Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Inc.

80th Annual Meeting
August 17, 2019
Hampton Inn
West Monroe, LA

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

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 80th 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 17.
Proposed resolutions to be considered (subject only):

Res. No. 1 - LIMITING MOTORIZED TRAILS ON US FOREST SERVICE LAND

Res. No. 2 - OPPOSITION TO THE ONE LAKE PROJECT

Res. No. 3 - SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING AND ENFORCEMENT OF INCIDENTAL TAKE PROVISIONS IN THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT AS A SUCCESSFUL TOOL FOR BIRD CONSERVATION

Res. No. 4 - SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF CATAHOULA LAKE

Res. No. 5 - ATCHAFALAYA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROJECT IN EAST GRAND LAKE
SUBJECT: LIMITING MOTORIZED TRAILS ON US FOREST SERVICE LAND

WHEREAS, in 2009 Louisiana Wildlife Federation passed a resolution entitled “Designated Non-Motorized-Only Areas in Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs);” and

WHEREAS, the same concerns exist on lands managed by the U. S. Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, Grant Parish in 2017 passed a resolution entitled “Against U. S Forestry Service Motorized Relocation Project;” and

WHEREAS, there are 325 miles of trails on Kisatchie National Forest with more than 180 are for motorized-use and 145 are non-motorized only; and

WHEREAS, on Catahoula Ranger District there are 37 miles of trails, 35 of which are for motorcycles and only 2 for non-motorized; and

WHEREAS, trails are currently in great disrepair and in need of maintenance and creating more trails without additional funding is counter-intuitive; and

WHEREAS, the Livingston trail complex was proposed in 1996, yet was never completed; and

WHEREAS, although proposed as multi-use, motorized dirt bikes are not compatible with hiking or non-motorized biking groups; and

WHEREAS, the proposed trail is within a prime hunting area, and the winding trail would not be safe for riders or hunters, especially for hunters wanting a more quiet and secluded experience not within the highest use periods for deer and turkey seasons as stated in the proposal; and

WHEREAS, the proposed area is within areas that have been managed for ecosystem restoration and part of both red-cockaded woodpecker and Louisiana pine snake habitat management areas and are not compatible with either species.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the U. S. Forest Service deny the construction of motorized trails as in this proposed location and instead reopen the previously proposed Livingston Trail complex.

The foregoing resolution is submitted by Rapides Wildlife Association and co-sponsored by the LWF Forest and Upland Wildlife Committee for consideration by Louisiana Wildlife Federation in convention assembled.

Submitted: July 1, 2019
Contact: Marty Floyd, 337-459-0445, progne99@aol.com
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO THE ONE LAKE PROJECT

WHEREAS, as a result of promotion by a local real estate developer since 1996 the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage District based in Jackson, Mississippi, has pursued several plans that involve damming the Pearl River to create new developable waterfront property along with questionable flood control benefits for the Jackson metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Drainage District’s latest plan, known locally as the “One Lake Project” (One Lake), involves dredging 25 million cubic yards of sediment from a nearly 10-mile stretch of the upper Pearl River and constructing a dam to create a 1900-acre lake; and

WHEREAS, One Lake poses significant, irreversible damages to the Pearl River, birds and their habitats and the ecological impacts go well beyond the immediate project footprint to include the downstream resources that lie along the 200-mile stretch of the Pearl below the proposed dam as well as Mississippi Sound, Lake Borgne, and the Gulf; and

