

Oyster Task Force Board Meeting Minutes

Aug 27, 2010

UNO Advanced Technology Center, 1 p.m.

Present: Lynette Bagala sitting in for Shane Bagala, Patrick Banks, Tenney Sibley in for Glenn Cambre, Wilbert Collins, Dan Coulon, Jakov Jurisic, Steve McManus in for Keith Lacaze, Buddy Pausina, Dana Brocato, Brad Robin, Al Sunseri, John Tesvich, Sam Slavich, Mike Voisin, Jerome Zeringue, Byron Encalade and Karl Morgan.

Absent: David Deere, Peter Vujnovich

John requested that a new membership list be put together and that also updates to the Web site be made to reflect the current membership list.

- I. Wilbert Collins moves to accept minutes from July 27, second by Dan Coulon
Motion by Buddy Pausina to amend minutes to include white paper was sent along with letter. Motion carries.

- II. A. Oyster Tag Sales

- B. LOTF Financial Report- appropriated amount is \$165,000, but that was done before the spill. \$56,000 in fund. Right around \$90,000 budget.

Al Sunseri makes motion to right letter Governor and CC appropriations chairman in house and senate and Sec. Barham. Requesting that they put back into their budget the funds they see as a shortfall, out of BP funds coming into the state, because of the impact that the oyster industry has incurred.

Brad Robin seconds motion. Motion carries. Request an immediate response due to the urgency to get the budget created.

Mike Voisin suggested the seafood board or the department pick-up salaries for this year until the oyster task force is able to recover.

Mike Voisin made a motion that the seafood board pick up the salaries and related benefits for this year and also that the OTF continue to fund the D. C. oyster events as presented in the budget. Second by Wilbert Collins. Motion carries.

Buddy Pausina suggested that the budget be outlined by when the funds are expected to be expended. When contracts begin, etc.

Dan Coulon requested a cash flow statement for the next bill.

John suggested the budget be sent to budget committee.

Al Sunseri moves to request funding from BP for shortfall of oyster task force budget or whatever number the board agrees on. To fund the programs they cannot fund this year due to the oil spill and funding for future events that will arise as a result of the spill. Final number is \$ 5million. Karl suggested making it open ended. Second by Jakov. Motion carries.

Al requests that Catherine Viator be moved up on the agenda from A under New Business. Second by Mike Voisin.

Ms. Viator has been contracted under FDA to do a cost study on post harvesting all oysters during April-October. Al requested that task force members put together a letter along with the study to get the information out to the membership of what is coming down the pipe.

John Supan is planning on sending out a special edition of waterbottoms to include the dermo advisory and Catherine's information.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Public and Private Oyster Grounds Committee- they were asked to meet with WLF regarding Act 265, possible relocation areas for leases that had to relocate. Preliminary approval said that these areas will not be a problem. One in Breton Sound and ne in Chandeleur. Wilbert Collins makes a motion that Committee Recommends that task force accepts report as presented. Second by Byron Encalade. Motion carries.
- B. Enforcement-
- C. Legislative-
- D. Research-
- E. Coastal Restoration-Re: Fresh Water Diversion- Dan Coulon requested that everyone read over the document he passed out (Gulf of Mexico regional

Citizens council) and get back to him with feedback. John Supan asked that a member of the OTF be included as a voting member.

Al Sunseri made a motion to make an immediate request by phone call to turn off the diversion as soon as possible and follow up with a certified letter.

Second by Buddy Pausina. John Tesvich requested that Al make the phone call. John Tesvich will work with Dr. Melancon to draft letter for technical aspects for why we are asking the diversion be closed as soon as possible. Motion carries.

F. Marketing- Dana Brocato reported that all of her points had been covered.

V. Old Business

A. Oyster Season Schedule-Patrick Banks reported. Opening east of the river on Nov. 15 and closure on April 1. Bay Gardine will remain closed and 2009 cultch plants also remain closed. In hackberry bay, opens Nov 15 and closes Nov 21. Except for 2008 cultch plants, which are opened just Nov.15 and 16th. Barataria Bay will remain closed this season. Terrebonne Parish- Lake Chene and Lake Felicity Nov 15-16, Lake Mechón Oct 29-31. Bay June, Nov 15-21, Sister Lake will remain closed. Vermillion Bay Nov 15-April 1. Calcasieu Lake, west cove Oct 15-Nov 14 with 20 sack per vessel per day limit. Nov 15 both sides of lake will open until April 1 with ten sack limit.

B. BP Oil Spill Update

1. Claims Process-get date of earlier letter so that John Tesvich can reference that in another letter to make a second request.

Jakov Jurisic asked that the hb2 visa issue be revisited.

2. Oyster Lease Damages- Motion by Mike Voisin requested WFL use recently acquired BP testing funds received for biologists to do an assessment on mortality on a brief basis in private lease areas as requested by lease owner. Second by Dan Coulon. Motion carries. Letter will be sent to Sec. Barham.

VI. A. RTI Oyster Study for ISSC-Catherine Viator, Research Triangle Institute-moved to front of agenda.

B. DHH Oyster Relay Rules, Suggested Changes-David Guilbeau- requested comments or approval from OTF before the next meeting. Motion by Al Sunseri to support the notice of intent, second by Mike Voisin. Jakov Jurisic in opposition. Motion carries.

C. NOAA Biological Survey Presentation-Heather Finley

D. Oyster Lease Survey Changes- Raymond Impastato- Add to notify by certified letter, under 8 (an application would be valid for 3 years) . Application fee is \$40 not based on acreage. John Tesvich proposed limiting the life of an application from three years to one year. Motion by Al Sunseri to limit life of application to one year, second by Sam Slavich. Mike Voisin made a substitute motion limiting it to two years. With friendly amendment to make it 1 year and half. Second by Dan Coulon. Motion carries. Posting requirements under F1. Motion by Dan Coulon that in addition to be changed for or in the area about posting name and lease number. Second by Mike Voisin. Motion carries.

E. Public Seed Ground Rehabilitation-

F. Washington Mardi Gras-

G. Taxes- concerning BP Payments-Dan Coulon made a motion to write a letter to congressional members or to try to get OTF members regarding taxes on BP claim dollars. Mike Voisin second. Motion carries.

Get a plaque for Wilson Voisin that recognizes him for his lifetime service to OTF. Maybe name it after him as well. Check on Governor's proclamation. Use some public funds and then take a collection.

VII. Set Next Meeting-October 19, Tuesday 1 p.m.

VIII. Adjourn-motion to adjourn by Mike Voisin, second by Wilbert Collins.