**Crab Task Force Meeting**

**Monday, May 3, 2021, 1:00pm**

**LDWF Headquarters**

**2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA**

**I.** Pledge of Allegiance

**II.** Roll call

**Voting Members Present:**

Laquita Meek

Sheb Callahan

George Jackson

Trudy Luke

Al Cassagne

Rodney Parfait

Britney Breaux

**Voting Member Absent:**

Eric Blanchard

Chalin Delaune

Pete Gerica

Joey Edgar

Dannon Lacoste

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Julie Lively

Jack Isaacs

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Peyton Cagle

Brian Marie

Melissa Daigle

**III.** Trudy Luke motioned to accept the February 18, 2021 meeting minutes as presented, 2nd by George Jackson. Motion carries.

**IV.** Trudy Luke motioned to approve the May 3, 2021 meeting agenda, 2nd by Al Cassagne. Motion carries.

**V.** Financial report:

Remaining Fund Balance: $330,936

Remaining Budget Balance: $100,580

Al Cassagne motioned to accept the financial report as present, 2nd Trudy Luke. Motion carries.

**VI.** New Business:

1. Bryan McClinton, LDWF, provided a presentation on the proposed commercial licensing restructure



The task force expressed concern with the $.50/ trap

Bryan Mcclinton stated that this was brought about as a way to try and keep track of how many traps are in the water and also as a way to track recreational catch

1. Al Cassagne stated that if LDWF charges $.50 per trap are they going to furnish the tag or will the fishermen have to go and buy the tag for another $.50, making the cost $1.00 per trap; concerned about the additional fees on the industry that is already hurting

Laquita Meek stated that the industry has no issue with the fee increase but there is concern with the $.50/ trap

LDWF stated that any money that comes in from licensing and gear fees will go straight back into the industry

Al Cassagne stated concern with paying all these fees and being limited to working a small area; water access issues

The fee increases would take effect in January 2022, goes to the House Natural Resources Committee at 9:00am on Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Al Cassagne motioned to request that LDWF remove the $.50 per trap fee from the license fee increase proposal and replace it with a $50 gear fee, 2nd Trudy Luke. Motion carries.

C. The task force discussed submitting comment regarding the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Draft EIS

Al Cassgane motioned for the task force to submit official comment on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Draft EIS 2nd, Trudy Luke. Motion carries.

**VII.** Public Comment: LA Sea Grant Grant is seeking feedback on derelict crab trap program and will be bringing the information received back to the task force

**VIII.** Set next meeting- Tuesday, August 3, 1pm in Baton Rouge

**IX.** Motion to adjourn by Trudy Luke, 2nd by Al Cassagne. Motion carries.