**Shrimp Task Force Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 10am**

**Terrebonne Council Meeting Room**

**8026 Main Street Houma, LA**

**Roll Call:**

**Voting Members Present:**

George Brainsick

Acy Cooper, Jr.

Lance Nacio

Rodney Olander

Alan Gibson

**Voting Members Absent:**

Ronald Dufrene, Sr.

Steven Sode

Kristen Baumer

Andrew Blanchard

**Non-voting Members Present:**

Adam Eitmann

Mark Schexnayder

Chuck Comeaux in for Chad Hebert

Jack Isaacs

Stephen Sessums

**Non-voting Members Absent:**

Justin Gremillion

Motion by Rodney Olander to approve the August 2, 2017 meeting minutes, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion carries

Motion to approve the October 18, 2017 meeting minutes by Rodney Olander, 2nd by Lance Nacio. Motion carries

**Treasury Report:**

Remaining FY Fund Balance- $364, 272

Budget Balance- $94,943

Motion to approve the treasury report by George Barisich, 2nd by Alan Gibson. Motion carries

Nic Dixon and Corey Dunbar of Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana addressed the task force with a presentation on ‘Shrimping with Diversions’

Alan Gibson requested that CRCL consider dock owners and processors’ input in their outreach efforts

George Barisich motioned to draft a letter from the task force recommending to the Governor, CPRA, the Louisiana State and Federal Delegation to highlight the vast negative impacts the proposed large-scale Mississippi freshwater diversions are going to have on our coastal communities. The letter should reflect that the task force supports coastal restoration efforts, but we must survive the projects for it to be a viable solution. Also should recommend an alternative coastal restoration dredging, building land with some diversions for maintenance, 2nd by Rodney Olander. Motion passes.

Mark Shirley with LA Sea Grant addressed the TF with information on the upcoming Fisheries Forward Summit. The summit will be on March 6, 2018 at the Pontchartrain Center, this year’s theme is ‘Adapting to Change’

Rodney Olander made a motion to provide $5,000 in funding to support the 2018 Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit, 2nd by Lance Nacio. Motion carries.

Jack Isaacs, LDWF economist, provided the task force with a presentation on shrimp import data

Alan Gibson requested that Jack present the import data to the LDWF Commission at the November meeting and asked that he follow up with the task force

Acy Cooper led discussion on the LA state Turtle Excluder Device regulations. Expressed concern with the current TEDs legislation, stating that the task force’s original intent was to ensure that all enforcement agents wear an operating body camera in order to prosecute TED’s violations, would like to work to clean up and change the current language

Alan Gibson proposed the idea of a strike force to circumvent the high costs of providing body cameras for each enforcement agent in the field. Also suggested showing degrees of infraction on violations instead of “non-compliant”

Acy Cooper stated that the task force would consider dedicating funds to enforcement to help with the costs of software and body cameras

Peyton Cagle reminded the task force that the deadline to submit the report on their TEDs recommendations is February 1, 2018

Acy Cooper led discussion on restaurant seafood advertisement and labeling regulations

Acy Cooper stated that he would like for the task force to set up a meeting with the Restaurant Association to discuss issues with restaurant labeling and advertisement

Board requested an update and presentation on the LA Certified Seafood Program for their next meeting; current regulations and standing

Acy Cooper led discussion on bait permit dead shrimp possession limits

Captain Comeaux stated that enforcement caught a few violators (over the limit of shrimp) and their permits have been revoked

Board asked that enforcement work with the Task Force on issues/solutions regarding habitual offenders, bootlegging, closed season, bait permit offenders in the future

Rodney Olander led discussion on a public proposal to extend the ‘3-Mile Line’ to 9-Mile Line’

The task force concluded that the issue would need to be addressed through Congress

The task force discussed issues with the ‘Dead Zone’

Douglas Olander expressed concern with the inflow of polluted freshwater and the loss of fishing area; would like the board to look into opportunities to temporarily expand the fishing grounds

The task force tabled their discussion on the ‘Dead Zone’ until the next meeting

Next Shrimp Task Force meeting set for Wednesday, January 17, 2017 for 10am in Houma

Motion to adjourn by George Barisich, 2nd by Rodney Olander. Motion carries

Meeting adjourned at 12:36pm