

8/14/14

MINUTES OF
MISSISSIPPI GULF FISHING BANKS, INC.
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

July 10, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President	Darlene West,
Secretary	
Alva Bennett	Derrick
Charbonnet	
Kenny Barhonovich	Jay Trochesset
Mark Miller	Steve Mullins, Esquire
David Andrews	J.R. Titmus
Tim Knighten	Craig Gusa

The meeting of July 14th, 2014 was called to order by Ralph Humphrey, President.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Copies of the financial statement were distributed and reviewed by the members. A motion was made to accept the financial statement as is by Kenny Barhanovich. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

MINUTES

Copies of the minutes were distributed and reviewed by the members. A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes by David Andrews. The motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

EVAsystems

Derrick Charbonnet stated that Penny wanted us to cancel the check and then reapply for the work that's already done through the university with our nonprofit status. Mark Miller said he mentioned to Penny about the dumping that Omega Protein was doing and that he was aware of a current lawsuit by the state of Virginia. Mr. Miller said he was told they were supposed to be ten miles past the island and he knew they definitely were not abiding by that rule. Mr. Charbonnet said they were supposed to be dumping just simply fish waste but that in Virginia they had cleaning fluids and some solvents and other stuff they were dumping

with it. Mr. Charbonnet said if we can find out what they might actually be putting in it that Penny could go back and look at the data and sees if it shows up. Mr. Miller said he was going to try to get a sample but that hadn't happened yet.

STIMULUS MONEY

Ralph Humphrey informed the group that our entire discussion at the last meeting when Andrew Hinkebein was present made it to Jamie Miller's office. Mr. Humphrey said he is still in the process of putting a letter together to talk to them but that they are aware of our concerns. Mr. Humphrey stated that he put together and submitted before the end of the month the title and grant applications for a total of \$100,000 for two different projects. One was spotter boat activity, and one was the reef monitoring activity. Mr. Humphrey said he was told to submit them the way they are and that they could be amended later.

Kenny Barhanovich asked what happened to the federal money set aside for the artificial reef program. Mr. Humphrey said that deployments were supposed to start in July but were put on temporary hold. Mr. Humphrey stated that bids were put out and had already been reviewed and proposals accepted and then for some reason they were put on hold.

Mr. Humphrey stated we still needed to come together and figure out how we're going to write up some kind of proposal for the project that Jay is working on with the State with the BP money. Mr. Humphrey said we still have time but that a professional proposal would be our best bet.

FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT AND CROWD SOURCING

Ralph Humphrey said he is still looking into the information regarding crowd sourcing and fundraising. So this will be tabled until the next meeting.

T-SHIRT SALES

Darlene West informed the group that the T-shirts were ordered and would be made available at the next meeting.

MAKING REEFS - FAD Building Proposal

Mark Miller submitted a proposal to the group. He discussed different ideas for building and securing the FADs. He said he was still experimenting with different ideas. A copy of the proposal for \$964.30 is

included in the Minutes. Derrick Charbonnet made a motion to put up \$1000 for the project. Tim Knighten seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

SNAPPER SEASON

Jay Trochesset said he was told that the DMR was going to do a season each month through October, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Mr. Trochesset said that the result of this is that the federal season for the next two years will probably not happen. Mr. Trochesset stated he was told that the State was going to let us in another month or two fish FH13 but that if you fished in federal waters you could be ticketed. Mr. Trochesset also told the group when he came in WXXV interviewed him and showed him a press release that Senator Cochran had filed a bill in congress to let Mississippi have nine miles. Mr. Trochesset said the problem with that is that the bill was carte blanche and that the federal government is not going to let anybody have nine miles with all the mineral rights. Mr. Humphrey said at least it was a step in the right direction.

CHARGING FEES FOR DUMPING ON MGFB SITES

Ralph Humphrey reiterated to the group that he has not wrote the letter to the DMR yet regarding charges for deployment on our reef sites and that he wants to wait a bit before he does that.

JACKSON COUNTY FUNDING

Ralph Humphrey informed the group that he has not yet wrote a letter to Jackson County about possible funding but that he would do that.

