

Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Inc.

79th Annual Meeting

August 18, 2018

Baton Rouge Radisson
Baton Rouge, LA

P R O P O S E D
R E S O L U T I O N S

Conservation Committees*

Boating & Fresh/Saltwater Fisheries

Habitat Conservation and Management

Migratory, Forest and Upland Wildlife

Conservation Policy, Laws and Enforcement

Environmental Quality

The resolutions printed herein have been submitted by Louisiana Wildlife Federation affiliates and directors. Each resolution will be considered by the delegates to the Federation's 79th Annual Meeting to determine if it will be supported (adopted) as is, amended, or rejected by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation as a matter of policy.

* Conservation Committees will meet collectively to hear each resolution in the order presented solely in the **General Assembly to be convened at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 18.**

Proposed resolutions to be considered (subject only):

Note: One (1) resolution has been adopted in 2018 prior to those proposed herein.

- Res. No. 2 - REQUEST OF CWPPRA TASK FORCE AND CPRA TO USE WVA AND ITS VARIABLES TO USE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE IN EVALUATIONS OF PROJECTS
- Res. No. 3 - CONSIDERATION OF PRIOR CONVERTED CROPLANDS AS ESSENTIAL TO LOUISIANA AGRICULTURE AND NOT WATERS OF THE U.S. AS STATED IN 33 CFR 328
- Res. No. 4 - PROPER MITIGATION OF WETLAND RESOURCES ESPECIALLY FORMER PRAIRIE IN LOUISIANA
- Res. No. 5 - EXPANSION OF WANTON WASTE REGULATIONS FOR WATERFOWL AND OTHER GAME BIRDS
- Res. No. 6 - EVALUATION OF A SEPTEMBER FERAL CANADA GOOSE SEASON IN LOUISIANA
- Res. No. 7 - SCENIC RIVERS ACCESSIBILITY AND RECREATION
- Res. No. 8 - LWF REAFFIRMS SUPPORT OF LOUISIANA'S SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

**SUBJECT: REQUEST OF CWPPRA TASK FORCE AND CPRA TO USE WVA AND ITS VARIABLES TO
USE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE IN EVALUATIONS OF PROJECTS**

1 WHEREAS, the Batelle 2010 independent peer review of the Wetland Value
2 Assessment (WVA) was funded under the U.S. Army Corp of Engineer's
3 Planning Model Improvement Program and concludes that "the marsh models as
4 they now exist do not reflect ecological reality and their application is suspect";
5 WHEREAS, the recommendation by Batelle 2010 is to revise the Coastal Wetlands
6 Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Wetland Value Assessment
7 (WVA) marsh models to reflect ecological and physical reality rather than
8 incorporating policy;
9 WHEREAS, a sensitivity analysis conducted by United States Army Corps of Engineers
10 (USACE) indicates the CWPPRA WVA marsh models may overestimate the benefits
11 of some restoration techniques and underestimate the benefit of other techniques;
12 WHEREAS, in an effort to implement programmatic goals, the CWPPRA
13 Environmental Workgroup uses conventions that may not be supported by the best
14 available science;
15 WHEREAS, application of these conventions may overestimate the benefits of some
16 restoration techniques and underestimate the benefit of other techniques;
17 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the CWPPRA Environmental Workgroup to
18 provide accurate scientific and technical information to the CWPPRA Technical
19 Committee and Task Force;
20 WHEREAS, it is the role of the CWPPRA Task Force to incorporate policy,
21 programmatic goals, and technical information from various workgroups into
22 CWPPRA decision making process.
23 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) request of
24 the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Task Force

25 and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) that the
26 Wetlands Value Assessment (WVA) used to evaluate coastal restoration projects
27 under the CWPPRA program be revised to include recommendations provided under
28 the United States Army Corp of Engineer's (USACE) Planning Models Improvement
29 Program as indicated in the independent peer review of the WVA (Batelle 2010) and
30 ensure that the CWPPRA Environmental Workgroup utilize the best science during
31 their analysis of the varying project types.

Submitted by: Rapides Wildlife Association, Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists
Contact: Marty Floyd
Email: progne99@aol.com

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF PRIOR CONVERTED CROPLANDS AS ESSENTIAL TO LOUISIANA AGRICULTURE AND NOT WATERS OF THE U.S. AS STATED IN 33 CFR 328

1 WHEREAS, Louisiana crop, pasture and range lands often are located on landscapes
2 that are commonly labeled as “Prior Converted Croplands” (PCC) for the Food
3 Security Act (as amended), with a long growing season, high rainfall, and a relatively
4 level landforms;
5 WHEREAS because of these unique features, a significant percentage of these
6 PCCs (under normal circumstances) still contain indicators of all general diagnostic
7 environmental characteristics that define a federally recognized judicial wetland;
8 WHEREAS, because of the uniqueness of Louisiana, PCCs often are the Prairie
9 Farmlands of the State, and as such, are highly productive and essential for the
10 Louisiana economy in the production of food, fiber⁴, and agricultural based fuels;
11 WHEREAS, the agricultural industry in Louisiana has expressed concern over the way
12 in which these PCCs are perceived especially when in a fallow rotation or when crops
13 are rotated with livestock or cattle operations;
14 WHEREAS, concern is also expressed how some of the governing statute, regulations,
15 and policies are interpreted by the Corps of Engineers, especially in southwest
16 Louisiana, regarding jurisdiction over these PCCs under the Clean Water Act;
17 WHEREAS, from the agricultural industry’s perspective, these perceived
18 interpretations have significant negative impacts on soil health, water quality,
19 unintentional promotion of invasive species expansion, and provide undue financial
20 burdens on farm families;
21 WHEREAS, 33CFR Part 328 expressly states, “Waters of the United States do not
22 include Prior Converted Cropland.”;
23 WHEREAS notwithstanding the determination of the area’s status as prior converted

24 cropland by any other federal agency for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, the
25 final authority regarding the Clean Water Act jurisdiction remains with the EPA;
26 WHEREAS, the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
27 provided the statement regarding consideration of determining abandonment of
28 Prior Converted Cropland (PCC): “The 1993 preamble to the PCC rulemaking for the
29 Corps provides clarification on the use of the term abandonment. PC cropland which
30 now meets wetland criteria is considered to be abandoned unless: for once in every
31 five years the area has been used for the production of an agricultural commodity,
32 or the area has been used and will continue to be used for the production of an
33 agricultural commodity in a commodity used rotation with aquaculture, grasses,
34 legumes or pasture production.”;
35 WHEREAS, this has not been the standard guidance (in-full) provided to agricultural
36 producers by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel;
37 WHEREAS, agricultural production systems, like other production systems are
38 advancing due to scientific research and technical findings;
39 WHEREAS, it was once very common to extend tillage of soils, in both fall and spring,
40 to be used for site preparation and weed control;
41 WHEREAS, due to detrimental effects on soil biology and soil health, significant
42 amounts of amendments were required (to supplement the reduced fertility) to
43 achieve production on degraded seed beds;
44 WHEREAS, research shows constant cover of the soil with a diverse, species rich mix
45 of herbaceous vegetative species, provides utmost protection from erosion and
46 runoff, improving soil health and lessening the need for supplements;
47 WHEREAS, reductions in soil health, soil productivity, the decline in organic matter
48 within soil, decreasing soil moisture, and increased soil erosion can largely be
49 attributed to tillage-based practices which neglect soil quality management; and
50 WHEREAS, to the untrained, diverse vegetative cover even on an active
51 agricultural rotation may give the inaccurate appearance of an “abandoned” PCC.
52 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation recommends that

53 consideration from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers should be given to promoting
54 the benefits of no-till farming, cover crops, fallow rotations, hayland, pasture
55 (grazed by livestock), all as part of an on-going agricultural system which promotes
56 and enhances soil quality;

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should not view only
58 the first portion of their own guidance (for once in every five years the area has
59 been used for the production of an agricultural commodity) and require tillage and
60 plantings on Prior Converted Crops (PCC) solely to remain in compliance with the
61 Clean Water Act;

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the perception that fallow rotations, soil health building
63 covers, or pastures or hayland rotated within active livestock or crawfish operations,
64 containing late successional vegetation being considered abandoned is an overreach
65 of authority and inaccurate interpretation;

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, requiring soil tillage and conventional planting of select
67 commodities for maintaining compliance with the Clean Water Act is counter
68 intuitive to environmental intent of the Law;

