

Shellfish Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2016- Ellsworth City Hall

Members in attendance: Dan Curtis, Patricia Hinds, Raeleen Pert, Ralph Smith, Glen Melvin, Jane Disney, Jim Norris, Lewis Pinkham

Members Absent: Tom Connolly, Scott Moody, Matthew Moretti, Andrew Rhuel, Jeff McKeen

DMR Staff in Attendance: Kohl Kanwit, Angel Ripley, Heidi Leighton, Hannah Annis, Dennis Nault, John Fendl

Others in Attendance: Fiona DeKoning, Dan Devereaux, Darcie Couture, Bridie McGreavy

Meeting called to order at 10:05 A.M.

Attendance/Roll Call- 10:06 A.M.

10:07 a.m. Agenda item #3- Lewis Pinkham called for a vote to approve previous meetings minutes. Dan Curtis asked about the attendance at Fisherman's Forum by SHAC members. Kohl indicated 4 members in attendance, Raeleen pert, Lewis Pinkham, Patricia Hinds, and Jim Norris. Dan Curtis asked about agenda item #9- grants for rain gauges- Lewis answered not submitted for grant to MOHF yet. Also indicated since it is #10 on today's agenda more info will be covered. Lewis asked for a motion to approve, Dan Curtis motion, 2nd by Jim Norris, unanimously approved.

Lewis announced Jane Disney's decision to not serve a second term on the council, and thanked her for her contributions.

10:12 a.m. - Agenda item #4- Update from DACF regarding Maine Quality Labeling. Kohl handed out an informational sheet ([see attached](#)) regarding trademark use, quality standards and explained the process. Kohl explained to move forward we would need a motion from SHAC to write a letter to DACF requesting regulations be put in place, with minimum of 5 signatures from SHAC members. Jane Disney made motion to move forward, 2nd by Raeleen Pert. Unanimous yes vote to move forward. Motion to draft the letter by Jane Disney, 2nd by Raeleen pert, unanimous yes vote. Kohl indicated DMR will assist with drafting the letter; all yes votes by SHAC will sign the letter. Lewis will work with DMR to draft the letter on behalf of SHAC.

10:25 a.m.- Agenda item #5- Shellfish License Issue- Concerns raised with the amount of fines owed by fisherman that are not paying them, and still getting licenses annually. Several towns/wardens are involved in the discussions, and are pulling lists and totals of outstanding fines to potentially move this issue further. Lewis asked to add the topic to the next agenda, and invite Jon Hentz to participate. It was discussed that illegal digging has gotten out of hand because the fines are not enough, and are not being collected. It was suggested we need stronger enforcement, higher fines, and follow up on collection of fines to reduce the issue.

10:32 a.m. Agenda item #6- DA Issue update- Update from Lewis on the DA issue in Washington/Hancock County. The DA wants the wardens to be circling State of Maine on summons

issued in order for him to prosecute the cases. The issue is that when that is done, the fine money goes to State of Maine, instead of the municipality as it should be. The issue is still there in how to get the fine money back to the municipality. Denis Nault explained that 6671 indicates that fine money is to go back to the municipality on Title 12 violations. This is to help offset the cost of having a shellfish warden for the municipality. Glen Melvin asked how SHAC could help or endorse a plan to fix this issue. Lewis indicated that at this time, it has gone through so many channels to attempt a proper resolution, the next step would be to go through a legislative process and change the wording so that the DA must prosecute the 6671 title 12 violations, even though they are civil violations. Lewis asked Kohl if a discussion with the commissioner and deputy commissioner would be appropriate at this time, so potentially gain support to put through legislation. Kohl indicated yes, that a few SHAC members meeting with commissioner and deputy commissioner would be appropriate. Lewis asked for a motion to allow him to draft language to change 6671 through legislative process. Glen Melvin 2nd the motion, all in favor. Lewis then asked who would like to meet with him and the commissioner, it was decided it would be Glen Melvin, Raeleen pert, and Lewis who would schedule to meet with commissioner and deputy commissioner.

10:50 a.m. – BREAK

11:00 a.m. – Meeting called back to order

11:01 a.m.- Agenda item #8- Mussel committee update. Lewis, Fiona DeKoning, Theo DeKoning, Ralph Smith, and Matthew have met several times. Discussions are moving forward on the issue, the next meeting is scheduled for the end of July.

11:14 a.m.- Agenda item #9- Nomination of new SHAC member, and officer nominations- Discussed possible candidates to replace Jane Disney as the public seat on the Council. Kohl gave a brief background on some candidates. Bridie McGreavy from UMaine was present and provided her background information. Glen made a motion to nominate Bridie for the seat, 2nd by Ralph Smith. Unanimous vote by Council to nominate Bridie McGreavy for the open seat. Bridie indicated if approved, she would accept the nomination. Passed on recommendation to commissioner for approval. Nominations for Chair- Lewis was nominated by Ralph, 2nd by Raeleen, unanimous vote yes. For Vice Chair, Lewis nominated Raeleen, 2nd by Patricia, unanimous vote yes. Angel Ripley will continue to serve as secretary.

11:20 a.m. - Agenda item #10- 2016 Work Plan- Rain Gauges- Lewis gave an update that Washington County has funding potential for 6 additional gauges. Potential also to inspect and bring back online some gauges that are currently inactive. It has been agreed to use Rainwise as a vendor for the gauges. Working now on a plan to implement the new gauges. It is a cost of \$60 per year for the software to run the gauges; Lewis suggested that towns where they are placed should consider covering the cost from their shellfish fund. Insurance on the gauges is approximately \$12 per year as well. Fiona asked if private citizens could purchase gauges and have them online. Lewis indicated yes. There is another meeting scheduled on this topic in the next 10-14 days. Lewis will send an update after the meeting. Kohl asked if a proposal could be written to MOHF to help implement them in Hancock County as well.

Flood closure analysis follow up- NEST project- meeting coming up on May 9th with NEST and DMR. Bridie indicated there is interest in advising/sharing the information with SHAC to get recommendations on next steps to take in the program. Will add Bridie and a NEST follow up to next meeting agenda.

Map merging issues- Kohl showed the interactive maps currently being used in New Jersey and Delaware and asked how the committee felt something similar might work in Maine. New Jersey more

of a user friendly version, more informative/ Kohl advised the council that Alison Sirois is working on special projects this year and this is one of the projects to be advanced in 2016. SHAC agreed unanimously that moving forward was a good idea.

Lewis called for questions- Dan Curtis asked Kohl for an update at the next meeting in regards to importation/exportation of shellfish from Maine.

Next meeting scheduled for July 19th, 2016 10am-1pm to be held in Augusta DMR conference Room 118.

12:10 p.m.- Meeting Adjourned.