68 FOOT STEEL HULL BOAT

Tim Knighten said he talked to David about the boat and the deal is that we're going to have to pull the engine and gears out of it and clean it up. Mr. Knighten said long story short, hurricane season is coming up and David didn't want to get caught with the boat sitting down there. Mr. Knighten said he talked to him last night and he said we can have the boat for \$5000, we'll pull the engine out of it for David to keep. Mr. Knighten said that David had already cleaned the fuel tanks and degreased them, that there is only one tank with less than 200 gallons of fuel and that there's not that much to do to clean the boat up. Mr. Knighten told the group that David said if we wanted to leave the outriggers on it that he'd leave the blocks. Mr. Knighten stated he was

thinking of the first week of August getting volunteers together and pulling the engines out.

Ralph Humphrey said we need to keep in mind we're still capped at \$15,000 for the whole thing. Mark Miller said he had an informal quote with Brandon Bosarge for five or six thousand dollars to sink it. Mr. Humphrey stated we needed to find out exactly what it was going to cost to get it deployed, the engines pulled, etc., and make sure we don't exceed the \$15,000 allotted. Mr. Knighten said he thought we ought to write a check for \$5000 to David Gregory and draw up a bill of sale. It was discussed how to handle the title. Mark Miller said we have never taken titles on vessels and he didn't think we should on this one. Kenny Barhanovich said we ought to have a package deal for pulling the engine, etc. Mark Miller said he would talk with Bosarge and maybe he could get him to work out a package deal and try to have the information by the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

LAWSUIT

Kenny Barhanovich introduced Attorney Steve Mullins, Luckey & Mullins in Ocean Springs, to talk to the group about MGFB filing a lawsuit and suing the Gulf Council. Mr. Mullins discussed with the group his knowledge and experience on the subject and also talked about pursuing legal action. Ralph Humphrey asked Mr. Mullins how we should proceed. Mr. Mullins stated he needed to get permission from MGFB that will allow him to explore on our behalf the possibility of working together with other groups for the purpose of pursuing litigation. Mr. Mullins said we needed to look into starting the formation of a coalition so we can let everyone know that there is a lawsuit coming.

Kenny Barhanovich made a motion that would give Mr. Mullins authority on behalf of the MGFB to explore the possibility of filing a lawsuit and see who else out there might also want to join for litigation. Jay Trochesset seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

DIVE REPORT

Mark Miller presented his dive report to the members. A copy was submitted for the minutes.

GCRL MEETING

Ralph Humphrey told the group he talked to Reed Hendon at a meeting at GCRL and found out that they were going to start doing some water surveys. Mr. Humphrey said they are going to deploy some data loggers throughout the Gulf to test chemicals and all kinds of different things. Mr. Humphrey said they need to contract with divers to deploy the data loggers and they have asked if the MGFB would be interested in contracting the work out. Mr. Humphrey stated they have a fairly significant amount of money that they're willing to pay to do this and then, of course, MGFB would have to subcontract this work back out. Mr. Humphrey said that the data loggers have to be checked every two months.

Kenny Barhanovich asked if we contracted the work what would our liability be on the project. Steve Mullins said if we take the contract we need to get a release from liability in our contract. Different ideas were discussed regarding the diving contract.

Kenny Barhanovich made a motion for the MGFB to move forward with the project providing whoever does the diving accepts their own responsibility. Craig Gusa seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion was carried. Mr. Humphrey said he would contact Mr. Hendon about the contract and also see if he couldn't get him to up the amount a little bit.

MIKE JENNER MEMORIAL REEF

David Andrews said they were doing reefs over in Florida and they took a 4X8 sheet of stainless steel or maybe smaller and took a plasma cutter to use as a memorial. Mr. Andrews said it looked good and we should keep it in mind if we ever do another memorial.

LEE TRAHAN

Alva Bennett told the group that Lee Trahan was out on Horn Island, scraped his leg on a canvas boat cover and got bacteria and was admitted to the hospital. Mr. Bennett said his condition was serious but that he was doing good now and was eventually going to have to have grafts.

COUNCIL MEETING IN KEY WEST

Tim Knighten said at the council meeting last week in Key West they proposed share catches between charter boats and recreation at a 53/47

split. Kenny Barhanovich said it will never pass. Mr. Knighten said he heard they were moving forward with it with the charter boat at 53 percent and recreational people at 47. Jay Trochesset said that's over and above the quota. Steve Mullins said that's good because that will definitely end up in litigation

Motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary