

Aquaculture Review Council Meeting – April 7, 2008

Notice of Meeting

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

DATE AND TIME: Monday, April 7, 2008, 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: Division of Aquaculture, Conference Room, Fifth Floor, 1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, 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: Kim Norgren, 1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, Fifth Floor, Tallahassee, FL 32301, (850)488-4033.

Meeting Agenda

FLORIDA AQUACULTURE REVIEW COUNCIL MEETING

Division of Aquaculture Conference Room
1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, Fifth Floor
Tallahassee, Florida

April 7, 2008
11:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. MINUTES OF MEETING October 25, 2007
- III. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Legislative Update
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Statements of Interest for Aquaculture Projects (2009-2010)
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT
- VI. NEXT MEETING
- VII. ADJOURN

Draft Minutes
Florida Aquaculture Review Council Meeting
Division of Aquaculture Conference Room
1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, 5th Floor
Tallahassee, Florida

April 7, 2008

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by ARC Vice-Chair, Brad McLane at 11:05 am.

Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) members present were:

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

Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) member absent was:

Allen Register	Alligators
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Guests present:

Kevan Main	Mote Marine Laboratory
Kay Young	Florida Aquaculture Association
Kal Knickerbocker	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
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 October 25, 2007 as written.

III. Old Business

A. Legislative Update

It was reported that the Senate and House each had produced different budget bills for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. In the bill proposed by the House the ARC projects were covered but the facility at Ruskin was not. The reverse occurred in the Senate budget. Also, the Senate's bill indicated fee increases, including certification fees from \$50.00 to \$100.00, while the House bill choose instead to re- prioritize projects. As the session is set to end May 2nd, the Legislators would need to work rapidly to resolve budget differences.

The Revenue Estimating Committee met last week but the March figures were not yet known. The Division of Aquaculture had been requested to identify \$330,000 for possible budget cuts but, as yet, these cuts have not been acted upon. Members in the House and Senate seem to recognize the strong support by the industry, community leaders, and members of the ARC and feel the money is being used effectively.

ARC members expressed concern about the reception the ARC projects might encounter with the Governors office following last years veto.

Other bills under consideration include the Working Water Front, Property Tax Issues, and Farm to Fuel issue. Kay Young gave a brief update on the Working Water Front bills. House Bill 877 was moving through the House, but the companion Senate Bill was not.

IV. New Business

A. ARC Statements of Interest

Thirteen statements of interest were received for funding during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Comments related to each project are found in the following table.

Project Number	Full Proposal Title	Comments
01	Aquaculture Marketing and Education	The ARC would like to see a full proposal.
02	Non-Native Aquatic Species and Aquaculture Research and Education	The ARC would like to see a full proposal. However, the reviewers would also recommend that the level of cost sharing be addressed. Also, the council felt the proposal could be enhanced by focusing on species not covered in the previous year.
03	Aquaculture Career Choices in Middle School	The ARC would like to see a full proposal.
04	Commercial-Scale Production of Fingerling Marine Fish in a 100% Recirculating System	The ARC would like to see a full proposal.
05	Florida Aquaculture Video for Secondary School, Community College and Public Awareness Programs	The ARC would like to see a full proposal but would recommend that the level of cost sharing be addressed Also, the reviewers wanted clarification of the recipients to whom the 2,000 copies are to be distributed. Further, it was noted that the Division of Aquaculture has a similar project in production and suggested that the investigators contact the Division in order to reduce any design overlap and increase effectiveness.

06	Evaluating, Implementing, and Building on Aquaculture in the Classroom: Water for Life, Water for People, Water for Farming	The ARC requested a full proposal; but also recommended that the level of cost sharing be addressed. The reviewers also felt that there was a duplication of objectives with <i>Aquaculture Education for Florida Teachers</i> . They felt this proposal should focus primarily on the evaluation portion and address the timeline for both the projects.
07	Aquaculture Education for Florida Teachers	The ARC would like to see a full proposal, and indicated that this project would be viewed more favorably if there were some cost sharing. Also, the committee suggested that the project be made available statewide, to any school interested, instead of limiting the scope to only 3 counties. Finally, the reviewers requested that letters of participation from the schools be included.
08	A Florida Marine Fish Hatchery Education and Training Program	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.
09	Mass Scale Production of Copepods for Marine Aquaculture	The ARC would like to see a full proposal but recommend that the level of cost sharing be addressed.
10	Aquaculture Small Learning Community (Development and Implementation)	The ARC would like to see a full proposal but requested that the full proposal provide clarification on the tracking method to be used on the natural populations of sturgeon. Also, the reviewers requested further details on salary and capitol outlay expenditures.
11	Aquaculture Small Learning Community (Development and Implementation) (Phase 2)	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time as the funded projects are to be completed in a single year and not as ongoing programs.
12	Commercial Hatchery Production and Farm Grow-out of Triploid Eastern Oysters (<i>Crassoceros virginica</i> , Gmelin, 1819), an Alternative Molluscan Aquaculture Species	The ARC would like to see a full proposal and asks that the full proposal indicate whether the chemicals used in the triploid induction have been FDA approved and whether the creation and use of tetraploids have been considered.
13	Development of North Florida Aquaculture Program to Enhance Aquaculture Education	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.

A discussion followed to clarify the status of the current projects. It was noted that last year the Governor had vetoed funding for the ARCs' 07-08 projects. In response, the ARC council voted to reconsider the vetoed projects, along with the new projects submitted, for consideration in the 08-09 budget. This resulted in a compilation of projects from two years.

The veto, and subsequent reconsideration of projects, had created another dilemma. Several programs included multiple year phases which became out of sync. The first phase had been part of the projects vetoed by the Governor but the second phase had already been submitted to the ARC for consideration in the 08-09 budget. To address this, the ARC committee choose to reconsider the first phase of a project in lieu of the second phase.

This year, because the state had expressed a fiscal uncertainty, investigators choose to resubmit several of 08-09 projects for consideration in the 09-10 budget. In case of a veto, these projects would then be in place for consideration in the next funding cycle. If these re-submittals are funded in the current fiscal year, the investigators have indicated these projects be removed from consideration.

V. Web Page

As the Division of Aquaculture is in the process of redesigning the Division's web page, the Council members were asked about updates to the posted ARC web site information. It was determined that committee member names and group representation should be listed, as well as, an email link through the division for inquiries.

VI. Next Meeting

Though the next meeting date was to be determined, it was suggested selecting a date in mid-to-late June in to accommodate the release of the 08-09 fiscal budget .

VII. Adjourn

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Submitted by Kim Norgren