

December 9, 2014, OTF meeting, UNO Advanced Tech Building

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Roll was called:

Voting Members Present:

Al Sunseri- entered at 1:08 p.m.

Brad Robin

Brandt LaFrance

Byron Encalade

Dan Coulon

Jakov Jurisic

John Tesvich

Sam Slavich

Shane Bagala

Wilbert Collins

Willie Daisy

Voting Members Absent:

Ralph "Buddy" Pausina

Non- Voting Members Present

Mark Schexnayder

Gordon Leblanc in for Lance Broussard

Chad Hebert in for Col. Sammy Martin

Karl Morgan

Non-Voting Members Absent

Chip Kline

Kyle Graham

Motion to accept minutes by Jakov Jurisic, second by Peter Vujnovich

Motion adopted

Motion to accept financial report by Peter Vujnovich, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion adopted.

Dan Coulon asked to postpone the public/private committee report until Buddy Pausina comes back. Second by Wilbert Collins. After further discussion the group decided to read through the committee report, see attached. Al Sunseri entered at 1:08 p.m.

Discussion was held on weights and measures, Benjy Rayburn with Department of Agriculture weights and measures division addressed the group.

Motion adopted to wait on accepting committee report until Mr. Buddy Pausina returns.

Enforcement report- Chad Hebert gave the enforcement report

Mr. Coulon asked about the oyster strike force, Chad Hebert said that the oyster strike force was put into the statewide strike force.

Larry Marino said that there will be a meeting to discuss potential oyster lease moratorium lifting legislation at UNO at 1 p.m., on Thursday December 18. Anyone is invited to attend.

John Tesvich asked to add Patrick Banks under new business to update the task force on public seed ground sampling.

Dan Coulon gave an update on coastal restoration meeting he attended hosting by Ms. Wood and the Wildlife Federation. Mr. Coulon asked the coastal restoration sub committee meet before the next meeting to discuss the mid- Barataria diversion.

Al Sunseri suggested that Dan Coulon involve Maura Wood, CPRA, Corps of Engineers and other groups. This will happen at 10 a.m. pending the appeals board meeting.

CPRA meeting is January 21, 2015.

Karen Profita and Lisa Manda addressed the group they are seeking three recommendations from the Oyster Task Force to sit on the seafood promotion and marketing board

They invited task force members to participate in the Boston Seafood Show

Scott Couvillon addressed the task force and presented the regional marketing plan.

Jakov Jurisic recommends that we reinstate Sarah Voisin as the OTF rep on the seafood promotion and marketing board.

Jakov Jurisic recommends himself, Byron Encalade second

Al Sunseri recommends Byron Encalade.

Ashley passed around redesigned OTF logo options for the task force to review and vote on.

Jakov Jurisic said that he would like their shirts to have pockets

Gordon Leblanc said that FDA has come up with a proposal and can come to the next meeting to present

Jakov Jurisic asked that we have a harvester on the executive committee for

ISSC. October 2015 in Utah is their next conference.

Damon Morris addressed the task force Gulf standards are up on Audubongulf.org, Ashley Roth will email the link to members.

Darren Bourgeois and Julie Falgout gave an update on the oyster workshop that was held

Tom Soniat presented the stock assessment workshop recommendations

Patrick Banks updated the task force with the latest sampling results

John Tesvich made a suggestion that we recommend leaving the presented areas closed but look at a late opening, maybe Spring. Motion by Brad Robin, second by Jakov Jurisic. The OTF asked that the Department present updated sampling results at the next meeting. Motion adopted.

Rusty Gaude addressed the task force on clams and potentially adding them to incidental catch on trip ticket.

