

Colfax, LA
June 13, 2025

The Police Jury of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, met in regular session at its meeting place, the Grant Parish Police Jury Meeting Room, 200 Main Street, Colfax, Louisiana, on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Mr. Mark Ball, Mr. Cephas Bowie Jr., Mr. Brandon DuBois, Mr. Johnny Jamison, Mr. Arnold Murrell, Mr. Winston Roberts, Mr. Roy Edwards, and Mr. Mike Merrell

The following members were absent:

None

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to open agenda to public comments on agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

No comments were brought forth.

Motion by Mr. Johnny Jamison, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the official journal. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Amy Guidry, Operational Coordinator with Acadian Ambulance Service presented the monthly call report for April. 146 calls for an ambulance with 135 transports

7 calls for air med with 1 transport

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Winston Roberts to approve disbursement of LADOTD funds per recommendation by the Finance Committee. Motion approved unanimously.

Jurors discussed Livingston Estates being charged per unit vs charging per gallon. All agreed that everyone should be charged for what they use instead of per unit.

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Mike Merrell to honor the current Sewer Use Ordinance and charge all mobile home parks by the gallons used instead of per unit. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rhett Deselle, Pan American Engineer, discussed the Off-System Bridge Recall No. 700760 regarding Frazier Cemetery and Gray's Creek. Mr. Cody Gongre, Parish Roads Superintendent, will meet with Mr. Deselle and start the process immediately.

Mr. Shelby Richard, Biologist Manager, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries addressed the jury regarding the need for a 6-foot drawdown of Iatt Lake. He read statistics from past drawdowns and presented their reasoning for wanting to lower the lake by 6 feet instead of the request 4-foot drawdown.

Motion by Mr. Johnny Jamison, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to adopt Resolution 19-2025; Iatt Lake Drawdown. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION:19-2025

A RESOLUTION TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES AND THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT URGING THAT ANY PROPOSED DRAWDOWN OF IATT LAKE BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF FOUR FEET BELOW POOL STAGE

WHEREAS, Iatt Lake is a 7,100-acre impounded swamp located in Grant Parish, Louisiana, and is a vital natural, recreational, and economic resource for the residents of Grant Parish and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, Iatt Lake supports a diverse community of anglers, waterfowl hunters, and outdoor recreationists, with extensive shoreline development that includes numerous residential and recreational properties; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Parish Police Jury recognizes the importance of maintaining the ecological health and recreational value of Iatt Lake, while balancing the needs of local residents and stakeholders who rely on the lake for enjoyment and economic activity; and

WHEREAS, Iatt Lake is prone to heavy infestations of aquatic vegetation, particularly giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), due to its shallow average depth, forested structure, and minimal water level fluctuation, which create ideal growing conditions for invasive plant species; and

WHEREAS, since the lake's impoundment in the 1950s, aquatic vegetation management has presented an ongoing challenge, requiring a combination of control strategies, including drawdowns, herbicide application, and biological controls such as stocking of triploid grass carp and salvinia weevils; and

WHEREAS, drawdowns have long been a tool used by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to manage aquatic vegetation in Iatt Lake, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), which operates and maintains the water control structure; and

WHEREAS, while past drawdowns have ranged from 5 to 11 feet below pool elevation, these more severe drawdowns have often been met with opposition due to significant limitations on lake access, adverse impacts to recreation, and extended recovery periods before water levels return to normal; and

WHEREAS, in both 2021 and 2022, LDWF implemented a drawdown of approximately four feet below normal pool stage, and this strategy proved effective at reducing vegetation, while still maintaining reasonable access to the lake for recreational use; and

WHEREAS, feedback from local residents, lake users, and stakeholders during and after the 2021 and 2022 drawdowns reflected broad support for the 4-foot drawdown strategy as a balanced and practical approach that meets both vegetation control goals and community needs; and

WHEREAS, LDWF has recognized in its reports that integrated management—including limited drawdowns, biological controls, and targeted herbicide applications—is the most sustainable and effective strategy for long-term vegetation management in Iatt Lake;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grant Parish Police Jury hereby urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to limit any future drawdown of Iatt Lake to a maximum of four feet below normal pool elevation, except in cases of emergency maintenance or unforeseen environmental circumstances;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, with a formal request for their consideration and implementation of this policy in any future lake management planning and operations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Grant Parish Police Jury remains committed to working cooperatively with LDWF, DOTD, and the public to ensure the continued health, accessibility, and sustainability of Iatt Lake.

This resolution was introduced, seconded, and duly adopted by the Grant Parish Police Jury on this 12th day of June, 2025.

Passed, approved and adopted this 12th day of June, 2025.

(s) Jessie Pace
Jessie Pace
Secretary/Treasurer/Parish Manager
Grant Parish Police Jury

(s) Mark Ball
Mark Ball
President
Grant Parish Police Jury

CERTIFICATE

I, Jessie Pace, Secretary/Treasurer of the Grant Parish Police Jury, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the President and Police Jurors of the Grant Parish Police Jury on June 12, 2025.

(s) Jessie Pace
Jessie Pace
Secretary/Treasurer/Parish Manager
Grant Parish Police Jury

Jurors discussed acknowledging Scott’s Path as a private, non-parish maintained road in Grant Parish to establish E-911 addresses. Due to lack of information by the landowners and the possibility of another road in that area having a similar if not the same name, jurors agreed to defer the motion to the July meeting to allow time to gather more information.

Motion by Mr. Roy Edwards, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to approve using Capital Improvement funds to overlay McKay Road in District 8. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Mike Merrell to approve using Capital Improvement funds to blacktop Beeson Road, Windy Wood Road, and Barron Road in District 6. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to approve appointing Mr. Jay Brunson to replace Mr. Gary Edwards on the Grant Parish Fire District 6 Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. to declare the Grant Parish Civic Center an annex of the Grant Parish Courthouse. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cody Gongre, Grant Parish Roads Superintendent, updated the jury on projects from the Landfill and Roads Departments. He discussed the quotes received for a new pothole patcher.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to amend the agenda to include a motion to approve the purchase of the cab and chassis from Bruckner’s and the pothole patcher from Covington after approval by the state to utilize the services of H-GAC. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Winston Roberts to approve the purchase of the cab and chassis from Bruckner's and the pothole patcher from Covington after approval by the state to utilize the services of H-GAC. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to pay bill as funds become available. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Disclaimer: These minutes are not official until adopted by the jury at the next meeting.