

# FUR ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAC)

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021, 1 PM  
LAFAYETTE LDWF OFFICE

## ATTENDANCE

### Council Members Present

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

### LDWF Present

Tanya Sturman  
Jennifer Manuel  
Jeb Linscombe  
Justin Ebarb

### Public Present

Homer Gibson

### Council Members Absent

John Verret

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

*Frank Ellender motioned to approve the minutes from the June 2020 meeting. Clint Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

*Archie Domangue nominated Ryan Schaefer as Chairman and Frank Ellender as Vice Chairman. Danny Perry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

## TRAPPER EDUCATION UPDATE

Tanya Sturman introduced Homer Gibson and Justin Ebarb, a couple of the trapper education instructors. She went over the educational events from the last trapping season. There were six trapper workshops and three 3-day trapper schools. The numbers were strong. Many workshops exceeded thirty students. The trapping instructor workshop will be held in September at the Louisiana Ecological Forestry Center. Six Saturday workshops, and three 3-day trapper schools will be held during the upcoming trapping season.

#### 2021-2022 BUDGET CONSIDERATION

Ryan Schaefer went over the proposed budget and suggested increasing the budget for the National Trappers Association to \$4,000 which puts the total Fur Advisory Council budget at \$57,500 for the fiscal year 2021-2022.

*Tony Howard motioned to accept the budget as presented for \$57,500 for the current fiscal year. Steve Hughes seconded. Motioned carried unanimously.*

#### NUTRIA CONTROL PROGRAM UPDATE

Jennifer Manuel went over the nutria harvest numbers for the past season. There were 448 registered participants. The collection number was up by 66,253 over the previous year. The total number of nutria collected was 312,118. There were about 2,250 observed damaged acres, which was a decrease by about 1,400 from the year before.

#### COYOTE RULE CHANGE

Jennifer Manuel went over the language in Title 76:113 regarding the legal traps for catching coyote and fox year-round. The Department will proposed a change using the language from the Best Management Practices so that the most humane and effective traps are permitted for year-round use.

*Tony Howard motioned to support the notice of intent to change the language related to traps permitted for out of season coyote and fox trapping. Frank Ellender seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### LICENSE CHANGES UPDATE

Jennifer Manuel went over the license fee changes. The fees will step up in price over the next three years. Severance taxes will no longer be required, but harvests should still be reported. A survey will be needed to track fur harvest. The youth hunting license will include trapping. A trapping license will be required for those 18 and over. The Fur Education and Marketing Fund will get all of the new fees

related to fur and trapping licensing, so the council budget will increase with these changes. Jeb Linscombe said that they used the Alligator Resource Fund as a model for dedicated funds. This is part of the way the package was sold to the legislators. Instead of saying that all of these funds are going into one big pot, commercial shrimping fees will be used for shrimping and fur fees for fur.

#### MEMBERS EXPIRATION

Five members' terms will expire within the current fiscal year. Two others will expire within the first couple of months of the next fiscal year. The Department will request nominations from the Landowners Association and the Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association to fill these vacancies. Current members are eligible for another term.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Justin Ebarb asked about the goals of the Nutria Control Program. The goal is remove enough nutria to make the resulting land damage manageable. Justin Ebarb asked if the number of nutria carcasses being left in the marsh was impacting alligator populations. Jeb Linscombe responded that the alligators already had sufficient food and that the nutria harvest was not artificially increasing the alligator population. Justin Ebarb suggested that the trapping survey could be added to the online license purchasing process.

Jennifer Manuel suggested that the Council members begin thinking about supporting some research projects as their budget increases in the coming years. She recommended starting with a bobcat population study.

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*Danny Perry motioned to adjourn. Clint Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

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