

6/8/17

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

May 11th, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President
Mark Miller
Tim Shivers
Jay Trochesset
Marty McGrath
David Andrews

Darlene West, Secretary
Brian Bounds
Glenn Camplejohn
Skip Roberts
Michael Moss

The meeting of May 11th, 2017 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 \$758.46 check for the GoFundMe account was deposited into the MGF B checking account. Mark Miller posted on our Facebook page that the GoFundMe funds would go towards getting the Sailboat ready for deployment.

Darlene West discussed with the members renewal options for the Hancock Bank CD, 18 months at .75 versus 3 years at 2 percent. It was agreed to renew the CD for three years.

A motion was made to accept the financial statement as is by Jay Trochesset. 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 Mark Miller. 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 Robert's really been tied up but he's three-quarters of the way through it and that Robert is hoping to have it in the next two or three weeks. Mr. Humphrey said we will just carry this over till next month.

USM CONTRACT

Mark Miller said all the sensors are out except for FH7. Details will be discussed in the Dive Report.

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.

Mr. Humphrey said he was at the Department of Marine Resources today and had a preliminary meeting on the Tidelands Grant and how we're going to proceed with the project. As Mr. Humphrey was walking out the door, he had a sidebar conversation with Jimmy Sanders. One of the things that was discussed was FH12 and FH6. The states have been approved to manage reef fish out to nine miles. FH12 and FH6 overlap. So right now, people are out fishing on FH12 and FH6 in Louisiana waters on a Louisiana permit. Since this is disputed water, there probably won't be any materials deposited on these sites.

FUNDRAISING WITH FADS, ETC.

Ralph Humphrey informed the group that we're not putting out any FADs, period. Mr. Humphrey said he and David Andrews had a conversation about when they get ready to sink the Sailboat using some steel drums to help stabilize the vessel as it went down and maybe cutting loose one of the cables so that they swung free and provide a little bit of reef enhancement. Jimmy Sanders is going to check on that for us. Mr. Humphrey said Jimmy is concerned about using 55 gallon drums because of the thinness of the metal and how quick it'll rust. Mr. Sanders will research it and provide us with an answer and reasoning behind the decision.

Mr. Humphrey said Mr. Sanders is in the process of rewriting the Mississippi Reef Development Journal.

DMR FREE MATERIAL

Jimmy Sanders was not present for the meeting. Ralph Humphrey said he talked to Jimmy today about the Lee Street rubble and they are days away from signing a contract and getting commitments. Mr. Humphrey said there are a number of spots in FH2 that were rubble sites, there's a fairly firm bottom there because the rubble has sunk into the mud, there's a little bit of stuff sticking up, it's inside the nine miles. Mr. Humphrey said Jimmy's intention is to dump the rubble on top of the stuff that's already sitting there to build it back up again.

TWO VESSELS TO DONATE

Jimmy Taylor was not present for the meeting. David Andrews said it seems to be a done deal and we're just waiting for the lawsuit to be settled. Mr. Humphrey said we'll carry this topic over.

DERELICT VESSEL PROGRAM VESSEL

David Andrews is lead on this project. Johnny Gill donated a 55 foot steel hull sailboat. It's at H&H Marine. We have a tentative date to clean it. Gulf South Outdoors is going to film the group of volunteers cleaning it May 21st around noon. WLOX is going to do a short story, and the Sun Herald is going to do a write-up.

Mr. Andrews said he and Mr. Humphrey talked about getting an earlier start on the boat. Mr. Humphrey said we should start on Saturday, the 20th, and then let them pick up on it on Sunday. Bob Brown said Deepwater Mafia is going to have trouble making that date because it's Lionfish Awareness Day for the nation. Mr. Andrews said that H&H Marine is forgiving the daily cost of \$25 for the boat to be on the yard but that one of the fees we are going to incur to put it back over is \$15 per foot, 55 foot vessel, so \$825 to put it over. Ideas and plans were discussed for the project.

NEW ORLEANS BARGE TO DONATE

Jimmy Sanders wasn't present for the meeting. Mr. Humphrey said we'll carry this topic over.

ROBERTS MATERIAL

Skip Roberts said he doesn't have anything new on this project, it's still on hold. Mr. Roberts said 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. Humphrey said we'll keep this open for now.

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.

TIDELANDS GRANT 2018

Ralph Humphrey informed the group that today he got to sit down with DMR and discuss what the expectation of the State of Mississippi is for us to use our grant money. We are on a five-year program to spend \$50,000. DMR came up with a list of things that they need to have observed on the dives, which would be four ten-minute dives. Mr. Humphrey said he anticipates a couple of dives a month and these dives would take the place of our regular monthly dives.

Mr. Humphrey said one of the big things they need to capture is hydrology, which is using a piece of equipment that's going to record both at the surface and at the bottom temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen and pH content. Emily has been researching the different pieces of equipment on the market and says the easiest and most convenient piece to use costs \$5000. DMR is not going to provide that for us. Mr. Humphrey went through some of the information that would be required but said that this is all preliminary information and he should have more information at the next meeting. Mr. Humphrey also said the Board of Directors would meet following this meeting to discuss certain aspects of this grant.

FUNDRAISING

Ralph Humphrey asked Mark Miller if there was anything else he wanted to add regarding this fundraising idea. Mr. Miller said it'd already been covered and he didn't have anything else to add.

Background information: 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 Baratavia 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.

NEW BUSINESS

GOPRO CAMERA 5

Mark Miller talked to the group about buying a GoPro5 for the underwater dive work. Mr. Miller discussed the features of the camera and said Adventure Locators in D'Iberville has the camera for \$426.93. Discussion was held regarding the camera and its use. Ralph Humphrey said the camera would be the property of the MGF and the divers could share use of the camera to do the grant dives.

David Andrews made a motion for the MGF to purchase the camera. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

DIVE REPORT

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

BOB'S LIONFISH REPORT

Bob Brown said May 21st is Lionfish Awareness Day Festival in Pensacola, Florida. Mr. Brown said they've been pre-tournament fishing in Alabama and Florida waters because they're so infested with them, racking up prize points, so they haven't been diving here locally. Mr. Brown said also visibility hasn't been that good here. Mr. Brown said he and Brian made two dives on Captain Le and Tuan Phong. On the Captain Le, they saw no Lionfish, and they only got one Lionfish off the Tuan Phong. Mr. Brown said they are planning on going to FH7 and think that's going to be a shoot-out. Mr. Brown stated they have forms that they turn in to DMR to help them collect data.

Mr. Brown said the Deepwater Mafia meeting is June 15th at 6:00 at Da Bayou in Ocean Springs. Dr. Greg Meekin will be at the meeting speaking on decompression sickness.

CONCRETE JESUS

Bob Brown said Deepwater Mafia has been looking at a Jesus with his hands up that's down on 609 for somewhere around \$750 but that he thinks they can get it cheaper. Mr. Brown said they're thinking about putting it down on the Barataria Bay. Mr. Brown said we could put memorials, etc, down, and also said right now there's two skeletons down there. Mr. Brown said he has a personal agenda to make this place famous. Mr. Brown asked if the MGFB would be interested in matching funds to help get this project off the ground. Mr. Humphrey told Mr. Brown to come to the meeting next month with some specifics, how much money and their plan for getting the statue out.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary

MISSISSIPPI GULF FISHING BANKS, INC.

STATEMENT OF FUNDS THROUGH MAY 31ST, 2017

FUNDS AVAILABLE

| | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| BANCORPSOUTH CHECKING 651-548-0 | Balance | \$ 12,381.36 |
| <u>Receipts:</u> | | |
| Interest Paid: | | \$.29 |
| <u>Disbursements:</u> | | |
| Darlene West – Minutes/Bookkeeping | | 200.00 |
| Mark Miller – Dive Trip to deploy USM Recorders. All sites except FH7 are complete. 4/21-FH2, 1, 6, 12, 3; 5/2-FH8, Cat, FH4, 14, 10; 5/7-FH13. | | 1,425.00 |
| Adventure Locators – GoPro5 Camera | | 426.93 |
| | Balance | \$ 10,329.72 |

LIABILITY ACCOUNT

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| BANCORPSOUTH CHECKING #904-103-9 | Balance at 4/30/17 | \$ 20,893.50 |
| | Interest | .89 |
| | Balance at 5/31/17..... | 20,894.39 |
| HANCOCK BANK 21 MONTH RATE RISER CD CD #680840 \$46,299.28 July 2015 Matures 4/9/17 | Balance at 2/28/17 | \$ 47,229.25 |
| | Interest | 0 |
| | Balance at 5/31/17..... | 47,229.25 |
| TOTAL OVERALL FUNDS TO MISSISSIPPI GULF FISHING BANKS, INC., AS OF MAY 31ST, 2017 | | \$ 78,453.36 |