

OTF Meeting 10.19.10

UNO Advanced Technology Center, Rm 210

I. Roll Call-1:03 p.m.

Present: Shane Bagala, Dana Brocato, Glenn Cambre, Wilbert Collins, Dan Coulon, Bryon Encalade, Jakov Jurisic, Keith LaCaze (Steve McManus in for Keith LaCaze), Karl Morgan, Ralph Pausina, Brad Robin, Al Sunseri, John Tesvich, Sam Slavich, Peter Vujnovich, Mike Voisin, Jerome Zeringue

Absent: Patrick Banks, David Deere

II. Approval of August 27, 2010 minutes

Mike Voisin asked that we delay approval of minutes until next meeting

Al Sunseri second motion, motion carries

III. Treasury Report

A. Oyster tag sales-138,000 tags for this fiscal year

Buddy Pausina requests reports from years three years back as to compare tag sales across the years.

B. LOTF financial report-Mike Voisin moves to approve financial report, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion carries.

Funding for Washington Mardi Gras seems to be available via Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. Mike Voisin made a motion that if other funds are made available to support Washington Mardi Gras, those funds should be used and general funds should not be used. Wilbert Collins seconds motion. Motion carries.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Public and Private Oyster Grounds Committee (Buddy Pausina)- Task force approved two locations for sites for relocation for leaseholders who lost leases on public seed ground (19 leases). LDWF was going to check those sites to approve them. LDWF handed out maps of those sites. LDWF found them able to support oysters and cultch, particularly in Plaquemines parish. Not as strong in St. Bernard Parish, but still suitable.

Buddy Pausina makes a motion that documents and maps handed out at meeting by LDWF be reviewed by public seed grounds committee so that they can review. Second by Wilbert Collins. Motion carries. This needs to be reviewed before the December commission meeting.

LDWF asks that the task force give them further direction on areas where they would like to see rebedding occur. Wilbert Collins requests that LDWF take an oystermen with them when they go out to look at areas in the future, Buddy Pausina volunteers to go with the department when they go out again to look at rebedding oysters.

Mike makes a motion that the committee chairman (Buddy Pausina) be able to represent the task force on this issue and recommend areas for relocation. Second by Wilbert Collins. Motion carries.

- B. Enforcement (Keith LaCaze)- Steve McManus sitting in for Keith LaCaze. They met prior to today's OTF meeting. Consensus is that there is a lack of enforceable law as it relates to standard sack measurement also a problem with enforcement as it relates to the volume of shellfish. Jakov Jurisic, chairman of legislative committee, has volunteered to take this issue to legislative committee and have a joint committee meeting with enforcement and legislative committee to draft legislation for laws as they relate to standard sack measurement. Recommended changes are to try and come up with enforceable laws as it relates to these issues.  
Motion by committee to accept report, second by Peter Vujnovich.
- C. Legislative (Jakov Jurisic)-reported in enforcement
- D. Research (John Supan)-No committee report, but Dermo levels were lowest in several years, almost nonexistent.
- E. Coastal Restoration (Dan Coulon)-Dan has been asked to join the Jefferson Parish Marine Advisory Board. Dan would like to make a request to see how the diversions will be handed in the future. Jerome Zeringue said that the Governor's oyster advisory committee should help with this issue and others.  
John Tesvich requested to Jerome Zeringue that OTF be notified on any upcoming advisory meetings. John Supan said salinity is returning to normal around Grand Isle, in mid 20s.  
Dan Coulon asked about the gulf coast ecosystem restoration taskforce and Jerome Zeringue said that they would provide more information on this taskforce as it develops.
- F. Marketing (Dana Brocato)-current budget situation hasn't allowed for marketing campaign. Letter requesting 5 million from Feinberg for Oyster Task Force has not been answered as of yet.

- V. Mike made a motion to add to agenda that representatives from the Government Accountability Office speak, second by Wilbert Collins. They have been asked by Rep. DeLauro of Connecticut to look at Vv and ISSC plans.

#### VI. Old Business

- A. Public Oyster Reef Evaluation-Patrick Banks. Representative from LDWF presented dredge data from public reefs. No recommendations from LDWF at this time. Brad Robin said that he has more than 250 signatures requesting that CSA areas 1 and 2 east side of the river stay closed. Brad made a motion that it be recommended to the secretary that CSA areas 1 and 2, east side of the Mississippi River stay closed for the entire season. Second by Wilbert Collins. Brad amended the motion to include hackberry bay. Motion by Dan Coulon, Second by Wilbert Collins. Amended reversed and separate motion recommended. First motion, east side of the river, approved. Second motion, hackberry bay, motion approved.

Mike made a substitute motion to delay voting on this until November. Failed.

B. BP Oil Spill Update

1. Claims Process-

2. Public Reef Damages-

3. Private Oyster Lease Damages-

Response letter from Sec. Barham regarding assessing damage assessments on oyster leases, department not staffed to doing individual assessments but believe regional assessments will be helpful.

Motion by Sam Slavich to write letter and ask Feinberg what type of assessment oyster lease holders need to present in order for him to address their claims. Second by Wilbert Collins.

Dr. Melancon suggested that the scientific committee get involved with the letter to support the task force and give them actual numbers that they could use. Letter would be put together by John Tesvich, Sam Slavich, Dr.

Melancon and John Supan.

#### VII. New Business

- A. Relocation of Oyster Leases-Byron Encalade- Motion by Byron to send three recommendations to send to the committee and oyster task force for action

1. Moving the red line allowing lease holders to exchange for more suitable leases that can sustain oysters due to fresh water diversions both present and future

2. Studies should include the creation of inner and outer Red Line areas which may allow the expansion of the seed ground area. This allows maximum use of resources when available.

3. Committee should have public hearing that would allow input from the industry and those affected by any recommendations proposed to Wildlife and Fisheries by the Oyster Task Force on these matters.

Byron Encalade makes motion to send to public and private oyster ground committee and office of coastal restoration review, second by Mike Voisin.

Jerome Zeringue suggests that office of coastal restoration be included in those meetings as well.

- A. Oyster Lease Moratorium-LDWF presents. Moratorium went in place 2002 and partially lifted it in 2007. Final recommendations given to committee in Feb 2010. Mike asked if applications not close to a restoration project could be granted. Jerome Zeringue said that at the next task force he will update the task force on what leases are not controversial or suspect and could be let go and what leases are still a concern.
  - B. Damages to Public Seed Grounds by Coastal Permitting-DWF. 3 million dollars has been collected for reef restoration projects. If task force has recommendations of where they want cultch plantings to go to they need to let WLF know. Jakov recalls the task force recommended somewhere around Pelican Island, but Patrick Banks was not present to confirm.
  - C. Burlap Bags-Buddy Pausina-speaker not present.
  - D. Oyster Lease Moratorium-Buddy Pausina-covered already.
  - E. Other Business: Representative present from Calcasieu Lake. Trying to get more people to get to work in West Cove. Currently 20 sack limit Oct 15-Nov 14, west cove only. East and West Cove open Nov. 14 on with a 10 sack limit. John Tesvich recommended that he goes to the commission with this issue.
  - F. Ostrica Locks-still waiting on reimbursement.
- VIII. Set Next Meeting- Tuesday Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m.
- IX. Adjourn- Motion to adjourn by Dan Coulon, second by Jakov Jurisic.