

Oyster Task Force Meeting

April 6, 2010

Baton Rouge, WLF, Louisiana Room

I. Roll Call

Present: Shane Bagala, Dana Brocato, Glenn Cambre, Wilbert Collins, Dan Coulon, David Deere, Keith Lacaze, Karl Morgan, Ralph Pausina, Brad Robin, John Tesvich, Mike Voisin, Patrick Banks, Al Sunseri

Absent: Jakov Jurisic, Peter Vujnovich, Wilson Voisin, Jerome Zeringue

II. Motion to accept minutes with edit to item F. Should be Henderson not Harrison. Motion by Mike Voisin to accept, second by Wilbert.

III. Treasury Report

a. Oyster Tag Sales-2,350,746

b. LOTF financial report

IV. Committee Reports

a. Public and Private Oyster Grounds

b. Enforcement-21 oyster citations issued

Motion by Dana Brocato that when oysters are seized, whenever possible the oyster lease owner be notified and the oysters be returned to their original place or origin. Second by Brad Robin. Motion passed.

Mike made a motion that the task force hosts two or three meetings along the coast to educate harvesters and dealers relating to the May 1 new time/temp requirements and enforcement. Second by Dan Coulon. Motion passed.

c. Legislative-

8 of 9 were approved; one bill relating to Sabine Lake was not entered. Karl Morgan (DNR) wrote letter regarding House Bill 643 regarding coastal use permits in public oyster grounds.

John responded to Karl's letter.

Karl said that both departments have signed off on the MOU so there is no need to go through the legislative process with this bill.

Mike said that a few bills were introduced that were not task force bills. We moved to discuss the other bills that were not OTF bills

Mike moves we withdraw support of HB 643, second by Karl.

Withdraw support of bill (DNR) and leave MOU as it is.

Motion accepted.

*****The Chairman's notifying the assembly, after the vote on the motion, that the motion was out of order, and Chairman asked for redress. No further action on that item was taken. Following a Review of Robert's Rules, the Chairman provided evidence to the members that the action regarding HB 643 was null and void because it violated the rules.*****

John said that this bill has to do with protecting our natural oyster areas. Some members said that the MOU did not go far enough to protect the natural assets of the state and that we should make it clear that some of these areas are off limits to manmade destruction.

Mike says that MOU is a big step and that it is the next best step for us. On page 7 they mention consultation of appropriate entities, which would be the OTF. Bay Gardine is one of the pristine areas that is mentioned and has been mentioned in the past. The bill doesn't get us where we need to be and if they MOU doesn't then we should reintroduce bill in the future

John said that bill doesn't prohibit oil activities, but the direct dredging and prop washing facilities. John said that we can't amend the bill now, but can make amendments when it gets to the committee.

John asks for a motion to withdraw support of the bill and leave MOU as it is. The motion passed.

Mike introduced bills by St. Germain.

First one removes requirements for payment of survey fee for oyster leases. Department Bill. Takes away survey application fee.

Brad Robin says that without the survey group we are going to create a problem. Karen Foote said that they cannot grow the survey section, so they need the of to think about the future.

Dan asked that they consider other things beside the leasing office just dropping out.

Motion to be against HB 876 (changes survey department) by Brad Robin, Second by Wilbert Collins. Motion Carries.

Motion by Mike Voisin that Dr. Guidry from DHH is allowed to speak. Second by Wilbert Collins. Motion Carries

Virus lives well in cold water, hope that in warm weather the virus will die. Still not sure if it is the handler or the water. The virus is changing...showing up on cruise ships, etc. Humans not able to fight it as well. 4% of oysters have norovirus. Norovirus is in the community and spread from person to person, not exclusive to only oyster eaters.

Manageable right now with pre-cautionary closures.

In the water norovirus can live for weeks. Fully cooked norovirus is killed.

Hard to separate all the viruses, so when someone goes to the dr with symptoms it is difficult to decipher which kind it is.

Bill 889 authorizes the commission to promulgate rules to protect oyster habitat from harvest related damage. Motion by Mike to approve, Dan Coulon second. Motion carries.

Motion to not support SB 341. Abolishes the wildlife and fisheries commission and makes the sitting committees the commission. Motion by Al not to support, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion passed.

HB 879(allows wlf to adjust fees every other year, can't go beyond consumer index)-motion to oppose by Al Sunseri, second by Brad Robin. Motion carries.

HB 890 by Harrison regarding certification of all seafood. Certification of Seafood-Motion by Mike Voisin to support, second by Dan Coulon. Motion carries.

HB 1234

Regarding trip tickets, would transfer responsibility of trip tickets from dealers to harvesters. This was one of the bills that was discussed at last meeting. Al makes motion that task force withdraw support of the legislation, second by Mike. Dan thinks we should leave it as it is.

John said that this issue was brought up last meeting, a decision was made and now we are discussing again. He needed clarification on that procedure.

At the March 1 meeting OTF did not vote to have the bill introduced.

Mike said that because it has a bill number we should discuss it.

John said that since the issue has already been discussed we need a 2/3 vote if we are going to take it up again.

John said that proper procedure was not followed by discussing issues from other meetings, specifically item Bill 643. The bill was supported at the march 1 meeting.

To discuss again it would need to be listed on the agenda, which would take a 2/3 vote. We would also need a motion to rescind the motion made at March 1. Which we cannot do because all members are not present.

Karl said that task force only voted to submit the committee actions as a whole, not individually bills.

Mike said that we already dealt with it at this meeting and have passed it and to reconsider it that would take 2/3 vote.

John said that there are members who are not present and to move forward would not be right.

John said he is null and voiding the earlier vote.

Mike said they took place under legislative committee, so they were on the agenda.

John said that the bill was taken up by the committee, amended and adopted unanimously.

Mike said that it was a suggested bill and has moved its way to an official bill.

Don Puckett said that anything we take a vote on needs to be an action item.

Don Puckett recommends a 2/3 vote to consider supporting legislative instruments and go through them piece by piece.

Mike said that it takes a unanimous vote to add the agenda item to the meeting at the meeting.

d. Research (John Supan)

1. Report on Public Oyster Reefs

Motion by Wilbert to accept committee report as presented, second by Dan. Approved.

2. Salt-water relaying.

Motion to bring in rep from office of state and lands, corps and others to establish an otf committee to look into salt water relay.

e. Coastal Restoration-Dan Coulon is new chair

f. Marketing-Dana Brocato will be new chair for marketing committee

g. Department of Health and Hospitals

h. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Cultch plants on hold for the spring and might be available to be planted in the fall.

i. Department of Natural Resources

j. Governor's Office of Coastal Affairs

1. Old Business

2. New Business

A. Black Bay Island Restoration Projects-John Lopez made a presentation, Dan asked that he come back and speak to the task force again as the project develops.

B. Oyster Lease Surveying Delays

Motion by Dan Coulon that survey department provide a report on how many surveys are going on and the fees collected. Second by Brad. Motion passes.

C. Dividing Oyster Leases

Motion by Mike, second by Wilbert to ask WLF survey department to provide procedures for dividing oyster leases. Motion carries.

Discussion of maps in reference to area closings

Motion by Dana for subdivision of larger harvesting areas, Brad seconds. Motion passes.

Don Puckett came back and suggested that the board made a motion to add the legislation items to the agenda if we wanted to discuss them, but no motion was made.

D. Certification of Laboratories-John Supan will pursue efforts to have a certified lab established at LSU.

E. Other

Motion to add agenda item regarding new tags to the agenda, moved by Wilbert Collins, second by Dan Coulon.

Motion Mike Voisin that WLF move from arrow tags to a cost efficient laser tag. Second by Karl Morgan. Motion carries.

John said that decisions we made at the March 1 meeting will be kept.

3. Set Next Meeting.—no meeting set.

4. Motion to adjourn by Al Sunseri, Second by Mike Voisin.