**LAFOURCHE PARISH GAME & FISH COMMISSION**

**Minutes:  August 14, 2017**

 The regular monthly meeting of the Lafourche Parish Game and Fish Commission was held on Monday, August 14, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., in the meeting room of the Lockport Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barry Plaisance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**Roll Call:** Present – Vincent Guillory, Barry Plaisance, Oray Savoie and Dean Savoie; absent- Lloyd Ledet and Brett Bascle.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Dean Savoie and seconded by Vincent Guillory to approve the minutes as presented. Voting yes – Vincent Guillory, Oray Savoie and Dean Savoie; no – none. Motion approved.

**Adoption of Agenda/Secretary Report:**  The following was accomplished: checked mail box, copied and assembled meeting paperwork (agenda, minutes, financial report, etc.) for the August meeting, submitted minutes for publication in Daily Comet, sent minutes and agenda to Parish clerk, paid monthly bills, recorded reassignment of  lease on Rodney Rodriguez to Cody Dufrene, sent out postcards to Commission members, balanced checking account, submitted email to Wildlife and Fisheries alligator tags, took call from Helis Oil Company about the abandoned unmarked structure in Lake Fields, and paid IRS for second quarter taxes.

A motion was made by Dean Savoie and seconded by Vincent Guillory to approve. Voting yes- Vincent Guillory, Dean Savoie and Oray Savoie; no - none. Motion approved.

**Approval of Financial Report:** A motion was made by Dean Savoie and seconded by Vincent Guillory to accept the July financial report. Voting yes - Dean Savoie, Oray Savoie and Vincent Guillory;  no - none. Motion approved.

**Public Input:**  None.

**Business:**

**BTNEP Bayou Folse Water Quality Monitoring:**Tabled to a future meeting.

**Lake Fields/ Lake Long Restoration Plan (Update):** Board member Vincent Guillory notified the Commission that while most State of Louisiana’s available restoration funds have already been committed, BP oil spill funds are available and are being used for restoration projects. He also mentioned that they have expanded the criteria for accepting proposals beyond the direct impacts of the oil spill. A Lake Fields/Lake Long restoration proposal was submitted, and selections should be made by early 2018.

**Lake Fields/ Lake Long Restoration Plan Priority Steps:**Board member Vincent Guillory suggested to the Commission that an engineering firm be contracted to provide preliminary survey, engineering, and cost estimates for individual components of the Commission’s Lake Fields/Lake Long restoration plan. This preliminary data will be used later in the formal coastal use permit applications and also for the Commission to prioritize different restoration components. Vincent Guillory recommended T. Baker Smith because of their extensive experience in and around Lake Fields. A motion was made by Dean Savoie and seconded by Vincent Guillory for the Commission to contract for the preliminary engineering data. A motion was then made by Dean Savoie and seconded by Oray Savoie to amend the original motion to obtain engineering bids from numerous engineering firms; this amendment was approved with Dean Savoie and Oray Savoie voting yes, and Vincent Guillory voting no. The original motion was approved, with Dean Savoie, Vincent Guillory and Oray Savoie voting yes.

**Illegal Houseboat on Commission Property:** Chairman Barry Plaisance notified the board that there was an illegal houseboat parked on Commission property on August 13. The houseboat was later removed from Commission property to another location.

**Helis Oil and Gas Progress:** Chairman Barry Plaisancenotified the board that he has been in contact with Dan McKnight with Helis Oil and Gas concerning the unmarked structure in Lake Fields. Helis Oil and Gas representative Dan McKnight indicated that they would deal with this structure and requested that the Commission provide GPS coordinates. Oray Savoie offered to obtain the location coordinates.

**Preserve Duck Blind Placement and Design Restrictions:**Chairman Barry Plaisance requested input from the board and the public concerning the safe distance for waterfowl hunting near camp. Three hundred yards was agreed upon by both sides. A motion was made by Dean Savoie and seconded by Oray Savoie that no duck hunting would be allowed within 300 yards of a camp; motion approved. The Commission will later submit a preliminary proposal to the Lafourche Parish Council for an ordinance.

Because of opposition from the public, potential permanent duck blind restrictions was tabled by Chairman Barry Plaisance.

**Commission Field Trip (Update):**Chairman Barry Plaisance presented the boards findings of the illegal houseboat, several grass violations and the unmarked pipe structure believing to belong to Helis Oil Company on the field trip held on Friday, July 28, 2017.

**Tall Grass Violations:**Chairman Barry Plaisance notified the Commission that letters will be sent out to several lease holders about tall grass being observed on their lease.

**Court House Filing Fees:**Chairman Barry Plaisance notified the Commission that there has been an increase in the recording fees at the Parish Clerk of Court office from thirty-seven dollars to one hundred and five dollars. Dean Savoie motioned that the Commission charge the court appointed fees on future lease recordings and Vincent Guillory seconded; motion approved.

**Other Business:**

**Bayou Dumar:** Chairman Barry Plaisance advised camp lease holders that it would not be possible for the Commission to obtain a blanket costal use permit for Bayou Dumar dredging and spoil disposal because of wetland issues along the shoreline. However, individual lease holders would probably be able to obtain a permit for their camp lot.

 **Adjournment:**A motion was made by Dean Savoie and seconded by Vincent Guillory to adjourn the meeting.  Voting yes – Vincent Guillory, Dean Savoie and Oray Savoie; no – none.

The next meeting will be on Monday, September 11, 2017.

Barry Plaisance

Chairman

Shontelle Cockerham

Secretary