

ALLIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL (AAC)

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021, 10 AM
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES (LDWF) HEADQUARTERS
LOUISIANA ROOM

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Present

Craig Sagrera
Chad Courville
Nathan Wall
Ryan Smith
Tony Howard
Jeff Donald

Council Members Absent

Tim Allen
Tom Bengé
John Currier

LDWF Present

Jason Waller
Jeb Linscombe
Larry Reynolds
Tanya Sturman
Eric Ledet
Alvin Landry
Brodee Landry
Ruth Elsey

Others Present

Javier Nevarez
Noel Kinler
Vic Blanchard

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion made by Chad Courville to nominate Tim Allen as chairman. Nathan Wall seconded. Motion carried.

Motion made by Jeff Donald to nominate Chad Courville as vice-chairman. Craig Sagrera seconded. Motion carried.

Jeb Linscombe introduced the new council members and the new administrator over the alligator program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS AAC MEETING

Motion made by Nathan Wall to approve the minutes as presented. Jeff Donald seconded. Motion carried.

ALLIGATOR REGULATIONS NOTICE OF INTENT AND BMPS

Jeb Linscombe summarized all of the alligator regulation changes in the Notice of Intent.

He explained that a regulation already exists that allows a landowner with minimal acreage with water such as a pond on his property to get a tag. The proposed rule change would change this to a nuisance tag so that the alligator can be taken at any time throughout the year.

The farm release rate would decrease from 10% to 5% with these rule changes. The Council had previously approved this proposal.

A new regulation would state that hatchlings must be placed in water and fed within 10 days.

Water temperature requirements on farms would change. The acceptable temperature range to house alligators will be 70 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit year-round. Research shows that alligators stop eating around 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Alligators eat well in temperatures in the mid-70s. Any change in temperature should take place over a minimum of 4 hours.

Slaughter regulations on alligator farms would no longer include chord severance with pithing of the brain.

Jeb Linscombe went over the Best Management Practices (BMP) changes. These changes were approved by the Alligator Farmers and Ranchers Associations. They reflect the new regulations, but go into more detail.

Jeb Linscombe asked the Council to vote to approve the proposed regulation changes and the BMP changes.

Motion made by Jeff Donald to support the proposed rule changes and the BMP changes. Nathan Wall seconded. Motion carried with four council members in favor, one opposed, and one abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chad Courville suggested that Tanya Sturman contact high schools to see which ones have some technical programs where students might work with donated alligator leather. Mark Staton, a local leather craftsman, has said that his best workers come straight out of high schools.

Chad Courville would also like to poll retailers and brands to get feedback regarding what type of promotional materials would benefit their sales and customer relations.

Tony Howard asked about updating the alligator video that is showed to lottery hunters. The video should include how to take care of the alligator between the hunt and getting it to the buyer. Chad Courville would like the Council members to review the videos that are currently available.

Jeb Linscombe discussed the video topics that they have been working on this season and why each topic was chosen.

Javier Nevarez gave a brief update on recent research. They have been swabbing the alligator eggs, nesting material, and hatchlings to look for chlamydia. They will try to identify the strain of chlamydia found in alligators. The farms that had chlamydia in the past are testing positive for chlamydia again.

Ryan Smith asked for some information from the experienced council members to catch him up on some topics that have been previously discussed.

Noel Kinler requested more notice on meeting schedules.

Chad Courville asked that the Department to share the notice of intent of regulation changes to the Attorney General office. The Attorney General office sent a letter to the Commission a couple of years ago requesting that they be kept informed of potential regulation changes.

Motion made by Jeff Donald to adjourn. Ryan Smith seconded. Motion carried.
