

FUR ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAC)

DECEMBER 5, 2017
LDWF
BATON ROUGE, LA

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Present

Tony Howard
Archie Domangue
Frank Ellender
Danny Perry
Ryan Schaefer
Steve Hughes

Council Members Absent

Charles Pettefer, Jr.
Judge Edwards

LDWF Present

Tanya Sturman
Amity Bass
Jennifer Manuel
Buddy Baker
Daniel Henry

Others Present

Vicki Little
Krystal Breaux
Sandra Garza
Kyle Little

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Frank Ellender announced that Jimmy Gallaspy had turned in his resignation from the Fur Advisory Council due to health. Amity Bass announced that Edmond is on sick leave.

*Steve Hughes motioned to appoint Tony Howard as chairman. Frank Ellender seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.*

*Steve Hughes motioned to appoint Ryan Schaefer as vice chairman. Frank Ellender seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Ryan Schaefer motioned to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Steve Hughes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TERM DATES FOR FAC MEMBERS UPDATE- TANYA STURMAN

Tanya Sturman reminded the council that a number of members' terms would be expiring within the next year. Six members' terms expire on April 6, 2018. These include three landowner representatives, Judge Edwards, Frank Ellener, and Archie Domangue, and three trapper representatives, Charles Pettefer, Ryan Schaefer, and Jimmy Gallaspy's term. However, since Jimmy Gallaspy resigned the first of December, his position should be filled as soon as possible. The LDWF Secretary appoints all of these positions. The Louisiana Landowners Association and the Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association should send letters to Secretary Montoucet, preferably by the end of February, nominating representatives to fill these positions. The current members are eligible to serve another term.

Frank Ellender agreed to bring this issue to the Landowners Association. Tony Howard, the current president of the Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association (LTAHA), said that the LTAHA would have a board meeting to address nominations in this timeframe.

Tanya Sturman also mentioned that Tony Howard's term would expire on July 13, 2018. His position is appointed by the president of the Senate, and he is also eligible to serve another term. There is not a designated organization that makes an official nomination to the Senate. Anyone can send a letter of recommendation to the president of the Senate. Generally the Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association sends a letter, and often the Fur Advisory Council chairman sends a letter. Tanya Sturman suggested that these letters go out in May.

CHAIRMAN SPENDING AUTHORITY CONSIDERATION- AMITY BASS

Amity Bass explained that the Council had allowed the chairman to authorize small expenditures between meetings. After consulting with Daniel Henry, the Department attorney, Amity Bass suggested that the Council address this issue by approving an overall annual budget. Moving forward, the Council budget should be drafted, circulated, and voted on by the Council prior to the beginning of the fiscal year so that the Council will not have to meet and vote on small items throughout the year.

ANNUAL BUDGET PLANNING- AMITY BASS

Amity Bass reviewed the 2017-2018 budget proposal. Amity Bass explained that this level of spending may not be sustainable over time, and she will get with someone in fiscal to investigate the income

trend to estimate what figure might be sustainable. Department staff and Council members agreed to have a budget meeting each June to plan for the following fiscal year.

TRAPPING WORKSHOP BUDGET CONSIDERATION- JENNIFER MANUEL

Jennifer Manuel went through the numbers for the first two trapping workshops. The workshop at Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District in Benton, Louisiana took place on December 2, 2017 and there were 17 students. She has received positive feedback from the workshop. The second workshop will take place at Palmetto Island State Park in Vermillion Parish on December 9, 2017 and has thirty students registered. There will also be a three-day workshop at Woodworth Shooting Range in Rapides Parish in January, 2018.

Ryan Schaefer motioned to approve \$3,430 for the trapping workshops. Frank Ellender seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO FUR FAIRS CONSIDERATION- RYAN SCHAEFER

Ryan Schaefer explained that the Council decided last year that marketing would be a priority goal. The Council started with creating a new logo and hiring a new marketing contractor. The marketing contractor, Brent Poley, believes that it is important to have representation from Louisiana at some of the major fur fairs. Brent Poley recommended that Louisiana representatives attend the Hong Kong fair in February and a fair in Brazil in July. Brent Poley requested a trapper and an LDWF employee, because the trapper adds authenticity to the booth and the government employee adds authority.

Ryan Schaefer motioned to approve the annual budget as presented except with an additional \$5,000 moved into travel. Steve Hughes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Schaefer motioned to approve travel for two people to fairs in Brazil and Hong Kong. Steve Hughes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FUR AND WILDLIFE PAGEANTS 2017-2018 UPDATE- VICKI LITTLE & KRISTAL BREAUX

Vicki Little, the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival Pageant director, introduced Kristal Breaux, the reigning Queen. She is a graduate student at Nichols State University. Ms. Breaux has traveled to over 30 fairs in the past year and given several school presentations speaking on behalf of the fur industry. Ryan Schaefer talked about his experience of presenting at the pageant last year and being a part of the fur fashion show. The festival and pageant have a long history of celebrating the fur industry.

FUR COATS FOR PAGEANTS AND OUTREACH CONSIDERATION- JENNIFER MANUEL

Jennifer Manuel explained that there is a coat for this year's pageant and one is ordered that will be presented in 2019. There are also four fur bags available for the next two pageants. Jennifer Manuel asked that the Council approve money to order two more coats because of the time it takes to have them custom made. The Council suggested that alligator trim be included in the new coats.

Ryan Schaefer motioned to approve \$3,000 for two fur coats; one men's and one women's coat. Frank Ellender seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

VISITING QUEENS GIFTS CONSIDERATION- JENNIFER MANUEL

Jennifer Manuel showed the rabbit scarves that will be given to the visiting queens at the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival. Last year the Council approved \$1,000 to purchase small fur accessory items for this event, but Jennifer Manuel could not find a local source for small accessories at an affordable price. The Council agreed to ask Brent Poley if he has some contacts that could provide an inexpensive fur item such as a bracelet or scarf.

Ryan Schaefer motioned to approve \$1,000 for fur accessories for the visiting queens' event. Steve Hughes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FUR RINGS PURCHASE CONSIDERATION- JENNIFER MANUEL

Jennifer Manuel explained that the fur rings are loaned out to various educational groups. She would like to purchase an additional eight rings. The price for the fur rings had already been approved in the overall council budget.

BOBCAT CITES ISSUE UPDATE- JENNIFER MANUEL

Jennifer Manuel gave the Council an update on the WildEarth Guardians lawsuit regarding bobcats and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) tagging requirement. The state agencies have wanted to do away with CITES tags for some time, claiming that they cause more problems than they solve by making it impossible to ship scientific samples and hurting fur dealer business. The tags are not required by CITES and do not effectively assist in the management of Appendix II species which, by definition, aren't in need of protection. The states have collectively been fighting through the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AWFA) to get the process eliminated or at least streamlined.

USFWS has been reluctant in the past to address the CITES tagging program, because they were concerned about subsequent lawsuits. In the course of issuing CITES, they were sued over the process anyway. The WildEarth Guardians lawsuit accuses the USFWS of ignoring the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. USFWS has maintained that their CITES tagging program is NEPA exempt. Under NEPA, all large federal actions have to be evaluated for any potential impacts to the environment. If significant impacts are identified, they have to be addressed and minimized.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was written to address the impact of legal trapping for bobcats on lynx populations. The full EA can be downloaded at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FWS-HQ-IA-2017-0012-0002>. It's not clear how this will play out or how this might affect the tagging program or if it would affect it at all.

OUTREACH EDUCATION- TANYA STURMAN

Tanya Sturman showed a PowerPoint presentation of the outreach events that the Council has participated in since the beginning of the current fiscal year. The Department and Council participated in three Hunting and Fishing Day events, in the Wildlife Celebration at Red River Refuge, and at Forest Fest. The Bossier Parish School Board runs a Nature Center at Cypress Black Bayou. The Council has provided them with a large fur and alligator diorama and a ring of pelts. The Nature Center had over 17,000 visitors this past fiscal year.

The Department intends to attend the Cameron Fur and Wildlife Festival in January and plans to have new educational trading cards available for that event. Tanya Sturman showed the proofs for the wildlife trading cards. There are 14 cards in the set: the 12 Louisiana furbearers, an alligator card, and a card that focuses on trapping as a form of habitat management.

FAC WEBSITE UPDATE- TANYA STURMAN

Tanya Sturman went through the main links of the new Fur Advisory Council website at Louisianafur.com. She showed the Council members where to find online copies of the past Council minutes, annual reports, and Louisiana fur laws.

CONTRACTOR UPDATES- TANYA STURMAN

Tanya Sturman went through a PowerPoint that summarized Glenn Delaney's activities in Washington, D.C. She reviewed each bill that he has mentioned in his reports. There are three anti-trapping bills in committees, but none of them are likely to pass. There are three bills in committee that would revise

the Endangered Species Act, and all three are considered positive from a wildlife management perspective. Glenn Delaney is monitoring a couple of other bills that are currently of no concern, but markups or amendments could be added at any point in the process.

Brent Poley sent a video presentation that summarized his first year's activities. He is enthusiastic about the future of the fur market after the past few difficult years. The market appears to be making a slow turn in the right direction, and this is a good time for Louisiana to initiate new projects and participate in new trade shows.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Schaefer thanked Frank Ellender for all of his years of service as chairman.

Frank Ellender motioned to purchase a plaque for Jimmy Gallaspy. Ryan Schaefer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Schaefer motioned to adjourn. Archie Domangue seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
