PUBLIC OYSTER SEED GROUND VESSEL PERMIT APPEALS BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 27, 2009 - 9 A.M.

2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

LDWF OFFICE IN THE UNO

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY BUILDING

2021 LAKESHORE DRIVE, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70122

Board Members present:

 Byron Encalade

Wilbert Collins

Brad Robin

Jakov Jurisic

Shane Bagala

Pete Vujnovich

Board Members absent:

 Dan Coulon

 Buddy Daisy

Rodney Fox

Officer Elections

Jakov Jurisic is elected chair. Shane Bagala is elected to vice chair.

Meeting minutes from 3/31/09 approved.

Patrick Banks (LDWF) reviewed general board information.

Hearings:

1. Anthony Greco.

He fished oysters on other people’s vessels. His boat sank in 2003.

Brad Robin moved to approve, seconded by Wilbert Collins. Motion was passed 6-0. In favor were Bagala, Collins, Encalade, Jurisic, Robin, and Vujnovich.

1. Jules Melancon

He said the state never notified him that trip tickets were required, so he never had trip tickets. He processes his own catch and was approved by DHH.

The board asked to find out what notifications LDWF sent out informing fishermen about trip ticket requirements.

Jules Melancon admitted he never turned in trip tickets.

Byron Encalade asked if Jules Melancon could turn in trip tickets after the fact.

He has receipts for tags he purchased.

Brad Robin asked Jules Melancon if he had paid any severance tax. He said he doesn’t think so.

The Board told him that he needs 2 written notarized statements from licensed Louisiana oyster harvesters saying that they have witnessed him fishing on the public grounds. Pete Vujnovich moved to defer a decision until he gets two written notarized statements. Motion passed 6-0.

1. Jeff Howard

Said he had licenses in 2003 and 2008. Said he needs to know what to bring to these board meetings.

Pete Vujnovich said he needs more justification to recommend permit issuance.

Howard will ask LDWF for a copy of vessel registration. He also needs notarized statements from licensed Louisiana oyster harvesters and board member suggested that he bring a copy of divorce proceeding showing he had no right to get license for vessel because he had no control of the vessel during the divorce.

Brad Robin moved to defer decision. Motion passed 6-0.

1. Curtis Alfonso

Brad Robin moved to defer as Curtis Alfonso left the meeting already. Motion passed 6-0.

1. Charles Connetti, Jr.

According to Mrs. Connetti, he had Captain Sonny boat and license prior to brain surgery. He worked the boats Lady Ellen and Master Shane. He moved to Mississippi because it was closer to his brother-in-law’s (Harold Treadway) leases. Wife says he held license in 2000 prior to his medical condition. She says he’s now invested in a boat, used to be the Captain Kippie, in 2008. The boat is now called Rosa Belle (USCG # 67066). He claimed no notification was sent out to him about permit requirement.

The board asked that Patrick Banks look up landings for the boat and owner during those qualifying years. Patrick Banks say he would try but that LDWF does not record landings based on a boat name and that LDWF would need to know the registration numbers of the boat to find out if landings exist.

Fred Whitrock explained that he has to meet all 3 requirements (landings, license, and hardship).

He may be able to donate the boat back to previous owner, who possibly could get the permit for the boat, then have that previous owner donate the boat back to Mr. Connetti along with the permit (reissuance permit situation).

Jakov Jurisic asked if Connetti can transfer vessel back to original owner, can original owner get the permit?

Check to see if any landings on boat. Brad Robin moved to defer. Wilbert Collins seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Boat has not worked this year.

Scott Parker addressed the Board during the public comment period. He said he cannot see how this Board is fair and he doesn’t qualify for a permit.

Brad Robin stated that the oyster industry passed this law.

Jakov Jusisic stated that Dealers & Growers would be notified that Rodney Fox did not attend.

The next appeals board meeting is set for Thursday, June 25th at 9 a.m. Four cases were deferred and will be heard along with 5 new cases at next meeting. Motion to adjourn.