Chairman, I would like to give a very brief report on the result of the study which we have recently conducted. I won't say concluded because this report was initiated in July 1, 1971. It will terminate in June 30, 1974. What we have is an interim report concerning the first year's results of this study and it concerns the value of recreation in the Atchafalaya Basin.

We have all known that this is a high use area. We've never had any method to evaluate this area and we feel that this is a breakthrough in trying to place a value on what are fishing or hunting experiences worth. We have cooperated with the Corps of Engineers on this and we feel a little proud of our accomplishments in working this thing through with the Corps in trying to come up with the values in the Basin.

Now there are 14 tables, which I certainly won't try to read all those but it deals with the amount of hunting and fishing efforts. There is some information on the number and type of fish caught, commercial, sport, and so forth. But, the main thing I would like to call the attention of the Commission to are the final indicated values of this Basin. We find that this report indicates that during the period mentioned there were 10,800,000 man hours devoted to recreational activity. This is hunting, camping, fishing and so forth within the Basin. The out-of-pocket expenditures: licenses, trip expenses, equipment, so forth amounted to \$6,700,030.

But the biggest value associated with this resource is that astatic value which is difficult to assign, but the approach which we have used is to consider salary foregone, or income foregone, in this. If a fellow elected to fish or hunt in the Basin, he made so much an hour, so much a year, then this amount was assigned to the time he had spent fishing. Assume he had elected to fish rather than work and we find that this value was \$35,897,000 in the Basin.

Now, these are considerable figures. This is why we feel that it was worthwhile to mention this to the group here and to give you some brief report on this study

that we have recently printed. We have a very limited number of copies of this. I got a few we ran off in the basement in Wild Life and Fisheries and they didn't have very many. I have a few here. If the people here are interested in this report and anybody else, if we run out and you want additional copies, if you will give me your name and address, you can write it down and give it to me, we will see that you get a copy whenever more copies are available. So that's about it on this study here, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Joe.

MR. JOE HERRING: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The first item we have is the lease renewal on the Concordia Wildlife Management Area. It is a ten year free lease renewal from Panola Land and Development Company and the Fisher Lumber Companies, which takes care of about 8,400 acres of land in this area. We get several thousand hunting efforts per year on this thing and many hours of I'd say recreation and I would recommend to the Commission that we do renew this lease since it is free of charge for the public.

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

MR. DUPUY: I so move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

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

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

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

WHEREAS, the Concordia Wildlife Management Area leases are expiring, and

WHEREAS, the Panola Land and Development Company who owns approximately 7,300 acres of this area and the Fisher Lumber Corporation who owns approximately 1,100 acres of the Concordia Wildlife Management wishes to renew these leases for an additional 10 years, and

WHEREAS, these leases are granted to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission free of charge for public use as a wildlife management area, and

WHEREAS, this 8,400 acre area receives several hunter efforts and other recreational use hours each year, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission accept these

leases free of charge to maintain the Concordia Wildlife Management Area and extend our thanks to the Panola Land and Development Company and Fisher Lumber Company for their contribution toward conservation and wise land use.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item is a request from Ouachita Parish Police Jury where they request permission to rework an existing drainage canal along an isolated 40 acres of Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area. I say isolated. This is 40 acres that we have off to the side. It does not join our Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area below Highway 15. This would be a cleanup operation that they will do in this drainage canal. I would recommend that we go ahead and let them, give them a permit to go ahead and clean them up, the canal out.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your pleasure.

MR. BERRY: I so move.

MR. AUTIN: Second.

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

MR. DUPUY: Joe, does this have anything, this will not in any way interfere with the Scenic Rivers Act or any kind of tributary to it.

MR.HERRING: No, not in this particular area. There is already a canal there. This will be a cleanup operation for the existing canal and it has nothing to do with the Scenic Rivers Act. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Any objection? Thank you, Joe.

(No response)

So ordered.

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

WHEREAS, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury has requested permission to rework the existing drainage canal along the isolated 40 acres of the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area below Highway 15, and

WHEREAS, this is a clean out operation and the canal right-of-way may be extended up to 10 feet, and

WHEREAS, this has been reviewed with personnel of our District II, Monroe office and they can find no objections as for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, this area is described as NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 34 Township 17 North, Range 4 East, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission grant the Ouachita Parish Police Jury permission to rework this canal along the isolated 40 acres of the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission. Under ordinary circumstances, you would set the hunting seasons on resident game this year on July 24. But as a result of the flood water conditions that we have, we need a little more time to study particularly the deer situation in these river bottom areas. We would like to recommend that you delay your July meeting until the last Monday and Tuesday of July, which would be July 30 and 31, to give the game biologists some opportunity to come up with their recommendations. We would also like to recommend that you appoint a three-man committee comprised of commission members that would meet with the game division about a week prior to your regular season and we would also recommend that the Chief and Assistant Chief of the enforcement division be present at that meeting in order that enforcement problems in connection with these seasons would be considered.

THE CHAIRMAN: We've picked the three

experts. Mr. Thompson, Mr. Dupuy and Mr. Luttrell. Mr. Thompson is the Chairman of that committee, I think.

MR. THOMPSON: You're such a gentleman.
Thank you.

MR. YANCEY: That's always a real chore.

MR. THOMPSON: We didn't get shot but three or four times in the last commission rounds that we made.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson, 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, floodwater conditions in Louisiana have been such that additional time will be needed to survey wildlife populations prior to the establishment of the 1973-74 hunting regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries

Commission would normally hold its regular July meeting on July 23-24; and

WHEREAS, delaying this meeting until July 30-31 would provide an additional week of study prior to the setting of the regulations; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission will hold its July meeting on the 30th and 31st of the month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a committee of Commission members consisting of Messrs. Jimmie Thompson, Marc Dupuy, and H. Clay Luttrell will meet with the staff approximately one week before July 30-31 in order to review recommendations for the 1973-74 regulations.

MR. YANCEY: The next item is good news. We have been advised by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife that Louisiana will be allowed another nine day September teal hunting season this year and with a bag limit of four daily and eight in possession. Shooting hours, sunrise to sunset. We would recommend that you set the dates at this time in order that we can get our letter in to the Bureau prior to July 16. We would suggest that the season start on Saturday, September 22 and end on Sunday, September 30. We would expect about 25,000 duck hunters to participate in this season and they would probably take 175,000 to 200,000 teal.

THE CHAIRMAN: Richard, I don't guess this has anything to do with this, it wouldn't make any difference anyway. I know you didn't check the LSU football schedule, but anyway, because I believe there are two football games. But there's nothing we can do about that.

MR. YANCEY: This will reduce the competition. While you're at the football game....

THE CHAIRMAN: I won't be at the football game. I guarantee you that. No way. You've heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. BERRY: I so move.

MR. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Autin. 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 Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has notified the Commission that it may establish the dates for another nine-day teal hunting season in September; and

WHEREAS, similar seasons held in the past in Louisiana have been highly successful; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the dates of the September teal hunting season shall begin on Saturday, September 22, 1973, and extend through Sunday, September 30, 1973.

MR. YANCEY: At the past two or three Commission meetings we have discussed the possibility of acquiring some 10,300 acres of land that lies along the north boundary of the existing Commission owned Pearl River Wildlife Management Area in St. Tammany Parish. Mr. Wills has a map here that shows the location of this particular property. Dewey stand around a little bit. This area encompassed by the green line is the existing Pearl River Wildlife Management Area. The tract encompassed by the red line is the Greene property and it is being offered to the Commission for a price of \$125.00 per acre, or a total sum of \$1,295,000.

