

# ALLIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL (AAC)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023, 1:00 P.M.

LSU AG CENTER

1105 WEST PORT ST.

ABBEVILLE, LA 70510

## ATTENDANCE

### Council Members Present

Tim Allen  
Chad Courville  
Nathan Wall  
John Currier  
Craig Sagera  
Tom Benge  
Ryan Smith  
Jeff Donald

### LDWF Present

Jeb Linscombe  
Larry Reynolds  
Jason Waller  
Mike Dupuis  
Brodee Landry  
Nicholas Latiolais  
Micky Miller  
Jack Montoucet

### Others Present

Archie Domangue, Apache Land  
Noel Kinler, Contractor  
Javier Nevarez, LSU  
Mark Shirely  
Matthew Wall  
Amanda Dilliard  
Steven Sagera  
Kevin Sagera

### Council Members Absent

Tony Howard

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS AAC MEETING

*Motion made by Chad Courville to approve the minutes as presented. Nathan Wall seconded.  
Motion carried.*

## ALLIGATOR PROGRAM UPDATE- JEB LINSCOMBE

Jeb Linscombe reminded the Council that three members will term out next fiscal year, and the Department will need nominations for those vacancies.

Mr. Linscombe presented an alligator program update at the Louisiana Alligator Farmers and Ranchers Association just prior to this meeting.

Glenn Delaney had language added to the Senate Appropriations Committee's FY 23 bill to earmark funding for Louisiana alligator disease research from the APHIS budget.

Dr. Javier Nevarez is working on a cost analysis for sampling, primarily for chlamydia. Mr. Linscombe invited other veterinarians to submit proposals to APHIS for alligator disease research as there will be additional funds available. Dr. Nevarez will reach out to colleagues to assess interest in further research.

Mr. Linscombe showed some Alligator Resource Funds budget projections. The Department is currently collecting \$3 as the tag fee, and there is no longer a severance tax. There are five months left in the fiscal year. The budget is holding steady, but the Department won't know the full impact of the \$3 tag fee for another year.

The Alligator Advisory Council budget is down to the bare minimum with encumbered expenses, covering Tanya Sturman's salary, Glenn Delaney's contract, and Monarch Marketing's contract. The council could spend another \$170,000. The two contracts will need to be renewed.

Chad Courville suggested looking at alligator meat quality standards. He would like someone from the Department of Health to speak to the council. Mr. Linscombe has already made contact with the Department of Health and should be able to bring in a speaker for the next council meeting.

#### FARM UPDATE- BRODEE LANDRY

Brodee Landry introduced himself as the point of contact for ordering tags, scheduling, and inspections. He manages all of the data related to CITES tags. He handles annual reports, license approvals and renewals, permits for imports and exports, and issues wild tags for the southwest region.

The total nest count is down from last year. Egg ranching is higher than last year. Year-end farm inventory is up. Wild alligator harvest data has not fully come in yet, but he expects the numbers to exceed the last two years. Imports are down, and this has been a trend. He showed some trend lines and breakdowns of the current numbers through a Power Point presentation.

Mycoplasma testing is now required for imports, and all imports tested negative this year.

Mr. Landry went over fees and scheduled increases due to the legislative changes.

#### FEDERAL RULE CHANGE UPDATE

Jeb Linscombe said that the rule change still has to go through an environmental assessment. The US Fish and Wildlife service will contract with someone to do this assessment. It will take about a year to put the contract in place and complete the assessment.

The rule change would remove the gray area, which allows room for lawsuits like Louisiana recently faced with California.

#### CITES COP UPDATE- CHRISTY PLOTT

Christy Plott was unable to attend, but she sent a video. Jeb Linscombe played the video for the council. The 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) to CITES took place in Panama City, Panama from November 14-25, 2022. There was a proposal to list all U.S. snapping turtles as appendix II, which is the same listing that alligators have. This proposal passed with some opposition by a few states. There was a proposal to list timber

rattle snakes, but the U.S. government withdrew the proposal. There were three crocodilian species with proposals to down list from Appendix I to Appendix II. Two of these passed; one from Argentina and one from the Philippines. Both passed with zero quota for export. These passed with consensus, meaning there was no opposition.

Christy Plott presented at World Wildlife Day in Washington D.C. about the Louisiana alligator program and the partnerships between government and industry. She presented at the request of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

#### RFP COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL REPRESENTATION AND MARKETING

We are in the third year of the Monarch Marketing contract. The contract will expire in March 2024, and the RFP process takes about a year from start to finish. The RFP committee will be comprised of Larry Reynolds, Jason Waller, Jeb Linscombe, and three council members, preferably one farmer, one landowner, and one trapper.

Tim Allen, Ryan Smith, and Jeff Donald volunteered to serve on the RFP committee.

#### GLENN DELANEY CONTRACT RENEWAL

Glenn Delaney's contract is up for renewal. The Department would like to renew it at the same price. The contract funding is split between the Fur Advisory Council and the Alligator Advisory Council. The Fur Advisory Council has already voted to approve the new contract's budget.

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*Motion made by Chad Courville to fund half of Glenn Delaney's Contract. Tom Bengé seconded. Motion carried.*

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#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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*Motion made by Nathan Wall to adjourn. Craig Sagrera seconded. Motion carried.*

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