

9/8/16

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

August 11th, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President
David Andrews
Mark Miller
Jimmy Sanders
Kendall Terrell
Jay Trochesset
Robert Fishman

Darlene West, Secretary
Alva Bennett
Charles McMillon, Sr.
Stance LeBlanc
Kenny Barhanovich
Craig Gusa

The meeting of August 11th, 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 Kenny Barhanovich. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

Darlene West mentioned to the group that the working checking account balance was low. The invoice was sent to USM for the data recorder dive work that was done last month, but we have not received any funds as of yet. It was decided to transfer \$5000 from the BancorpSouth Money Market account into the MGFB checking account. Ms. West said she didn't carry that checkbook with her but that she would get with Alva Bennett next week to sign a check so she could transfer the money.

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 still hasn't heard anything on that stimulus money and as far as the Tidelands Grant he still hasn't heard anything on the '17 grant. Jimmy Sanders said he hasn't heard anything on the 2017 Grant either.

FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT AND CROWD SOURCING

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

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Tim Knighten was not present for the meeting. Mr. Humphrey said we will carry this over.

CULVERTS SOMEBODY WANTS TO GET RID OF

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CHANGING BYLAWS

Ralph Humphrey told everyone that we've had two or three meetings that we've actually gone over the bylaws and the constitution. Mr. Humphrey said the last he remembered is that Tim Knighten wanted to define what the responsibilities are of the board members and since Mr. Knighten isn't here we will carry this over until he has an opportunity to bring to the table what he wants to add.

USM CONTRACT

Mr. Humphrey said that Mark Miller has already made his initial deployment, we've reimbursed him for that deployment and we have sent a bill to USM and are waiting for them to reimburse us. Mr. Humphrey stated that Mr. Miller has since then gone out and did an additional deployment and we will bill for that new deployment.

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 says he has been keeping his eyes open for something to put on FH14 but he doesn't have anything as of right now.

ICAST 2016

Robert Fishman updated the group on ICAST. Mr. Fishman said he has a contact list of a bunch of people willing to donate stuff if we had something planned but that they required at least 120 days notice and they wanted to know how many people would be attending, etc. Mr. Fishman said it would be a process but once we do a tournament or something the first time then we can just copy it. Mr. Humphrey said we will keep that in mind for next year.

Mr. Fishman said there was also someone there that was building FADs out of PVC. Mr. Fishman said that it was a special formula or whatever that they allowed out there and that they had a CNC lathe where he cuts a groove out and there was like plastic bars that go through it. Mr. Fishman said he posted it in the Facebook group.

FUNDRAISING

Ralph Humphrey gave the group this preamble: Last month when Tim Knighten came in, he asked Ralph Humphrey about his conversation with the Corps of Engineers. After a meeting approximately two months ago, there were some questions that came up about the 15-day notice for the DMR before deployments and several other things. Mr. Humphrey called the Corps and spoke with them. Mr. Humphrey then sent an email to some of the Board saying, Hey, I've talked to the Corps, and I'll address it in the next meeting. Mark Miller called Mr. Humphrey and wanted a debrief on the conversation before the meeting. So Mr. Humphrey told him about the conversation. At the next meeting when Tim Knighten asked Mr. Humphrey about the conversation, Mr. Humphrey thought he had already addressed it with the group. But he didn't. So he owes the group a debriefing on the conversation.

Mr. Humphrey sent an email to some of the Board. Darlene West has made a copy to put into our records. Mr. Humphrey read the email to the members present. Here are some relevant points:

- A 15-day notice to the Corps is not required for our permits.
- Allison Monroe's opinion is our permits appear to be ambiguous. It appears our permits allow us for a one-time deployment on each site.
- The Corps is conducting an internal review of our permits. We are to continue status quo, no changes. Our permits are up for renewal on March

17th of 2017. The Corps will contact Mr. Humphrey when to proceed with the renewal process.

Mr. Humphrey quoted from his email the following: “As a result of this conversation, in review of this month’s meeting and in a further review of our current permits, the conclusion is we must cease any further deployment of FADs on our reef sites. The permits state we are specifically allowed to deploy concrete rubble and derelict steel hulled vessels. Nowhere does it state we may deploy plastic or polypropylene products. I know we’ve been actively engaged in this activity but I’m worried we’re in violation of our current permits. Since we’re close to renewing these permits, I feel it’s better to err on the side of caution.”

Jimmy Sanders said this could open up a can of worms. Mark Miller said it’s always been that way. Mr. Humphrey stated the gist of it is we are to cease all deployments of any material not specifically allowed for in the language of our permits. Mr. Humphrey also stated that he assumes they’re going to reword the permits somehow and then they’re going to get with him but if he doesn’t hear anything by the end of the year he will contact them again.

Mr. Humphrey said he also reached out to Jimmy Sanders about this matter because he’s the “Reef Guru” right now. Mr. Humphrey said he is very concerned about putting out anything else other than what is specifically stated in our permits. Jimmy Sanders said they’re also reevaluating all the DMR stuff and looking at the language, etc. Robert Fishman said perhaps we should contact Reef Maker and they might know how to go about getting the correct language into the permit. Jimmy Sanders said it really boils down to biodegradable stuff and if someone puts a PVC pipe or a tarp or something like that it’s considered ocean dumping.

GULF COUNCIL EMAILS

Ralph Humphrey reiterated to the group that the Gulf Council send out emails to the people on their sign-up list asking for participation on a Recreational Angler Advisory Board to make recommendations to the Council and that he applied and used MGFB as background experience. So on behalf of MGFB, Mr. Humphrey applied for that position, and we’ll see what happens.

DMR FREE MATERIAL

Jimmy Sanders said they finished up with Jay Knowles and he thinks the final tally was about a hundred culverts. Mr. Sanders said he talked to a gentleman today and that he's got a yard full of stuff and that the guy is hoping within the month that he'll bring it to the staging site and unload it and stack it at no cost.

Mr. Sanders said he finally met with John from Oscar Renda for the Lee Street project and he's agreed to supply the manpower, the machine and a loading area and he's willing to move the material from where it sits to the water's edge to be loaded onto a barge. Mr. Sanders said he's currently working on the bid specs for that and he's letting legal look at the letter that he sent to make sure everything is kosher with the legal department. Jay Trochesset said that's great because we're not getting any younger.

PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS WITH THE CORPS

This was discussed under Fundraising. We are currently waiting on the Corps to get back with us about the renewal process.

NEW BUSINESS

DIVE REPORT

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

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary