

Aquaculture Review Council Meeting – August 16, 2006

Notice of Meeting

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services announces a conference call meeting of the Florida Aquaculture Review Council. Guests and other parties interested in participating should meet at the Division of Aquaculture at the appointed time.

DATE AND TIME: August 16, 2006, 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Division of Aquaculture, Conference Room, 1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, 5th Floor, Tallahassee, FL 32301

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To discuss issues affecting the growth of aquaculture in Florida.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Karen Metcalf, 1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32301, (850)488-4033.

If special accommodations are needed to attend this meeting because of disability, please contact Karen Metcalf as soon as possible.

Meeting Agenda

FLORIDA AQUACULTURE REVIEW COUNCIL MEETING

via conference call through
Division of Aquaculture Conference Room
1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, 5th Floor
Tallahassee, Florida
August 16, 2006
9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. MINUTES OF MEETING June 7, 2006
- III. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Review of Signed Fiscal Year 06-07 Contracts
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Recommendations for Aquaculture Projects 2007-2008
 - B. Discussion of Ranking Process
 - C. Other New Business
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT
- VI. NEXT MEETING
- VII. ADJOURN

**Draft Minutes
Florida Aquaculture Review Council Meeting
Via Conference Call**

August 16, 2006

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by ARC Chair, Alan Maxwell at 9:06 am.

Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) members present were:

Heath Davis	Commercial Fishing
Donald Drawdy	Tropical Fish
Gene Evans	Food Fish
Alan Maxwell, Chair	At-Large
Brad McLane, Vice-Chair	Aquatic Plants
Allen Register	Alligators
Marty Tanner	Agriculture Advisory Council
Sherman Wilhelm	Chair, Aquaculture Interagency Coordinating Council (AICC)

Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) member absent was:

Dan Solano	Shellfish
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II. Minutes

A motion was passed to accept the minutes of the ARC meeting of June 7, 2006 as written.

III. Old Business

A. USDA Catastrophic Fund

It was recommended that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) distribute the funds based on documented losses submitted by producers. DACS could receive notice from all producers of their losses, and then divide up the available funds in proportion to the losses documented. Since the last ARC meeting, DACS has been working out a process that would meet the conditions of the agreement with USDA and be equitable to producers. This process is finalized and applications will be mailed to producers by the end of the week.

The application process requires producers to document losses and submit a notarized statement attesting to these losses. All applications must be in before the October 6 deadline. At that time, DACS will compile the losses and determine an appropriate proportional payout. It was noted that producers can submit for reimbursement of labor costs, but that there must be appropriate documentation. There is a payment cap of \$80,000.

B. Review of Signed Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Contracts

The projects submitted for funding by the ARC were funded with two notable exceptions. The Florida Aquarium's project was not appropriated because the aquarium was able to

raise funds elsewhere. The project proposed by Florida State University to develop a center for live feeds was turned down by the investigators. Key personnel are no longer at FSU, and Nancy Marcus has been promoted within the university and cannot commit time to the project. The ARC is concerned about how returning these funds will be perceived and how it may impact future funding for aquaculture projects.

There was a brief discussion of the recent fire at Mote Aquaculture Park which destroyed a sturgeon grow-out building. The ARC is concerned about the impact of the fire on results of the sturgeon project they helped get funded in the past.

IV. New Business

A. Recommendations for Aquaculture Projects 2007-2008

The projects recommended for funding for 2007-2008 were listed. The ARC reiterated their concern for the funding that has been declined for 2006-2007 and wondered if that funding might be used to fund future projects.

B. Discussion of Ranking Process

The methodology used to review projects several years ago was compared to the current process for proposal review. In the past, the ARC had lengthy (2-day) meetings in which projects were critiqued. Currently, this extensive critique takes place individually for each member, before the ARC proposal review meeting. The ARC discussed the need to clarify with investigators their intentions to complete projects, should they be funded.

The ARC also expressed the need to ensure projects are industry-driven not investigator-driven. The ARC is annually requested to develop a list of research and development needs for the *Florida Aquaculture Plan*. It was noted that the members need to carefully review these lists to ensure their industry segment's needs are addressed.

ARC staff was requested to reexamine the project rating form to ensure it still meets the needs of the ARC. Particular attention should be given to the areas of investigator stability and project applicability.

C. Other Business

It was noted that the Florida Agricultural Statistics Service has completed their biennial survey of the industry, but that results are not yet available. The National Agricultural Statistics Service is completing a survey of the industry and Florida's results will likely be released concurrently, in October.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for November 17 in Brandon.

VI. Adjourn

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 am.

Submitted by Karen Metcalf