

**Summary of the Fur Advisory Council Meeting  
March 18, 2015  
New Iberia, Louisiana**

**Council Present**

John Linzay  
Ryan Schaefer  
Tony Howard  
Frank Ellender  
Archie Domangue

**LDWF Presence**

Tanya Sturman  
Edmond Mouton  
Buddy Baker  
Bob Love  
Jennifer Hogue

**Council Absent**

James Gallaspy  
Charles Pettefer, Jr.  
Steve Hughes  
Judge Edwards

Tony motioned to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Ryan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Trapping Education Contract**

Edmond explained that the state rules had recently changed on contracts and that we could do a two year contract if it is under \$50,000. It is much simpler than doing an RFP. Tony said that they would like to expand the workshops to include level two workshops. Buddy mentioned that we may not be able to renew the contract without doing an RFP. Edmond said that as the rules stand now, we could, but that may change between now and then.

Tony motioned to approve a two year contract with Quentin Morris with the scope agreed upon by email for \$48,000. Ryan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Beijing Fur Fair, Translator, Travel to Chongfu**

Tony explained that the Council has been invited to Chongfu by Zhenjiang Ingo Manufacturing. It is considered the fur capital of China. There are 910 shops producing about 20% of the world's market.

Tony showed a brochure that lists all of the dealers in Louisiana and demonstrates how working with fur is passed from generation to generation. The Chinese puts a lot of value in family and family businesses.

Tony showed the proposed logo for the fur booth sign. He showed some of the earlier versions.

Tony said he'd like to get about 500 of the brochures printed out for the booth. Tanya said that Michael suggested printing 1,000 to 1,500. Ryan said that he agreed.

Buddy said that he would have concerns about sending an employee knocking on doors in China. We would need an escort with some security. Tony said that he plans on working out a set agenda with an escort. Tanya explained that Nick would set the agenda and travel with us the entire trip. Michael would also attend. Frank said that if Michael is about to retire, then it's probably important for the council to do something like this now. Tanya mentioned that Michael would probably not bid on the next RFP.

Tony said that he would like to discuss contracting with Nick for the fur fair in Beijing, extended travel to Chongfu and the region, and translations throughout the year. Buddy suggested that the Council and department have a period to make suggestions.

Ryan motioned to approve the minutes from the February meeting travel to Beijing and to the Chongfu area for up to \$12,000. Archie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Tony motioned to approve a contract for up to \$5,000 for the fur fair, the travel costs and interpretive services for the additional trip, and some additional translations. Ryan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Raw Samples for Beijing Fur Fair**

Tony said that he wants to show the raw fur, because that is what we're selling. He also wants to show a good quality tanned fur to demonstrate how the fur turns out. Tony said that Michael is out of budget. Tony would like to purchase or provide 5 nutria, 5 raccoon, 3 bobcat, 3 otter, 5 muskrat, 5 mink, and 5 beaver for raw skin samples. Tony said that he can donate otter. He thinks he can get raccoon donated. Ryan said that if we can't come up with donations, then it shouldn't cost much to make the purchase. Edmond suggested that the Council try to get donations and if we need to make a purchase, then Frank can approve up to \$2,000 as chairman. Ryan said that he can donate muskrat and mink. Ryan asked if we need a motion. Edmond said that they don't. Ryan said that he thinks we can get the donations. Tanya asked about shipping. Ryan said that the shipping costs should fall within the budget that Frank has authority to approve.

Jennifer said that if the Council could get donations for the coats, then it would save the Council money.

### **Fur Marketing RFP**

Edmond said that if the Council wants to approve another RFP, then the Council should start considering the scope of service. Tanya suggested that the Council start passing around ideas for the scope of service. Ryan asked about how we can get the RFP out to other people who would be qualified to bid on it. Frank asked if Tanya would share information on other people she knows who might be interested in bidding. Buddy suggested talking to other fur associations and asking if they had any ideas on how to go about marketing and if they know who might be interested in bidding on an RFP.

**NTA Convention**

Ryan said that he would like to discuss sending a couple of Council members to the NTA. Tony mentioned that the convention is in New York and would require a flight. John is interested in attending. Tony said that Steve had indicated that he would not be able to commit. Ryan said that he can't go. Archie said that he'd have to check his schedule. Frank said that we could make it available for two. Ryan said that the Convention is July 30 through August 1.

Tony motioned to send two Council members to the NTA in New York. Archie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**NTA Convention**

Quentin said that he was willing to put up a booth at the FFA Convention. He can pay his own travel, but he asked if the Council would pay the cost of the booth at \$100. The Council said that they have a consensus that Tanya could pay the booth fee on her p-card.

**Budget Discussion**

Frank said that there are two sources for our budget, the Rockefeller Trust Funds and the Education and Marketing Fund. Edmond said that there have been several years that money has been left on the table. If money is left at the end of the year too many years in a row, the budget may be cut. Edmond said that the Council could look at enhancing some programs to spend close to the budgeted amount.

**Other Business**

John Linzay said that he would like to send Council members to a professional trapper's college to learn better methods and learn how to instruct. Ryan said that he wants our trapper workshops to be consistent. The FTA puts on a trapper's college in Indiana. John said that there is a private educator in Montana. Bob asked if it would be relevant to learn trapping in another habitat. John said that it would be relevant, because the animal behaves the same. Ryan said that he would like a couple of people to go and learn and then come back and teach the instructors here.

John said that he could come up with a budget. Frank asked if he could approve this. Tanya said that the cost would be over the \$2,000 that he could approve. Edmond said that John could bring back some prices for the next meeting.

Tony asked what guarantee that the information would come back. John said that he and Steve are willing to attend the workshop, and that they would come back here and instruct. Tanya asked if he could come up with a written curriculum or a standard. John said that having an enforcement officer at the workshop was really informative. Bob said an enforcement officer presentation could be part of the standard.

John asked if they could get travel permission for May. We are still under a travel freeze. Buddy said that we can ask.

Ryan motioned to approve up to \$6,000 for two Council members to travel to Montana in May for trapping instructions. Archie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ryan mentioned that there is an effort to pass a bill (House Bill 51) to put a bounty on feral hogs.

Ryan said that another committee had requested citations for the past year. There were no trapper violations. He is concerned that there are no written violations, because he knows there are some people out there doing it wrong. The issue may be that enforcement officers may not know about trapping issues. John said that he traps after the hunting season, and the enforcement officers are not monitoring the land that he traps on at that time.

Ryan said that he would like to congratulate Bob Love on the Conservation Award that he will be receiving.

Tony said that he would like to move into some online trapping education program. He would eventually like to have a level one trapping education online with a pass/fail certificate. He would like to require that a student pass this class before he/she could attend one of the weekend workshops.

Buddy said that there needs to be an objective. He suggested that a student might enroll and receive a certificate, if it opened doors for access to land. Buddy suggested that the Trappers Association might have a brainstorming meeting with Department staff. He thinks that the discussion may be larger than time at an FAC meeting would allow.

Frank suggested that an open book test might be appropriate, because some people have test anxiety. Edmond agreed that an open book test could guide a student through the manual looking for the key points.

Frank suggested that we set the next meeting date around Brent Poley. Ryan asked that we shoot for June 24.

**Ryan motioned to adjourn. Archie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**