WHEREAS, One Lake will destroy over 2500 acres of habitat that supports Bald Eagles and several species of conservation priority songbirds, as well as a variety of fish and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, One Lake will destroy or degrade critical habitat for several federally threatened species like the Wood Stork, Gulf Sturgeon, Ringed Sawback Turtle, and Northern Long-eared Bat; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi Wildlife Federation has identified several priority species that would be impacted in the One Lake project: Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson’s Warbler, Swallow-tailed Kite, Clapper Rail and the endemic Pearl River Map Turtle; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) is concerned about One Lake’s impacts to Louisiana’s state and federal public landholdings, including the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area and the Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge, to which LWF considers any impacts unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, LWF promoted and has helped protect the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers program and is concerned with One Lake’s impacts to certain streams in the system including West Pearl River, Pushepatatpa Creek and Morgan River, to which LWF considers any impacts unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, wetland habitats downstream from the project site serve as vital buffers to protect coastal communities by helping to absorb waters from flooding and storm events; and
WHEREAS, the Louisiana Oyster Task Force has identified insufficient freshwater flows from
the Pearl River to coastal waters as a threat to oyster production in Louisiana and this problem
will worsen as a result of the One Lake project thereby putting this component of the seafood
industry in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, changes to the downstream hydrology of the Pearl River risks hundreds of millions
of dollars in BP oil disaster restoration projects underway or planned for Louisiana, as these
projects depend on stable salinities and will be less likely to succeed if freshwater discharge from
the Pearl River is diminished; and

WHEREAS, over a dozen downstream stakeholders have passed unanimous resolutions
opposing One Lake, including both houses of the Louisiana Legislature; St. Tammany and
Washington Parishes, La; Town of Pearl River, La; and the cities of Bogalusa and Slidell, La;
and

WHEREAS, upon reviewing the Draft Study on One Lake, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
concluded that it “is the most environmentally damaging plan;” and

WHEREAS, the Drainage District continually has failed to produce documents required by
federal laws for adequate, timely public and scientific review such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Coordination Act Report, Independent External Peer Review Report, and Biological Opinion;
and

WHEREAS, the One Lake proposal lacks scientific rigor, comprehensive modeling and technical
analyses that are all essential components to fully and adequately assess impacts to
environmental resources, public health, community interests, and economic sectors; and

WHEREAS, if the true goal is to address flooding problems—real or perceived—in the Pearl
River Basin, there is a recognition that approaches to flood control have evolved over the past
decades to now emphasize the use of natural infrastructure; however, the Drainage District has
failed to prioritize, consider or employ these less ecologically damaging, more comprehensive
flood control measures.

THEREFORE BE RESOLVED that Louisiana Wildlife Federation is wholly opposed to the One
Lake Project.

The foregoing resolution is submitted by Orleans Audubon Society for consideration by
Louisiana Wildlife Federation in convention assembled.

Submitted: July 9, 2019
Contact: Charlie Pfeifer, cptragapan@aol.com, 504-307-0187
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING AND ENFORCEMENT OF INCIDENTAL TAKE PROVISIONS IN THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT AS A SUCCESSFUL TOOL FOR BIRD CONSERVATION

WHEREAS, in 1918, the United States enacted the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) to implement a 1916 treaty between the U.S. and Canada to protect migratory birds, which helped restore populations of many birds, ranging from herons and egrets to shorebirds and waterfowl, including the Wood Duck, Sandhill Crane and Snowy Egret; and

WHEREAS, in December 2017, the current Administration proposed a complete reversal of existing policy fully supported by decades of both Democratic and Republican administrations with a new policy in which prohibition of incidental take would no longer be implemented or enforced, only direct intentional killing; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana continues to rely on the MBTA to guide bird protections, and the current legal opinion weakens this law by eliminating an incentive for industries and individuals to minimize and mitigate foreseeable impacts of their activities on migratory birds; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana is globally, nationally and regionally important to many species of birds, including but not limited to the Sandwich Tern, Mottled Duck, Clapper Rail, Tricolored Heron, Wilson’s Plover, Royal Tern, Black Skimmer and Seaside Sparrow, and is charged with conserving its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, MBTA protections have incentivized proactive conservation to help bird populations and limited the need for further and more intense protections under the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, incidental bird deaths can often be avoided or minimized with basic precautions and best management practices, such as covering oil waste pits, flagging transmission lines, turning off tower lights and following wind energy guidelines; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the MBTA, there is a steady drop in communication towers running red lights at night, a situation that kills millions of migratory birds; and

WHEREAS, some corporations, businesses or other entities need the encouragement of the MBTA to do the right thing; and

WHEREAS, the MBTA provides time tested and vital conservation protections for migratory birds, many of which are of conservation concern, decreasing in number and under siege from multiple threats; and
WHEREAS, the MBTA working at its best can be found in the example of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, an egregious violation of the MBTA that killed more than one million birds, resulting in a fine of $100 million to be used to restore habitat for waterfowl and other birds; and

WHEREAS, birds are of enormous economic value through birding, hunting, and ecosystem services; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, in 2016 birders joined other wildlife watchers in contributing a total of nearly $80 billion to the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, according to the Economic Impact of Waterfowl Hunting in the United States, 2006, waterfowl hunters spent $494 million on travel and $406 million on equipment, generating $1.2 billion and $1.1 billion in total output, respectively, in the United States; and

WHEREAS, some things have immeasurable value since birds bring pleasure, recreation, and relaxation to millions; and

WHEREAS, we have a moral and ethical responsibility to protect other species that inhabit our planet.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Louisiana Wildlife Federation encourages the Federal Administration and Congress to maintain Incidental Take provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (Pre-December 2018) and encourages full implementation to protect this valuable resource and source of pleasure to its people.

The foregoing resolution is submitted by the LWF Avian Conservation Committee and co-sponsored by Orleans Audubon Society for consideration by Louisiana Wildlife Federation in convention assembled.

Submitted: July 9, 2019
Contact: Charlie Pfeifer, cptragopan@aol.com, 504-307-0187
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF CATAHOULA LAKE

WHEREAS, Catahoula Lake is part of a unique wetland ecosystem that provides approximately 25,000 acres of outstanding waterfowl habitat utilized by tens of thousands of canvasbacks, pintails, and other species in the fall and winter and by numerous species of shorebirds during the summer; and

WHEREAS, Catahoula Lake has been called “the most important inland wetland for water birds and shorebirds in Louisiana” by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is recognized as a Ramsar wetland of international importance for its unique example of a lower Mississippi River wetlands providing critical migratory bird and freshwater fisheries habitat; and

WHEREAS, Catahoula Lake has for generations been considered a public lake and hence has been open to duck hunters, fishermen, birders, and other outdoor enthusiasts, thereby becoming a significant driver in the central Louisiana economy and a major component of Louisiana’s Sportsmen’s Paradise brand; and

WHEREAS, Catahoula Lake’s water levels have been managed and improved with public funds for 50 years to maximize the wetland’s value for waterfowl, shorebirds, fisheries, and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Catahoula Lake contains a mid-lake refuge area that holds tens of thousands of waterfowl in the vicinity and is especially significant for holding up to 20% of the continental canvasback population; and

WHEREAS, in the case of Steve Crooks and Era Lea Crooks v. The State of Louisiana filed in the Ninth Judicial District Court, the presiding judge sided with the plaintiffs’ expert testimony in his decision to declare that Catahoula Lake was a flooded river basin and a man-made lake and therefore not a publicly owned waterbody, and the lower court’s decision was upheld by the Third Circuit Court of Appeal; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case on appeal and Louisiana Wildlife Federation submitted an amicus brief supporting the Louisiana Attorney General’s position that the lower court decisions should be reviewed; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Supreme Court will likely rule on the matter in 2019 or early 2020.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports the State of Louisiana’s historic ownership of Catahoula Lake and citizens’ rights to access and enjoy the lake as they have for generations.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports continued management of the lake by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as has been the case since 1969.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if the Louisiana Supreme Court overrules the lower courts’ decisions and restores the lake to unambiguous public ownership, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, with policy guidance from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, should take immediate steps to assert control and management of water levels (subject only to input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as required by previous agreement), vegetation, hunting and fishing activity, and enforcement of the mid-lake refuge in order to assure that this resource achieves its maximum potential as a wetland and a recreational resource.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if the Supreme Court maintains the lower courts’ decisions, Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports immediate action by the State of Louisiana to purchase the privatized water bottoms and thereafter manage the ecosystem for waterfowl and shorebird conservation, hunting, fishing and other public recreational activities under policy direction of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

The foregoing resolution is submitted by Charles Williams, at-large state director, and co-sponsored by the LWF Waterfowl Committee for consideration by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in convention assembled.

Submitted: July 14, 2019
Contact: Charles Williams, chazbizz91@gmail.com or 225-636-5172
SUBJECT: ATCHAFALAYA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROJECT IN EAST GRAND LAKE

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya River Basin is the largest remaining bottomland hardwood swamp in North America, possesses the largest coastal cypress-tupelo swamp in North America, and supports cultural, economic and natural treasures; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya hydrology has been impacted by a long history of navigation, flood control, and oil and gas development projects that has resulted in severely altered water flow resulting in poor water quality, degraded fisheries and declining forest health; and

WHEREAS, subsidence and sea level rise also exert negative impacts to the Atchafalaya ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the State of Louisiana recognized cumulative negative impacts to environmental health of the ecosystem, and created the Atchafalaya Basin Program to develop, implement, and manage a comprehensive state master plan for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System; and

WHEREAS, the East Grand Lake Project was approved in the FY 2010 Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan as “Development of a Complete and Specific Plan to Address Water Quality and Sedimentation in East Grand Lake/Flat Lake/Upper Belle River Management Units Through Modification of Water & Sediment Inputs;” and

WHEREAS, the project, as referenced in the FY 2020 Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plan, was “...intended as a first step toward realigning water flow patterns and strategically redirecting sediment in the East Grand Lake project area, and the Upper Region was chosen as a starting point.”; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, The Nature Conservancy began implementation of its Atchafalaya River Basin Initiative, a partnership driven effort incorporating science, restoration and community outreach; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy completed its first Atchafalaya Basin land acquisition in 2015 with the purchase of 5,359 acres, hereby referred to as the Atchafalaya Basin Preserve; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy has partnered with the state of Louisiana, first with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, and now, as a result of Act 570 of the 2019 Regular Legislative Session, with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, as the first Atchafalaya Basin landowner to participate in an Atchafalaya Basin Program restoration project through the implementation of components of the East Grand Lake Project; and
WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy is an active steward of their conservation properties, of which the Atchafalaya Basin Preserve is one and implements a comprehensive community-based conservation effort with commercial and recreational fishing interests, landowners, industry, local citizens, government, and others; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy has recorded baseline data, and will continue to monitor project performance through various methods and take an adaptive management approach if monitoring results indicate a need to do so; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana, Atchafalaya Basin Program, filed a permit application (MVN-2016-01163-CM LDNR East Grand Lake) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the construction of 13 features anticipated to restore hydrologic function in the project area, benefiting approximately 5,000 acres in the Basin; and

WHEREAS, this project is expected to improve Basin habitat, benefiting wildlife, fisheries and the communities and businesses linked to the Basin.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports the implementation of the components of the East Grand Lake Project described in Corps permit application “MVN-2016-01163-CM LDNR East Grand Lake.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports The Nature Conservancy’s community-based conservation efforts, on-going monitoring and other scientific efforts that are contributing to a greater understanding of the Atchafalaya Basin and how to better conserve it into the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority’s role in integrating the management of the Basin into the management of the Louisiana coastal ecosystem, recognition of their efforts to include public meetings and meetings with Basin stakeholders, and acknowledges the foundational work of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources when the Basin Program was housed in that agency.

The foregoing resolution is submitted by Charles Williams, at-large state director, and co-sponsored by the LWF Habitat Conservation and Management Committee for consideration by Louisiana Wildlife Federation in convention assembled.

Submitted: July 14, 2019
Contact: Charles Williams, chazbizz91@gmail.com or 225-636-5172
PROCEDURE FOR CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING(S) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES

Conservation Committees (updated 7/18/2019)

The Conservation Committees will meet collectively in a single General Assembly of delegates on Saturday as scheduled in the printed program. A motion to suspend the bylaws and allow this will need to be made and voted on at the General Assembly meeting.

General Assembly of Delegates (updated 7/18/2019)

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.

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 or have the final draft projected on a screen for all in the room to read.