

The Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board held their meeting on Wednesday, July 16, 2008 at UNO.

The chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

I. ROLL CALL

➤ **Introduce Tommy William**

Members Present

Gary Bauer
Kim Chauvin
John Folse
Pete Geric
Keith Ibos
Miriam Juban
Stephen Minvielle
Harlon Pearce
Darrel Rivere
Don Schwab
Henry Truelove
Kevin Voisin

Members Absent

John Besh
Craig Borges
Alan Gibson

The roll was called and a quorum was established. After the roll was called, Harlon introduce our new member Tommy Williams. He was the legislative liaison for Governor Jindal. He will be our eyes and ears of Secretary Barham and bring many strengths to the board. He fills the WLF seat

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2:00

The minutes were distributed at the meeting, therefore the members were given time to read before approving. Harlon explains we usually don't have meetings this quick, normally every other month but we wanted to meet quickly to get budgets approved. Last meeting was an orientation for new members and not a lot of business took place.

**A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kevin, seconded by Don Schwab.
Motion Carries.**

III. PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS

No presentations or petitions.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No executive director's report.

V. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Ewell explains he will present the report today but after election of the new Secretary/Treasurer it will be their responsibility.

He then explains the financial reports. While explaining the financial reports he notices that the seafood board appropriation was lowered. He stated the reports from the Baton Rouge office are not very easy to understand.

Kevin asks what are operational services vs. professional services? Ewell replies that will be addressed as he presents the budgets.

VI. PRESENTATION OF 2008-09 BUDGETS 13:00 -

Moving right along, Ewell begins to distribute and explain the 2008-09 budgets.

Ewell explains he wants to discuss the budgets as a caveat, when we meet at a board retreat, we will discuss our strengths and weaknesses, know that the budget is a living document. We may very well adjust some of the items. Ewell discusses each budget in great detail.

When Ewell reached the Shrimp Trade Petition budget it was discussed in depth. Harlon explained four or five years ago we were given two federal grants, one for oysters and one for shrimp. When we received the money WLF came to us and requested seed money for trade petition to fight the imports. The board authorized \$350k for the tariff petition.

Don asks if the 350k was ever utilized? Harlon responds the money was sitting in an account and not being used so last year he asked the John Roussel of the Department of WLF to get an attorney general ruling whether we can get those funds transferred to the board to use since we gave it to them in the first place and the language in the legislation states it can be used for promotions. Therefore, we went to the attorney general to get that done during the last administration. We've gone through the budget process in Baton Rouge and the funds have been appropriated to us. This money has been appropriated and budgeted for this fiscal year. Yesterday, Harlon received an email from Janice that we should not encumber those funds so he asked Wynnette why? Wynnette explained in Janice's email to Harlon she requested he do not obligate or plan to spend those funds right now. She is not fully aware of all the details but know that Janice and Robert have been talking to a few legislatures about the situation and there maybe some conflicts at this point.

Darrel explains he talked to Joe Harrison last week and everything was fine. Wynnette explains it's probably some legal issues that have to be resolved.

Darrel asks are the issues things we need to correct in the language. Wynnette replies no.

Harlon – Basically we did get an attorney general's ruling that says we can use the funds. He suggests Darrel contact Joe to see where he stands because he was adamant and Janice asked at the last meeting what Joe was doing? Wynnette responds there is another legislative problem on the other side and Robert has spoken to Harrison. Harlon suggests getting in contact with Joe to see what he has to say. Harlon concludes as of right now the money is ours but we can't encumber because evidentially it sounds like maybe we can lose the money.

Darrel asks what happened with the 200k that we didn't get. Harlon responds that's gone, we basically gave up the 200k for the 250k. We would have gotten the 200k if this wasn't in play. Joe Harrison had 200k in the appropriation to get to us out of the general budget. Harlon feels comfortable that the attorney general ruling was very solid, it took about 6 months to get it done; we just have to see what direction it goes from here. Harlon will keep the board informed but thinks Joe needs to be involved. He thinks we need to tell our side of the story.

Ewell concludes that the budget is a living document.

Ms. Castell of La. Dept of Agriculture sat in on the meeting. She was introduced by Harlon. She offered the Dept. of Ag's assistance. Harlon suggest she help by setting up a meeting with Commissioner Strain, Secretary Barham, the seafood board and the department of agriculture to mesh thing together. She concludes she was just trying to get oriented with all of the boards in the state.

