



## **Louisiana Oyster Task Force Meeting** **John Tesvich, Chairman**

Tuesday November 15, 2011 1:00 PM  
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, Byron Encalade, Jakov Jurisic, Major Sammy Martin, Karl Morgan, Buddy Pausina, Brad Robin, Al Sunseri, John Tesvich, Sam Slavich, Peter Vujnovich

Absent: Shane Bagala, Dana Brocato, David Deere, Mike Voisin and Jerome Zeringue

**II. Approval of August 23, 2011 MINUTES-** Motion to accept minutes by Wilbert Collins, second by Dan Coulon, motion carries.

### **III. Treasury Report**

**A.** Oyster Tag Sales

**B.** LOTF Budget – Motion to accept budget by Al Sunseri, second by Dan Coulon. Motion carries. Check on travel and why it's so much more this year.

### **IV. Committee Reports**

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

**B.** Enforcement - (Steve McManus)- cited 7 boats in closed areas, 6 boats without permits in black bay area. Two tagging cases, one refrigeration case. One theft case.

**C.** Legislative - (Jakov Jurisic)-Al Sunseri suggested that we develop legislation to set aside blocks for people to develop as hatchery farms (oyster aquaculture). Cole Garret with LDWF recommended that we bring SeaGrant into this conversation as well.

Al Sunseri recommended a meeting between the office of coastal restoration, WLF, oyster task force members and legislators. Karl Morgan also suggested we get the state land office involved.

**D.** Research – (John Supan)- John Supan was not present.

**E.** Coastal Restoration – (Dan Coulon)- we now have a fishery representative on the framework team.

**F.** Marketing - (Dana Brocato)- Dana Brocato was not present

**G.** Health – (Glenn Cambre)-

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. BP Oil Spill Remediation**

1. Claims Process
2. Public Reef Remediation
3. Oyster Lease Remediation

### **B. Oyster Lease Moratorium Update -- WLF**

**C. Results of 2011 ISSC, Seattle -- Al Sunseri**-continuing education hours will be required by harvesters and processors, the language of this law is still developing.

### **D. Public Oyster Reef Evaluation & Shell Plants and Explanation of Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permits – Patrick Banks**

Al Sunseri made a motion to recommend to the Secretary to keep the season east of the river open until it is at or below 20 sacks per day per vessel. Second by Brad Robin.

Buddy suggested an amendment to set a date rather than a sack limit.

Motion amended to say that the season remain open until February 1, second approves. Motion carries. Jakov Jurisic abstained.

Seedground Permits: Patrick discussed frequently asked questions on permits.

According to the law no new permits are issued to people after December 1, 2009. If someone has never had a permit before they can still fish private leases, captain a boat if it has a private permit and that person can take ownership of the boat that has a permit if the seller agrees.

Al Sunseri suggested that the gentlemen from the audience (Mr. Lapeyrouse) who is unable to get a permit reach out to his legislature and see if the law can be amended.

Buddy Pausina asked that the oyster task force to look at the law and have legislation drafted to make sure that the law is not prohibiting those who have been in the business for years from working.

Buddy Pausina recommended that the Public and Private Oyster Ground Committee look into this.

Second by Al Sunseri. Motion carries.

Al Sunseri made a motion to reconsider the motion made by Buddy Pausina and a second was made by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

Sam Slavich made a motion that the taskforce did not intend for the withstanding permit law to leave out oyster business owners who did not have permits before 2009, but were already in the oyster business. Brad Robin makes a second. Motion carries.

Al asked for an update on Sabine Lake. Which the Department (Mark Schexnyder) said they would provide.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. D.C. Mardi Gras-Ewell Smith-**

Ewell presented the advertising plan for the Oyster Task Force and the budget for D.C. Mardi Gras. John Tesvich asked about tickets for D.C. Mardi Gras. Ewell said that he will get back to them with information on that.

### **B. Presentation on the state's Master Plan by CPRA – Kirk Rhinehart**

### **C. Protecting oyster resources, i.e. natural reefs, in the Master Plan – John Tesvich**

Motion by Buddy Pausina to approve the resolution presented by the chairman titled "Resolution for Protecting Natural Reefs of the Public Seed Grounds East of the River

from Damages from Coastal Restoration and Flood Control Projects and move the resolution to the appropriate agencies (federal or state) . Second by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries.

**D.** Time-temperature regulations on harvest vessels and enforcement – DHH & WLF

Mark Schexnyder reported that they will be working on education to the docks on the tag colors and time/temperature regulations.

**E.** Vessel Monitoring System and Louisiana Seafood Certification Plan Update-WLF

**F.** Other

**VII. Set Next Meeting**

**January 10<sup>th</sup>- 1 p.m.**

**VIII. Adjourn- motion to adjourn by Sam Slavich, second by Dan Coulon**

Louisiana Oyster Task Force  
2021 Lakeshore Drive Suite 300 New Orleans, Louisiana 70122 OFFICE 504.286.8736 FAX 504.286.8738