

Legislative Committee Meeting-February 28, 2013

Called to order at 12:15

Those in attendance for the meeting were:

Al Sunseri-LOTF and LODGA
Cole Garrett-LDWF
McHenry "Dub" Lee-Senator Natural Resource Committee
Morgran Crutcher-CRCL
Sue King-LA House of Representatives
Patrick Banks-LDWF
Buddy Pausina-LDWF
Harry Blanchet-LDWF
Dan Coulon-LOTF
Mark Schexnyder-LDWF
Steve McManus-LDWF
Brad Robin-LOTF
Brandt LaFrance-LOTF
Jakov Jurisic-LOTF
Wilbert Collins-LOTF
Larry Marino-Oats and Hudson

Jakov Jurisic handed over the meeting to chairman John Tesvich and John Tesvich asked Larry Marino to address the group on the proposed bill to lift the moratorium for new oyster leases.

Al Sunseri made a motion to not proceed with the bill presented by Larry, second by Jakov Jurisic. Buddy Pausina and Dan Coulon voted against. Motion adopted.

Cole Garrett addressed the committee regarding the sunset of the Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit

Motion by Jakov Jurisic to extend the Seed Ground Vessel Permit as is for 5 years, second by Wilbert Collins.

Substitute motion by Al Sunseri to sunset in two years in lieu of five years, second by Sam Slavich. Al Sunseri then amended it to 3 years, Sam Slavich agrees. Motion adopted. This bill will be introduced by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

At the 9/25/12 OTF Meeting, in the Enforcement Committee report, Steve McManus reported that there were 191 cases in Terrebonne and Lafourche involving theft and polluted oysters in FY 2011-2012. Based on these high numbers the committee recommended that they seek legislation to increase penalties to deter theft and polluted oysters.

Discussion was held to draft legislation as it applies to increasing the penalties of theft and polluted oysters, including community service and possibly being banned from participating in the industry, revoking license, etc.

Al Sunseri made a motion to support a bill seeking increased penalties for theft and polluted oysters and that the committee work on a bill, second by Jakov Jurisic. Motion adopted.

John Tesvich said in speaking with John Supan it has come to his attention that under last year's oyster aquaculture bill there were exclusion zones including private leases and the current the law doesn't allow for any appeals for individual lease owners. John Tesvich suggested we seek legislation to allow for such appeals. Cole Garrett said that the rule will go into effect on March 20. So any attempts to change the rules should go to the commission. Discussion was held and the committee would like to go back to the legislature to make these changes.

Al Sunseri mad a motion to put together a bill to amend the current aquaculture bill to allow for appeals. Second by Dan Coulon, motion adopted.

Regarding Drum Fish Predation the committee supports look at legislation as it applies to drum fish predation, motion by Al Sunseri, second by Jakov Jurisic. Motion adopted.

Committee Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Louisiana Oyster Task Force Meeting Minutes

John Tesvich, Chairman

Thursday, February 28 1:00 PM

UNO Advanced Technology Center, 2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 210, New Orleans

I. Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 1:15

John Tesvich called for a moment of silence for Mike Voisin and ideas from the task force for ways to pay tribute.

Al Sunseri suggested maybe send a plaque of some sort to Mike's family.

Al Sunseri made a motion to draft a resolution for the next meeting to name the oyster hatchery after Mike Voisin and to send a plaque to his family. Second by Wilbert Collins. Motion adopted.

Roll Call:

Present:

Mark Schexnyder

Wilbert Collins

Dan Coulon

Jakov Jurisic

Buddy Pausina

Jubal Marceaux for Sammy Martin

Buddy Pausina

Brad Robin

Brandt Lafrance

Al Sunseri

John Tesvich

Sam Slavich

David Guilbeau for Tenney Sibley

Absent:

Shane Bagala

Byron Encalade

Karl Morgan

Peter Vujnovich

Chip Kline

Jerome Zeringue

Guests:

Brandi Newman-State Land Office	Damon Morris-LDWF
Morgan Crutcher-CRCL	Telley Madina-Oxfam
Patrick Banks-LDWF	Representative Ray Garofalo
Gordon Leblanc-DHH	Tom Soniat-UNO
Kristin McLaren-LSPMB	Earl Melancon-Nicholls
Ewell Smith-LSPMB	Harry Blanchet-LDWF
Stephen McManus-LDWF	Taylor Naquin
Charles Lapeyrouse	Mark Naquin
Nolan Lapeyrouse	Ronald Rhodes
Jason Adriance LDWF	Matthew Slavich
Brennon Harper-State Land Office	Cole Garrett-LDWF
Larry Decker-State Land Office	Drue Banta-Governor's Office of Coastal Activities

John Tesvich added two items to the agenda under new business, Louisiana Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board Nomination and ISSC Conference in May.

