

**Summary of the Fur Advisory Council Meeting
September 23, 2015
New Iberia, Louisiana**

Council Present

Tony Howard
James Gallaspy
Charles Pettefer, Jr.
Judge Edwards
Ryan Schaefer
Archie Domangue

LDWF Presence

Tanya Sturman
Edmond Mouton
Buddy Baker
Bob Love
Catherine Norman
Jennifer Hogue

Council Absent

Frank Ellender
Steve Hughes
John Linzay

Others Present

Mr. and Mrs. Ensminger
Scott Warren

Ryan motioned to approve the minutes from the July meeting. Charlie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RFP for International Marketing

Tony introduced the RFP and the goals and objectives. Ryan said that he felt like they had hashed it out pretty well through email. Edmond said that it was acceptable to the Department. Ryan mentioned that the corrections that were made to the original draft was to reword it as to not limit how much the contractor may choose to do. Tony said that he wanted to allow the contractor to open it up to other countries. He said we had steered clear of Western Europe for a while, but there is a market there. Bob asked if the task of doing the website could be subcontracted out if it was included in the proposal. Tony said that it could. Ryan said that he had read through it several times and thought it had an appealing scope. Buddy said that he thought the Council had done a good job with it. Edmond said that if a bid came in too high, that the Council could pair it down to what they could afford and negotiate with the winning bidder.

Judge motioned to publish the RFP for marketing Louisiana Furs. Jimmy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Fur Rings and Coats Update- Jennifer

Jennifer passed around one of the new fur rings for the Council members to inspect. She said that the coats had been ordered. Two coats will be in by December and can be used for the pageant. The other two will be in by spring.

Judge motioned to make a permanent loan of the surplus fur to Iberia Theater with the provision that they loan them out to other theaters as needed. Jimmy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Comparative Take- Jennifer

Jennifer reviewed the data from the comparative take chart. Buddy asked where the data was derived. She said that it was from shipping and tag reports. Edmond pointed out there is a dramatic drop just within the past year. Buddy said that the value did not take into account live trade. Foxes, coyotes, and raccoons have a strong value in selling to pens. Tony noted that the take was down, but that the value was still fairly high. Buddy said that when the data is presented like this, the impact of trapping is not fairly demonstrated. Edmond said that trapping licenses are holding steady. Tony agreed that there is still interest in trapping.

Other Business

Archie asked about the nutria program. Jennifer said that funding was approved for another year for the program. We are in the 13th program year. Edmond said that he expected that the program would run at least 20 years. He thinks that because of the low cost and the high benefit that the program may run over 20 years. Bob agreed that the money was well spent and that the results have been substantial with thousands of acres saved. Edmond said that there is a bill in Congress regarding funding for nutria control in Maryland. Glenn Delaney is requesting that Louisiana be included in that bill as well.

Bob introduced Catherine Norman, a new biologist for the nutria program. He welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Ensminger to the meeting. He also welcomed Scott Warren, an alligator farmer.

Catherine Norman said that they will be looking at tagging methods. Nutria, muskrat, and beavers do not retain ear tags very well and they are not easily visible. Jennifer added that they would like to mark the tails, because the markings would be turned in with the tails through the nutria control program. They will try out heat branding and heat branding.

Judge asked if the trapping workshops had been scheduled. Tony said that the first one would be December 12.

Ryan said that there are federal laws that supersede our laws about shipping live animals out of state. He said that the USDA showed up at his house to let him know that he needed a permit number. Edmond said that he was just recently contacted about this as well. Ryan asked if we should make people aware of the federal regulations. Edmond said that he thought we should, but he is trying to get all of the correct information. Buddy said that when they can clarify the USDA regulations, they will add it to the website and to printed publications.

Edmond said that he had asked Tanya to add an introductory paragraph on the Council website saying when the Council was established, what the goals are, and what the constitution of the membership is.

Edmond said that he has a lot of the fur coloring books in storage that he wants to distribute. He would like to distribute them at the National Hunting and Fishing Days and give them to some elementary school teachers.

Jennifer said that she had contacted the enforcement office and that they would be happy to send someone to the trapping workshops.

We'll aim to meet in February to get updates on the trapping workshops, RFP update, and China trip.

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