

FUR ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAC)

JULY 9, 2019
LDWF REGIONAL OFFICE COMPLEX
LAFAYETTE, LA

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Present

Tony Howard
Charles Pettefer, Jr.
John Verret
Frank Ellender
Ryan Schaefer
Steve Hughes

LDWF Present

Tanya Sturman
Jennifer Manuel
Jeb Linscombe
Buddy Baker
Jason Waller

Council Members Absent

Danny Perry
Clint Johnson
Archie Domangue

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Frank Ellender motioned to approve the minutes from the June 2018 meeting. Ryan Schaefer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Tony Howard introduced John Verret, the newest Council Member. He is landowner representative from Apache Land.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS TONY HOWARD

Ryan Schaefer motioned to keep the same Officers: Tony Howard as Chairman and Ryan Schaefer as Vice Chairman. Charles Pettefer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

STATEWIDE TRAPPER REPRESENTATIVE TERM

The Statewide Trapper Representative's term will expire on March 23, 2020. The position is currently held by Steve Hughes. The Louisiana Trapper and Alligator Hunter Association will send a letter of recommendation to the Secretary to fill this position.

TRAPPER EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATE

The Council discussed the trapper workshop program. The Department and the Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association have partnered to hold trapper workshops. During 2018-2019 trapping season they held eight single day workshops and two full weekend trapping schools. They had about 100 new students this past year in the hands-on workshops and just under 100 students completed the online trapping course. They have planned five single day workshops and two full weekend trapping schools for the upcoming season. The Council supports this program by providing meals, trapping manuals, and trapping kits. Trapping license sales have increased over the past three seasons. Youth licenses have climbed from 64 to 234.

TRAPPING MATTERS UPDATE

Jennifer Manuel has been working with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) to do a one day workshop called Trapping Matters. AFWA will send an instructor and we will host it at Waddil. The primary topic is how to talk to the public about trapping. It covers interviewing and how to speak to the media about trapping. The workshop is free to attend. It will be on November 6, 2019. Ms. Manuel will work with AFWA to get a week long trapping school program scheduled in Louisiana in 2020.

LOUISIANA FUR AND WILDLIFE PAGEANT – QUEEN'S UPDATE

The Fur Queen was unable to attend and give her update, but she provided a written report. Tanya Sturman reviewed the highlights of the report. Hali Westerman was crowned as Fur Queen in January. Since then she has attended thirty-two events and spoken to a number of groups about the fur industry, including the American National Cattlegirl's Association. She has served as Mistress of Ceremonies for three pageants and uses these platforms to promote trapping and the fur industry.

GLENN DELANEY'S CONTRACT ACTIVITIES UPDATE AND RENEWAL CONSIDERATION

Tanya Sturman updated the Council on Glenn Delaney's activities. His contract will expire at the end of the fiscal year. The Department would like to renew his contract for another three years at \$49,000. The cost of this contract is split between the Fur Advisory Council and the Alligator Advisory Council.

Ryan Schaefer motioned to approve entering into a contract with Glenn Delaney starting July 1, 2020 for three years contributing \$24,500 annually. Charles Pettefer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2019-2020 BUDGET APPROVAL

The Council discussed the budget drafted by LDWF staff. They requested that LDWF staff get a quote for printing the trapping manuals through the Office of State Printing and consider having the manual professionally printed. The manuals should be printed out of the Educational Materials and Supplies category of the Council budget, if the budget allows.

Ryan Schaefer motioned to approve the budget as presented. Frank Ellender seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING ISSUES

Jeb Linscombe mentioned that he and Buddy Baker plan to set up a meeting in Washington D.C. with the US Fish and Wildlife Service about some shipping issues that they have been having with alligators. He wanted to check with the fur dealers to see if they have been having any issues with shipping furs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Manuel mentioned that the Coastwide Nutria Control Program (CNCP) is increasing the payment to \$6. A reporter has requested an interview with a trapper in the CNCP. Tony Howard asked for a CNCP update at the next Council meeting.

Ryan Schaefer motioned to adjourn. Steve Hughes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.