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation requests Louisiana's
70 U.S. Congressional Delegation to require the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers with
71 Districts in Louisiana (especially the New Orleans District) to recognize that PCCs are
72 exempt from the Clean Water Act (unless for once in every five years the area has
73 been used for the production of an agricultural commodity, or the area has been
74 used and will continue to be used for the production of an agricultural commodity in
75 a commodity used rotation with aquaculture, grasses, legumes or pasture
76 production) as stated in the 1993 preamble to the PCC rulemaking for the U.S.
77 Army Corp of Engineers; and

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and Environmental
79 Protection Agency work with agricultural agencies such as the Natural Resources
80 Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agency in an effort to fully understand
81 the differences between fallow rotations, soil building covers, no-till farming, use

82 for livestock grazing and hayland rotations, management of native plant
83 communities for rotational forage, etc., and truly abandoned agriculture so
84 unnecessary and burdensome regulatory actions such as Cease and Desist Orders
85 are not inaccurately served upon and burden Louisiana agricultural producers
86 without due cause.

Submitted by: Rapides Wildlife Association, Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists
Supported by: The Farm Bureau, Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts and Gulf Coast
Joint Venture
Contact: Marty Floyd
Email: progne99@aol.com

SUBJECT: PROPER MITIGATION OF WETLAND RESOURCES ESPECIALLY FORMER PRAIRIE IN LOUISIANA

1 WHEREAS, economics of Louisiana is expanding with the growth of its citizens, and
2 industrial, agricultural, and urban developments may convert some of the State's
3 wetland resources;

4 WHEREAS, wetlands functions and values lost in a conversion should be
5 appropriately mitigated as directed by the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Food Security
6 Act (FSA) as applicable;

7 WHEREAS, the statutes require proper replacement of functions and values and not
8 to remove the environment, biological, habitat, foraging, water quality filtering and
9 flood storage effects and services provided by the wetland resource from the local
10 community from which it was converted, and requires the lost functions and values
11 are mitigated not only within the same basin or watershed but also with true "in
12 kind" mitigation;

13 WHEREAS, even though vegetation (especially pioneer, light seeded woody species)
14 of a different wetland or habitat type may appear due to lack of fire, herbivory or
15 some form of manipulation, it is common for aggressive, native woody species like
16 loblolly pine to encroach on a degraded site similarly without fire and herbivory, or
17 some sort of manipulation, it is common that an aggressive, exotic species like
18 Chinese tallow tree to encroach on a degraded site;

19 WHEREAS, Chinese tallow trees and loblolly pine commonly encroach prairie sites,
20 longleaf pine sites, loess (upland hardwood) sites, and alluvial (bottomland
21 hardwood) sites;

22 WHEREAS, this would not make the site historically a Chinese tallow or pine site and
23 if the site would be characterized by the invading vegetative communities, this type
24 of interruption by an agency would aid in the loss of Louisiana's rare vegetative
25 communities;

26 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan shows the Coastal Prairie historically
27 occupied about 2.5 million acres in southwest Louisiana and less than 1% of the
28 originally Gulf Coastal Prairie remains today;

29 WHEREAS, the Gulf Coast Prairie is ranked as imperiled globally because of rarity,
30 making it vulnerable to extirpation and western longleaf savannah is ranked
31 similarly;

32 WHEREAS, allowing a prairie or longleaf pine site to be used as any other vegetative
33 community site would increase that vulnerability;

34 WHEREAS, cultivated rice fields provide important habitat for migratory and resident
35 waterfowl, shorebirds, secretive marsh birds, wading birds and reptiles and
36 amphibians;

37 WHEREAS, cultivated rice fields are key habitats for waterfowl conservation in the
38 region providing critical energy resources for migrating and wintering waterfowl;

39 WHEREAS, cultivated rice fields provide migration habitat for dozens of species of
40 migratory shorebirds, including several rare species;

41 WHEREAS, cultivated rice fields are also important breeding habitat for secretive
42 marsh birds including the King Rail which is declining precipitously in many other
43 areas of its range and the region has been designated as an Important Bird Area by
44 Audubon because of the values stated above;

45 WHEREAS, the historic coastal prairie was a wet grassland system prior to human
46 conversion and was relatively treeless except along riparian corridors;

47 WHEREAS, the expansion of tallow into the rice fields represent both a shift in
48 habitat types from wet grassland to woody, degrades habitat quality for water birds,
49 and allows expansion of a noxious invasive species; and

50 WHEREAS, official data such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
51 Soil Survey Geographical Database (SSURGO), Official (soil) Series descriptions,
52 and States Geological Survey (USGS) geomorphology data are readily available for
53 use in determining pre-European settlement vegetation associations, and therefore
54 the appropriate wetland type needed for proper "in-kind" mitigation.

55 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation recommends that
56 all the applicable State and Federal government agencies represented in the
57 Interagency Review Team (including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
58 Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service,
59 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Louisiana Department of
60 Natural Resources) take actions to protect the rich and abundant natural resources
61 by supporting assessment procedures for wetland types that are based on landscape
62 position, historic or pre-European settlement vegetative communities, existing and
63 relic geomorphic components and functions, and not only on ephemeral
64 components such as current dominant vegetation (especially that of invading exotic
65 vegetation); and
66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation requests that
67 Louisiana's U.S. Congressional Delegation direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to
68 require implementation of accurate "in-kind" mitigation to ensure associated
69 environmental, biological, physical and societal benefits be replaced as practically as
70 possible, discouraging the spread of exotic species (as directed by Executive Order
71 13751 – Safeguarding the Nation from Impacts of Invasive Species), and allowing
72 declining wetland plant communities a chance for survival for future generations.

Submitted by: Rapides Wildlife Association, Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists
Supported by: The Farm Bureau, Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts and Gulf Coast
Joint Venture
Contact: Marty Floyd
Email: progne99@aol.com

**SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF WANTON WASTE REGULATIONS FOR WATERFOWL AND OTHER
GAME BIRDS**

1 WHEREAS, the term “wanton waste” is broadly defined as, “to intentionally waste
2 something negligently or inappropriately” and this term is most often used in
3 relation to hunting or fishing;

4 WHEREAS, most states have laws to the effect that a person may not wantonly
5 waste or destroy a usable part of any wildlife or fisheries;

6 WHEREAS, “wanton” is adjectively defined as “Merciless, Inhumane, Malicious,
7 Extravagant, Mischievous, Undisciplined or Unruly” and certainly not the character
8 of a true law abiding sportsman;

9 WHEREAS, Federal wanton waste regulations are defined in code 50 CFR 20.25,
10 Wanton Waste of Migratory Game Birds and is the precursor to all individual state
11 statutes adopted separately and only a handful of states have adopted their own
12 tailored waterfowl regulations in parallel with Federal Codes;

13 WHEREAS, Existing Federal waterfowl regulations for wanton waste are very broad,
14 short and simple, with focus on the actual, collection, transport and field activities
15 associated with hunting of migratory birds and other than deliberate discarding of
16 whole birds or failure to attempt to retrieve birds in the field, the statute contains
17 only vague guidance for prosecution of other mutilation or unethical activities with
18 bird carcasses, which make it practically unenforceable;

19 WHEREAS, the practice of “breasting” waterfowl (and other game birds) for
20 consumption has become common place and removing only the most preferred and
21 easiest to take (breast) portions of the bird, while discarding the very edible
22 remaining wings, legs, backbone, neck and skin, but simply mutilating many of our
23 most beautiful and prized game birds;

24 WHEREAS, it is understood that breasting of birds as part of table preparation is
25 acceptable, as long as other useable parts are retained likewise and also minimizing

26 waste for proper disposal;

27 WHEREAS, most ethical hunters would agree that every wild bird, or every wild
28 animal, taken by any true sportsmen, should be afforded the respect and effort to
29 assure it is utilized to the best means possible;

30 WHEREAS, many coastal parish marinas, private docks, over the water boat sheds
31 and dock side camp communities on the bayous have posted notices prohibiting the
32 dumping of fish heads, entrails and bones from fileted fish, into the local bayous,
33 canals or waterbodies;

34 WHEREAS, Residents regularly complain, and rightly so, because of the stench,
35 aesthetics, and fostering possible infectious diseases, while attracting flies, seagulls,
36 brown pelicans, nuisance alligators, coyotes and bald eagles who routinely become
37 dependent on disposal of fish and other game waste into the waterways;

