

FUR ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAC)

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022, 1 PM
LAFAYETTE LDWF OFFICE

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Present

Ryan Schaefer
Danny Perry
Clint Johnson
Archie Domangue
Tony Howard
Charles Pettefer, Jr.
John Verret

Council Members Absent

Frank Ellender
Steve Hughes

LDWF Present

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

Public Present

Homer Gibson
Nick Lemoine
Chuck Sturgis
Raffaele Raimondi

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Tony Howard motioned to approve the minutes from the July 2021 meeting. Clint Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Archie Domangue nominated Ryan Schaefer as Chairman and Tony Howard as Vice Chairman. Charles Pettefer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRAPPER EDUCATION UPDATE

Tanya Sturman introduced all of the audience members. She went over the educational events from the last trapping season. There were five single-day trapper workshops and three 3-day trapper schools. There were also two trapper instructor workshops. The numbers were strong for all workshops, and two workshops had a wait-list. Both trapping license sales and WMA usage for trapping have increased dramatically since the trapper education program began.

2022-2023 BUDGET CONSIDERATION

Ryan Schaefer went over the proposed budget. The budget draws from Pittman-Robinson funds as well as the Fur Education and Marketing funds. Budget categories included food, supplies, and travel for the trapper education program, supplies and travel for outreach, fur coats to cover the cooperative agreement with the Cameron Fur and Wildlife Festival, travel to the National Trappers Association and the Fur Takers of America rendezvous, the Washington D.C. contract with Glenn Delaney and some LDWF salary expenses. The Council amended the budget to include money for Fur Advisory Council shirts for council members.

Tony Howard motioned to amend the budget to add \$600 for council shirts. Archie Domangue seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Tony Howard motioned to accept the budget as amended for a total of \$79,600. Clint Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Tony Howard motioned to have the Department start the process for a professional contract with Glenn Delaney that would start in July 2023. Archie Domangue seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Tony Howard motioned to approve \$2,000 for two people to travel to the FTA in June 2022. Clint Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Raffaele from Raffaele's Fur and Boutique introduced himself as the only furrier in Louisiana, gave a brief history of previous fur marketing efforts and highlighted some of the challenges facing the fur market today.

NUTRIA CONTROL PROGRAM UPDATE

Jennifer Manuel mentioned that the fur harvest survey has had a 28% response rate so far.

Due to both Hurricane Ida and an extremely dry winter, the nutria control numbers were down across the board this year. There were about 200 active participants this last year. March had the highest turn-in at 65,281 tails. St. Mary Parish had the highest harvest. There were no new damage sites, and there was one recovered site.

CITES TAGS FOR FUR DEALERS DISCUSSION

Jennifer Manuel explained the difference in how alligator and furbearer CITES tags are issued. Bobcat and otter CITES tags are issued after the furbearers are harvested. The Department cannot issue CITES tags in advance to the fur buyers, because the Department needs the data before they can issue tags. Jennifer Manuel and Jeb Linscombe discussed some ways that they can expedite the CITES tag process. For example, the Department might accept the data via email rather than requiring that the hunter mail in the possession tags.

MEMBERS EXPIRATION

Tanya Sturman mentioned that three council members' terms will expire during the next fiscal year. She reviewed those terms and the mechanisms for obtaining new appointments.

Tanya Sturman also provided the financial disclosure forms that are due mid-May to the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tony Howard mentioned that he would like to get the Department to create some short videos on trapping and the benefits of trapping. Gabe Giffin came and filmed at one of the trapper schools but will need a short script before he can edit that footage into a formal video. Jennifer Manuel will also work with Gabe Giffin to do a video on the nutria control program.

Tony Howard explained that the Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association is developing a formal curriculum for trapper education based on Best Management Practices. He also mentioned that they did their first workshop for the LDWF Enforcement Academy this past season.

Some trappers did not receive a harvest survey, because their email address is not in the LDWF licensing system. Larry Reynolds explained how to put an email address into the system. Jennifer Manuel will send those instructions to the LTAHA so that they can let their members know how to update their account information.

Archie Domangue motioned to adjourn. Clint Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
