

5/14/15

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

April 9th, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Tim Knighten, Vice President
David Andrews
Alex Fogg
Jay Trochesset
Mark Miller
Jimmy Sanders
Jimmy Taylor
Bob Krista

Darlene West, Secretary
Alva Bennett
Robert Fishman
Lee Trahan
Kenny Barhanovich
Craig Gusa
Keith Goodfellow
J.R. Titmus

The meeting of April 9th, 2015 was called to order by Tim Knighten, Vice President.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Copies of the financial statement were distributed and reviewed by the members. Tim Knighten stated to the members “One thing that stands out here – and I didn’t find out about this until after the meeting last month. But there was a \$4500 payment made to Gulf Stream Industries for deploying some material two and a half years ago off of the barge that supposedly was donated to the Gulf Fishing Banks that the Ladniers later claimed ownership of.” Mr. Knighten informed everyone that when he found out he sent an email to Ralph Humphrey and suggested stopping payment on the check until we could sort it all out. Mr. Knighten said in his opinion we shouldn’t have paid it without discussing it with the board, it’s a violation of our bylaws and that the bylaws state that the Board of Directors approves any bills. Mr. Knighten said in lieu of Ralph not being here he thinks we’re going to table that.

David Andrews informed the group that Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. Andrews to make a motion to table the issue until next month. But Mr. Andrews asked Mr.

Knighthen, “Do you question the process or the charge or both”? Mr. Knighthen replied, “Both.” Everyone agreed that the topic should be tabled until next month.

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

Jay Trochesset said there was nothing new to present.

FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT AND CROWD SOURCING

Tim Knighthen informed everyone about the GoFundMe account for the MGFB. Mr. Knighthen stated he hasn't looked to see if anybody has donated any money or not. Robert Fishman said the last he checked it was just him and Mark Miller. Mr. Knighthen said that's something we could all donate to.

CHARGING FEES FOR DUMPING ON MGFB SITES

Tim Knighthen said this topic was tabled and we were waiting on the results of the Tidelands Grant. Mr. Knighthen said he hadn't heard if we got it or not but that he wanted to say that a decision was supposed to be made the 1st of April. Jimmy Sanders said he would check on the status of the Tidelands Grant.

Jimmy Taylor said he was against charging the DMR any fees, that you're biting the hand that feeds you. Mr. Knighthen told Mr. Taylor that if we charged a fee for dumping the fee wouldn't come out of the DMR's pocket and that the fee could easily be written into the contract as part of the bid. Mr. Knighthen said the FB as the holder of the permits is responsible for those permitted sites and that it makes good business sense to charge an administrative fee for people who want to dump there. Mr. Taylor said he met two weeks ago with some people with the DMR and that they want to work with us but we've ruffled feathers with this thing of charging fees. Again, there was a lengthy discussion on the topic of charging fees.

Mr. Knighthen said Ralph Humphrey was in the process of setting a meeting up with the DMR and several representatives of MGFB to develop a memorandum of

understanding. Mr. Knighten wasn't sure what progress had been made in that direction, so we'll wait till next month and let Mr. Humphrey give an update on that.

JACKSON COUNTY FUNDING

Jackson County funding has been tabled for now.

LAWSUIT

Nothing new was presented.

OMEGA PROTEIN

Jimmy Sanders said they're looking at deploying the vessel on the week of the 20th on the south end of 13, southwest of the Wicomico. Mr. Knighten said we had talked about selling sponsorships to raise money for the FB. Mr. Sanders said that would have been difficult getting on Omega's property. Mr. Knighten said we should at least put some FADs on it before we sink it and asked Mr. Sanders if there was an opportunity to do that. Mr. Sanders said probably not at Omega but that maybe we could get with Walters Marine out of Orange Beach who won the bid to deploy.

Mark Miller made a motion that we spend up to \$3000 to pay Walters to put some FADs on the vessel before it's deployed. Lee Trahan seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

CONCRETE CULVERT DEPLOYMENT

Jimmy Saunders said they're trying to finalize the final bid and everything. Mr. Sanders is hoping to know within the next couple of weeks where they stand on that, when they can get started, how much they're going to put out and everything else. Kenny Barhanovich asked where. Mr. Sanders said his initial thought was within that nine miles, the north part of 1, all of 2 and the top of 13, but if he run out of spots he's going to go a little bit south in the middle of 13.

HANCOCK BANK

Darlene West told the group she hasn't had a chance yet to contact Benji Richoux and talk to him about maybe transferring one of the CDs. Tim Knighten requested that she get back with the Board of Directors before a decision is made on that.

