

2/11/16

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

January 14th, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President
David Andrews
Jimmy Sanders
Tom Becker
Robert Fishman
Jonathan Morgan
James Poss

Darlene West, Secretary
Alva Bennett
Sid Traman
Mark Miller
F.J. Eicke
Keith Goodfellow
John Lamb

The meeting of January 14th, 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 Tom Becker. 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

Ralph Humphrey said he still has not heard anything on stimulus money. Mr. Humphrey said he still gets emails that they're disbursing money out but it ain't coming our way and at this point he is at a loss as to what to do. James Poss suggested following up with a letter to check on the stimulus money.

FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT AND CROWD SOURCING

Ralph Humphrey said the GoFundMe account is still sitting at \$830.

CHARGING FEES FOR DUMPING ON MGFB SITES

This topic has been tabled for now.

JACKSON COUNTY FUNDING

Ralph Humphrey informed the group that the attorney for JC has been dismissed and their new attorney is Gary Evans and so maybe we have a chance at funding again. Mark Miller said he had talked to Tristan Armer, an attorney in Pascagoula, and Mr. Armer said he knew him well and he's probably aware of the fact that we funded without statutory authority and it may prove difficult to convince him to restore the funding but on the other hand he's a new lawyer, new opportunity, and the county may be willing to partner with us to get grant funding which would avoid the statutory restriction. Mr. Armer said we should write the supervisors and that he would talk to Gary Evans and explain the history of our funding and things like that so he wouldn't be blindsided. Mr. Humphrey said he would follow up on this.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Ralph Humphrey noted that Tim Knighten was not present for the meeting and said we would just carry this over.

CULVERTS SOMEBODY WANTS TO GET RID OF

Tim Knighten had said at a previous meeting that the guy never called him back and that he had sent the guy another text for updated information. Mr. Humphrey said we'll carry this over also.

CHANGING BYLAWS

Ralph Humphrey said this topic had been previously tabled and no one has done anything on this topic. Mr. Humphrey informed the group that David Anderws took it upon himself to get the ball rolling and provided him with a copy of our original charter or constitution and it's very vague and really doesn't say anything about building reefs. Mr. Humphrey said Mr. Andrews started putting some thoughts down and his initial opening was to actually describe what we do, why we're here and how it's transformed over the last forty years to where we are today.

Mr. Humphrey said he is going to get serious and hopefully before the next meeting rewrite these and provide everybody a copy of it and discuss and hammer out any changes. Mark Miller recommended to focus on fishing and diving and also believes the part of being held for a year doesn't need to go in the bylaws as we don't necessarily need to stick to that all the time and it might be difficult to take that out if you put it in there. Mr. Humphrey agreed. Mr. Miller also said we shouldn't focus just on construction because he thinks the organization has the potential to do much more with monitoring and participating in tournaments, etc. Mr. Miller said since the State gets quite a bit of funding for construction he sees the group kind of moving away from that part of it. Mr. Humphrey said he would put something down on paper and bring it to the next meeting.

GULF COUNCIL MEETING

Ralph Humphrey said they're fixing to vote on Amendment 39 but no decision has been made as of yet.

2016 TIDELAND GRANT

Ralph Humphrey informed the group he never heard anything on the grant so he tracked down Ms. Slater and found out we were denied with no explanation. Mr. Humphrey said he put in for the 2017 application last summer and we'll keep our fingers crossed.

BOAT SHOW

John Lamb volunteered to do the boat show March 4-6, 2016. Mr. Lamb asked for a list of volunteers, etc. Ralph Humphrey volunteered to help and said if anybody is interested in helping out to let Mr. Lamb know.

NEW BUSINESS

FUNDING IDEAS

Mark Miller presented several ideas for raising funds including online lottery, raffles, fishing tournaments, tagging snapper and offering prizes for certain tags, gambling online. Mr. Miller said some of the funding ideas need to be investigated as far as legality, etc. F.J. Eicke said if we wanted to tag red snapper, for example, in our waters we could possibly combine with the Star Tournament.

