

FUR ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAC)

JUNE 21, 2018
LDWF
WOODWORTH, LA

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Present

Tony Howard
Charles Pettefer, Jr.
Frank Ellender
Ryan Schaefer
Steve Hughes
Danny Perry
Clint Johnson

LDWF Present

Tanya Sturman
Amity Bass
Jennifer Manuel
Jeb Linscombe
Ben Holten
Justin Ebarb

Council Members Absent

Archie Domangue

Others Present

Lisa Richardelle
Sydney Richardelle

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Frank Ellender motioned to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Steve Hughes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CHANGES IN LDWF STAFF AND COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Tony Howard introduced a new council member, Clint Johnson. Mr. Johnson is a trapper representative and works around the Alexandria area.

Amity Bass introduced Jeb Linscombe as the new Biologist Program Manager for the alligator and fur programs.

The Landowners Association has not yet found anyone to fill the coastal landowner position that was recently vacated by Judge Edwards.

The Senate designee position, currently filled by Tony Howard, will expire on July 14th. The Trappers Association has already sent a letter to request that Mr. Howard be reappointed.

BUDGET- AMITY BASS

Amity Bass explained that the Education and Marketing Fund has \$410,000 in it and the fund is taking in roughly \$60,000 based on trapping license fees. The Council has previously been able to use some Rockefeller Trust Funds, but those funds will not be available to the Council this year. Although it is possible that Rockefeller Funds may be used again in the future, the Council should plan to work within the budget that they have. The Council members discussed how to tighten the budget so that their programs can be sustained over the next ten years. The Council discussed the budget line by line to consider where to save money. The Council decided to work with the budget as it was presented for this year with the understanding that future budgets will be tightened and that new fur rings will not be purchased again for the next several years.

*Ryan Schaefer motioned to accept the budget as presented. Charles Pettefer seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.*

EDUCATION- TANYA STURMAN

Tanya Sturman gave a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the breadth and depth of the outreach program and the trapper education program over the past fiscal year. She covered the goals and strategies for both programs and how the programs complement each other. The Council discussed the growth of the trapper education program and planned to double the trapper workshops next fiscal year.

SEAFWA FURBEARER WORKING GROUP- JENNIFER MANUEL

Jennifer Manuel explained that SEAFWA is the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and talked about who participated in the furbearer working group. A major concern for the group is that muskrat populations have been declining through many of the southeastern states. Ms. Manuel would like to host an AFWA Fur School and a Trapping Matters workshop in Louisiana in the future. These workshops are already scheduled for next fiscal year, and she will try to arrange for one of these events to take place in Louisiana the following year.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT- LOUISIANA FUR AND WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

Jennifer Manuel informed the Council about the formal cooperative agreement that was recently drawn up between LDWF and the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival. The terms of the agreement haven't changed, but the language of the document is more formal. The Fur and Wildlife Festival queen will receive a fur coat in exchange for promoting the fur industry at events throughout the year. The fur queen will make monthly reports to LDWF.

GLENN DELANEY'S CONTRACT ACTIVITIES- TANYA STURMAN

Tanya Sturman updated the Council on Glenn Delaney's activities. He is still monitoring several bills related to trapping, but he is not concerned about their status. Those that would be detrimental to the fur industry are unlikely to pass. Glenn Delaney has been in discussions with APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) about federal funding for alligator disease research, and he has assisted the new contractor in California with the elimination of the sunset clause to California Penal Code 653o.

FUR MARKET- DANNY PERRY

Danny Perry gave an optimistic report about movement in the fur industry. Chinese buyers have been coming to Louisiana, and Peter Li has been buying Louisiana fur. Otters are moving at about a \$25 average through Derrick Yen, a top otter buyer at NAFA.

Groenwald has bought a major part of Louisiana's beaver and will continue to purchase from Louisiana. The beaver felt market is solid. There is also a large interest in beaver meat. Beaver castor can sell for \$35 a pound. Beaver tails go for about \$2 a tail.

There is currently a base for the nutria market. Louisiana can move 50,000 nutria for textile products, and Danny Perry got a repeat purchase for nutria that can be used for textile. Nutria meat can sell for dog food. Nutria meat has been tested and found free of disease.

Other furs are also moving. Raccoons have sold out in Louisiana. Muskrats are coming back and the Chinese are particularly interested in them. Louisiana bobcat also sells well.

Danny Perry said that the quality of fur coming in has improved with the trapper education program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sydney Richardelle spoke about her role as pageant queen and how she promotes fur products and the Louisiana trapping industry. She talks about why she wears real fur and how she tells people that friends should not let friends wear faux fur. She uses the fur coat, purses, and stoles as prompts to open the conversation about why fur is fabulous: sustainable, renewable, and green.

Ryan Schaefer motioned to adjourn. Frank Ellender seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
