

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

Meeting held on August 4, 2020

Present were Commissioners Lonadier, Wilson, Hubbard and Cooper.

Chairman Lonadier recognized guests Villis Dowden and Candace Wren.

On motion by Hubbard and seconded by Cooper, the meeting was called to order.

On motion by Cooper and seconded by Wilson, the minutes were adopted as written.

There was general discussion about potential revenue sources for the Commission. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Steven D. Crews said he was still researching and working on potential revenue sources. Shane Hubbard was going to work as the liaison with Representative Gabe Firment and Durwood Wilson was going to work with Senator Louie Bernard to try and impress upon each of them the necessity of funding. Durwood Wilson was requested to show one or both of them around the lake complex so that they could see what was being done and the necessity of the funds.

Commissioner Wilson then gave a presentation on the condition of the boat ramps. All need some work and especially some backhoe work. Commission Wilson was requested to contact contractors in the area to see if they could help with the boat ramp locations, especially C.D.Baker. It is preferable that the dirt be hauled off during any backhoe work. Commission Wilson was requested to obtain scope of work information from the contractors and the estimated cost and then report back to Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Steven D. Crews.

Villis Dowden then gave a long presentation concerning lake management and especially the infestation of giant salvinia. Mr. Dowden advised that the boom at the bridge had been cut twice by vandals which allowed over 1,000 acres of giant salvinia to flow through. He advised that the boom would be reinstalled when the lake level was brought back to normal. There was then discussion concerning different methods of giant salvinia control. Mr. Dowden advised that they had a plan in place but unfortunately the reduction and funding does not allow for the use of contract sprayers. They are doing the best they can with the limited resources that are available. He stressed that one of the most important things would be for us to have a cold winter.

There was also discussion concerning the use of a helicopter but that was not really viable due to the density of the trees. There was some discussion concerning removing trees.

He further advised that they are trying a new chemical (MSM-60) and he hoped it would be a better option.

Thusfar they have treated 3,546 acres of giant salvinia infestation.

They recently stocked 119,000 Florida bass fingerlings.

They are continuing to review the use of weevils.

After the lake management presentation Chairman Lonadier reported we are still working on putting a boat ramp at the new location.

Villis Dowden reported that he is still reviewing the possibility of some water in a pit destroying the giant salvinia. Chairman Lonadier reported that he is going to purchase t-posts and drive them along the property boundary at the new boat ramp location.

On motion by Wilson and seconded by Cooper, Commissioners Bedgood and Hubbard were reappointed to the Commission.

The Commission discussed the possibility of raising the duck blind permit fee to \$25.00 and require GPS coordinates for every permittee.

There was discussion concerning suspending the necessity of a permit for the 2020/2021 duck season. On motion by Cooper and seconded by Wilson the necessary of a permit for the 2020/2021 duck season was suspended. People having a valid permit during the 2019/2020 season will be given first preference and priority for the permits for the 2021/2022 season.

The Commission then discussed creating a Facebook page. Commissioner Hubbard was going to check on this and report back.

Chairman Lonadier advised that he is going to begin removing the metal rods in the Prairie Lake and any other part of the lake complex.

On motion by Hubbard and seconded by Cooper the invoice in the amount of \$915.00 from Cory Wilson was approved.

There was then public discussion concerning the old road bed/recreation area and the need for clean up. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Steven D. Crews was asked to write Sheriff Stuart Wright about cleaning this area.

On motion by Hubbard and seconded by Cooper, it was agreed to retain our cleaning and mowing crews until the next meeting in October of 2020 so that their bills will be paid in case the meeting was cancelled.

On motion by Hubbard and seconded by Cooper the meeting did adjourn.

*Steven D. Crews*

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STEVEN D. CREWS