

## Alligator Advisory Council Meeting

February 2, 2017

National Wetlands Center

Lafayette, LA 70506

### Council Members Present

Ronald Guy  
Randy Moertle  
Vic Blanchard  
Dwight Savoie  
Mike Benge  
Barry Wall  
Gerald Savoie  
Errol Falgout  
Al Marmande

### Council Members Absent

### LDWF Present

Buddy Baker  
Edmond Mouton  
Tanya Sturman  
Amity Bass  
Ruth Elsey  
Jeb Linscombe  
Mike Dupuis  
Angela Guidry  
Daniel Henry

### Others Present

Noel Kinler  
Ted Joanen- Miami Corp  
Mark Glass- Glass Enterprises  
JT O'Rourke- Cargill  
Rudy Sparks-Williams, Inc.  
Shain Stets- South Coats  
Brad Ackerlo- Alligator Mgt  
Kace Hancock- Alligator Mgt  
Kelli Barry- Cargill  
John Bower- Cargil  
Colin Mull- Donald Farms  
Riccardo Fluppini- Faggioni  
Billy Broussard- Vermillion Corp  
Allain Travaglini- Estotica Interstrap  
Raywood Stelly- Bortz  
Amanda Dillard  
Rebecca Hale  
Mark Merchant  
David Wolf  
Matthew Wall  
Nathan Wall  
Archie Domangue- Apache  
Marco Dermody- Acadian  
Johnathan Warner  
John Currier  
Michael Farin  
Lisa McRoberts

Motion made by Vic Blanchard to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2016 AAC meeting.

Dwight Savoie seconded. Motion carried.

### Value Added Products from Alligator Waste for Biomedical and Cosmetic Appliances Research Presented by Dr. Jack Losso

There is an opportunity for the alligator processing industry to engage in medical and cosmetic problems. Alligator skin heals easily, and their skin contains significant amounts of collagen, keratin, and hyaluronic acid. Alligator processing generates more than 1 million pounds of carcass waste; alligator

parts such as backstraps and feet may be utilized to extract these biologically active materials for biomedical applications.

Dr. Losso has done some research on the effects of alligator hyaluronic acid on gene expression in cystic fibrosis. The hyaluronic acid from the alligator eyeball was successful in reducing inflammation and regulating osmotic homeostasis. Dr. Losso is in the process of preparing this research for publication.

Dr. Losso took questions from the audience regarding the cost of extraction and the market potential.

Dr. Losso is conducting keratin research. There is an opportunity for marketing keratin as well, and this research is in progress.

Collagen can be derived from alligator bone. Alligator collagen is low in methionine content which makes it good for treating cancer and Alzheimer disease. He has developed prototypes of this collagen in liquid coffee creamer, which is palatable and effective.

Upcoming research will include working on wound dressing for horses.

Using these byproducts for biomedical products will save farmers the cost of disposing of the waste as well as generate new income.

### **International Alligator and Crocodile Trade Study (IACTS) Contract**

Edmond Mouton explained that the Department is in negotiation with World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) in England to produce three new IACTS reports. The cost is \$12,500 per year for a total of \$37,500.

Edmond further clarified that the policy advisor, if one is contracted with through the RFP process, would do some analysis on the IACTS reports as well. When questioned about why the IACTS reports for the additional two years would not be included in the RFP for the policy advisory, Edmond noted that the length of the RFP process could delay the next report and that the Department believed it was important to ensure timely IACTS reports.

Randy Moertle motioned to accept this scope of service for a three year contract at a total of \$37,500. Vic Blanchard seconded. Motion passed with one vote against by Dwight Savoie.

### **Policy Advisor RFP**

Edmond Mouton explained the RFI (Request for Information) process. RFIs allow for interested parties to submit a brief resume and their contact information. When the subsequent RFP is published, the people who responded to the RFI will get a copy of the RFP. This RFI has been advertised since mid-January on the Department website, through the CSG, and with the National Wildlife Federation. The RFP, if approved by the Council, would be developed using the same scope. The council is not locked into using the exact scope that was presented in the RFI.

Randy Moertle motioned to approve this scope to develop and advertise an RFP. Al Marmande seconded. Motion passed.

### **Marketing RFP**

At the last council meeting the council had discussed developing a committee to develop a full scope for a marketing RFP. The scope that the department published as an RFI is just something for the committee to start with. Vic Blanchard, Dwight Savoie, and Gerald Savoie volunteered to form a committee. Edmond Mouton suggested that the committee ask someone like Mark Staton who manufactures leather products or someone from the meat industry to sit in on the committee meeting and offer some insight.

Dr. Lisa McRoberts said that she will attend the Magic Trade Show this month. It is the largest leather show in the United States. She will be collecting data on which companies sell alligator and which ones are interested in selling alligator. At previous leather shows she has noticed that the alligator industry is not represented.

### **California Bill**

The Department published an RFI for the California Bill. Barry Wall asked if anyone has shown interest in more than one RFI. Edmond Mouton replied that there has not been any overlap yet. There are some consulting firms in California that have expressed interested in the California issue.

Errol Falgout motioned to develop this scope into an RFP. Randy Moertle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Alligator Management Program Update**

Edmond Mouton showed a PowerPoint presentation that covered topics such as farm inventory, egg collections, and nest production. Over six hundred thousand eggs were collected in 2016 and 548,416 eggs hatched. This is a new record for the egg ranching program. Year-end farm inventory is also high with 923,072 alligators. Nest production based on aerial surveys is also estimated to be at a record high of 58,100 nests. The wild harvest is projected to be 35,000 nests.

Edmond Mouton reviewed the Alligator Resource Fund budget including income and expenses. The year-end balance on June 30, 2016 was \$4,082,180. There was some council discussion regarding the budgets from 2015 and 2016 due to the confusion over a clerical error that had mischarged some alligator staff salaries.

The alligator regulation changes were approved, and the new regulations will be implemented with the permits that are issued in 2017, which means that the returns due in 2019 will be at the new return rate. The return rate will decrease from 12% to 10% at the 48 inch size.

### **Amendment to Bylaws**

Daniel Henry suggested that the Council add the phrase “pursuant to state law” to the bylaws. He provided the council members with the state laws for reference. The council members were also provided with a draft version of the bylaws with the changes. According to the current council bylaws the council needs to wait until the next meeting to take action on the bylaw changes.

### **Website**

Tanya Sturman made a PowerPoint presentation that showed the history of the council website and suggested that the council update the current website to make it mobile friendly. She presented two options. The Alligator Advisory Council could either continue to have a joint website with the Fur Advisory Council or they could create their own website. The council decided that they would like to have their own website, but they would like to share mutual links with the Fur Advisory Council. If available, the first choice for a new URL is LouisianaAlligator.com.

### **Public Comment**

Edmond Mouton pointed out that the budget tables he showed in his PowerPoint are also in the Annual Report that was distributed. He also provided each council member with some old marketing materials for reference as they consider a new marketing scope.

Motion made by Al Marmande to adjourn. Barry Wall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.