

**Oyster Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 10:00am
LDWF Headquarters
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808**

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll call and introduction of guests

Voting Member Present:

Shane Bagala
Dan Coulon
Jakov Jurisic
Mitch Jurisich
Sam Slavich
Peter Vujnovich
Willie Daisy
Steve Pollock
Brandt Lafrance

Voting Members Absent:

Tracy Collins
Ryan Mallory
Brad Robin
Al Sunseri
Matthew Slavich

Non-Voting Members Present:

Carolina Bourque via webinar
Sarah Roy
Major Edward Skena
Brian Lezina

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Justin Gremillion
Harry Vorhoff

III. Peter Vujnovich motioned to approve the February 14, 2023 meeting minutes, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries.

Steve Pollock motioned to add an item to New Business, F. To Reconsider Sending a Letter Regarding the Cameron Parish LNG Project, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carried.

Peter Vujnovich motioned to approve the March 14, 2023 meeting agenda as amended, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries.

IV. Treasury Report

Remaining Fund Balance- \$574,057

Remaining Budget Balance- \$26,851
February Tag Sales- 82,900

Peter Vujnovich motioned to approve the treasury report as presented, 2nd by Dan Coulon. Motion carries.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Public- Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee Report- no report
- B. Enforcement Report

February 6th- March 3rd

Region 4 (Iberia)

None

Region 5 (Calcasieu and Cameron)

Cameron

- 1-Failure To Display Number On Vessel
- 1-Take/Poss. Comm. Fish W/O Vessel License

Seizures:

4 Sacks returned to water

Region 6: (Terrebonne, Lafourche, Grand Isle)

Terrebonne

- 5-Violate seed ground vessel permit regulations (gear license)
- 1- Take commercial fish without vessel license
- 1- Use illegal dredge (illegal teeth)
- 1- Fail to tag sacked oysters
- 8- Violate Commission Action on State Seed Grounds (fail to call in)
- 2- Violate sanitation code (human waste bucket)

Seizures: 49 Sacks returned to water

Region 8: (Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans)

Plaquemines

- 2-Fail to Tag Sacked Oysters

Seizures: 28 Mini Sacks returned to water

Shane Bagala stated that they are having some issues in the back of Terrebonne Parish with gray areas, boats working around leases, told some of the land is dual ownership and the areas cannot be enforced due to it being dual claimed

Edward Skena suggested calling the LDWF survey section to look into the areas and whether or not it is in fact dual claimed

Cole Garrett stated that in 2015 two bills that went through the legislature and one had a stipulation that if there were private leases that were recorded as of a certain date in 2015 then we would have to accept those as valid, can look into this with more information on the location

- C. Legislative Committee Report- no report
- D. Legal Committee Report- no report
- E. Research Committee Report- no report
- F. Coastal Restoration Committee Report- no report
- G. Marketing Report- The task force was presented with a Louisiana Made proposal from WWL, the proposal would include a .30-second commercial on WWL, airing around 228 times, the cost would be approximately \$35,000. The messaging for the commercial would focus on oysters and Louisiana seafood being a vital part of the current waterways.

OTF with BMF did a cooking segment on Channel 4 featuring Susan Spicer; reminded the task force and participating industry members about keeping the website updated- asked that anyone who wants to contribute to reach out to Anna at BMF, LFF Summit was a big success were able to show-case the different seafood industries and different equipment

- H. Health Committee Report- no report
- I. Aquaculture Committee Report- no report
- J. Joint Task Force Working Group Committee Report- no report

VI. New Business

- A. Brian Lezina provided an update on the 2023 Coastal Master Plan and CPRA's Annual Plan

PUBLIC COMMENTS ACCEPTED THROUGH MARCH 25, 2023

In-Person: Public comment cards and statement request cards are available to submit comment

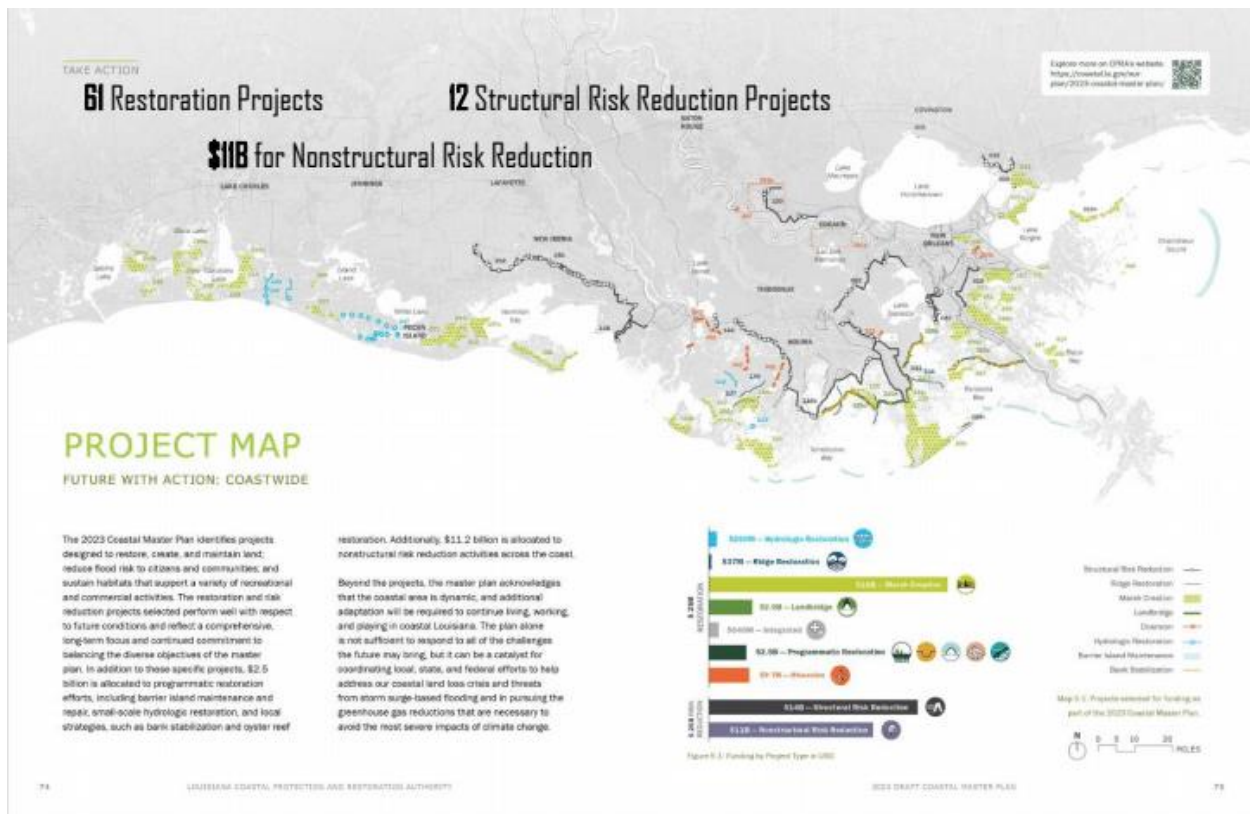
Email: Send with "Public Comment" in the subject line to masterplan@la.gov

Online: Submit comments online using the QR Code

Mail: Send comments to: Master Plan Public Comment 150 Terrace Avenue Baton Rouge, LA 70802

UPCOMING MASTER PLAN SCHEDULE

Draft Plan Released January 6th; Public Comment Period January 6th through March 25th; Public Hearings (4)-January 31st-February 16th; Revised Plan, incorporating public comments, presented to CPRA Board for approval-April 19th; Submit Draft Final Plan to Legislature following CPRA Board approval



