

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE

Doubletree by Hilton Austin

Austin, Texas

APRIL 4, 2016

VOTING MEMBERS

- Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- Martha Bademan (designee for Nick Wiley).....Florida
- Kelly Lucas (designee for Jamie Miller).....Mississippi
- John Greene.....Alabama
- Lance Robinson (designee for Robin Riechers).....Texas
- David Walker.....Alabama

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

- Doug Boyd.....Texas
- Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- Myron Fischer (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana
- Campo Matens.....Louisiana
- John Sanchez.....Florida
- Greg Stunz.....Texas
- Ed Swindell.....Louisiana
- Roy Williams.....Florida

STAFF

- Steven Atran.....Senior Fishery Biologist
- Douglas Gregory.....Executive Director
- Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
- Karen Hoak.....Administrative and Financial Assistant
- Morgan Kilgour.....Fishery Biologist
- Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
- Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- Emily Muehlstein.....Fisheries Outreach Specialist
- Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison
- Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- Carrie Simmons.....Deputy Director

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

- Pam Anderson.....PCBA, Panama City, FL
- Patrick Banks.....LA
- Steve Branstetter.....NMFS
- J.P. Brooker.....Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, FL
- Gary Bryant.....Gulf Shores, AL
- Chris Conklin.....SAFMC
- Toby Gascon.....Baton Rouge, LA

1 Jim Green.....FL
2 Ken Haddad.....American Sportfishing Association, FL
3 Chad Hanson.....Pew
4 Bill Kelly.....FKCFA, FL
5 Mark Kinsey.....
6 Ed Lello.....Austin, TX
7 Charlie Melancon.....LA
8 Corky Perret.....MS
9 Clay Porch.....SEFSC
10 Brandi Reeder.....TPWD
11 Clarence Seymour.....

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TABLE OF MOTIONS

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1 The Administrative/Budget Committee of the Gulf of Mexico
2 Fishery Management Council convened at the Doubletree by Hilton
3 Hotel, Austin, Texas, Monday morning, April 4, 2016, and was
4 called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Leann Bosarge.

5
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
9

10 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** Before we get started on Admin Policy, Mr.
11 Fischer, you have an announcement?

12
13 **MR. MYRON FISCHER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to
14 make a couple of introductions real quick and maybe have a few
15 words spoken, if we could indulge a few minutes of your time.
16 We have a new Head of Fisheries in Louisiana, and he is sitting
17 here at the council, at the council table, and will observe our
18 methods and how we operate for future meetings, so he can
19 eventually pull the strings and take over, and that's Patrick
20 Banks, for those of you who don't know Patrick.

21
22 We also have a new Secretary who is present today, and I just
23 wanted to introduce you all our new Secretary. He lives just up
24 the Bayou from me. He's on the banks of Bayou Lafourche, and so
25 he's got to be a great person. That's Charlie Melancon, who
26 I've been knowing probably for thirty or forty years. We were
27 trying to piece it together, but Secretary Melancon.

28
29 **MR. ANSON:** Thank you, Myron, and welcome, Patrick and Secretary
30 Melancon, and thank you. Ms. Bosarge, are you ready?

31
32 **CHAIRMAN LEANN BOSARGE:** Yes, sir. Good morning. The first
33 thing up is our Administrative/Budget Committee. We have Dr.
34 Lucas, Dr. Dana is our committee and she's not here at the
35 moment, Johnny Greene, we have Lance Robinson, David Walker, and
36 Martha Bademan.

37
38 It looks like we have everybody around the table except for Pam,
39 and so we should be good there. The first thing, if you look at
40 Tab G, Number 1, you will find your agenda. It's pretty
41 streamlined today. Are there any revisions or amendments to the
42 agenda? Doug.

43
44 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOUG GREGORY:** I would like to ask the
45 committee to consider in Other Business a discussion of whether
46 or not you want to let an SSC member also be an alternate
47 designee for a state. That question has come up. We talked to
48 Mara about it, and she thought it was best as a council policy.

1 The issue is can a state nominate a designee that's also a
2 voting member of the SSC? Thank you.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, Doug. We will put that under
5 Other Business. Next on our agenda, if you look at Tab G,
6 Number 3, you will find the Action Guide and Next Steps. We
7 also have our minutes from our last meeting. Were there any
8 revisions or amendments to the minutes? Seeing none, do I have
9 a motion to approve the minutes as they stand?

10
11 **DR. KELLY LUCAS:** So moved.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Motion by Dr. Lucas and seconded by Johnny.
14 Any opposition to that motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.
15 Next, we are going to go through the Review of our 2014 No-Cost
16 Extension and our 2015 and 2016 Budgets, and I believe that Beth
17 and Carrie are going to lead us through that, and so I will turn
18 it over to you. For everybody following along, that's Tab G,
19 Number 4.

