**LAFOURCHE PARISH GAME & FISH COMMISSION**

**Minutes:  February 11, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Lafourche Parish Game and Fish Commission was held on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., in the meeting room of the Lockport Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Bacon. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**Roll Call:** Present – Oray Savoie, Jeff Bacon, Vincent Guillory, and Brett Bascle. Absent - none. A legal quorum as defined by Commission bylaws was present.

**Adoption of Agenda:** A motion was made by Vincent Guillory and seconded by Brett Bascle to amend the agenda as follows: substitute approval of January minutes rather than December minutes. Voting yes – Oray Savoie, Vincent Guillory, and Brett Bascle; no – none. Motion approved.A motion was made by Brett Bascle and seconded by Oray Savoie to approve the amended agenda. Voting yes – Oray Savoie, Vincent Guillory, and Brett Bascle; no – none. Motion approved.

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

**Secretary Report:**   No report was given by the Secretary was given because of her excused absence.

**Approval of Financial Report:** No report was given by the Secretary was given because of her excused absence.

**Public Input:**  A member of the audience inquired about the status of the Commission’s maintenance dredging permit. Chairman Jeff Bacon elaborated on his effort to address some paperwork issues with the permit, and suggested that the permit is still valid but needs to investigate the Corp of Engineers permit.

**Business**

**Alligator Tag Records:** No response has been received to date from the alligator trapper concerning the Commission’s request for complete alligator tag records.

**Mooring of Commercial Industrial Vessel:** Vincent Guillory said thatat our January meeting, the Commission moved to submit a letter to the adjacent landowner about the mooring of the barge on state owned property on Umbrage Canal because the Commission does not have the jurisdiction to do so, per a state statute and a legal opinion from the Lafourche DA office. A letter was submitted to the adjacent landowner and their attorney to move the moored barge from the location and move it to private property.

**Proposed State Legislation:** Vincent Guillory said thatthe proposed language for legislation to change the Commission from a State board to a Parish board was submitted to Representative Jerry Gisclair who will be sponsoring the bill. Representative Gisclair has submitted our proposal to the legislative staff to review and place in the proper format and requested an opinion from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries under which the Commission is placed.

**Administrative Process for Lease Transfers:** Chairman Jeff Bacon said that he, Shontelle Cockerham, and Vincent Guillory had prepared an administrative checklist that a new lease holder must comply with before the Commission approves the transfer or act of donation of a current lease and for a new previously unoccupied lease. The checklist for lease was prepared to provide an easier process for lease holders and also to reduce any potential issues for the Commission. Vincent Guillory indicated thatthe current administrative process calls for prior approval of the Commission, an assignment form which requires a bill of sale or act of donation, and a new lease document, and that all forms will be placed on the Commission web site.A motion was made by Vincent Guillory and seconded by Brett Bascle to accept the checklist form. Voting yes – Oray Savoie, Vincent Guillory, and Brett Bascle; no – none. Motion approved.

A member of the audience asked if a lease and camp were given to or inherited by an immediate family member would the new leases. After a discussion, Chairman Jeff Bacon concluded that in such a case the new lease fee would apply.

**Update on State CUP:** Chairman Jeff Bacon indicated that this agenda item had been previously been discussed under Public Input

**Restoration Project CUP:** Vincent Guillory said that he attended a recent meeting concerning the Bayou Folse watershed with Ducks Unlimited (DU) and the Barataria -Terrebonne Estuary Program. After the meeting, Mike Carloss with DU called me to notify me that in 2018 DU would request $200,000 of NRDA funds from the BP oil spill payments and later submit a proposal to obtain North American Wetlands Conservation Act for additional funds, all of which would be utilized for Lake Fields / Lake Long restoration projects. DU would also administer these projects at no cost to the Commission, although the Commission would provide matching funds.

A discussion was held concerning using DU to apply for the necessary coastal use permits through a non-bid cooperative agreement. A motion was made by Vincent Guillory and seconded by Oray Savoie for the Commission to enter a cooperative agreement with Ducks Unlimited to secure coastal use permits with the State of Louisiana for the proposed Lafourche Parish Game and Fish Commission restoration projects. Voting yes – Oray Savoie, Vincent Guillory, and Brett Bascle; no – none. Motion approved.

**Night Time Nutria Hunting:** Chairman Jeff Bacon advised the Commission that an applicant for a state permit to harvest nutria on lands managed by the Commission wanted permission to harvest nutria at night. A motion was made by Brett Bascle and seconded by Vincent Guillory to allow night time hunting for nutria. Voting yes – Oray Savoie, Vincent Guillory, and Brett Bascle; no – none. Motion approved

**Other Business:** Chairman Jeff Bacon reported that the scheduled field trip for Commission members on the previous Friday was cancelled because of other commitments. He suggested a field trip for Friday, February 22.

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

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 11 at 6:30 pm at the Town of Lockport building.

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Jeff Bacon, Chairman

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Vince Guillory, Vice chairman