

**Oyster Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2017
2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210
New Orleans, LA 70122**

Voting Members Present:

Dan Coulon
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
Leo Dyson

Non-voting Members Present:

Mark Schexnayder
Gary Lopinto in for Lance Broussard
Captain Chad Hebert
Karl Morgan
Brian Lezina

Motion to accept the February 15, 2017 meeting minutes by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Dan Coulon. Motion carries.

Motion to accept the March 17, 2017 meeting agenda by Al Sunseri, 2nd by Jakov Jurisic. Motion carries.

Financial Report:

Fund Balance: \$423,639
Budget Balance: \$242,290

Peter Vujnovich made a motion to add the Public Oyster Seed Ground and Development Account funds to the financial report, 2nd by Dan Coulon. Motion carries.

Public and Private Oyster Seed Grounds Report:

Mitch Jurisich addressed the TF with a committee update: current items of discussion: comprising the requirements for the Vessel Permit Training Program, ironing out the draft NOI for lifting the oyster moratorium, and alternative oyster culture draft legislation

Enforcement Report:

Captain Chad Hebert addressed the TF with an enforcement update

Enforcement cases since last meeting: 1-harvest from unmarked lease, 8-unlawfully oysters taken from private lease, 8 -ailed to have written permission, 2-take/possess commercial fish without a license, 2-take/possess oysters without a harvesters license, 2-the unlawful taking of oysters from state water-bottoms, 1-no log book; seized about 105 oysters that were returned to the water

Al Sunseri requested a print out of the report to be included in the meeting packets

Legislative Report:

Repeal Act 570- Request from the fishermen to repeal

Mitch Jurisich made a motion to propose draft legislation that would repeal Act 570 (dual claims legislation), 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion passes with one opposed-Byron Encalade and one abstained- Al Sunseri

Question regarding Act 570 and the AG's affiliation with the bill, discussion of appeal

Byron Encalade recommended waiting to address repealing Act 570 until LDWF has reached a determination regarding the legality and issues surrounding dual claimed lands

Cole Garrett requested for the TF to take a stance on the legislation regarding gear restrictions in Calcasieu Lake- allows for the Commission to restrict gear on the Lake

Al Sunseri suggested that LDWF meet with the Cameron Oyster Task Force and come to an agreement on the proposed legislation

Jakov Jurisic made a motion to oppose the proposed Calcasieu Lake Legislation, motion did not follow with a 2nd, motion did not pass.

Cole Garrett suggested a 15% limit on non-living material for seed loads just as there is for sacking

Jakov Jurisic made a motion to oppose the legislation that would set a 15% limit of non-living material for seed loads to mirror the legislation in place for sacking, 2nd by Sam Slavich. (Motion withdrawn)

Al Sunseri expressed opposition for the motion on the table

Mitch Jurisich expressed concern for the enforcement of the proposed legislation

Byron Encalade stated his support for the legislation

Peter Vujnovich stated that he does support shell laws, but had some concern for the percentage (15%) and requested a clear definition of non-living material and how the legislation will be enforced before taking a stance

Al Sunseri suggested that LDWF send the item to OTF committee to further vet the proposed legislation

Jakov Jurisic withdrew his motion on the table

Research Report:

No report

John Tesvich requested the TF's support for a proposal for a sponsored research report- to provide a comprehensive historical report on the public seed grounds' use of the east side of the Mississippi River. Report to include historical biological based reports including stock size, historical accounts detailing floods, hurricane damages, oil exploration that affects navigational channels, cultch plants, harvest information, to also include 2D and 3D historical mapping (if available), and a comprehensive historical perspective on the planning for and affects of river diversions of this area.

Al Sunseri suggested that the TF dedicate some funds to support the proposed research, research committee to draft a RFP- matched funds, deadlines etc. would be outlined in the RFP

Byron Encalade made a motion to accept and support the proposed research proposal, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion Withdrawn) Item sent to research committee

Brad Robin suggested including impact studies in the research

Byron Encalade withdrew his motion in light of sending the item to the Research Committee

Coastal Restoration Report:

No report

Marketing Report:

The oyster industry video is complete, a copy will be sent around for industry review and use.

TF expressed interest in presenting the finished product to the WLF commission, and the Natural Resources Committee, DC Walk the Hill meetings

Health Report:

Discussion of the upcoming Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference

Sustainability Report:

Damon Morris addressed the TF with the sustainability report

Requested TF input, recommendations for private sector development projects

Professionalism Report:

LFF summit- March 6, 2018- Kenner Pontchartrain Center, when the date is locked in the OTF will be notified of the event details

Aquaculture Report:

John Supan addressed the TF with AOC draft legislation edits

Karl Morgan suggested changing the content under page 2-B

Dan Coulon made a motion to support the proposed AOC legislation with suggested amendments, 2nd by Al Sunseri.

Mitch Jurisich made a substitute motion to hold off on accepting the AOC proposed legislation until the OTF has an opportunity to look into and consider edits and additions, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich.

Mitch Jurisich amended his original substitute motion to hold off on accepting the AOC proposed legislation and instead proposed accepting the legislation with the intention to strike paragraph F. under section E and include the amendment to change the content under Page 2-B, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries with 1 abstained- Al Sunseri

Byron Encalade made a substitute motion to keep section F of the AOC legislation with the exception of adding a 100-acreage limit, no second on the motion. Motion does not pass- no 2nd.

Joint Task Force Working Group Report:

No report

Next Joint TF meeting to be held on April 11, 2017 for 10am in New Orleans-

MEETING CANCELED- TO BE RESCHEDULED AT A LATER DATE

New Business:

Cara Tyler addressed the TF with discussion of sponsorship and financial policies and procedures

John Supan addressed the TF to discuss a resolution in support of Federal Sea Grant funding

Dan Coulon made a motion to send a letter of support the continued funding for Sea Grant, 2nd by Mitch Jurisich. Motion passes.

John Supan addressed the TF to consider funding for the Oyster Convention and congressional staff-visit

Al Sunseri suggested utilizing the staff visit to tour a cultch plant, aquaculture, oyster plants, etc.

Peter Vujnovich made a motion to provide \$5000 in funding to the Oyster Convention and \$10,000 funding for congressional staff visit a total of \$15,000, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion carries.

Gary Lopinto addressed the TF with discussion on the Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference- set for April 25-27, 2017

Motion to provide funding for travel and lodging for OTF members to participate in the Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion carries.

Al Sunseri led discussion on the Let the World be Your Oyster- DC Acadiana event to be held in May 2017

Jakov Jurisic made a motion to sponsor the Acadiana event the week of May 15, 2017 with a \$40,000 cap on funding, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

Next Public/Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee meeting set for 10am on Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

Next OTF meeting set for Tuesday, April 18, 2017 for 1pm in New Orleans

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

