

4/13/17

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

March 9th, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President
Tim Knighten, Vice President
Todd Lloyd
Tom Becker
Robert Fishman
Mark Miller
Scott Milroy
Patric Harper
Kara Lankford

Darlene West, Secretary
Alva Bennett, Treasurer
David Andrews
F.J. Eicke
Emily Saterfield
Calvin Norowski
Gene Macoy
Marty McGrath
Robert Smith

The meeting of March 9th, 2017 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 David Andrews. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

MINUTES

Copies of the minutes were distributed and reviewed by the members. A motion was made to accept the minutes as is by Alva Bennett. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

STIMULUS MONEY

Robert Smith informed the group he has spent some time outlining an approach for applying for stimulus money that has a reasonable chance of getting funded. Mr. Smith said we really need to be focusing on Natural Resource Damage Assessment monies, rather than restore monies, and we also need to be focusing

on tourism, recreation and economic development, rather than habitat quality. Mr. Smith said we're taking the current proposal that's in the restore portal and reworking it to focus heavily on economic development and recreational tourism support. Mr. Smith talked to the group about the type of grant request that they hope to submit, the monitoring requirements and all the particulars involved in applying, receiving and spending the proposed grant monies.

Kara Lankford, Interim Director, Gulf Restoration Program, Ocean Conservancy, was present for the meeting and gave a presentation to the members of some of the funding sources that were born out of the BP oil disaster.

FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT AND CROWD SOURCING

The GoFundMe account is still at \$830.

CHANGING BYLAWS

Darlene West informed the members that she has not yet received the Charity Registration Certificate from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office. Ms. West sent an email to the SOS inquiring about the certificate and also asking about filing the new bylaws but hasn't gotten a response yet.

USM CONTRACT

Ralph Humphrey informed the members the USM contract for last year is done and we have received the last payment. Scott Milroy said they're ramping up for the new contract to begin probably in mid April and the project is tied to the red snapper and reef fish stock assessment and would run on a monthly basis from about mid April to early October or so. Dr. Milroy said he's getting the sensors put together and calibrated and ready put out and once they're in place they will be swapped every six to eight weeks. Dr. Milroy stated next month he'll come to the meeting and be able to provide an update of the data from 2016. Dr. Milroy also informed the group he's very hopeful and confident that they'll be able to renew the contract for another three years on top of what we've got.

SOUTH OF SQUASH CHANNEL

Kenny Barhanovich had mentioned at a previous meeting that they fish a lot in the spring and that we need to put something south of Squash Channel, like a barge or something around FH14. Ralph Humphrey said we would keep this open.

FUNDRAISING WITH FADS, ETC.

Ralph Humphrey gave the following background on this situation. Mr. Humphrey reached out to the Corps last summer. The permits actually expire on 3/18/17. Mr. Humphrey has been in contact with Philip Hegji at the Corps of Engineers. The Corps has still not hammered out how they want the permits to read. However, on each of the permits, the third paragraph from the end, it talks about if you've got projects in the works that these permits are good for twelve more months. Mr. Hegji said the way they're interpreting that to mean is even if you're thinking about projects MGFB is covered for twelve more months, or until March 2018, and don't sweat it and just keeping working status quo. Mr. Humphrey said Jimmy Sanders was concerned because they're getting ready to do something with the Lee Street materials, but we're covered. The Corps sent us an email conveying this information, and Mr. Humphrey wants the email printed and made a part of the minutes. Mr. Hegji also said they're trying to come up with ten-year permits instead of five-year permits.

DMR FREE MATERIAL

Jimmy Sanders was not present for the meeting. Emily Saterfield informed the group that they had a site visit last week on the Lee Street material and they're in the process of receiving bids. Ms. Saterfield said the material could potentially go out two months from now to FH1, FH2 or FH13.

TWO VESSELS TO DONATE

David Andrews said we're still where we were and maybe now that Ralph Humphrey has finished skiing they can meet with these fellows. Mr. Andrews and Mr. Humphrey will get together and make plans to pursue this project.

NEW ORLEANS BARGE TO DONATE

Jimmy Sanders wasn't present for the meeting. Mr. Humphrey said we'll carry this topic over until Jimmy decides to come to a meeting.

ROBERTS MATERIAL

Mark Miller said this is the stuff that NOAA's got. Mr. Miller said he hasn't heard anything else about it. Emily Saterfield informed the group that Jimmy Sanders hasn't heard anything else on this material.

CHEVRON PIPE

Mark Miller said he hasn't heard anything on this project either. Mr. Miller said these type of projects move slow. Background on the project is as follows: Mark Miller got a call from Rob Montgomery at Chevron and he says they've got some material. It's a big piece of pipe, 50 feet in diameter, 20 feet tall, stainless steel with concrete around it, 117,000 pounds. Mr. Miller said we'd probably have to find a contractor and if it's too big it might have to be cut up. Mr. Miller said he told him we were interested and he would keep the Board informed with emails and let us know what's going on with it.

CCA CAT ISLAND REEF

F.J. Eicke told the group that the Cat Island deployment was successful. Mr. Eicke passed around pictures of the deployment and a copy of the news release. Emily Saterfield said the deployment went off without a hitch and they deployed to four separate sites in a horseshoe pattern.

Mr. Eicke said he did have a concern that some of these recreational reefs were being tonged by commercial oyster harvesters. There was some discussion by the members on this topic.

NEW BUSINESS

DERELICT VESSEL PROGRAM VESSEL

David Andrews said Jimmy Taylor found this vessel. Jimmy Taylor was not present for the meeting. This is a vessel from the Derelict Vessel Program that Johnny Gill picked up. It's a 30 plus foot big steel sailboat. It's been underwater. It's full of oysters and barnacles. Johnny Gill was going to sell the scrap steel, but it wasn't worth it. So he's going to donate it to us. Mr. Andrews told Mr. Gill he's sure there's a few in the group that would clean it and tow it out, but Mr. Gill said he'd do all that. The vessel is over in Gulfport at Kennedy's. Mr. Gill said the group needs to let him know where to put it and if we need to get Mark Miller to monitor it. Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. Andrews to go with him to look at the vessel next week.

BILOXI BELLE

Mr. Andrews said David Walters from Alabama has the old Biloxi Belle, a 260 foot paddle wheel, and Mr. Walters wants to sell it for 1 million dollars. This was

discussed by the group and decided we don't quite have the budget for this vessel.

70 FOOT STEEL HULL VESSEL

Tim Knighten asked the group what MGF B would be willing to pay for a 70 foot steel hull to go sink. David Andrews said since we have a free one right here it'd be hard to negotiate that right now. Mr. Knighten said he was just throwing it out there to find out if the group would be interested in it. Mark Miller said we need more information and a number to work with.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary