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

 ***Commission***

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

 ***Meeting Minutes***

***Meeting Date: February 6, 2020***

***Meeting Location: Couley Methodist Church, 14245 Highway 84W, Winnfield, La 71483***

***Members Present: J. Atherton, B. Butler, T. Brewton, W. Smith, B. Carter, Joe Kelley.***

***Members Absent: none***

***Called to order at: 5:30 pm by: J. Atherton***

***Invocation by: W. Smith***

***Pledge by: W. Smith***

***Agenda/Minutes:***

***Adopt/Amend Agenda***

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

***Adopt last meeting minutes***

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

***New / Old Business:***

1. ***Sign-in Sheet for Meeting Guests***
2. ***Contact List for Volunteers/Guests that would like to have E-mail updates.***
3. ***Discussion of open Commissioner Positions: 1 Natchitoches Parish.***
4. ***Discussion of New Winn Commissioner – Joe Kelley***

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

 ***5. Introduction of Guests:***

1. ***Elected Officials: none***
2. ***LA. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries: V. Dowden W. Maddox C. Finkbeiner.***

***6. Financial Report (current)***

* 1. ***Checking Account Balance $8,419.10***
	2. ***CD Account Balance $11,546.90***
	3. ***Duck Blind revenue $2,025.00***

***7 Duck Blind Permits***

* 1. ***2020-2021 Season permits will be available August 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020. Any permits not paid for in this time frame will become available on first come, first serve basis.***
	2. ***Permits will be $25.00.***
	3. ***Draft of new duck blind regulations called “Commission Lake Regulations” presented 10/10/19 for Commission review.  Discussion / approval of draft for 2020.***
1. ***LADOTD Chee Chee Dam Inspection***
	* 1. ***Inspection performed 4/11/19- Report to be sent. Bridge maintenance crew to schedule the repair on spalling around handrail posts. Replaced some caps on post already. Will continue to replace caps as needed.***
		2. ***Remove unwanted vegetation near spillway on Natchitoches side.***
		3. ***Install valve stem covers and replace underdrain caps that are broken.***
		4. ***B. Sticker waiting on State’s Brontosaurus machine to clear brush before end of year. Willing machine is available.***

 e. Level Gauge – Remote level gauge for Saline dam requested from LADOTD. B. Sticker, on 11/8/19. Six lakes on local DOTD list for level gauges. Sticker contacted USGS and Baton Rouge DOTD for availability of money and / or matching funds. USGS typically installs radar type gauges.  Gauges cost about $14,000 for the initial installation and about $7,000 per year for USGS to operate and maintain them. Sticker determined that the Louisiana Watershed Imitative will be installing any in the future. Per Ed Knight, P.E. who is a State Dam Safety Official with DOTD Public Works & Water Resources - the Louisiana Watershed Initiative is currently planning to initially fund several gauges. A formal request was made to the Louisiana Watershed Initiative on 1/22/20 and 1/25/20 to install a stage gauge on Saline Lake.

1. ***Lake Rules and Regulations***

***A. Rules and regulations are still in the process of getting passed.***

***B. Working with the State on new rules.***

***10 LA. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Status- Villis Dowden***

1. ***Channel Marking- Re marking of the channel will start when the lake is at pool stage.***
2. ***Channel Marking Status – WLF has requested that “the channel needs attention other than just treatment to visually navigate from Cedar Bluff to Key Hole. Re marking would likely occur after the lake rises. We could supply low cost supplies such as red and green paint or stencils.”***

***11 Short Term Spraying***

1. ***WLF & Contract spray boats will start treatment of (salvinia, hyacinth and Cuban bulrush) when the lake gets to pool stage and weather permits.***
2. ***WLF Boats have been spraying the channel and boat roads north of the pipeline.***
3. ***Total acres sprayed in 2019 was 1,827.00***

***12 Boom installation Mulligan Inn boat Ramp***

1. ***A boom was placed from the east bank to the west bank at the pipeline by Mulligan Inn.***
2. ***There are currently 3 entries and exits. These entries and exits will likely be decreased to 2 or 1 to minimize salvinia in the open areas.***
3. ***Boom is still in place and will be monitored as the lake water level is***

***Raised or lowered.***

***13 Drawdown***

* 1. ***Gates opened 6/3/19 and closed 10/01/19 at 95.5MSL. Moved logs off of the dam face on 9/26/19.***

***14 Tree Removal***

***a. J. Atherton continues to work with the state and land owners about the tree removal.***

***b. Corp of engineer letter of permission (LOP) permit#MVK-2019-139 received 5/29/19.***

* 1. ***Second permit request made to crop of engineer for letter of permission (LOP) permit #MVK-2019-139M for additional acres. Permit in comment phase.***
	2. ***Contractor reviewed 10acre test plot with WLF to determine feasibility and cost. Waiting on estimate.***
	3. ***Cypress Chipping – If there are enough (5,000 trees for 1 week of work) trees (assuming pulp wood size) available at the burn pit, then contractor would move in a portable chipper. Can chip up to 30” meaning maybe some limbs / stumps would be left for burning. Calculations: 5,000 trees / 200 trees per load = 25 loads of raw trees. Trailers are 45’ + 15’ over hang = 60’ long. Weight is 30Tons per truck at 25 trucks = 750 Tons for 5,000 trees. Cypress density about same as pine at 32 lb/cf.***
	4. ***Sabine River Authority (Mike Carr) contacted concerning equipment used for stump removal on Toledo Bend. Two types of equipment used, cutting head attached to backhoe with hydraulic 404 pitch chain saw with “V”, trackhoe barge to push stumps over when water was low. No longer have equipment purchased from Byles Welding & Tractor (Many). Byles to give approximate quote on barge to cut trees. Possible barge supplier Leevac Shipyards, Jennings.***

***15 Public/Commission Comments or Questions: none***

***Adjourn: 6:49 pm***

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

 ***Jimmy Atherton Bill Butler***

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***Jimmy Atherton – President Bill Butler – Secretary/Treasurer***