CPRA is accepting comments on the annual and master plans at this time

B. The task force heard an update on possible 2023 oyster related legislative proposals

Cole Garrett stated that there are no plans at this time to have anything in the package to submit regarding oyster related legislation, will plan to keep the task force updated should something come up

C. The board discussed possible changes to the Damage Evaluation Board

Ralph Pausina, with the LA Oyster Dealers and Growers Association, stated that he has 2 requests- the Evaluation Board has not had a case in a long time but there is a case pending now and looking at the rules, regulations, policy, procedure and methodology and trying to make them current. The first thing would be in methodology that the marine biologists' use to establish the value of an oyster lease before and after a project. The two items in there are the current market value of a sack oyster (dockside value) of a sack of oysters and market value of a sack, would like to recommend \$80/ sack. Also element that needs to be updated is the cost to produce a sack, recommend \$15 as the cost to produce the sack. Spoke with attorney and would be much better to provide justification, asking the task force to come up with recommendations as to what will be a fair dockside value and price to produce that sack, ask that the TF put this to a committee and have it at the next meeting to make a recommendation for the Damage Review Board and copy the LODGA

The task force sent this item to the Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee for further discussion, consider maybe bringing in an economist to consider these numbers and what is fair; should plan to come back once a year to update the numbers in the future

Jack Isaacs stated that he would be glad to look at the numbers, the \$15 to produce a sack sounds low

The board has a case pending now, a request for arbitration was made by the lease holder, this was taken to a federal court, if the federal court does not take it the Damage Evaluation Board will hear it, where things will be arbitrated is something to consider, when the board meets everything is recorded all members must be present, the representative for the Oyster Task Force participated by Zoom so he was not considered present. The board goes into executive committee and then action is taken, there is no recording during executive session, requested that the task force correct the situation regarding their representation and participation on the Damage Review Board

Jakov Jurisic suggested reaching out to OTF member that serves as a representative on the Damage Evaluation Board and if he is not interested in participating, maybe establish an alternate if possible or nominate a new representative

D. Discussed non-resident gear license regulations

Willie Daisy stated that boats that are Louisiana boats with a resident license and a gear license/ permits were purchase by the boat owners and then some non-resident fishermen came on boats to work and were told by LDWF enforcement that they would need a non-resident gear license

Patrick Banks stated that under State law a gear license is transferable from one person to another, temporarily, as long as those people have the same residency status. Public Oyster Seed Ground Gear License, if the OTF wants to allow gear licenses to be transferable to anyone regardless of their residency status would need legislation for this

A gear license is for the individual and vessel seed ground permit is for the vessel

Willie Daisy stated that the gear license should be an extension of the permit

Willie Daisy motioned to combine licenses to make the Public Oyster Seed Ground gear license an extension of the vessel permit, 2nd by Sam Slavich. Motion carries.

Cole Garrett stated that he would be willing to draft legislation for the task force's review

E. The task force considered funding to sponsor the Chairman's Dinner at the 2023 Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference

Jakov Jurisic motioned to approve up to \$7,000 to support the Chairman's Dinner at the 2023 Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, 2nd by Willie Daisy. Motion carries.

F. The task force reconsidered sending a letter regarding the Cameron Parish LNG Project

Steve Pollock motioned to reconsider a previous adopted action regarding writing a letter of opposition regarding the Cameron Parish LNG Project, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

Steve Pollock motioned to withdraw the recommendation to write a letter of opposition regarding the Cameron Parish LNG Project, 2nd by Brandt Lafrance . Motion carried, 1 abstained- Mitch Jurisich

VII. No public comment was made

VIII. The next meeting was set for Tuesday, April 11th at 1pm at New Orleans Lakefront Airport, will host two committee meetings- Public Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee Meeting for 10:00am and an Aquaculture Committee meeting following for 11:00am

Legislature begins on April 10, March 29th is the pre-file deadline

IX. Jakov Jurisic motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Dan Coulon. Motion carries.