THE CHAIRMAN: How much an acre, Dick?

MR. YANCEY: One hundred twenty five dollars an acre. And of course, we would recommend that we endeavor to purchase this piece of property. The Commission has been actively engaged in a land acquisition program since 1960 with the emphasis being placed on the acquisition on bottom

land hardwood because this is the type of wildlife habitat that we are losing at such a fantastic rate in Louisiana. We all know these hardwood tracts are being cleared up at a rate of 75 to 100,000 acres per year in the state for agricultural purposes and it is quite apparent that if we are going to obtain much of this type of forest game habitat we are going to have to put it under state ownership. So we would recommend that you authorize the Director to proceed with the execution of this agreement to sell that has been forwarded to the Commission by the Greene people and of course, I don't want to go through this lengthy resolution that we have here.

It has a number of terms and conditions outlined in it. Of course, the mineral rights would be reserved by the sellers, except the gravel. This is a particular area that has a lot of gravel. We don't want any strip mining there in the future, so it would be clearly stated that these rights would fall to the Commission. We would acquire all timber rights. The area is inside the NASA buffer zone.

In this agreement to sell they have a September 30 deadline. Of course, there is no way we could accomplish this transaction within that time. We have advised the representative of these people that we would have to have

this date extended on up until about December 30 as a bare minimum. In this resolution that you would adopt, of course, would be conditioned upon the fact that our appraisal of this property would show that it is worth \$125.00. It would also be conditioned upon approval of the Division of Administration and the Governor.

Allocations were made in this year's budget of the Commission by the legislature to provide a million dollars for land acquisition and we feel that this would be another forward step on the part of the Commission in preserving a place for the public to hunt in this particular type of wildlife habitat. We would recommend that you authorize the Director to proceed with this. Mr. Dupuy was kind enough last night to go over all the terms and conditions of this resolution from a legal standpoint. He made several additions which we thought were very appropriate and we feel that everything is in order to proceed with this at this time.

MR. DUPUY: Dick, the buy and sell agreement which has been executed by the Greene heirs, dated April 30, does not contain the exclusion of sand and gravel, and of course, it contains a September 30 date for execution of the sale itself, and does also provide for the payment of the price in cash at the time of sale and I understand that the parties would prefer not to take more than 29% down.

Then there's also some question with regard to whether or not the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation funds will be available for the assistance to us in the final purchase. So, I think our resolution should condition the buy and sell agreement on those facts and a new buy and sell agreement with these revisions should be executed by the Greenes and then we should go ahead and sign it.

MR. YANCEY: Right. What we will do is incorporate these changes that you suggested here in the Commission resolution and then this, the agreement to sell, will be forwarded back to the sellers with these suggested changes. They will be inserted in the agreement to sell, initialed and returned to us before, of course, the Director would be in a position to sign this.

Of course, we are very much disappointed in the, according to Mr. Wills here, who works with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation people and he is our liaison man with them to learn that their program has been drastically curtailed and in recent land purchases by the Commission they put up 50% of the purchase price, but their allocation this year was cut by more than 2/3 and at this point it looks like it is rather unlikely that they are going to be able to provide any federal funds for this purchase. This doesn't mean the door is closed, but it does mean that we are going to have to do some leg work to get federal participation

in this purchase.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make that motion with one exception of Mr. Dupuy's statement that it/^{is}not contingent upon getting BOR money. Maybe I misunderstood that, but did you not incorporate that in your recommendation.

MR. DUPUY: I think that we ought to omit the reference to the BOR participation.

MR. THOMPSON: If you omit that, then I so move.

MR. DUPUY: I would like to second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. 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 is greatly interested in establishing additional wildlife management areas in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, the Commission initiated a program of land purchase in 1961 to accomplish this purpose and to preserve at least a portion of the

State's largely disappearing game ranges in various regions of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, a certain tract of land hereinafter particularly described, consisting of a total of 10,362,83 acres, located in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, has been offered for sale to the Commission for the full and true sum of \$125.00 per acre, and

WHEREAS, this tract, if acquired, will make an excellent wildlife management area for waterfowl, furbearing animals, deer, alligators, rabbits and other forms of marsh life; and also will provide additional public hunting and fishing opportunities for sportsmen throughout the State of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of this property has been carefully considered by the Chairman, the Director, and all members of this Commission; after which consideration, it is the conclusion of all members and the Director that the acquisition thereof will be most favorable and advantageous to the future welfare of the fish and wildlife as a wildlife management area and that the acquisition thereof would also be mutually beneficial to the State of Louisiana, this

Commission, and the citizens and residents of the State, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission purchase from Nancy Carol Forman, Carol G. Rhodes and Nona Lou Greene the following described immovable property:

See Attachment "A"

Be it further resolved that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission execute a Buy and Sell Agreement with Nancy Carol Forman, et al for the purchase of said property upon the following terms and conditions:

- 1.) The purchase price of the sale by Sellers to Buyer, its successors and assigns, for the hereinabove described property shall be the sum of ONE MILLION, TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE AND 75/100 DOLLARS (\$1,295,353.75), payable in cash or on such other terms as agreed upon at the time of the Act of Sale. The consideration is based upon the agreement that the subject property comprises 10,362.83 acres, with the said consideration being determined at the

rate of \$125.00 per acre.

2.) Real estate taxes for the current year will be prorated to the date of the Act of Sale. All proper and necessary mortgage and other certificates and tax researches are to be paid by Sellers.

3.) Sellers shall deliver to Buyer good and merchantable title to the property; however, if Sellers are unable to deliver a good and merchantable title, this agreement shall be considered null and void and Buyer shall not be entitled to demand from Sellers any damages by virtue of their inability to deliver good and merchantable title. The decision as to whether title to the property is good and merchantable shall rest solely with Buyer and attorney of its selection. Sellers agree to assist Buyer and his attorney based upon title opinions rendered to Buyer by attorneys in securing any curative matter which Sellers may be able to obtain in order to satisfy any requirements of any title opinion rendered to Buyer; however, Sellers shall not be obligated to expend any

monies in connection with the satisfaction of such requirements. All curative matter thus obtained shall be the property of Buyer who is hereby authorized after passage of the Act of Sale to file same for record. Final approval of title shall be at the sole discretion of Buyer and his attorneys and Buyer shall have the right to waive and forego satisfaction of any requirements of any title opinion rendered by his attorneys hereunder. Buyer may at its option, and at its costs, purchase title insurance. In the event of partial failure of title, Buyer may at its option, elect to purchase that portion of subject property as to which title has been approved or waived, in which the purchase price shall be reduced at the rate of \$125.00 per acre for each acre as to which title has failed; provided, that should such partial failure of title affect 10% or more of the subject property, Sellers, may at its option, refuse to make such partial sale.

4.) The Act of Sale is to be passed before Buyer's Notary at the State Capitol,

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on or before December 31, 1973. Notice of the desired time of passing the Act of Sale shall be given to Sellers by Buyer at least thirty (30) days prior thereto. The sale shall be with full warranty and full rights of subrogation and substitution and shall be in a form acceptable to Sellers and Buyer. The property shall be delivered free and clear of all liens, encumbrances, taxes (except taxes for the year in which the Act of Sale is passed), leases and mortgages, except the encumbrances listed on the Exhibit attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

5.) Sellers shall reserve unto themselves their successors and assigns in perpetuity an imprescriptible mineral servitude excluding sand and gravel but covering and affecting all the minerals in, on or under the above described property of every nature whatsoever, including, but not limited to, oil, gas, sulphur, salt (including salt brine) and all other minerals whether similar or dissimilar. It is understood that there is specifically excluded from the mineral reservation described herein are the

natural resources of sand and gravel. It is understood that all mineral operations on the above described property shall be subject to reasonable regulations by Buyer for the use of the surface. Both Sellers and Buyers acknowledge that the provisions of LSA-R.S. 9:5806 are applicable to the mineral exception and reservation above set forth.

Should Buyer decide to sell or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property subject to this agreement, at any time or times within a period of fifty (50) years from the date hereof, it shall give Sellers written notice thereof, and Sellers shall then have an optional prior right for a period of ninety (90) days after receipt of the notice to purchase same for the price paid to Sellers by the Buyer (\$125.00 per acre), subject to an adjustment upward or downward with the Wholesale Commodity Index for all commodities published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the period from the date hereof to the date on which the repurchase may be made. If this particular index

is not being published at that time, the parties hereto agree to base the computation upon a similar or substitute index which may then be in use. Both Sellers and Buyers acknowledge that the provisions of LSA-R.S. 9:5806 are applicable to the mineral exception and reservation above set forth.

6.) In the event Buyer fails to comply with this agreement within the time specified Sellers without formality beyond tender of title to Buyer, may declare this agreement null and void, or Sellers may, at their option, demand specific performance.

7.) In the event that Sellers fail to comply with this agreement within the time specified, Buyer may, at its option, either declare this agreement null and void or demand specific performance.

8.) Occupancy shall be available to Buyer at the time of the Act of Sale.

9.) This agreement and the sale contemplated hereby is subject to and conditioned upon the approval of the Governor of the State of Louisiana and/or Division of Administration.

10.) In the event that the Governor of the State of Louisiana, or the Division of Adminis-

tration, fail to approve this agreement and the sale contemplated, then this agreement shall be null and void.

11.) Sellers certify that the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policy Act of 1970 has no application because no persons will be displaced when title is transferred to Buyer.

12.) The parties hereto acknowledge that this agreement to purchase and sell and the Act of Sale contemplated hereby is based upon an appraisal prepared by acceptable standards outlined by the Uniform Real Property Acquisition Policy set forth in Section III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policy Act of 1970, P. L. 19-646.

13.) The notices, payment and other matters required hereunto shall be delivered or addressed to Sellers, Attention: W. J. Collins, Attorney, 1800 First National Building, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102, Nona L. Greene, 301 East 66th Street, New York, New York 10021 and Abe Siegel, Esq., 261 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016 and to J. Burton Angelle, Director Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission,

Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Building,
400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130,
or at such other address or addresses as
Sellers and Buyer may designate by written
notice. This Agreement shall be binding upon
and shall inure to the benefit of the parties
hereto and their respective heirs, successors,
executors, administrators and assigns. Where
the terms "Sellers" and "Buyer" are used herein,
they shall be deemed to include the respective
heirs, successors, executors, administrators
and assigns of such parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Messrs. Jerry G.
Jones, Chairman, Lloyd J. Autin, Vice-Chairman,
and J. Burton Angelle, Commission Director,
or their successors, be, and they are hereby
appointed, authorized and empowered to act for
and on behalf and in the name of this Commission
to purchase the aforementioned lands, buildings
and improvements and appurtenances thereon,
to sign any and all necessary deeds and documents
in connection therewith, to pay the purchase
price thereof and all pertinent and necessary
and usual expenses to purchaser which said deeds
and documents may contain, and to incorporate
and include in the said documents and all

additional stipulations, conditions and provisions as they, in their sole discretion, deem to be to the best interest of the Commission.

MR. YANCEY: There is one other item that we might bring out at this time. The National Audubon Society did accept the offer of the Commission for 2,000 alligators.

THE CHAIRMAN: How about the cottonmouths?

MR. YANCEY: They did not accept those unfortunately. They did accept this offer and a letter was forwarded to them. Mr. Angelle signed it last week, stating that we would work with them in fulfilling our end of the bargain, and we also asked if they would have their representative contact Mr. Ensminger and work out the details under which this program will be carried out.

We did put in the letter that we wanted these alligators to be released only in the wild. We don't want any of them to go to zoos. We want them to be released only in areas of suitable habitat, only where they are going to get adequate protection and only in the southeastern United States and only the native range of the alligator. Also, that they provide us with letters from the states where these gators would be released approving of this transplanting program. So we expect to hear from them within a few days. We presume that this operation will be started in the near future.

Lastly, as it has to do with the last year, we all know about the experimental alligator season that the Commission carried out. At your July meeting you are going to need to make a decision as to whether or not we should have another experimental alligator season in Louisiana during September and we would like to recommend at this time that you authorize the staff to prepare a plan for conducting such a season that you would be in a position to act on at your next meeting, the July meeting.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. 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 Wild Life and Fisheries Commission conducted a highly successful experimental alligator season during September 1972; and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary for the Commission to make a decision regarding a similar

season for 1973-74 at its next regular meeting to be held on July 30-31; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the staff formulate a recommendation and a plan for conducting another season in 1973 and be in a position to present this information at the meeting to be held on July 30-31, 1973.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you, Dick.

Mr. Angelle.

MR. J. BURTON ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission. On a number of occasions the Governor has requested and has so instructed different agencies to try and provide a policy manual for the operation and administration of employees and their activities within the State of Louisiana. In October the Commission went on record and adopted such a policy, that a policy manual should be written. As we move along in the administering of the Commission's activities, and all other related activities, we have adopted a number of policies that are being put in a policy manual at this time. I am looking at a copy of it now.

We have one policy that I would recommend that the Commission adopt and that is relative to the declaration of outside activities. This is a questionnaire that is sent out to all employees of the Commission requesting of them that they furnish the Director with any outside activities

that may be in conflict, or if they have no outside activity, they would just so state in a questionnaire that they are not involved in any other activities. Basically, this is what we are recommending that the Commission adopt. A policy that employees would furnish the Director with any outside activities that will conflict with their duties as employees of the Commission. We are not interested in the money they are making and it is not a means of harassing employees. It is just a matter of having some information when people call in, or report that so and so is doing one thing and he is supposed to be working with the Commission. A number of times these people are off, but we need to know this. If they are working with someone else then we can defend their position when the press or interested citizens throughout Louisiana call in about certain employees involved in other activities besides their jobs.

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

MR. BERRY: I so move.

MR. AUTIN: Second.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I don't really know, not now. Just for a point of clarification - I wouldn't ever want to be put in a position of to be dictating, or to be seeking information of a person who was operating outside of their job after they were off work, in something that was not conflicting and I am sure that your motion, or our motion encompasses the fact that of a conflicting interest. Am I correct? Am I correct there, Burt? In other words, I don't think when I get off of work, I don't think it's anybody's business in this room what I do if it doesn't conflict with my job when I'm working. Basically, if that's the principle I will vote for it, if it's not, I'll be against it.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Thompson, I will say this. If a man was working for you and you had him hired for you by the month, you wouldn't want him working somewhere else. You would want him taking care of your business.

MR. THOMPSON: If he didn't take care of my business, Mr. Berry, I'd fire him and I'd do the same thing with the Wild Life and Fisheries personnel. If they don't take care of their business, then fire them, but Doyle, I think you understand what I'm talking about.

MR. BERRY: I finally got the needle, didn't I?

THE CHAIRMAN: As I understand the policy here that we would be adopting, is merely getting the information. We're not expressing any opinion as to who ought to have a job and who ought to not have a job.

MR. ANGELLE: That is correct. In fact, we encourage our employees to go out and do some additional work, because we know that their pay is low and that they need this additional work to sustain their families and it is very commendable. Employees that have the initiative to go out and select to work to be able to provide some extra income for their families, it is very commendable, but it is in areas where you may have a conflict of interest. I have areas in where I have received some of the questionnaires that you have people working full time with private industry and full time with Wild Life and Fisheries and that's impossible. and these are the areas that I have... We need to kind of look into if correction, corrective action needs to be taken. Then this is what the information brings back to the commission and together we can maybe correct some of these situations.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Angelle, I agree with you 100% in full time, but the point that I really was trying to make, and I'm very touchy about this, because our nation is built, in its greatness was built on the initiative and the ability of the work of long hours of a lot of people, to build our nation and it seems to me that a trend in the United States today is to work less and achieve less and to support those who do nothing and that's what I'm against. If a man wants to hold two jobs, if he can, without a conflict of interest, I'm for him.

MR. ANGELLE: I think that's probably the feeling of the whole Commission, Mr. Thompson.

MR. BERRY: I think the Director feels the same way about this, Certainly I do, but also I think what the Director is trying to tell you, is, he is hunting a stick to get rid of the deadheads with.

MR. THOMPSON: Then I'll vote for that.

MR. BERRY: That's what I'm for.

THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor of the motion, say aye. Unanimously approved.

Mr. BERRY: I would say this. If you can find one holding down four jobs, I would like to hire him.

MR. ANGELLE: We have another policy we'd like to recommend. I will ask Chief Hogan, Chief of Enforcement to present the policy. Mike.

MR. MIKE HOGAN: Mr. Director, recently the enforcement division and the Commission purchased new uniforms for the enforcement division. At that time we changed the color format to some extent. Stand up, Hugh, let them take a look at it. We did this for two basic reasons. One, to get a uniform that the men would be proud to wear and secondly, and probably just important, or more important, a uniform that the sportsmen in the field could recognize when they saw it as an enforcement officer. Along with that, we instituted a dress code for the agents and basically what

it does, it requires the agents to wear the full uniform while on duty and to wear no part of the uniform when off duty or when engaged in activities outside of their duties with the enforcement division. And that dress code we would like our members of the Commission to make a part of the policy manual.

THE CHAIRMAN: Don't you wear an American flag?

MR. HUGH ROBERTS: No, we don't wear the American flag.

MR. HOGAN: We don't have the flag on it. I think maybe it would be a good idea to have it. We need a few more people waving it.

MR. DUPUY: Other than the change in the uniform appearance, is there any change in the policy with regard to wearing of the uniform?

MR. HOGAN: Well, as I say, the men are going to be required to wear the complete uniform, not portions of it, but the complete uniform while on duty.

MR. DUPUY: They are not so required now?

MR. HOGAN: Yes, they are required now and I'm asking that the Commission go on record as making this a part of the policy manual official. Now, they have been ordered to wear the complete uniform while on duty and then we forbid them to wear the uniform or any part of the uniform

while engaged in other activities that's not official.

MR. ANGELLE: I think what we're doing Marc, is just committing to writing, with a copy of this to all agents where they can read it. They can understand it and they know where they stand all the time, instead of continually people calling in, can I do this, can I do that. We're committing it to writing for that purpose, administering it properly.

MR. DUPUY: This has been the policy in the past, but you're putting it into writing now.

MR. HOGAN: Well, the only thing about it was that in the past most of the men didn't have the uniforms to wear.

MR. JONES: That's the part I want to get to. What's your future financing. You know, a couple of years ago, I don't know if you were the Chief then, we got an appropriation from the legislature and we went out and bought, I think, bought a slug of uniforms and passed them out and that was the end of it. So we wound up a couple of years later with people with pants that were torn or no pants and a shirt and they were starting this mismatch business.

MR. HOGAN: Mr. Chairman, I am working with the Division of Administration now. The company, the uniform company, who furnished these uniforms were a low bidder, has

agreed to stock them in our New Orleans office. What we are trying to work out with the Division of Administration now, is rather than every two years, or three years, just buy everybody a complete set of uniform, we would keep it on a rotation basis. For instance, if this agent went out in the field today with a brand new uniform and tore a pair of trousers, where they were not repairable, or stained or tore a shirt, what he would have to do, or what he would do, is just turn that in and get an issue of another one. That way, we can keep our agents in good uniforms at all times. I've had some experience with uniforms with the local police department. We tried every way we knew how, including giving them a cash allowance to buy uniforms, issuing every two or three years, and what we found was that some men who were not as hard on uniforms or their duties didn't give the uniform the wear and tear that some in the field got, we had some agents or policemen in this case who had closets full of uniforms. And then, we had others who were threadbare before the new issue. So, we feel that if we can issue these things as they need them, then we won't have that problem and in the long run we'll save money.

MR. JONES: What I'm getting at. You have the support of the Division of Administration as far as financing every year for this program. Cause it's gonna involve...

MR. HOGAN: That's right and as soon as after a year or two we can get a cost experience and we can just about figure out what we need in the budget each year. I do have money in this coming year's budget for uniforms, so I know I'll have plenty for replacement for the next, the coming year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other discussion? There is no further discussion. What is your pleasure pertaining to the uniform regulation?

MR. THOMPSON: I had a little discussion with Mr. Berry. He thinks we might ought to add a clause that says as long as the Division of Administration supplies the money. If once they quit supplying, the men are not furnished the uniforms.

THE CHAIRMAN: It's pretty automatic.

MR. THOMPSON: Really, what I think what we were trying to do is put a little pressure on the Division of Administration, wouldn't you say? Putting that monkey on their back. You know who you're going to cuss, don't come back to us, you go the Division. Leave it in.

MR. BERRY: Yes sir, put it in there.

MR. ANGELLE: We've set the format. This can be amended at any time. At any time we get recommendations from the field, or from Commission members that we need to change some of our policies it will be set up to where we

can amend this at any time, so we will provide the proper amendment to this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a motion that we adopt the uniform wearing regulations?

MR. THOMPSON: We didn't have one, did we?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, I don't think I did.

MR. DUPUY: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

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

MR. THOMPSON: No, but I have a comment. Next month I guess, the Governor, the next man up, at least I've always operated under that assumption, I wish he would reprimand Mr. Jones and Mr. Berry for being out of uniform.

MR. ANGELLE; You can see the nice new jackets that they're sporting now.

MR. THOMPSON: You'd better clear it up.

MR. ANGELLE: Mine is on order. It just hasn't come in yet.

MR. THOMPSON: Would you please hold my check up, please.

MR. HOGAN: You have a receipt that you can show too.

MR. THOMPSON: I have a receipt. Yes, we got a receipt for these coats.

MR. AUTIN: We paid for them.

MR. ANGELLE: I would like to make this comment that the reason that prompted us on the uniform regulation. During the flood crisis, especially in the Morgan City area, I received a call from the Governor asking us to send a number of our agents to help these people that were in distress with our equipment and his last words were "Be sure they are in uniform, Burt." I just didn't have enough guts to tell him, "Well, Governor, these boys do not have any uniforms." In fact, I was talking to one of the agents last Saturday. He came to pay me a visit and he said he was real proud of his uniform. He has been working with the Commission for four years and this was his first issue of a uniform he had received.

So I thought they were most important and when the Executive Officer, the Governor called and said be sure you men are in uniform and I have to just kind of swallow and say, "Well, Governor, I'm sorry but we, these boys do not have uniforms," this was a little embarrassing. But now they have them and as I understand it, they are all real proud and they are happy to wear them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. O'Neil, you have a matter.

