

Louisiana Oyster Task Force Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 10 a.m.
Capitol Park Welcome Center, 702 North River Road
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Voting Members Present- Dan Coulon, John Tesvich, Mitch Jurisich, Willie Daisy, Brandt LaFrance, Byron Encalade

Voting Members Absent- Al Sunseri, Jakov Jurisic, Peter Vujnovich, Sam Slavich, Shane Bagala, Wilbert Collins

Non-Voting Members Present- Mark Schexnayder, Gordon LeBlanc in for Lance Broussard, Captain Chad Hebert, Karl Morgan

Non-Voting Members Absent- Chip Kline, Kyle Graham

Meeting called to order at 10:11 a.m. Ashley Roth presented the financial report, budget balance is \$249,592, fund balance is \$352,962. Ashley Roth will send out the tag sales when she receives them.

John Tesvich recognized Representative Dove, Representative Harrison and Representative Garofalo.

Motion by Mitch Jurisich to approve the financial report, second by Willie Daisy. Motion adopted.

Last week two of the OTF sponsored bills moved through the house committee, including increasing penalties for taking of oysters from private leases, and the bill that raises the oyster lease rates to \$3 per acre beginning January 2016.

Motion by Mitch Jurisich to move legislative discussion up in the agenda, second by Willie Daisy. Motion adopted.

At the last meeting the moratorium lifting committee was discussed. Rep. Garofalo presented a draft of a house concurrent resolution that would establish such a committee. The task force voted at the last meeting to support a moratorium lifting committee within the task force and not outside of the task force.

John Tesvich presented house concurrent resolution 104, which creates the oyster lease moratorium lifting committee.

The representatives that would make up the committee in house concurrent resolution 104 would be:

One representative from Oyster Task Force
One from Louisiana Oystermen's Association
One member from LA oil and gas association
One member from the LA mid- continent oil and gas association
One member of Louisiana landowners association
Non Voting member from LDWF, DNR, Office of State Lands, CPRA, Dept. of Justice and Governors Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities.

Motion by Mitch Jurisich to oppose House Resolution 104 and move forward with what the OTF voted on at the last task force meeting. Second by Brad Robin.

Byron Encalade entered at 10:38 a.m. John Tesvich recognizes Rep. Leopold and Rep. Gisclair.
Brandt LaFrance entered at 10:44 a.m.

Discussion was held on the motion. Motion adopted.

Cole Garrett mentioned that HB 116 was voluntarily deferred by Rep. Gisclair.

Motion by Mitch Jurisich to approve the minutes from April 7, second by Brandt LaFrance.
Motion adopted.

Motion by Dan Coulon to accept the April 23 meeting minutes, second by Mitch Jurisich.
Motion adopted.

Public/Private Oyster Grounds committee will need to elect a new chair now that Mr. Buddy Pausina has resigned.

Enforcement report- Captain Chad Hebert said that since April 1—45 new cases across the coast, seized just under 300 sacks of oysters. 14 new agents , 93 total agents assigned to coastal enforcement. Also, 10 more agents that can be called down to work on the coast if need be.

Dan Coulon asked about the success of processing the cases. Captain Hebert said that he would have to go parish by parish to see. Dan Coulon asked that Capt. Hebert put together some kind of a report on an occasional basis.

Randy Pausina gave a report on the public seed ground development fund, Beginning balance July 1 was \$1.9 million balance today is \$972 thousand. A little over \$900,000 should be left at the end of the year.

Scott Couvillion with Trumpet and Karen Profita with LSPMB presented to the group on current marketing efforts specific to oysters. Randy Pausina asked why certified Louisiana seafood and

Gulf fish info were not part of the marketing discussion. Motion by Dan Coulon to continue funding the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board at the same level as last year, \$45,712. Second by Brad Robin. Motion adopted.

Rusty Gaude said that based on his understanding, there are no impediments to moving forward with the harvesting of clams. He would like to make a presentation at the next meeting. Ashley Roth will put him on the agenda.

Mr. Ernst asked if enforcement could provide Willie Daisy the number of cases on public and private leases in the past two years and he would also like to see the task force address the size of oysters. The next meeting is scheduled for July 28 in New Orleans at 1 p.m. John Tesvich will be out of town so Dan Coulon will chair.

Meeting adjourned.