

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS
OF THE
LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

APRIL 22 and 23, 1957

The regular monthly meetings of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission were held on Monday and Tuesday, April 22 and 23, 1957. Monday was spent in conferences with Department Personnel, officers of the Louisiana Wild Life Federation, and the preparation of the Agenda for the public meeting. The public meeting was held at 9:30 A.M., on Tuesday, April 23, 1957, in Room "A", Monteleone Hotel, New Orleans, La.

Upon roll call by the Secretary, the following members were present:

E. R. McDonald, Sr., Chairman
George A. Foster, Vice-Chairman
John Cutrone
Herace J. Dugas
Raleigh Pitre
Ray Whatley

Absent:

None

On motion of Mr. Whatley, seconded by Mr. Dugas, and unanimously adopted, the minutes of the meeting held on March 26, 1957, were approved as submitted to the Commission.

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On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. Cutrone, and unanimously adopted, the action of Director Clements in adding Franklin Parish, which adjoins the Texas River, to the other seven Parishes (Texas, Madison, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Livingston, East Feliciana and Washington Parishes) in which wild turkey hunting was permitted on April 5, 6, 7 & 8, 1957, was ratified.

Chairman McDonald read the following from the Grant Parish Police Jury:

"A delegation from Ward 8 came before the Police Jury requesting the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to open the deer season East of Highway No. 165 and North of Highway No. 8 as an error was made in the closing of the hunting in this area but was not corrected in the hunting season of 1956.

"Moved by Mr. U. L. Baum, seconded by J. A. McBride, that the Police Jury of Grant Parish requests the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to open the area east of Highway No. 165 and North of Highway No. 8 for the hunting of deer in the open season 1957 and continue to make this open for hunting future years. An error was made in the boundary by making highway No. 84 the North and East Boundary instead of Highway No. 8. Motion carried."

Discussions followed by Chairman McDonald, Mr. Foster and Mr. Lloyd Abadie, President of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

On motion of Mr. Dugas, seconded by Mr. Foster, and unanimously adopted, the matter will be held in abeyance until a later date when the deer season will be considered for the entire state.

Chairman McDonald read the following resolution from the Grant Parish Police Jury:

"Motion by Mr. U. L. Baum, seconded by Mr. Frank Amberg, that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission be requested to continue the trapping of fox in Grant Parish as long as they deem necessary to protect the health and welfare of the citizens living in Grant Parish account of the recent outbreak of rabies in Grant Parish."

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Mr. Ted Ford, Biologist, Fish & Game Division, stated the usual procedure was to trap as long as there was any necessity and since the Predator Section was trapping at the moment, they would continue to do so.

Chairman McDonald read the following resolution from the Grant Parish Police Jury:

"Moved by Mr. Frank Anberg, seconded by Mr. J. A. McBride, that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission be requested to prohibit the hunting of deer on Sundays in Grant Parish. Several churches are located in the deer hunting area and the religious services are disturbed in their worship service. A copy of this resolution to be sent to the Louisiana Police Jury Association. Motion carried."

Mr. Whatley moved, seconded by Mr. Dugas, and unanimously adopted, that this matter be held in abeyance until a later date when the seasons would be set.

On motion of Mr. Dugas, seconded by Mr. Pitre, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works of the State of Louisiana has certified to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that the Contractor has completed Contract No. 4753, between the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and Ruckstuhl & Fick, Inc., contractor for Control Structures at Bertrand's Canal and Headquarters Canal and on Rollover Bayou, on the Rockefeller Wild Life Refuge and Game Preserve and has recommended that same be accepted,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that the work done by Ruckstuhl & Fick Inc., Contractors, under Contract No. 4753, with said Commission, dated

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January 30, 1956, be and the same is hereby accepted, and extension of time granted to the date of this acceptance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be and he is hereby authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this resolution in the mortgage records of the Parishes of Cameron and Vermilion, Louisiana.

Mr. Newson brought up next the proposed Biloxi Marsh Lands Corp. surface lease. He stated this proposed lease will cover approximately 40,000 acres of land near Lake Berne on which they proposed to develop into a public shooting area with Federal Aid Funds and with a minimum of development on this area, they could make an excellent water fowl shooting area. The lease would be for a period of ten years at a rental of \$500 per year.

Mr. Warren Simon, Attorney, stated he spoke with Mr. Dreyfus about this lease; that it was a question of the Commission agreeing to the terms of the lease and the annual consideration; that we would follow the same pattern and form in the establishment of the other public hunting grounds which were subsequently created, and if the Commission wanted to acquire the land, then it should adopt a resolution because the propose lease had to be submitted to the Federal Aid people for approval.

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. Pitre, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

That the Louisiana Wild Life & Fisheries Commission enter into a surface lease agreement with the Biloxi Marsh Lands Corp. for the leasing of the following described property, to-wit, comprising 19,728

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acres, more or less, for a term of ten years, and at an annual rental of \$500 per year and the payment of any or all taxes which may be due the State or Parish on said lands during the terms of said lease, said lands to be used for the propagation of wild game life; that Director F. L. Clement be and he is hereby authorized to execute said lease agreement for and on behalf of this Commission, on such terms and conditions as he may see fit; his action in connection therewith being hereby ratified and approved; and that the execution of said lease shall be subject to the approval of the Federal Aid Branch of the U.S. Fish and Wild Life Service.

