

**Summary of the Fur Advisory Council Meeting
May 2, 2012
New Iberia, Louisiana**

Council Present

Archie Domangue
Steve Hughes
Frank Ellender
Sam Smith
Charles Pettefer, Jr.
James Gallaspy
John Linzay
Allan Ensminger

LDWF Presence

Tanya Sturman
Edmond Mouton
Buddy Baker
Jennifer Hogue
Tyson Crouch

Others

Tony Howard
Ronald Guy
Johnny Price

Council Absent

Judge Edwards

Allan motioned to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2011 meeting. Frank seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Hughes introduced himself. He began trapping when he was 10 years old. He does a lot of control work and traps each winter.

Snare Issue- Update

The March Commission meeting had proposed recommendations for controlling snares. There were some concerns with bear biologists which brought this issue up. There was a lot of discussion. Five of the seven commission members voted to table it due to lack of documentation on mortality due to snaring. It was brought back up at the April meeting. USFW was there. It was tabled again. Edmond said that he has some concerns that it is not over. He recommends that the Council take an approach to education. Another recommendation is that the Fur Council put together a pamphlet about trapping around bears, similar to a hunting brochure titled, "Hunting Around Bears."

Buddy Baker said that USFW may take action, because they were disappointed that the Commission did not take action. He believes that there is a need to be proactive.

There is not enough biological information to know how many bears are out there.

Frank motioned that as a result of the commission meeting the Council will take a proactive educational approach by creating a Trapping Around Bears pamphlet. Archie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Tony Howard handed out a mock-up brochure and suggested that we put these out in fisheries, offices, and educational centers. John Linzay asked if the Department could mail out the brochure to everyone who bought a trapping license. Jimmy said that we should suggest that the brochure be given out when snares are sold. Edmond said that they can be put on the websites and in the

offices that sell trapping licenses. Buddy said that he thinks LDWF could do the mailing. Steve will work with LDWF and the Trappers Association to develop recommendations for a brochure.

HB822

HB822 is a sweep bill where the State takes money remaining in a fund. \$20 from every \$25 license fee goes into the fund. Yesterday, May 1, it was assigned to the House Appropriation Committee. The bill passed out of the appropriations committee and is going to the House floor. Buddy said that the Department doesn't have any authority to lobby against it. He said that the Council will have to speak out. Edmond said that the trapping license sales are up. He also has an amendment in that should allow \$145 from non-residence trapping licenses to go into the Education and Marketing fund. Sam asked that the Council members contact their representatives.

Council Budget

We had a budget for \$250,000. The top half of the budget page shows charges to the Rockefeller Trust Funds and the bottom half has the Education and Marketing Fund. Edmond read the budget line by line.

Marketing Campaign

Tony Howard said the anti-organizations are running ad campaigns on television. He would like to see the Council run a pro-renewable resource campaign within Louisiana. He said we should educate the public about the need for trapping as a management tool. Buddy and Edmond said that the Sportmans magazine readers probably already support trapping. Buddy said that reasons for trapping that resonate with non-trappers are support of the family, sustaining a Cajun lifestyle. He said that if you link it with alligator harvest and shrimping and fishing industries, then it will paint a broad stroke that will resonate well with the general public. Edmond suggested getting guidance from Marianne Burke or Ewell Smith. Frank suggested that we come back next time with more specific ideas.

Fur Council Displays

The Council discussed the brochures. John asked that one photo show cypress with moss. Several wanted to change the photo of the fox.

Cameron Fur Festival

Since we are in a spending freeze, Edmond suggested that we table this until after July.

Other Business

Tanya gave a summary of Michael's report. Auctions were selling 100% of inventory at high prices. There are buyers from China, Turkey and Ukraine interested in Louisiana furs. John suggested that the Council send a couple of people to the NTA in August and the FTA in June.

Jimmy motioned to send Steve and John to the NTA in August. Allan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Frank motioned to adjourn. Steve seconded. Motion carried unanimously.