

7/11/13

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

June 13, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President
Darlene West, Secretary
J.R. Titmus
David Andrews
Tim Knighten
Nadine Sekul
Jacquet
Mark Miller

Alva Bennett, Treasurer
Bob Krista
Rob Murphy
Porfi Stokes
Mark Lyons
Omar Vasquez
Greg Byrd

The meeting of June 13, 2013 was called to order by Ralph Humphrey, President.

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Copies of the financial statement were distributed and reviewed by the members. Darlene West brought information regarding different checking options for the members to review. After discussion, it was decided to go with the Non-Profit checking account. Ralph Humphrey stated that he and Darlene West would meet at the bank to fill out paperwork to switch the checking account to the Non-Profit. Ralph Humphrey also stated that at that time Porfi Stokes would be removed from the checking account and Darlene West would be added.

EVA systems

Ralph Humphrey stated that since Derrick Charbonnet was not present at the meeting we would wait until next month for an update.

ASSESSMENT OF SNAPPER SEASON

Ralph Humphrey said that snapper season is open and he believed that it was shortened. Mark Miller said there was a court decision and everybody is 28 days. Tim Knighten added that there was a possibility of getting a fall season.

BOAT SHOW

Ralph Humphrey stated that we squared up with J.R. Titmus and MGFB appreciated him and Bob Krista's work on the boat show.

MR. GUS BARGE IN PASCAGOULA BAY

Mark Miller reported that he has no information on the Gus. Mr. Miller stated nothing has really happened since the last meeting. Mr. Miller said he would try to make a point to send an email and check on the status. Mr. Miller stated he's not sure what to tell them because we don't have a site to put it now. Ralph Humphrey said he would touch base on that under new business.

THANK YOU GIFT FOR PORFI STOKES

Ralph Humphrey called Porfi Stokes up to the front of the meeting and presented her with wine glasses, a plaque and a gift certificate and expressed his appreciation for her many years of service to the MGFB.

NEW MATERIAL

Ralph Humphrey stated that he had a meeting with Jimmy Taylor and Jamie Miller last month and as a result of that meeting he had a follow-up meeting with Willa Brantly and Maryellen Farmer and Jimmy Saunders. Mr. Humphrey stated the reason we don't have the permits is because the Corps can't find them, they misplaced them. Mr. Humphrey said we have the renewal applications to continue disposing stuff out there on the permitted sites. All the permits are expired. They all expired both for the state and for the federal permits. Mr. Humphrey stated the DMR has made a decision to step away from MGFB until everything is resolved. As a result, Mr. Humphrey said he was going to renew the permits on behalf of the MGFB and as soon as we get that done we can start deploying again.

Tim Knighten said we really needed to look toward doing some fundraising. Mr. Knighten stated that Alabama and Pensacola have really

been aggressive with their reef building and we needed to make the effort and work toward that goal.

Omar Vasquez stated that one of the reasons why he asked Nadine Sekul to the meeting is because she's been in marketing and is a business owner and she also promotes events. Mr. Vasquez agreed that we needed to be more aggressive in our approach and that we needed to make people more aware of what is happening in our waters and perhaps use the oil rig removal to increase awareness. Ralph Humphrey agreed and also brought up perhaps having the drawdown. Nadine Sekul suggested possibly partnering with CCA for an event. Mr. Humphrey said that Johnny Marquez has been to several meetings and that he was quite confident that CCA wouldn't object to sharing in a drawdown with us.

Mr. Humphrey asked Greg about the vessel with Mississippi Chemical. Greg Byrd said he can't get a response back on that and said he'd call it a dead issue unless they bring it back up.

Tim Knighten asked Mr. Humphrey if he knew if the DMR was going to have a reef building program or a department since they didn't have any permits. Mr. Humphrey said that, yes, they are and they have a staging site on Seaway that's covered up with stuff. Mr. Humphrey also stated that DMR would have to get a whole lot more involved with us because we hold not only the permits but the right to deploy.

Mark Miller brought up again what reefs we retained control of. Mr. Humphrey stated FH1 through 14 and Cat Island. Mr. Miller said he thought we decided to keep all the FH designations and get rid of Square Handkerchief and Cat Island. Mr. Humphrey said when he talked to Willa again he would talk to her about giving them Cat Island as well.