MR. TED O'NEIL: Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen of the Commission. If you will recall, last year there was a certain group that proposed federal legislation to curtail the leg hold trap. We did a good job on killing that

legislation for one year, but then we have two other bills. The same group has put in a House Bill 5917 and a Senate Bill 1637 which are both along the same lines but I think more, a little more widespread. They will curtail the sale of any furbearer that's caught with a leg hold trap anywhere in the world and this, of course, would destroy our entire fur industry at this time. In that our industry is actually rodent based industries, muskrats and nutria, with a very high reproductive rate, I don't think anybody disagrees with that, and most, 90% of our trappers do use leg hold traps now and they would be in a jam to convert over. They couldn't convert over in a hurry.

Now this Senate Bill calls for conversion immediately if there is a more humane trap that has, that comes about. Now the House Bill gives us four years to convert over to a more humane type trap to comply with their wishes but the bills are coming two different ways. It's an old trick. There's one mean bill and one light bill and they're both coming together and they mean the same thing, of course. In that our fur industry is worth ten million a year to a lot of people who are willing to work hard for their money and divided among a lot of people who need the money. It is my recommendation that we oppose these bills, both bills, and take every measure we can to see that they don't pass.

THE CHAIRMAN: You've heard the recommendation of Mr. O'Neil. What is your pleasure?

MR. AUTIN: I so move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Autin, seconded by Mr. Berry. 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, Louisiana's Fur Industry, participated in by 5,000 trappers, 125 buyers and 25 fur dealers, producing \$10,000,000 annually, has as its principal furbearers nutria and muskrat, which have notorious reproductive and food-consuming capacities and inhabit 4,000,000 acres of Louisiana marshland and every parish of the state;

WHEREAS, the trapper, the avant-garde in the settling of this continent, has been most important in the past in establishing and maintaining ownerships and boundaries; and as minerals decline, furbearers and trapping management

will again become important for revenue producing and maintaining ownerships;

WHEREAS, trapping has a built-in safeguard against species depletion since trapping is discontinued when the catch drops below a point of profit; cropping maintains a vigorous, healthy animal population, with an ample food supply;

WHEREAS, the population of these furbearers must be constantly controlled: (1) to prevent crop depredation in the state's rich sugar cane and rice belts which lie adjacent to the coastal marshes; (2) to prevent marsh and levee erosion and loss of vigorous stands of vegetation that lessen storm damage to low-lying coast; (3) to prevent occurrence of furbearer diseases that are transmittable to man;

WHEREAS, a large part of the North American and European fur economy is dependant upon Louisiana production, which economy is predicated on the continued use of the steel trap; traps, unlike poison bait, have proven selective in predator control;

WHEREAS, House Resolution 5917 and Senate 1637, designed to prohibit the use of the steel jaw leg-hold traps on animals in the United States and abroad, is presently before the 93rd Congress for passage;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission opposes passage in the 93rd Congress of House Resolution 5917 and Senate 1637, designed to prohibit the use of steel jaw leg-hold traps on animals in the United States and abroad, due to the impact this would have on Louisiana's fur production and fur economy of the world; and on controlling fur bearer population to prevent crop depredation, marsh and levee erosion and fur bearer diseases; the steel trap is a selective means of predator control.

THE CHAIRMAN: This finishes the business that we have on the regular agenda. There was someone that, yes, and if there are others in the audience that would like to discuss anything but seasons and bag limits this is the time to do it because once we adjourn and go into our hearing on seasons and bag limits we will restrict the subject of conversation.

MR. JAMES STEWART, JR: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, I am James Stewart, Jr., of Vivian, Louisiana, up in the northern part of the state. I really didn't come down here prepared to talk before the Commission. We understood it would be a question and answer session today and be before the Commission tomorrow, so I am a little bit unprepared, but bear with me if you will. I'm just a country boy.

Anyway, we are still having lack of enforcement up in Caddo Parish. I'm going to speak strictly from Caddo Parish. I am not familiar with the other parishes, but we are still having problems with the enforcement of our law violators. I would like to say this, We appreciate the efforts of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission in correcting the situation up there. We have formed a federated sportsmen's club in Shreveport, Louisiana and we have a sportsmen's club in Vivian to aid and assist the officers in correcting the situation. So far we have done a real good job this past fall. You are beginning to see deer running around across the highways where you have not in the past. We had an awful lot of illegal night hunting and what have you, up there.

We are still having problems also with the prosecution. The sheriff's department is working hand in hand with the Commission, I believe, Mr. Hogan and doing a fine job. They are getting out here working at night trying to help the game

wardens. They have, back in February, they caught two boys hunting with spotlights, shooting deer. They were brought before the District Attorney in Shreveport. He filed a nolle prossed on them and would not prosecute them and turned them loose and didn't even call the, one of them was a juvenile and one was a twenty one year old boy. With this kind of prosecution of people, I don't think we are going to accomplish very much and we are going to have to do something about this. I don't know what but I want to do everything I can. When it comes up for this district attorney to be elected we are going to put some money on him, you can bet your bottom dollar.

People got up before and been excited, they say, it will all blow over, well, I'll assure you boys, that it's not going to blow over. Reeves Field is still right in there with us. I believe you all know Reeves and we are still getting more members every day and come next fall we're going to be right on top of this thing. We got a little late start last year, but we want, still want to assist the game wardens up there, but we have not had the cooperation that we anticipated that we would out of the agents. They attended maybe one or two meetings that we had, then they lost interest. I think they should at least come to these meetings that we have whenever possible and try to assist us or let us assist them. They assured us they would, but they have not.

We were informed that there would be no tags for this coming year, 1973-74 season. The people in the northern part of the state are very disappointed in this because we know of no other state in the United States that does not have tags. Most of the states do have tags and have check stations where you check the game in and out and we would like to see that the State of Louisiana require tags.

I, for one would like to see that the seasons be shortened. One reason, in Caddo we do not have the deer herds like we had back in 1960 and '62 and '63 because of the illegal hunting. Now, since we have had the flood waters in south Louisiana and great numbers of deer have been killed, I think we should shorten the seasons throughout the state, but I am mainly interested in Caddo. In shortening the season and if at all possible, shortening the bag limit down to possibly three, like it was back in 1960.

I feel like with tags, since I've been hunting, and I've been hunting ever since I was a little fellow, and I've told Mr. Angelle and Mr. Mike Hogan that I was never checked in the State of Louisiana for a license - hunting or fishing. And I've still not been checked and as far as these people up there know, they don't know whether I've got a license or not.

There are a lot of these people who hunt out there with me don't have a license. We need to

start checking these licenses, fishing and hunting licenses, but I feel like the tag system, the reason maybe you've quit handling the tags, I never could see any point in it, the way it was operated. If they were required to be turned back in and have some way to check these tags to tell how many deer are killed in Caddo, and these other parishes, I feel that it would be some use to them, but maybe that's the reason you dropped the idea. But if we had tags and we were required to turn our tags back into the state, I think you would know how many deer were killed in each parish without taking a survey of some other states. I understood they took a fellow from another state, a survey from another state, to determine how many deer were killed in the State of Louisiana and I never did figure that one out.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who did that?

MR. STEWART: One of your departments under... I forget the gentleman's name. It was at a federated sportsmen's meeting in Shreveport. That was maybe a year ago or so. I don't recall his name.

THE CHAIRMAN: His name wasn't Herring, was it?

MR. STEWART: Sir. (Laughter)
You will confuse me. And another thing, on your laws. Now, I don't know, I'm sure you don't make the laws on this, or do you, Mr. Chairman, you don't make your laws.