20
21 **REVIEW OF 2014 NO-COST EXTENSION AND 2015 & 2016 BUDGETS**

22
23 **MS. BETH HAGER:** This report shows the funded budgets for the
24 2014 no-cost extension, the 2015 administrative award, and the
25 anticipated 2016 budget. We have included columns for the funds
26 expended during the 2015 fiscal year, on both the 2014 no-cost
27 and the first year of the new five-year award in 2015.

28
29 In 2016, we anticipated receiving funding approximately level to
30 the 2015 period, including the \$100,000 for EFH. In total,
31 that's 3.4 percent lower than the original 2016 estimated budget
32 of \$3.7 million.

33
34 In taking us through, the first no-cost extension of the 2014
35 award had a budget of \$1.14 million. This encompassed meeting
36 activities, staff time, an office build-out, and contracted
37 analytical work. Not all of the activities were completed
38 during the 2015 calendar year, and so a second request was
39 requested and granted to carry \$273,000 to June of 2016.

40
41 In reviewing the 2014 no-cost expenditures, we see staff
42 salaries were underspent. There was a position which was
43 unfilled in 2015. Of the unexpended travel, it will be
44 exhausted as the final activities wind up in this upcoming year.
45 The contractual line was overspent, but that's due to the office
46 build-out costs being categorized as contractual, and we have
47 those funds being unspent in the rents and leases category. We
48 also had contracted service to summarize the congressional

1 action on the Magnuson Act.

2
3 Of the 2015 budget, only \$3.012 million was expended. The
4 savings was due, in part, to the time and expenses being
5 allocated to the 2014 no-cost activities. Overall, we carried
6 \$607,000 of the 2015 to 2019 administrative award funds into
7 2016, and then we have our proposed budget, which, again, has
8 been reduced all the way across by the 3.4 percent.

9
10 **DR. CARRIE SIMMONS:** Madam Chair, did you want me to go through
11 the proposed 2016 activities, or did you want to stop and ask
12 questions?

13
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Did anybody have a question on Beth's
15 presentation? All right. Go ahead, Carrie.

16
17 **DR. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I am just going to
18 quickly go through Tab G, Number 4(a). This is a combination of
19 all technical staff coming together and brainstorming about the
20 list of proposed activities we're anticipating in 2016. As
21 always, we're probably a little bit overzealous, but we're
22 trying to think about all the things that would potentially come
23 up in 2016.

24
25 We have council meetings, Scientific and Statistical Committee
26 meetings, with a number of special meetings there, a number of
27 advisory panel meetings, working groups, technical committees,
28 as well as SEDAR meetings and then public hearings.

29
30 What I would like to point out here is the items that have an
31 asterisk next to them can be billed to the 2014 no-cost
32 extension, because they were written in as such, and we can bill
33 those through June of this year, 2016, because we were granted
34 the second six-month no-cost extension. Thank you, Madam Chair.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** What happens if we don't get those billed by
37 June of 2016, Carrie?

38
39 **DR. SIMMONS:** We can still do those activities. It would just
40 go towards our 2016 funding.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. That sounds good, and on these
43 asterisks that I see on here, I know there are a few things that
44 we have pending that may very well come to fruition before that
45 June deadline, and so that's a good thing. I think somebody had
46 a lot of forward-thinking when they put that into place a year
47 or so ago, and so that was good. Are there any questions from
48 the committee or the council in general on Carrie and Beth's

1 presentations?

2
3 If you look at our Action Schedule and Next Steps, we are
4 reviewing and possibly approving the proposed 2016 activities
5 and budgets. Do you have any more presentations, Carrie?
6 You're good? Okay, and so you need a motion from the committee
7 now, if we are in agreement with what we've been presented, to
8 approve it as presented? All right. Is anybody on the
9 committee willing to make such a motion? Dr. Lucas.

10
11 **DR. LUCAS: I make the motion that we accept the budget and the**
12 **activities as written.**

13
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a motion that's coming up on the
15 board by Dr. Lucas. It's been seconded by Lance Robinson.
16 Carrie, did you have a question?

17
18 **DR. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Can we just add "2016" to
19 that, to recommend accepting the 2016 budget and activities as
20 written? Thank you.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Lucas, is that your motion?

23
24 **DR. LUCAS:** Yes.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a motion on the board to recommend
27 accepting the 2016 budget and activities as written. We have a
28 second to this motion. Any discussion on this motion? **Any**
29 **opposition to this motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

30
31 That takes us to Agenda Item Number V, Other Business, and I
32 believe that Doug is going to lead us through that discussion.

33
34 **OTHER BUSINESS**
35 **DISCUSSION OF SSC MEMBERS SERVING AS COUNCIL DESIGNEES**

36
37 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I got a
38 request recently from a state director asking if we could
39 appoint someone as a designee to the council that's also a
40 sitting voting member of the SSC, and that's really a policy
41 issue that would either go into our SOPPs or just office policy.
42 I thought it best, since we've never had an instance like this
43 to come up before, that the council make that decision.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Myron, do you want to give us some input?
46 Doug mentioned earlier that it was -- I'm assuming you have some
47 input.

