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First Name (required): Rainer Last Name:(required): Schmidt

Organization/Tribe (Official Representatives only): _____

Street Address: 564 Brooklyn Avenue

City: New Orleans State: La. Zip Code (required): 70121

Which Public Scoping meeting did you attend, if any? Location: New Orleans
Date of Comment: 3/10/11

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Please write legibly so your comments can be recorded completely and accurately. Please complete and drop this form in the box provided at the public scoping meeting or follow the instructions on the front of this comment form. Comments may be continued on back page.

It was billed as a public meeting for invasive species, but only the Great Lakes + northern stretch of Mississippi River Tributaries were mentioned.

As Nutria + Sylvania are important to us, here is my take on this situation. If we do not get a handle on the nutria problem, coastal marsh rebuilding will be a waste of time.

NUTRIA

We have a trading company that trades with Central America, especially Nicaragua. One of the items that we have always arranged trades with are pork and chicken. We have gotten to know most of the sellers of meat to the markets. These sellers also handle nutria fro Argentina. Back in 2001, when Louisiana was talking about hiring a marketing specialist to sell nutria to the third world, I attended the meeting being held at the Jefferson Parish School Board Building on the west bank. When I heard of how they were going to process it and sell the meat, I realized they were hiring a person who had no idea about the third world. I talked to Edmond Mouton, telling him where they were going wrong, and even sent him an e-mail. Most people who try and sell things to the third world have their head and mind set in the US, thinking that everyone buys their meat at the super market.

We could easily have gotten into the market at that time, especially with the .75 per lb to help enter the market.

The main companies that deal in Nutria meat are now firmly entrenched.

If meat incentive were to be restored for at least two-three years, could compete head to head with Argentina. We could ship cheaper to Central America than they could.

SYLVANIA

These plants have a high nitrogen content.. good for fertilizer

Last year we ground a large amount up and mixed it with soil in the garden. Did not need fertilizer. Good for vegetables.

Would like to do a study. Collect a large amount...let dry...grind up...

and let all the organic farmers at the farmers markets around the state try out an amount in their gardens. Large demand and a project would be self financing.

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