Mr. Miller also noted that he came across a group while looking around called Msnonprofit.org. Mr. Miller said it was very vague on what they do and accomplish but nonprofits have a unique stance and if anybody can help figure out where we can do things better or find sources of money it might be worth looking into. Ralph Humphrey said he looked at it and there was a fee associated with it. Mr. Humphrey said it's the Mississippi Center for Nonprofits. Mr. Humphrey said he kept looking through it to find out what they were going to do for us, but he would look into it some more. Mr. Miller said from what he understands the group aims at nonprofits and what they can do to help nonprofits with grants or different things.

Mr. Humphrey said all of these things involve group participation and he already does quite a bit and he's not sure he can take on anything more, so if someone wants to volunteer to run with this that would be great. Mr. Miller said from the questions he saw it would probably take either Mr. Humphrey or Darlene West to fill out the required information to join the site.

Mark Miller made a motion that we authorize up to \$300 for either Ralph Humphrey or Darlene West to pursue looking into Msnonprofit.org and to possibly join if it would be advantageous for MGFB. Jonathan Morgan seconded the motion. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

Mr. Miller said we should probably get a committee together to talk about other funding ideas such as lottery versus raffle, etc. James Poss suggested selling sponsorships, like buying a piece off of an F-4 or something and charge a hundred dollars to have your name written on it and sink it. Keith Goodfellow said if we really wanted to make money we should do a bingo. Mr. Goodfellow said we could do one night a week and get fifty thousand dollars a year, two nights a week and make over a hundred thousand but it is labor intensive. Mr. Goodfellow said his wife does it for the church. Mr. Miller said Pam's parents ran one for years for the church and she might be able to contribute some information. Mr. Goodfellow and Mr. Miller agreed to try to bring some information for next month.

James Poss suggested selling maps to raise money. Mr. Poss said he would talk to the Lidar guys out at Stennis. Mr. Poss said the Lidar should be able to pick up

our FADs if they're in less than a hundred feet of water. Mr. Poss said it's one thing to get a list of coordinates but it's a complete different to get a really nice map with Lidar or side-scan sonar. Mark Miller said a really good raffle would be to get a unit and have it preloaded with all of our stuff in it. Jimmy Sanders said as part of the red snapper sampling they're doing they just hired a company to multibeam all of the fish havens. Mr. Sanders said they have already completed the process and they are actually working on processing the data as we speak.

Ralph Humphrey asked if anybody knew a ballpark figure for a side-scan unit. Mark Miller said he can bring the info to the next meeting but a lot of people already have the units and they just want the chip. Mr. Miller said what we ought to look at doing if we're going to do several raffles and different tournaments is go get pricing on different units so we can buy one unit of each and load them up and duplicate a bunch of the chips and we could raffle them or sell them. Jonathan Morgan said he would talk to his brother who has been looking at buying a new unit and is well-versed on the different ones. Mr. Miller will check into it and get back with us. Keith Goodfellow said standard mapping has a special chip you can put in units that have all of the coast of Louisiana in it. It was also suggested charging like fifty dollars a year for updates.

Mr. Humphrey said for the last few years we've had a steady stream of money going out every month and no money coming in. Mr. Humphrey said he thinks we should look at what we're doing as far as spending money. Mr. Miller agreed that we should cut back on the monitoring. Mr. Miller said he does have a few more FADs to put out that's already built but he just hasn't had the weather. Mr. Miller said we do have some existing FADs that he would like to see how they're doing.

Mark Miller said he talked to Tim Knighten who talked to somebody on the CMR and he wasn't even aware of our group. Mark Miller said we needed to raise awareness, talk to our representatives, supervisors. Mr. Miller said he talked to Andrew Whitman today and he said he would put together a thirty second spot for us. Jonathan Morgan suggested having a booth at an existing fishing tournament to create awareness for MGFB. Robert Fishman said that would be a good situation to raffle off something. Mr. Morgan suggested a grab bag of fishing supplies or a charter trip or a Yeti. Mr. Eiche said we should raffle something at the boat show, maybe get one of the local dive shops to give away

free lessons. Darlene West reminded the group that the boat show was the beginning of March so we needed to decide something during the February meeting.

DMR TRUCKING BID

Jimmy Sanders said they postponed the trucking bid. Mr. Sanders said they had a local company contact them, Design Precast, and since December 28 they've got over 1300 culverts delivered to the staging site for free and there's more coming. Mr. Sanders said if they can get the stuff for free they were going for it.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary