

**Summary of the Fur Advisory Council Meeting
July 9, 2014
New Iberia, Louisiana**

Council Present

Charles Pettefer, Jr.
James Gallaspy
Ryan Schaefer
Tony Howard
Judge Edwards
Frank Ellender (phone)

LDWF Presence

Tanya Sturman
Edmond Mouton
Bob Love
Jennifer
Alicia

Council Absent

Steve Hughes
Archie Domangue
John Linzay

Others Present

Johnny Price
Alan Ensminger
Marilyn Ensminger

Tony Howard called the meeting to order. Judge nominated Tony for chairman. Tony asked Frank if he would be willing to continue serving as chairman.

Tony nominated Tony. Charlie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Charlie nominated Tony for vice chairman. Ryan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jimmy motioned to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Ryan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. C. Education Program

Edmond reviewed the RFP process. He explained that only one person submitted a proposal. The proposal was graded by the RFP review committee with Council and Department staff participating. The contract has been drafted, and the cost would be split between the FAC and the AAC.

Judge motioned to move forward with the contract. Charlie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Edmond suggested that in the future, the Council vote to publish the RFP and to enter into a subsequent contract given certain qualifications and price. It would eliminate the need to call a special meeting to approve the contract.

Out of State Shipping

Alicia explained about CITES tags and how they are issued. If a trapper comes into the office, she can issue them on the same day. There is a delay for tags that are handled through the mail. It

may take a week or two. Ryan said he buys them at the beginning of the season. Some people wait and have had trouble getting the tags in time to send fur to auction.

Tony asked if this information can be put onto the website with pictures. Alicia said that she could develop a Power Point for the website.

Ryan asked about doing possession tags electronically. Printed tags will not hold up. Even the current tags printed on card stock sometimes come in illegible.

Alicia also mails out CITES tags on the same day that she gets the possession tags in. Tony said that she was doing an excellent job.

Jennifer went over the forms that are required for shipping out of country. The process can take 60 days to move through the process. The permit is good for one year. Jennifer supplied the contact information for the agent in New Orleans.

Tony said that if we don't have people who can negotiate the out of country shipping, then we are stuck. We only have one person shipping out of country right now. Tony explained that a trapper can ship his own furs out of the country with the permit. If someone else facilitates the shipping, then he would have to buy a dealer's license and put up a bond.

Edmond said that DHL has had some issues lately. The last shipment to China was held up because the paperwork didn't make it with the shipment, and the furs spoiled during the wait and had to be destroyed.

Judge asked if LDWF could meet with USFW and simplify the process. Edmond said that it had been simplified already.

Judge suggested that we encourage a few people like Quincy to develop the expertise to deal with the shipping. Jimmy said that in the past there were brokers that dealt with this. There are no brokers any more. Tony said that he would ask at the AAC meeting about shipping tips. The alligator farmers deal with out of country shipping with CITES tags regularly.

Ryan asked about shipping out of state. The CITES tags are issued with shipping tags, because a tannery won't tan it without the CITES tags.

The Council asked that Tanya put the information that Jennifer provided on the website along with a link to the Power Point that Alicia will provide.

Refurbishing Fur Coats

Jennifer brought several coats in to show the Council. The red one is the most popular coat, but it is beginning to show its age. She showed a coat that was damaged by animal rights activists. The seam could be mended for \$100. Coats can be cleaned for \$75 per coat. A coat can be restyled for \$1,000. If coats have nice pelts, it might be worth restyling them.

Ryan said we need to go through the storage room and pick out the good stuff and trash the rest of it. A lot of the furs in there are in very poor quality and takes away from the good stuff. Edmond asked Ryan if he would go through the storage room with Jennifer.

Judge asked if the Council could sell some of these coats and use the money to buy a couple of new ones. It is doubtful, but Buddy said he would investigate options.

Tony said he would like to diversify on coat types and move away from always showing nutria. Ryan agreed and said he'd like to look at accessory items as well instead of long coats. Jimmy suggested trimming nutria coats with bobcat.

Tony asked if Ryan and Judge would work with Jennifer on the coats. They agreed. Judge asked how the coats would be disposed of. Buddy said that he would get an answer. Judge asked if we could donate the coats to a design school and let students work with the fur.

Other Business

Alan said that he is looking for muskrat trappers. Ryan said that with the cost of gas, it doesn't pay to trap muskrats. If the landowner is willing to pay for nuisance removal, then trappers would come out. Ryan said that he could put the word out on the trapper's forum. Quincy said that the trappers need to get out there when the water is low. If the landowner waits until after duck season, the water is too high. Frank said that they do not burn the marsh because of liability issues.

Judge motioned to approve the purchase of \$5,000 for trapping supplies to be used at trapping workshops during the year. Charlie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The NTA conference travel cannot be approved this close to the date. The state was in a spending freeze until after the beginning of the fiscal year, so the travel approval could not move forward earlier.

The Turkish fair contract amendment is moving through the process. The travel authorizations are also moving again.

Edmond asked if the Council would approve the purchase of 24 rings of 11 species. The average cost per ring is \$500-\$600. Tony said he wants to purchase top quality fur. Tony said we need to specify grade so that we don't get stuck with the lowest bidder on the lowest quality fur. Judge asked if the Council could inspect the fur. Edmond said that he would check on this.

The Council asked Edmond to bring back a bid, and the Council will consider it at the next meeting.

Judge motioned to adjourn. Jimmy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.