



Louisiana Oyster Task Force
John Tesvich, Chairman

Tuesday November 30, 2010 1 P.M.

UNO Advanced Technology Center, 2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 210

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

I. Roll Call

Present: Patrick Banks, 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, Karl Morgan.

Absent: David Deere, Peter Vujnovich

II. Approval of August 27, 2010 MINUTES- New copy of minutes was presented to board, Motion to approve minutes by Wilbert Collins, second by Mike Voisin

III. Approval of October 19, 2010 MINUTES-motion to approve by Mike Voisin second by Wilbert Collins.

IV. Treasury Report

A. Oyster Tag Sales

B. LOTF Financial Report –Motion by Buddy that a detailed financial report of when existing bills are due before the board determines when funds are available. Motion revised to have a special budget meeting, second by Dan Coulon. Motion carries. John Tesvich will talk with Ewell and find out when he is available.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Public and Private Oyster Grounds Committee – (Buddy Pausina)

Buddy Pausina handed out notes from the Public and Private Oyster Grounds Committee. He went out with the department to look at the recommendations for oyster lease relocation. Recommendation A:

Committee recommends that the area in St. Bernard not be considered as part of the program. The southern area in Plaquemines parish, near former hog island, was separated into two areas. Recommendation is that they take one area and expand it to approximately 1500 acres; they will be able to choose 700 acres within that zone. Motion to accept committee recommendations by Sam Slavich. Second by Brad Robin. Motion carries.

Recommendation B:

Relocation of Non-Renewed Leases- Recommendations are to proceed to secure legislation and or commission/department action to relocate, those who chose, to a defined area in the easterly portion of the red line area.

Recommendation is to define an area for those leases which will be eligible for this program. This recommendation is specific to Canarveron. Motion by Mike Voisin to accept committee recommendations, second by Byron Encalade. Motion carries.

Recommendation C: seek to move the review process with OCPR along. Including 1) Leases from Act 808 designated as impacted by a coastal restoration project
2) Applications pending at a start of a moratorium. 3) those leases which were not renewed or canceled voluntarily from 1996. Seek a list of these from Department, leaseholders, attorneys, etc. 4) Seek a listing from OCPR of all item 1 and item 2 leases or application which have finished review process.

For items 1 and 2, the department will get the task force copies of letters they sent to OCPR asking for those items.

Motion by Mike Voisin to approve committee's recommendations 1-4, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion carries.

Item 4 is to move specific leases that have been through the process and go ahead and release those leases. Request has already been made by LDWF to OCPR to do so, but Buddy Pausina requested a letter be sent to OCPR and copy the governor and the department to reinforce this request.

Recommendation D. Request Dept develop a seed program similar to Davis Pond project
Motion to approve recommendations by Mike Voisin, second by Byron Encalade.

B. Enforcement - (Keith Lacaze)-

Committee was asked to explore better method of sack measurement of unit of measurement.

Discussion needs legislation because the language currently in statute cannot be enforced clearly.

Two cases where criminal citations were issued for undersize oysters near Calcasieu. Steve McManus reported very little activity on the east side. Terrebonne has the most activity. Al requested that enforcement put the legislation together to help them enforce sack measurement.

C. Legislative - (Jakov Jurisic)

D. Research - (John Supan)

E. Coastal Restoration - (Dan Coulon)-went to corps of engineers meeting about myrtle grove diversion. Majority of those present at meeting were against it.

Member of the public announced that on Dec. 9 at the Lindy Boggs Center 9 :30 for Carnarvon and 1 p.m. for Davis Pond, meeting about diversion

F. Marketing - (Dana Brocato)- Dana Brocato will work with Ewell to give him input on what the task force would like to do with regards to marketing. Dana asked for assistance in doing this. Al suggested that Dana Brocato look at what the board currently has.

Motion to write a letter to Sec. of Wildlife and Fisheries, WLF Foundation, BP and Attorney General requested that funds be released to seafood board as quickly as possible.

Motion by Mike Voisin, second by Brad Robin.

Mike Voisin will write the letter.

Mike Voisin requested that Mark Schexnayder who was here to speak on the shrimp certification program.

V. Old Business

- A. Public Seed Grounds Oyster Season – Update-Patrick Banks passed out November dredge data. The November data doesn't look much different from what was found in October. Continuing to see small spat.

Al Sunseri asked that Wildlife and Fisheries report again in January to the task force the conditions of the reefs and their recommendations for the public seed grounds. Second by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries.

- B. BP Oil Spill Update

1. Claims Process- there is a bill to defer taxes over 5 years. OTF signed off on letter of support for the legislation. John Tesvich and other members of the industry met with liaison from Feinberg's office asking if they would look at the oyster reef assessment as a group. Nothing has been heard back from them yet. No oil on public reefs.
2. Public Reef Damages-
3. Oyster Lease Damages-
4. NRDA Sampling of Private Oyster leases –

Al Sunseri made a motion that we get an update from CPRA and LOSCO on how NRDA will work with public and private oyster grounds on sampling. Second by Wilbert Collins. Motion carries. Jakov Jurisic asked to be included in the motion that notification would be given to lease holders 48 hrs in advance before sampling will take place. Addition to motion carries.

- C. Oyster Lease Moratorium – Jerome Zeringue made a presentation.

V. New Business

The chairman asked that DHH be allowed to report, they were left off the agenda by accident.

- A. Public Relations – Oyster Industry and Coastal Restoration-John mentioned an article on nola.com that leads people to believe that the oyster industry is holding up coastal restoration. John would like to see funding be set aside to help resolve this. Al Sunseri suggested that we work with OCPR. Brad Robin suggested that we show how the oystermen are hauling equipment out there. Byron Encalade suggested we look at the human element of it. Ashley suggested that the seafood board's news team create some video and/or press release on how the oyster industry is helping with coastal restoration.

Al Sunseri stressed again importance of working with OCPR. Especially Garrett Graves.

- B. Dr. Melancon spoke and handed out a document illustrating the master plan process.

- C. Sherwood Gagliano-Restoration of Oyster Grounds and industry in St. Bernard Parish (Dana Brocato)

Dana Brocato made a motion that the OTF support what Coastal Environment LLC is doing for St. Bernard Parish and that they work alongside OCPR and that it be a part of the state's master plan. Second by Wilbert Collins. Dana Brocato will work with Mr. Gagliano to draft a letter to support these efforts.

- D. ISSC Meeting (Al Sunseri)- meeting second week of January in Orlando, Florida. Al Sunseri made a motion that members of the taskforce who usually attend or who like to attend be able to do so.

Second by Wilbert Collins. Jakov Jurisic recommended that Sam Slavich be allowed to go as well. Motion carries.

VII. Set Next Meeting—January 18, Tuesday, 1 p.m.

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