48

1 **MR. FISCHER:** We were thinking of adding a designee to serve
2 under me, as I said yesterday, in case I get wounded in battle.
3 You know how things can happen here. They could step up to the
4 plate and take over at halftime, but that person does sit on an
5 SSC, and we're trying to find a rule, and Mara did give an
6 answer, but we thought it was something that possibly should
7 come up to the council. If it's not in the SOPPs, maybe it
8 should be, and this is the platform to discuss it at this
9 meeting, but I'm not on your committee. That is the issue, and
10 whatever the feel of the council is, it's what it is.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mara, do you have any feedback on this?
13

14 **MS. MARA LEVY:** I guess my opinion was that there's nothing
15 legally prohibiting a designee from also being on an SSC, but
16 that that seemed like a policy choice for the council that you
17 might want to discuss and decide whether you think that's
18 appropriate or not.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Doug, because it sounds like we have some
21 leeway here. We're not doing anything that's illegal, per Mara,
22 but then I guess, on the other hand, there's almost an internal
23 control issue, to a degree, that we have to look at, but it
24 sounds like we have some flexibility to take a look at this and
25 see what the issues are and see where we want to go.

26
27 I don't know what the timeframe on this is, as far as Louisiana
28 is concerned, if it's a time crunch, but is it possible for
29 staff to maybe bring us back some discussion on it, relative to
30 our SOPPs, at maybe our June or a future meeting? Like I said,
31 I don't know how pressing it is.

32
33 **MR. CORKY PERRET:** (The comment is not audible on the
34 recording.)

35
36 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** So does that speak in favor or against it?
37 We love you, Corky. It's good to have you here. We will never
38 lose your expertise, and I'm glad you're here to be our
39 historian, as always. Thank you.

40
41 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I apologize to the council. Our
42 historical records don't go that far back. So it has been done,
43 but it brings up a potential -- Not a financial conflict of
44 interest, but a voting type of conflict of interest, and what
45 kind of influence would that have on the SSC deliberations if
46 you've got a council member who is serving on the SSC?

47
48 I know that some members of the SSC, in the past, when we had

1 stock assessment panels and the results of the stock assessment
2 panel would come before the SSC, some members would recuse
3 themselves as an SSC member because they were also on the stock
4 assessment panel and they would be voting on their own report.
5 I know some members are sensitive about that, but it's really a
6 council call and what you all think. Now, we don't have to make
7 a decision now, I don't think, but you can think about it some
8 more, if you like.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Myron.

11
12 **MR. FISCHER:** Madam Chair, I'm not on your committee, but you
13 know we exposed the issue, and what we could do is agenda it to
14 be on a future committee decision and discuss it further. We
15 may feel that it is an awkward situation and we may feel that
16 it's happened historically and there's nothing wrong with it.
17 It actually brings another expertise to the council, and so we
18 may go for it. We could, like I said, follow this up and maybe
19 in Clearwater make a decision. I don't know if -- It would just
20 be a vote decision for the administrative policy.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Yes, Myron, and you know another option, as
23 we weigh options down the road, I guess, but another option may
24 be, if we decided to allow that situation where you have
25 somebody that's a voting member on the council, even as a
26 designee, because you don't know when the designee would be
27 there, and so you have to assume he or she is a voting member,
28 but they're also on the SSC and maybe that person would no
29 longer vote -- They would still be on the SSC, but not be voting
30 in both realms, in the scientific realm where you're making
31 judgments on the science side, where we hope that things are
32 unbiased, as opposed to the policy and the management side,
33 where you start weighing in more human factors and things of
34 that nature.

35
36 That could be an option, where they remain on the SSC, but
37 they're not a voting member when they're actually listed as a
38 designee. Dr. Lucas.

39
40 **DR. LUCAS:** If we could, I would like some feedback from the SSC
41 itself as to what their thoughts are with having one of their
42 members serve on the council. From the council perspective, I
43 see it less as a conflict than the other side, for some reason,
44 and so I would like to hear what the SSC has to say.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** That's a good point. I mean they probably
47 should weigh in on this. It's going to affect it on both sides.
48 Good point. Doug, I think you have a little bit of direction,

1 that we feel like we need some more information and maybe some
2 feedback from the SSC as well.

3

4 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Yes, we have an SSC meeting in May.
5 We will put this on the agenda and bring it back to the
6 Administrative Policy Committee in June.

7

8 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Any other comments or feedback from the group
9 on that, from committee members or others, since it's kind of
10 been a roundtable discussion? No? Okay. Is there anything
11 else under Other Business? I don't think so. Mr. Chairman, our
12 committee is adjourned.

13

14 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 a.m., April 4, 2016.)

15

16

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