

**PUBLIC OYSTER SEED GROUND VESSEL PERMIT APPEALS BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**July 30, 2018**

**JAKOV JURISIC**

**CHAIRMAN**

**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

The following constitute minutes of the Public Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit Appeals  
Board Meeting

and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are maintained by the  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.

For more information, contact Ty Lindsey at (225) 765-2387 or [tlindsey@wlf.la.gov](mailto:tlindsey@wlf.la.gov).

July 30, 2018 – 9:00 A.M.  
2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
LDWF OFFICE IN THE UNO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY BUILDING  
2021 LAKESHORE DRIVE, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70122

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jakov Jurisic at approximately 9:10am.

AGENDA

I. Roll Call

- Shane Bagala – Present
- Tracy Collins – Present
- Buddy Daisy – Absent
- Dan Coulon – Absent
- Byron Encalade – Present
- Jakov Jurisic – Present
- Brad Robin – Absent
- Sam Slavich – Present
- Peter Vujnovich, Jr. – Absent

Quorum present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Added by Jurisic

III. Approval of Agenda

- Slavich – Motion to Approve
  - Encalade – Seconded
  - MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

IV. Approval of Minutes from Meeting of April 24, 2018

- Bagala – Motion to Approve
  - Collins – Seconded
  - MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

V. Hearing of New Renewal Permit Appeals

1. Goimir Zupanovic (attending)
  - Ty Lindsey, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Biologist, explained that Zupanovic held a 2016 permit on vessel LA-4411-FP. The 2016 permit was purchased on or about January 4, 2016 and expired December 31, 2017. Zupanovic attempted to renew the permit on or about June 13, 2018. Zupanovic was denied renewal due to being expired. Permit is pending under his personal name. Claims not receiving permit renewal notice and overlooking the permit as reasons for not renewing. Lindsey also informed the Board that

Zupanovic had received a renewal through the Board on the same permit and same vessel in 2015.

- Jurisic asked Lindsey what was the reason Zupanovic claimed on his previous appeal for not renewing. Lindsey stated “overlooked.”
- Jurisic asked Lindsey if the Department could confirm permit renewal notices are included in the yearly license renewal packets. Lindsey said there is no way to determine if a permit renewal notice was left out of a packet, but the Department protocol is to include them in those mailings. He further suggested that permit renewal notices are sent only to current license year permit holders. He gave the example of Zupanovic would likely have received a renewal notice in 2016, but not in 2017 due to the permit being expired according to the Department’s computer system.
- Bagala asked Lindsey if the Department could send all permit renewal notices via certified mail. Lindsey said cost may not be an issue, but separating out permit renewal notices may be. He said he would ask Licensing and inform the Board of his findings.
- Encalade felt it would be a disservice to Plaquemines Parish to not allow Zupanovic to fish oysters. Zupanovic has close ties with the community there according to Encalade.
- Encalade – Motion to recommend a renewal permit be issued to Zupanovic.
  - Bagala – Seconded
  - MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

2. Mauricio Blanco (attending)

- Lindsey said that Blanco held a 2016 Non-Resident permit on TX6820KC. That permit purchase was processed on September 12, 2016. Blanco attempted to renew the permit on or about May 16, 2018. Renewal was denied due to being expired. Blanco claims damages from Hurricane Harvey (August 2017) to boat, home, and business lead to him miss renewing his permit.
- Jurisic asked Blanco where he lived. Blanco said Port Lavaca, Texas. Jurisic asked Blanco how long he had been fishing in Louisiana and Blanco replied “since 2007.” Jurisic asked Blanco if he had any documentation to support his claim of boat damage. Blanco said he had pictures on his phone and receipts, but not with him.
- Encalade asked to see the pictures on the phone, which was passed to other Board members.
- Collins asked Blanco about his boats. Blanco said he owns six, but only this boat (TX6820KC) is permitted and it is the only boat Blanco brings to Louisiana to fish.
- Encalade asked if Blanco had oyster leases in Louisiana or if he had fished leases. Blanco said he did not hold private oyster leases, but had fished leases in the past.
- Slavich – Motion to Defer until Blanco can provide additional documentation concerning damage and repair of the vessel.
  - Collins – Seconded
  - Blanco asked if he needed to be present considering he has a 7.5 hour drive to get to New Orleans. Jurisic said appellants must be present for the Board to make recommendations.

- MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

VI. Receive public comments

- Oyster fisherman Terry Shelley asked if there was an avenue for getting an expired permit renewed. Jurisic said yes, the appeal process.
- Another man starting asking about options for lease holders that might be affected by the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Jurisic informed him that that will be the subject of the another committee's meeting that will be held immediately after this one.

VII. Set next meeting date

- Slavich – Motion to set next meeting date in conjunction with the next OTF meeting.\*
  - Bagala – Seconded
  - MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

VIII. Adjournment

- Collins – Motion to Adjourn
    - Encalade – Seconded
    - MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)
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Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:36am; Duration of Meeting: approximately 26 minutes.

Minutes drafted by Ty Lindsey, LDWF Biologist

\*The OTF met later the same day as scheduled and set Tuesday, September 25, 2018 as their next meeting date to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. Therefore, the next Public Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit Appeals Board meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, 2018 in New Orleans, Louisiana due to deferment of Blanco's appeal.