

11/10/16

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

October 13th, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President

David Andrews

Mark Miller

Tim Knighten

Robert Fishman

Diane Becker

Jay Trochesset

Brian Bounds

Tyler Smith

Glenn Camplejohn

Patric Harper

Darlene West, Secretary

Alva Bennett

Charles McMillon, Sr.

Michael Moss

Bob Brown

Tom Becker

Jason Coniglio

Jimmy Taylor

Tim Shivers

Marty McGrath

The meeting of October 13th, 2016 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 Alva Bennett.

Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

Ralph Humphrey noted that we had not received payment from USM yet.

Darlene West said she would send an email to check the status of the payment.

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 informed everyone that he went to a Townhall Meeting that was hosted by the Lt. Governor over in Orange Grove. Mr. Humphrey said he filled out a card, didn't get called on to speak, but he was interviewed by Paul Hampton from the Sun Herald. Mr. Humphrey said his name was spelled wrong and he wasn't quoted exactly but the gist of it was in the newspaper. Mr. Humphrey said he gave copies of our request that was in the Mississippi Restore portal to the legislators there and he had a one-on-one with Lt. Governor Reeves, talked about our mission and who we are and gave him a copy of the request as well.

Mr. Humphrey said he had coffee with Marty McGrath and Robert Smith yesterday and that they're going to help rewrite our request. Mr. Humphrey said since writing these proposals are just way outside his comfort zone that he just can't thank them enough for their help. Mr. Humphrey said he didn't ask for a great deal of money and that the reason he did that was because a bunch of volunteers keeping up with a large sum of money kind of scared him. Mr. McGrath said it's not just a blank check, it's on a drawn account with an administrator. The group discussed different strategies for the proposal. Mr. Humphrey will keep us updated.

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. Tim Knighten sent out an email regarding this. Mr. Humphrey asked if everyone got the email. Darlene West said she thought it was just to the Board. Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. Knighten if he wanted to discuss this with the group.

Tim Knighten said he thought we needed to have a description of what the Board of Directors do, their function and responsibilities and that he thought it would be something good to add to the bylaws. Mr. Knighten said what he send Ralph was just kind of a generic description of what he thought we have here and it's open

for discussion. Mr. Knighten said he wished we had more copies of his email. Mr. Knighten said he thought it should be kind of a group effort to determine those responsibilities.

Mr. Knighten said what caught his attention a minute ago was Mr. Humphrey talking about the money. Mr. Knighten said whether it's a dollar or a million dollars that he thinks the officers and the Board should be accountable for that money. Mr. Knighten said the amount of money doesn't intimidate him or cause him any concerns at all. Mr. Knighten said what does cause him concerns is that we've had some incidents in the past where the Board of Directors hasn't stepped up and address some issues.

Jimmy Taylor said not only should you have what their responsibilities are in the bylaws you should also have how long they serve, when you come up for election and all of that defined. Mr. Taylor said if you're on the board you're responsible whether it's a dollar or a million dollars and you have a certain fiduciary responsibility. Mr. Taylor said he would urge everyone on the Board to acquire a personal liability umbrella for a million or better. Mr. Taylor said it's a hundred bucks a year and it covers you for volunteer work.

Since Tim Knighten's email was only sent to the Board, Jimmy Taylor made a motion to table this matter until the next meeting. Jay Trochesset seconded the motion. Motion carried upon vote. Darlene West said she would forward Mr. Knighten's email to the members so they would have it for the next meeting.

USM CONTRACT

Mr. Humphrey informed the group that Mark Miller has four trips under his belt with the fifth pending. Mr. Humphrey asked Darlene West to send an email checking the status of the invoiced bills.

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. Jimmy Sanders had said previously that he has been keeping his eyes open for something to put on FH14 but that he doesn't have anything as of right now. Mark Miller said he wasn't sure we needed to keep this open. Mr. Miller said

some of that may be determined by some of the data we get off of the USM stuff. Mr. Miller said there is a lot of hypoxia and stuff going on in that area.

