

PUBLIC OYSTER SEED GROUND VESSEL PERMIT APPEALS BOARD

MINUTES

March 4, 2020

JAKOV JURISIC

CHAIRMAN

HOUMA, 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.
Audio recordings 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.

March 4, 2020 – 9:30 A.M.
Houma Terrebonne Council Building
8026 W Main St, Houma, LA 70360

AGENDA

- I. Call to order
- Meeting called to order by Chairman Jakov Jurisic at approximately 9:43am.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

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

Quorum present.

IV. Approval of Agenda

- Ty Lindsey, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologist, requested that the agenda, as printed, be altered to accommodate appellants who are in attendance. He requested Item 7 be rearranged so that Timothy Luke (attending) will be heard before Dustin Robin (not attending).
- Bagala – Motion to Approve modification of agenda
 - Vujnovich – Seconded
 - MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)
- Vujnovich – Motion to Approve Agenda with Modification
 - Robin – Seconded
 - MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

V. Approval of Minutes from Meeting of January 7, 2020

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

VI. Hearing of Deferred Renewal Permit Appeals

1. Nicholas Guidry (attending)

- Lindsey told the Board that Guidry held 2017 permits on five vessels, all under his name, and that the permits expired for renewal purposes on December 31, 2018. Guidry attempted to renew the permits on or about October 31, 2019. Guidry claims the lack of oyster resource and no public reef openings near him led to financial stress that prevented him from renewing the permit.
- Jurisic asked Guidry for his comments.

- Guidry said there were no oysters in his area and he did not know he needed to renew his permits every year.
- Jurisic asked Guidry if he knew there was an oyster season in 2017 in Lake Borgne.
- Guidry replied that he does not travel far to fish.
- Encalade explained that he understands the hardships fishermen face. He mentioned too, that legislative action is being considered that will lower the cost of the permit, which will decrease the financial burden on fishermen.
- Guidry said other occupations he has tried do not pay enough.
- Robin said all oyster fishermen are in the same boat. He also reminded Guidry that the Board can make recommendations, but the Secretary of LDWF has final say so.
- Encalade – Motion to recommend permit renewals on all five vessels.
 - Bagala – Seconded
 - MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

VII. Hearing of New Renewal Permit Appeals

1. Timothy Luke (attending)

- Lindsey told the Board that Luke held a 2018 permit on vessel LA7532FM under his name. Permit expired for renewal purposes on December 31, 2019. Luke attempted to renew the permit on or about February 18, 2020. In his appeal, Luke states he forgot to renew his permit. Lindsey added that Luke states in his appeal that he wants to get a single scraper permit instead of a double-scraper, but that that request has no bearing on appeal.
- Jurisic asked Luke for his story.
- Luke said he simply missed renewing it. He apparently did not receive a renewal notice.
- Vujnovich – Motion to recommend permit renewal.
 - Encalade – Seconded
 - Robin said several oyster fishermen did not renew.
 - Jurisic added that not having much of a season last year in itself is a hardship and there will likely not be much of one this year either. He also mentioned the possibility of legislative action being taken to lessen the financial burden on oyster fishermen.
 - MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

2. Dustin Robin (not attending)

- Vujnovich – Motion to defer appeal until the next meeting.
 - Robin – Seconded
 - MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

VIII. Receive public comments

- None received.

IX. Set next meeting date

- Vujnovich – Motion to set next meeting date in conjunction with the next OTF meeting.

- Collins – Seconded
- MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

X. Adjournment

- Vujnovich – Motion to Adjourn
 - Robin – Seconded
 - MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)
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Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:05am; Duration of Meeting: approximately 22 minutes.

Minutes drafted by Ty Lindsey, LDWF Biologist.