38 WHEREAS, many of these same communities are similarly plagued during the
39 hunting seasons with hundreds of floating waterfowl carcasses, skins, feathers and
40 pieces, adding to the same concerns as the dumping of fish parts in the summer;

41 WHEREAS, in the state of Montana, it is illegal to "breast out" any waterfowl and
42 discard the other edible parts of the carcass and legally, all edible parts of the bird
43 must be used;

44 WHEREAS, in Maine "No person shall waste a wild bird or wild animal that has been
45 wounded or killed while hunting. Any act that results in wanton or needless waste of
46 the animal or otherwise intentionally allows it or an edible portion thereof to be
47 wantonly or needlessly wasted or fails to dispose it in a reasonable and sanitary
48 manner amounts to an offense that is punishable.";

49 WHEREAS, it has been recognized that Louisiana's population of migrating waterfowl
50 are in decline from a number of uncontrollable natural forces along with many man-
51 made decisions that, over time, have altered the terrain of our coastal wetlands and
52 our traditional wintering grounds and flyway routes are changing; and

53 WHEREAS, the number of hunters and hunting pressure has been steady and now is
54 the time to assure that all our natural resources are being managed properly.

55 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana
56 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in cooperation with the Louisiana State
57 legislature to create a state specific waterfowl regulation statute for enforceable
58 penalties, to include “wanton waste” infractions for “breasting” migratory birds and
59 illegal littering of floating carcasses into waterbodies within ½ mile of inhabited
60 areas; and
61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all hunters should display ethical and humane
62 standards in taking and preparing their kill, utilizing all edible portions and though
63 our bag limits are quite liberal, moral standards should apply in taking only what is
64 needed, while conserving some for another day and for the future of waterfowl
65 hunting in Louisiana.

Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Waterfowl Management Committee
Contact: Barney Callahan
Email: barney.callahan07@gmail.com

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF A SEPTEMBER FERAL CANADA GOOSE SEASON IN LOUISIANA

1 WHEREAS, feral Canada Goose populations have burgeoned throughout the US and
2 it is estimated that from 2011-2017 there was an annual growth rate of 1.14% of
3 resident Canada Geese in the US;

4 WHEREAS, review of Cornell University's e-bird on-line data shows high volume of
5 Canada Goose populations in every region of Louisiana;

6 WHEREAS, these birds are the number one nuisance call for waterfowl in the state
7 as they have adapted to urban and suburban areas causing damages to golf courses,
8 lawns, greens, etc. and harassing pedestrians, golfers, and others;

9 WHEREAS, the contiguous states of Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi have established
10 September hunting seasons for feral Canada geese in accordance with Federal
11 regulations;

12 WHEREAS, other regional states including Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida,
13 South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia, have established September hunting
14 seasons for feral Canada Geese in accordance with federal regulations;

15 WHEREAS, few, if any, Canada geese now migrate to Louisiana in the fall-winter
16 spring and none are known to do so any earlier than late October; and

17 WHEREAS, Federal legislation, 50CFR21.61 Population Control of Resident Canada
18 geese allow states to establish seasons for hunting these geese to augment other
19 government sponsored control methods.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation requests the
21 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to evaluate the possibilities for a
22 feral Canada Goose hunting season in September of the year.

Submitted by: LWF Waterfowl Conservation Committee

Contact: Jay Huner

Email: jvh0660@louisiana.edu

SUBJECT: SCENIC RIVERS RECREATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

1 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has
2 administrative responsibilities for the Louisiana Scenic Rivers program, including
3 reviewing and approving permits requested for activities that could affect the
4 natural and scenic values of the rivers, but LDWF's responsibilities do not extend to
5 promoting the goals of the program or facilitating/encouraging recreational use of
6 the streams;

7 WHEREAS, recreational use of the rivers has been enjoyed by riparian property
8 owners and by some members of the public (who can access where streams are
9 crossed by State or Parish roads located within publicly owned rights of way), which
10 demonstrates minimal use and the constraints on access for low-impact public
11 enjoyment;