BILOXI SEAFOOD FESTIVAL BOOTH

J.R. Titmus informed the group he looked into the Seafood Festival after we discussed it last month. The SF is in September. It's \$75 for a nonprofit to have a 10X10 booth. Mr. Knighten asked if we wanted to participate in the SF and were there any volunteers. J.R. Titmus said he and Bob would help out, and he made a motion to pay for the booth at the SF. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

Jimmy Taylor said he is chairman of the Ms Gulf Coast Big Game Fishing Club Spring Tournament and they're holding within their tournament a Ms Wounded Veterans Tournament on Sunday, the 14th of June at Point Cadet. There will be somewhere between 20 to 40 boats with somewhere between 40 to 80 wounded veterans. Mr. Taylor said he was going to have 10 or 12 booths available at no cost and he would like us, along with DMR and CCA, to have a booth there. Mr. Taylor said there would be a lot of foot traffic there and possibly we could sell T-shirts. J.R. said if he was in town he'd do it. Tim Knighten said we'll carry it over in the minutes so we don't forget about it.

DIVE REPORT

Mark Miller did not have a dive report this month. Mr. Miller said he made one attempt and the water looked really nasty so they said the heck with it and went fishing.

AREA BETWEEN HORN ISLAND AND PETITE BOIS

At the March meeting, Ralph Humphrey said he needed to schedule a meeting with some people and discuss the area between Horn and Petite Bois. Mr. Humphrey was not present for April's meeting. Nothing new was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

GRAIN BINS

Tim Knighten said he's been looking at getting some chicken coops and putting some down in Pensacola. Mr. Knighten said while in the process of looking around he got to seeing some stuff that he thought might be ideal for us to put out. Mr. Knighten said he found some grain bins, 20 feet tall and 6, 8, 9, 10 feet in

diameter and weighed about 1800 pounds apiece, not real heavy, heavy metal, a galvanized metal. Mr. Knighten had a picture on his phone and said you can buy two of them for \$600 and there are a ton of them for sale. Kenny Barhanovich said if they're round they'll roll. Mr. Barhanovich said years ago they wouldn't let us put out culverts because they would move. Mr. Knighten said there are options we can use to keep them from moving, bolt them or weld them together and we should give some thought to using them.

PUTTING MINUTES ELECTRONICALLY ON MGFB WEBSITE

Tim Knighten said he would like to make a motion to place our minutes electronically on the website so they would be more accessible. Mr. Knighten said there were people who didn't come to the meetings who may want to check them out and it would also be a good backup for our minutes. Mark Miller said it's a good idea if you want to search for something. Mr. Knighten said it's also a good idea for transparency. Mr. Miller said all Darlene has to do is email them to him and he'll put them on the site. David Andrews said he's all for transparency but the only problem he could see was putting the numbers out there. Several members had objections to putting the financials on the website.

Tim Knighten made a motion to place our minutes and financials on the MGFB website. David Andrews seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion was NOT carried. Keith Goodfellow suggested tabling the motion until next month. The motion was discussed further by the group. Tim Knighten revised the motion to say we put the minutes of our meetings on our website, excluding the financial statement without a link. David Andrews seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

NONPROFIT REEF BUILDING

Mark Miller told the group about Jason Smith, who started a nonprofit reef building group in Florida. Mr. Miller said Mr. Smith wasn't able to come to the meeting. Mr. Miller wanted to convey to the members some of the things that they talked about that related to where our organization is going. Mr. Miller said our main problem is financial and we should possibly think about restructuring. Mr. Miller said they switched from nonprofit to profit, most of their numbers are private, their members pay a hundred dollars a year to be a member and they have a private forum online and they share numbers, where they're catching fish, et cetera. Mr. Miller stated they have 500 members paying a hundred dollars a

year. Mr. Miller said maybe instead of concentrating on only our permitted reefs we should concentrate on the overall gulf, including rigs, wrecks, and we should think a little differently about how the group operates to raise more money.

Mr. Miller said Mr. Smith informed him that drawdowns were one of their big money-makers. Mr. Miller said they paid someone to promote the drawdown and put it on, sold 300 tickets, \$100 a ticket. They went to AJ's and said we're going to have a drawdown here and bring 300 people, what can you do for us, the people bought their own food at AJ's and they had free beer. The drawdown was much more lucrative without catering food, decorating, renting a building, et cetera. Mr. Miller said we should just consider where we want our organization to go and how we can accomplish our goals and get there.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary