

Oyster Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 1:00pm
2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210
New Orleans, LA 70122

Voting-Members Present:

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

Voting-Members Absent:

Shane Bagala
Wilbert Collins

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mark Schexnayder
Gordon Leblanc in for Lance Broussard
Captain Chad Hebert
Frank Cole in for Karl Morgan
Brian Lezina

Mitch Jurisich made a motion to approve the January 17, 2017 meeting minutes, 2nd by Jakov Jurisich. Motion carries

Mitch Jurisich made a motion to amend the agenda- to table item C. Discussion of Sponsorship and Financial Policies and Procedures until next meeting and to add an item under new business- C. Discussion and Recommendations for Calcasieu Lake oyster season, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

Motion to accept the amended February 15, 2017 agenda by Mitch Jurisich, 2nd by Peter Vujnovicj. Motion carries.

Financial Report:

Remaining FY2017 Fund Balance: \$426,036, Budget Balance for FY2017: \$252, 876

Motion to accept the financial report by Peter Vujnovich, 2nd by Willie Daisy. Motion carries.

Public Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee Report:

Mitch addressed the TF with the committee report

Enforcement Report:

Captain Chad Hebert provided the TF with an enforcement report

Legislative Report:

No report

Research Report:

No report

Coastal Restoration Report:

No report

Marketing Report:

Acy Cooper provided an update from the Fisheries Joint Task Force meeting requesting the TF's support for the Certified Seafood Program

Jakov Jurisic provided an update from the OTF February Washington, D.C. visit

Al Sunseri suggested having the D.C Acadiana event in May 2017

The Oyster Convention is planned for early June 2017 at the Grand Isle hatchery

John Tesvich requested having staffers come for the Oyster Convention

Jakov Jurisic made a recommendation to order more oyster beads for next year's DC visit

Health Report:

No report

The Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference plans to meet April 24-27 in Biloxi- plans to submit proposed changes in refrigeration regulations for the ISSC

Sustainability Report:

No report

Professionalism Report:

Darren Bourgeois provided the TF with recommendations for the Public-Private Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit Training

Sent item to the Public- Private Seed Grounds Committee for further discussion in setting rules and parameters for the vessel permit training program

Aquaculture Report:

John Supan addressed the TF with draft recommendations to current legislation regarding alternative oyster culture; permits

Peter Vujnovich made a motion to accept the proposed committee recommendations, 2nd by Byron Encalade.

The TF recommended striking the last two sentences of Section 1- A. that reads, 'No AOC permit may be issued unless a reasonable investigation into the question of ownership is complete and, based on the findings, a determination is made that the state owns the water bottom to be covered by the permit. No AOC permit may be issued until the department has completed the sustainability mapping required in Subsection C of this Section.

Motion by Peter Vujnovich to request Cole Garrett (LDWF) to work with John Supan to add to the current recommendations and work on drafting AOC legislation, 2nd by Byron Encalade. Motion carries.

TF requested to send the draft legislation to the Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds committee for review

New Business:

Bren Haase, of CPRA, gave a presentation on Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan

Beaux Jones addressed the TF with discussion of the interplay of Acts 570 and 595 and the handling of property claims

Leo Dyson led discussion on Calcasieu Lake oyster season

Leo Dyson made a motion to request that LDWF reopen both sides of Calcasieu Lake, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich.

Steve Beck provided a brief summary of the status of the Calcasieu Lake oyster stock, 2016/ 2017 season overview, and stated concerns with re-opening the season.

Jakov Jurisic proposed a substitute motion to have industry members and WLF biologists go out together and take samples in the Calcasieu Lake area and make a determination on reopening the area based on their findings, 2nd by Mitch Jurisich. Motion passes with two opposed- Leo Dyson, Dan Coulon

Jakov Jurisic made a motion to add agenda item D. under New Business to discuss a two-day possession limit on the public reefs, 2nd by Dan Coulon. Motion passes after unanimous board vote

Motion by Jakov Jurisic to request that WLF allow a two-day possession limit on the public reefs on the east of the River for the remainder of the season. 2nd by Dan Coulon Motion carries with vote- Al Sunseri abstained.

Next OTF meeting set for Tuesday, March 14, 2017 for 1pm in New Orleans

Public- Private Oyster Seed Grounds Subcommittee meeting set for Tuesday, March 14, 2017 for 10am in new Orleans

Motion to adjourn by Peter Vujnovich, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries.