**Oyster Task Force Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 1:00pm**

**New Orleans Lakefront Airport**

**6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd**

**New Orleans, LA 70126**

**I.** Pledge of Allegiance

**II.** Roll Call

**Voting Members Present:**

Mitch Jurisich

Brad Robin

Brandt Lafrance

Al Sunseri

Matthew Slavich

Sam Slavich

Peter Vujnovich

**Voting Members Absent:**

Shane Bagala

Tracy Collins

Dan Coulon

Jakov Jurisic

Willie Daisy

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Carolina Bourque

Justin Gremillion

Davis Madere in for Bryan Marie

Harry Vorhoff

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Karl Morgan

Brian Lezina

**III.** Peter Vujnovich motioned to approve the May 3, 2022 meeting minutes, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion carries.

Peter Vujnovich motioned to approve the June 7, 2022 meeting agenda as presented, 2nd by Brandt Lafrance. Motion carries.

**IV.** Treasury Report

Remaining Fund Balance- $583,020

Remaining Budget Balance- $83,641

Peter Vujnovich motioned to accept the treasury report as presented, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion carries.

**V.** Committee Reports

A. Public- Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee- no report

B. Enforcement Report

Region 5

Nothing reported

Region 6

Terrebonne

3 – take oysters closed season from state grounds (Sister Lake)-4 sacks seized

Region 8

St. Bernard

2 – take oysters closed season from state grounds (Drum Bay)-14 sacks seized

1 – violate sanitation code (log book)

1 - fail to display proper number on vessel

Plaquemines

5 – violate sanitation code (vessel sanitation) – 24 sacks seized

2 – violate sanitation code (refrigeration) – 36 sacks, 176 mini sacks seized

3 - violate sanitation code (log book)

1 - fail to display proper number on vessel

1 – fail to fill out tags correctly

1 – fail to have commercial gear license in possession

C. Legislative Committee- no report

D. Legal Committee- no report

E. Research Committee- no report

F. Coastal Restoration Committee- no report

G. Marketing Committee

The marketing committee met on June 7 and discussed a possible marketing campaign with WWL/ Tegna, decided on a mix of 30 and 60 second spots; 70% 60 second and 30% 30 second commercials, around 500 commercials; the campaign will be a positive campaign and the objective will be to increase awareness of our cultural heritage, history and the value of the oyster industry and its role in what makes LA unique; will broadcast through several parishes in the state, asked to focus on Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, and North Louisiana, will cost around $70,000. BMF will also assist with the campaign; want to emphasis that oyster farmers are protectors and builders of the coast; the campaign would run for 12 weeks

Al Sunseri motioned to request a BA-7 budget adjustment of $70,000 to the Oyster Development Account to run an oyster marketing campaign with WWLTV and Tegna, the campaign would include a mix of .30 and .60 second commercials run approximately 500 times on the various affiliated channels, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

H. Health Committee- no report, collecting data and currently working on the adverse conditions plan

I. Joint Task Force Working Group- no report

**VI.** New Business

1. The task force covered this item under committee reports-

Al Sunseri motioned to request a BA-7 budget adjustment of $70,000 to the Oyster Development Account to run an oyster marketing campaign with WWLTV and Tegna, the campaign would include a mix of .30 and .60 second commercials run approximately 500 times on the various affiliated channels, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

1. The task force discussed the 2023 LA Fisheries Forward Summit

Summit will be on March 1, 2023 at the Pontchartrain Center

Peter Vujnovich motioned to dedicate $5,000 in funding to support the 2023 LA Fisheries Forward Summit, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion carries.

1. The task force heard an update on oyster related bills

HB324 2022 Regular Session- provides relative to the composition of the Oyster Task Force; sent to the Governor

The bill would change the requirements for the LA Oyster Dealers and Growers Association seats- changes the requirement that one member each be from Lafourche and Jefferson Parish, to a requirement that two members serve at-large, one of the remaining two members be from Jefferson Parish, and one be chosen from Lafourche Parish or Terrebonne Parish; the proposed law also adds one member of the task force to be appointed by the LA Oyster Aquaculture Association, and finally the proposed law would change the appointing authority for a seat on the task force from the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Task Force to the Cameron Parish Police Jury. The Cameron Parish Police Jury appointee would have to be a licensed oyster harvester with documented commercial landings from Calcasieu Lake or a licensed seafood dealer with documented commercial purchases from Calcasieu Lake in the year of or prior to appointment

SB123 (Act 78)- Authorizes the use of certain state property in Cameron Parish for seafood farming

As some may remember, several years ago the legislature set aside some land down by Grand Isle for Aquaculture, the legislature did this as well during this session in Cameron Parish, set aside a small parcel of water bottom in Calcasieu Lake for the same purpose. LDWF will be working with the Cameron Parish Police Jury or possible the Port Commission to set this up

1. The task force heard an update on the oyster tag issues

Ordered new tags from the old distributor on May 19, 2022, usually takes about 4 weeks to come in and orders can be taken

**VII.** Public Comment

Gene Cavalier stated that starting 6/8/22 they will begin outreach, on the application process, until the end of the month in various locations; 6/15/22- applications come out; July 1-29- Applications accepted

Tony Tesvich stated that LDWF needs to reconsider Drum/ Hackberry Bay, MS Sound, 1 day bedding will not suffice would like for this to be reconsidered, would like for travel time to be taken into consideration, not worth a 1 day season; will wait for the stock assessment to come out to consider making a request/ recommendation to LDWF

Brad Robin suggested doing a Day on the Bay and that the OTF consider funding the fuel, agenda item for next meeting

**VIII.** Next meeting set for Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at the ~~Lakefront Airport~~ East Bank Regional Library for 1:00pm

**IX.** Al Sunseri motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Brandt Lafrance. Motion carries.