

Louisiana Oyster Task Force Meeting
John Tesvich, Chairman

Tuesday, July 30 1:30 PM

UNO Advanced Technology Center, 2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 210, New Orleans

Meeting called to order at 1:07 p.m.

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Present

Sam Slavich
Gordon Leblanc in for Tenney Sibley
Chip Kline
Mark Schexnayder
Dan Coulon
Bryon Encalade
Buddy Pausina
Brandt Lafrance
Al Sunseri
John Tesvich
Brad Robin
Peter Vujnovich
Major Sammy Martin
Wilbert Collins
Jerome Zeringue

Absent

Jakov Jurisic
Karl Morgan

Guests

Troy Voisin
Patrick Banks-LDWF
Ty Lindsey-LDWF
Cole Garrett-LDWF
Damon Morris-LDWF
Carl Britt-LDWF
Nicholas Daisy- W&E Oysters
Nikola Zarak-LDWF
Chris Schieble-LDWF
Darren Bourgeois - LDWF
Clarence Luquet - LDWF
Kristin McLaren-LSPMB
Steven Stegall-Stegall Benton, llc.

*This meeting is being held in compliance with
Louisiana's Open Meetings Law as defined by La. R.S. 42:11, et seq.*

Charles Lapeyrouse-Lapeyrouse Bros.
Kenneth Fox- Fox Seafoods
Mark Naquin- Mark Oyster Seafood Co.
Taylor Naquin- Marks Oyster Seafood Co.
André Lyon-Lyon Productions
Erin Brown- LDWF
Drue Banta Winters- La Gov Office
Earl Melancon- Nicholls State
Tom Soniat- UNO
Lawrence Chaisson- D&C Oysters
Dale Chaisson- D&C Oysters
Donovan Burke- LDWF
Jason Froeba-LDWF
Sonya Self- LDWF
Lucy Boutte-LDWF
Marcia Donato-LDWF
Marlee Morris- LDWF
John Fallon-Audubon Nature Institute
Michael Harbison-LDWF
Corey Miller-CRCL
Willie Daisy- W & E Oysters
Francis Ernst, Jr
Tony Tesvich-Tony Tesvich Oysters
Julia Lightner- LDWF

Approval of May 23, 2013 MINUTES

Motion by Al Sunseri to accept the minutes, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion adopted.

Oyster Tag Sales-349,500

LOTF Financial Report

Motion by Al Sunseri to accept the committees report including the 2013-2014 budget spread. Second by Wilbert. Motion adopted.

Recommendation to include money for Tom Soniat's services in next year's dermo study by Buddy Pausina.

Public and Private Oyster Grounds Committee recommendations were presented to the task force.

- 1) Support legislation to include a tolerance of (+/-) 5 % on any unit of measure for shellstock other than sales by count
- 2) Move to change the present unit of measure for shellstock from a unit of volume to unit of weight

Recommendation:

Ask DWF and Sea Grant to do a study to determine

- 1) Actual measure, size, volumes, etc. of shellstock containers in commerce
- 2) Where this study should be done. (At dock; shop; truck; retail outlet)
- 3) List what info is actually on the tag
- 4) For shucked meat-determine free liquid content in containers in commerce

And report to task force by January 31, 2014

*This meeting is being held in compliance with
Louisiana's Open Meetings Law as defined by La. R.S. 42:11, et seq.*

Task Force shall take no action on legislation until after the study results are reported by January 31, 2014

Motion by Al Sunseri to accept the committee report, second by Dan Coulon. Motion adopted.

Buddy Pausina asked that we make an official request to the parties involved (letter to commissioner of agriculture). Mark Schexnayder said the three agencies are already in discussion and it should be no problem for them to have the report done in time.

Major Sammy Martin Reported on Enforcement activities

Research – John Supan was not there to give a research report, but at the financial committee meeting doing additional research was suggested.

Coastal Restoration – Dan Coulon reported, task force received copy of letter from OTF to Ms. Divoli at CPRA regarding the diversion. Jerome Zeringue made comments and said that the oyster task force's issues and concerns will be addressed in the environmental impact study.

Al Sunseri asked that the chairman meet with the chairman of the east levee district. Brad Robin, Dan Coulon and Sam Slavich said that they would also be willing to go.

Two day workshop on oyster reef restoration, August 7-8 at UNO. Earl Melancon, Tom Soniat and Patrick Banks will be in attendance. The meeting is free, more information on the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundations website.

Marketing – Ashley Roth will chair this committee.

Health – August 9 from 9-11 at Jefferson Parish they will have the classification maps.

Sustainability- Mark Schexnayder said that they will be working on fishery management plan for Oysters

ISSC Meeting in San Antonio- October 26-November 1- Al Sunseri, Wilbert Collins, John Tesvich.

Motion by Al Sunseri to support the hospitality suite at ISSC, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion adopted.

Ashley Roth will reach out to Nancy with ISSC to get the catering information.

Al Sunseri said he will go over the ISSC proposals and provide recommendations to the task force.

BP Oil Spill Remediation

1. Claims Process
2. Public Reef Remediation
3. Oyster Lease Remediation

New Business

Tom Soniat made presentation on oyster spat found during a recent cruise through St. Bernard Parish marshes out to the Chandeleur Islands. He found very few spat at sites within the marsh, and found the highest numbers of spat at the Chandeleur Island site. He felt that these results indicated a freshwater influence on oyster recruitment.

Patrick Banks presented the departments' oyster stock assessment for the public oyster areas and preliminary recommendations for the 2013-2014 season. Overall, the resource increased slightly over the 2012 oyster assessment, but market-size oysters continue to be scarce on public grounds east of the MS River. The following oyster season opening dates were recommended by LDWF

October 28- Primary Public Grounds East of MS River including Lake Borgne

October 28- Primary Public Grounds South of MRGO

September 4- Little Lake, Barataria Bay

October 28- Hackberry Bay

September 4- Lake Tambour and Deep Lake

October 28- Sister Lake and Lake Mechant

September 4- Vermillion/Atchafalaya Bay area

November 1-Calcasieu Lake-West Cove (10 sack limit)

Closed- Bay Gardene, Bay Junop, Calcasieu Lake-Eastside; Sabine Lake, the 2011, 2012 and 2013 Cultch Plants

Motion to accept the department's recommendations by Peter Vujnovich. Second by Brad Robin. Substitute motion by Al Sunseri to open west cove Calcasieu Lake and Sister Lake (excluding cultch plant) on October 15 and keep other recommendations from LDWF. Dan Coulon second. Motion adopted.

Motion by Buddy Pausina to do a plaque for Wilson Voisin second by Wilbert Collins. Motion adopted.

Next meeting set for Tuesday, September 17 at 1p.m.

Motion by Wilbert Collins to adjourn, second by Dan Coulon. Meeting adjourned at 3:42