

**Oyster Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2017, 1pm
2021 Lakeshore Dr.
New Orleans, LA, STE 210**

Voting Members Present:

Dan Coulon
Jakov Jurisic
Mitch Jurisich
Brad Robin
Brandt Lafrance
Al Sunseri
John Tesvich
Sam Slavich
Willie Daisy
Byron Encalade

Voting Members Absent:

Shane Bagala
Wilbert Collins
Leo Dyson
Peter Vujnovich

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mark Schexnayder
Gordon Leblanc in for Lance Broussard
Villerie Reggio in for Chad Hebert
Karl Morgan
Brian Lezina

Motion to accept the December 12, 2016 minutes by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Brad Robin.
Motion carries.

Motion to accept the January 17, 2017 agenda by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Brandt LaFrance. Motion carries.

Financial Report:

Budget for FY2017: \$306, 750
Budget Balance for FY2017: \$253, 002
Remaining FY2017 Fund Balance: \$419,481

Motion to accept the treasury report by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Brandt LaFrance.
Motion carries.

Committee Reports:

Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee Report:

Mitch Jurisich addressed the TF with an update on the oyster lease moratorium lifting draft NOI

Al Sunseri made a motion to request the participation of the AG's Office, State Lands Office and DNR at the next Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee meetings to address/ discuss oyster moratorium lifting NOI items, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion carries

Al Sunseri requested that the TF comprise questions to send to the designated representatives of each aforementioned office before the next meeting.

Enforcement Report:

No Report

Legislative Committee Report:

Jakov Jurisic provided the TF with a summary of the Legislative committee meeting discussion items:

- Proposed increasing the oyster Severance tax- **tabled item until further notice**
- Standard Measurement- Proposed amending Section 3:4632- Inspection and Stamping of Baskets- **No action taken**

'Change 'May' to 'Shall' to require each standard of measurement to be inspected and confirmed- this motion did not pass with committee vote'

- Proposing draft legislation on alternative oyster culture- Re: Suitability Mapping Requirements- **tabled item until draft is complete**
- Title 76 Part III- regulations that governing the use of WMA's- **requested that WLF provide more information regarding the policy and regulations surround WMA's**
- To proceed with and support drafting a house concurrent resolution asking the legislature to support the state in taking efforts to close Mardi Gras Pass- **Motion passed in support of recommendation**

Al Sunseri made a motion to accept the committee's recommendations, 2nd by Byron Encalade. Motion passes.

Jakov Jurisic made a motion for WLF to entertain a resolution to designate an option for mini-sack and bushel on oyster trip tickets and asked that WLF produce

conversions between sacks, mini-sacks, bushels, and pounds, 2nd by Mitch Jurisich. Motion carries.

Research Committee Report:

No Report

Coastal Restoration Committee Report:

No Report

Marketing Committee Report:

Brad Robin made a motion for the OTF to send Ashley Wethey (of WLF) to DC to assist in facilitating the OTF LA Alive event, 2nd by Brandt Lafrance. Motion carries.

Marketing subcommittee meeting set for February 15 at 11am in New Orleans

Health Committee Report:

Gordon Leblanc addressed the TF with an update on the change in oyster refrigeration regulations

Al Sunseri made a motion recommending that DHH change refrigeration regulations, and resolve to adopt the A3 product-that will change refrigeration requirements in the months of November, March, and April from 8 hours to refrigeration to 18 hours, 2nd by Mitch Jurisich. Motion carries.

Al Sunseri made a motion that DHH /WLF put together a proposal to change the regulations back to 36 hours to refrigeration and reference no incidents in this regard, 2nd by Mitch Jurisich. Motion carries.

Sustainability Report:

No Report

Professionalism Report:

No Report

Aquaculture Report:

No Report

New Business:

Steve Beck addressed the TF with an oyster program update

Al Sunseri made a motion to request that CPRA redo the 50-year study- The Cooperative Mexico Estuarine Inventory Study -to look into hydrology,

sedimentation, and biology of the oyster fishery and what is causing the loss/changes 2nd by Mitch Jurisich. Motion carries.

Dan Coulon suggested requesting information from NOAA regarding data collected on reefs after the BP oil spill

John Tesvich addressed the TF with the 2016/2017 oyster season options

Brad Robin made a motion requesting WLF to reconsider re-opening the East side of the MS River with the exception of cutch plants, for a sacking only season. 50 sack limit 2nd by Jakov Jurisic. Motion passes with vote, Al Sunseri abstain.

Willie Dailsy made a motion to open Sister Lake with a 30-sack limit using the same dates as Lake Borgne (East side of the River), 2nd by Mitch Jurisich. Motion passes with 1 abstained- Al Sunseri

Brad Robin made a motion to re-elect John Tesvich as OTF chairman and Dan Coulon as OTF vice-chairman, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic. Motion passes.

Next meeting set for Wednesday, February 15 for 1pm in New Orleans

Motion to adjourn by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Dan Coulon. Motion carries.