

10/10/13

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

September 12, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President
Darlene West, Secretary
J.R. Titmus
Craig Gusa
Mark Miller
Will Ladnier
Jimmy Sanders
Paul Miller
Nadine Sekul

Alva Bennett, Treasurer
Doug Peter
Keith Goodfellow
Tim Knighten
Greg Byrd
Alex Fogg
Tom Becker
Austin Powell
Omar Vasquez

The meeting of September 10th, 2013 was called to order by Ralph Humphrey, President.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Copies of the financial statement were distributed and reviewed by the members. Mr. Humphrey asked that the Secretary, Darlene West, explain to the members why MGFB's account was still being charged a service charge by the bank even though the account was nonprofit. Ms. West explained that the bank admitted that the service charge was an error and it would be refunded back into the account on the next statement.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Greg Byrd to dispense with the reading of the minutes from September. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

EVA systems

Ralph Humphrey noted that Derrick Charbonnet was not present at the meeting. Mark Miller stated that he had not heard anything new. Mr. Humphrey said we would just wait till next month and hopefully have more information.

ASSESSMENT OF SNAPPER SEASON

Ralph Humphrey asked if anyone had heard anything new about snapper season opening up in October. Alex Fogg said they are looking at a fourteen day season in October. Captain Tom Becker said they are still reviewing the data and it has not been finalized yet.

LEASE RENEWALS

Ralph Humphrey said all the lease renewals are done. The MGFB's federal permits are good until March of 2017 and the state permits are good until 2018. Mr. Humphrey stated the MGFB has turned over to the State the Square Handkerchief Reef and the Cat Island Reef, so the only reefs we are now responsible for are FH1-FH14. Mr. Humphrey stated that Mark Miller will be in possession of the lease paperwork.

STIMULUS MONEY

Ralph Humphrey noted that Jay Trochesset was not present for the meeting. We will wait till next month for an update.

IDLE IRON

Mr. Humphrey asked Mark Miller about the status on idle iron. Mark Miller said we have a guest present at the meeting, Mr. Doug Peter, who is with BSEE. Mr. Peter introduced himself and explained what he did with BSEE and how he helps to coordinate different agencies and materials. Mr. Peter said he has a presentation to present to the group. Mr. Humphrey said we would hear the presentation under new business.

LIONFISH BOUNTY

Ralph Humphrey said that the Lionfish bounty had been a great success and that he had received an email from Alex Fogg earlier in the week looking to do it again. Mr. Fogg said he had a couple of things to bring up to the group. Mr. Humphrey said we would discuss that under new business.

INVITATIONAL DINNER AND DRAWDOWN

Ralph Humphrey informed everyone that the Drawdown was still on track for April 26, 2014. Mr. Humphrey said that he had a discussion with Nadine regarding the Invitational Dinner. Mr. Humphrey stated there was too much work to be done and too little time so the Invitational Dinner would be postponed until a later date. Nadine Sekul said that because the dinner was so important we didn't need to rush into anything but that we needed to really spiff up our image and redo the MGFB logo. Ms.

Sekul said she really liked the logo with the ship's wheel. Mr. Humphrey said it was the logo for the new T-shirts, a ship's wheel with a snapper in the middle.

Ms. Sekul said the graphic designer agreed to redo the logo and do the invitations for \$950. Ms. Sekul said she would submit the actual estimate to Mr. Humphrey. Ms. Sekul stated we needed a good power point presentation and also a high-profile speaker. Different speaker options, including the Cousteaus, were discussed. Will Ladnier said he still has the power point presentation and that he and Greg would be happy to work on that. Mr. Ladnier said he believed to get the money flowing we needed to create exciting publicity type projects and get them at a bargain.

Mr. Humphrey said he believed that our biggest challenge was funding and that we needed to generate buzz and take our organization to the next level. Tim Knighten said he agreed we needed funding and we needed more exposure and that he thought we needed to put everything on paper and try to drum up ideas and pay attention to our limited finances and be wise in our choices. Ms. Sekul said we also need to focus on trying to get our annual corporate sponsors. Mark Miller stated he believed the Drawdown would be a good mechanism to get things rolling. Mr. Miller also put out suggestions for renaming the Drawdown, maybe even possibly calling it Fish Fest. After some discussion, it was decided to leave it as a drawdown.

Paul Miller suggested using BP or another oil company to help rebuild the reefs for publicity. Mr. Humphrey said he contacted BP a couple of weeks after the spill and talked with someone for several months and that he hasn't heard from her in over two years. Mr. Humphrey said he can reach back out to BP again and see if they're willing to participate.

Ralph Humphrey noted that there are several suggestions on the floor and motions needed to be made to proceed. First, Nadine has a professional graphic artist that can modify the logo. Mark Miller made a motion to authorize up to \$500 to update our logo and have it done professionally. Greg Byrd seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

Mr. Humphrey stated the second point of discussion is about our Invitational Dinner. Nadine proposed that we have the dinner the same

weekend as we do the Drawdown. Mr. Humphrey said he liked the idea but that logistically it was a lot to accomplish on one weekend. Mark Miller said he thought it was too big a project for one weekend. Mr. Humphrey said maybe in the future we could combine the two projects but for now we should focus on the Drawdown. It was agreed the Invitational Dinner would be later in the year in 2014.

NEW BUSINESS

BSEE PRESENTATION

Doug Peters with BSEE did a presentation for the group on what BSEE does and can do for different organizations as far as permitting of placement and eventual removal of structures offshore.

DIVE REPORT

Mark Miller presented his dive report to the members. This dive trip was made in response to a letter by Lance Roddy of NOAA to follow up and verify height clearances on several sites. A copy was submitted for the minutes.

PYRAMIDS

Jimmy Sanders reported that the DMR contacted some people and they will have twenty-six pyramids within the next week or two. Mr. Sanders said he was talking to Mark and since there were only twenty-six of them they wanted to do two separate deployments, thirteen and thirteen, and have a bigger area to fish. Mr. Sanders said he was thinking on the upper end of 13.

LIONFISH

Alex Fogg brought in prints of the Lionfish T-shirts for the members to peruse. He should have some T-shirts for the next meeting.

Mr. Fogg said there is a grant proposal going in with the university that needs a nonprofit reef organization to partner on trying to do some Lionfish research in Mississippi waters. The role of the reef organization would be just to monitor the reefs and to collect live Lionfish if they are seen. The reef organization would be compensated for their work, and the budget is ten thousand dollars right now.

The proposal would be put in in the next month or so. Mr. Fogg said the only thing needed now is a letter of support. Mr. Fogg also stated they

would draft up a letter of support if the MGFB would be interested in participating in this project. Mr. Humphrey said the MGFB would be interested in the project.

Mr. Fogg also said that the last bounty was an extreme success. Mr. Fogg asked the members if MGFB would be interested in putting up another bounty, same criteria as before, except for maybe \$5 a fish instead of the \$10 from before. Mark Miller made a motion to give the Lionfish bounty \$1000 and have \$5 a fish. Greg Byrd seconded the motion. The motion was carried upon vote. At the end of the meeting, a check was written by the secretary to the Gulf Coast Research Lab for \$1000.

WILL LADNIER'S BUOY

Will Ladnier showed the group a picture of a buoy that has been on the east end of Horn Island. Mr. Ladnier was asked by the park service to remove the buoy. Mr. Ladnier says he believes it would make a good reef and he could take it out and put it out on a reef for \$4500. Paul Miller made a motion to purchase the buoy and place it on FH13. The motion was seconded. After discussion, the group decided to table the project for now and revisit it at a future date.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary