

FUR ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAC)

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023, 1 PM
LAFAYETTE LDWF OFFICE

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Present

Ryan Schaefer
Danny Perry
Tony Howard
Charles Pettefer, Jr.
Frank Ellender
Steve Hughes
Billy Wurzlow

LDWF Present

Tanya Sturman
Jennifer Manuel
Jason Waller
Jeb Linscombe

Public Present

None

Council Members Absent

Clint Johnson
John Verret

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Tony Howard motioned to approve the minutes from the May 3, 2022 meeting. Frank Ellender seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRAPPER EDUCATION UPDATE

Tanya Sturman went over the numbers for the trapper workshops from the past trapping season. There were 107 first time students who attended five one-day workshops. There were 20 students who attended the trapper school. The Louisiana Trapper and Alligator Hunter Association has requested that we add an additional trapper workshop next season. Trapper education expenses are currently being paid by Pittman Robertson Funds.

NUTRIA CONTROL PROGRAM UPDATE

Jennifer Manuel said that they collected 221,404 tails. There was an increase in tails collected in 2023. This year it was only 13%; the rest were shot. There were 21 damage sites this season. Four sites recovered, and there were two new sites.

READINESS SUMMIT UPDATE

Tony Howard attended a Readiness Summit in Idaho. It was a full Friday and Saturday event. The event was at the Idaho Wildlife and Fisheries main office. The director of Wildlife and Fisheries opened the meeting and then turned it over to their furbearer biologist. There was a lot of discussion on building coalitions with other nonprofit organizations and with governmental organizations. The Louisiana Trapper and Alligator Hunters Association has started building coalitions since this summit. They are working with the National Turkey Federation and the Cattleman's Association.

SOUTH EAST READINESS SUMMIT

Tony Howard would like to request funding to host a South East Readiness Summit that will cover 10 to 12 states across the South East. The council members discussed locations and potential speakers.

COYOTE NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL OPERATOR NOTICE OF INENT

Jennifer Manuel said that the proposed regulation change is in the phase of public comment. The Commission voted to send it to public comment on April 6th with full support. This change will bring the regulations in alignment with the Best Management Practices.

FUR AND EDUCATION MARKING FUND UPDATE

Jeb Linscombe explained that there was a huge license fee restructuring bill. We were led to believe that the increase in any licenses related to trapping would go to the Fur Education and Marketing Fund. The law still reads that \$20 from each trapping license will go into the Fur Education and Marketing Fund. So, the increase in fees have gone to the Conservation Funds.

2023-2024 FAC BUDGET

The council discussed the proposed budget. Jennifer Manuel explained how she would use the \$9,000 in the research fund on a bobcat study. The research would include collecting and aging teeth. This information would allow the Department to determine the health of the population. Similar studies are

done with deer to determine if the population is declining or stable. Jeb Linscombe assured the council members that the research fund would only be used to fund a bobcat study this year.

The council discussed the NTA and the FTA trips. They decided to forego the FTA and only attend the NTA. They requested that two staff members attend, Tanya Sturman and Justin Ebarb, and two council members, Tony Howard and Clint Johnson.

Tony Howard motioned to approve the budget as presented. Charlie Pettefer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FAC MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Tanya Sturman mentioned that the Statewide Trapper position will expire at the end of the next 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 early next spring.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeb Linscombe gave an update on the alligator issue in California.

Jennifer Manuel said that she would send the furbearer survey data out to the council.

Frank Ellender motioned to adjourn. Steve Hughes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
