

Tuesday, November 12, 2013, 1 p.m.
UNO Advanced Technology Center, 2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 210, New Orleans

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

Present:

Shane Bagala

Mark Schexnayder

Tenney Sibley (Gordon Leblanc)

Wilbert Collins

Dan Coulon

Byron Encalade

Jakov Jurisic

Mayor Sammy Martin

Ralph "Buddy" Pausina

Brad Robin

Brandt Lafrance

Al Sunseri

John Tesvich

Peter Vujnovich

Chip Kline

Jerome Zeringue

Absent:

Karl Morgan

Sam Slavich

Guests:

Thomas Hymel-SeaGrant

Jon Bell-SeaGrant

Tom Soniat-UNO

John Supan- SeaGrant

Nick Daisy-W&E Oysters

Earl Melancon-Nicholls

Willie Daisy-W&E Oysters

John Fallon-Audubon

Drue Winters-WLF

Cole Garrett-LDWF

Bush Benton-LDWF

James Morgan-J Morgan Seafood

Mark Naquin- Marks Oyster &Seafood

Charles Lapeyrouse- Lapeyrouse Brothers

Larry Marino-Oats and Marino

Corey Miller-CRCL

Marcia Donato-LDWF

Darren Bourgeois-LDWF

Matthew Slavich-OLDEB

Teri Larose-LDWF

Randy Pausina-LDWF

Rene LeBreton-LDWF

Jason Froeba-LDWF

Patrick Banks-LDWF

Ronnie Kennair- Kennair Oyster Inc.

Taylor Naquin- Marks Oysters &Seafood

Wendy Morgan- J Morgan Seafood

I. Approval of Agenda and September 17 minutes- under New Business item C, Thomas Hymel will be discussing the professionalism program. Motion to approve by Al Sunseri, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion adopted.

II. Treasury Report

- A. Oyster Tag Sales- 297, 364 for October. Ashley will find out the revenue generated by tag sales.
- B. LOTF Financial Report

Motion by Wilbert Collins to accept the financial report, second by Dan Coulon. Motion carried.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Public and Private Oyster Grounds Committee –DHH and LDWF report should be ready by the end of the year. John Supan gave update on oyster aquaculture. New oyster/dealers site is louisianaoystersdealersandgrowersassn.org
- B. Enforcement - 20 boats were cited for fishing on sister lake, also 17 cases of taking oysters from closed areas near Terrebonne Parish during a health closure. Ashley Roth said that in relation to request by task force at September 17 meeting to have additional enforcement on closed shell plants. Major Sammy Martin said that he and his agents were aware of this request and are implanting it. Mr. Buddy Pausina suggested that the OTF continue to remind LDWF of the importance of this issue.
- C. Legislative - session opens on March 31, OTF members should begin to draft legislative items.
- D. Health – Calcasieu opened on November 1, compliance with FDA went well and report is delayed slightly due to Federal Government shut-down. FDA sited significant improvement.

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V. Old Business

- A. ISSC Conference/Proposals-

Motion by Al Sunseri to send John Supan, second by Dan Coulon. Motion adopted

Curt Pannagl, Brandt LaFrance and Brad Robin are also going to attend. Ashley Roth will make travel arrangements.

- B. Let the World Be Your Oyster/LA Alive Washington D.C.-

Al Sunseri made a motion to ask for representatives from DHH and also LDWF be able to attend the GOIC walk the hill and asked each organization to let them know what needs to be done to ensure that. Second by Wilbert Collins. Motion adopted.

Wilbert Collins, John Tesvich, Al Sunseri and Jakov Jurisic will attend from the OTF.

Motion for task force to sponsor oysters and travel expenses for Louisiana restaurants/chefs to attend. Second by Dan Coulon. Motion adopted. John Tesvich asked that we provide marketing materials for the events and make the OTF sponsorship prominent.

- C. Oyster Tag color on trip tickets- LDWF is still looking into this and the best way to get this done, it is bit more involved than originally thought.
- D. VMS Update- Jason Froeba, LDWF- approximately 350 vessels with units on board. They are hoping to extend the contract for another year. On November 1 LDWF sent out a notice to the industry saying that LDWF will take over the requests for repair and install. Staff is following up daily with the contractor and providing that information to enforcement. If by the end of November you do not have a VMS than you will not be able to go fish. If after the 14-15 season there is no more funding or additional funding than the Secretary can remove the requirement. If you aren't able to tell if your VMS is working than you can call the Department.
- E. Oyster Reef Educational Tour report- John Tesvich took a group on a tour last Thursday out of Empire. 20 participants were on board. Eight people from the oyster industry and 12 others.

VI. New Business

- A. Go To Meeting- LDWF
- B. Alternative Oyster Culture- John Supan
- C. Professionalism Program- Thomas Hymel- LSU Agcenter and Seagrant are partnering with LDWF on a Louisiana Seafood Professionalism Program. Thomas Hymel addressed the group. Al Sunseri and Jakov Jurisic are the OTF representatives on the program. Mr. Buddy Pausina also asked to be on the committee.

VII. Public Comment-

VIII. Set Next Meeting- January 7, 2014 at 1 p.m.

IX. Adjourn—Motion to adjourn by Dan Coulon, second by Jakov Jurisic. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.