

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

September 18th, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Humphrey, President

David Andrews

Mark Miller

Jimmy Sanders

Kendall Terrell

Jay Trochesset

Robert Fishman

Scott Milroy

Jan Hilburn

Diane Becker

Heather Houk

Brian Bounds

Marcus McDavid

Tyler Smith

Robert Smith

Patric Harper

Jimmy Taylor

Darlene West, Secretary

Alva Bennett

Charles McMillon, Sr.

Stance LeBlanc

Tim Knighten

Craig Gusa

Bob Brown

Michael Mann

Tom Becker

Keith Goodfellow

Thomas Rigolo

T'Jay Pratt

Jason Jones

Matt Marsden

Marty McGrath

Lee Trahan

The meeting of September 8th, 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 Lee Trahan. Motion was seconded and carried upon vote.

Darlene West mentioned to the group that we had sent out two bills to USM for the dive work but had not yet received payment yet. Ms. West said she spoke with Scott Milroy and that he said the payment was approved and we should be

receiving a check. Scott Milroy was present at the meeting. And Mr. Milroy said it's in process and he's tracking down where it is.

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 restore act money. Mr. Humphrey said that Robert Fishman just handed him several opportunities to look into and that he would do that when he had time. Mr. Humphrey stated he still hasn't heard anything on the Tidelands Grant. Jimmy Sanders said he hasn't heard anything 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. David Andrews made a motion to drop this topic for now. Tim Knighten entered the meeting at this time and said he hasn't had a chance to do anything on this. Mark Miller said he thought the MOU was important because we don't know where we stand with the DMR. Ralph Humphrey called for a vote. Motion was seconded by Robert Fishman and carried upon vote.

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. Mr. Knighten wasn't present at the last meeting, so Mr. Humphrey carried this over. Mr. Knight was present tonight and said that he did have that and that he emailed it to the whole Board. No one on the Board received the email. Mr. Knighten said he will email his proposal again to the Board. Mr. Humphrey said we will carry it over one more month.

USM CONTRACT

Mr. Humphrey asked Mark Miller for an update on the USM Contract. Mr. Miller said he did the initial deployment spread out over three trips, then made two exchange trips last month and then did two exchange trips this month. He has a bill this month to send to USM. Mr. Humphrey said to keep this item open.

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 had updated the group last month on ICAST. Mr. Fishman introduced Matt Marsden who makes FADs. They brought a sample FAD for the group to view. Mr. Humphrey said we would take it up under new business.

FUNDRAISING

Last month, Ralph Humphrey updated the group on the situation with the Corps regarding our permits. We are presently waiting to hear from the Corps regarding this matter. Mr. Humphrey said if he doesn't hear from the Corps by the end of the year he would contact them again and find out where we're at.

GULF COUNCIL EMAILS

Ralph Humphrey informed the group that he had Darlene West send out an email to the membership today. Mr. Humphrey said he had just received the email today from the Gulf Council where they're looking for input on either extending or stopping the sunset clause -- due to expire at the end of next year -- on the sector separation which involves separating the charter boat captains out from the recreational. Mr. Humphrey said they're thinking about extending it for an additional three years and if you want to have your voice heard there is an opportunity to.

DMR FREE MATERIAL

Jimmy Sanders said they're steady getting stuff in at random times at the staging site. Mr. Sanders also reported they are currently working on an MOA with Oscar

Renda. Mr. Sanders said that he drew it up, he's waiting for Oscar Renda's comments, legal will then take a look at it and as soon as it's squared away they'll be deploying the concrete from Lee Street. Lee Trahan said Jay Trochesset said "to hurry up because we're not getting any younger."

NEW BUSINESS

GRANT NOTICE DOCUMENTATION

Robert Fishman gave Mr. Humphrey some grant notice documentation, about eight or nine of them, primarily Restore Act money. Mr. Humphrey said he will have to look more closely at them but that they do look viable with our organization. Mr. Humphrey said if anybody had any grant writing experience and wanted to take on a project he wouldn't mind. Robert Smith said it was really important to remember that the funding falls into three categories, Restore Act Funds, Natural Resource Damage Assessment Funds and Gulf Environmental Benefit Funds. Extensive discussion followed with the members regarding possible funding and opportunities that may be available. Robert Smith said he had several links that he could send to Mr. Humphrey that might help.

Robert Smith, Marty McGrath and Patric Harper were all introduced, and they explained they were all here to find a way to move artificial reefs forward. Mr. Smith said if there was a way that they could work with us, whether helping write proposals, helping make proposals make better sense, helping whatever, that's what they were here to try to do.

DIVE REPORT

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

SCOTT MILROY'S REPORT

Mr. Milroy gave the members some background on the loggers, what they had previously done and what they were looking for with this project.

FADS WITH MATT MARSDEN

Matt Marsden with American Fish Tree, Chattanooga, Tennessee, brought a sample of his FAD with heavy gauge PVC and explained the concept to the members.

TWO VESSELS TO DONATE

Jimmy Taylor said he has a person that has agreed to donate two vessels to the FB and also has someone that would deploy them. Mr. Taylor said one is a steel hulled rescue boat that is on Paul Bodin's yard, about forty foot, and the other one is an aluminum Catamaran, about thirty-five or forty foot. Mr. Taylor stated this person is going to be taking the engines and cleaning it and is going to donate it for a tax write-off. Ralph Humphrey said he doesn't believe we can take the aluminum hull vessel because that doesn't fit the perimeters of our lease.

Mr. Taylor said he would like to make a motion that Ralph Humphrey contact the Corps and see under our permit if aluminum is okay because "it is the best material you can put out." Robert Fishman said worst case scenario we can take it and scrap it and make some money. Mr. Humphrey said we'd probably be better off doing that. David Andrews said as long as that money was earmarked for artificial reef building that guy probably wouldn't mind.

Mr. Taylor said another thing is this person is an international contractor that has taken possession of about 200 floating oil rigs and depending on whether these people pay the rent within three years he's going to have to find a place to put them. Mr. Taylor said this person is being paid to decontaminate them. Some of them are 300 feet tall. Mr. Taylor said they'll probably have to be in a thousand feet of water. Mr. Taylor said after speaking with his friend he thinks there might be an opportunity for the DMR and the MGFB to come together and have some deep water sites, FADs that won't move and won't contaminate.

TRISTAN ARMER LETTER

Mark Miller read a letter from Tristan Armer stating: Gary Evans said he is not the right person to ask for the funding. If he is asked whether the county can donate to MGFB, his opinion is also no. But MGFB can join in with the county recreation program. And, again, he is not the one to ask. He said he sent an email to Jack Hamilton, who is Jackson County's recreational director, and asked to meet with

him and me about funding that we can tap into. And he said he'll let me know when he hears back from him.

SUPPORT LETTER

It was suggested that someone put together a form letter for all the members to use to send to congressman, supervisors, etc, to help get support for the MGF. It was also suggested formulating a list of who members should send the letter to. Darlene West said she would attempt to put together a letter and would forward it to Ralph Humphrey for him to peruse. Ms. West will try to have it for the next meeting.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary