

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ATLANTIC COAST SECTION OF THE NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL

Nacote Creek Law Enforcement
Port Republic, NJ
July 15, 2013

Present were: Chairman: Walter L. Johnson III (Ocean County)
 Vice Chairman: John Maxwell (Atlantic County)

Absent was: Councilman: Walter Hughes (Monmouth County)

State Representatives: Jeffrey C. Normant, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Kira Dacanay, Bureau of Shellfisheries

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order. Mr. Normant read the State's compliance with Sunshine Law. He announced that the meeting would be recorded.

1. Total Revenue for May 2013: \$2,177.40
 Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund: \$902.00

 Total Revenue for June 2013: \$34,890.00
 Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund: \$952.00

2. Presentation of May 20, 2013 minutes for approval

The minutes of the May 20, 2013 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Maxwell and a second by Mr. Johnson.

3. Applications for Transfer

LESSEE	APPLICANT	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP #
Steve Baugh/ William Steele	Dale S. Parsons	1423	B	2.00	Middle Island	6.1
William Steele	Dale S. Parsons	1415	B	2.00	Middle Island	6.1
William Steele	Dale S. Parsons	1425	B	2.00	Middle Island	6.1
Charles Cain	Kevin Westervelt	2240	B	4.48	Dry Bay	24.2
Raymond Huber III	Raymond Huber Jr.	1305.2	B	1.87	Marsholders Is	13

Without discussion, the lease transfer was approved on a motion by Mr. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Johnson.

4. Applications for Consideration

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
Thomas J. Daffin	1028	A	2.00	Great Sound	5
Thomas C. Daffin	1030	A	2.00	Great Sound	5
John Daffin	1031	A	2.00	Great Sound	5
Patricia Johnson	1032	A	2.00	Great Sound	5

Mr. Normant provided the Council with copies of the lease applications. All applicants were present. Pursuant to leasing regulations, N.J.A.C.7:25-24.6, applicants must attend one of two meetings at which the Council reviews their applications. A decision on the lease applications would be rendered at the next meeting.

5. Applications for Decision

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
Paul Felder	1037	A	2.00	Great Sound	5
Eric Parker	1036	A	2.00	Great Sound	5
Claire Zimmerman	1033	A	2.00	Great Sound	5
Thomas Bowen	2556	B	1.95	Scull Bay	27
Rosely Snyder	2575	B	2.00	Scull Bay	27

Ms. Snyder was present at this meeting. Messrs. Felder, Parker, Bowen and Ms. Zimmerman were present at the prior meeting. The lease applications were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Maxwell and a second by Mr. Johnson.

6. Old Business:

None

7. New Business:

Surf Clam Advisory Committee Meeting

Mr. Normant stated that the Surf Clam Advisory Committee met on May 21st to discuss options for the annual surf clam inventory since no federal funding was allocated in Fiscal Year 2013. The industry agreed with the Bureau's plan to conduct a full survey every three years and a limited survey during the two intervening years. The limited surveys would consist of the Bureau sampling multiple select strata that have been observed to closely track total NJ coastwide abundances. The industry as a whole agreed to assist the Bureau in completing the annual surveys. Ironically, the same day, the Bureau was notified that partial federal funding would be re-allocated for Fiscal Year 2014. The Bureau plans to conduct a limited surf clam inventory in August.

Council Appointments

Mr. Maxwell expressed concern with the lack of Council appointments, especially now that the Atlantic Coast section of the Council was down to three members with the resignation of Mr. Twist (Cape May seat). Mr. Joseph Myers stated that the Department of Agriculture was moving forward with appointments on the Aquaculture Advisory Council. Mr. Myers stated that the recommendation in the Aquaculture Plan Update was to have a robust shellfisheries and aquaculture councils. Mr. Johnson stated that there have been names put forward multiple times to fill these vacant council positions with no action being taken. Mr. Johnson suggested that a letter be sent out from the Council to the Governor's Office to request that the Governor's Appointment Office fill these vacant council positions.

Mr. Keith Craffey, President of the Baymen Protection Association (BPA) in Monmouth County, stated that the shellfishermen that work Raritan and Sandy Hook bays would like to have a voice on the Council. He stated that the harvesters feel that they have been misrepresented on the Council. He stated that while Mr. Hughes provides employment for numerous shellfishermen, they feel that some of the issues differ between a wholesaler and harvester.

Water Quality in Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays

Mr. Craffey inquired if there were going to be any additional shellfish growing waters opened in the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers or in Sandy Hook Bay. He stated that he had heard there was massive water testing after the Superstorm Sandy and that the Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring (BMWM) has a better handle on water quality in that region. Mr. Normant stated that he would get into contact with Mr. Bob Schuster from the BMWM discuss this issue. Mr. Johnson suggested that the Bureau request that Mr. Schuster attend the next meeting. Mr. Craffey also expressed concern with the Borough of Highlands property lease of the J.T. White Depuration Plant that was set to expire within the proceeding six months.

Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays Leases

Mr. Craffey inquired if there was a possibility to obtain a lease in Raritan and Sandy Hook bays to plant seed clams that were harvested for depuration. Mr. Johnson stated that leases could not be issued in less than approved waters. Normant stated that the leasing regulation do not allow for leases to be issued in Special Restricted or Prohibited waters. Since these clams would have to be depurated, the only viable option would be planting them on a designated relay lease sited in Approved waters.

Aquaculture Advisory Council Meeting

Mr. Myers announced that the Aquaculture Advisory Council meeting would be held at the Atlantic County Agriculture Extension Office in Mays Landing on Friday, July 19th at 10 am. Information on the Stronger New Jersey Grant/Loan Program would be discussed. This program was developed to assist businesses affected by Superstorm Sandy. Mr. Myers stated that there was now a working capital provision that would broaden the qualification criteria. Mr. Myers stated that the Deputy Director of the Economic Development Authority would be giving a presentation on the program and that the NJDA would be taking reservations for individuals to have one on one meetings with a case advisor.

NOAA Fisheries Disaster Relief

Mr. Johnson inquired on the NOAA Fisheries Disaster Relief funding. Mr. Normant stated that there would be a meeting set up with both commercial and recreational finfish and shellfish industry representatives (including hatchery representatives). A date has not been set at this time, but the meeting would likely be held in August. Mr. Normant mentioned that any allocated funds would be split equally between New York and New Jersey.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Maxwell and a second by Mr. Johnson.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting:

DATE: August 19, 2013
TIME: 7 PM
LOCATION: Law Enforcement Office
360 New York Rd. Rt. 9
Port Republic, NJ 08241