STIMULUS MONEY

Mr. Humphrey stated that he had hoped to talk to Jay Trocheset about stimulus money but that Mr. Trocheset was not present for the meeting.

IDLE IRON

Mr. Humphrey asked Mark Miller if he had anything on the idle iron. Mr. Miller said he got with Johnny Marquez and got a list. Mr. Miller said the problem with the list is because of requirements everything is already in place by the time the application is made and it's hard to turn them around at that point. Mr. Miller said he went through the list and chose

to document the VK203, which has a big platform and four satellites in close proximity. Mr. Miller said the video is on YouTube.

Nadine Sekul suggested using fundraising events and awareness events and working with other groups and the media to gain public support. Mark Miller said there are several companies that specialize in the equipment that cuts these rigs on some of these sites and we could try to partner up with them. Mr. Miller stated those companies have money, resources and already have connections with the oil companies. Ralph Humphrey asked Ms. Sekul if she could maybe take the next few weeks to try to put something more concrete together and present a proposal at the next meeting that we could review. Tim Knighten suggested having a dinner for the mayors of the local towns and showing video to gather support from the local government.

LIONFISH BOUNTY

Ralph Humphrey said that Alex Fogg requested that we go ahead and give him the \$1500 now made out to the GCRL. Mr. Humphrey said that Mr. Fogg has expenses and rather than come to us every time he needs something he would rather just have a check for the \$1500. The secretary made out the check, and it was given to Mark Miller so he could pass it along to Mr. Fogg. Mark Miller read an email from Mr. Fogg updating that 18 fish have been turned in, including the largest lionfish of the more than 1800 fish he's collected, a sixteen and a half inch, 2.3 pounder, and that there was a small hiccup with someone claiming a large number of fish in Mississippi waters but that Mr. Fogg did not receive or pay a bounty for those fish.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW PERMITTED REEF SITE SOUTH OF PETITE BOIS

Ralph Humphrey stated that a while back Greg had put together some work on a new permitted reef site just south of Petite Bois and the state had entertained the idea of expanding and connecting FH13, 2 and 1. Mr. Humphrey said he found out last week at the meeting that nothing has been done on any of that, not the first piece of paperwork has been filed. Mr. Humphrey said from what he understood it is a very cumbersome project. Mr. Humphrey said first let's get the permits renewed, get them back under MGF and then we can entertain the idea of a new expanding

site. Mark Miller said he thought a new site would be a lot easier than trying to expand and combine sites. Mr. Humphrey said he got the impression it was all the same permitting process. Tim Knighten asked if we had any idea of how long it would take to get the permit. Mr. Humphrey said he believed it would be pretty quick.

DIVE REPORT

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

BIOFILM

Mark Miller said the Kevin Dillon from GCRL sent him an email and was asking if MGFB was still interest in the biofilm. Mr. Miller said Mr. Dillon had a new grad student and his specialty is in biofilm. Mr. Miller stated GCRL had some interest in maybe doing something. Ralph Humphrey asked if they were looking for MGFB to fund it still. Mr. Miller said probably so and he meant to email him about this month's meeting but he forgot. Ralph Humphrey said when he had the meeting last month with the DMR director that he was interested in them funding the project. Mr. Humphrey stated when he told them about MGFB doing the research and paying for it that the director said, well, that's something that the DMR should be doing. Mr. Humphrey said the director has only been in the position a couple of weeks but he sees room for the MGFB to partner on this project. Mr. Miller said he will get back in touch with Kevin.

DRAWDOWN

Tim Knighten said as far as the Drawdown should we start looking for dates or a place to have it. Mark Miller asked Ms. Sekul if she was going to begin looking for a venue. Nadine Sekul said she thinks there should be two events, a separate dinner and then the Drawdown. Ms. Sekul said we need to rally and get some people interested and tell them what we're about and then continue with the Drawdown. Mark Miller said the dinner could be anytime but the date for the Drawdown had to be worked around the numerous fishing tournaments and other activities and that it was also important to find a venue to accommodate the large group of people for the Drawdown. It was agreed upon that the Biloxi Community Center was probably the best place for the Drawdown.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary