

# Aquaculture Review Council Meeting – October 7, 2008

## Notice of Meeting

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Tropical Aquaculture Lab, 1408 24th Street, S. E., Ruskin, FL 33570

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, 5th Floor, Tallahassee, FL 32301, (850)488-4033.

## Meeting Agenda

### **FLORIDA AQUACULTURE REVIEW COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory  
1408 24<sup>th</sup> Street Southeast,  
Ruskin , FL 33570**

**Oct 7, 2008  
10:00 a.m.**

#### **DRAFT AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. MINUTES OF MEETING June 25, 2008
- III. OLD BUSINESS
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Update of Aquaculture Projects 2008-2009
  - B. Recommendations for Aquaculture Projects 2009-2010
  - C. Review of the current RFP guidelines
  - D. State Budget
  - E. Other New Business
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT
- VI. NEXT MEETING
- VII. ADJOURN

## Meeting Minutes

### **Draft Minutes Florida Aquaculture Review Council Meeting Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory 1408 24<sup>th</sup> Street Southeast, Ruskin, Florida**

**October 7, 2008**

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by ARC Vice-Chair, Brad McLane at 10:04 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
Art Rawlins	Tropical Fish
Marty Tanner	Agriculture Advisory Council
Sherman Wilhelm	Chair, Aquaculture Interagency Coordinating Council (AICC)

##### **Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) member absent was:**

Heath Davis	Commercial Fishing
Dan Solano	Shellfish

##### **Guests present:**

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

#### **II. Minutes**

A motion was passed to accept the minutes of the ARC meeting of June 25, 2008 as written.

#### **III. Old Business**

##### **A. Wildwood Middle School:**

Although recommended by the ARC council, the Wildwood Middle School will not precede with their proposed project *Education beneath the Surface: Water Quality and Animal Behavior Relationships* due to faculty changes at the school.

##### **B. 2009-2010 ARC PROJECTS:**

The prioritized list of four recommended ARC projects has been forwarded to the Commissioner and has been included in the Division of Aquaculture's Annual Legislative Budget request for FY2009-2010. Those projects are:

1. Non-Native Aquatic Species and Aquaculture Research and Education
2. Commercial-Scale Production of Fingerling Marine Fish in a 100% Recirculating System
3. Florida Aquaculture Video for Secondary School, Community College and Public Awareness Programs
4. Commercial Hatchery Production and Farm Grow-out of Triploid Eastern Oysters (*Crassoceros virginica*, Gmelin, 1819), an Alternative Molluscan Aquaculture Species

#### *D. 2008 Legislative Update*

Due to revenue shortfalls the legislature is withholding 1% per quarter or 4 % overall of the agencies budget. Although in the past this withholding was returned in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, this year it will continue to be withheld. Further, each Department has been asked for an additional 10% from their budget. It is projected that the budget will not be whole until 2013.

## **IV. New Business**

### *A. RFP guidelines:*

In anticipation of the *Request for Proposals* (RFP) to be posted in January 2009, for the 2010-2011 fiscal budget, Committee members discussed the priorities to be identified and the desire to encourage proposal submission. Although it was noted that one year was a short time period for in-depth research without recurring funds multi-year projects can not be supported. Also, as the ARC projects are designed to promote aquaculture their applied research nature should immediately benefit the Florida producers. To that end, it was decided that each council member would contact their industry constituents to determine specific research needs. In that way the RFP could be written not only to request general aquaculture proposals consistent with the recently published *Florida Aquaculture Plan*, but also, identify industry priorities as well. The deadline to receive specific industry research needs was determined to be 5 pm, November 21<sup>st</sup>, in order to make the publishing deadline.

Additional modifications were made to the RFP as follows:

- 1) In the section on Areas of Interest, the “#1” statement was modified to read “Statements of interest are strongly encouraged for short-term development, coordination, education, and implementation of aquaculture technical, research, market, and demonstration projects of strong interest by the aquaculture industry as found in the *Florida Aquaculture Plan* – (<http://www.floridaaquaculture.com/publications/aquaplan.pdf>).”
- 2) The “#2” statement was reworded to read “Specifically, and in addition to number 1) above, the ARC finds the following listed short term projects of immediate interest and need of funding:” A list of the specific projects will be added in November following consultation by council members with their constituents.

- 3) In an effort to reinforce the short-term nature of the projects a highlight was added to the sentence “**Projects should be of no more than one year duration.**” under “Funding”.
- 4) Under the “Statement of Interest” section an additional outline was added to read “C. Short-term economic impact to Florida producers

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.

There followed a short discussion on the level and/or necessity of “matching” funds. It was explained that many University researchers were at a disadvantage in competing for grants as their Institutions had restrictions on what could be used in a proposal as a match. It was determined that, for the present, the concept of matching funds would remain unchanged, however, each presenter would be verbally asked for clarification of their projects matching to allow each member to hear the complete answer prior to voting. Also, a further discussion of this topic should be addressed at a later ARC meeting to determine if matching funds should be bifurcated, in some way, when evaluating private vs. public institutions. To summarily solve the match problem with public institutions, during these changing times, it may be necessary to re-evaluate and fine tune the process.

*B. State Budget:*

In addition to the 4% cut previously mentioned a further 10% cut is being reviewed. It is anticipated that following reorganization and swearing in of new Legislative members, a supplemental budget, including a budget cut, will occur during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of session. As this will be a new Legislation it will be necessary to provide a lot of education about our programs.

The Revenue Estimating Committee has scheduled to meet in December instead of November. This delay will provide the Committee with the end of the year numbers which will be used to determine additional budget cuts. The last estimate predicted a \$1.6 billion deficient, however; the ends of the year calculations appear to be closer to \$3 billion.

*C. Hitchhiker Regulations Policy:*

New federal rules are tightening up on items being shipped out of state. Producers are encouraged to be familiar with the new restrictions.

**V. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was recommended to occur in the March, with the date to be determined.

**VI. Adjourn**

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Submitted by Kim Norgren