

4/9/15

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

March 12th, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President
David Andrews
Tom Becker
Jay Trochesset
Mark Miller
Johnny Marquez

Darlene West, Secretary
Alva Bennett
Robert Fishman
Tim Knighten
Luke Miller
Keith Goodfellow

The meeting of March 12th, 2015 was called to order by Ralph Humphrey, President.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Copies of the financial statement were distributed and reviewed by the members. Ralph Humphrey noted that the outstanding check from 10/11/12 for \$882 to Eva Solutions was added back into the MGFB account. A motion was made to accept the financial statement 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 Keith Goodfellow. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

STIMULUS MONEY

Jay Trochesset said there was nothing new to present. Ralph Humphrey said two weeks ago he and David Andrews attended a meeting in Ocean Springs regarding the stimulus money. Mr. Humphrey said that he had a long conversation with the facilitators regarding the MGFB and left them our information and that they are

aware of who we are, what we're doing and what we need but whether we see a penny from it remains to be seen.

FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT AND CROWD SOURCING

Ralph Humphrey said he's going to look into GoFundMe for the MGFB. Mark Miller said it's a pretty easy process to set up and we should probably get a video that shows some of our construction efforts or some fish and things like that. Johnny Marquez said he thinks we would have more success if we could identify a project and a time line and not just MGFB. Mr. Miller said the pogy boat would be a good project to start with. Mr. Miller thought maybe we could look into sponsors and maybe painting names or ads on the boat. Alva Bennett said if they give us enough we could name the reef after them. Ralph Humphrey informed the group that before we make any promises about the pogy boat we need to talk to Omega and the DMR and find out the details on that project.

CHARGING FEES FOR DUMPING ON MGFB SITES

This subject has been tabled for the time being. We are waiting on the results of the Tidelands Grant. Mr. Humphrey said he hasn't heard anything on the grant yet.

Tim Knighten said he wanted to just make a comment on the dumping fees. Mr. Knighten said the pogy boat was a prime situation for charging a fee. If we told the DMR they couldn't dump it without charging a fee, what would they do with it? David Andrews told the group that he's always been against charging a fee and that he believes it's counterproductive to MGFB and that all we did is tick DMR off. Jay Trochesset said he is also against charging a fee. Mr. Knighten stated we're just giving away a resource.

Johnny Marquez told the members he was reluctant to speak up but that his suggestion would be to not go this route of wanting to charge the DMR. He said we should build a new and better relationship with DMR. Mr. Marquez said that we're asking for Tidelands Grants and if the DMR wants to put the hammer on MGFB on the grant money they can. Mark Miller said he thinks they've already put the hammer on us and they're going to continue to do so. Mr. Knighten said he's not sure they're going to give us any help to begin with. Mr. Humphrey stated since 2005 everything that's been sunk has been through the generosity of the DMR and the tax dollars that they've been getting. Mr. Miller said it's

because we give them a place to put it and it's free. Mr. Humphrey said we need them every bit as much as they need us.

Johnny Marquez said we need to talk to DMR and set perimeters and develop a MOA on how we're going to work together and work the relationship the right way. Jay Trocheset said the DMR has had to back away to let things cool down but after having conversations with some people there he knows that they will get it back together and help us. Tim Knighten said he disagrees and he believes that it shouldn't be a problem for them to inform a contractor to include in their bid a \$250 administrative fee payable to MGFB.

Ralph Humphrey suggested putting together a small group to meet with the DMR to try to work out the nuts and bolts of a memorandum of understanding. Tim Knighten, Jay Trocheset, David Andrews and Tom Becker all volunteered to meet. Johnny Marquez said we should put together a MOA in hand and explain that we want to build on our relationship. Mr. Humphrey agreed and said we should lay out a foundation that we all can live with and build on.

JACKSON COUNTY FUNDING

Jackson County funding has been tabled for now.

LAWSUIT

Nothing new was presented.

OMEGA PROTEIN

Nothing new was presented.

CONCRETE CULVERT DEPLOYMENT

Ralph Humphrey said he would call Jimmy Saunders and ask where we are on the concrete culvert deployment.

HANCOCK BANK

Ralph Humphrey asked Darlene West to contact Benji Richoux and talk to him about maybe transferring one of the CDs and get some figures and information. Ms. West said the CD should mature in May or June and that she would contact Mr. Richoux and get some information.

BILOXI SEAFOOD FESTIVAL BOOTH

Ralph Humphrey told the group he thought participating in the Seafood Festival was a good idea. Robert Fishman suggested putting together some things to give away at the festival such as stickers, etc. Mr. Humphrey suggested that everyone keep in mind the festival and ways to promote the MGFB and when J.R. Titmus is present at the next meeting we can discuss it further.

DIVE REPORT

Mark Miller did make a trip to FH-13, FAD1 this past Sunday. He discussed his dive with the group but said he was going to put it on next month's report.

NEW BUSINESS

AREA BETWEEN HORN ISLAND AND PETITE BOIS

Jay Trochesset asked what was going on with the area that we talked about getting between Horn and Petit Bois. Ralph Humphrey said he needs to schedule a meeting with some people and discuss that.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary