

Oyster Task Force Meeting

May 10, 2011

Called to order at 1:15 p.m

Present: Patrick Bank, Glenn Cambre, Wilbert Collins, Dan Coulon, Byron Enclade, Jakov Jurisic, Ralph Pausina, Karl Morgan, Brad Robin, Sam Slavich, Al Sunseri, John Tesvich, Mike Voisin, Peter Vujnovich,

Absent: Shane Bagala, Dana Brocato, David Deere, Sammy Martin, Jerome Zeringue

I. Approval of March 29, 2011 minutes, motion made by Wilbert Collins to accept minutes, second by Dan Coulon. **Motion carries**

II. Treasury Report: Motion to accept financial report by Peter Vujnovich, second by Jakov Jurisic.

III. Committee Reports

- A. Buddy Pausina reported
- B. Enforcement- not able to report due to emergency preparedness
- C. Legislative-Jakov Jurisic had no reports
- D. Research-John Supan-due to work unable to report . Dr. Melancon spoke on his projects. Motion by Mike Voisin to write letter of support for current projects under Dr. Melancon, second by Jakov Jurisic. Dr. Melancon will help John Tesvich write the letter.
Sal Sunseri requested that Patrick Banks work with John Supan to look into previous recommendations made by the task force in response to the coalition's paper on the vertical reef.
John Tesvich asked that the research committee draft a proposal
- E. Coastal Restoration-
- F. Marketing-Dana Brocato was not present
- G. Health-continue to monitor Lake Borgne with water coming in. next week they will monitor areas 27, 28 as well. OTF members will be informed when the areas are closed.

Al asked if health department was prepared to enforce the Governor's rule regarding interstate commerce. Bill should be signed by the end of the week.

IV. Old Business

A. Public Oyster Reef Evaluation and Shell Plant-cultch plant has been delayed, but not canceled. Motion by Brad Robin, to WLF that they put relay oysters out of shell plant in 3 mile island from public to public second by Al Sunseri. John suggested relay from public to private wouldn't cost as much and would just give people the option to plant. Brad Robin amended the motion to open up 1 and 2 and the shell point cultch plant in area 3 that encompasses 3 mile bay for bedding only, second by Al Sunseri. **Motion passes.**

Buddy makes a motion to write letter to LDWF recommending they plant cultch plant in Black Bay, Have LDWF do a viability study in the vicinity of half moon island within 30 days, While looking a viability also look at other areas that the cultch plant could be moved to if half moon is not viable. Second by Brad Robin. **Motion carries.**

B. BP Oil Spill Remediation

1. Claims Process- NERDA: Each of the states will get 100 million dollars, additional 300 million can be applied for by states for early restoration. Also continuing to go for \$15 million for oyster reef restoration that BP promised. Mike Voisin made a motion that the OTF work with LDWF to apply on the LOSCO (Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators) Web site to apply for \$100 million dollars for shell plant for public and private oyster reef rehabilitation, second by Jakov Jurisic. **Motion carries**

2. Public Reef Remediation

3. Oyster Lease Remediation

C. Oyster Lease Moratorium Update-Mike Voisin provided an update

D. Sabine Lake Oyster Reefs Update- Secretary still does not support opening.

VI. New Business

Oyster Related Legislative Bills Review:

- a. Motion by Jakov Jurisic to oppose House Bill 301 (standard sack measurements) second by Sam Slavich. **Motion carries.**
- b. House Bill 293 representative Dove. Commission will regulate and permit the taking of certain species of fish using vessel monitoring program. Mike Voisin makes motion to support House Bill 293, Wilbert Collins seconds. **Motion carries.**
- c. House Bill 245, Girod Jackson, raw consumption of oysters within the state. Eric Sunstrom said this should be off the floor tomorrow and he hopes to get it to the Governor by Friday. Patrick Banks reminded the group it takes about 6 weeks to get tags in. Al Sunseri asked that some modifications be allowed to current tags in the meantime.
- d. House Bill 246-makes Lapearlite the official state gemstone. Taskforce wrote letter supporting this bill.
- e. Senate Bill 240- substitution of oyster leases- Jakov made a motion to oppose legislation, Sam Slavich seconds. Substitute motion to support, second by Byron Enclade. Wilbert Collins made another substitute motion to send Senate Bill 240 to Senator Chabert to make it into a study resolution, motion second by Sam Slavich. **Motion passes.**
- f. Senate Resolution 18- Sen. Morrish, Requests OCPR and LDWF jointly study shoreline protection, effects on marine species diversity and habitat quality, and economic and other ecosystem service values of Sabine Lake. Mike Voisin made a motion that this resolution be supported. Second by Wilbert Collins. Al Sunseri suggested this be implemented on all public and private oyster grounds. Mike Voisin accepts this as a friendly amendment. Task force will encourage studies be done in other areas. **Motion carries.**
- g. Senate Bill 73- Senator Morrish. Would require harvesters go back to Tonging in Calcasieu Lake-Mike Voisin made a motion that the taskforce oppose Senate Bill 73, second by Wilbert Collins. **Motion carries.**
- h. Trip Tickets: John Tesvich said that Dana Brocato had intended to bring up the issue that that trip tickets don't contain information that would be

helpful including of owner of vessel and lease owner. Dana was not present so item was skipped.

VII. Set Next Meeting- 3rd or 4th week of July

VIII. Adjourn-motion to adjourn by Sam Slavich, second by Jakov Jurisic