

5/11/17

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

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President  
Tim Knighten, Vice President  
Lee Trahan  
Beckie Gill  
Tom Becker  
Robert Fishman  
Mark Miller  
Craig Gusa  
Skip Roberts

Darlene West, Secretary  
Alva Bennett, Treasurer  
David Andrews  
Johnny Gill  
Scott Milroy  
Emily Satterfield  
Tony Barfield  
Alan McMillon  
Bob Brown

The meeting of April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 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 David Andrews. 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

Robert Smith was not present for the meeting. Ralph Humphrey told the group he has not heard from Mr. Smith since last month and he is going to assume that everything is still on track. Marty McGrath said they're still working on it. Mr. Humphrey said we will just carry this over till next month.

## FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT AND CROWD SOURCING

Ralph Humphrey received an email from The GoFundMe account that stated due to lack of activity on the account for so long we needed to close the account. The email was included in the minutes of the March meeting. A check will be mailed to Mr. Humphrey since the account is in his name for MGFB. When he receives the check, he will give it to Ms. West to be deposited in the MGFB account. The check will be for \$758.46.

## CHANGING BYLAWS

Darlene West informed the members that she has tried several times to download our new bylaws onto the Mississippi Secretary of State's website without success. There seems to be a problem with that system. After speaking with MSOS' office, Ms. West was asked to mail them, and they will attach them to our file. Ms. West was also informed that the MSOS does not mail Charitable Registration Certificates any longer. The certificates are online. Ms. West printed a copy of the certificate for our records.

## USM CONTRACT

Scott Milroy brought a copy of his findings from last year on Power Point for Mark Miller to upload to our website. Members are invited to view this presentation at their leisure. Dr. Milroy gave a brief overview of his findings to the group. Dr. Milroy said to his knowledge this is the most complete data set of an entire season of hypoxia that we have in Mississippi waters. Dr. Milroy said he has all the loggers ready to give to Mark to start deploying them for this season and that they're also in the process for renegotiating to extend the contract so that hopefully they can get another three years' worth of money to continue the study. Mr. Humphrey asked if we needed to do any more paperwork with the university. Dr. Milroy said we probably just have to extend the dates.

## 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.

#### FUNDRAISING WITH FADS, ETC.

Ralph Humphrey informed the group he has not heard anything from the Corps of Engineers since his last conversation with Philip. Mr. Humphrey said Philip's last words were to keep working status quo. Mr. Humphrey said Jimmy Sanders is about ready to reach out to the Corps on this subject, also. Mr. Humphrey again reiterated that the caveat on the permits says we're good for twelve months.

#### DMR FREE MATERIAL

Jimmy Sanders was not present for the meeting. Emily Satterfield informed the group that they did have the bid opening and they're hoping to have a signed contract by the end of the month. Ms. Satterfield said as a side note they got two more loads delivered to the staging site over in Gulfport. Mr. Humphrey asked about possibly deploying this summer. Ms. Satterfield said it's just being stockpiled right now.

#### TWO VESSELS TO DONATE

Jimmy Taylor was not present for the meeting. David Andrews said he and Ralph were with Jimmy when he called the fellow about this project. The guy said everything is fine, we got the two boats, but the guy had to wait for a lawsuit to settle. Mr. Andrews said he believed he said July. The guy said when the lawsuit was final then we could get the vessels.

#### DERELICT VESSEL PROGRAM VESSEL

David Andrews said Jimmy Taylor had found this vessel, a 50 foot plus sailboat. The contractor that picked up the boat is present for the meeting, Johnny Gill. Mr. Gill said the vessel was picked up and brought to Timmy Kennedy's yard in Gulfport on Seaway Road. Mr. Gill said it's a nice hull. It's been underneath the water, so it's been pickled for three years. Mr. Humphrey asked what steps we needed to take to make this happen. Mr. Gill said you'd probably have to pay \$500 to put it in the water and that the boat is pretty much clean since it's been in the water for three years. Mr. Humphrey said he knows when he got on it there was a lot of wood and stuff that would have to be taken out. Mr. Gill said we could probably get TeamWaste to donate a container for debris taken out of the boat.

Mr. Humphrey said we've had a lot of guys come to the meetings lately looking for projects to get involved in and this would be the perfect project to get

volunteers together and start doing cleanup. Craig Gusa asked if we had to pull the engines out. Mr. Gill said that would be a hard thing to do and as far as he knew there was no oil leaking. Mr. Humphrey said he would be seeing Jimmy in a couple of days and would talk to him about that. Mr. Gill said we could also check about this being a write-off for the owner of the shipyard, Timmy Kennedy, to put it in the water. Mr. Humphrey asked if Mr. Andrews could reach out to Mr. Kennedy and check on that.

Ralph Humphrey said we need a motion to pay for a trash box to unload debris and then also to pay to lift and move it into the water. Tim Knighten made a motion to authorize \$1000 to ready the boat for deployment. David Andrews seconded the motion and said he would head up the group and donate the equipment needed. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

Mr. Humphrey told David Andrews he appreciated him taking the lead on the group and to put his name down for whatever date he was needed. Mr. Andrews said anybody that wanted to volunteer should get with him after the meeting. Tim Knighten said he has a connection with the newspaper and maybe he can get them to write an article and even give Kennedy a plug.

Mr. Gill informed the group he has a 60 foot wooden hull boat that we can take probably 30, 40 people on. Mr. Gill said if we ever need some publicity for our deployments we could use this boat. Mr. Humphrey said towing this sailboat out would be the perfect opportunity for that. Mark Miller said we could also sell advertisements. Mr. Andrews added that Mr. Gill wants a write-off for donating the boat and also wants his name on the boat. Mr. Humphrey said it would definitely be the Johnny Gill Reef or Beckie or whatever they wanted.

