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

***Commission***

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

***Meeting Minutes***



***Meeting Date: October 7, 2021***

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

***Members Present: J. Atherton, W. Smith, T. Brewton, G, Jones.***

***Members Absent: B, Butler, P. Todd, J. Kelley.***

***Called to order at: 4:30 pm by: J. Atherton***

***Invocation by: J. Atherton***

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



***Agenda/Minutes:***

***Adopt/Amend Agenda***

***Motion: G. Jones Second: W. Smith Vote: Unanimous***

***Adopt last meeting minutes***

***Motion: T. Brewton Second: W. Smith 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 Commissioner’s Responsibilities for 2022***

***Duck Blinds- W. Smith***

***Long Range Tree Cutting – J. Atherton***

***Short Term Spraying / Drawdowns – J. Atherton***

**Adopt Dates for 2022 Meetings - Commission**

***Motion: W. Smith Second: T. Brewton Vote: Unanimous***

* ***4.* Election of Officers for 2022**

**President – B. Butler**

**Vice President – W. Smith**

**Secretary / Treasurer** ***- J. Kelley***

***Motion: J. Atherton Second: W. Smith Vote: Unanimous***

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

1. ***Elected Officials: none present.***
2. ***LA. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries: V. Dowden.***
3. ***LDWF – Put buoys up from coulee to Dam marking channel. These buoys are for direction only and not indicating a clear channel.***

* ***d.* Introduction of Police Jury Members Present – J. Atherton**
  + Mulligan Inn parking lot road repair requested from the WWPJ on 6/15/21 and 9/27/21. Repaired 10/1/21.
  + Mulligan Inn ramp concrete hump at the end of ramp removed on 8/23/21 during drawdown by the SLGFP.
  + Mulligan Inn ramp had rock placed at the end of ramp on 8/30/21 during drawdown by WPPJ.
  + Ramp at dam has a non-functioning security light. B. Butler contacted SWEPCO to repair light and was told there was a pole down in the right of way that they did not want to repair due to access. Email sent to SWEPCO requesting repair. Determined that the pole was vandalized by being cut off at the base and the wires clipped. Vandalism reported to the Winn Parish Sheriff’s Department. Waiting on response from SWEPCO.
  + Chee Chee Dam ramp requested WPPJ to place rock at the end of ramp during drawdown.

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

* 1. ***Checking Account Balance $11,207.24***
  2. ***CD Account Balance $11,589.44***
  3. ***Duck Blind revenue $2,225.00***

***7 Duck Blind Permits***

* 1. ***2021-2022 Season permits will be available August 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021. Any permits not paid for in this time frame will become available on first come, first serve basis.***
  2. ***Permits will be $25.00.***

1. ***LADOTD Chee Chee Dam Inspection***

***A.*** Inspection performed 6/28/21 – report sent to Commission. B. Sticker has a project with PT funds for numerous levees that need clearing with State’s Brontosaurus machine to clear brush. Also has a project concerning gate / land access to levee. DOTD, Sticker, contacted 6/29/21 concerning Saline Commission operating the gates – item still in hands of lawyers and new hog rooting along levee during drawdown. DOTD, Sticker, contacted 9/13/21 concerning Saline Commission operating the gates. DOTD, Lachney, contacted 9/13/21 and copy of 2021 Dam Inspection Report sent to SLG&FPC.

**B.** Level Gauge – Remote level gauge for Saline dam requested from LADOTD, B. Sticker, on 11/8/19. 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. 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. Second application for gauge made 9/17/21

***9 Lake Rules and Regulations WLF Status – V. Dowden***

1. Statewide Lake Rules & Regulations – List of requested regulations given to V. Dowden on 8/18/19 for WLF discussion on Statewide approval changing from “waterbody” passive gear regulations to “statewide” passive gear regulations. They will be meeting on the changes.
2. Channel Marking Status – WLF has requested that “the channel needs attention other than just treatment to visually navigate from Cedar Bluff to Keyhole.   WLF could supply low cost supplies such as red and green paint or stencils.” Started marking north of sand dump and stopped at Brewton boat road. WLF will continue to mark where needed as water level allows.

1. ***Short Term Spraying*** 
   * + **Salvinia Evaluation / Problem Areas:**
       - Report of lake Salvinia condition North of boom
       - Report of lake Salvinia condition South of boom
       - Boom needs to be relocated behind trees on North side of pipeline / West bank – loop around last set of trees to keep out of pipeline.
       - Boom was relocated at Mulligan Inn during drawdown. Will need to be re-located back.
     + **New Cypress Tree Growth –** Gates closed to 2” per day drawdown on 7/7/21 – gates fully opened 7/19/21. New cypress trees between Oak Point #1 and Oak Point #2 sprayed on 7/13/21 at 99.3 MSL. New cypress growth on flat across from Cedar Bluff will need spraying.
     + **Buck Brush Growth** – Spraying at Cooley Creek NE, Oak 1 to Oak 2, and Little Lake creek South occurred between 4/20/21 and 6/10/21. Main Little Lake area that was not sprayed will need spraying in 2022.

***11 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.***

***c. Boom is still in place and will be monitored.***

d. Boom relocation behind trees on North side of pipeline / East bank

***12 Drawdown***

* + - **Drawdown** – Gates opened 5/27/21at 12.5 inches above pool. Lake at pool stage on 6/19/21. Gates closed on 9/30/21.

***13* Long Range Tree Cutting – J. Atherton**

* + - Initial equipment demonstration for tree removal 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.
    - Second contractor reviewed 10 acre test plot with WLF to determine feasibility and cost. Waiting on estimate. Emails sent requesting pricing sent 9/16/19, 10/4/19, and 1/8/20.
    - 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”, track hoe barge to push stumps over when water was low. No longer have equipment purchased from Byles Welding & Tractor (Many). Possible barge supplier Leevac Shipyards, Jennings. Byles not interested in giving quote on barge to cut trees.
    - Woodson Incorporated, LLC contacted in August, 2020 concerning tree removal – no interest.
    - HB 239 discussion.
    - Contractor David Greer contacted 4/9/21 to obtain price for tree removal – never submitted his proposal.
    - To date, no contractor found to remove trees.

***14. Public/Commission Comments or Questions: none***

***Adjourn: 6:00 pm***

***Motion: B. Butler Second: B. Carter Vote: Unanimous***

***Jimmy Atherton Bill Butler***

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