12 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOT)
13 has been responsible for prohibiting access to many rivers where public ownership
14 of the right of way at bridges would otherwise allow access by paddlers and anglers;

15 WHEREAS, few public rights of way over rivers in Louisiana are maintained in such a
16 way that a recreational user can approach and put a canoe or kayak in a scenic river,
17 particularly due to dumping, littering, severe rutting, and occurrence of unpermitted
18 and in some cases illegal activities;

19 WHEREAS, the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge
20 (BREC), has recently identified certain "blueways" as streams which could be an
21 important component of the outdoor recreation opportunities in the parish, and
22 such blueways include the Comite River and other scenic rivers;

23 WHEREAS, the crossing of the Amite River by Florida Boulevard has a wide public
24 right of way that could provide accessibility and use of the Amite River, and similar
25 points on the Comite River (LDWF's Waddell Refuge, Hooper Road, Comite Drive and

26 Dyer Road among them) provide potential access with a moderate level of
27 improvement and maintenance;

28 WHEREAS, BREC's canoe landings in south Baton Rouge have proven very popular
29 with the public and BREC would like to provide more opportunities for recreational
30 paddling and fishing; and

31 WHEREAS, Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) supports the Scenic Rivers Program
32 and endorses the idea that public support for scenic rivers will increase if the
33 potential for access and recreational use of the streams are improved.

34 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges
35 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), Louisiana Department of
36 Transportation and Development (LDOT), and local governments throughout the
37 state to cooperate for the creation and maintenance of designated access points for
38 selected scenic rivers that offer recreational paddling and fishing opportunities;

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LWF urges Louisiana LDWF, LDOT, and the Recreation
40 and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC) to cooperate in
41 implementing the "blueways" concept for recreation in East Baton Rouge Parish and
42 that such concept includes creation and maintenance of access points for the
43 blueways; and

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LWF urges local governments with a scenic river in
45 their area to consider the "blueways" model that Baton Rouge Recreation and Park
46 Commission is developing as a possible initiative to provide appropriate access and
47 enjoyment.

Submitted by: Charles Williams, LWF Board Member
Email: chazbizz91@gmail.com

SUBJECT: LWF REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR LOUISIANA’S SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM

1 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Scenic Rivers System was created in 1970 by the Louisiana
2 Legislature in order to preserve the natural and scenic values of qualifying streams
3 and the system has been expanded since its creation by inclusion of additional
4 waterways;

5 WHEREAS, the Scenic Rivers System now contains eighty rivers, bayous, and creeks
6 scattered throughout the state;

7 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has
8 administrative responsibilities for the System, including reviewing and approving
9 permits requested for activities that include clearing, snagging, channelization and
10 harvesting of trees within 100 feet of banks that could affect the natural and scenic
11 values of the streams;

12 WHEREAS, clearing and snagging and channelization of a stream can cause bank
13 destabilization that leads to increased sediment in streams and results in higher
14 energy and erosion; loss of fisheries habitat and loss of habitat for important plants,
15 insects, and invertebrates; and decreased oxygenation and water quality;

16 WHEREAS, dredging a stream inhibits its natural function and has undesirable
17 consequences, including bank destabilization that leads to local erosion and
18 increased sediment transport during high flows while increasing sediment deposition
19 in the dredged location during low flow; yet dredging has minimal impact on flood
20 magnitude during high flows;

21 WHEREAS, stream floodplains, correctly delineated and protected from
22 development, actually reduce flooding by slowing and absorbing high water flows
23 that occur during unusual rain events;

24 WHEREAS, the network of trees and vegetation bordering scenic streams provide
25 flood protection and provides room for absorbing flood waters;

26 WHEREAS, the flood of 2016 in the Amite River Basin Watershed was caused by a
27 rain event that has been estimated as having a once in five hundred years frequency,
28 and the regulations of the Scenic Rivers System did not cause or contribute
29 significantly to the severe flooding that resulted in the area;

30 WHEREAS, suspension of streams from the Scenic Rivers System could lead to
31 permitted activities that would result in worse flooding when similar rain events
32 occur in the future since floodwaters come up faster and reach higher levels when
33 channels are straightened;

34 WHEREAS, in 2018 the Comite River was suspended from Scenic Rivers designation
35 for three years and will not receive the same protections from clearing, snagging,
36 and channelization activities; and

37 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation was an early supporter of the Scenic
38 Rivers System and has encouraged management consistent with laws and
39 regulations in place to limit clearing, snagging, channelization and dredging to
40 preserve scenic rivers while protecting the public's rights.

