

**Summary of the Alligator Advisory Council Meeting  
February 28, 2013  
Lafayette, Louisiana**

**Council Present**

Nathan Wall  
Chad Courville  
Mike Bengé  
Dan Davis  
Tim Allen  
Dwight Savoie  
Errol Falgout  
Ronald Guy

**Council Absent**

Gerald Savoie

**LDWF Presence**

Noel Kinler  
Bob Love  
Lance Campbell  
Tanya Sturman  
Ruth Elsey  
Jeb Linscombe  
Dwayne Lejeune  
Ryan King  
Shelby Richard

**Others**

Dr. Javier Nevarez  
Ted Joanen  
Terry Grisham  
Mark Glass  
John Clark  
Steve Hartley  
Dave Heinz  
Archie Domangue  
Andre Neto  
Willie Core  
Craig Sagrera  
Mark Shirley  
Danny Berthelot  
David Reeves  
Mark Staton  
John Currier  
Phil Elzer  
Don Wall  
Matt Wall  
Frank Ellender

Tim motioned to approve the minutes from the December, 2012 meeting. Mike seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with LSU**

Noel Kinler introduced a cooperative agreement proposal in which the Department would provide some funding for the Alligator Research Facility for the next three years. The funding would come from the Alligator Resource Fund from the program budget. This agreement will allow for a larger return on the investment. Last year, the Department provided funding for one project, but with the facility running at full capacity more projects can be undertaken for the same budget.

Tim motioned to enter the cooperative agreement and to provide funding. Dan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Alligator Facility Update**

The pumps have been installed. They are still working on wiring the thermal regulator. The goal is to be operational by April first. The insulation is the main thing that still needs to be installed. Noel suggested that they hold another research committee meeting.

### **LSU Vet School Update**

Javier said that the spinal cord severance alone is no longer recommended as an euthanasia procedure. To be acceptable, it must be accompanied by pithing the brain. This finding will be published widely in Europe and may make its way to CITES. They are working out the details to the next step in the stunning and immobilization study. Chad asked if Javier had reported to the project funders. Javier said that he had. Chad asked if they had provided funding towards the immobilization study as well. Javier said that the leftover funds would purchase one piece of equipment. Noel thought that one of the groups may be interested in contributing some funding to the immobilization study. He will follow up with them.

### **Alligator Program Update**

Noel gave a brief review of eggs collected (413,648) and projected hatch (349,514) and releases (41,920). The farm inventory is building back up. He gave an update on the Alligator Resource Fund. Revenues have increased considerably this year over the past couple of years. He projects the alligator harvest to be around 33,500 animals. The licenses issued have increased by 12% for residents and 56% for non-residents in 2013 as compared to 2012.

### **CITES Export Permit Update**

Three entities have applied for the master file program, and they have started receiving their permits. Noel met with the farmers to explain the process to them. Applications forms are available. He encourages farmers to use this avenue to get pre-issued permits. This process should speed up the permitting process.

### **RFP Review Committee**

Chad said that we need to resurrect the review committee to consider proposals for the technical representative. The review committee would review the proposals and then the Council would vote on the final contract. Dan Davis, Mike Bengé and Errol Falgout will serve on the committee.

### **Council Member Terms**

Ronald Guy, Mike Bengé and Gerald Savoie are approaching the end of their four year term. Legal counsel has said that these members are eligible for reappointment since they have not served a full six year term. The Secretary needs letters within the next 30 days for nominations for these positions.

## **Other Business**

Chad asked when it would be a good time to recommend a change in license fees. Bob Love said that the Department would not put oppose it if someone independently put it forward, but the Department will not do it this session. Chad recommends waiting.

Dan asked if the Department would have a booth at the Sportsman Show this year. Noel said that he would check on it.

Chad asked that Tanya draft a thank you letter for the use of the facility.

Dan motioned to adjourn. Mike seconded. Motion carried unanimously.