Motion to accept the additions to the agenda by Al Sunseri, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion adopted.

I. Approval of December 4, 2012 MINUTES

Motion to accept minutes by Al Sunseri, second by Jakov Jurisic. Motion adopted.

II. Treasury Report

A. Oyster Tag Sales- 38,108 for December 2012

B. LOTF Financial Report- Remaining balance is \$96, 540

Kristin McLaren addressed the task force. The task force was informed that their tag sale revenue is down about 40 percent and that there is money in professional services that will not be used. **Motion by Al Sunseri to move \$24, 390 from professional services to operating services. Second by Jakov Jurisic Motion adopted.**

Motion to accept the financial report by Wilbert Collins, second by Jakov Jurisic. Motion adopted.

III. Committee Reports

Ewell Smith with Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board presented to the Oyster Task Force.

- A. Public and Private Oyster Grounds Committee – (Buddy Pausina)**
Buddy Pausina called on Larry Decker with the state land office to make a presentation to the group.

Buddy Pausina said that the OLDEB met this morning and we need to appoint someone from the taskforce to be on the board. Jakov Jurisic recommended Matthew Slavich, Matthew Slavich accepted and Ashley Roth will send the letter to the OLDEB.

B. Enforcement - (Steve McManus)

Area 11 is closed, but they have had no issues with folks trying to harvest in that area.

B. Legislative - (Jakov Jurisic)

Motion by Al Sunseri to accept the legislative committee report, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion adopted.

D. Research - (John Supan)- Oyster Convention on April 13 on Grand Isle. Motion by Al Sunseri to sponsor the convention for \$5,000, second by Wilbert Collins.

Motion adopted.

E. Coastal Restoration - no report

F. Marketing - no report

G. Health - discussion of area 11 closure, will reopen as soon as they can

H. Sustainability-nothing to report. Mike Voisin was chair; new chair will have to be appointed.

V. Old Business

A. BP Oil Spill Remediation

1. Claims Process
2. Public Reef Remediation
3. Oyster Lease Remediation

Drue Banta presented on the oyster toxicity report. Construction on hatchery project should begin soon.

B. Letter and follow up meetings with coastal district attorneys- 90 percent of the coastal district attorneys have been met with and the meetings have been going well.

C. Oyster Predation by Drum Fish-Harry Blanchet with LDWF addressed the group

D. Out Da Bayou - still in negotiations, tabled until next meeting.

VI. New Business

A. Summer Demo Study/Oyster Sentinel- Tom Soniat presented.

B. D.C. Walk the Hill Update-John Tesvich Motion by Al to sponsor the Louisiana Alive event with the same booth next year, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion carries.

C. Al Sunseri will be attending to Upcoming ISSC Board Meeting on March 6 & 7 in Atlanta, Georgia

D. New ISSC Nssp Time to Temperature Model Ordinance changes were submitted in packets

E Gulf and South Atlantic Shellfish Conference, May 13-15 in Charleston.

Al Sunseri will be going. John Tesvich, Wilbert Collins, Dan Coulon and Jakov Jurisic also requested to go.

F. Officer Elections- Al Sunseri nominated John Tesvich, motion to close nominations by Jakov Jurisic, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion adopted.

Nomination for Vice-Chair is Dan Coulon, motion to close elections by Jakov Jurisic, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion adopted.

Ashley Roth will send a notice to the Terrebonne Oyster Association to nominate someone to replace Mike Voisin.

John Tesvich suggested some type of event maybe at the oyster hatchery to try and recruit younger people into the industry. Al Sunseri suggested that maybe we invite them to legislative day event in Baton Rouge.

VII. Set Next Meeting-

Legislative Meeting early afternoon on Thursday, March 14 at 1 p.m.

Full task force meeting 1 p.m., Tuesday March 19

Cole Garret will take care of the seed ground vessel permit bill draft and it will be presented under the department's package.

VIII. Adjourn- Motion to adjourn by Al Sunseri, second by Wilbert Collins. Meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.