Harlon explains Darrel is education chairman, but he would like Tommy to get involved. He would like Tommy to provide ideas on how to get the show on the road visiting legislators that are important to our industry. We need to get to the new legislators before our opposition gets to them. There are a lot of people we need to touch.

The board has money to dedicate to shrimp, crab, oysters. Kin asks what about finfish. Ewell explains we do not have the dollars there.

Harlon explains we are in the process of developing a national seafood board. The members would be Ewell his protégés' and all the other domestic states.

The Washington event is what has gotten us where we are today.

Kevin asks what John Supan does. His concern is the tangible benefits.

Darrel asks if we are going to allocate some money besides the education days to the committee. Harlon responds yes.

Harlon would like shrimp guys to take shrimp money form 1.2 mil appropriations and distribute to the other seafood industries. He only suggests this because shrimp has enough short term money but need money for the rest of the industries.

Kim suggests finding a grant writer with the money instead of spreading over industry.

Kevin says when you starting slicing the money up like that it doesn't benefit anyone.

Kim made a motion to spend up to 49k for a grant writer and up to 42k for general seafood promotions. The motion was seconded by Pete. Motion carries.

A motion to spend up to \$49,000 for website design was made by Kevin, seconded by John Folse. The motion carries.

A motion to spend up to \$50,000 for a job appointment for up to 5 years was made by John Folse, seconded by Don. Kevin amends the motion to make this document a caviot pending a job description. Motion carries.

➤ **Discuss Republic & Democratic National Convention**

Ewell explains they were invited by the friend of New Orleans to attend the republic and democratic national conventions. Louisiana seafood will be served.

➤ **Epcot/CRT**

A motion by Kevin to authorize 15k for the program and 10k for staff travel to support this event. The motion was seconded by Darrel. Kevin withdrew motion.

John Folse makes a substitution motion to appropriate the entire \$50,000 as requested, let administration determine the need for materials to support it and staff travels, the remainder would go to CRT. Motion seconded by Kevin. Motion passed unanimously. Motion carries.

A motion to approve all budgets with amendments as presented was made by Kevin, seconded by Pete. Motion carries.

VII. ELECTIONS

➤ **Secretary/Treasurer**

Harlon explains the secretary/treasurer would be responsible for making sure the minutes are completed, clear and concise and review the budgets to present to the members at the meetings.

The floor was open for nominations.

Kevin says he will accept the position.

Kevin was nominated for the position by Pete. Nominations closed. Kevin was voted in by acclamation.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

a) Education Committee

Darrel explains he received a call from Kim after the last meeting. She would like to participate on the education committee. He says there are enough members to get started but encourage other members to join. Within the next couple of weeks he would like the committee to come together in a meeting to discuss direction. He would like to create a program similar to the Washington event that the OTF participates in but for the Baton Rouge region.

Harlon asks Darrel bring suggestions to next meeting.

b) Addendum change to By-laws for next meeting

Harlon explained at the next meeting we will make addendum changes to the bylaws. Some changes will be housekeeping and attendance. At the next meeting the bylaws with suggested changes will be distributed.

c) Byrd Amendment

Stephen informed members that he received a call from Landrieu's office concerning the Byrd amendment and that the crawfish industry was in favor of some lobbying efforts being done. He explains the crawfish industry does not support this.

d) LSPMB Calendar of Events

An event calendar was included in board packets. Ewell invited members to attend the GASCO and LASEE upcoming events.

e) Future LSPMB members and staff retreat

Harlon explains a staff retreat will be held in Robert LA at a Shell Oil facility in mid September. Shell may provide the facilitator also. A definite date has not been set.

Darrel inform the board that a group of approximately 30 Norwegians', Alaskans and Russians will be in town at the end of September. He suggests we showcase our industry by taking them out on shrimp and crab vessels.

f) Per diem/Mileage Reimbursements

Ewell explains the per diem is \$20 per meeting per member, however, in order to receive a per diem each member must become a part of the state and take drug test. Taxes will be withdrawn from the money also.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2008 at UNO.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Pete made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Darrel. Motion carries. The meeting was adjourned.