

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

Nacote Creek Law Enforcement
Port Republic, NJ
March 29, 2010

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

Absent was: Councilman: Oliver Twist III (Cape May County)

State Representatives: James W. Joseph, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Jeffrey C. Normant, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Robert Connell, Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring

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

1. Total Revenue for February 2010: \$888.50
 Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund: \$527.00
2. February 8, 2010 Minutes

The minutes of the February 8, 2010 meeting were tabled until the next meeting at the request from Mr. Hughes. Mr. Hughes requested a revision in the draft minutes.

3. Applications for Transfer

LESSEE	APPLICANT	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP #
Robert Scull	William Avery	2063	B	2.37	Absecon Bay	22
Robert Scull	William Avery	2740	B	2.00	Great Bay	24
Lee Leopardi	William Avery	2062	B	2.30	Absecon Bay	22
Lee Leopardi	John Daffin	1054	A	2.14	Great Sound	5
Lee Leopardi	John Daffin	1062	A	2.08	Great Sound	5

Without discussion, the lease transfers were approved on a motion by Mr. Maxwell and second by Mr. Hughes. Mr. Normant stated that due to a typographical error on the agenda for the January meeting, the lot numbers were reversed for the two leases to be transferred from Bruce A. Warren. The correct lot number for the transfer from Bruce A. Warren to Bruce A. Warren & William Avery was lot # 1074 and the correct lot number for the transfer from Bruce A. Warren to William Avery was lot # 1073.

4. Applications for New Ground: Consideration

APPLICANT	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP #
Robert Mayer	2328	B	2.00	Dry Bay	24.2
William Steele	1425	B	2.00	LEHB-Middle Island	6.1
Dale S. Parsons	1426	B	2.00	LEHB-Middle Island	6.1
Colin Holden	2332	B	2.00	Dry Bay	24.2
James McKinley	1052R	A	2.00	Great Sound	5

Mr. Normant provided the Council with copies of the applicants' lease applications. As per the leasing regulations, no biological investigation was required for the lease application in Dry Bay. Messrs. Steele, Parsons and McKinley were present at this meeting. Messrs. Mayer and Holden were not present. Mr. McKinley's application was for a research lease. Pursuant to leasing regulations, applicants must attend one of two meetings at which the Council would review their applications. A decision would be rendered at the next meeting.

5. Old Business

2010 Water Classification and Closure Notification Procedures

Mr. Connell stated that the comment period for the rule proposal to update the shellfish growing water classification regulation (N.J.A.C. 7:12) had ended. He anticipated that the adoption of these regulations would be in April.

Vibrio

Mr. Connell stated that based on discussions at the meetings of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, there were clam related *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (*Vp*) illnesses in 2010. In light of this information, there may be specific provisions imposed to address *Vp* in hard clams for 2011. Mr. Connell also stated that the Bureau of Marine Monitoring had recently improved *Vp* testing procedures. Further discussion on this issue ensued.

Mr. Connell discussed various items relating to a *Vp* plan for oysters including harvest and post harvest restrictions, including placing product in a forced air cooler overnight to cool oysters to appropriate temperature prior to shipping, and the voluntary suspension of the oyster harvest in Delaware Bay the last two weeks of June when *Vp* appears to be more prevalent. Further discussion on this issue ensued.

Mr. Joseph stated that he would contact Department of Health and Human Services representatives to confirm their attendance to discuss *Vp* issues at the next Council meeting scheduled for April 19, 2010.

6. New Business:

Navesink River Closure

Mr. Johnson inquired about updated notification procedures concerning shellfish harvest closures due to emergency water quality downgrades. Mr. Connell stated that a cell phone notification procedure was being finalized by DEP's Office of Information Technology.

2010 Ethics and Financial Disclosure Forms

Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Johnson stated that ethics disclosure forms had been submitted as required and inquired about the financial disclosure forms. Mr. Joseph stated that he had not heard about the status of the financial disclosure forms, but indicated that he would inquire about this matter.

Great Bay Oyster Season

Mr. Avery inquired about the possibility of an oyster season in Great Bay. Mr. Joseph and Mr. Normant stated that the Bureau would conduct sampling to assess the bed conditions of the Great Bay oyster beds and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

Aquaculture Advisory Council

Mr. Joseph Myers stated that the next meeting of the Aquaculture Advisory Council was scheduled for April 30, 2010 at the Rutgers David Sheppard House in Bridgeton and that a Marketing Workshop was scheduled for April 22nd at the Renault Winery Tuscan House in Egg Harbor City.

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

7. Date, time and place of next meeting:

DATE:	April 19 th , 2010
TIME:	7:00 PM
LOCATION:	Law Enforcement Office 360 New York Rd. Rte. 9 Port Republic, NJ 08241