

Aquaculture Review Council Meeting – November 17, 2006

Notice of Meeting

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Aquaculture, Aquaculture Review Council announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: Friday, November 17, 2006, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hillsborough Community College, Brandon Campus, Room BSSB 208, 10414 E. Columbus Drive, Tampa, FL 33619

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: Kal Knickerbocker, 1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, Fifth Floor, Tallahassee, FL 32301, (850)488-4033.

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

Meeting Agenda

FLORIDA AQUACULTURE REVIEW COUNCIL MEETING

Hillsborough Community College, Brandon Campus
Room BSSB 208, 10414 E. Columbus Drive, Tampa, Florida 33619
November 17, 2006
1:00 p.m.

DRAFT AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. MINUTES OF MEETING August 16, 2006
- III. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Status of Fiscal Year 06-07 Contracts
 - B. Status of 2005 Hurricane Disaster Assistance Block Grant
 - C. 2005 Florida Aquaculture Survey/Agriculture Census
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A.
 - B.
 - C. Other New Business
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT
- VI. NEXT MEETING
- VII. ADJOURN

Meeting Minutes

FLORIDA AQUACULTURE REVIEW COUNCIL MEETING

Hillsborough Community College, Brandon Campus
Room BSSB 208, 10414 E. Columbus Drive, Tampa, Florida 33619
November 17, 2006

DRAFT Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by ARC Vice-Chair, Brad McLane at 1:15 pm.

Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) members present were:

Brad McLane, Vice-Chair	Aquatic Plants
Dan Solano	Shellfish
Gene Evans	Food Fish
Allen Register	Alligators
Marty Tanner	Agriculture Advisory Council
Sherman Wilhelm	Chair, Aquaculture Interagency Coordinating Council (AICC)

Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) member absent was:

Alan Maxwell, Chair	At-Large
Donald Drawdy	Tropical Fish
Heath Davis	Commercial Fishing

II. Minutes

A motion was passed to accept the minutes of the ARC meeting of August 16, 2006 as written.

III. Old Business

A. Review of 2006-2007 ARC project contracts

The 2006-2007 ARC projects are all under contract and proceeding on schedule. FSU elected not to attempt to complete the project because of personnel changes and time commitments. Quarterly progress reports have been received from Mote marine and FAMU. Copies of the reports are included in the meeting handout.

B. Review of Recommended 2007-2008 ARC PROJECTS

The prioritized list of eight recommended ARC projects has been forwarded to the Commissioner and has been included in the Division of Aquaculture's Annual Legislative Budget request for FY2007-2008. Those projects are:

1. Florida Aquaculture Clearinghouse for Educators
2. Aquaculture Research Facility- Deland High School FFA

3. Aquaculture Immersion Excursion: A Teacher Workshop Series for Integrating Aquaculture Education into the Classroom
4. Changing with the Times- a symposium Exploring the 21st Century Aquaculture Industry Practices in Florida
5. Aquaculture Education for Florida Teachers
6. Education Beneath the Surface: Water Quality and Animal Behavior Relationships
7. design and Evaluation of Marine Fish and Live Feeds Recirculation Systems for Inland Aquaculture – Year 2
8. Development of North Florida Aquaculture Program to Enhance Aquaculture Education
- 9.

C. Status Report of the 2005 Aquaculture Block Grant Program

USDA provided a \$3.6 million block grant to assist aquaculture operations that sustained damages from the 2005 hurricanes. The Division of Aquaculture was asked to administer the grant. 665 certified aquaculture facilities in 36 hurricane impacted counties were provided information and an application for participating in this cost reimbursement grant program. 175 facilities responded by the October 6, 2006 application deadline. 139 of the respondents were determined to be eligible for grant funds. Total documented losses from the 139 operations were approximately \$4.4 million. Pro-rata shares were calculated and grant checks issued on November 9, 2006. Individuals with claims less than \$10,000 received 100% of their approved documented claims. Requests from \$10,000 up to the \$80,000 cap received from 95 to 99 percent of their approved documented claims. Grant checks ranged from \$500 up to program maximum payment of \$80,000.

D. 2005 Aquaculture Survey

The Florida Agriculture Statistics Office has released the 2005 Aquaculture Survey. Farm gate values were significantly impacted by the hurricanes of 2005. Industry wide the farm gate values was reported at an estimated \$75 million. All segments of the Florida Aquaculture Industry were lower in value than the 2003 survey, except alligators.

IV. New Business

A. Florida Aquaculture

The Florida Aquaculture Plan is under revision. A draft copy will be forwarded to the ARC members. Members are asked to provide guidance on the section providing direction for the RFP for ARC projects.

*** There was a motion to “stay the course” for two more years, with the current emphasis on an educational priority focus for the ARC RFP process.*

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Legislative Update

The Division budget has been submitted. It includes the \$1.1 million for ARC projects. The Division has also requested funding to replace vessels and to continue the NOAA oyster restoration grants, emergency red tide funding and money for the development of a statewide Florida Ballast Water Plan.

C. CZMA Grant

A CZMA 309 Grant has been awarded to the Division of Aquaculture. The Division will be coordinating 13 workshops with DEP Aquatic Preserve Staff and WMD personnel to

provide BMP educational sessions and lead discussion surveying aquatic preserve habitat and on opportunities for aquaculture in aquatic preserves
Four additional workshops will be held with the aquaculture industry to share findings of the discussions and develop recommendations.

D. Other Business

Gene Evans requested that driven research with practical applied result still be an import component to the ARC project review and prioritization process.

E. Public Comment

Richard Chapman, Student Assistant with the Hillsborough Community College Aquaculture Program welcomed members to Brandon campus and facilities.

The ARC was asked how research projects were tracked for accountability on the delivery of project goals. Vice-chair McLane explained that project goals while important are not guaranteed. The research is projects are recommended and conducted based upon on the best available information and technology, but there is no control over results. Project final reports are available on the Division of Aquaculture's webpage.

www.floridaaquaculture.com.

Also how does the ARC determine industry's research needs? Communication with ARC member is the primary mechanism. The members and staff will work to compile an industry survey that can be sent to all certified aquaculturists and also academic interests. Craig Casper, HCC requested to be involved in that process.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively to be held in conjunction with Legislative activities. The date is TBD.

VI. Adjourn

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Submitted by Kal Knickerbocker