41 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) reaffirms its
42 support for the Scenic Rivers System and the many benefits to people and wildlife
43 that a designated scenic river provides, including flood prevention in addition to
44 natural, scenic, habitat, and recreational values;

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LWF urges the State and local governments to refrain
46 from damaging the natural and scenic values of streams by approving
47 projects that could worsen downstream flooding in future abnormal rain events;

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LWF urges the State and local governments to base
49 flood control improvements on a watershed-based perspective and comprehensive
50 hydrologic studies of drainage basins for project proposals and decisions; and

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LWF urges local governments or other entities that
52 propose drainage improvement activities on a stream that has been suspended from
53 the Scenic Rivers System to publicize their plans and hold public hearings on any
54 such plans so that citizens upstream and downstream can monitor the status and

55 results of any clearing, snagging, dredging, or straightening of a Scenic Stream
56 regardless of whether such activities are undertaken while such streams are
57 suspended from the program or are conducted under Louisiana Department of
58 Wildlife and Fisheries or US Army Corps of Engineers permits.

Submitted by: Charles Williams, LWF Board Member
Email: chazbizz91@gmail.com

PROCEDURE FOR CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING(S)
AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES

Conservation Committee (updated 7/25/2018)

The Conservation Committees will meet collectively in a single General Assembly of delegates on Saturday as scheduled in the printed program. If the chairman or the secretary is absent from the meeting, the delegates will elect by majority vote someone to fill the vacancy. The chairman will conduct the meeting according to Roberts Rules of Order.

General Assembly of Delegates (updated 7/25/2018)

Resolutions will be considered in numerical sequence with the lowest number first. Delegates must act on all resolutions received in the committee packet. Resolutions that are not submitted timely enough to be included in the proposed resolutions booklet will be marked “LATE” and made available to all delegates as soon as possible. These late resolutions may be heard only after all other resolutions have been debated; AND a separate vote (2/3) to suspend the rules must be taken for **each** LATE (emergency) resolution **before** it can be considered.

Only delegates representing LWF affiliates, at-large directors, and past presidents currently serving on the LWF Board are eligible to vote in this forum. Each affiliate will be entitled one (1) vote by its delegate. Each affiliate voting delegate must be a member in good standing of the affiliate for which s/he is voting. In the event an affiliate voting delegate nor the alternate voting delegate can attend, the affiliate president shall select a substitute voting delegate with such authorization presented in writing. A voting delegate may represent more than one affiliate but cannot cast more than two (2) votes per question. Any at-large director or past president currently serving on the LWF Board unable to attend may give a written proxy to any other director for voting. Each at-large director or past president currently serving on the LWF Board present may cast one (1) vote, and the vote of a valid proxy, for no more than two (2) votes per question.

All voting delegates will be seated together in front of the room as directed by the Assembly Chairperson (the LWF President, or designee). The Chairperson will read the **full resolution***, unless otherwise directed by the **voting** delegates. S/he will then move for adoption of the resolution and ask for a second from the **voting** delegates. Upon receiving a second, the resolution can be discussed by the **voting** delegates. A **voting** delegate has the privilege of asking the Chairperson to recognize a non-voting member of the audience who they wish to have speak on the resolution. However, all such comments should be limited to information and clarification that will be useful to the voting delegates in making their decision on the resolution. Debates and lengthy discussions among non-voting members will be avoided. Amendments may be offered by **voting** delegates. When discussion has been completed, the Chairperson can accept a motion from a **voting** delegate to close discussion and call for the question. The resolution, and any proposed amendments, passes or fails by a simple majority of the votes cast.

* The rules may be suspended by a 2/3 vote to advise the Chairperson to read only the resolved portion(s) of the resolutions if it appears that the session will exceed the scheduled time of adjournment. However, so that all present at the General Assembly have the opportunity to hear the entire resolution, it is recommended that each resolution be read in full. Another alternative, if available, is to have the final draft projected on a screen for all in the room to read.