

**Administrative / Budget Committee
August 12, 2019**

Mr. Joe Spraggins, Chair

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes of the April 2019 meeting as written.

Agenda Item IV: 2017-2018 Audit Report

Staff presented the results of the 2017-2018 biennial Council audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget guidance and was found to be free of material weaknesses. The full audit report has been uploaded and accepted to the Federal Audit Clearing House so we remain in compliance with our funding requirements.

Agenda Item V: Approval of Final 2019 Funded Budget

Staff reviewed the revised budget for 2019, which was based on the final funded total of \$3,950,758. The funded budget incorporates the Council's April 2019 request to include budgeting for a Council member to attend in-person and webinar SEDAR stock assessment meetings and a one-time \$20,000 allocation to the five Gulf States and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for liaison activity. With the indicated revisions, staff anticipates liquidating the 2019 funding by year-end.

With no opposition, the Committee recommends, and I so move: **to approve the 2019 revised funded budget.**

Agenda Item VI: Review of 2015-2019 Projected Expenditures and Budget Carryover to 2020

Staff presented a projection of the Council's fiscal position at the end of the 2015-2019 award period. The current projections indicate that the remaining unexpended funds may be \$335,398. This will be revised and revisited again for the October 2019 Council meeting when staff will bring a list of possible projects for Council consideration. Until then, any ideas or suggestions should be provided to the Council Chair and Executive Director by September 30th to provide adequate time to compose a potential scope of work and related budget for review during the October 2019 meeting.

Agenda Item VII: Guidance from NMFS on the Multi-Year 2020-2024 Council Budget Requests and Gulf Council Projection

Staff have developed a draft budget for the 2020-2024 administrative award request. This request does not include funding for any activity included in the anticipated carryover activities request for the 2015-2019 award. The funding process is not anticipated to change so staff will continue to bring budgets to the Council annually, based on actual funding.

This funding request was prepared in accordance with the budget guidance provided by NMFS. The 2020 request is level with 2019 funding and there is an annual increase projected at an average of 5.7% through 2024. If funded at these levels, the total request for the five years will be \$22,740,700.

With no opposition, the Committee recommends, and I so move: **to approve the proposed budget request for 2020-2024.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.