**Oyster Task Force Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 1:00PM**

**2045 Lakeshore Drive, STE 216**

**New Orleans, LA 70122**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Roll Call and introduction of guests**

**Voting Members Present:**

Shane Bagala

Dan Coulon

Jakov Jurisic

Mitch Jurisich

Brad Robin

Brandt Lafrance

Al Sunseri

John Tesvich

Sam Slavich

Willie Daisy

**Voting Members Absent:**

Tracy Collins

Leo Dyson

Byron Encalade

Peter Vujnovich

**Non-voting Members Present:**

Carolina Bourque

Major Edward Skena

Frank Cole in for Karl Morgan

Erin Plitsch in for Brian Lezina

**Non-voting Members Absent:**

Justin Gremillion

**III.** Motion to approve the November 7, 2018 meeting minutes by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Willie Daisy. Motion carries.

**III.** Motion to approve the November 27 meeting agenda by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion carries.

**Treasury Report:**

Remaining fund balance- $332,427

Remaining budget balance- $68,205

The treasury report was unanimously accepted by the board

**V. Committee Reports:**

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

No report

**Enforcement Report:**

Oct. 27-Nov. 19

**Region 4** (Iberia)

None

**Region 5** (Cameron and Vermillion)

None

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

Lafourche:

1 -violate sanitary code (log book)

Terrebonne:

1-violate sanitary code (log book)

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

St. Bernard

6-Criminal-Violate Seed Ground Regulations (Possess over 15 percent non-living material)

3-Warnings-Violate Seed Ground Regulations (Possess over 15 percent non-living material)

3-Crininal-Violate Sanitary Code (Violate Harvester Log Sheet Requirement)

4-Warnings- Take undersized oysters from Natural reef

980 Sacks Seized THIS IS AN APPROXIMATION AS MOST WAS RELATED TO DECK-LOADED OYTERS

Jefferson

1-Criminal - Violate Seed Ground Regulations (Possess over 15 percent non-living material)

1-Warning- Violate Seed Ground Regulations (Possess over 15 percent non-living material)

1-No Seed Ground Permit

1-Violate Sanitation Code (Log Sheet Requirement)

Seizures

15 Full Sacks Seized

1 mini Sack Seized

Lafourche

3-Unlawfully Take Oysters From Private Lease

1-Fail To Have Written Permission

Seizures- 19 Full Sacks

**Legislative Committee Report:**

No report

**Research Committee Report:**

No report

**Coastal Restoration Committee Report:**

No report

**Marketing Committee Report:**

**OTF Marketing Initiatives:**

1. Facebook/ Twitter: start up a social media presence that would begin telling the oyster industry story, discussed the possibility of eventually turning into a larger more comprehensive marketing plan that would include advertising and a website: *awaiting social media management feedback and pricing from Sea Grant for next meeting*
2. Reach out to oyster industry associations and groups to request their participation: Oyster Dealers and Growers Association, Terrebonne Oyster Association, LA Farm Bureau, Plaquemines Oyster Association, Calcasieu Lake Oyster Task Force, Louisiana Oystermen Association, United Commercial Fisherman, Delta Commercial Fisherman’s Association, LA Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, LA Sea Grant, Ed Gallo (Gulf Institute)- *Allison to reach out to these organizations to request their participation at the next meeting*
3. Define Focus/ and messaging/ 10 items: 1. Food and nutrition, 2. Coastal restoration, 3. Culture and heritage, 4. Employment and economic value, 5. Ecological factors- Seek additional items of focus from the Oyster Task Force and other industry steak holders

The subcommittee proposed meeting prior to the next scheduled Oyster Task Force meeting- suggested January 8, 2019 as a date for consideration

**Health Report:**

No report

**Professionalism Report:**

No report- committee plans to continue discussions on the Public Oyster Seed Grounds Vessel Permit Training through the Public-Private Oyster Seed Grounds Committee

**Aquaculture Report:**

John Tesvich announced that the membership list for the Aquaculture Subcommittee was recently approved and asked for those interested in joining to reach out to the Aquaculture Subcommittee chairman, Steve Pollock, at *pollock@triplenoysters.com*

Jason Pitre (AOC farmer)

Boris Guerrero (AOC farmer)

Byron Encalade (OTF)

Brian Callam (Seagrant)

Earl Melancon (Seagrant)

