

Oyster Task Force meeting minutes
August 5, 2014
UNO Advanced Technology Center New Orleans

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m.

Voting Members Present:

Wilbert Collins
Dan Coulon
Byron Encalade
Buddy Pausina
Brad Robin
Brandt LaFrance
Al Sunseri
John Tesvich
Peter Vujnovich
Willie Daisy

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mark Schexnayder
Gordon Leblanc in for Lance Broussard
Lt. Jason Russo in for Major Sammy Martin
Karl Morgan
Kyle Graham
Chip Kline

Voting Members Absent:

Jakov Jurisic
Shane Bagala
Sam Slavich

Motion by Pete Vujnovich to accept June 3 meeting minutes, second by Wilbert Collins, motion adopted.

Financial report presented, motion to accept financial report by Wilbert Collins, second by Brad Robin. Motion adopted.

Dan Coulon presented the report from the enforcement committee meeting. They recommend that the OTF look into developing a framework for potential legislation requiring VMS for all oyster harvest vessels. Buddy Pausina made a motion to accept their report, second by Peter Vujnovich. Motion adopted.

Randy Pausina reminded the task force that the current VMS funding will expire in 2015.

Ashley Roth mentioned the upcoming congressional staff tour and invited members to participate.

The response letter from DHH regarding overnight harvest and Louisiana's compliance was mailed out in the task force member packets. Gordon LeBlanc said that FDA is coming up with some type of compromise.

Marc Maniscalco addressed the task force and said that 15 year renewals are not able to increase their lease by 10 %, currently they can only increase shore wash area to land, upwards of 250 feet.

Byron Encalade will serve as Peter Vujnovich's alternate on the LDWF/Audubon Sustainability working group.

Rene LeBreton gave an update on the Fisheries Forward/Professionalism Program

George Ricks from the Save Louisiana Coalition addressed the group.

Kyle Graham addressed the group, he will be replacing Jerome Zeringue on the task force. Through the BP criminal settlement, the Department of Justice set aside 1.2 million for barrier islands or diversions, so they have been looking into potential diversions, where it would be located, what potential outcomes may be, etc.

Patrick Banks presented the 2014 stock assessment and 2014 oyster season recommendations:

1N. Primary Public Grounds East of MS River (Sacking only area)- Oct. 27

1S. Primary Public Grounds South of MRGO- Oct. 27

3. Little Lake, Barataria Bay- September 23

5E. Lake Tambour and Deep Lake- September 3

5W. Bay Junop and Lake Mechant- October 27

6. Vermilion/Atchafalaya Bay Area- September 3

6. Calcasieu Lake-West Cove – October 27

Sack Limits- Calcasieu Lake (10 sacks), all other open areas (50 sacks)

Closed- Bay Gardene, Hackberry Bay, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Sister Lake, Calcasieu Lake-Eastside; Sabine Lake, 2011 CA Bay Cultch Plant, 2012 & 2013 Cultch Plants

Motion by Brad Robin to make the opening date for CSA 1 – North, CSA 1 – South and CSA 5W (Bay Junop and Lake Mechant), October 13 rather than October 27th as presented in the departments' recommendations. The LOTF supported the other recommendations presented, including the proposed sacking limits of 50 sacks for CSA 1-6 and 10 sacks in the West Cove area of Calcasieu Lake, and establishing a new sacking-only area in a portion of Mississippi Sound. Shane Bagala offered a second to the motion, motion adopted.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 7 at 1 p.m. in New Orleans.

The enforcement committee discussion on VMS will be moved to the public/private oyster ground committee to take up the issue further and develop a framework. Committee meeting will be before the full task force meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Al Sunseri, second by Brad Robin. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Guests:

Nick Collins-Collins Oyster Company
Steven Voisin- Motivaatit
Matthew Slavich- OLDEB
Larry Marino-CPRA
Karen Stanton-LDWF
Joselyn Takacs-Johns Hopkins Univ.
John Supan- LA Sea Grant/LSU
Ty Lindsey-LDWF
Drue Winters-LDWF
Tyler Ortega- ORD estuaries
Raymond Impastato-LDWF
Marc Maniscalco-LDWF
Chris Schieble-LDWF
Jeff Marx-LDWF
Karen Profita-LSPMB
Francis Ernst- Oyster Lease Owner
Mark Naquin- Mark's oysters
Taylor Naquin- Mark's oysters
Christopher Lemaire- DHH
Dale Chaisson- D&C Seafood
Tom Soniat-UNO

Martin Bourgeois- LDWF
Clarence Luquet-LDWF
George Cavignac- St. Bernard Parish
Kerri Lubrano- Save Louisiana Coalition
Earl Melancon- Nicholls State
Bush Benton- Stegall, Benton and Assoc.
Lisa Manda-LSPMB
Edward Seyler- Legislative Auditor
Misty Perry- Legislative Auditor
Irina Hampton- Legislative Auditor
Gina Brown- Legislative Auditor
Lawrence Chaisson- Lawrence's oyster
Dr. Ronald Kilgen- Kilgen Environmental
Troy Voisin- Save Louisiana Coalition
Corey Miller- Coalition to Restore Coastal LA
Ray Garofalo- La House of Reps
Michael Harden- LDWF
Adam Waller- The Oyster Bed LLC.
Tommy Waller- The Oyster Bed LLC
Randy Pausina- LDWF