Next meeting scheduled for January 13, Tuesday. Coastal Restoration committee meeting before that.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Guests:

Corey Miller- CRCL	Jeanette Daisy
Drue Banta Winters-LDWF	Buddy Daisy
Maura Wood- NWF	Taylor Naquin
Tom Soniat-UNO	Dale Chaisson
Scott Couvillion- Trumpet/LSPMB	Troy Voisin
Damon Morris	Rusty Gaude
Steve McManus	Jonathan Phillips
Roland Phillips	Perry Dardar
Misty Perry-Legislative Auditor	Ty Lindsay- LDWF
Irina Hampton- Legislative Auditor	John Supan-LA Seagrant/Ag
Steve Sessums- LDAF	Patrick Banks-LDWF
John Fallon- Audubon	Larry Marino- CPRA
Karen Profita- LSPMB	Cole Garrett- LDWF
Darren Bourgeois- LDWF	Rene LeBreton-LDWF

NOV 13th Committee Report

Public and Private Grounds Committee

A - There was an Update given by those present concerning the proposed Gulf Oyster Industry Council 's multi-State hatchery.

B – There was a report, given by Patrick Banks, of the status of the Department's ongoing program to provide seed for the Industry and the plans for the future.

There was mention of some problems and questions concerning the condition of the Grounds.

- 1- The public grounds are covered with mussels in many areas.
- 2- What should be done about this situation is a concern
- 3- Can the Public grounds support themselves?
- 4- Should the Dept alone try to rebuild the Grounds or should it let private industry try to do it? Or Both?

5 – Develop a plan to combat this problem.

C – There was discussion about having a place on trip ticket to account for Mini Sacks

A place can be made for the mini sack to be added to the series 800 trip ticket.

Suggestion – Have the Dept define a mini sack.

Suggestion – Need for education or instruction for filling out the Trip Ticket to account for what is a mini sack and how to convert different measures into full sacks.

What to do with the severance tax situation? This needs further discussion.

Trip Ticket information contains private data and is considered confidential.

Ask LDWF to compare numbers of units reported on Trip Tickets to the number from Severance Tax.

There was also some discussion as to who should be responsible for paying the Severance tax. Also is the tax currently a viable tool and to what purpose
Is it used?

D – There was also some discussion about the recent spat fall on the existing resource in the Half Moon area. LDWF recommends that the area should not be opened at this time.

E – VMS

Mention was made that there are three (3) units approved for use. Two are large and may not be viable for use on small vessels. The third “Faria” unit is about the size of a human hand. The monthly cost of having a unit is about \$40.00 for the vessel and the Dept also has a cost to operate the overall system.

It was mentioned that such a device is only an enforcement tool if used for that purpose.

Item – have a system available to everyone

Item – have system accessible to everyone or limit access.

Item – delineate a purpose for the system.

Item – limit access by area for the general public

Item – Have a system open to all vessels and all places (areas).

Five (5) opinions given were

1 for no system

2 for access to everyone

1 access to all on public grounds but only to leaseholder on private

1 for use on private only and not on public grounds

Question arose as to the ability for the system to be limited by area?

Question arose as to the ability of having a voluntary system?

Problem – 431 does not include a fine for theft except in polluted areas, and there is no option the used community service. Have enforcement verify if this is so.

Have any legislation take into consideration installation of units on all types of vessels used in the oyster industry.

Seek funding for a system both for the Industry and the Department (budget)

Possible mechanism – couple the system’s use with a permit or license (new or current)

Couple this process with education and include a wider forum for the discussion..

One thing became evident with the discussion and that was that there needs to be more and wider input industry members and the various agencies that could be involved in development of a system to accomplish some meaningful and useful purpose.

Committee Recommendations:

Item A no recommendation

Item B Ask Patrick to present his report to the full Task Force.

Include this report as a semi annual report.

Item C Ask LDWF to define a mini sack or and other unit not a full sack.

Either by LDWF rule or by Statute

Ask LDWF to include instructions for filling out Trip Ticket by Industry

To include a sample conversion from units not a full sack

To units of full sacks.

Ask LDWF to compare units of sacks on trip tickets to units of sacks on
Severance tax forms.

Seek information as to the viability of the Severance Tax (purpose, use of
funds, use of data, etc).

Task Force should get an opinion as to who should be responsible for reporting
and paying the tax. This begs the question as to the purpose of the tax.

Item D No recommendation

Item E Ask Enforcement to further investigate the problem stated in 431 concerning theft and
community service. Seek to take a recommendation from enforcement as to a possible solution for this
situation. Approve the recommendation.

Ask committee to further define possible methodology for implementing a viable and useful system if
feasible.

Committee Chair asks for approval of the recommendations.