Wayne Keller (GI Port Commissioner)

Brandi Shelley (AOC farmer)

Debbie Arceneaux (AOC farmer)

Michael Roberts (GoFish)

Camille Bourgeois (GoFish alternate)

Tracy Kuhns (GoFish alternate)

**Joint Task Force Working Group Report:**

No report

**VI. New Business**

1. **Carolina Bourque provided an update on the 2018/2019 Oyster Season Harvest**

The oyster season opened on October 29, 2018 across the State, except for closed areas. There was a 1 day bedding season and

CSA-1 N of the MRGO: produced an estimated harvest of 4550 barrels of seed; market oysters are still ongoing, with an estimated harvest of 5700 sacks of market oysters

Hackberry Bay and Little Lake- 1 day bedding season; 877 barrels of seed harvested, the market oyster season ended on November 3 with 186 sacks harvested

Lake Mechant- seed harvest produced an estimated 20 barrels of seed oysters, market oyster harvest still open in the area, harvesting 25 sacks of market oysters

Bay Junop- no seed harvest in this area; 500 sacks of market oysters harvested

Vermillion Bay- no seed oysters harvested in this area; no market oysters harvested

Calcasieu Lake- East Cove- 400 sacks of market oysters harvested

West Cove- 789 sacks of market oysters harvested

1. **Cole Garret provided an update on the oyster lease moratorium lifting NOI-**

The board reviewed and discussed new changes to the final draft of the oyster lease moratorium lifting NOI; the NOI will be presented to the LDWF Commission at the January 2019 meeting

1. **The task force discussed a presentation that was to be presented to the LDWF Commission at the December meeting**

The task force reviewed the oyster industry video and discussed the presentation criteria

**VII. Public Comment:**

**Seafood Industry Convention on Coastal Restoration Slated for January 19, 2019**

The Louisiana Seafood Industry Convention on Coastal Restoration will be held Saturday, January 19, 2019 at the Hilton-New Orleans Airport, 901 Airline Drive, Kenner, Louisiana.

The convention is organized by the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association to help the state’s seafood industry address the impacts of coastal restoration, particularly Mississippi River diversions.  The forum will also attempt to bring Louisiana’s oyster, crab, shrimp and fish industries and trade associations together to discuss important issues, to make business contacts and to socialize. Seafood will be served several ways during a reception following the afternoon session.

Registration is $20 and begins at 8:00 am.  Registration includes seminars, coffee and reception. Lunch will be available for purchase at the Hilton’s Second Line Bar & Grill.

For more information, contact John Tesvich at jtesvich@ameripure.com or 504-912-2750. Convention topics and speakers include:

* **Industry Perspective**-*John Tesvich*- Louisiana Oyster Dealers & Growers Association
* **Canals: Most Louisiana Land loss is Caused by Canals and Restoring Canals is**
* **Successful, Relatively Inexpensive, and Overdue**- *R. Eugene Turner*-Louisiana State University
* **You Can't Make Old Friends - Ideas for Sustaining Louisiana's Salt Marshes***- Chris McLindon*-New Orleans Geological Society
* **Economic Considerations for Coastal Restoration**- *Rex Caffey*-LSU Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy
* **Caveats of Diversions-** *Susan Testroet-Bergeron*- Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
* **Diversions: Lessons Learned?**-*George Ricks* of the Save Louisiana Coalition
* **History of Sediment Diversions and Current NEPA Processing -***Dennis Lambert*- Professional Engineer, Fellow, American Society of Civil Engineer
* **Coastal Fisheries Adaptive Workgroup**- *Robert Twilley,* Louisiana Sea Grant College Program
* **Industry Panel Discussion**

Thomas Hymel announced that the Seafood Processor’s Conference will be held at LSU (4-H Mini Barn Ag Center Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70808) on January 30, 2019 from 8:30am- 3:30pm, tickets can be purchased at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beyond-the-boat-seafood-processing-conference-tickets-49429287329>

**VIII. The next Oyster Task Force meeting was set for ~~Tuesday, January 8, 2018 for 1:00pm in New Orleans~~, Oyster Task Force meeting date was later moved to Wednesday, January 9, 2018 for 1pm in New Orleans due to the rescheduling of the LDWF Commission meeting.**

**IX. Motion to adjourn by Jakov Jurisic, 2nd by Brad Robin. Motion carries.**