

ALLIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL (AAC)

AUGUST 8, 2019

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES (LDWF)
HEADQUARTERS IN BATON ROUGE

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Present

Vic Blanchard
John Currier
Barry Wall
Tom Bengé
Craig Sagrera
Jeff Donald
Al Marmande

Council Members Absent

Tony Howard
Randy Moertle

LDWF Present

Jack Montoucet
Jason Waller
Buddy Baker
Jeb Linscombe
Tanya Sturman
Ruth Elsey
Duncan Kemp
Cole Garrett
Joel Courtney

Others Present

Nathan Wall- Walls Gator Farm
Stephen Sagrera- Louisiana Alligator Farmers
and Ranchers Association
Mike Salassi- LSU Ag Center
Matt Fannin- LSU Ag Center
Andre Neto- Reptile Tannery of Louisiana
Chad Courville- Miami Corporation
Peter Sykes- Pinnacle Alligator Farms
David Wolf- Walls Gator Farm
Jay Smith- Donald Farms
Chuanlan Liu- LSU Department of Textile,
Apparel Design & Merchandising

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vic Blanchard introduced two new Council members. Tom Bengé works with Delacroix Corporation and has been trapping alligators for 28 years. He manages the egg collection on the property. Jeff Donald has been an alligator farmer for over 30 years. Tony Howard is the new wild hunter representative, but he was unable to attend this meeting.

*Motion made by Jeff Donald appoint Vic Blanchard as chairman. Tom Bengé seconded.
Motion carried.*

*Motion made by John Currier to appoint Barry Wall as vice-chairman. Tom Bengé seconded.
Motion carried.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS AAC MEETING

Motion made by Jeff Donald to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2019 meeting. Al Marmande seconded. Motion carried.

LSU ECONOMIC STUDY

Mike Salassii from the LSU Ag Department said that the first phase of this economic study would estimate the economic impact of the egg sales, alligator hides, alligator meat, and so forth. Part of the data gathering will involve interviews of industry participants. Data will be gathered and analyzed, but the report will be generalized so that individual businesses cannot be identified. The current proposal is for a one-year phase one study. This study will be funded by the LDWF alligator program funds. The contract has been developed and is working through the contract process.

The Department would like to look at the economic impact of ecotourism and alligator byproducts in a later phase. The second phase proposal will be developed and considered after the first phase is complete.

Motion made by John Currier to support this contract. Tom Benge seconded. Motion carried.

PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT FOR CALIFORNIA MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Secretary Montoucet explained that the funding for this media campaign would be covered by the remaining money not used by the Matt Gray contract that was terminated early. Buddy Baker said that the terms of the contract have not been fleshed out yet. The Department is asking for approval to move ahead with developing this contract because the need for this contract is time sensitive.

Motion made by Barry Wall to approve a contract with Applied Paradigms for \$45,000 to provide media campaign services in California. John Currier seconded. Motion carried.

LSU ALLIGATOR RESEARCH FACILITY FUNDING

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has been supporting the LSU Alligator Research Facility at an amount of \$50,000 per year. Nathan Wall explained that Cargill has also been funding the research facility through a rebate program on the feed.

Many of the alligator farmers have felt like they are not getting real value out of the research that has come out of the facility so far. The research center is in its infancy, and the expectation is that the research will become more valuable to the industry in the future. The general consensus from the Council and the audience is that it is important to keep the research facility operating.

Secretary Montoucet noted that the Department and the farmers need to give the LSU research facility more direction.

GLENN DELANEY CONTRACT RENEWAL

Glenn Delaney's contract is funded through the end of June 2020. The cost of his contract is \$49,000 per year for a three year period, and the cost is shared between the Alligator Advisory Council and the Fur Advisory Council. It takes several months to go through the contract process, so the Department is asking for approval to go ahead and start the contract process for another three year term.

Buddy Baker explained the history of Glenn Delaney's contract, and Tanya Sturman provided a handout summarizing the work completed by Mr. Delaney thus far in this contract period.

Motion made by John Currier to approve a contract with Glenn Delaney for another three year period with \$24,500 being paid by the Alligator Advisory Council per year. Jeff Donald seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Liu, from LSU, said that they had found some issues with tanned alligator hides. She would like to explore the opportunity to do more research with Council support. John Currier said that he would like to see some data and information on paper. Jeb Linscombe said that he would like to see where the data came from and he would like the Department to have the opportunity to review the previous data and research.

Motion made by Tom Benge to adjourn. Barry Wall seconded. Motion carried.