Jay Trochesset asked Mark about the hypoxia. Mr. Miller said they've been putting the sensors at 3 and 14 and 4 and that they're all showing a lot of hypoxia and not much life. Mr. Miller said he just did FH-4 this past month and there's hardly any barnacles on that barge, just silt, no fish. Robert Fishman asked about anything we could put out to actually get rid of the hypoxia. Mr. Miller said that's a water condition, it's a biological condition, and just like the weather, there's not much you can do about it. Ralph Humphrey mentioned that these tests are being done in the summertime in the heat of the year and not during the wintertime, which is historically when the charter boats have went out and caught fish. Mr. Humphrey said the weather is cooler and the fish move in. Mr. Humphrey stated he doesn't go out there and fish it but he knows that the charter boats do. Mr. Miller stated also that these are bottom conditions so the pelagic are not affected as much.

Mr. Miller said he knows that they want something at 14 but he doesn't know why we carry it over every month when we don't really have something to put out right now. Ms. West reminded the group we were keeping it on the minutes as a reminder. Mr. Fishman said that if we get a barge, though, we're going to want to stick it close. Mr. Miller said we'd be better off putting a barge at FH-2 or 13 than wasted over there. Mr. Trochesset said for whatever reason that over the last eight or ten years when the water gets warm up in there they don't do anything on the bottom but in the winter and the spring they catch fish there. Mr. Trochesset said the fish are there when it's cool. Mr. Humphrey said that's why we've been carrying it over. Mr. Humphrey said most of us don't fish in winter but the charter boats are out there fishing. Mr. Trochesset said there's a lot of private guys that fish in winter and spring, too.

Mr. Humphrey asked if there was a motion or do we just continue to carry it over. No one had a motion. Mr. Humphrey said we're going to keep it active and we'll keep reminding Jimmy that if an opportunity arises we'd like to see something dropped out there.

FUNDRAISING WITH FADS, ETC.

Ralph Humphrey said when he talked to Allison Monroe, the supervisor over at the Corp in charge of all of this, that she was very honest and said she completely forgot all about us. Mr. Humphrey said he is going to put a letter in the mail to her outlining what we're doing and what we want and they're going to start processing the paperwork. Mr. Humphrey said we're still five months – March 17th -- out from our permits expiring. Mr. Humphrey said he'll get a letter out to her tomorrow and they'll start the process over there of getting the permits renewed and hopefully take out some of the ambiguous language.

DMR FREE MATERIAL

Jimmy Sanders was not present for the meeting. Ralph Humphrey asked if anybody noticed the stuff stacked up on Lee Street. Jimmy Taylor said it was. Mr. Humphrey said we'll carry it over and let Jimmy talk about it next month.

GRANT NOTICE DOCUMENTATION

Mr. Humphrey said he has the grant notice documentation that Robert Fishman gave him last month but he that hasn't done anything with it yet. Mr. Humphrey said after the meeting last month he spoke with Robert Smith and he weeded through them and left him with three or four that were probably applicable. Mr. Humphrey said he just hasn't had time to get into it. Mr. Humphrey said if anybody else wants to help he'd be more than happy to share them.

Mr. Humphrey said Robert Smith copied Mr. Humphrey on an email to Kara Lankford with the Ocean Conservancy where Mr. Smith invited her to come and discuss with the MGFB in January their take on artificial reefs. Mr. Humphrey said this could be a double-edged sword, stating that they're not really crazy about artificial reefs because they're not convinced they are good for the environment, the fisheries and all of that, but they are convinced that it's good for the people, for the public, to enhance fisheries and charter boats and recreation and diving and all the other stuff. Marty McGrath said what we're going to do is try to align ourselves in a path with some of her beliefs. Mr. Humphrey said it's all part of the big picture, all part of trying to get some of this funding.

TWO VESSELS TO DONATE

Ralph Humphrey asked Jimmy Taylor if he had any news on the two vessels for donating. Mr. Taylor said he's going to do it, it's still on. Mr. Taylor said the only thing is there's a question if we can put aluminum down. Mr. Taylor said one of the vessels is aluminum, one is steel. Mr. Humphrey said if we get the go-ahead on the aluminum vessel he'll contact the Corps and find out one way or the other. Mr. Taylor said we need to find out beforehand because he's not going to pursue it if we can't do it. Robert Fishman said even if we can't deploy it we should get it because he'd get more money from us than bringing it to a scrap yard. Mr. Humphrey said we should still get it and scrap it. Mr. Humphrey told Mr. Taylor he'll call Allison and let him know. Robert Fishman said the aluminum one could pay to deploy the other one. Mr. Taylor said the steel vessel is not going to cost us anything to put down.

