

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHWEST LOUISIANA
GAME AND FISH PRESERVE COMMISSION**

Meeting held on August 2, 2016

Present were Commissioners Bedgood, Wilson, Self, Hubbard, and Chairman Lonadier.

On motion by Self and seconded by Wilson, the minutes were accepted as written.

Chairman Lonadier recognized guests, Rick Cain (SWEPCO), Louis Burr (SWEPCO), Villis Dowden (biologist), and the Black Lake Citizens Committee.

There was thorough discussion regarding the need for SWEPCO to raise some of its lines over and near the lake, including, particularly near Highway 1226. Some of the lines were submerged or touching the lake during the recent flood. Cain stated that SWEPCO was working on a plan to correct this situation. Cain stated that the lines should be 40' above open water pursuant to a nationwide rule. SWEPCO has been reviewing its lines near and over the lake since the recent flood. SWEPCO has also checked places along the side waterways leading to the lake. Chairman Lonadier advised that 150 to 160 families had been without power for seven (7) days, some of whom were old people with health problems. Lonadier asked whether SWEPCO had specific plans to raise the elevations on 1226. Cain said that SWEPCO did not have any such plans at this time. Cain stated that, because there was no back feed from Goldonna, if the water rose again, SWEPCO would have to shut down the 1226 power line. Lonadier suggested that perhaps 20 poles might require replacement. Because the poles have been in place 50 to 60 years, perhaps SWEPCO could replace them as part of its maintenance. Cain agreed to check out that possibility.

On a related matter, Self reported that SWEPCO's tree trimmers had left trash along the roads when they had trimmed the trees. Cain stated that he would address this issue with the crews.

There was then discussion regarding the status of the boat ramps. Allen boat ramp was mowed and cleaned. Westwind was also mowed and cleaned, but had some ruts approximately 30' off of the highway. A suggestion was made to place additional rock at Westwind, or get a grader to address this issue. C. D. Baker boat ramp was reported to be smooth and mowed. Bedgood reported some washing out of Baker, and suggested that it might need to have some bigger rock added. Dickson boat ramp was clean and mowed, but will need a load of gravel before the winter rains. If this is needed before the October meeting, Chairman Lonadier will be informed. There was also some discussion about widening the ramp, or taking other action, as some persons have difficulty using the ramp. The Recreation Area was reported picked up, cleaned, and mowed.

Biologist Villis Dowden, reported that Wildlife & Fisheries had hired contractors to spray for salvinia in the lake. Black Lake and Clear Lake were not considered problem lakes, and were not as negatively impacted as Sabine Lake and Nantucket Lake (and others). Dowden was not concerned with the floating of submerged vegetation, but noted that the upper end of the lake near trees and the bridge was a problem. Contractors had a 30-day contract. The contractors had currently been working for about 20 days. The contractors were retained to treat 350 acres of salvinia in Black and Clear Lakes. Dowden reported that there was no specific allotment for Black Lake. However, he stated that he had plenty of chemical, but was short on manpower in applying the chemical. They had been using Terminator from Pineville and had also been using a bid process. All of the contractors must be certified through the State Department of Agriculture to spray aquatic vegetation. Dowden reported that they typically spray the heaviest mass, not necessarily places where only small clumps of salvinia appear. Also, Wildlife & Fisheries has its own crews to treat those areas of about 10 to 20 acres. The contractors are hired for the larger jobs. Sprayco of Houston uses air boats. They are typically more expensive. Dowden believed that the area requiring treatment might equal more than 350 acres, and perhaps 500 acres. Chairman Lonadier inquired about the possibility of using a boom sprayer. Dowden said that that idea had been considered, but that it did not necessarily work as well.

The Commission then discussed the possibility of adding "no wake zones" to the lake. Dowden stated that the Police Jury could close the lake on recommendation by the Commission. The Commission could establish a certain water level beyond which the lake must be closed. Such closure, and no wake zones, could be enforced by law enforcement, including game wardens and police.

The fishing pier and Recreation Area was reported to be in good working order.

Chairman Lonadier had obtained a lake elevation map from Nick Verrett, which map showed the lake's elevation to vary from 99.03' to 99.05'. Three years earlier, the Commission had used a figure of 99.5'; however, that figure had not been correct.

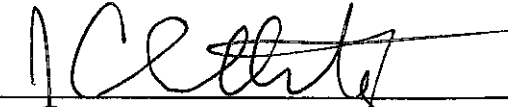
NEW BUSINESS

The Commission approved invoices of \$670 to Durwood Wilson, and two invoices to Impressions (one for \$47.52, and one for \$97.90).

Self moved that the Commission accept Larry Cooper as a Commissioner to replace Commissioner Junior Brown. Wilson seconded this Motion. The Commission voted unanimously to appoint Larry Cooper as a Commissioner, replacing Junior Brown.

The Blake Lake Citizens Committee declined to address the Commission. Some members of the Citizens Committee asked questions of Chairman Lonadier, and he responded.

On Motion by Hubbard, and seconded by Bedgood, the meeting did adjourn.



J. CHRIS GUILLET, for
STEVEN D. CREWS