

FUR ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAC)

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2024, 1 PM
LAFAYETTE LDWF OFFICE

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Present

Ryan Schaefer
Charles Pettefer, Jr.
Frank Ellender
Billy Wurzlow
Clint Johnson

Council Members Absent

Danny Perry
Tony Howard
Steve Hughes
John Verret

LDWF Present

Tanya Sturman
Jennifer Manuel
Jason Waller
Jeb Linscombe
Justin Ebarb
Larry Reynolds

Public Present

Chad Courville
Julian Cormier
Jadyn Devillier

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

*Frank Ellender nominated Ryan Schafer as Chairman and Tony Howard as Vice Chairman.
William Wurzlow seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Frank Ellender motioned to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2023 meeting. Clint Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRAPPER EDUCATION UPDATE

Tanya Sturman went over the numbers for the trapper workshops from the past trapping season. There were six scheduled one day workshops which increased from five workshops last season. Four of these had a waiting list. In spite of rain during most of the workshops, attendance was strong. Several workshops exceeded 30 students. In addition to the scheduled workshops, three additional one day events were added. They did a modified workshop for the LDWF Enforcement Academy, and trapping has officially been added to the academy curriculum. They also did a Boy Scout trapper workshop, and 60% of those participants followed through and came to a three day trapping school. The last add on event was for an LA Tech Forestry class. Two trapping schools were held at Woodworth in March, and both were well attended. Due to participation in the NTA and the SE Readiness Summit, three other states have requested Louisiana's curriculum for trapper education so that they can model a program off of Louisiana's successful trapper education program. Trapper education expenses are currently being paid by Pittman Robertson Funds.

READINESS SUMMIT UPDATE

Tony Howard will send an update on this event by email at a later date, since he was unable to attend this year.

NUTRIA CONTROL PROGRAM UPDATE

Jennifer Manuel said that trapping license sales reflect the success of the trapper education program. Resident trapping license sales increased to 2,619. They collected 401,312 nutria tails. This is a record year. There has only been one other year where tail collections exceeded 400,000. The nutria damage areas increased slightly, but the degree of damage per site was less.

TRAPPER SURVEY DISCUSSION

Jennifer Manuel said that she does not have the results for this year yet.

NTA UPDATE

Ryan Schaefer mentioned how important Louisiana's presence is at the NTA Convention. Louisiana has developed a reputation for our trapper education program, and other states are modeling their programs off of ours.

FUR AND EDUCATION MARKETING FUND UPDATE

Chad Courville indicated that LA HB537 had been sent to the governor's office. This bill would direct all fur license sales into the Louisiana Fur and Education Marketing Fund. As the legislation was written, a fixed amount of \$20 per license is currently being deposited into the Louisiana Fur and Education Marketing Fund.

2024-2025 FAC BUDGET

The council discussed the proposed budget and went through it line by line. Chad Courville mentioned that the NASC Sportsman-Legislator Summit will be held in Louisiana this year. There is a large trapping presence at these events.

Ryan Schaefer motioned to add \$2,000 to the budget to send a delegation to the Sportsman-Legislator Summit. Frank Ellender seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Frank Ellender motioned to approve the budget as amended. Clint Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FAC MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Tanya Sturman mentioned that the Statewide Trapper position will expire at the end of the fiscal year. The position is currently held by Steve Hughes. The Louisiana Trapper and Alligator Hunter Association will need to make a nomination for that position.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Council tentatively choose September 27, 2024 for the next meeting date. This will be before the NASC Sportsman-Legislator Summit.

Jadyn Devillier introduced herself as the current Fur and Wildlife Festival queen. Her older sister and her mother were previous Fur and Wildlife Festival queens. She is very passionate about representing the fur industry at events and festivals. She is currently working at the Governor's office and is a full time student.

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