Mr. Taylor also said this is the same guy for the floating oil rigs and he's still on for that. Mr. Taylor said he just hasn't had time to get with anybody to see if it's feasible. Mr. Taylor said in the rigs to reef program an oil company would take a rig and whatever it cost to scrap that rig they would pay the DMR half of it. Mr. Taylor said it's probably a couple of million dollars each to sink these rigs and said his plan is that if we can get it done that the MGF B gets that money. Mr. Taylor said there would be some very strict controls on what we can do with the money but that it could be as much as a million or two million dollars. Mark Miller said the problems we've always had in the past was they wouldn't give it to a private group, they had to give it to the state. Mr. Taylor said this is Deutsche Bank and they're paying the guy 25 million each to decontaminate these rigs for one year and he's got to do something with them.

TRISTAN ARMER LETTER

At the previous meeting, Mark Miller read a letter from Tristan Armer. In the letter Mr. Armer said he sent an email to Jack Hamilton, who is Jackson County's recreational director, and asked to meet with him and Mr. Miller about funding that MGF B can tap into. Mr. Armer had said he would let Mr. Miller know when he hears from him.

Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. Miller if he had anything new to report. Mr. Miller said he hadn't heard anything back from Mr. Armer.

NEW BUSINESS

DIVE REPORT

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

FALL BANQUET

Ralph Humphrey mentioned that Mark Miller sent out an email about the possibility of doing a fall banquet. The MGF B used to do a fall banquet in November every year that was a membership drive. Mark Miller said we used to have banquets and it was more of a thing to stir some interest in the group. Ideas were discussed for the banquet. Mr. Miller said he would set up an event page on Facebook for the event. Marty McGrath informed the members that he co-owned DaBayou Bar & Grill in Ocean Springs and discussed with the members what he could provide for the banquet. Mr. McGrath said he could do the banquet for half the price that Shaggy's had quoted. Mr. McGrath said he would set up a buffet including fresh fish, seafood, hamburgers, chicken, sides, et cetera, and said he would also provide entertainment. Mr. McGrath said when we set up the event page we needed to try to get an accurate count of how many people. Jimmy Taylor said he didn't think we'd have more than 75 people.

Tim Knighten made a motion to authorize up to \$1500 for the membership drive banquet at DaBayou Bar & Grill. Robert Fishman seconded the motion. Upon vote the motion was carried.

It was decided to hold the banquet the day after the regular MGF B meeting, so Friday, November 11th, at 7:00 p.m. The members also decided to keep the membership at \$10 and to participate in this event it would cost a membership. Ralph Humphrey recommended having a tip jar at the door instead of somebody sitting at the door all night. Mark Miller recommended Darlene West bringing her computer and leaving it by the tip jar for people to put in their information and email address. Mark Miller said we really ought to keep it simple for this one, let's not worry about the members at the event, let's just have the event, if people want to come, they'll come to the meeting and join and let's put a donation jar at the door.

Mr. Miller said it would be a good idea to do some type of invitation letter to send to people in the local government and community to promote the MGF. Mr. Miller volunteered Darlene West to do the invitation letter. Ms. West said she would do the invitation letter but the members had to get to her a list of who to send the letter to, including email addresses so she didn't have to hunt down anyone's information.

David Andrews made the motion to have a tip jar for donations and a pad if anybody wanted to sign up for membership. Jimmy Taylor seconded the motion. Upon vote the motion was carried.

Ralph Humphrey asked who was going to sell T-Shirts at the event. Several people volunteered to take turns on selling T-Shirts. Mark Miller recommended giving out tickets as they come in so that we can give out some T-Shirts and huggies. Several people also brought up having split the pot drawings. Jimmy Taylor said he wouldn't be able to be at the membership drive but he would donate a door prize through David.

ADVERTISING ON FACEBOOK PAGE

Mark Miller said he had been meaning to bring up to the group about people advertising on our FB page. Darlene West told him he brought this up about six months ago and it was decided that we didn't want any advertising on our page. Mr. Miller said if he saw any on the page he would delete it.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary