***Saline Lake Game and Fish Preserve Commission***

***P.O. Box 847, Winnfield, La. 71483***

**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: February 9, 2017**

**Meeting Location: Winn Parish Courthouse – Downstairs Police Jury Meeting Room**

**Members Present: J. Atherton, B. Carter, W. Smith, B. Butler, B. Swords, B. Dupree, and T. Brewton.**

**Members Absent: none**

**Meeting called to order at: 6:30 pm by: J. Atherton**

**Invocation by: T. Brewton**

**Pledge of Allegiance by: J. Atherton**

1. **Adopt / Amend agenda**

**Motion: W. Smith Second: B. Swords Vote: Unanimous**

1. **Sign in Sheet for Meeting: J. Atherton asked everyone to sign in so that there will be a record of those in attendance.**
2. **Introduction of saline lake commission members.**
3. **Contact list updates: J. Atherton explained what the list is used for… everyone who elects to sign up will be placed on the saline lake Network email list. This is a tool designed to both inform and communicate with those signed up.**
4. **Adopt last meeting minutes (October 6, 2016)**

**Motion: w. Smith Second: T. Brewton Vote: Unanimous**

1. **Commission member Responsibility**

 **Secretary / Treasurer – B. Butler**

 **Duck Blinds – W. Smith**

 **Long Rang Tree Cutting – J. Atherton**

 **Short Term Spraying / Drawdowns – B. Carter**

1. **Election of officers**

 **President – J. Atherton**

 **V.P. – W. Smith**

 **Secretary / Treasurer – B. Butler**

 **Short Term Spraying / Drawdowns – B. Carter**

 **Motion: T. Brewton Second: B. Swords Vote: Unanimous**

1. **Report from LDWF – Villis Dowden**
2. **Misc. New/Old Business**
3. **DOTD will be conducting a safety inspection of the saline lake Dam on Tuesday February 21, 2017**
4. **Saline Lake Drawdown will be from June 1, 2017 to October 1, 2017**
5. **Boardwalk Pipeline will be working on their pipeline repairs in this time.**

 **12 J. Atherton is working with the state on the fishing Regulations.**

 **13 Salvinia Spraying Plan for 2017, they will try and start spraying in March.**

 14 Saline Lake Tree Cutting

 15 Saline Lake Plan:\* Lake size ~7,000 A

 16 Did a test run on 3 acres of private land when water was down in 2016.

 Affected by following:

1. Test area was not easily accessible by roads, lake slope.

2. Corp of Engineers issued the permit.

3. Permit required no cutting above 10 inches, tree could be burned if not wind rowed. No chipping lake allowed. Unsure if slash could be allowed to be left in the lake – slash might be allowed to be burned by Corp or fall under another permit by contractor.

4. Cutting was all at owner’s expense.

5. Requirement was to burn in place – basically trees would burn per Corp requirement to burn as they laid. State forestry brought in to help burn without success.

\* Saline Lake bottom is owned by State and private land owners. Cutting State trees could be a problem.

Current Status:

1. Current plan is to determine what private land can be cut – theoretically 4,000 acres.

2. Contractor would need to be determined – if use Pollock contractor he needs to determine Iatt feasibility first.

3. Permit requirement going forward not determined – either a Corp permit or some other route via a contractor.

4. Commission to vote on 2017 draw down for pipeline repair / Salvinia control. Possible additional tree cutting trial.

5. Determine a cutting contractor – need to determine the amount to be cut for financial feasibility.

6. Commission needs to determine next course of action – hire land surveyor, etc. to determine amount of available land for cutting or wait on Iatt feasibility.

**17 Financial Report - Checking account has a balance of$5,952.39(1/31/17). Duck Blinds have generated $ 1,975.00 (2016-2017 season). CD has a balance of $ 11,393.56**

**18 Duck Blind Permits – Permit application dates are Aug 1 – Oct 31**

**19 Public Comments – Input from crowd on questions, comments and**

 **Concerns.**

 **20 Adjournment: 8:15 pm**

 **Motion: T. Brewton Second: B. Swords VOTE: Unanimous**

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*Jimmy Atherton; President / Date* Bill Butler*; Secretary/Treasurer / Date*