Mr. Newson informed the Commission that the Fish & Game Division were concerned about the lack of research work done on deer diseases, and due to the fact that our deer population was building up, it was important to get this additional information. He stated it was proposed that a cooperative study be set up to study these deer diseases at one central location, instead of each State trying to do the job, as it would cost much less and we would receive more information. It was proposed that the Commission enter into a Federal aid project contract for the study of deer diseases and the cost would be approximately \$1500 or \$2000 per year.

Director Clement stated he thought it was a step in the right direction as we did not know what was happening to our deer and that this matter had come up at the Southeastern Game and Fish Commissioners Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. He stated Dr. Haman of the University of Georgia explained how this program would operate and if any disease

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broke out in the State of Louisiana, they would send a truck to pick up the deer and have it analyzed in their laboratory.

Mr. Foster wanted to know if there was any trouble in the Northern part of the State with deer diseases.

Chairman McDonald stated about three years ago there were some deer dying off and from the explanation of the biologists, it probably came from over population of deer in that area.

Mr. Newson stated one of the animals was found and brought into the laboratory and it was diagnosed as liver flukes. He stated that having the entire operation set up in one place, they would certainly be able to give each case more attention and whenever deer were found dying off, a deer survey would be made of the situation, and the Commission could be told what measures to take.

The Director stated he was assured that our neighboring States, Mississippi and Arkansas, would also enter into this cooperative plan and that was another value of this joint venture.

On motion of Mr. Outrose, seconded by Mr. Whitley, and unanimously adopted, The Director was authorized and instructed to enter into an agreement for a coordinated deer disease study with the University of Georgia, under the Federal Aid Program, and that he be authorized to execute said document and do all other things necessary or proper in connection therewith.

Mr. Newson was called to the floor to explain the proposed controlled hunting in game management areas.

Mr. Newson stated that the game management areas in this State

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were all under our Federal Aid Program - which meant they were financed 75% by Federal funds and 25% by State funds - and that the Federal Government through the Fish & Wild Life Service have been concerned about the fact that this Commission has not opened any of the game management areas, which were originally set up under their program to remain closed until a harvestable surplus of game existed on the areas, at which time they were to be opened. It was pointed out that the Federal Aid officers would withdraw the Federal aid funds if the areas which needed harvesting were not opened.

Mr. Newson made the following recommendations:

That a ten day quail season be held on the Red Dirt and Evangeline Game Management Areas to coincide with the last ten days of the legal quail season.

That a deer season be held on the Red Dirt and Catahoula Game Management Areas. The season on each area to be open for five days or until 100 bucks are killed, whichever occurs first. The opening date to coincide with the regular opening date of the legal deer season.

That a seven day squirrel season be held on the Caldwell Game Management Area and that a 14 day squirrel season be held on the Union, Terzia, Jackson-Sienville, Catahoula, Grant-Rapides, Evangeline, Sabine #1, Sabine #2, and Thistlewaite Game Management Areas. The opening date to be the same as the opening date of the regular legal squirrel season for the rest of the State.

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Mr. Foster inquired as to what was considered controlled hunting and if the other States were doing the same thing.

Mr. Whatley stated it seemed to him they were defeating the purpose of having game management areas if they were all opened up to hunting.

Mr. Newson stated he knew there would be some controversy about the opening of these areas, but with proper advertising, they could point out the things they intended to do and the controversies could be smoothed out. He told Mr. Foster that every State in the Southeast followed the plan of controlled hunting.

Mr. McDonald stated the thing that should be stressed was the fact that it would be hard to operate these areas without Federal Aid and that it was his understanding that the biologists would make a complete study and then make recommendations to the Commission, and if any errors had been made in the past when the controlled areas had been opened, the situation could be corrected.

Mr. Charley Bosch, Secretary, Louisiana Wildlife Federation stated the Federation had discussed this problem for a number of years and they had gone on record as favoring the controlled hunting in these areas.

Mr. Whatley stated the controlled hunting did not work out too well on Red Dirt, - that there were three or four thousand people in one spot, that the management was not good and there were some violations and two or three people almost got shot; that the number of hunters going into the areas should be controlled.

Mr. Newson reminded him that at the same time the area had been opened, they had operation "sage brush" with many vehicles on all roads and they also had two days of steady rain, which congregated all hunters in one place, but that they had considered the venture very successful, and the only control necessary was to limit the number of animals taken.

Mr. Norton Smith, Biologist, pointed out that with several areas opened at the same time, hunting pressure would not be as great as when only one or two areas were opened. He stated they had considerable help from our ranger forces and had one man at every entrance and about ten floating agents, and there were very few violations due to the checking stations at the entrances.

Mr. Lloyd Abadie stated Mr. Newson's Division would know whether the areas would be opened or not and then they could take steps to control it.

After a lengthy discussion pro and con, on motion of Mr. Whatley, seconded by Mr. Cutrone, and unanimously adopted, a program of controlled hunting was approved on several of the State's game management areas where the Commission's biologists agreed the game population was sufficient to stand a harvest of the surplus, in accordance with the provisions of the Game Management Areas, under the Federal Aid Program, which stipulates that when game population reaches a maximum, controlled hunting should be permitted or all Federal Aid Funds would be withdrawn; and that complete details of this controlled hunting program would be worked out by Mr. John Newson, Federal Aid Coordinator, and the recommended areas will be submitted by the Fish and Game Division before the 1957-58 hunting season dates are fixed.

10.

Chairman McDonald read the following letter from the Cameron Parish Police Jury, dated April 16, 1957:

"The Police Jury of Cameron Parish, Louisiana, at its regular Session April 1st, 1957, requested me to write you with reference to trading in the ditches or canals along Highway (State) 27 in Cameron Parish, from Holly Beach to Hackberry.

"Fishing parties stretch their trawls across the full width of this Canal and drag from one to the other destroying many valuable sport fish and interfere with rod and reel fishing. It is the wish of the Police Jury that you take some measures to prevent this trading along this Highway canal.

"Thanking you for any assistance you may feel in a position to render the Jury along this line.

Yours very truly

Cameron Parish Police Jury

BY: (S) J. W. Doney, Secretary"

Captain Book was called to the floor and said he would suggest that it be closed altogether, but there was some question about the ownership of the land.

Mr. Simon suggested that someone go to that area and get the facts, then some action could be taken, but if what they were doing was a violation of the fish and game laws with regards to seining, the Enforcement Division could stop them without the passage of a resolution.

On motion of Mr. Pitre, seconded by Mr. Cutrone, and unanimously adopted, the director was instructed and authorized to handle this in a manner that would be legal after a thorough investigation would be made.

A report was given on the success of the turkey season held recently in eight Louisiana Parishes. It was reported that a total of

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ninety-eight (98) gobblers were bagged during the four-day season and that the turkeys, many of which were examined by wild life biologists, were in good condition and mature gobblers. A breakdown on the gobblers taken in each Parish is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| East Feliciana | 23 |
| Franklin | 5 |
| Livingston | 16 |
| Madison | 18 |
| St. Helena | 21 |
| St. Tammany | 7 |
| Tensas | <u>8</u> |
| | 98 |

The Director expressed his appreciation for the splendid cooperation of the hunters in reporting their kills to the game agents and district biologists as this pertinent information will be very valuable in determining seasons in the future. The Director also was very pleased that the game law violations were at an all-time low during the four-day season.

Mr. Horace Dugas presented the following letter to the Commission:

"April 22, 1957

"Governor Earl K. Long
Capitol Building
Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Dear Governor Long:

I am unable to continue serving as a member of the Board of

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the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and I request that you accept this as my resignation, effective April 30, 1957.

"I wish to thank you for your consideration in appointing me on the Commission and it was a pleasure serving on this Board.

"With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Horace J. Dugas
Allemands, Louisiana."

cc: Mr. Clement

Mr. Dugas stated it was a pleasure to serve with the Commission and he did not know of any Committee or Commission that he had served on that he enjoyed more, -- the friendships, fellowship, and good will -- and that he regretted very much to resign. He also thanked the personnel of the department for the cooperation enjoyed by him.

Chairman McDonald accepted the resignation and stated he did so with a great deal of regret; that it was a pleasure to work with Mr. Dugas and that in his judgment, Mr. Dugas was thoroughly qualified to represent the area from which he came and the Commission was losing a very good man.

Chairman McDonald stated he was happy to have the Federation boys at the meeting and asked if there was any other business. Since there was no other business, the visitors left and the Commission convened in an executive session.

Mr. Simon reported to the Board the status of the Civil Service cases and with which the Commission was satisfied.

13.

Chairman McDonald read the following resignation from Mr.
Louis E. LeBlanc, Chief of the Enforcement Division:

New Orleans, La.
April 8, 1957

Hon. F. L. Clement, Director
Louisiana Wild Life & Fisheries Commission
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Clement:

"Please accept this letter as my resignation as Chief of
the Enforcement Division of the Louisiana Wild Life & Fisheries
Commission, effective at the close of business April 30, 1957.

"The reason for my resigning is that my official headquarters
is too far from my residence in Lafayette, and, of course, the recent
development that you and I discussed in your office yesterday.

"It goes without saying that I enjoyed having had the pleasure
of working with you and your associates for the past several months.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Louis E. LeBlanc,
Chief, Enforcement Division."

On motion of Mr. Cuzrow, seconded by Mr. Whitley, and
unanimously adopted, the resignation of Mr. Louis E. LeBlanc was
accepted and that a letter be written expressing the regret of
this Commission in the loss of Mr. LeBlanc; and that the Director
be authorized to replace Mr. LeBlanc at the termination of his
service with the Department.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Dugas,
seconded by Mr. Whitley, the meeting adjourned.

