

2/09/17

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

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President

David Andrews

Mark Miller

Keith Goodfellow

Robert Fishman

Brian Bounds

Jay Trochesset

Jimmy Sanders

Glenn Campjohn

Austin Fox

Todd Cospelich

Todd Loyd

Marty Wilson

Darlene West, Secretary

Alva Bennett

Jerry Atkinson

Lee Trahan

Bob Brown

Tom Becker

Kenny Barhanovich

Marcus McDavid

Tim Shivers

Jason Jones

Lori Cospelich

Gene McCoy

Ronnie Blacklidge

The meeting of January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 was called to order by Ralph Humphrey, President.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Copies of the financial statement were distributed and reviewed by the members. Darlene West brought to the attention of the members the payment deposited to the MGFB account for USM invoices totaling \$10,100.00 and also the \$820.00 that was collected from the fall banquet. Ms. West also explained to the members that the \$53.14 disbursement on the December statement made payable to Ms. West was a reimbursement for the filing fee for the MGFB charity registration with the Secretary of State. Everything was done electronically this year. The payment had to be made through the computer, and Ms. West didn't want to put the MGFB's checking account information online. A motion was made to accept the financial statement as is by Tom Becker. 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 David Andrews. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

## STIMULUS MONEY

Ralph Humphrey explained that he got an email from Robert Smith a couple of days ago and Mr. Smith requested a meeting in two weeks to discuss what's going on with his organization, Wildlife Mississippi. Wildlife Mississippi, specifically, Robert Smith, is writing a grant application on behalf of MGF B with the idea that they would partner with us and assume a lot of the responsibilities of administering and then get paid for their contributions.

Mr. Humphrey on November 15<sup>th</sup> attended the Restoration Summit at the coliseum and sat through a two-hour briefing that talked about oversight of the money that was going to be disbursed and when you get money what's going to be expected of you and how you're going to manage these funds. Mr. Humphrey said it would be a full-time job just to administer these funds, to document the stuff that has to be documented, to file the reports, to meet all the deadlines, et cetera, just so we wouldn't get in trouble with any monies bestowed upon us. And that's where Mr. Smith's organization comes in. Mr. Humphrey also said it was recommended we ask for 10 million dollars and look at the big picture.

Mr. Humphrey said a couple of days later he had a meeting with the Payne Group and Johnny Marquez, who is now with the Payne Group, and a professional grant writer. Mr. Humphrey said they had a long meeting over lunch and they are going to put together a document for us. Right now, they're fleshing it out. When he has something more concrete, he'll bring it back to the group.

## FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT AND CROWD SOURCING

Ralph Humphrey said the GoFundMe account is still at \$830.

## CHANGING BYLAWS

Ralph Humphrey gave the following background for members on the bylaws. We've had multiple meeting and multiple discussions about the bylaws and hammered the bylaws out. They are done. Tim Knighten said he wanted to go

into more detail about the responsibilities of the Board of Directors and Officers. That's the only thing we have left to discuss concerning the bylaws. Mr. Humphrey went online and found a pretty good template for nonprofit Board of Directors' and Officers' duties and tailored it to fit MGFB. The group looked over and discussed the responsibilities.

David Andrews made a motion to accept the detailed responsibilities of the board and officers and incorporate them into our revised Constitution. Jay Trocheset seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion was carried. Mr. Humphrey asked Darlene West to type up the changes and to bring her notary stamp to the next meeting so we can notarize the revised Constitution.

#### USM CONTRACT

Mark Miller said as of now the USM contract is done. Ms. West said she billed \$3900 in November before the meeting, which was the final billing on the contract. Mr. Humphrey asked Ms. West to send an email to Scott Milroy to check the status on the invoice.

Robert Fishman asked if the contract was going to be continued. Mark Miller said that Mr. Milroy wants to pursue it but he doesn't know what the status is and maybe we can send an email to request that information, also. Mr. Humphrey said he did receive Mr. Milroy's report and maybe in the next couple of months we can talk Mr. Milroy into coming back and just giving us a thumbnail sketch of his findings.

#### 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 said he was reviewing his notes and realized he hadn't actually heard from or called Allison Monroe. He did exchange some emails because she wanted something in writing. Mr. Humphrey said he did get back something in writing from Phillip Hegeji with the Corps of Engineers in Mobile. So they're

working on it. Mr. Humphrey said our permits expire in two months. Mr. Humphrey said tomorrow he plans on calling the Corps and following up on this.

Mark Miller said he thinks there are two things we should keep strongly in mind when Mr. Humphrey talks to them. One is FADS, which is a big part of what we want to do in the future. And the other would be privatization of some of the reefs where we don't have to release numbers to the general public. Mr. Humphrey asked Jimmy Sanders what he thought about the privatization. Mr. Sanders said he would have to talk to legal but that he doesn't see anything wrong with that as long as it follows the guidelines of the artificial reef program with the clean material and the permits. Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. Sanders if he could follow up on that for us.

#### DMR FREE MATERIAL

Jimmy Sanders said the MOA was signed last week and after meeting with the purchasing people two days ago it looks like the soonest date to deploy would be in April. Mr. Sanders said they're looking at deploying it on 1, 2 and 13, probably more on 13.

#### TWO VESSELS TO DONATE

Ralph Humphrey noted that Jimmy Taylor was not present for the meeting and he hasn't heard anything new about the vessels. One was aluminum, and one was steel. We can deploy aluminum. Mr. Humphrey said if it happens that'll be great. David Andrews said we need a couple of people to meet with Jimmy Taylor one morning and get some more information. Mr. Andrews said that Mr. Taylor has breakfast with the guy most mornings. Mr. Andrews will call Mr. Humphrey if he can set something up.

#### FALL BANQUET

Ralph Humphrey mentioned that the Fall Banquet was last November, the beer was cold, the fish was good and it was a good time.

#### SNAPPER REPORT

Carly Somerset was not present for the meeting. Jay Trochesset said one of his sons just got back from 3 days at the Gulf Council meeting and the Gulf Council says the recreational people didn't report all their findings so next year there's

going to be a drastic reduction in snapper landings. Mr. Trochesset said it was a little disheartening. Mr. Humphrey said but not surprising.

#### NEW ORLEANS BARGE TO DONATE

Jimmy Sanders said he has been in contact with the guy. Mr. Sanders said this gentleman wanted to have this barge deployed by the end of the year but that they never could meet and it never happened. Mr. Sanders said he reached out to see if it was still available and he's waiting to hear back.

#### ROBERTS MATERIAL

Mark Miller said he didn't have an update and asked Jimmy Sanders if he ever got with him. Mr. Sanders said the gentleman never emailed him or called him. Mr. Miller said they're government and move slow. Mr. Humphrey said he would keep it open.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### DIVE REPORT

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

#### CHEVRON PIPE

Mark Miller said he did get 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.

#### BOB BROWN AND DEEP WATER MAFIA LIONFISH PROJECT

Bob Brown, the President of Deep Water Mafia, and some invested members had brought some Lionfish for the members to taste. It was commented by Marty Wilson that "they clean and eat just like baby grouper." Deep Water Mafia has three goals: 1) Enhance people into underwater adventure. 2) Reduce the number of Lionfish. 3) Environmental, which they're still developing. Mr. Brown talked to the members about Deep Water Mafia and its goal to drastically reduce

the number of Lionfish in our waters. Lionfish have no known predators, and all they do is eat and breed.

Mr. Brown said they would like to request financial support from the MGFB with the Croaker Classic coming up this year in the Lionfish division to help reduce our number of Lionfish and encourage the harvesting of Lionfish. There is a spear fishing division in the tournament. The tournament is the second weekend in July. Mr. Brown suggested some type of bounty. Also Marty Wilson talked to the group about MGFB contributing prize money to the Croaker Classic and having a MGFB Award. Last year, their prize money was \$500 and 28 divers brought in 218 Lionfish. Mr. Wilson said he would like to get the Lionfish up to \$5000.

David Andrews made the following motion. Give Deep Water Mafia \$1500 in an escrow account. As the fish are brought in, the money is divvied. Bob Brown with Deep Water Mafia would be responsible for monitoring monies donated. Give Marty Wilson \$1500 for the Croaker Classic. Mr. Wilson will tell us how he's going to spend it, but it's got to be for this species of fish. Jay Trochesset seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darlene West informed the group that we needed to hold our election for officers and directors. Ms. West said the election should have been in November but we got so involved in the fall banquet that we forgot about the elections. It was suggested by several members to hold off and have the elections at the February meeting. Mark Miller said we might want to wait until we hear something from Tim Knighten because he may not be able to serve as Vice President. Ralph Humphrey said he would not be present for the February meeting, but if the group wanted him to remain president, he was willing to serve. David Andrews made the motion to wait until February for the elections. Kenny Barhanovich seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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President

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Secretary