**Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board**

**General Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.**

**DNR – LaBelle Room**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Perrault introduced himself and called the general meeting of the Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board to order at 10:30 a.m. on February 28, 2013 in the LaBelle Room of the LaSalle Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Chairman Perrault asked the other Board Members to identify themselves. Present were: Ralph Pausina and Don Briggs. Mr. Perrault asked everyone in attendance to sign the attendance sheet if they had not already done so.

**Adoption of minutes**

Minutes of the January 5, 2012 General Meeting were adopted on a motion by

Mr. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Pausina.

**Certification of Oyster Biologist**

The Chairman stated that there were two lists of biologists. The first being biologists requesting certification for the first time. Mr. Perrault read the names aloud for the record, noting that Thomas Picou had received temporary during the past year. (List attached for reference.) A motion was made by Mr. Pausina and seconded by Mr. Briggs to certify the biologists. Motion passed without objection.

**Recertification of Oyster Biologists**

The Chairman informed the Board that in preparation for the meeting, Ms. Ortego had sent an email to the currently certified biologists asking if they wanted to be recertified. All responded that they wanted to be recertified. Mr. Perrault read the names of the biologists aloud for the record. (List attached for reference.) A motion to recertify the biologists was made by Mr. Briggs and seconded by Mr. Pausina. The motion passed without objection**.**

**Update on Progress of Selection of New Members**

The Chairman stated that prior to going on the record, the Board had discussed the progress of selecting two new members. Currently waiting for the Oyster Task Force to put forth their nomination from the oyster industry and the Louisiana Oil & Association, Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association and Louisiana Landowners Association to put

forth their nominee from the oil industry. He asked if the Board members had anything to add. Mr. Pausina stated that the Oyster Task Force had not met since the sudden passing of Mike Voisin, but was scheduled to meet at 1:30. Selecting a nominee to fill Mr. Voisin’s seat would be on the agenda.

**Old Business**

No old business.

**New Business**

Terrie Granier with the Strain Law Firm asked to bring a matter before the Board. Their client, Etroa Resources, had a DNR Coastal Use Permit that was issued April 17, 2012 and wanted the Board’s approval to use the oyster survey prepared in September 2011. After clarification and discussion of the issue, it was determined that a request for preliminary arbitration had not been filed, no work had been undertaken as of yet and it was not known whether or not the other party involved would accept using the report. The Chairman stated that the Board had no jurisdiction in the matter, there was no case. Mr. Perrault provided Ms. Granier with the statute governing the Board for her reference. Ms. Granier added they were interested in having T. Baker Smith & Sons; the company that had prepared the first survey, prepare the new report if one were necessary. The Chairman told her that he would make sure she received a list of certified biologists so she could determine if the biologist who prepared the original report was on the list**.**

**Adjournment**

Mr. Perrault asked if there was any other business for the Board. Hearing none, Mr. Pausina made a motion, seconded by Mr. Briggs to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Submitted by: Phyllis Ortego, Department of Natural Resources

APPROVED: February 28, 2013