THE CHAIRMAN: The legislature makes the laws.

MR. STEWART: Well, we are working with Don Williamson, which is our state senator. He is very much involved in this and we are going to see about rewriting your laws, because you have several laws in there conflicting with one another on headlighting situation, as you'll probably understand that. We would like to see you'll go on record as being in favor of changing these and redoing this, these laws.

MR. ANGELLE; Jimmy, maybe this is not the right time, but I'll just inform you that I've already asked Mr. Roger Hunter, one of our employees, to make an in-depth study of all our laws. To check the conflicts in them and hopefully, we will come out with a package by next session of the legislature with recommendations. During the interim, this is being done and it will be done and I have so informed Senator Williamson.

MR. STEWART: Good, one other thing I don't think I mentioned. We would like to see in Caddo Parish a browse study be made of the area in Caddo Parish. As I understand it, there has not been one made for several years and this is the way they base the limits on how many deer to be taken in seasons and setting of seasons and what have you. Is that correct, or would you know?

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. Herring, Chief of our Game Division, probably would want to comment on that and a number of your issues that you have raised, Jim.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Angelle, if I may intercede for just one moment to say that I'm particularly pleased that, Jimmy, I believe that is your name, that you've taken such an interest and have found out these things about Wild Life and Fisheries. But in the essence of time, I would suggest that all the people are here today who can answer every question you have posed to this commission. That you acquaint yourself with Mr. Yancey, Mr. Herring, Mr. Smith and everyone sitting right here and they will introduce you to others.

You have a very good knowledge of it but you don't have quite enough. There are reasons for almost everything. I can give you a rebuttal at this time I think would explain some of them to you to ease your mind; however, I would like to say it brings to my memory one thing that happened up across the river from you, when I believe the District Attorney was a Mr. Padgett. We had just appointed a new deer committee and I was up there on the old original deer committee and the same thing was happening as you were telling us about enforcement. I just jumped up and said, "Gentlemen, that's real easy to fix," I said "just get you a new D. A. next time." And incidentally, Mr. Padgett stood up after I had laid everything

on the line and he told me, he said, "Mr. Thompson" he said, "That would be real good," but he said, "What are you gonna do when your game warden can't read and write." And I'm telling you, I sat back down. But I think we have about eliminated that situation now, but it did remind me of that situation in your area.

MR. STEWART: You have corrected a lot, I agree and I appreciate these uniforms and what have you. But we have, we do have a game warden up there in our part of the country that is using his own vehicle and what have you. We would like to see him get his own truck as soon as funds are available. I believe that pretty well covers, but I would like to go on record for being opposed to doing away with deer tags, very much so.

MR. THOMPSON: You get a little information on that, before you... We'll put you on record, but you may want to rescind it.

MR. STEWART: Alright. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: This gentleman in back was ahead of you, then you are next Bill. Now, we are only discussing things other than seasons and bag limits.

MR. AUTIN: Limit him to 10 minutes.

MR. IKE KERTIGAS: Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen of the Commission. My name is Ike Kertigas, Webster Parish Police Jury. By coincidence you have discussed the policies

and I have a resolution here from the Webster Parish Police Jury that has passed the State Association for the Police Juries and I would like to pass a copy for your record and I shall read it to you. Let me get my other eyes here. This pertains to seasons and bag limits in the setting of seasons and bag limits and I believe it is appropriate to read it.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Webster abounds with abundance of wildlife and timber lands and waters, and

WHEREAS, the majority of the citizens of Webster Parish are outdoorsmen and sportsmen who actively engage in the pleasures of hunting, fishing and wildlife conservation, and

WHEREAS, many of these citizens arrange their vacation from employment in order that they may enjoy their fullest in seasons and bag limits set each year by the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, in many instances these citizens must arrange their vacation with their employers during the first four months of the calendar year, and

WHEREAS, these seasons and bag limits as to particular games are set each year by the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries during the month of June, and

WHEREAS, many citizens are placed at a disadvantage in their vacation planning by the June setting,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Webster Parish Police Jury that the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries henceforth set and release the game seasons and bag limits during the month of April rather than during the month of June.

This was done the 3rd day of April, 1973. We have discussed this quite fully and discussed it with the Association members of all Police Juries at the state convention in New Orleans this past year and they were in accordance with that. If it is possible we do recommend and wish for your consideration to determine the early setting of this meeting to be set up in April in the future. We feel that in most instances that you can set these bag limits at that time, except for these adverse conditions that we had in the flood conditions. We also want to add a little

more policy.

We as you know, have two special agents that the Webster Parish Police Jury has hired, after the request for many years to hire additional enforcement agents from this Commission which you were unable to, and we pay these out of our own funds. I do want to thank the Commission, and especially the Director, for the two radios, the two two-way radios in communication with their department. They were handicapped, they are doing an excellent job, we think, in that field.

Now, Mr. Hogan, one thing I would like to instruct to you that we feel is a highly importance in our area, and not only in Webster Parish, but in the surrounding parishes, there are two laws that fall in that category. I believe they are two Acts of the legislature that you can enforce and that is, hunting or shooting off federal, state, or parish roads. Now, we want to stop that and it has not been stopped and we have done all we could do in our area to do it. They are real clever, they have a two-way system, these sportsmen do, so called sportsmen, I might say. You see a vehicle worth about \$150 and got \$250 two-way radios on their system, you can see what they are trying to do. They are trying to use their radios to...as long as the agent comes in or they are pulled out and they are back in again.

In Claiborne Parish, the reason why I am saying this, I am in the LP Gas business and I hate to see one of my vehicles do down in a deer pass and they miss the deer and hit my truck. There won't be nothing but a poorly equipped butane truck explode. That's what they will say. Everybody will pull out away for it. So, I've a personal interest too. We have quite a bit of it up there and as you know, you've got the highway safety act and you've got the wildlife act. I believe you can enforce the law. So, I believe those two things that I have in mind were , are only a recommendation to the Commission. I'll come up later if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, for the seasons and bag limits.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

MR. JOHN PRESTON: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission. My name is John Preston. I'm from Caddo Parish and I also represent the Federated Sportsmen's Club up there. Outside the setting of seasons and dates at this time or recommendations from us there is a couple of things that I would like to recommend to the Commission that they take under advisement and recommend to the legislature if that is the case or set up as laws in the fish and game hunting laws.

One, I'd like to recommend for safety purposes, in many, many states and states that I hunt in outside

of Louisiana that gone to this and that is, that all young people are now required to pass a safety course in field hunting. They must know something about firearms and also know how to recognize game and pass a proficiency in this prior to obtaining a hunting license. I think that I have seen out in the field and I think most other people have many times, people get out there and they are turned loose with a weapon and they really don't know what it's all about. They don't know how to recognize game and they don't know how to handle a firearm properly. These young people grow on up into adults and they go out and take any type weapon and they fire at anything that moves in the brush. So, I would like to recommend that a resolution be passed and adopted by the Commission and either made a law, if it can be done so by the Commission, that anyone under 21 from this time on, or from whatever time on, that they would pass this resolution, have an NRA or state proficiency in weapons and field recognition of game prior to their obtaining a hunting license from the state. Do I have any comments on this one?

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, my suggestion would be for the staff to study it and come up at our next meeting with some recommendation unless the Commission wants to act on it now.

MR. THOMPSON: No, I'd not like to act on it now, but there is a program going on now. Hunter's education program, I believe, in cooperation with the National Rifle Association. Who is in charge of that? Is it someone here? Well, we do have someone that's working on that. I'd rather refer it to them.

