

Oyster Task Force Meeting Minutes, April 8, 2014

UNO Advanced Technology Center, 2021 Lakeshore Drive.

Members Present:

Byron Encalade
Steve McManus in for Major Sammy Martin
Gordon LeBlanc in for Lance Broussard
Karl Morgan
John Tesvich
Sam Slavich
Peter Vujnovich
Dan Coulon entered at 1:11 p.m.
Buddy Pausina entered at 1:20 p.m.
Mark Schexnayder
Wilbert Collins

Members Absent:

Shane Bagala
Jakov Jurisic
Brad Robin
Bradnt LaFrance
Al Sunseri
Chip Kline
Jerome Zeringue

Guests:

Tom Soniat-UNO	Donovan Burke-LDWF
Charles Lapeyrouse	Laura Picariello-Audubon Nature Institute
John Supan- LSU SeaGrant	Corey Dunbar-Pivach, Pivach, Hufft, Thriffiley and Dunbar
Steven Voisin-Motivatit	Nick Collins
Marc Maniscalco-LDWF	Susan Colley-UNO
Larry Marino-Oats and Marino	Jim Gossen-Louisiana Foods Global Seafood
Patrick Banks-LDWF	Bush Benton
Raymond Impastato-LDWF	Victoria Bell- LDWF
Corey Miller-CRCL	Mike McDonough- LDWF
Drue Banta Winters-LDWF	Ashley Ferguson-LDWF

Oyster Task Force meeting called to order at 1:04 p.m.

A voting quorum was not present until 1:11 p.m. when Dan Coulon arrived.

Motion to approve minutes by Wilbert Collins, second by Peter Vujnovich. Motion adopted

Motion to approve treasury report by Dan Coulon, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion adopted.

Mark Schexnayder asked for nominations from the task force to be on the inter-task force committee, Peter Vujnovich offered to serve on the committee representing the OTF. More nominations will be taken at next meeting with other members are present.

John Tesvich asked if the oyster refrigeration program can be extended in time and if the scope of the projects eligible could be extended. Mark Schexnayder and Darren Bourgeois will look into this.

Buddy Pausina entered at 1:20 p.m.

Dan Coulon discussed coastal restoration activities/concerns that the task force would be interested in.

Dan Coulon made a motion to write a letter in support of the grant being submitted by Save Louisiana Coalition, to help with their funding. According to John Tesvich, this group is concerned with the impact of diversions on the fishing industry second by Byron Encalade. Motion adopted.

Ashley Roth reported on the Oyster Jubilee event and will be working with LSPMB to present marketing plan to OTF.

Gordon Leblanc with DHH, discussed the transplant project underway with LDWF near Nickel Reef and South Point. Patrick Banks said approximately four permit holders and 10 boats were participating on the first day of harvest (April 1, 2014) and the harvest was stronger than anticipated with a good amount of market-size oysters being taken

ISSC is looking at taking away the 36 -hour rule in Dec-February and go to an 18- hour rule, but Gordon Leblanc said that he is in ongoing conversations with FDA and ISSC. Gordon will keep the task force updated.

Buddy Pausina began a discussion regarding sustainability and Mark Schexnayder updated the task force on the sustainability efforts within the department including the Gulffishinfo.org site Gulf FINFO.

Dr. Tom Soniat addressed the task force and asked for a motion to approve the funding of the annual Dermo study in the amount of \$6,710. Motion by Peter Vujnovich, second by Wilbert Collins. Buddy Pausina asked if that was enough money and Dr. Soniat said that it is more cost efficient for him to hire a student to do the work.

Peter Vujnovich asked if more information could be gathered during the Dermo study. Dr. Soniat said that in the future he could do a gonadal index in addition, if requested to do so by the OTF. Motion adopted.

LDWF Inshore Artificial Reef maps were presented by Mike McDonough. The maps showed where artificial reefs could be created where it wouldn't interfere with other user groups.

Ashley Roth will put travel reimbursement for meeting mileage in meeting packets.

The department refunded survey money for those renewing leases since the department is no longer surveying. Sam Slavich asked LDWF to explain "hold harmless" language included in a recent letter from LDWF concerning the survey fee refunds. Mark Schexnayder said that the department will come back at the next meeting with clarification on the letter, specifically the Hold Harmless clause.

Ashley Roth will send a letter from the task force to Willie Daisy asking for a nominee from the Terrebonne Oyster Task Force. The task force will send the note to 2347 Bayou Dularge Road, Theriot, Louisiana 70397. Mark Schexnayder is working on getting participation from a Calcasieu Oyster Task Force representative.

Next meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 1 p.m. in New Orleans

Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.