

10/08/15

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

September 10th, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President
David Andrews
Tim Knighten
Kenny Barhanovich
Jimmy Sanders
Ned Burgwyn

Darlene West, Secretary
Alva Bennett
Craig Gusa
J. R. Titmus
Rob Murphy
Carly Somerset

The meeting of September 10th, 2015 was called to order by Ralph Humphrey, President.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Copies of the financial statement were distributed and reviewed by the members. A motion was made to accept the financial statement as is by Kenny Barhanovich. 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

Jay Trochesset was not present for the meeting. Ralph Humphrey said he had exchanged some emails back and forth and there were some Facebook responses with a couple of people pertaining to stimulus money. Mr. Humphrey said there is a web program out there about this money and it's looking for input on who wants money and what can we spend it on. Mr. Humphrey said we're ten on the list of thousands so we're out there and being considered.

Darlene West told the group she received on her Mr. Champ email from NOAA information for the 2016 Saltonstall-Kennedy Grants Program, that they had ten million available to support fisheries projects and that the deadline for application was 11/2/15. Ralph Humphrey said he didn't know anything about that grant, and Ms. West said she would forward him the information.

FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT AND CROWD SOURCING

Ralph Humphrey said Mark Miller did a little bit of investigating because he couldn't find the account and there were some issues, but long story short, there had to be \$500 in the account for them to list it and make it easily obtainable. Mr. Humphrey said Mr. Miller started some advertising on his own through his dive buddy links and whatnot and we passed \$500 in just a couple of hours and are now at \$830. Mr. Humphrey said now it's easier to find and when you type in artificial reefs you can find it but it's listed under animals.

CHARGING FEES FOR DUMPING ON MGF B SITES

This topic has been tabled for now.

JACKSON COUNTY FUNDING

Ralph Humphrey said at the last meeting Mark Miller had suggested we all contact our supervisors about funding. Mr. Humphrey said since this is election time that a lot of the supervisors may change in the next couple of months and so we'll carry this topic over.

BILOXI SEAFOOD FESTIVAL BOOTH

J.R. Titmus informed the group everything is scheduled and he has 10 passes and whoever wants help he'll give them a pass for Saturday and Sunday.

Ralph Humphrey said he reached out to Melissa at Public Affairs at DMR about sharing costs, etc, and he never got a reply. Mr. Humphrey said after three or four days he told Darlene West if we're going to do anything we need to do it without her because they're not interested. Ms. West said she wasn't impressed with the designs and didn't have a lot of time so she did not get the stickers.

AREA BETWEEN HORN ISLAND AND PETITE BOIS

Ralph Humphrey said he reached out to the DMR right after the meeting and Jennifer Whitman called him back almost immediately and set up a meeting and it was last week. Mr. Humphrey said there was a bunch of representative there, the

park service, Corps, Delbert Hosemann's office had a representative there, Jimmy was there, National Marine Fisheries, like ten people were there.

Mr. Humphrey then proceeded to give the group some background on this subject. The reason we identified that spot for a reef site was that it was within the state waters back when the state waters stopped at three miles outside the islands. Of course, now the state is claiming nine. We don't have any leases in state waters. We have permits that allow us to go out there and dump on those established lease sites. The leases don't belong to us. They belong to the state. And Delbert Hosemann's representative was very clear about that.

Mr. Humphrey said bottom line is anything that we do the DMR is going to have control of it, they have the leases, etc. Mr. Humphrey said the state has a real problem with that specific spot because of several issues, including the shrimping, it's right there in shrimping waters and anything that they look at is going to have to go through the commissioners. Mr. Humphrey said they flat out said that we'll never get this particular spot approved and bottom line is we're not going to get that spot.

Mr. Humphrey also told the group the nine miles of the new state waters goes out into 1, 2 and 13 and what the DMR is seriously considering and very graciously wants the MGFB to be a part of when it comes time to look at this is combining those three and expanding that area so there is less open areas between the three. Mr. Humphrey said it still keeps it in the nine miles of state waters so it expands our fishing opportunities.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Ralph Humphrey said after the last meeting with the DMR he didn't see the need for an MOU at this point but that he would like to table it and continue to carry it over. Tim Knighten said he thinks we need some kind of agreement for sure but he hasn't had time, he's been slammed at work. Mr. Humphrey said we'll continue to carry it over and as things progress we'll evaluate the need later on down the line.

CULVERTS SOMEBODY WANTS TO GET RID OF

Tim Knighten said the guy hasn't got back in touch with him and he'll try to contact him again about the culverts. Mr. Knighten asked Jimmy Sanders if they

had room at the holding site. Jimmy Sanders said the only issue right now is he has no way of unloading it. Mr. Sanders said he working on trying to level out the yard, has some cleaning up to do and he's working on trying to get bids for a trucking company on retainer. Mr. Sanders said once he gets everything in order he's hoping to have everybody on board and just have trucks running nonstop and he'll take as much as he possibly can. Ralph Humphrey stated we'll carry this topic over.

FADS

Ralph Humphrey said he knew Mark Miller put some more out but he's not here tonight so we'll carry this over until next month. Mr. Humphrey said he saw where there was a video posted about some of the material breaking apart. Kenny said what he needs to use is the stuff they put down on roads before they put the concrete on it, the black clothe. Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. Barhanovich to bring that up at the next meeting.

CHANGING BYLAWS

Ralph Humphrey said this is tabled until the annual meeting.

WHITMAN'S LOCAL FISHING SHOW

Ralph Humphrey informed everyone that Andrew Whitman came to his house and interviewed him. Mr. Humphrey said they talked for thirty minutes about reef building, the DMR, MGFB, the fish havens, funding and those types of things. Mr. Whitman was not present at the meeting. Mr. Humphrey said he's sure we'll hear from him soon.

NEW BUSINESS

DIVE REPORT

Mark Miller was not present for the meeting. No dive report was submitted.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES LETTER

Ralph Humphrey told the group we received a letter from the MDMR on 8/26/15 regarding the fact that Jimmy Sanders was the MDMR representative serving on MGFB Board. Mr. Humphrey read the letter to the group and requested that the secretary put the letter in our records. Mr. Humphrey said this predates him but he knows that the MDMR has had a representative on the board back when

Kerwin was around and when Kerwin left Jimmy got substituted. Kenny Barhanovich said Kerwin was the first. Mr. Humphrey said the MDMR is asking us to remove him so we have no choice but to do so.

FH14

Craig Gusa said we need a barge on FH14, something that's got some area. Kenny Barhanovich said we've got a lot of rubble there but it's sinking bad. David Andrews said the price of steel is real cheap right now, nobody is selling anything, so now would be the time to get a steel barge.

CARLY'S SNAPPER REPORT

Carly Somerset said the snapper reporting system is going well, good compliance and as per our suggestions they've put a lot of signs up. Ms. Somerset said just so everyone knows the tickets are standing now, no more warnings. Ms. Somerset said the trips have slowed down but they're still collecting data and so far there have been 730 trips since the federal season up until August 25th, average pound per fish is six and estimated pounds caught so far is approximately 51,000 pounds.

IGFA HALL OF FAME

Ralph Humphrey brought it to the attention of the group that Capt. Kenny Barhanovich and Capt. Jay Trochesset will be inducted into the IGFA Hall of Fame in February, 2016.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary