**Oyster Task Force Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 1pm**

**2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210**

**New Orleans, LA 70122**

**Voting Members Present:**

Shane Bagala

Tracy Collins

Jakov Jurisic

Mitch Jurisich

Brad Robin

Brandt Lafrance

Al Sunseri

John Tesvich

Sam Slavich

Peter Vujnovich

Willie Daisy

Byron Encalade

**Voting Members Absent:**

Dan Coulon

Leo Dyson

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Mark Schexnayder

Justin Gremillion

Major Chad Hebert

Karl Morgan

Brian Lezina

Motion to approve the September 5, 2017 meeting minutes by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Al Sunseri. Motion carries.

Motion to approve the October 3, 2017 meeting agenda by Mitch Jurisich, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

**Financial Report:**

Oyster Development Account:

Remaining fund balance: $499,155

Budget balance: $292,257

Public Oyster Seed Account:

Remaining fund balance: $2,845,991

Budget balance: $2,074,449

Motion to approve the financial report by Tracy Collins, 2nd by Peter Vujnovich. Motion carries.

**Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee Report:**

Mitch Jurisich addressed the TF with an update from the Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee meeting

The Committee discussed the following at their last meeting:

1. Proposed changes for the oyster moratorium lifting NOI
2. Public leasing grounds east of the MS River
3. Future openings of the public seed grounds throughout the State
4. Public perception and breakdown of the shell budget-
5. Development of RFP guidelines for Breton Sound
6. Time Temperature Matrix- sent to Health Committee
7. Cargo Licensing Issues- sent to the Enforcement Committee

The Committee recommended that WLF develop a relocation program for oyster leases east of the MS River, south of the MRGO that are affected by water diversions and to bring a proposal back to the task force for further discussion

Motion by Jakov Jurisic to accept the recommendation from the Committee to request that WLF develop a relocation program for oyster leases east of the MS River, south of the MRGO that are affected by water diversions and to bring the proposal back to the task force for further discussion 2nd by Tracy Collins

Sam Slavich stated that he would like to see the area from Proper Point to Alligator Point considered in the relocation program (upper portion of Lake Borgne)

John Tesvich suggested carrying out the program one area at a time, but to first consider the area south of the MRGO

Sam Slavich made a substitute motion to accept the recommendation from the Committee to request that WLF develop a relocation program for oyster lease areaseast of the MS River, south of the MRGO *and add the area (west of Lake Borgne) from Proctor Point to Alligator Point* and to bring the proposal back to the task force for further discussion, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion carries unanimously.

The committee recommended implementing the RFP for the area east of the River, south of the MRGO with a 2-year time frame

Change the time-temperature matrix from 1 hour to 5 hours to refrigeration; recommended sending the item to the health committee for further discussion

Mitch Jurisich recommended the TF look into the CPRA response to the lease acquisition program and possibly request more time to provide further documentation and research

Motion to accept the committee report by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

**Enforcement Report:**

Major Chad Hebert addressed the task force with the enforcement report

August 25 – September 21

**Region 5**: (Cameron, Vermilion)

No citations issued.

**Region 6**: (Terrebonne, Lafourche, Grand Isle)

4 – Take oysters from an unapproved area (polluted)

1 – Misbranded or adulterated seafood

4 – Violate sanitation code (logbook)

1 – Violate sanitation code (refrigeration)

2 – Violate sanitary code (waist bucket)

1 – Fail to fill out oyster tags correctly (misrepresenting date of harvest)

3 – Harvest oysters from an improperly marked lease (over staked)

3 – Fail to have proper number on vessel

Seizures (physical and LDWF seizure order)

91 – Sacks of oysters

2 – Vessel

3 – Oyster dredge

**Region 8**: (Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans, St. Tammany)

No citations issued.

Jakov Jurisic made a motion to write a letter to the commission chairman to address the issue of sack size in regards to allowable catch, daily bag limits; to specify volume in various sized sacks, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion carries.

**Legislative Report:**

No report

**Research Report:**

No report

**Coastal Restoration Report:**

No report

**Marketing Report:**

No report

**Health Report:**

No report

**Sustainability Report:**

No report

**Professionalism Report:**

No report

**Aquaculture Report:**

No report

**Joint Task Force Working Group Report:**

No report

The TF along with a rep from the Corp of Engineers (Brad Inman) and a rep from CPRA (Brian Lezina) discussed crevasse control and over flow east of the MS River

Frank Newell, an engineer contracted by Plaquemines Parish for the Bohemia Salinity Control Structure closure project, provided a presentation for the task force of his findings and recommendations regarding crevasse overflow east of the MS River.

Brad Inman from the Corp of Engineers addressed the TF with an update, stating the Corp’s main concern is ship navigation and whether or not the crevasse has an impact. The permit to close the crevasse is currently with DNR

Byron Encalade requested that the Corp of Engineers consider reports from tug boat captains on crevasse pull; asked that the Corp relay the issues of the industry back to operations

Captain George Ricks provided the task force with some aerial video footage of the crevasse

Steve Beck led discussion on the hypoxia issue in the Chandeleur and Breton Sound areas

Common Temperature Matrix agenda item was sent to the Health Committee for further discussion

Julie Falgout led discussion on the 2018 Fisheries Forward Summit

Jakov Jurisic made a motion to provide $5,000 funding for the 2018 Fisheries Forward Summit, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

Brad Robin made a motion to provide up to $10,000 funding for sponsorship for the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference hospitality room, 2nd by Willie Daisy. Motion carries

The Day in the Bay was postponed due to inclement weather, new date to be determined.

Health Committee meeting set for Monday, October 9, 2017 for 1pm in New Orleans

Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee meeting was set for 10am on Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Jakov Jurisic made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Tracy Collins. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 3:08pm