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

## August 8, 2013

#### ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President Darlene West, Secretary J.R. Titmus David Andrews Mark Lyons Mark Miller Derrick Charbonnet Alex Fogg Alva Bennett, Treasurer
Rob Murphy
Keith Goodfellow
Tim Knighten
Omar Vasquez
Greg Byrd

Jay Trochesset

The meeting of August 8th, 2013 was called to order by Ralph Humphrey, President.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Copies of the financial statement were distributed and reviewed by the members. Mr. Humphrey noted that there was a service charge of \$19.18 on the nonprofit account posted by the bank in error and that this was brought to the attention of the bank. Mr. Humphrey stated that the \$19.18 was included in the financial statement to balance the account but the bank should credit that amount in the following bank statement. Mr. Humphrey also made note of a \$500 check made payable to the City of Biloxi and that the check was a deposit to reserve the Biloxi Community Center in 2014 for the MGFB Drawdown.

## **MINUTES**

Motion was made by Greg Byrd to dispense with the reading of the minutes from August. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

## **EVAsystems**

Derrick Charbonnet stated that he did have lunch with the guys from GCRL. Mr. Charbonnet said he wrote up a report but has not yet emailed the report to Mr. Humphrey. He stated the data showed there were no smoking guns, nothing obvious and that they were surprised there wasn't

more PHAs in the sample. Mr. Charbonnet stated they said not knowing too much about the process it was hard to determine how the samples worked and how much it absorbed. The labs proposed three or four ways to do testing and said they would be happy to do as much of a long-term testing program as we wanted to do. Mr. Charbonnet said the labs were going to review the results and the money involved but he hasn't heard back from them. Mr. Charbonnet also stated we could do a long-term plan over a couple of years but that would be very costly. Mr. Ralph Humphrey said that's something that possibly the State should be doing. Mark Miller said that we got it started and now we could get with the EPA and look into a grant with BP money and let them do the whole project.

Ralph Humphrey asked Mark Miller if we had gotten the documents back from the lady up in Maryland. Mr. Miller said we had not. Mr. Humphrey noted that the check still has not been cashed as of yet. Mr. Miller sent an email at the last meeting and has not heard anything back yet.

## ASSESSMENT OF SNAPPER SEASON

Ralph Humphrey asked Jay if anyone had heard anything more about the fall season. J.R. Titus said he and Capt. Tom went to the Gulf Council meeting last Monday and that they didn't really talk about the snapper season but that there was an indication there would be one in October. Mr. Titus said that most of the people that made public comments were talking about the fact that the data was inaccurate. Jay Trochesset said he keeps hearing that it's going to open the 1st of October and will either be two weeks or three weeks.

## LEASE RENEWALS

Ralph Humphrey said he has talked to the Corps of Engineers twice in the last seven days. Mr. Humphrey said the Corps called again yesterday for additional information that they needed and that he is hoping to have the permits in hand next week. Mark Miller asked if they talked about the minimum heights that were going to be in the permits. Mr. Miller stated that before the permits were issued would be the best time to deal with the height issues. Mr. Humphrey said he didn't fill out any forms, that he just wrote a generic letter stating what the intent was and where and for how long and what. Mr. Miller said once we got the permits they will have to be modified to satisfy NOAA. Mr. Humphrey said he will call the Corps and get an update on the situation. Mr. Humphrey also told Mr.

Miller to check the heights on the four or five sites that were believed to not be in compliance with height minimums and verify the data.

## STIMULUS MONEY

Jay Trochesset stated that no news is good news and as soon as he hears something he will let us know.

#### **IDLE IRON**

Mr. Humphrey said he wasn't sure if the idle iron was something that we needed to carry on and asked for possible suggestions to keep it going. Mark Miller said that he had some more news to report. Mr. Miller said he took some guys out yesterday from BSEE who wanted to go to the gas wells off of Petite Bois. Mr. Miller said he got two really good contacts with them and they were very agreeable to work with an organization like us and that they would possibly come to one of our meetings.

Tim Knighten said he got in contact with Leslie Hoffman, who is related to John Hoffman, the CEO of Black Elk Energy, and that she was going to pass an email on to Mr. Hoffman about what the MGFB does and possible areas suitable for rigs. Mr. Knighten said he informed Ms. Hoffman that we would like to invite Mr. Hoffman to our dinner as soon as we get the date nailed down.

## LIONFISH BOUNTY

Ralph Humphrey asked Alex Fogg how the Lionfish bounty was going. Mr. Fogg stated that the money was gone. Mr. Fogg said there has been a lot of fish turned in and he has his hands full right now. Mr. Fogg also stated that the university has matched the money and that he is also reaching out to a couple of different organizations to see if he can raise some more money and get a bounty going for next month. Mr. Fogg said the bounty program generated much needed interest and was outstanding for his research. He said he had 650 fish turned in in the last two weeks. He also said US Fish and Wildlife has a program and fished a bunch of rigs and our fish havens in our immediate waters and that they've gotten 7 Lionfish in the last month and a half. Mr. Fogg said by the next meeting he will have a pretty comprehensive report on the fish that came in because of the bounty.

INVITATIONAL DINNER AND DRAWDOWN

Ralph Humphrey informed everyone that April 26, 2014 was the date of the MGFB Drawdown at the Biloxi Community Center. Mr. Humphrey said that Nadine would be running that project and would be relying on Pam Miller and Darlene West to assist her. Darlene West said she talked to Porfi Stokes and that Porfi agreed to help with the Drawdown.

Mr. Humphrey said that he talked to Nadine about the invitational dinner and she wanted to know if we had put together any names for the invitations. Mr. Humphrey said he thought more time was needed to gather information. Tim Knighten said he stated looking at some of our senators and different people for a list and it was pretty overwhelming. Mark Miller said we need to try to get the information on Vcards to cut down on the work of transferring data. Jay Trochesset said he talked to two local state representatives and they both expressed interest in attending the dinner. Omar Vasquez said we should submit names and information and then there should be a committee to select people to attend the dinner and follow up to ensure people attend. David Andrews said he talked to Brian Pisarich and Brian said he's finished with the menus and is ready for a signature.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

## **DIVE REPORT**

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

## CLEARANCE ON MISSISSIPPI OFFSHORE REEF SITES

Mark Miller received a letter dated August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 addressed to Mr. Miller and James Sanders from Lance Roddy of NOAA and the subject was clearances over offshore reef sites. Mr. Miller said the letter was to inform us that five offshore sites (FH-4, FH-12, FH-13, FH-14 and Cat Island Reef) are depicted on the NOAA nautical charts with permitted minimum depths that are deeper than deployed materials in each reef. Mr. Miller said the letter details the surveys and recommendations by Mr. Roddy. A copy of the letter will be included with the original minutes. Mr. Miller said Mr. Roddy's concern is that the permits match what's out there and then get the charts corrected to reflect that.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.	
	_
President	Secretary