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**Saline Lake Game and Fish Preserve Commission**

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

***Meeting Date: October 10, 2019***

***Time: 6:30 PM***

***Location: Winn Parish Courthouse – Upstairs Police Jury Meeting Room***

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**Agenda:**

* **Call to Order - J. Atherton**
* **Invocation and Pledge – W. Smith**
* **Adopt / Amend Agenda - J. Atherton**
* **Sign-In Sheet for Meeting - J. Atherton**
* **Lake Volunteer Contact List – List of Volunteers receiving Saline Lake Newsletter - J. Atherton**
* **Introduction of Police Jury Members Present – J. Atherton**
* **Introduction of Wildlife and Fisheries Representatives**
* **Adopt Last Meeting Minutes – Commission**
* **Adopt Dates for 2019 Meetings - Commission**
* **Discussion of Open Commissioner Positions – 1 Winn Parish, 1 Natchitoches Parish**
* **Discussion of Election of Officers for 2020**
  + **President**
  + **Vice President**
  + **Secretary / Treasurer**
* **Discussion of Commissioners’ Responsibilities for 2020**
  + **Duck Blinds – W. Smith**
  + **Long Range Tree Cutting – J. Atherton**
  + **Short Term Spraying / Drawdowns – B. Carter**
* **LADOTD Dam Inspection – J. Atherton**
  + Inspection performed 4/11/19 – Report sent to Commission. Bridge maintenance crew to schedule a time to repair the spalling around the handrail posts, remove the unwanted vegetation from near the spillway on the Natchitoches side, install valve stem covers, and replace the underdrain caps that are broken. B. Sticker waiting on State’s Brontosaurus machine to clear brush before end of year. Machine still not available.
* **WLF Status – V. Dowden**
  + Lake Rules & Regulations – List of regulations without duck blinds or underwater hazards given to V. Dowden on 8/18/19 for WLF discussion on State wide approval changing from “waterbody” passive gear regulations to “statewide” passive gear regulations.  On the next biologist meeting (likely in December) agenda to consult with every inland district, interested commissions and the public to streamline all aspects of passive gears within the state.
  + Channel Marking - WLF has requested that “the channel needs attention other than just treatments 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.”
* **Commissioners’ Reports**
  + **Secretary / Treasurer – B. Butler**
  + **Duck Blinds – W. Smith**
  + **Short Term Spraying / Drawdowns – Status by B. Carter** 
    - **Drawdown – Gates opened 6/3/19 and closed 10/1/19 at 95.5 MSL. Moved logs off of dam face on 9/26/19.**
      * **Corp of Engineer** - All work around the lake (docks, trees, lake bottom, etc.) required a Corp of Engineer permit available from the SLG&FC.
      * **Tennessee Pipeline Repair** - TGP started repairs 7/22/19 of the pipe replacement on North end of Lake. Project to be completed 10/1/19.
    - **Salvinia Evaluation / Problem Areas:**
      * Salvinia Spraying for 2019 - WLF spray boats status
      * Salvinia Spraying for 2019 - Contract spray boats status
  + **Long Range Tree Cutting – J. Atherton** 
    - Initial equipment demonstration performed on June 11, 2019.
    - Trees from 6/11/19 demonstration moved to USFS dirt pit on 9/3/19. Tress on hump South of Mulligan Inn removed by WPPJ to open up area around ramp and taken to USFS dirt pit. Email vote to pay US Forest Service permit fee of $394 results by motion by W. Smith, second B. Butler 5 Yeas - 1 abstain – 1 vacant. However, USFS has waived fee so it will not be paid.
    - Second contractor reviewed 10 acre test plot with WLF to determine feasibility and cost. Waiting on estimate.
    - Second permit request made to Corp of Engineer for Letter of Permission (LOP) Permit #MVK-2019-139M for additional acres approved.
    - US Forestry Service issued a Nominal Effects Letter on July 31, 2019 for use of the dirt pit for burning of trees.
    - 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.
    - 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.
* **Adjournment**