

Aquaculture Review Council Meeting – October 25, 2007

Notice of Meeting

The **Aquaculture Review Council** announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, October 25, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Evans Farms, 1195 E. Washington Avenue, Pierson, FL 32180-3013

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

Meeting Agenda

FLORIDA AQUACULTURE REVIEW COUNCIL MEETING

**Evans Farm
1195 E. Washington Ave.,
Pierson, Florida 32774-0557
Oct 25, 2007
10:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. MINUTES OF MEETING July 31, 2007
- III. OLD BUSINESS
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Recommendations for Aquaculture Projects 2008-2009
 - B. Discussion of Ranking Process
 - C. State Budget
 - D. Other New Business
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT
- VI. NEXT MEETING
- VII. ADJOURN

Minutes
Florida Aquaculture Review Council Meeting
Evans Farm
1195 E. Washington Ave.,
Pierson, Florida 32774-0557

October 25, 2007

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by ARC Vice-Chair, Brad McLane at 10:05 am.

Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) members present were:

Gene Evans	Food Fish
Jim Michaels	At-Large
Brad McLane, Vice-Chair	Aquatic Plants
Allen Register	Alligators
Marty Tanner	Agriculture Advisory Council
Sherman Wilhelm	Chair, Aquaculture Interagency Coordinating Council (AICC)
Dan Solano	Shellfish
Heath Davis	Commercial Fishing

Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) member absent was:

Art Rawlins	Tropical Fish
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Guests present:

Kevan Main	Mote Marine Laboratory
Jane Davis	The Living Seas – Walt Disney World
David Boozer	Executive Director of the Florida Aquaculture Association
Kim Norgren	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)

II. Minutes

A motion was passed to accept the minutes of the ARC meeting of July 31, 2007 as written.

III. Old Business

The letter from the ARC council to the Commissioner, which outlined the projects in priority order, was reviewed. Copies of the project proposals were made available in the event further discussion was required.

In response to questions concerning the budget process, it was explained that this year's budget request of \$1.3 million was slightly less than last year's and had been submitted to both the Governor's office and the Legislature on Oct. 15th. In March, the Legislature will incorporate the various budget requests to create the '08-09 budget.

Movement or efforts toward educating the Governor and his staff about the ARC projects was discussed. It was reiterated that it is up to the Aquaculture Association and other interested organizations to lobby the Legislature and Governor to get these projects passed. The ARC council members are not lobbyist but, rather, are charged with recommending and acting as a filter for aquaculture projects.

It was further discussed that these projects are funded through “nonrecurring dollars”. Previously, Senator Clary, as appropriation chair, promoted the process and funded the projects as presented. This example is followed by Senator Alexander. There has been interest expressed by various Legislative members, at present. Also, it is possible that the Legislature could select a limited number of projects from the list and not fund all the projects.

IV. New Business

A. Ranking Process:

There was considerable discussion concerning the outcome of the project ranking. It was noted that education overshadowed applied aquaculture research in the ranking process. In an effort to determine the future direction of the ARC, members debated the importance of individual school projects, the development of educational curriculums, and the support of aquaculture research projects.

Council members also discussed looking at a balance of education and research projects. With few dollars available, the possibility of the ARC implementing funding limits was explored. Though it was determined that limitations would be possible for the ARC to set for interest groups, such as schools or research through the guidelines outlined in the RFP, it was not recommended.

Further it was determined that the RFP’s could be adjusted each year to direct the blend of education and research programs that would best support the aquaculture industry.

B. Legislative Funding Outlook

In the supplemental budget worked out by the Legislators, for the current fiscal year 07-08, the Legislature did not make any cuts to the Division of Aquaculture’s funds or budget. However, Senator Alexander said the Legislators are anticipating a return in January for another special session to look at cutting the budget again. In the regular session, in March, they expect even further cuts. There is a two and a half to three billion dollar short fall. Originally, they had only projected a one and a half billion shortfall.

C. RFP

In an effort to reflect the educational and research balance previously discussed, modifications were made to the RFP as follows:

- 1) On the first paragraph the sentence stating “For this funding cycle, the highest priority projects will be educational in nature” was removed.
- 2) In the scope of service section, “#1” was placed in front of “Statements of Interest are strongly encouraged in the area of aquaculture education.”
- 3) A “#2” was added, after the first section, to read “Statements of interest are strongly encouraged for development, coordination, and implementation of

- aquaculture technical, research, market, and demonstration projects of strong interest by the aquaculture industry as found in the Florida Aquaculture Plan.”
- 4) Additionally, the first bullet was modified by altering the word “education” to read “education/research”.

It was reiterated that the direction of the ARC is determined by the type of projects the council members support through their vote. Through the scoring process, projects grades are calculated by averaging all of the scores received by the members.

D. Legislative Update

Mike Salario reiterated the relative newness of many of the legislative members and the importance of educating them on the value of these projects.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held after the new year with the date to be determined.

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VI. Adjourn

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Submitted by Kim Norgren