MR. PRESTON: That's not mandatory is it? That's just optional. I'd like to go on record as recommending that it be mandatory. I feel like as many people as we have in this state hunting, that it would be a good mandatory program and make it an optional program for anyone over 21 years of age.

MR. LUTTRELL: Since the legal voting age is eighteen shouldn't you change that twenty-one to eighteen.

MR. PRESTON: Well, it might be a good idea. Yes, I'll amend that to eighteen.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'd like to propose that Joe's game division could take a look at it and give us some recommendations because it's going to involve legislation which is next year anyway and give us some report on the feasibility of such a program. What the cost would be and what not, because we are going to have to answer that question. What the cost would be?

MR. PRESTON: The second thing that I would like to bring up is, again going back to law enforcement of game laws, particularly up in our area of Caddo Parish.

Could a reserve for the various clubs, sportsmen's clubs up there, that at least one member of these sportsmen's clubs that are interested in doing this program be appointed as an assistant game manager or wildlife and fish commission officer to take a survey of the club members each year, as to what deer they have killed, to what deer they have seen in what area, and be able to summarize this and send it in to the Commission for their studies and for their purposes. Also, to take a day or two and assist the officers up in that area in setting up a check station and in setting up or helping to enforce the laws out in the field - ride with them. I think that not only would this bring the sportsmen and the law enforcement officers in that area closer together and give them a better understanding of what each other's problems and each other's jobs are, but I feel it would, in overall, assist the Commission by the knowledge that they could obtain in a written report from the various individuals and then have it condensed down. I think that a lot of the clubs up there would be interested in having at least one member on a voluntary basis do this.

THE CHAIRMAN: We've had our ups and downs about this business of appointing special agents. We've had a lot of problems involving it and I think the last action the Commission had was about a year or so ago where we set some requirements. We required these people

to make an application to us and provide a regular law enforcement bond we would set, because what was happening, everybody wanted a little badge and we got people that were going out using the little badge for a lot of things other than enforcing the game laws. So, we do have a program where we issue special agents commissions. Is that right, Mike, we still do that? It's a lot more restricted and I would certainly suggest that under the procedures we have now that you have some people in the clubs that want these that they write to or call the enforcement division and he is given an application form. They have to put up a bond just like the law enforcement officer. Now, as to the other aspect of it, I think it involves the game division where you're talking about people assisting in check stations, or, I don't guess Joe has turned down any help at all from anybody, so I think if you will get with Joe we won't need any Commission action. Joe is eager to...he always wants to hire another 100 people every year.

MR. PRESTON: I've never seen any check stations. I have yet to see a game officer out in the field. Of course, I haven't lived up here that long. I've lived here a little over four years, but I am a pretty active hunter. I try to get out as much as I can.

THE CHAIRMAN: We really appreciate your interest and if people would take an interest as you do we would all be a lot better off. But, I'm really putting you on the people who can solve your problems.

MR. PRESTON: I think the biggest problem about people taking an interest is they don't know how to get it organized, or who to go to. I think there is not enough open publicity and enough knowledge of who to go to to offer their services. Last year I called up someone and can't remember whose name it was now, who I tried to get a hold of and talk to several different times to offer services and to find out about it, just personally before I became involved with the federation of sportsmen's clubs and I never did get any answer back. I never could get any information.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. Thank you very much. Bill.

MR. BILL DAY: Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen of the Commission. Bill Day. I'm not going to get into some things cause I have a broadcast to air in about 10 minutes. I'll start with, I'll give you the good news first. I've heard the people from Caddo and from Webster say what I consider some rather strong things about lack of enforcement in there. This kinda doesn't set too well, but I do want to say in Rapides Parish and District III we have had excellent enforcement and would like to publicly commend Capt. Billy James for the effort

he has expressed since he became a Capt. in this district. It is much improved over what the hell it was a couple of years ago. I'm happy to say that the majority of the game agents in District III are among the leaders in the state in the number of arrests and citing of violations and I am also happy to see that the records of the Commission have become a little more in the public eye and that the Commission has decided that these are indeed part and parcel of the public records acts of the State of Louisiana. We have had some difficulty in obtaining who was arrested for what and after a discussion with Mr. Angelle and the Governor and Mr. Yancey and Mr. Luttrell in Baton Rouge, I think that the matter was straightened out. I think those of us in the news media...it is a little bit easier finding out who was busted for what.

Now, I would like to inquire of the Commission, now there was a great deal of publicity when the deer herd situation became apparent about the starvation problem that no deer would be killed if they were invading farmers crops, starving to death and so and so. Does this same thing apply to the bear population as well.

MR. THOMPSON: There is no season on bear, regardless.

MR. DAY: I know, but there was to be no

emergency killing of deer, Jimmie, in regard to the feeding or crop depredation. I just want to know, does this same thing apply to bear.

MR. ANGELLE: Surely, yes.

MR. DAY: Well then, why wasn't this police lieutenant down in south Louisiana given an arrest record for killing a bear in a cemetery about a month ago.

MR. THOMPSON: I had no knowledge of that.

MR. BERRY: When that gentleman killed that bear, the bear was in the midst of some young kids. Apparently had already knocked one of them down. I've checked into the situation and the best knowledge I got, the officer actually killed that bear to keep that bear from hurting or harming those kids that were close by.

MR. DAY: Well, the story that was published was that it was in a cemetery. That's why I was rather curious about it. There was a second story that came out that mitigated it somewhat that I believe that the story said he was afraid it might "frighten the children."

MR. BERRY: Well, the bear wasn't about to frighten the kids. He was in the process of either mauling or mainly killing one of them.

MR. DAY: Would it be unfair to ask who and on whose authority had occasion to have placed some "no

camping" signs on the western side of Highway 28 at the big ditch on Catahoula Lake.

MR. THOMPSON: The Corps of Engineers.

MR. DAY: No sir. It was not the Corps of Engineers.

MR. THOMPSON: Are you making reference to the point in Catahoula Lake on the north side of the ditch?

MR. DAY: Yes sir.

MR. THOMPSON: I believe Mr. Luttrell and I investigated that and didn't we determine that it was the Corps of Engineers when we were looking at the structure when the water was seeping under it. I'm not positive. I'd better not answer you, but I think that was the impression that I got.

MR. LUTTRELL: No, I think Jimmie, that it turned out to be our people, that we already had one in there, but it could be afterwards. Mr. Dennett is here and he can bring that up. Didn't Mr. Emfinger post those signs?

MR. ANGELLE: You familiar with it, Dan?

MR. DENNETT: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission. As you well know, on these wildlife management areas, of which this particular area in question is part of, we regularly require that people who need to camp, camp in

specifically designated camping areas only and this stretch along Highway 28 had these additional "no camping" signs placed there so that people would be made aware of the fact. They can't camp in any place that they choose within the area. They have to go to these designated camping areas. This has been in the commission regulations, these little yellow pamphlets for a number of years now and it is common practice. Our people did do it and it's as I see it nothing unusual. It's just a tool that we have to use in controlling the masses of the public that come and use our area. This is as much for their protection as it is an aid to us in controlling the people who use the areas.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you have a sign or something on the highway that would indicate to them, not only "no camping" here, but go over there and you can camp, or that there is camping permitted somewhere. They wouldn't get the idea, in other words, just completely "no camping" anywhere. Do we have signs indicating that?

MR. DENNETT: There was one there. I don't know whether it's still there since the flood waters have been up and down, but there is an area right in this general vicinity - the "Willow Springs Camping Area." It's not a very good one. We haven't had the funds to improve it yet, but it is there. It is used and nearly all the people involved in camping in this specific portion of Saline are well aware of where the

Willow Springs Camping Area is.