Mr. Humphrey said first let's get it cleaned up, get it in the water and then we'll work on advertising and promotion opportunities. Bob Brown said Deep Water Mafia would be glad to help. Mr. Gill also informed the group he owned some waterfront land in the Back Bay area across from Keesler with a storage area we can use if needed.

#### NEW ORLEANS BARGE TO DONATE

Jimmy Sanders wasn't present for the meeting. Mr. Humphrey asked Emily Satterfield if she knew anything about this. Mr. Satterfield said nobody's contacted them about it. Mr. Humphrey said we'll carry this topic over.

#### ROBERTS MATERIAL

Skip Roberts said at this time it's still on hold, they're trying to get scrap value out of it unfortunately right now so we'll have to wait and see how it's going to work out. Mr. Roberts did find out they are going to scrap an additional barge, but it's still in the works. Mr. Humphrey said we'll keep this topic open.

#### CHEVRON PIPE

Mark Miller said he still hasn't heard anything on this project. Mr. Miller said these type of projects move slow. Ralph Humphrey said he thinks it's the great big, gigantic piece of stuff that they wanted us to sign a contract on that we would accept it and within 30 days of them saying come get it we would have to be able to transport it. Mr. Humphrey said he didn't want to put us on the hook for that but we'll keep this open in case circumstances change.

Background on the project is as follows: Mark Miller got a call from Rob Montgomery at Chevron and he says they've got some material. It's a big piece of pipe, 50 feet in diameter, 20 feet tall, stainless steel with concrete around it, 117,000 pounds. Mr. Miller said we'd probably have to find a contractor and if it's too big it might have to be cut up. Mr. Miller said he told him we were interested and he would keep the Board informed with emails and let us know what's going on with it.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### DIVE REPORT

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

##### CARLY'S REPORT

Emily Satterfield said she had a few points to make to the group Carly would have said had she been here. Evidently, Carly sent Emily with a list. Alabama has set their state season for snapper for May 27 through July 31. Federal season

probably will be announced May 1. Carly also sent a reminder that if anybody is fishing in LA or AL or wherever that they have to do the Tails 'n Scales and also asked the members to help spread the word to other fishermen.

Ralph Humphrey said the Gulf Council sent out an email last week that said they're not setting their season until the states set their season. Mississippi has not set their season yet. Mr. Humphrey said he assumes that they can't set anything until the Marine Commission meets and that's next Tuesday.

#### TIDELANDS GRANT 2018

Ralph Humphrey reminded the members he's been applying for the Tidelands funding for four years now. The last one was for FY2018. And that was turned in prior to July 4<sup>th</sup> of last year. Mr. Humphrey said he was trying to figure out how he could address the issue so that we could provide something of value to the state, to the DMR, rather than just arbitrarily doing letters and deployment reports, et cetera, and that we needed to bring something to the table that they could get some value out of. So Mr. Humphrey met with Matt Hill, who is the bureau director of Fin Fish, and Jimmy, had a long conversation and decided to incorporate into the 2018 Tidal request information that was of benefit to the DMR and in a format that they could use. So when Mr. Humphrey drew up the 2018 request, he said that if we were approved he would get with the scientists and try to collaborate with them so that our reports would reflect stuff that would be beneficial to them.

So the new perimeters, plus all the meetings Mr. Humphrey goes to and the face time that he tries to get at the DMR, must have rung a bell. Mr. Humphrey got a letter from Sonya Slater, who is the head of the Tidelands Grant process, and MGF B got approved for \$50,000 for 2017. This money will be spaced out over five years. This is last year's grant money that they've just recently unleashed in Jackson. Mr. Humphrey said he has to do a modified request after he meets with Matt and Jimmy and put in the request how we're going to do the reports, what format, what kind of data they're looking for, et cetera.

Mr. Humphrey said we will do the work and then put in a bill for reimbursement. There is a TTF Form 3 (Payment Request) and TTF Form 4 (Project Summary). Every time we do something, we're going to have to fill paperwork out. Mr. Humphrey says there's going to be some elbow grease involved.

Skip Roberts said he and Bob met with Jimmy about two months ago for lunch and Jimmy wanted them to start logging Lion Fish no matter if they shot them or not, coordinates, depth, and if they killed them, weights, length and different measurements. Mr. Roberts told Mr. Humphrey any way that they could help toward any reports to let them know. Mark Miller mentioned we could probably get some forms from Alex. Ms. Satterfield said they have spent the last two days putting together some field data forms and suggested protocols in preparation for meeting with Mr. Humphrey.

#### FUNDRAISING

Mark Miller brought up a fundraising idea similar to what Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association in Florida does. Mr. Miller had some pictures of their memorial reefs. Mr. Miller said they also do corporate-sponsored reefs. Mr. Miller said something came up with Deep Water Mafia and talking about statues and stuff, so he went by and looked at a Mardi Gras store in St. Martin that has statues and stuff out in their yard. We could maybe do something like the one they have in the Keys of Jesus holding his hands up. Mr. Miller said something maybe sitting on top of the Barataria Bay with maybe a corporate sponsor or selling pieces to individuals for \$20 or so. Mr. Miller said he wanted to get feedback before he put a lot of time into it. Mr. Gill said he has a 30X60 barge with a tug that we could use to get some of this stuff out.

It was discussed by the group. It was agreed it would be a great project. Mr. Miller said he would look into it a little bit more and report more at the next meeting.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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President

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Secretary