**Shrimp Task Force Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017**

**Terrebonne Council Meeting Room**

**8026 Main St, Houma, LA 70360**

**Voting-Members Present:**

Acy Cooper

Lance Nacio

Kristen Baumer

Alan Gibson

Andrew Blanchard

Eric Hansen

**Voting Members Absent:**

George Barisich

**Non-voting Members Present:**

Mark Schexnayder

Chad Hebert

Jack Isaacs

**Non-voting Members Absent:**

Adam Eitmann

Benjy Rayburn

Justin Gremillion

Motion to approve the February 8, 2017 meeting minutes by Acy Cooper, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.

Lance Nacio made a motion to add an item- A. Update on Federal Shrimp Permits and Shrimp Amendment 17B- Myron Fischer under ‘New business, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.

Motion to approve the amended April 12, 2017 agenda by Lance Nacio, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.

Financial Report:

Fund Balance: $459,961

Budget Balance for FY2017: $95,000

Motion to accept the financial report by Andrew Blanchard, 2nd by Lance Nacio. Motion carries.

Myron Fischer addressed the task force with an update on Federal Shrimp Permits and Amendment 17B

Myron Fischer can be contacted regarding Federal Shrimp Permits at

(985) 258-6006

Corey Miller presented on “Building Land in Coastal Louisiana- Expert Recommendations for operating a Successful Sediment Diversion that Balances Ecosystem and Community Needs”

Acy Cooper stated that the STF would like their input considered in setting diversion openings and closures

Jeff Marx addressed the task force with the ‘2017 Spring Shrimp Season’

Lance Nacio expressed concern with a statewide opening

Jeff Marx led discussion of the White Shrimp “100 Count Law”

Andrew Blanchard stated that he would leave the law in place

Kristen Baumer stated that he agreed with modifying from law to rule making, giving the authority to the WLF Commission to make the call.

Lance Nacio agreed with giving WLF the authority to make the decision regard the 100 Count Law

The task force requested that Jeff Marx get more information and feedback on the 100-Count rule/ law before making a decision on the issue

Andrew Blanchard made a recommendation leave the law in place and let economics run its course

Lance Nacio made a motion to table discussion until further feedback

on the 100 Count law and biological aspects are received, 2nd by Acy Cooper. Motion passes.

Jeff Marx provided an update on the Inside/ Outside Line

Provided the TF with new satellite maps of the Inside/Outside line and requested that the STF provide comments and input

Jeff Marx led discussion on shrimp pre-season ride-alongs

Lance Nacio recommended that WLF do side-by-side comparisons with fishermen to have a better understanding of samples

Jeff Marx requested for fishermen volunteers to do ride-alongs

Lance Nacio addressed the task force with shrimp management and increasing the value of domestic shrimp

Announced that the Slow Food Nation event will be held on July 14-16 in Denver, CO

Lance Nacio stated that he would like the industry to work on getting skimmer shrimp de-red listed

Acy Cooper provided an update from the 2017 shrimp industry Washington, D.C. trip- Main topic of discussion was TEDs on skimmers issue

Kristen Baumer suggested looking into better ways to enforce tow times; identified a lack of enforceability of tow times regarding TEDs

Officer Elections:

Kristen Baumer nominated Acy Cooper as the Shrimp Task Force Chair, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.

Andrew Blanchard nominated Kristen Baumer as vice-chair of the task force

Public Comment:

Julie Falgout made an announcement: Louisiana Fisheries Forward shrimp videos are up on the site for reference and resource to the industry

Julie Falgout requested that the STF send a letter of support to continue federal funding for Sea Grant

Acy Cooper made a motion to send a letter of support to continue funding for Sea Grant, 2nd by Lance Nacio. Motion carries.

Jack Isaacs provided the STF with 2016-2017shrimp import data

Next STF meeting set for August 2, for 10am in Houma

Motion to adjourn by Acy Cooper, 2nd by Andrew Blanchard. Motion carries.