**Crab Task Force Meeting January 27, 2015**

**Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.**

Roll Call

**Voting Members Present**  **Voting Members Absent**

Eric Blanchard Chalin Delaune

LaQuita Meek Gustave “Eddie” Chagnard

Trudy Luke Paul Alfonso

Pete Gerica

James Bergeron

Rodney Parfait

Kim Alfonso

Warren Delacroix

**Non-Voting Members Present**

Jack Isaacs

Mark Schexnayder

Julie Anderson

Melissa Daigle

Julie Falgout in for Rex Caffey

Alan Matherne

Motion to approve the January 27, 2015 meeting agenda by Eric Blanchard, second by Kim Alfonso.

Motion to approve the September 30 meeting minutes by Kim Alfonso, second by Eric Blanchard.

Motion to approve the November 4 legislative committee meeting minutes by Eric Blanchard, second by Kim Alfonso. Motion adopted.

Motion to approve the financial report by Eric Blanchard, second by Kim Alfonso.

Crab Task Force legislative committee report— The legislative committee also made the recommendation to raise the gear trap license fee to $50 and also charge $1 per trap. Cole presented a draft of legislation as it relates to an increase of gear license fees and a fee per trap not to exceed $2, which will not go into place until the RFID tags are in place and the commission will work with the task force on the RFID portion of the legislation.

Motion to accept the crab trap gear license bill as presented but remove radio frequency and buoy and let it just be an identification system. Motion to accept by James Bergeron, second by Kim Alfonso. After roll call vote Motion adopted unanimously.

The legislative committee also recommended to expand the professionalism program to allow for a dealer to get a commercial grab trap license so that dealers can be sponsors.

Motion by Eric Blanchard, second by Kim Alfonso to accept the recommendations and the draft legislation as presented. Motion adopted.

Darren Bourgeois updated task force members on Professionalism program, it has 50 total applicants.

Harry Blanchet presented the blue crab stock assessment.

Jeffrey Marx presented the blue crab fisheries management plan, it is on LDWF website.

Martin Bourgeois reminded the task force of the Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup

Damon Morris said that the sustainability team will be in town next Thursday, February 5 and it would be good for the task force members to attend if they are available.

George Ricks with the Save Louisiana Coalition addressed the group and asked if the crab task force is opposed to the diversions then they should consider signing a resolution stating this.

George Ricks asked if he could be on the next agenda for the Crab Task Force meeting.

Julie Lively reminded everyone that they have a lost crab trap database. They have an artificial bait that is ready to go out in the field and be tested.

Julie Falgoust said that they have the fisheries summit March 11, 8-5 at the Houma Civic Center. She asked for suggestions for crab demonstrations. On April 7 in Terrebonne Parish they are looking into doing a crab dock day. She would also like suggestions for what they would like to discuss at the dock day as well. March 25 is the Vermillion Crab Dock Day. There will be a social the night before, March 10.

Ashley Roth read a letter that Warren Delacroix wrote to Billy Nungesser.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 14.

Motion to adjourn by Kim Alfonso, second Eric Blanchard.

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.