MR. DAY: There was no sign there. There was simply "do not" signs there and now, the reason I was somewhat curious about it, didn't the commission dedicate that property to the Corps of Engineers on fee simple title or give them an easement there.

THE CHAIRMAN: We just gave them an easement there.

MR. THOMPSON: What's your question. I'm the man that fought the Corps. I'm fairly well versed on that.

MR. DAY: I know you are. That's why I'm curious about where the Larkin Dam and where the control structure is. Is that Corps of Engineers property or is that State of Louisiana property?

MR. THOMPSON: Let's see if my memory serves me right. They originally asked for 300 acres. I refused to vote for it. Eventually, let them have 50 acres or 25, or what, Dick's here.

MR. YANCEY: They have title to the property at the control structure.

MR. DAY: Well, that's what I thought. They did have property, have title to the property immediately around the structure and this is the area I am talking about where the signs were placed. That there was "no camping" allowed. I suppose it is interesting to note that the signs

are not there now, are they Mr. Luttrell?

MR. LUTTRELL: Let me comment on that, Bill. Whenever the water covered the regular camping place I requested or asked that if it was possible that we give an additional place for camping. Those signs were removed for an emergency while there was no other place for people to camp along Highway 28. They were permitted to go in, but that was simply an emergency to go into the area around the locks in there and camp so they could fish and hunt.

MR. DAY: As I recall at the time, there was a lot ...part of the duck season. There wasn't much water there. Nevertheless, it is gravel and a rather convenient area for people trying to hunt Catahoula Lake rather Willow Lake than Willow Springs or somewhere else, but I just thought I'd bring that up. I heard something the other day and which I know nothing about at all and I would like to find out about to improve my knowledge of the situation. I was told that a year or so ago, a couple of years ago maybe even longer than that, that in the Saline Game Management Area, and as I say, I don't know whether this is so or not. I'm trying to find out. That there was an attempt to raise rabbits there - that there was a large number of rabbits in cages in the game management area, and if so, what about it, where are the rabbits?

THE CHAIRMAN: Joe. Do you know anything about the rabbits?

MR. HERRING: No. It was a research area that we had set up in there for rabbit population. We made no attempt just to build pens or raise rabbits in. It was set aside as a game management area to conduct rabbit research both on the swamp rabbit and the cottontail. Mostly, the swamp rabbit in that particular area.

MR. DAY: Well gentlemen, I'll see you tomorrow when we go into a few other things on duck seasons, deer seasons. I do have a letter here and I suppose it would be proper to introduce it tomorrow, but I'll ask your opinion. It's from McGruder out of Virginia from St. Joseph where I deer hunt and it is in regard to a doe season that was there last year and I was just wondering if...but we'll do that tomorrow.

MR. DUPUY: Thank you very much for your comments and commendation of District III and your suggestions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business other than seasons and bag limits?

MR. LEE YOUNG: Yes sir. I'm Lee Young with the Shreveport Times and I operate the news bureau here for the Times. I'm not a sportsman myself, so if I ask what seem to be dumb questions, I hope you'll excuse

me. I have three questions, one dealing with Caddo Parish and the two other questions dealing with Union Parish. The first one about Caddo Parish is will the Commission allow the use of dogs in hunting deer this coming season?

I am going to propose all three questions and I'm going to go back and sit down so I can write your replies.

The two other questions are revolving around Union Parish and concerns petitions that were sent to Wild Life and Fisheries Commission recently from Lake Darbonne residents and the Union Parish Police Jury and contained according to this story 413 names opposing a stocking of the lake with alligators. The story also says this request was made in April by the watershed commission there. I would like to know if the commission has any definite plans at this time to take any action on that petition.

Secondly, also coming from the same police jury is a request that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission open Ward 4 in Union Parish to either sex deer and I'd like to know if there is any action that the commission will take on that request.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'll answer questions 1 and 3 for you. And the answer is, I don't know.

Because we have not set the seasons yet, and of course, this is the purpose of the hearings we are going to have. To receive recommendations from hunters, then of course, all these recommendations will be put together by the game division, and then they will make recommendations to us at the July meeting of the commission and at that meeting we will then set the seasons. So, I really don't know the answer.

Now, as to the alligators. Let's see. Who knows anything about the alligators and the request that he refers to. Joe, you're popular today.

MR.HERRING: Actually, nothing has been done. We did receive a resolution from the Darbonne Lake Commission to stock the area. Apparently after the Darbonne Lake Commission passed the resolution requesting that the lake be stocked, then some individuals did get a petition up not to stock the area. So that's the way it stands now. Nothing has been done on it. No plans at this time. We're just at a stalemate on it.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. Is there any other... you got any opinions or are you still studying it?

MR. HERRING: No, we're looking into it to see what areas they have in the backside that would be suitable or not, but nothing has been done either way.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is a matter that we primarily leave up to our biologists to handle. They are better able to do that. Yes sir.

MR. C. L. EDWARDS: I'm C. L. Edwards, 403 Olive Street, Pineville, up the street from Bill Day and I ain't affiliated with nobody. But I want to thank the Corps of Engineers for holding that water below Catahoula Lake to 29½ feet and I want to say that if that thing had been handled right and they throwed the gate open when this rain come, we would have had at least 10 or 12 or 15 days of duck hunting. But, I think they paid attention to a minority of maybe, just one or two people, and shut them gates too quick and too tight.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you sir. Anyone else.

MR. THOMPSON: I'm sure I detected irony in that first part of your statement of 29 feet and I...

MR. C. BUCKLEY: I'm president of the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association and I've been meaning at the first opportunity that came up with the commission, or to bring something up, and that is to commend these agents. A number of the agents have just been doing a fantastic job in rescuing these deer. Quite often we have to come up with some gripes and what brought it to mind was when I bumped into an agent over by Catahoula about 3:00 in the afternoon. The fellow still hadn't eaten his dinner and he looked like he was bushed. He had been out since dawn and he had been going

day and night and there had been a large number of agents doing this. I don't know if the public is aware of this. I hope all our writers are aware of it and start commending them for it. There's some good reports on the director. Said he had been working around the clock. We are most appreciative of this. At times you might think we haven't noticed your work, but we did and some of you have done a fantastic job and I just wanted to call it to your attention.

MR. ANGELLE: Thank you Chuck. We certainly appreciate those comments. I would like to also add that there were agents of the commission and many other employees in the fish and game division and water hyacinth division - workers who were not spraying water hyacinths at that time, that joined in with us and it was an all-out effort within the commission to be able to provide this type of service. Our biologists, our chief of our game division, everybody was really involved in it and it was very commendable on their part. People were working 60, 70, and 80 hours a week rescuing the deer, providing them feed and we certainly appreciate your comments.

MR. LUTTRELL: May I make a comment on that. I see Mr. Dan Dennett back there and I don't see Mr. Billy James but he is also to be commended. Those two men were there every day because I visited most of these places and they organized and used every means of every person that was employed by them. Along with the agents and other people I'd like to

see those two gentlemen get some recognition too for a job well done. I'll tell you this, I was in there most of the time watching and looking around, curiosity, but they didn't take eight hours, that thing was all day long and all night long. Any time a deer poked his head on the road he was caught. So I'd like to see that those two men got some recognition also. I'm sure there are others in other areas but I just happen to know those two. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. If there's no other business, we'll adjourn the regular meeting and we will reconvene to the seasons and bag limits.

. . . Thereupon, the Board concluded its regular business meeting and proceeded to conduct a public hearing re seasons and bag limits.