

HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL

MINUTES

March 15, 2012

**WOODY CREWS
CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Council Meeting
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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.

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AGENDA
HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
MARCH 15, 2012

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of Sept. 13, 2011 and June 14, 2011
3. Welcome and Opening Comments
4. Office of Fisheries – Marine Division Report
5. Office of Management and Finance Report: FY 2012-13 Budget
6. Legislative Update
7. Enforcement Division: Boating Safety Report
8. Office of Wildlife – Whooping Crane Reintroduction Report
9. Office of Fisheries – Inland Division Report
10. Set Next Meeting Date
11. Receive Public Comments
12. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL

Thursday, March 15, 2012

Chairman Woody Crews presiding.

Nelson “Snoop” Roth
Alexander Perret
Daryl Carpenter
Samuel J. Smith
Mike Windham
Joe Macaluso (for Lyle Johnson)
Stephen Pellessier
Jeff DeBlieux IV
Dr. Donald Reed

Council members Vance Gordon, Mike Rainwater, Shane Crochet, David Rousseau, and Eric Sunstrom were absent from the meeting.

The Council did not have any changes or amendments to the **Minutes of Sept. 13, 2011 or June 14, 2011**, so Chairman Crews announced that both Minutes were approved.

There was nothing for the **Welcome and Opening Comments** agenda item.

The first report, **Office of Fisheries – Marine Division Report**, was handled by Mr. Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries. Mr. Blanchet provided an overview of the Recreational Offshore Landing Permit and the Yellowfin Tuna Reporting Requirements Notices of Intent that are currently proposed and what the Department hopes to accomplish with them. He told the Board that comments are currently being received and public meetings are being held on both Notices of Intent, and they are not yet final rules. There was much discussion amongst the Board members and Mr. Blanchet, and it was decided that it is premature to discuss these further at this time. Chairman Crews asked that this be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The next item, **Office of Management and Finance Report: FY 2012-13 Budget**, was handled by Cathy Lockett, Fiscal Officer. Chairman Crews stated that he would like to know what the financial outlook is. Ms. Lockett provided an overview of the budget, sources of revenue, and budget reductions to the board. Ms. Lockett stated that license sales were up slightly last year, and there was discussion on the numbers pre versus post oil spill. The board discussed the effect of the proposed retirement bill on the LDWF budget, as well as the current financial situation of the Department. Chairman Crews asked Ms. Lockett to present trended data, as well a

breakdown of recreational hunting and fishing licenses at the next meeting. There was discussion on the idea of increasing license fees.

The next report, **Legislative Update**, was handled by Mr. Cole Garrett, LDWF Legislative Liaison. Mr. Garrett provided the board with an overview of the current legislation, focusing on 40 bills that directly impact the Department. Mr. Garrett distinguished between Department and non-Department bills. There was discussion on the intent and potential outcomes on some of the bills, particularly in relation to the financial impact to the Department. The board was especially fond of Senate Bill 224 that would put lifetime hunting and fishing license information on drivers licenses. At the request of Mr. Pellesier, Mr. Garrett further discussed SB 341, stating that the intent is simply to clarify a current discrepancy.

The **Enforcement Division Report** began with Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne stating that there were a total of 813 cases and 220 written warnings were issued during February and agents helped with 57 public assists. There were 7 boating accidents reported with 2 injuries and 1 fatality. Lt. Col. Mayne stated that from 2008 to 2010 there was a dramatic decrease in fatal boating incidents. He stated that there has only been 1 boating fatality year to date, 7 serious injuries, and 10 total boat crash incidents. He stated that 9,972 students were certified in boater education in 2011, which is up from previous years. He also stated that there is now a free boater education course available online, and about 1,700 people were certified online last year. The Department will also begin a lapsed boater program for boat registrations that have expired.

The next agenda item, **Office of Wildlife – Whooping Crane Reintroduction Report**, was handled by Bob Love, Coastal and Non-Game Resources Division. Mr. Love told the board that Whooping Cranes were listed on the Endangered Species list in 1967, and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) did not begin until 1973. Mr. Love provided a fact sheet and brochures to the board, as well as a history of the reintroduction of Whooping Cranes. Mr. Love stated that some disadvantages are that they have an extremely low reproduction rate, they are not nocturnal, they are not cryptic. The only way Whooping Cranes will make it in the wild is if people want them. The recovery plan calls for 130 individuals and 25 nesting pairs for 10 years without restocking. Mr. Love stated that in March of 2011 the Department got 10 birds, and only 3 remain, of which two will probably nest next year. There is strong administrative support for this project, and dedicated statutory funds are paying for the majority of it. Last year about \$400,000 was spent from the Department's budget, plus \$70,000 from the Foundation. There was discussion on the two birds that were shot, biological observations of habitat preferences, and educational outreach. Mr. Love stated that the Department received 16 more birds in December, but that one has already been taken by predators. Much discussion ensued on the Whooping Crane project among Mr. Love and board members. Chairman Crews thanked Mr. Love for his time, and commended his passion and direction.

The next agenda item, **Office of Fisheries – Inland Division Report**, was handled by Alexander Perret, Inland Fisheries. He began with an update on Tilapia monitoring in Port Sulphur, stating that the numbers are very reduced. Mr. Perrett discussed Asian Carp have recently been found in places that they were not known to be before, due to the flood, but they are still not being found in the Florida parishes. Sampling and testing will be ongoing, as this is a relatively new issue.

Mr. Perrett moved onto the Ivan Lake restoration project, providing an overview and stating that it is moving along well. Eunice City Lake was discussed next, and construction should be completed by 2014. Mr. Macaluso asked that Mr. Perrett bring stocking charts to the next meeting. Much discussion ensued regarding various fisheries issues. Chairman Crews asked about the Department's plan for handling surface aquatics, and Mr. Perrett answered that the major focus will be on access areas. Chairman Crews asked that the council remain informed. There was further discussion on funding for aquatic control.

The Council discussed the waterfowl surveys that are currently out and the different options that are available this year. The Council was urged to go online and complete a survey.

The Council set the **Next Meeting Date** for Tuesday, June 12, 2012 beginning at 1:30 PM.

There were no **Public Comments** heard.

Chairman Crews **Adjourned** the meeting.