

ALLIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL (AAC)

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024, 1:00 P.M.

LSU AG CENTER

1105 WEST PORT STREET

ABBEVILLE, LA 70510

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Present

Tim Allen
Jeff Donald
Rudy Sparks
Tony Howard
Tom Bengé
Raphael Sagera

Council Members Absent

Ryan Smith
Nathan Wall

LDWF Present

Jeb Linscombe
Larry Reynolds
Jason Waller
Eric Ledet
Mickey Miller
Dwayne LeJeune
Tanya Sturman
George Melancon
Joey Bearb
Leslie Campbell
Ty Medlen

Others Present

Noel Kinler, Contractor
Darren Richard, Miami Alternative
Ted Joanen, public
Billy Warzlow, Apache
Francis Fields, Apache
Brooke Barber, Swampdaddy
Daniel Edgar, St. Mary Seafood
Jay Smith, Donald Farms
Jerry Savoie, Savoies Alligator Farm
Stephen Sagera, Vermilion Gator Farms
Mark Shirley, LSU Ag Center

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS AAC MEETING

Motion made by Jeff Donald to approve the meeting minutes as written. Rudy Sparks seconded. Motion carried.

PROGRAM UPDATE- JEB LINSCOMBE

Jeb Linscombe mentioned that the Council is short a member and that we need a representative from the Southwestern part of the state. Mr. Linscombe went over alligator program updates including budget. The non-residence licenses category has increased. The egg collection portion has also increased. The Alligator Advisory Council budget looks about the same.

LDWF received a \$500,000 appropriation for disease testing. This will be used to continue West Nile virus studies and chlamydia studies.

Mr. Linscombe introduced Leslie Campbell and described her duties within the alligator program.

Mr. Linscombe went over alligator nest harvest, farm harvest, farm releases, and nuisance payouts. Nuisance payments have remained relatively stable since the beginning of the payment program. He also touched on hatchling imports.

INDIRECT COST- THYME MEDLEN

Thyme Medlen explained that the indirect cost program is an administrative cost that the agency is charging to federal grants to cover the cost of administering the program. At this time, LDWF is not proposing to charge programs that are funded with statutorily dedicated funds. Even when charging federal grants, the percentage is only taken on expenditures in certain categories.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Allen brought up the bill currently in the Louisiana Senate Natural Resource Committee. The bill would set a minimum return rate for alligators. The Louisiana Alligator Farmer and Ranchers Association decided to send a letter to the committee opposing the bill. Mr. Allen asked that the Alligator Advisor Council consider sending a letter as well.

Motion made by Tom Benge to send a letter opposing the bill. Jeff Donald seconded. Motion carried.

Tim Allen said that there is a perceived overpopulation problem. The Department and the industry needs to do a better job educating the public and the legislation about alligators and the alligator program. Mr. Allen would like to create a subcommittee to brainstorm ways to address public concerns and improve public perceptions of the alligator industry. The committee would be composed of council members, department staff, and other volunteers with Kevin Sagera as the chairman.

Motion made by Jeff Donald to develop a subcommittee with Council members and other volunteers. Tom Benge seconded. Motion carried.

Daniel Edgar asked if the council would consider creating a position for an alligator meat processor. Jeb Linscombe said that it would have to be done in statute. Tim Allen invited Ms. Barber to join the subcommittee. Larry Reynolds said that he appreciated the overt acknowledgment by the council to the concerns of the public and the legislators.

RFP COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR TECHNICAL REPRESENTATION AND MARKETING- EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Tony Howard to go into Executive Session. Raphael Sagrera seconded. Motion carried.

Motion made by Rudy Sparks to close the executive session. Jeff Donald seconded. Motion carried.

The chairman announced that the council had voted to accept the recommendation of the subcommittee to award Monarch Marketing with a three year contract.

Motion made by Nathan Wall to adjourn. Jeff Donald seconded. Motion carried.
