



Louisiana Oyster Task Force Meeting John Tesvich, Chairman

Tuesday March 29, 2011 1:00 PM
UNO Advanced Technology Center, 2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 210

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Present: Shane Bagala, Tenney Sibley in for Glenn Cambre, Wilbert Collins, Dan Coulon, Byron Enclade, Jakov Jurisic, Sammy Martin, Buddy Pausina, Karl Morgan, Brad Robin, Sam Slavich, Al Sunseri, John Tesvich, Mike Voisin, Peter Vujnovich

Absent: Patrick Banks, Dana Brocato, David Deere, Jerome Zeringue

II. Approval of January 25, 2011 MINUTES-motion by Mike Voisin to approve, second by Al Sunseri

III. Treasury Report

- A. Oyster Tag Sales for March 121,700 tags
- B. LOTF Financial Report

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Public and Private Oyster Grounds Committee – (Buddy Pausina)-follow up with phone call to Garrett Graves to check on status of letter.
- B. Enforcement - (Keith Lacaze)-Jakov asked enforcement to check into reports that boats from Mississippi were in Turkey Bayou at night.
- C. Legislative - (Jakov Jurisic)-Four issues were discussed. HLS-11RS bill regarding refrigeration. Legislative committee recommends the legislation be approved as written.
Motion by Al Sunseri for oyster task force to accept committees recommendations, second by Mike Voisin. Motion carries.

Second bill for discussion, HLS-11RS sack measurements. The committee suggests it be deferred to Wildlife and Fisheries who is working on a certification program to be contemplated in the near future. **Al Sunseri moves that the task force accept the committee's recommendation. Second by Sam Slavich. Motion passes.**

Third bill for discussion is House Bill HLS 10RS-1828 regarding trip tickets and documenting oyster harvest and sales (submitted by Labruzzo) the bill will be reintroduced. This bill will take responsibility from oyster dealer to harvester and combine health ticket with WLF ticket. The oyster task force did not support legislation last year and the committee recommends to oppose this bill again. **Dan Coulon makes a motion to accept the committee's recommendation, Jakov Jurisic seconds. Motion carries.**

Recommendation to exempt oyster vessels from Louisiana registration requirements.
Motion by Jakov Jurisic to approve, second by Buddy Pausina. Motion carries.

D. Mike Voisin made a motion to move Anne Dale up on the agenda, Peter Vujnovich seconds, motion carries.

Mike Voisin made a motion to make LaPearlite the official Gemstone of Louisiana, Al Sunseri second. Motion passed.

E. Research – (John Supan)-

F. Coastal Restoration – (Dan Coulon)

G. Marketing - (Dana Brocato)

H. Health – (Glenn Cambre)-opened up new areas in Calcasieu Lake (12,000 acres), which are now closed.

V. Old Business

A. Public Oyster Reef Evaluation & Shell Plant – Patrick Banks-

Motion by Al Suneri to recommend that the cultch plant area to Black Bay/Snake Island area instead of Half Moon. Second by Jakov Jurisic. Motion passes. John Tesvich will write letter to Secretary making that recommendation.

B. BP Oil Spill Remediation

1. Claims Process

Al recommended a press conference for April 15 to address the state of the oyster industry and how they have been treated. Second by Wilbert Collins and have it in conjunction with the advisory committee meeting. Al Sunseri asked that Garrett Graves lead the press conference. This should be held at the Alumni Center around 1 p.m. Motion carries.

2. Public Reef Remediation-

3. Oyster Lease Remediation-

C. Report on Washington Walk-on-the-Hill and functions-Mike Voisin gave update. Byron Encalade has been asked to speak at the stock holders meeting and he suggested that we draft some kind of letter maybe to be read at the stock holders meeting.

D. Oyster Lease Moratorium Update, Map of Dual Claim Water-bottoms – Jerome Zeringue, Raymond Impastato.

VI. New Business

A. Anne Dale-LaPearlite-moved up on agenda to item D under committee reports.

B. Crop Insurance Update – Rob Cerda- those in the program are going to get cancelation letters, not because the program is canceled, but because it will be suspended for the year. Mike Voisin made a motion that the chairman and vice chairman work together to draft a letter that will go to the Dr. Glauber and the federal crop insurance commission. Motion passes.

C. Sabine Lake Oyster Harvest Recommendations – Mike Voisin-State DHH has finalized process of getting Sabine Lake open. FDA has concurred with their findings and they can now have a Sabine Lake Oyster Harvest. Mike made a motion that the task force via letter recommend to the secretary that Sabine Lake be opened with a 20 sack limit through October with a 36 inch dredge. Second by Al Sunseri. Motion carries. Mike will draft it.

D. NFI Spring Conference, May 10-12, 2011 – Mike Voisin- Mike requested travel reimbursement for participation to their spring conference in Washington D.C. from May 10-12. Motion by Al to approve, second by Wilbert Collins. Motion passes.

E. Army Corp of Engineers Shellfish Permit Reauthorization-permits are coming up for renewal in 2012. Comment period ends on April 18. Recommended the task force submit a comment asking that the permits stay in place and expand to new farming opportunities as a part of the restoration of the spill. Mike Voisin made a motion that the chairman and vice chairman draft a letter on the corps of engineer's shellfish reauthorization. Second by Pete Vujnovich. Motion passes.

F. Acknowledgements: Keith Lacaze, Tommy Cvitanovich- Motion by Mike Voisin that the board moves to mail the proclamation and plaque to Keith, second by Wilbert Collins, motion carries. Motion by Dan Coulon to send the proclamation to Tommy Cvitanovich, second by Wilbert Collins, motion carries.

VII. Set Next Meeting-May 10- 1 p.m. WLF-Louisiana room.

VIII. Adjourn-Motion to adjourn by Wilbert Collins, second by Jakov Jurisic.